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Airman learns compliance lesson as farm boy



**12 weeks until
Unit Compliance
Inspection**

By Col. Don Bacon

3rd Air Force

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — When I lived on the farm growing up, I was allowed to operate all the equipment except the super expensive combine, which harvested the grain. My family taught me all the rules for servicing the tractors, and how to do such things as disking and planting. Though I didn't call it this at the time, each field operation had its own "TTPs" (tactics, techniques and procedures) for best performance. Moreover, maintaining the equipment and ensuring safety were obviously important to us corn and soybean farmers.

During the combining season, my job was to drive the filled grain trucks to our farm's storage bins and unload them using our auger. For this, I had some very specific rules: I was to back up to the auger, open the hatch and let the initial grain pour out, and then use the hydraulics to lift the truck bed by "a third at a time" to unload all the grain.

One day I had a bright idea. I could save time at the auger and go half way up on the hydraulics vice the one-third that was the standard. I was already misapplying AFSO21 as a teenager — I was cutting corners primarily out of laziness.

When I went half way up, the grain in the truck rushed down towards the bottom and the sudden increase in weight forced the bed of the truck all the way up. Panic set in as grain started pouring out over the top of the back and side walls, and I feared the truck would tip back on its rear two wheels. Eventually, enough grain poured out that the weight became manageable and I could operate the hydraulics once again. My shortcut cost me over an hour of cleanup, almost a broken truck and, least importantly, lots of embarrassment.

I learned from this that the farm rules my family gave me were there for darn good reasons, and I became quite leery of cutting any corners. The same goes today for all of us as Airmen. The checklists, standards and Air Force instructions are here for a reason: for our safety, to protect our equipment and to describe best known ways to get our mission done. From the most senior to most junior airmen, we must embrace the compliance culture or bad things happen.

Lives lost, mission failure and unit disintegration occur in a non-compliance environment. From where I sit at 3rd Air Force, most of the injuries and broken metal I read about have as their root cause lack of compliance. From a farm boy who learned the hard way, don't let this happen to you — always set the standard for compliance.

Leadership from a staff sergeant's perspective

By Staff Sgt. Brandon Harris

335th Training Squadron

Leadership is what we talk about on a daily basis, whether to our Airmen in the classroom or our Airmen with the big "A." In order to fly, fight and win, we need leadership. We need the kind of leader who will get down in the trenches with you, the leader who will turn a wrench or compute advanced pay. I feel that our leadership today has gotten too comfortable in the "do as I say and not as I do" era.

Some leaders like to say that our generation is spoiled and less driven, which is completely inaccurate. The new generation is the generation that will revamp and turn the U.S Air Force into the strong war-fighting machine that it has always set out to be.

The lower ranks are more educated, mentally and physically, than any generation that has come before them. We are out to set the world on fire and

make our next generation stronger by showing them that we care and that we are there with them. The average staff sergeant in today's Air Force has completed a Community College of the Air Force degree, something that a lot of senior noncommissioned officers haven't done. The average technical sergeant is on the way to completing a bachelor's and could even earn a master's degree by retirement. No, this is the generation that will get away from the "do as I say and not as I do" mentality. This generation is "do as I do."

"Do as I say and not as I do." We have all heard this saying, but what is it? This is where that certain person comes out and says, "See you at PT," then never shows. It's the leader who says, "Take out the trash," then turns and calls a buddy on the phone. It's when leaders say, "Make performance reports tougher," after abusing the system for 20-plus years. I think we all get the picture. I'm sure

by reading this everyone is looking around and pointing fingers. I beg you to stop.

Instead of pointing fingers, I want you to learn from these people — use their examples as a way to educate the next generation. Let us, the "New Generation," be the ones who right the wrongs. We're the ones who ought to show up first to work and first to PT. We're not just going to show up though — we're going to show up with our shirts tucked in and run faster and push harder than anyone there.

I beg all of you who read this article not to get angry, but to learn. Learn from the ones who live by the "do as I say and not as I do" attitude. Be the example of how we should lead going forward. Lead by getting out there and getting into the fight. Whether it's tightening that screw, taking out the trash or helping the customer at the counter, lead by example.

Year of the Air Force Family



ON THE COVER

Tech. Sgt. Iya Foster, 334th Training Squadron, decorates the Hawaiian table at Diversity Day, July 20 at the Dragon's Lair. The event included music, literature, dance, poetry, face painting, games and food for children and adults. The event was a celebration of many nations to promote inclusiveness and to bring Keesler closer as a community, according to Staff Sgt. Adrienne Russell-George from the 81st Training Wing's equal opportunity office, organizer of the observance. More photos, Page 15.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



KEESLER NEWS

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DRAGON ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

How do you feel about the upcoming compliance inspection?



"It's going to be an exciting and busy week for everybody in the wing."

Capt. David Trollman,
333rd Training Squadron



"It's necessary to ensure that we are meeting standards across the board."

Senior Master Sgt. David Brown, 334th TRS



"Ensuring that we adhere to policies and procedures and stay in compliance is beneficial not only to us but the entire Air Force."

Chaplain (Capt.) Kenya Thomas, 81st Training Wing

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Civilian force development

Professional military education offered to civilians

By Ann Owens

333rd Training Squadron

On the first day we solved riddles, figured out how to get from one side of a board to the other without falling off and ran two miles — all before lunch. Sounds like a typical morning for a kid — guess again. I was attending Squadron Officer School and I had a blast. Along with learning how to work cohesively with a team of 14, I also learned how to lead effectively.

In today's Air Force, civilians serve alongside their military counterparts, so professional military education is more important than ever. Commanding officers typically make final decisions regarding civilian reassignments and promotions. They've completed their PME and expect their civilian counterparts to have done so as well. Be ready — develop your arsenal of skills by completing the PME appropriate to your grade level.

If you're new to the military environment, begin by completing the online New Employee Orientation course at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/AF-Orientation>.

Consider applying for Civilian Acculturation and Leadership Training. CALT is a two-week in-residence "bluing" program for civilians with bachelor's degrees, two to five years of continuous federal service and no prior military service. The program instills a greater understanding of Air Force heritage, culture, core values, organizational structure and missions. It's one of the new programs targeting civilian force development aimed at ensuring potential senior leaders have a firm understanding of the Air Force early on. CALT is modeled after Officer Training School and taught at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. Those selected live under the same rules and Spartan conditions as OTS candidates. Physical fitness is stressed.

Civilians with a bachelor's degree or above may

To learn more about civilian PME opportunities, log on to the Air University Web site, <http://www.au.af.mil/au/schools.asp>, or call the education office, 376-8708 or 8710.

qualify for Squadron Officer School or for graduate degree programs offered by the Air Command and Staff College or Air War College. Air University provides these courses in residence at Maxwell and through distance-learning courses. Physical fitness is an important component of resident curricula. To qualify for SOS, ACSC or AWC in residence, civilians must have two or more years of continuous federal civil service and be in good physical condition. If you're interested in attending a resident course, look for the call for applications in the spring.

Civilians in grades GS 09-12 may qualify to attend the five-week SOS program at Maxwell. This course is physically and academically challenging, but well worth it. Captains and civilians step out of their specialties to focus on essential leadership competencies such as problem solving, core values and the Air Force as an institution in the profession of arms. Students strengthen their leadership techniques and apply what they learn in classroom discussions and field exercises. They have an opportunity to see how their leadership skills influence team success and to experience followership in support of other student leaders.

The SOS distance-learning course is a good alternative to the in-residence course. It includes three units: ethical leadership, decision making and building teams and coalition. Students have 18 months to complete the program.

ACSC prepares majors and GS-12 and GS-13 civilians to assume positions of higher responsibility within the military and other agencies. Geared toward the skills necessary for air and space operations in support of a joint campaign, ACSC prepares, shapes and molds tomorrow's leaders and commanders. The college's academic environment stimulates and encourages free expression of ideas as well as independent, analytical, and creative thinking. Students may attend the 10-month course at Maxwell or take the distance-learning course which must be completed within 18 months.

The ACSC online master's program is a highly competitive 24-month program in which graduates earn PME credit and a master's degree.

It consists of seven courses: challenges of leadership and command, national security, strategy and war, expeditionary air and space power, joint forces, planning joint operations and joint air operations.

AWC prepares lieutenant colonels and GS-14-15s to lead in a joint environment at the strategic level across the range of military operations; develop cross-domain mastery of joint air, space and cyberspace power and its strategic contributions to national security; and advance innovative thought on national security, Department of Defense and Air Force issues. Students may attend the course from July through May at Maxwell or take the distance-learning course which must be completed within 36 months.

Air Force leaders increasingly rely on civilian Airmen as part of the total force. Developing all Airmen is an Air Force priority.

Right on target

Airman 1st Class Adam Runyan, left, looks on as Airman Basic Jacob Gould and 6-year-old Christian Splain face off in a water gun shoot-off at the conclusion of the summer reading program at Biloxi's Margaret Sherry Library July 22. Christian's parents are Reneé and Shawn Splain of Biloxi. The Airmen were part of a team of volunteers from the 338th Training Squadron assisting with children's games at the library along with their squadron chaplain, Chaplain (Capt.) Kenya Thomas.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits aid recruiting, retention

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Carden

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Proposed changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill would improve military readiness, a senior Pentagon official said July 21 at a Capitol Hill hearing.

Robert Clark, assistant director for accessions policy in the office of the defense undersecretary for personnel and readiness, also said education benefits are crucial to military recruiting and retention efforts during his testimony before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. Mr. Clark discussed the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Improvement Act of 2010 and how it would affect the Department of Defense.

One of the more notable options in the bill is transferability. It gives career servicemembers who have served on active duty or in the selected reserve on or after Aug. 1, 2009, the option to transfer their education benefits to family members, Mr. Clark said. Transferability was approved in the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Improvement Act of 2008, which became law in June 2008.

Panel members are debating that option for the 2010 bill. Some say transferability shouldn't be available for every service member, because of budget constraints. Rather, the option should be reserved for specific military specialties that are difficult to fill, they said.

"We had concerns about the generous benefit being more of a draw for first-term members to leave (the military) in

order to use this benefit," Mr. Clark said. "(But) we were very pleased to see the transferability ... to share this benefit that (service members) have earned with their family members.

"We did not believe this benefit for family members was to be limited to any specific targeting," he continued. "We believe that every Soldier, Sailor, Airmen and Marine who chooses to stay should have the same opportunity to share their earned benefits with their family members."

Money for education remains a top reason for young Americans to join and stay in the military, Mr. Clark said. Transferability and the 9/11 GI Bill will help Pentagon officials meet their recruiting and retention goals, he added.

"There is no doubt that the Post-9/11 GI Bill will continue to have this impact, and we are seeing that happen with unprecedented recruiting success," he said in his written testimony.

Other proposed changes include new rules for entitlement, modifications of the amount and types of assistance covered, methods of education payment and transferring unused benefits.

The proposed bill would enhance provisions of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, as well as make improvements in other Veterans Affairs Department education programs, said Keith Wilson, director of education service for VA.

The proposed bill also clarifies eligibility for reserve component troops. Troops activated for training and other purposes in support of reserve component forces or in support of contingency operations qualify for the bill

benefits, Mr. Wilson said. Also full-time citizen-servicemembers and members activated for national emergency responses are eligible, he added.

Individuals released from active duty for medical or hardship conditions must be released under honorable conditions, Mr. Wilson continued.

"The amendments regarding qualifying Title 10 service and extending coverage to Guard members ... would be consistent with qualifying active service under the Montgomery GI Bill and the Reserve Educational Assistance Program," he explained in his written testimony. "The proposed amendment clarifying that certain service must result in an honorable discharge is similar to the honorable discharge requirements applicable to other covered individuals."

Regarding tuition payment under the proposed bill, VA officials would pay fees based on charges reported by the institution. That would include out-of-state tuition, as well, Mr. Wilson said.

For foreign or private institutions, VA officials would pay fees according to statistics obtained from the Department of Education. The figures used would be of the "average of established charges at all institutions in the U.S. for a baccalaureate degree for the most recent year," Mr. Wilson explained.

Meanwhile, he said, the housing stipend will be calculated based on attendance in school. This means, for example, students enrolled in 50 percent of a full course load will receive 50 percent of the stipend.

Also, housing stipends under the

proposed 2010 bill will expand to vocational schools, correspondence training, on-the-job training and apprenticeships and flight schools. Stipends are based on the area's housing allowance rates for an E-5 with dependents, Mr. Wilson said.

VA officials support streamlining the tuition-and-fee benefits for students attending public institutions and establishing a maximum payment cap private school students, he said.

"The manner in which institutions assess charges varies widely from state to state and from school to school," Mr. Wilson said. "VA also does not object to expansion of the program to permit payment for vocational, flight, correspondence ..., subject to Congress identifying appropriate (cost savings)."

Additional amendments in the proposed bill include the types of methods VA officials use to pay various institutions and training facilities. Although they support the intent to improve the Post-9/11 GI Bill, they do not support some of these provisions, Mr. Wilson said.

These provisions would "severely hamper" payment methods, Mr. Wilson said, as the bill's amendments would take effect as if the 2008 bill never existed. VA officials propose to postpone "significant changes" to the law until Aug. 2011 to ensure the improvements don't have negative impact on service delivery, he explained.

Since the inception of the 2008 legislation, VA officials have awarded nearly \$4 billion to more than 295,000 veterans and their education institutions.

Officer scholarships offered for information assurance

By Erin Tindell

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Officers have until Aug. 31 to apply for the Information Assurance Scholarship Program, a special developmental education program available for the 2011 academic year.

The program pays for tuition, select fees and required books for graduate degrees in subjects such as information assurance, cyber operations, computer science and software engineering.

The Department of Defense established the IASP to increase the number of qualified personnel entering the information assurance career field. This program was established to meet the nation's increasing dependence on information technology for warfighting and the security of its information infrastructure.

"As the Air Force continues to march forward into cyberspace, it is important to build cyber operators who are experts in protecting the DOD network and its associated critical information," said Maj. Courtney Anderson, Air Force Personnel Center chief of cyber operations officer force development.

Current DOD military members are eligible for graduate degrees through the retention program of the IASP. Students continue to receive their military pay throughout their course of study at a DOD school or partnering university.

According to Major Anderson, an information assurance or other information technology degree benefits an Airman's career as well as Air Force force development initiatives.

More information on participating schools, entrance prerequisites, requirements, eligibility and specific degrees is available at <http://cio-nii.defense.gov/sites/iasp2/>, or call the Total Force Service Center, 1-800-525-0102.

333rd TRS welcomes new leader

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Lt. Col. Douglas Short assumes command of the 333rd Training Squadron from Lt. Col. Scott Solomon, 2 p.m. Friday at the Dragon's Lair.

Colonel Short comes to Keesler from U.S. Joint Forces Command, Naval Station Norfolk, Va., where he was executive officer for the command, control, communications

and computer directorate. He joined the Air Force in 1986 as a law enforcement specialist and completed Officer Training School in 1994. He's served in various positions at the squadron, group and directorate level in six different major commands, combatant commands and/or direct reporting units.

Colonel Solomon, who's commanded the 333rd TRS for two years, becomes the deputy commander of the 81st Training Group.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Drill downs, parades

Drill downs — 8 a.m. Aug. 6 and Oct. 15.

Parades — 6 p.m. Sept. 16. For more information on drill downs, call Tech. Sgt. Julie Hammond, 377-2103. For information on parades, call Staff Sgt. Gregory Washington, 377-2789.

USM fall term

Registration for the fall semester for the University of Southern Mississippi is Aug. 10-11 at the Fleming Education Center on the USM Gulf Park campus in Long Beach.

Orientation for new undergraduate students is at 1 p.m., followed by advisement and registration from 2-6 p.m.

New undergraduate students are asked to call 228-865-4565 in advance.

Classes start Aug. 18.

For more information, e-mail Sandy Laubersheimer, sandra.laubersheimer@usm.edu or call 376-8479.

CCAF fall graduation

The last day to apply for the Community College of the Air Force fall graduating class is Aug. 27.

By that date, all supporting documentation must be on file at CCAF at Maxwell-Gunter Air

Force Base, Ala., including the nomination action request. For more information, visit the education office, Room 224, Sablich Center or call 376-8708.

Commissioning briefings

Commissioning briefings are 10 a.m. Tuesdays in Room 224, Sablich Center.

DANTES procedures

The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support won't fund re-testing on a previously funded exam title for the College Level Examination Program, Excelsior College Examinations and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests.

As a result, service members taking these exams who don't receive a passing score must be informed they won't be allowed to retest as a DANTES-funded candidate on a previously funded exam of the same title. However, they may personally pay for a retest after waiting the requisite period of time.

This includes spouses and Civil Service personnel of Reserve components and Coast Guard.

For more information, call education services, 376-8708 or 8710.

Academic ace



Staff Sgt. James Clanan graduated July 21 from the electronic principles course in the 332nd Training Squadron with a perfect score. He's headed to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, for airborne surveillance radar systems apprentice school for nine weeks before returning to the 513th Maintenance Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla.

Base shuttle schedules are found at
<http://www.keesler.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp>

NEWS AND FEATURES

Wing leadership changes hands Monday

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller assumes command of the 81st Training Wing from Brig. Gen. Ian Dickinson, 9 a.m. Monday on the parade field.

Generals Mueller and Dickinson are both 1985 graduates of the Air Force Academy.

General Mueller comes to Keesler from Eskisehir, Turkey, where he served as the deputy commander for NATO's Combined Air Operations Center 6, Allied Air Forces Southern Europe. CAOC 6 is responsible for southern region NATO air policing, as well as training and preparing defensive and offensive forces to support crisis management actions and transition to wartime employment. His duties included planning and executing air operations in the southern region as directed by the CAOC 6 commander and Component Command-Air Izmir. As deputy commander, General Mueller was the principal adviser to the CAOC 6 commander on all NATO and southern region air operations.

A master air battle manager with more than 3,800 hours flying on the E-3 AWACS aircraft, General Mueller



General Mueller

has served in various operational and staff positions. The general commanded the 964th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., leading the squadron through deployments in support of operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. As commander of the 505th Training Group, Hurlburt



General Dickinson

Field, Fla., he was responsible for providing education and training to joint and coalition warfighters on air and space command and control weapons systems and procedures at the operational level of war.

General Mueller has served on the staff of the U.S. Pacific Command where he was responsible for the inte-

gration of command and control systems, missile defense and space operations. Prior to his current assignment, he served on the Air Staff assisting with the establishment of cyber operations and warfighting as an Air Force core competency through the formulation of strategic plans for cyberspace transformation.

General Dickinson, who came to Keesler in May 2009 and pinned on the rank of brigadier general a year ago, has been chosen as Director, Communications and Information, and Chief Information Officer, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.

He has held a variety of positions at base, center, major command, Air Staff and Joint Staff levels in acquisition, operations, maintenance, communications and information requirements. His previous commands include a communications squadron, air base squadron and information operations group. Prior to his current assignment, he was the Deputy Chief Information Officer for the Joint Staff. As DCIO, he was responsible for assisting the Joint Staff Chief Information Officer in programming, planning, engineering and executing information technology.

Easier access to wide array of information is goal of Keesler web site's new design

By Senior Airman Eric Summers

Keesler Public Affairs

As the world of technology progresses, Keesler's public affairs office is making changes to use this technology to provide audiences easier access to information. Part of this change is a transition of items that were once located in the Keesler News to the base's public web site, www.keesler.af.mil.

For students and personnel on temporary duty status, the honor roll, Airman Leadership School and Mathies NCO Academy class dates and graduations and dining facility menus have been moved to the new student interest page accessible from the featured links menu on the left side of the home page.

Another addition to the Keesler web page is the civilian force development page which

contains news articles, a CFD factsheet and other useful information for Keesler's civilian force. This page is accessible by clicking on the civilian force development link located under the featured links tab on the left side of Keesler's home page.

A person can find information on services activities on the services web page which can be found by clicking the 81st Force Support Squadron button on the home page.

As well as adding new information to the web page, the public affairs office is also redesigning the web page to become more user-friendly for the audience. If link or button isn't where it previously was, it may have been relocated to another place on the web page.

For more information about the changes to the Keesler News or Keesler web site, call public affairs, 377-2783, or e-mail 81TRW/PA@us.af.mil.



Don't drink and drive.

Call

**Airmen Against
Drunk Driving,
377-SAVE,**

for a safe ride home.

197 saves so far this year.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Three-year-old Kaydence Hughes serves “Mexican food” to his parents, Airman 1st Class Jeremy and Trisha Hughes, Saturday at the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center in Gulfport. Airman Hughes is a student in the 338th Training Squadron. The special day for military families featured free food, games, scavenger hunts and prizes. The celebration was the airman and family readiness center’s final event for its Year of the Air Force Family observance which ends this month.

Celebration honors military families



Annie Cook, 8, makes a seafood purchase from her 6-year-old brother, John, at the grocery store play area. Their parents are Navy Lt. Cmdr. Dan and Emily Cook. Their father is deployed.



Christine Williams holds her 2-year-old daughter, Kylee, as her 4-year-old son, Cadden, practices his putting skills. Their dad, Navy Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Donald Williams, is deployed.

IN THE NEWS

More Guard members on base

The Mississippi National Guard has activated 30 more soldiers to support ongoing oil spill response operations and, if called upon, to augment civilian authorities in the wake of a major hurricane developing in the Gulf of Mexico, officials announced Friday.

The National Guard infantry soldiers, all recently returned from Iraq, add to the 50 soldiers now working on the clean-up vessels as communications link to the operations center and reconnaissance helicopters that officials have deemed “very successful” since its implementation.

Due to the limited housing available and a preference to contain a military unit in military quarters, all soldiers will stay at Keesler. The base is designated by U.S. Northern Command as the base support installation for Department of Defense forces responding to the crisis.

Last month, Keesler began housing about 50 Mississippi National Guard soldiers to support ongoing oil spill response operations, marking the first time since Hurricane Katrina that Keesler has housed National Guard troops.

Squadron reactivation Aug. 6

The reactivation ceremony for the 345th Tactical Airlift Squadron is 10 a.m. Aug. 6 at the Roberts Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Facility.

The 345th TAS is an active associate unit of both the 403rd Operations Group and the 19th Operations Group, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. The unit pairs active-duty units with reserve units as part of the total force integration initiative.

AETC commander honored

AETC Public Affairs

Gen. Stephen Lorenz, Air Education and Training Command commander, was inducted into the Order of the Sword July 16 at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

The Order of the Sword is the highest honor and tribute noncommissioned officers can bestow upon a person. General Lorenz is the sixth leader AETC Airmen have chosen to recognize by presenting the sword.

Phones, seatbelt, car seat rules

Cell phones — It’s a primary offense to drive on base while using a cell phone without a hands-free device.

For military members, offenses are subject to citation for points, and for civilian employees, dependents, retirees and contractors, citations carry a fine. Driving privileges can be suspended for seven days for the first offense, 30 days for a second offense and one year for a third offense.

Seatbelts must be used by driver and passengers. Children at least 4-7 years old or less than 65 pounds or under 4 feet, 9 inches tall must be in a booster/child seat of vehicles in operation on the installation. For violations, driving privileges can be suspended seven days for the first offense, 30 days for the second offense, 90 days for the third offense and one year for the fourth and subsequent offenses.

For more information, call the 81st Security Forces Squadron, 376-6600, or the wing safety office, 377-2007.

Dragons deployed — 258

PERSONNEL NOTES

New submittal policy for finance

81st Comptroller Squadron.

To meet Air Force guidelines, enhance productivity and utilize electronic applications, the 81st Comptroller Squadron will no longer accept hard copy documents that can be processed through MyPay or eFinance as of Aug. 15.

The electronic applications help us ensure your documents are submitted to the Air Force Financial Services Center for processing with greater accuracy and more accountability than our current processes, thereby proving you a better quality product with less time waiting in the queue," said Lt. Col. RandolphToris, 81st CPTS commander.

Information about MyPay, eFinance and most financial questions can be found by logging into the Air Force Portal, selecting "Life and Career," then "Money-Welcome to Virtual Finance." There are links to all major financial systems, frequently asked questions and instant advice pages.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. William Kiser, 376-8189, or e-mail the financial services office at 81 CPTS/Contact Center on the Keesler global address listing.

Saturday is separation pay deadline

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The extended application period for eligible officers to apply for voluntary separation pay at 1½ times the authorized separation pay rate comes to a close Saturday.

Officers eligible to apply for VSP include those in year groups 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003 and 2004, in the grades of major and below, with more than six and less than 14 years of commissioned service in select core Air Force specialties that haven't been closed to reduction in force board consideration. Those specialties include 13S, 15W, 21A, 17D, 38F, 61B, 61C, 65F and 52R, except for Catholic chaplains.

Officials announced June 14 the extension of the application period to July 31 for eligible officers to apply for VSP at the reduced multiplier of one and a half times the authorized separation pay effective July 1.

Since the announcement of VSP eligibility in March, as part of the Force Management Program designed to bring the service closer to its authorized end strength, more than 350 RIF-eligible officers have been approved for voluntary separation.

Personnel officials said officers approved for VSP can expect to receive payment, calculated by their servicing finance office, approximately 25 days following their date of separation from the Air Force. AFPC separations officials will inform the Defense Finance and Accounting Service of the separation and eligibility to process the payment, subject to applicable federal and state income tax rates.

Applications are being considered in the order they are received by AFPC via the Virtual Military Personnel Flight.

For more information on VSP eligibility and application procedures, visit the AFPC personnel services website or call the Total Force Service Center, 800-525-0102.

Paralegal opportunities

The Air Force paralegal career field (AFSC 5J0X1) offers many career opportunities.

Qualifications include rank of at least senior airman with a minimum 5-skill level in any Air Force specialty code, minimum general Armed Forces Qualification Exam score of 51, ability to type at least 25 words per minute and no convictions by court-martial, punishment under Article 15, or conviction by civilian court (excluding minor traffic violations).

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Daniel O'Hara, 376-8145.

New website helps civilians find jobs

AFPC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Jobseekers unfamiliar with the Air Force's civilian employment opportunities have a new online resource that defines career fields and outlines the benefits of being a federal employee.

The site, www.afciviliancareers.com, contains practical information for those interested in applying for a federal job within the Air Force Civilian Service, including various hiring authorities, base locations, career field descriptions, employee benefits and application procedures.

"With new organizations standing up and an overall net gain in civilian positions, we hope more people will look at all the benefits we have to offer and consider applying with us," said Michelle LoweSolis, director of civilian force integration at the Air Force Personnel Center.

A highlight of the website is a job match machine. By entering educational background or specific skills, the job match machine will generate a list of possible career choices.

The site also has a resume coach that walks users through some of the most frequently asked questions: How do I get my resume to stand out? Do veterans or current federal employees have different application procedures? What should college graduates include on their resumes?

When visitors are ready to search for an AFCS job, clicking the "apply now" button on the home page gives them access to Air Force jobs listed on USAJOBS.gov. There, they can build resumes, search for job vacancies, and submit applications.



Airman Reed



Sergeant Wince



Sergeant Milbrath



Lieutenant Tolis



Ms. Dye

Quarterly award winners recognized



The 81st Training Wing announced its quarterly award winners for April-June at a luncheon June 22. They are:
Airman — Senior Airman John Reed, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

Noncommissioned officer — Staff Sgt. Billy Wince, 81st AMDS.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. Bruce Milbrath, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Company grade officer — 1st Lt. George Tolis, 333rd Training Squadron.

Civilian Category 1 — Amy Dye, 81st Force Support Squadron.

Civilian Category 1 — Michele Rivera, protocol office.

Civilian supervisor Category 1 — George Holbert, 81st Training Support Squadron.



Ms. Rivera



Mr. Holbert

Make summer time
your safety time.
Be careful and alert
during work, play and travel.



Top nurse

Col. Allison Plunk, right, new 81st Medical Group chief nurse, discusses a patient with Capt. Shelly Meiners, an 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron critical care nurse, and Airman 1st Class Joseph Fraser, an 81st Medical Operations Squadron respiratory therapist, during a July 26 visit to the 81st MDG Hospital's intensive care unit. Colonel Plunk, former 81st IPTS commander, assumed her new post upon the July 22 retirement of Col. Cassandra Salvatore.

Photo by Steve Pivnick



Identity theft is a personal nightmare and security risk. Shred bills, statements, letters, old journals, records, outdated application forms and any documents that contain your full name, Social Security number, duty title and job information, credit card, bank account numbers and names of family members. If you see documents being removed from trash cans, call the 81st Security Forces Squadron law enforcement desk, 377-3040.

News tips?
Call the Keesler News,
377-4130,
or e-mail keeslernews@us.af.mil

Air Force website offers legal assistance

Air Force News Service

SHEPPARD Air Force Base, Texas — Next time clients need a will, power of attorney or just have a legal question, they can visit the new Air Force Legal Assistance website at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>. The website is designed for active-duty and reserve component members, retirees and dependents.

Officials created the website to increase efficiency and track client satisfaction with the Air Force legal assistance program. Because it is a public site, clients may access the site's features from the comfort of their homes without a common access card.

The site's features include:

Legal topics — Short papers on common legal-assistance topics such as wills and family law issues. It also contains links to other helpful sites.

Legal worksheets — Access to online questionnaires for wills, living wills and powers of attorney. After completing the online worksheet, the website provides each client a unique "ticket number." Data entered by clients is secure and may be accessed only after clients visit their local legal office and provide their ticket numbers to legal office officials.

Online survey — Following a visit to the legal office, clients are encouraged to provide feedback concerning the professionalism and helpfulness of our legal professionals.

Many clients have visited a legal office to obtain a will or other legal document and realized, after arriving, that they needed to gather more information or documents from home. Sometimes clients have realized they needed to speak with their spouse about an issue.

Completing an online worksheet will help minimize these multiple visits. By filling out an online worksheet, clients will be able to consider critical issues prior to visiting the legal office.

After receiving a ticket number, clients bring it to the legal office. An attorney or paralegal will then access a client's data with the ticket number and prepare the appropriate legal documents.

While the website increases convenience for clients, everyone should note the following:

Information on the website is for educational and informational purposes only. The website cannot replace consultation with your local Judge Advocate General, and Airmen should never rely solely on the website when making decisions.

Clients won't have the ability to print a legal document from the website. Clients will need to visit the legal office and provide their ticket numbers in order to obtain their legal documents.

The website is designed for client convenience, but no one is required to use the website prior to visiting the legal office.

LEGAL BRIEFS

Service animals are welcome at Keesler

By Gregory Lewis

Legal Office

Have you ever been dining or shopping in an establishment and suddenly you notice someone in the area accompanied by an animal. Instinctively, you ask yourself, "Why that animal is permitted inside?" However, what you may not realize is the animal may be more than a companion animal or "pet" as we like to call them and is medically a "service animal."

Most people have seen service animals before — typically the large Labrador retriever or German Sheppard helping a blind person navigate his or her way. However, service animals come in a variety of sizes and breed each depending on the nature of the person's disability and the function of the animal to assist the handicapped.

Although service animals

can be small in nature, all are individually trained to assist individuals with disabilities. For instance, some animals are signal animals and can detect the onset of a psychiatric episode or calm the effects of one. Smaller animals may sit in the lap of a person who suffers from manic-depression, paranoia, delusional thoughts and other mental or neurotic disorders.

Under the American with Disabilities Act, businesses and organizations that serve the public must allow people who use service animals into all areas of the facility where customers normally go. Disabled persons who are accompanied by a service animal can't be separated from their animal, charged extra fees, isolated from other patrons, treated less favorably or be asked to remove the service animal from the premises, unless the animal is a direct

threat to the health or safety of others.

Allergies and fear of animals are generally not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people with service animals. Some service animals wear special collars, harnesses or have identification papers. However, these requirements are state specific.

When there is uncertainty that an animal present in an establishment at Keesler is a service animal or companion animal, the correct question for staff to ask, "Is this a service animal required because of a disability?"

This eliminates the any intrusion into a person's medical condition. Additionally, requiring proof before permitting the service animal to accompany the person is a violation of the federal statute. Let's be kind and respect the privacy of disabled persons by using the proper etiquette.

Hiring authority expanded to some cyber jobs

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Force managers hiring civilian federal employees for certain cyber security positions have been authorized to use the streamlined Schedule A hiring authority to help expeditiously fill more than 680 positions.

The Defense Department grants the use of Schedule A in specific cases, including when there is a critical hiring need or when there are special jobs that need to be filled, such as law clerks and chaplains. Schedule A authority allows job seekers to be considered for these jobs without using the traditional competitive procedures.

The cyber security positions approved for Schedule A hiring will perform special functions such as cyber risk and strategic analysis; incident handling and malware/vulnerability analysis; cyber incident response; cyber exercise facilitation and management; cyber vulnerability

detection and assessment; network and systems engineering; enterprise architecture; intelligence analysis; investigation; investigative analysis; and cyber related infrastructure interdependency analysis.

The three Air Force organizations identified to use Schedule A for cyber security positions — U.S. Strategic Command, Air

Force Office of Special Investigations and 24th Air Force — may hire under this authority until Dec. 31, 2012, or until the Office of Personnel Management establishes applicable qualification standards, whichever is earlier.

Individuals can apply for these Air Force positions on USAJOBS.gov. A vacancy

announcement is not required if the selecting official has knowledge of one or more qualified, interested candidates.

Selecting officials are encouraged to maintain files of interested, qualified candidates to expedite filling their vacancies. Veteran's preference is applicable, in accordance with 5 CFR 302. For details on how to

apply, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afcivilianjobs.

For more information, visit AFPC's personnel services website, keyword "Cyber Schedule A." Air Force employees may call the 24-hour Total Force Service Center at (800) 525-0102 or DSN 665-5000.



Brig. Gen. Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, receives a lei from Staff Sgt. Shannon Kabling, 81st Medical Support Squadron, at the Figi table.



Photos by Kemberly Groue
 Capt. Christina Hills, 403rd Wing, unsheathes an sword from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as 1st Lt. Sarah Reeves, 81st Training Group, looks on at Keesler's inaugural Diversity Day celebration June 20 at the Dragon's Lair. The event showcased art, literature, music and food from cultures around the world.



Bongani and Beverly Mhlanga, husband and wife and residents of Gulfport, attended the celebration and performed a dance from their native country of Zimbabwe.



Two year-old Alexandra Carroll, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Robert and Laura Carroll, 336th Training Squadron, twirls a silk parasol and plays dress-up in traditional Chinese attire.



Senior Airman Marlena Pagliuca, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron, paints Moroccan henna tattoo on the hand of Kristopher Novles, 81st Mission Support Group.

Cultures converge at 'Diversity Day' celebration

Spouse job program resumes this fall

By Elaine Wilson

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts program will resume Oct. 25, but with some significant changes to the popular spouse employment program, a defense official announced July 20.

Changes include a reduction in the amount of financial aid, a change in the population eligible to receive that aid — from all military spouses to just spouses of junior service members — and more robust counseling services.

These changes bring the program, commonly known as MyCAA, back to its original intent of equipping military spouses of junior service members with portable careers, such as in real estate or health care, said Clifford Stanley, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. The program was launched in November 2007 for spouses of junior service members, and was expanded to all pay grades and programs of study in March 2009.

“We’re trying to empower, to give spouses in particular, an opportunity to be immediately impactful as soon as they get into a community,” Mr. Stanley said. “We want to make sure they have opportunities to work when they get

to a new duty station.”

Officials temporarily halted the program Feb. 16, pending a top-to-bottom review, after an enrollment surge overwhelmed the system and caused the program to nearly reach its budget threshold. In March, with the review still under way, officials resumed the program for the more than 136,000 spouses who already had established an account.

The review took time, but officials wanted to ensure they could sustain the program for the long-term, particularly in light of fiscal realities the government is facing, Mr. Stanley said.

“We want to help people be employed, but at the same time we have to be cost conscious,” he said.

The aim is to sustain the program, he said.

“We don’t want to start it and stop it. This is something we want to continue because it’s important to take care of our families and our spouses.”

The previous program offered all spouses of active duty service members a lifetime benefit of \$6,000 to be used for education purposes.

Under the new parameters, spouses of junior service members can apply for a maximum finan-

Please see **Spouse jobs**, Page 17

Base construction sites
are off-limits
without authorization.

Seekers now apply for NAF jobs online

By April Rowden

Air Force Services Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO — A new centralized online tool is making it easier for job seekers to find and apply for federal careers in various nonappropriated fund activities, including Air Force clubs, golf courses, child development centers, youth centers, bowling centers and outdoor recreation centers.

To apply for a job, applicants must go to www.nafjobs.org and create a free profile that includes work background, any military experience and education. Applicants may also upload a resume and other supporting documentation.

When an individual identifies a vacancy for which he’d like to apply, clicking the “apply” button submits the online application to the servicing NAF human resources office.

The applicant can check the status of his application under the “My Applications” tab in “My Profile.”

Unlike other job application programs, the NAF system sends every application to

Job fair Tuesday

Job-hunters interested in non-appropriated funds positions are invited to a job fair, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday in Room 108B, Sablich Center.

Computers are available in the airman and family readiness center for people who need to log on and create an account.

the hiring manager for consideration.

“We don’t use a software program to pre-qualify applicants by searching for key words,” said Bobbie Nugent of the Air Force Services Agency’s Human Resources Program Management Branch. “If you submit an application, you will be considered for the position.”

Unlike the nearly 180,000 federal civilian employees that are paid out of the federal appropriated fund budget, the 25,000 Air Force NAF employees are paid by money that is generated by NAF

activities, such as Air Force clubs, bowling centers, golf courses and youth centers. These facilities provide a community environment for Air Force families to live, work and play.

“Our NAF employees take a great sense of ownership in their facilities and the services they provide Airmen,” Ms. Nugent said. “Although they don’t wear the uniform, they are performing one of the most important services, taking care of our warfighters and their families.”

Based on the employment category, NAF employees may qualify for benefits similar to those of other federal civilians, including health and life insurance, retirement plans, annual leave and sick leave.

“Our goal was to create a better experience for applicants, and we designed a more streamlined, consistent application process for NAF activities worldwide,” Ms. Nugent said. “We believe that this website exceeds that goal.”

For more information, visit www.nafjobs.org or contact the local NAF human resources office.

Spouse jobs,

from Page 16

cial benefit of \$4,000 for up to three years from the start date of the first class, with a \$2,000 annual cap, Mr. Stanley explained. Spouses pursuing licenses or certifications requiring an up-front fee of greater

than \$2,000 may apply for a waiver of the annual cap up to the maximum benefit of \$4,000.

Financial aid will be limited to spouses of active duty service members in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W1 to W-2 and O-1 to O-2, Mr. Stanley said, as well as spouses of activated Guard and Reserve members within those ranks. Spouses of Guard and

Reserve members must be able to start and complete their courses while their sponsor is on Title 10 orders.

Those spouses eligible to receive aid can use the money to fund associate's degrees, licenses and certification programs, not higher degrees. The program wasn't intended to support bachelor's and master's degrees, Mr. Stanley said. However, he added, spouses pursuing higher degrees can explore a plethora of other education opportunities such as scholarships, federal grants and the GI. Bill with help from Military OneSource consultants.

"The counseling piece is probably the most important, and pivotal, part of this program," he said.

Spouses currently enrolled in the program can continue their participation through Oct. 21, when MyCAA will ramp down and prepare for the Oct. 25 relaunch. As of Oct. 25, those spouses who fall within the eligible pay grades can continue their program participation. Spouses who no longer are eligible for financial aid still can participate by accessing career and education counseling services, Mr. Stanley said.

"There are still opportunities," he said. "This one program is just one small part of the overall equation of taking care of our family members. It's an important part, but it's a small part."

To fund the program, officials have budgeted about \$210 million for 2010 with an

increase to \$250 million for 2011 due to an expected spike in enrollments, Mr. Stanley said. For future years, officials are estimating a budget of about \$190 million per year.

To ensure the vitality of the program, Military OneSource counselors will encourage spouses to explore other funding resources, including federal benefits. And staffing levels have been increased to handle the anticipated call volume and enable more one-on-one counseling with spouses, Mr. Stanley said. Officials also will monitor the program much closer now to ensure they can maintain it, he added.

For more information, call the airman and family readiness center, 376-8728.

Congo native living American Dream in Air Force

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

First Lt. Patrick Mudimbi has traveled a long distance to achieve the "American Dream."

A bioenvironmental engineer with the 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron bioenvironmental engineering flight, the lieutenant was born in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo, but at age 4 moved to Kinshasa (Léopoldville).

The country was once called Zaire and before that the Belgian Congo. He is the third oldest of 14 boys and four girls, including a twin sister.

"My father was a colonel in the army under (then-President) Mobutu (Sese Seko)," he said.

"I left there in November 1996 to further my education. It was customary for parents to send their children abroad once they completed high school. My father died before I finished high school so my mother carried on the tradition."

He continued, "It was difficult to get a visa. Some people would enter countries illegally but I didn't want to do that. Fortunately, while my mother was trying to get me to Europe, a friend of mine applied on my behalf to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service lottery.

The lottery provided citizens of certain nations to enter the U.S. I had to provide required documentation, including proof of good health, as well as proof that I had sufficient funds to live on for a year."



Lieutenant Mudimbi

When Lieutenant Mudimbi arrived in Ontario, Calif., he strove to obtain an education.

"I selected Ontario because I had a distant relative there who requested that I live with her. Also, she had younger children who were born there, making it a perfect opportunity to learn English," he said.

He admitted it was quite a culture shock and posed some challenges.

"I didn't speak English (he grew up speaking French) and didn't have money to pay for college. The jobs I could get were limited, even with a work permit, ones that paid \$4 or \$5 an hour" he said.

"After working full time for a while, I asked to be put on part time so I could study at the library. I disciplined myself to make the library my 'college.' I established a schedule: on Monday and Tuesday I studied English and other days it was math and sciences," he said.

"I spoke with homeless people outside the library; they were the only people who would spend time speaking to me. I saw some ads about the military on TV. I knew I could get education and leadership opportunities in the service so I set a goal of enlisting within six to nine months."

Lieutenant Mudimbi said his first purchase from his paycheck was a French-English dictionary. He also used a unique method to learn English.

"I listened to country-western music. I was able to understand what they were saying more than with other types of music," he observed.

Then it was time to find a branch of service with which to enlist.

"I didn't really know which branch I wanted to join," he recalled. "Then I saw 'Aim High' and immediately knew that was what I wanted to do. Although I wasn't sure I was ready, the Air Force recruiter sent me to San Diego to take the (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)."

He enlisted in December 1997 and went to basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

"This was the first time I found myself outside my comfort zone. My dictionary was taken away and I was on my own. I really thought I would be thrown out in two days. One day they taught us how to make our bed. It had to be wrinkle-free. I had to learn by observation. I didn't know what 'wrinkle-free' was; I

"I didn't really know which branch I wanted to join. Then I saw 'Aim High' and immediately knew that was what I wanted to do."

— Lieutenant Mudimbi

thought it referred to someone who was coming there. The only thing that saved me was my 'African smile.' I would open my mouth, shake my head and smile."

Lieutenant Mudimbi successfully completed basic training in February 1998 and his first assignment was to Offutt AFB, Neb., as a personnel specialist. He became a U.S. citizen in 2000 while there.

"My first day there I didn't have a desk or computer. My supervisor asked me to go into a small room and clean it. I closed the door and started to clean. I thought I could spend 20 years doing that and retire."

The lieutenant, who began his Air Force service as an airman basic, rapidly progressed through the enlisted ranks, sewing on technical sergeant stripes within eight years. He prepared to test for master sergeant at just beyond the 10-year point. However, his goal was to obtain an education, so he applied for the Air Force ROTC program.

"I studied hard and CLEPed (College Level Examination Program) a lot, acquiring 26 credits in calculus and French," he recalled.

"It was a good start for my education. I started taking classes but it was a challenge. I took them during lunch, after work and on weekends."

Lieutenant Mudimbi was commissioned a second lieutenant May 18, 2008, and pinned on first lieutenant rank in May.

Commenting on his current duties, he said, "I love my squadron, its leadership and my job. It makes me want to perform my very best. It's all about the people and I definitely try to be a 'people person.'"

He hasn't forgotten his family. He brought his mother to the U.S. in 2002. She resides with his sister in Upland, Calif. Six of his brothers and a sister attend school in Ottawa and Montreal, Canada. They try to visit one another whenever possible. He also takes the opportunity to help other siblings.

His wife, Tech. Sgt. Tara Mudimbi, recently retrained into the command post career field. They reside in St. Martin with son Isaiah, 8, and daughter Patiance, 2-1/2.

The Mudimbis have an assignment to Kirtland AFB, N.M., and are scheduled to arrive there next month.



U.S. AIR FORCE
EagleEyes
WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

Shredding documents can protect personal data. For an appointment to use a shredder, call the 81st Communications Squadron records management section, 377-2571. The base privacy act manager investigates complaints and violations of the Air Force Privacy Act, Air Force Instruction 33-332. If you think a violation has occurred, call 377-2286.

Louisiana shooters make Fisher House contribution

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

A bunch of Louisiana gunslingers in Old West garb delivered a check for \$10,059 to Keesler's Fisher House July 21.

The Bayou Bounty Hunters recently held a benefit for Fisher House by contributing match fees and other donations from a recent match in Amite, La. The group is a member organization of Cowboy Action Shooting, part of the 84,000-member international Single Action Shooting Society.

The group blends the Old West and Hollywood in a shooting sport with vintage firearms, according to Nathan Gifford, alias Foard County News.

"Aliases allow people to step out of their daily life and assume an entirely fictitious persona," Mr. Gifford said. "Quite frequently, shooters only know their fellow club members by their aliases.

"Professionals hidden behind their aliases can don western and frontier outfits most unlike the lab coats or office attire required by their daily jobs," he explained. "Those with rather typical daily lives can assume roles of much more flashy frontier characters or that of their favorite Hollywood legends for their persona."

Shooting is a major part of the sport, but dressing up is almost as important to most participants. Another interesting side of the group is that many shooters travel to their matches in recreational vehicles, adding convenience and camaraderie reminiscent of the wagon trains of the past.

"That is the quiet joy of this game," Mr. Gifford said. "You roll back into a different time, slap on your spurs and your badge, hang out with people who are having a good time and listening to the pop and clang has metal meets metal. All this you



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, participants in the donation presentation are in the front row, Terry and Robert Calbert, treasurer and president of the Bayou Bounty Hunters; Brig. Gen. Ian Dickinson, 81st Training Wing commander, and member Betty Boggs, and back row, Brig. Gen. Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander; Fisher House director Larry Vetter, member Gregory Boggs and Col. Robert Cothron, 81st MDG.

get to do with your pardette (wife) and buckeroos while talking about the Old West and the day's festivities."

Keesler's Fisher House provides a home-away-from-home with free or low-cost lodging to veterans and military families receiving treatment at the 81st Medical Group Hospital and the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center. There are 45 Fisher Houses at 18 military installations and 15 VA medical facilities, with 12 more under construction or in the design phase.

For more information about Keesler's Fisher House, call Larry Vetter, 377-8264.

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy Airmen urged to reply to confidential survey

By Tech. Sgt. Phyllis Hanson

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — "Your opinion matters" is the view of Air Force officials on the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" survey released July 7 to more than 98,000 randomly selected active-duty Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members.

Selected Airmen received an e-mail with the survey from Westat, a third-party independent pollster, on behalf of the Department of Defense.

The confidential survey is not a referendum on whether or not to repeal the law, said Lt. Gen. Richard Newton III, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

"Rather, it's designed to assist leadership in assessing the impacts, if any, that the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" might have on military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention," he said.

Airmen who receive the survey are encouraged to complete it because their inputs are critical for enabling DOD officials, and ultimately Air Force officials, to effectively implement policy changes, should Congress decide to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Officials hope to have most of the responses back within 45 days of receipt.

The survey, consisting of 103 questions, should take no more than 30 minutes to complete, and personally identifiable information will not be

linked or attached to an individual's answers. The survey does not ask questions about sexual orientation.

Some Airmen who receive the survey link by e-mail may mistakenly view it as "spam" since it originates from an e-mail address with a ".org" extension instead of a ".mil" or ".gov" extension.

"We want to assure Airmen who are randomly selected to complete the survey that it's a legitimate request and shouldn't be deleted," General Newton said. Reminder notices with instructions on accessing the survey are sent periodically during the survey period.

Airmen who don't receive the survey can share their opinion about potential repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" through the online inbox at www.defense.gov/dadt, an Internet site accessible to common access card holders through www.af.mil or the Air Force Portal.

The online inbox allows service members and their families to submit issues anonymously to the intra-department inter-service working group led by Army Gen. Carter Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe, and Jeh Johnson, the Pentagon's top lawyer.

If Airmen wish to engage in more frank and candid discussions regarding their personal experiences in the military and how they might be affected by repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a confidential communication mechanism has been developed to facilitate confidential online dialogue with trained moderators from Westat. This mechanism can be accessed in two ways: through a link at the end of the survey or at the end of the online inbox submission.

The DOD working group will provide a report to the Secretary of Defense by Dec. 1 addressing issues, impacts and an implementation plan associated with a repeal of the law, should it occur.



Distracted driving leads to increase in auto accidents

81st Training Wing Safety Office,
81st Security Forces Squadron
and Keesler Public Affairs

Since January, Keesler has experienced 131 vehicular accidents, a significant increase from previous years.

Most accidents have occurred at the parking lot for the base exchange and commissary and the installation entry control point gates.

The 81st Security Forces Squadron reports that the primary reason for these accidents is inattentiveness by the driver.

Distracted driving is a dangerous phenomenon, not just at Keesler, but across the country.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly 6,000 people died and more than half a million were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver in 2008, the most recent year for which statistics are available.

Distraction occurs when a driver is delayed in the recognition of information needed to safely accomplish the driving task. It can be because of some event, activity, object, or person within or outside the vehicle. In other words, anything that takes your mind off driving is a distraction.

"Although cell phones are still a major safety concern, we do our best to keep educating everybody on a lot of other activities that can cause danger while driving," said Virgil Mitchell, 81st Training Wing safety chief. He also lists eating and changing the radio as some of the other top dangers.

"Ear plugs and headphones are another potential problem in safety," Mr. Mitchell pointed out. "Even pedestrians are at risk of distraction when they impair their ability to hear. The better you hear, the quicker you can take defensive action, especially when it comes to hearing emergency vehicles."

To stem the tide of distracted driving accidents on base and during other vehicular travel, the safety office and security forces remind Keesler drivers to:

Minimize multitasking as much as possible. Texting, flipping between radio stations, reading or other activities reduce your focus on driving and inevitably increases your likelihood of being involved in an accident.

Place potential distracters like newspapers, magazines and day planners in the trunk until you get to your destination.

Plan your route before driving to your destination.

Do all of your personal grooming prior to getting into the vehicle.

Don't eat or drink in the vehicle.

Avoid engaging in complex or emotional conversations on the cell phone or with a passenger.

Always look both ways before exiting a parking space or crossing a traffic lane. It's not uncommon for two vehicles to simultaneously back up in adjacent stalls.

Always maintain situational awareness of the actions of other drivers.

If you're involved in an accident on base, call the 81st SFS, 377-3040, for immediate assistance. Don't move your vehicle until 81st SFS personnel arrive unless it's an emergency situation. Have proof of insurance and your driver's license ready to expedite accident investigation and paperwork.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Sheralyn Gonzalez, 376-6604, or the safety office hotline, 377-7233.

Jonathan Hicks and Susan Griggs, Keesler Public Affairs, contributed to this report.

It's back to school time for Keesler kids

By Senior Airman Eric Summers

Keesler Public Affairs

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

To verify which school your child will attend, call 374-1810, extension 125.

This year, school attendance zones are being realigned by the mothballing of Nichols and Beauvoir Elementary Schools and Michel 6th Grade School.

Beauvoir students have been reassigned to either Popp's Ferry or Jeff Davis Elementary Schools. Students residing in Thrower Park and Tanglewood and Bent Oaks subdivisions will attend Popp's Ferry. All other Beauvoir students will attend Jeff Davis Elementary School.

Students who had attended Nichols Elementary School will now attend Gorenflo Elementary School. All sixth grade students will attend Biloxi Junior High School.

Parents who didn't pre-register their children can enroll students at the Biloxi school to

be attended, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and Friday. School begins Aug. 11.

When registering, you must present two proofs of residency, child's certified birth certificate, certificate of immunization issued by the state of Mississippi and the student's Social Security number.

Kindergarten students must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1.

For more information, visit <http://www.biloxischools.net>

Start dates and Web addresses for other school districts:

Gulfport — School starts Aug. 11; <http://www.gulfportschools.org>.

D'Iberville and Harrison County — School starts Aug. 11; <http://www.harrison.k12.ms.us>.

St. Martin and Jackson County — School starts Aug. 5; <http://www.jcsd.k12.ms.us>

Long Beach — School starts Aug. 9; <http://www.lbsd.k12.com>.

Ocean Springs — School begins Aug. 5; <http://www.ossd.k12.ms.us>.

KEESLER NOTES

Senior NCO induction

The senior noncommissioned officer induction ceremony is 6:30 p.m. Aug. 5 at the Roberts Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Facility.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Ezra Khan, 377-9160.

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 needed.

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

Job opportunities

People interested in applying for nonappropriated fund positions may submit an application in person or on line.

Hours for the NAF personnel office, Room 211, Sablich Center, are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

To apply online, log on to <https://nafjobs.afsv.net>.

For current job openings, call the 24-hour job line, 377-9055, or log on to www.keeslerservices.us.

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.

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, refrigerator, 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.

Singers needed

Vocalists are needed to perform the National Anthem at base and community functions.

For more information, call YoLanda Wallace, 377-1179.

Speakers bureau

The public affairs office is looking for people who enjoy public speaking to tell the Air Force story.

The Keesler Speakers Bureau is a community relations program developed as a public service and information vehicle. It's comprised of military and civilian Air Force employees who volunteer their time and information to speak to community groups.

Speakers come from a variety of experiences and backgrounds that offer a variety of presentations. Topics include aircraft maintenance, aviation, computer operations, communication skills, health, military life, military law, combat experience, financial management, child development, Air Force history and more.

For more information, call YoLanda Wallace, 377-1179.

Classes improve opportunities for successful job search

Airman and family readiness center

Job hunters can improve their chances for success with several upcoming classes at the airman and family readiness center.

All classes are held in the center's conference room in Sablich Center. There's a limit of 10 people per class.

Federal format resume writing — 9:30 a.m. Aug. 12 or 26; 2 p.m. Sept. 16 or 30, Oct. 14, Nov. 17 and Dec. 9; and 3 p.m. Oct. 28.

Civilian format resume writing — 9:30 a.m. Aug. 19; 2 p.m. Sept. 9, Oct. 7 or 21, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2 or 16; and 3 p.m. Sept. 23.

Career choices — noon to 2:30 p.m. Aug. 26, Sept. 23 and Oct. 29.

Interview skills and salary negotiation — 11 a.m. Aug. 24, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 23 and Dec. 28.

Registration is required.

For more information, call 376-8728 or e-mail lane.smith.1@us.af.mil.



Volunteer — get connected.

Gators early leaders for intramural soccer

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

At the end of the second week of intramural soccer, two of the 11 teams remain undefeated – the 334th Training Squadron (4-0) and the 338th TRS-A team (3-0).

Monday's games were cancelled because of saturated fields, according to sports director Sam Miller.

"Teams should refrain from practicing or scrimmaging on wet fields," he said. "This will cause further damage to fields and could cause injuries."

Games are 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays on the Meadows Drive field.

For more information, call 377-2444.

Air Force Marathon is Sept. 18

The 14th annual U.S. Air Force Marathon is Sept. 18 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Race events include a marathon, wheeled marathon, half-marathon and 10K which start and finish on the grounds of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

An affiliated 5K race takes place Sept. 17 conducted in partnership with neighboring Wright State University.

No military affiliation is required to participate in marathon events.

Nearly 10,000 runners participated in last year's Air Force Marathon races. For 2010, runner registration will be capped at 3,000 for the full marathon, 5,000 for the half-marathon, 2,000 for the 10K and 2,000 for



the 5K. As of Friday, the marathon was 79 percent full and the half marathon was 73 percent full.

Runners who register by Saturday are eligible to win prize packages. The first place winner receives two-night hotel accommodations, two pasta dinner tickets, two tickets to the race director's breakfast, two distinguished visitor passes, VIP parking pass and

goodie bag. Second place receives two tickets to the pasta dinner and race director's breakfast, two distinguished visitor passes, VIP parking pass and goodie bag. Third place receives two distinguished visitor passes, VIP parking pass and goodie bag.

For more information and to register, visit www.usafmarathon.com.



**Get Up.
Get Out.
Get Fit.
Together.**

At Gaudé Lanes, it's OK to throw balls in the house

August 2010

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE
FORCE
SUPPORT SQUADRON

By Earlene Smith

81st Force Support Squadron

When's the last time you went bowling at Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center? If it's been awhile, you need to stop by and experience the changes.

The old place has a new look. A lot of time, money and effort have gone into improvements to make your visit enjoyable.

Some changes you notice immediately, like the new furniture and flooring, oiled lanes, flat panel televisions, and the renovated pit area which is now accessible to the physically challenged.

Not so easy to see, but important to your game, is a coaching camera system, and the work done to rebuild all 24 pin setters.

Improvements in the 11th Frame Café include an electronic menu board, new counters, milk shake machine and numerous other appliances used to enhance the capabilities in the food service area.

Of course, some things never change, like the great prices.

Come alone, or bring your friends and family, and bowl at the lowest prices in the area.

Adults pay \$2.75 a game plus

\$2 for shoes from the time the center opens until 5 p.m. From 5 p.m. to closing, it's just \$3.50 per game plus shoes. Ages 17 and younger always pay \$1.50 a game plus shoes.

Eliminate those boring lunch hours by taking advantage of lunch time specials. Stop by Wednesdays-Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and bowl for \$1 a game plus \$1 for shoes.

Looking to rent a lane? It's only \$12.95 an hour or \$23.95 for two hours, plus the regular \$2 for shoes. Put three or four people on a lane, divvy the cost, bowl two or more games and ... well ... you do the math.

Besides open bowling, Gaudé Lanes hosts a variety of leagues. Registrations are being accepted now for several leagues starting in September. Tuesday night is "Big Money," Wednesday morning is women's, Wednesday night offers both a parent/child and a Dragon League, Thursday morning there's a seniors league, Thursday night is intramural, Friday night is mixers, and Saturday morning is youth and bumper leagues.

Often new bowlers feel self



Photo by Lisa Campbell

Bowling is a sport that can be enjoyed by everyone no matter what their age or skill level.

conscious about their inexperience and low scores, and think playing in a league is out of their reach. Most Gaudé leagues are played with handicaps, and a new bowler's score can be a definite asset to a team. So stop by now to register, or call 377-2817.

Bowlers, like other sports enthusiasts, are always seeking ways to improve their skills. Bowling center manager Bart Bosarge is available to help you reach your goal, whether you're trying for a perfect game, or just want to break 100. If you're age 10 or older, give us a call to set up a half hour appointment. The \$25 is worth every penny.

Bowlers and non-bowlers alike visit Gaudé Lanes to enjoy the delicious food served in the 11th Frame Café.

Start your day the healthy way with a good breakfast served 6:30-10 a.m. Wednesdays through Fridays. The full service breakfast menu includes assorted egg plates and omelets, breakfast sandwiches and your favorite side orders.

The line forms on the right for the café's kingpin weekly lunch specials. Wednesday's

offering is homemade meat loaf, a customer favorite; Thursday is chicken fried steak or chicken; and Friday's feature is golden fried catfish. The \$6.95 cost includes sides, salad, dessert and a beverage. Lunch time is 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. To place an order, call 377-2036 between 10 and 11 a.m. For extra savings, pick up a lunch punch card, purchase nine specials, and your tenth is free.

New items have been added to the 11th Frame Café's regular daily menu of soups, salads, sandwiches, wings, baskets, hot dogs and sides. Treat your taste buds to a milk shake, taco salad, po-boy, pizza or mouth-watering 8-ounce ribeye steak meal.

The 11th Frame Café is a great place to wet your whistle. The café offers domestic beer in a 16-ounce glass or 12-ounce bottle for \$2 and pitchers for \$6.50. Assorted imports are \$3 a bottle.

So, what are you waiting for? Stop by and satisfy your appetite for fun, food and your favorite beverage in this air conditioned, nonsmoking, newly-renovated facility.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Short-order cook Tarvin Atkins prepares a sandwich at the 11th Frame Café.

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EXTRA! Here's what's happening! EXTRA!

11TH FRAME CAFÉ

Editor's note: Located inside Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center, 377-2036. Contractors welcome. Menu is subject to change without notice.

Breakfast — 6:30-10:30 a.m. Wednesdays-Fridays.

Kingpin daily specials \$6.95 — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays. Call-in orders accepted 10-11 a.m. Wednesdays feature meat loaf, Thursdays get chicken fried steak or chicken, and Fridays enjoy golden fried catfish.

Lunch punch card — purchase nine combos or Kingpin daily specials and your tenth one is free.

BAY BREEZE GOLF COURSE

Editor's note: For more information or tee time, call 377-3832.

Quick-fix 10-minute free golf lessons — 4-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, August only.

Pro shop — gloves, golf balls, tees, gift certificates and more.

Twilight golf special — 2 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays pay one price and golf until closing; includes cart. E1-E4, \$12; E5-O3, \$20; O4 and up, \$22; and guests \$22.

Nine-hole Dragon fun golf — Thursday nights show up and play. Shotgun start at 4:30 p.m. \$20 per person includes greens fee, cart, food, beverages and prizes. Four person teams, two person blind draw. Check-in as a twosome or single. Format decided by draw each week. Limited to the first 36 golfers to show.

"UBU" nonprior service students' special — \$15 for 18 holes or \$10 for nine holes includes greens fee and cart; \$20 for 18 holes or \$15 for nine holes includes greens fee, cart, and rental clubs.

GAUDÉ LANES BOWLING CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2817. Bumpers are available on 19 lanes by reservation for ages 10 and younger.

Leagues — Preregister now, call 377-2817, or stop by.

• **Big money league** — 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays beginning Sept. 7 for 32 weeks. \$15 per night, per person. \$24,000 prize fund based on 100 bowlers. Register by Aug. 27.

• **Women's league** — 10 a.m. Wednesdays beginning Sept. 8 for 32 weeks. \$10 per day, per person. Register by Sept. 3.

• **Parent/child league** — 6 p.m. Wednesdays beginning Sept. 8 for 32 weeks. \$15 per night, per pair. Register by Sept. 3.

• **Dragon league** — 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays beginning Sept. 8 for 32 weeks. \$12 per person, per night. Four-person teams. \$14,400 prize fund based on 100 bowlers. Register by Sept. 3.

• **Senior's league** — 9 a.m. Thursdays beginning Sept. 9. \$10 per person, per day. Must be age 50 or older. Register by Sept. 3.

• **Intramurals league** — 6 p.m. Thursdays beginning Sept. 9 for 34 weeks. \$10 per person, per night. Talk to squadron sports representative to submit teams.

• **Mixers league** — 6:30 p.m. Fridays beginning Sept. 10 for 32 weeks. \$12 per person per night. Four-person teams must have one female member. \$14,400 prize fund based on 100 bowlers. Register by Sept. 3.

• **Youth leagues** — 10 a.m. Saturdays beginning Sept. 11 for 28 weeks. \$7 per child, per day. Register by Sept. 3.

• **Youth bumper leagues** — 10 a.m. Saturdays beginning Sept. 11 for 28 weeks. \$4 per child, per day. Register by Sept. 3.

Bowl at lunch — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays, \$1 per game and \$1 for shoes.

Club member special — Thursdays. Show your current club card and bowl for \$1.50 with free shoe rental.

Team building — 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-5 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, bring your employees and bowl for \$1 a game plus shoe rental. Call for reservations.

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

Birthday parties — choose from three packages (\$8.95-\$15.95 per child) and remember the birthday child is free. Reservations are required two weeks in advance.

"UBU" special — nonprior service students, show your UBU card and bowl for \$1.50 per game any time, shoes included.

Fundraiser idea — strike it rich hosting a squadron bowling tournament. It's fun, a great team builder and an exciting way to score over \$450 cash in just a few hours.

INNS OF KEESLER

Editor's note: For reservations and more information, call (228) 374-0088 or DSN 597-4900.

Check-in/out — at Tyer House located on Fisher Street. If you're arriving after 6 p.m., please call with credit card information to hold reservation.

Rooms available — Space-available reservations can be made three days in advance. Rooms offered are visiting airmen's quarters \$34.75 with a queen bed, refrigerator, microwave and shared bathroom; visitor's quarters \$39 with a queen bed, refrigerator, microwave and private bathroom; and temporary lodging facility \$41.50 for one- and two-bedroom family units with full kitchen. Pet TLFs available for an additional \$10 per night.

Plan ahead for holiday visitors — now accepting reservations for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays. A limited number of pet TLFs are available.

INFORMATION, TICKETS AND TRAVEL

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3818.

Disney special — purchase your Disney Salute tickets before Aug. 31 for big savings. Tickets are valid through Sept. 30.

Gulf Islands Water Park — \$18 per person. Season pass \$52.

Ship Island Excursions — \$22, children \$14.

Big Kahunas Water Park — \$32.50, children \$27.50.

KATRINA KANTINA

Editor's note: Located in the marina building overlooking Biloxi's Back Bay. All ranks and contractors welcome. Club members must show club card to receive discounts. For more information, call 377-2219.

Taco Tuesdays — 5-7 p.m. Keesler Club members get two tacos for \$1. Nonmembers pay \$1.50 per taco.

Wings and things — 5-7 p.m. Aug. 258. Keesler Club members get in free; nonmembers pay \$3 at the door. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and \$1 domestic draft beer.

Catering — let our professional assist you with planning weddings, birthdays, official functions and other special occasions. Club membership is not required.

Monday lunch buffets — dine-in 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$6, nonmembers \$8, includes iced tea. Buy nine and your tenth is free. Aug. 2, lasagna, corn, tossed salad, garlic bread and apple cobbler; Aug. 9, stuffed chicken breast, green beans, cornbread dressing, tossed salad, hot rolls, butter and chocolate pudding; Aug. 16, red beans and rice, sausage, tossed salad, hot dinner roll and bread pudding; Aug. 23, hot and fried wings, macaroni and cheese, green beans, rolls and cherry cobbler; and Aug. 30, spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, tossed salad, garlic bread and apple cobbler.

LEGENDS CAFÉ

Editor's note: Dine-in or take-out. Located inside Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call 377-2424. Free tunes on the juke box at lunch.

All-you-can-eat lunch buffets \$6.95 — dine-in 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays. Price includes iced tea or fountain drink. Aug. 4, baked chicken, roasted potatoes, seasoned green beans, hot dinner roll, garden fresh salad bar and fruit cobbler; Aug. 11, beef stew over egg noodles, cornbread, fresh salad bar and chocolate brownies; Aug. 18, crispy beef tacos, cheese enchiladas, Spanish rice, refried beans, garden fresh salad bar and cinnamon crispitos; and Aug. 25, spaghetti with meat sauce, pizza bar, warm garlic bread, garden fresh salad bar and fruit cobbler.

Lunch punch card — buy nine lunch combos or buffets and your tenth is free.

Salad bar — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. Large salad \$4.50, small salad \$2.50. Add ham, turkey, tuna, grilled chicken or chicken salad for \$1.

Rotisserie chicken — Tuesdays and Thursdays get a half chicken for \$3.50, or a whole chicken for \$7 (chicken only). Lunch special, \$6 for half chicken or \$10 for whole chicken includes one side item and a roll.

All-you-can-eat catfish buffet, \$8.95 — dine-in 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. training Fridays includes entree, sides, dessert and iced tea or fountain drink.

Fishwich Fridays — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. non training Fridays. \$5 for a filet of fish with cheese on a toasted bun with tartar sauce and shredded lettuce, fries and a drink.

"UBU" special — nonprior service students, show your UBU card and get a free large fountain drink with a \$5 purchase.

MCBRIDE LIBRARY

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2181.

Free wireless Internet — available 24/7. Ask front desk staff for log-in access.

Search our online catalog — search for print and audio books, DVDs, CDs, VHS, magazines, periodicals and more, log onto <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

Research orientations — learn how to access, search, locate and save/use information in Ebsco and Gale Group online data bases. Call to schedule.

Free movie check-out — check-out up to five movies free (DVDs & VHS) and keep for up to two weeks.

Eligibility/library cards — for complete information, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>, click on the McBride Library link.

Chief of Staff professional military reading list — titles available for check-out from the special book collection.

Large study and meeting rooms — two large meeting rooms, two audio rooms and a typing room are available.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND MARINA

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3160.

Sailing classes — students undergo six hours of instruction. Classroom instruction is 5:30-8 p.m. Aug. 12 at McBride Library. On-the water training is Aug. 13, 14 or 15 depending on the number of participants. Classes are \$40 per person with a minimum of six participants and a maximum of 12. Students must be age 16 or older. Register, prepay and pick up a handout by Aug. 5.

Geocaching adventure — 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 14. \$10 per person, includes instruction, equipment and transportation. Minimum four, maximum six participants. Register and prepay by Aug. 11.

Towable campers for rent — clean and roomy with side slide out. \$50 per day. Tow to your destination and enjoy.

Swimming pools — two pools are open for your convenience. The main base pool, located off Meadows Drive, and the Triangle pool, located off Ploesti Drive, offer recreational and lap swimming. Admission is \$1.50 daily, free for ages 5 and younger.

Kayak and canoe trips with guide — choose from several packages. Minimum four, maximum 20 people.

Recreational vehicle storage — \$20 per month.

Boats, marina slips and recreational equipment rental — for complete list with prices, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us> and click on the link for outdoor recreation.

Back bay fishing trips — \$20, call for date and time.

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

SPORTS AND FITNESS

Editor's note: Keesler has three fitness centers for your convenience — Blake Fitness Center, 377-4385; Dragon Fitness Center, 377-2907, and Triangle Fitness Center, 377-3056.

Blake Fitness Center renovations — the women's locker room is closed through Aug. 20. Portable showers are available. The reception area is closed Aug. 23 through Sept. 27.

Free fitness classes — boot camp, step aerobics, yoga, self-defense, Pilates, cycling, circuit training, Zumba and kick boxing are available at the Dragon Fitness Center. For class descriptions and schedule, stop by any of the base fitness centers or log onto www.keeslerservices.us under the fitness center link.

Parent/child fitness room — inside Dragon Fitness Center featuring workout equipment and a play area for ages 6 months to 7 years. Children must be directly supervised at all times by a parent while in the facility.

Varsity basketball — the sports office is looking for talented men and women to participate with the Keesler Dragons in the Southeastern Military Athletic Conference. Active-duty, Department of Defense and nonappropriated funds personnel and their dependents age 18 and older may participate. Coaches are needed. Season begins in October. Tryouts to be announced. For more information, call 377-2444.

Intramural flag football — coaches' meeting is 3:30 p.m. Aug. 4 at the Vandenberg Community Center. Season starts Aug. 23. All games will be held at the multipurpose field. To sign up or for more information, see your squadron sports representative.

Intramural bowling — coaches' meeting is 2 p.m. Aug. 5 at Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center. Season starts Sept. 9. All games will be held at Gaudé Lanes. To sign up or for more information, see your squadron sports representative.

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

5K poker fun run — 7 a.m. Sept 16 at Blake Fitness Center. Register 6:30-7 a.m. the day of the event. Male and female divisions. Awards for the top two poker hands in both divisions. The first 75 to register receive a T-shirt.

Fall powerlifting meet — squat, bench press and dead lift. 9 a.m. Sept. 18 at the Triangle Fitness Center. Free to enter. Sign up through Sept. 16. Weigh-in noon to 6 p.m. Sept. 17. Open to all personnel authorized to use Keesler facilities. Call for weight classes.

DOG DAY 20-MILE BATON RELAY AUG. 6

7 a.m. at the Triangle track. Register 6-7 a.m.

Teams will consist of four people, with each person running a total of five miles, 1/4 mile at a time. Participants are responsible for forming their own teams.

Women's competition will be conducted first, followed immediately by the men's.

Custom T-shirts will be given to the first 20 teams to register.

Get your team together now!

Awards presented to the first and second place winners in both the male and female divisions.

SUMMER SLAM WINGMAN TOURNAMENT AUG. 28

7 A.M. AT BAY BREEZE GOLF COURSE

\$20 FOR MEMBERS \$25 FOR ANNUAL GREENS MEMBERS \$35 FOR NON MEMBERS

Fee includes greens fee, cart, food, beverages and PRIZES!
Team placements for gross and low scores.

Two-person, select shot with handicap. Must have a verifiable handicap.

SPONSORED BY ALLEN TOYOTA.

Sign up by Aug. 24 ~ Call 377-3832

ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER

Editor's note: Preregistration is required for all classes. Register at craft sales, Building 5904. Space is limited. For more information, call 377-2821.

Specials

Gifts to go — get a décor mug filled with goodies, just \$10 each. Choose one with a picture of a magnolia and the Biloxi lighthouse for a souvenir.

Sale — check-out our discount bin; selected products reduced by up to 50 percent.

“UBU” special — UBU card holders get 10 percent off all items in the crafts resale store.

Multi-crafts shop

Editor's note: Potter's wheels, ceramic molds, air brushing, and tools are available for use in the shop. Classes include materials

Card making — 10:30 a.m. to noon, Aug. 7. \$7 per person.

Glass painting — 10:30 a.m. to noon, Aug. 14 and 21. \$25.

Scrapbooking — 10:30 a.m. to noon Aug. 21 and 28. \$20.

Wood shop

Editor's note: Hardwoods and plywood in stock for sale. Stock includes walnut, mahogany, pecan, maple, oak, poplar, cypress and cedar.

Beginning woodworking — 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. Make a cutting board. \$25 includes shop use, instruction and materials. Class certifies you to use the equipment in the future.

Beginning intarsia — 10 a.m. Aug. 7 and 21. \$15 including materials. Intarsia is the art of piecing wood together in a decorative pattern.

Advanced intarsia — 10 a.m. to noon Aug. 14 and 28. \$20 includes materials and tool use.

Frame shop

Framing class — 12:30-4:30 p.m. Aug. 6 and 20. \$30, bring a picture or piece of art no larger than 5x7-inches for framing.

Custom orders — we will customize all work to individual orders. We can coordinate framing awards with engraving shop accessories. Check out our great selection of flag boxes, retirement boxes and customized rank memento boxes.

Engraving shop

Custom items — we can etch glass items and customize your order of plaques, trophies, awards, mugs and writing pens for gift giving, special mementos and squadron functions. Organizational name tags are our specialty.

Auto hobby shop

Editor's note: Indoor and outdoor stalls and lifts available. For more information, call 377-3872.

Air conditioner checks — recover current refrigerant, check for leaks, recharge the system and add Freon. \$60 plus \$1 per unit for Freon needed.

Qualified mechanics — on hand to help with car care needs.

Tire service/air machine — coin-operated, available 24-7. Located at the vacuum station.

Collection site — for privately-owned vehicle oil, antifreeze, transmission and brake fluids. No tires or batteries.

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

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2211 or 377-4116.

Preschool — 8-11 a.m. Mondays-Thursdays beginning Aug. 16. Space is limited.

Give parents a break — 4-10 p.m. Aug. 7. Air Force Aid program offers free child care at the center for Air Force families who are referred by base agencies such as the airman and family readiness center and family advocacy, first sergeants, commanders and chaplains. Certificates must be coordinated through the airman and family readiness center. School-age children go to the youth center.

DINING FACILITIES

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2200.

Daily menu — call 377-DINE (3463).

Monthly birthday celebration — 5:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month for all nonprior service students, permanent party enlisted, and Essential Station Messing members. Reservations must be made in advance by the 25th of the previous month; call 377-3854. Personnel collecting Basic Allowance for Subsistence must pay cash and surcharge.

DRAGON'S LAIR EVENT CENTER

Seats 300 — great for weddings, commander's calls, holiday parties, retirement ceremonies, special occasions, etc. For catered events, call 377-2219. For non-catered events, call 376-8655.

FAMILY CHILD CARE

Editor's note: Located in Locker House, Building 3101 on C Street. For more information, call 377-3189.

Child care slots — call for availability.

Be your own boss — we're recruiting military spouses on and off base who wish to care for children in their homes. Providers are also needed to care for children with special needs including asthma, allergies, cerebral palsy and other physical impairments, and to work swing and evening shifts.

Child care assistance programs — Air Force Aid Society, returning home care, expanded duty care and Air Force subsidy programs are available to assist parents with child care. Call for guidelines.

RESALE LOT

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2821.

Buy, sell, trade — \$10 per month to place your vehicle on the lot, \$20 for recreational vehicles and boats. Located on Meadows Drive. Register at the arts and crafts center 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Registration, license and insurance required.

VANDENBERG COMMUNITY CENTER

Editor's note: All events, except dances and weekend competitions, are open to all Keesler personnel. For more information, call 377-5576.

* Free to compete, regular \$3 dance admission applies.

Weekend dances — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursdays before nontraining Fridays and every Friday and Saturday. \$3 admission.

Pool tournaments — 7 p.m. Tuesdays 9-ball, Wednesdays 8-ball. Free to enter.

Talent competition* — 9-10:30 p.m. Aug. 5. Prize for the winner.

Dance squad competition* — 9 p.m. Fridays beginning Aug. 6. Crews will be judged each week with a final competition on Aug. 27. Winner of the final competition is awarded a trophy, title and \$100 gift card. Sign up at the “V”.

Last player standing pool tournament* — beginning at 8 p.m. Aug. 19. Prize for the winner.

Double Dutch and jump rope contest* — 9-10 p.m. Aug. 19. \$3 entry fee. Prizes for the winners.

Swagg'd out Saturdays* — Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28. Sport your hottest fashions. Weekly winners.

Nonprior service students' web page — log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>, click on Leon the Chameleon in the right column for the “UBU” link.

VETERINARY SERVICES

Editor's note: Located on 3rd Street, Building 0408. All animals in base housing must be registered with the vet office. For appointment, call 376-7495.

Eligible patrons — active duty, retirees, reservists and National Guard on active duty for more than 72 hours with orders may use the veterinary clinic.

For heartworm prevention — dogs must have proof of a current negative heartworm check and must have been seen by the Keesler veterinary clinic within the past 12 months.

Sick call and vaccines — by appointment only.

Health certificates — available for interstate and overseas travel.

YOUTH CENTER

Editor's note: All children registered in a youth center program receive free membership. For more information, call 377-4116.

Summer camp — continues through Aug. 10 for school age and teens.

Before and after school program — begins Aug. 11. Preregistration required. Please call for complete information.

Bus service — available for Jeff Davis and Pops Ferry Elementary School children enrolled in the youth center school-age program. Limited after-school transportation is provided from Biloxi Junior High School to the youth center for middle school and junior high students. Preregistration is required.

Friday night fun — 6:30-9:30 p.m. beginning Aug. 13 for ages 6-12. \$5 admission. Skating, music, games and more.

Keystone/TRAIL meetings and teen open recreation — 4-8 p.m. Saturdays. Computer media center, sports and recreation activities, homework assistance.

HAPPENINGS is a monthly supplement to the Keesler News produced by the CSC marketing department. Information is subject to change without notice. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Earlene Smith, marketing director; Lisa Campbell, marketing specialist; Cindy Milford, graphics illustrator; Tanja Smith, commercial sponsorship coordinator.

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