



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

JAN. 6, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 1



2011 — 70 years
of Keesler heritage

Page 3

New Year's baby
Page 4

Physical training test changes
Page 8

Focus on wellness
Pages 14-16

INSIDE

Commentary, 2-3 Training and Education, 4-7 News and Features, 8-21 Sports and Recreation, 22-23

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“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” repeal

Effective leadership is key to implementing change

By Gen. Norton Schwartz

Air Force Chief of Staff

Editor’s note: President Obama signed the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” bill into law Dec. 22.

Fellow Airmen,
Dec. 19, the Senate passed HR 2965, a bill designed to repeal Section 654 of Title 10 of the United States Code, known as the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” law. Once the President signs the bill into law, the Department of Defense will proceed to implement the change in a responsible, deliberate, and careful manner.

It is important to understand that the President’s signing of the new bill into law does not mean the Don’t Ask Don’t Tell law will be repealed immediately. Instead, the Congressional language stipulates that repeal occurs 60 days after certification by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, and the President that the necessary policies and regulations have been prepared to implement repeal and that repeal is consistent with standards of military readiness, effectiveness, unit cohesion, recruiting and retention of the Armed Forces. To repeal, the implementation and certifi-

cation process will not happen immediately; it will take time. Meanwhile, the current law remains in effect. All Air Force members should conduct themselves accordingly.

In the coming days and weeks as we prepare for the repeal, we will provide education and training material to help all Airmen understand what is expected in a post-repeal environment.

Effective leadership, however, is key to implementing this change and success will rest on the shoulders of senior leaders like me, commanders, chiefs, first sergeants, and supervisors. The standards of conduct we expect of all

Airmen will not change. Moreover, we will continue to treat each other, as members of the Air Force family, with dignity and respect.

I know each of you will approach this issue professionally and that you will continue to adhere faithfully to our core values of Integrity, Service before Self, and Excellence in all we do. By following our core values, we will successfully implement this change with the same unparalleled professionalism we have demonstrated with every transformation we have undertaken in peace and war.

Here’s scoop on new controlled spend accounts

By 2nd Lt. Bill Kiser

81st Comptroller Squadron

As a new financial services officer, I found myself spending up to 20 hours a week on Government Travel Card management tasks — answering questions from agency program coordinators and commanders who were focused on program and delinquency management.

This was probably no different from my fellow FSOs, but I always felt my focus should be evaluating and improving the processes to ensure customers are paid in an accurate and efficient manner.

One day, an opportunity streamed into my e-mail. It stated, “Keesler Air Force Base will be piloting the Controlled Spend Account program.”

I knew nothing about the new CSA program before I met the professionals from the Air Force Banking Office. After a few meetings and a lot of planning, I was fully immersed in training, coordinating and implementing the CSA program for three units.

During implementation, our team learned a few lessons by trial and error and had the opportunity to see first-hand the benefits that CSA provides to our base and our customers.

Myth, legend and lore of the CSA program leaked out to other bases and I provided e-mails explaining the base level perspective including improvements over the GTC, how it’s better for the customer and challenges and preparation.

Improvements

At base level, the biggest benefits offered by the CSA are manpower savings and increased rebates.

With the GTC, tracking delinquencies and misuse became a mainstay in financial services daily and monthly operations. To manage the program

For more information,
visit the
Controlled Spend Account
Community of Practice
[https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/
community/views/home.
aspx?Filter=22201.](https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/community/views/home.aspx?Filter=22201)

effectively, financial managers ran eight to 12 reports to capture delinquencies. Then they had to coordinate with agency program coordinators to follow up on cases of misuse. We did this so we could catch less than 1 percent of users who misused the card, spending tremendous amount of time on administrative tasks.

With CSA, there are no reports other than account listings. For me, this saved about 12-20 hours per week.

When we disbursed cash to complete mission requirements prior to the GTC, we didn’t spend hours tracking cash advance abuses. We just wanted our Airmen to travel, complete the mission and return home safely. The CSA is a modernized version of that cash advance system.

The card’s controlled spending limits are based on the approved travel order estimates. This cash amount is uploaded to the card electronically and is visible to both the financial manager and the customer. Because we don’t monitor how the traveler

spends the allotted money, there’s no need to run reports to track misuses. To clarify, the card should still only be used for official travel expenses, but should be used for all travel expenses.

Additionally, delinquencies are extremely limited by the controlled spend capability and Citibank manages the few instances when overspending does occur. Our responsibility is to ensure travelers are using the card for all expenses, so major commands and wings can recapitalize rebate dollars for mission requirements. The CSA significantly reduces administrative tasks and increases MAJCOM and wing-level rebates, but its greatest benefits — more control and freedom — are passed on to our customers.

Better for customers

The CSA program provides the customer the ability to call and establish a temporary spend limit to meet changes in the mission. An e-mail is generated to the approving official as a notification of change, but the traveler can complete the mission with no hiccups. The card also provides more freedom to cardholders. With the CSA program, customers no longer need to worry about using the card for the wrong thing; instead, they can focus on managing allocated funds to complete the mission.

Additionally, funds saved or earned while traveling can be utilized in several ways after the temporary duty is over. Customers may choose to transfer the unused funds to other personal accounts or continue using the card until the allocated funds are spent. At the base level, the new card offers many benefits to both our customers and our financial managers. As we continue to expand the program

ON THE COVER

From left, Airman Basic Dillon Smith, Airman 1st Class William Edmondson, Staff Sgt. Amay Odtohan, Airman 1st Class Jason George and Airman Mikhail Reyna-Maynez, 338th Training Squadron, fold the flag Dec. 15 at the 81st Training Group's final retreat of 2010. The Airmen are students and Sergeant Odtohan is a military training leader. Keesler plans to celebrate its 70th anniversary this year with a variety of events, including an open house and air show March 19-20.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



KEESLER NEWS

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DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

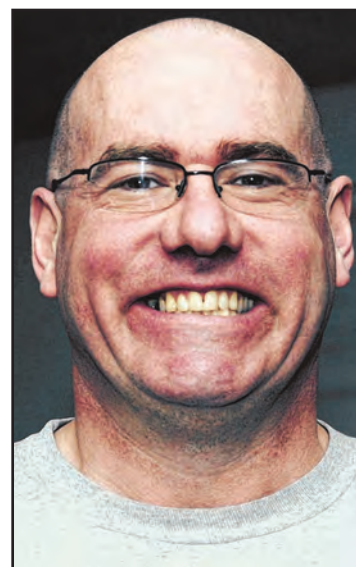
Keesler News photojournalist

What is your
New Year's
Resolution?



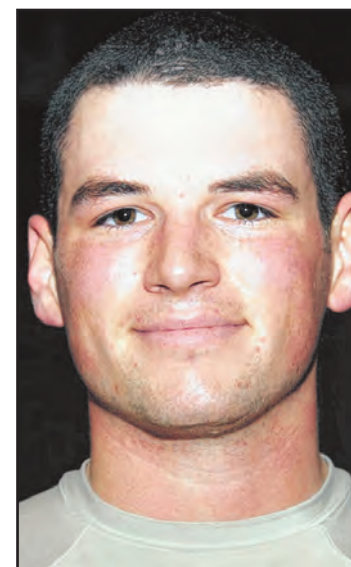
"I always strive to be a better person."

Allison Cullom, Dragon Fitness Center fitness trainer



"To finish my degree."

Chief Petty Officer Kurt Stewart, Coast Guard Cutter Healy, Seattle.



"To quit smoking."

Airman 1st Class Lucas Moule, 334th Training Squadron student

Kiser, from Page 2

to other bases, sharing the lessons learned will help facilitate smooth transitions if senior leaders choose to implement the CSA across the Air Force.

Future challenges

Here at Keesler, we have less than 200 accounts still on the GTC. The conversion has been an overall success. As proof, we received our first Citibank rebates in more than a year and earned \$12,800 for the 81st Training Wing this past quarter. We still face challenges as we learn the ins and outs of this new product.

Education — Now that we have a working and implemented product, education about its use is essential. The majority of the questions that I field aren't problems, but educational issues that could be handled at lower levels. All Airmen can now have the card so our goal is to ensure that all Airmen understand how it works.

Letting go — We've managed delinquencies for so long it's difficult to let go of past practices. Forget the administrative work — focus on education.

Instill personal responsibility — The Citibank CSA travel card is linked to you. Treat it as you would your personal banking card. The online and phone tools will help you track the status of your spending and reimbursement. Learning how to use these tools is key to ensuring mission success.

Let the celebration begin!
Keesler's 70 years of service to America
1941-2011

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Student's son is Keesler's first baby for 2011



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Airman 1st Class Sean and Ashley Ives hold their son, Brady, in the 81st Medical Group Hospital's family birthing center Monday. Brady, Keesler's first baby for 2011, was born at 3:39 p.m. Sunday. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 18 ³/₄ inches "tall." Airman Ives, from San Antonio, is a weather student in the 335th Training Squadron. Ashley is from Merritt Island, Fla. The first-time parents live on base.



Don't drink and drive.

Call
Airmen Against Drunk Driving,
377-SAVE,
for a safe ride home.

360 saves in 2010

Two from Keesler deliver precious cargo, mail

By Tech Sgt. Drew Nystrom

455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds,” is often cited as the postman’s motto.

Dust storms, indirect fire and additional duties would also be appropriate additions for the five Airmen of the 455th Expeditionary Communications Squadron who are responsible for all official and unofficial mail destined for Airmen assigned to Bagram Airfield.

During the previous six months, the Airmen received, sorted and disseminated an average of more than 130,000 pounds of mail per month.

As the holiday season approached, the five Airmen handled more than 360,000 pounds of mail in November alone and were on track to pass that number easily in December.

Nearly every day, C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft deliver pallets of mail, parts and other items essential to the war effort and morale, according to Master Sgt. John Long, 455th ECS plans and programs flight superintendent. He’s deployed from Keesler’s 81st Training Support Squadron.

“This crew handles more than cookies and care packages,” Sergeant Long said. “They ensure everything from vehicle parts to computer software gets to its intended destination, and they do it



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Drew Nystrom

Airman Ronald Smith, left, hands Airman Hill mail bound for 455th AEW members Dec. 7. Airman Hill is deployed from the 81st TRSS at Keesler.

with outstanding attitudes.”

After 455th Air Expeditionary Wing aerial porters unload each 500 pound pallet off the aircraft, the ECS team sorts through each by hand. They divide their cargo into trucks destined for either the east or west-side post offices.

“It’s a physically demanding job,” said Airman Ronald

Smith, a member of the 455th ECS sorting crew. “Everyone expects to get their mail, but don’t usually think about all it takes to get it from the sender to their hands.”

Most days the crew handles almost 2,500 pounds of mail, but Senior Airman Audrey Hill, a 455th ECS member, said more than 40

pallets — or about 2,000 pounds for each crew member to load and sort — arrived all at once recently.

“That day was more like an intense workout than a job,” said Airman Hill, who’s also deployed from the 81st TRSS. “It took about five hours to break all the pallets down. It’s an important job

though, especially during the holidays because of the lift in morale it gives.”

Volunteers from the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group and other flights within the ECS are integral on those “heavy” days, according to Sergeant Long.

“They realize how big the load can get and are there to help at the drop of a hat,” Sergeant Long said. “They load their trucks with their mail and ease the burden on our Airmen. Overall, it just streamlines the process a little bit more.”

Staff Sgt. Oluwasegu Odusanya, 455th ECS member and noncommissioned officer in charge of the team, said his Airmen are “something special.”

“This effort couldn’t be done without Airmen who have pulled together as a team,” Sergeant Odusanya said. “They make every day fun and are true professionals. It doesn’t matter if we get five pallets or 42,” he said. “They know the importance of their mission and rely on each other.”

The amount of work and the way the Airmen accomplish it is even more impressive because it isn’t their only duty, said 1st Lt. Tomasz Krygowski, 455th ECS plans and programs flight commander.

“After the mail is dealt with, these Airmen move on to their duties as security managers, support customer service issues and maintain Bagram’s Air Force knowledge management database,” Lieutenant Krygowski said.

“Everybody wants a package for the holidays, and these Airmen made sure they got it.”

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[81stTRW.Keesler](https://www.facebook.com/81stTRW.Keesler)

Student earns perfect score

Airman 1st Class Scott Madsen graduated Dec. 16 with a perfect score in the electronic principles course in the 332nd Training Squadron. He continues his training at the instrument and flight control systems apprentice school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. He's a reservist assigned to the 914th Airlift Wing, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y.



16 senior airmen complete Airman Leadership School

Sixteen senior airmen graduated from Airman Leadership School Class 11-1 Dec. 16.

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron — Leonard Patterson.

81st Communications Squadron — Trithena Law.

81st Comptroller Squadron — Thomas Butler (distinguished graduate).

81st Contracting Squadron — Ryan Alfieri.

81st Engineering Installation Squadron — Antonio Keefe.

81st Inpatient Operations Squadron — Marlena Pagliuca.

81st Medical Operations

Squadron — Edgar Corona (John L. Levitow Award), Ryan Hartman (class flight chief), Kathryn Rice and Latoya Richard (class first sergeant).

81st Medical Support Squadron — Emmanuel Balderas and Robert Barros III (commandant's award).

81st Security Forces Squadron — Sarah Hurtado.

345th Airlift Squadron — Brian Bollhoefer (academic achievement award).

366th Training Squadron, Detachment 6 — Amber Campton.

Other — Joshua Luikart.

Visit www.jetairmen.af.mil for information about joint expeditionary tasking and individual augmentee programs.

Help share the Keesler story!
For information on the Keesler Speakers Bureau, call YoLanda Wallace, 377-1179.

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

USM spring term

Onsite registration for the University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast is Wednesday at the Fleming Education Center at the Gulf Park Campus in Long Beach.

Orientation is 1 and 3 p.m. for new undergraduate students. Advisement and registration is 2-6 p.m.

Online orientation is now available for new students. To "attend," go to www.usm.edu/gc/orientation, complete the form and click "submit."

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

CCAF graduation

Feb. 25 is the last day to apply for the Community College of the Air Force spring graduating class.

By that date, all supporting documentation must be on file with CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., including your nomination action request.

For more information, visit the education services office, Room 224, Sablich Center, or call 376-8708 or 8710.

Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Group's 2011 drill down and parade schedule is:

Drill downs — 8 a.m. Feb. 18, April 29, June 24, Aug. 19 and Oct. 28.

For more information, call 377-2103.

Parades — 6 p.m. March 17, July 21 and Sept. 29 and during Special Olympics, May 13-15.

For more information, call 377-2789.

CORRECTION

Tech. Sgt. Kimberley Mitchell, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, graduated Dec. 8 with Mathies NCO Academy Class 11-1. Her name was missing from the class list submitted for publication.

Fitness program changes implemented Jan. 1

By Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — As Air Force officials continue to sculpt their fitness program based on Airmen's feedback, an Air Force Guidance Memorandum was issued Dec. 20 that provides policy changes to Air Force Instruction 36-2905, Fitness Program, which became effective Jan. 1.

Compliance with the program is mandatory and outlines notable clarifications from the original July 1 guidance, such as specified waist-measurement procedures, sit-up and push-up instruction and clarity of target-component values to achieve an overall passing score.

"We not only have an increase in 'excellent' scores since the new fitness program's implementation in July, but in terms of the guidelines, Airmen have talked, and we've listened," said Brig. Gen. Sharon K.G. Dunbar, director of force management policy. "We'll continue to fine-tune the Air Force instruction so that Airmen are afforded the greatest opportunity to succeed with little room for ambiguity or misinterpretation of the instructions."

"These minor adjustments to the guidance on the test are meant to increase our Airmen's understanding of how the test works," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy. "While emphasis may seem like it's on the test itself, we really are encouraging our Airmen to develop healthy lifestyles."

The AFGM 2 contains, but is not limited to, the following revisions:

Fitness assessment cells will supervise Airmen conducting push-ups, sit-ups, and the 1.5-mile run or 1.0-mile walk at a ratio of no more than 12 members for every one FAC staff member or physical-train-

ing leader. When multiple Airmen are testing, they will pair off and count for each other with FAC oversight.

For push-ups, Airmen will place their palms or fists on the floor, with hands slightly wider than shoulder width apart and elbows fully extended. Feet should be no more than 12 inches apart and should not be supported, braced or crossed. Elbows will be bent at 90-degree angles and arms should be fully extended but not locked in the up position for the push-up to count. The Airman's chest may touch, but not rest or bounce on the floor. Airmen may move their hands or feet from the floor or bridge or bow their backs, but only in the up or rest position; resting any other body part on the floor is not allowed. Any resting other than in the up position will cause the test to terminate, and the score will be based on the correct number of push-ups performed to that point.

For sit-ups, members will cross arms over the chest so that any part of the hands or fingers remains in contact with the shoulders or upper chest at all times. Airmen may request that their feet be held down by the assessor's hands or knees, but the assessor may not anchor members by holding behind the calves or by standing on the feet. When members' hands or fingers come completely away from the chest or shoulder, or if their buttocks or heels leave the ground, the repetition will not count. The member may request a member of the same gender to hold the feet and that request must be granted. Where available, an anchored toe-hold bar may be used.

Any attempts to alter heart rate, such as intentional slowing or stopping during the walk, are violations and will cause the test to be terminated, resulting in test failure. Airmen testing via the 1.0-

mile walk are required to walk, not run, as quickly as possible, keeping at least one foot in contact with the ground at all times.

Abdominal circumference assessment will begin with the tester on the right side of the Airman, who will stand on a flat surface. The tester will locate the measurement landmark immediately above the right uppermost hip bone, the superior border of the iliac crest, at the side of the body vertically in line with the right armpit (midaxillary line). Airmen may use one hand to initially assist the tester in anchoring the tape measure to the body, but must remove the hand from the tape measure before the official measurement is recorded. Measurement will be taken on bare skin. The free hand may be used to hold the shirt out of the way, but no part of the hands or arms may extend above the shoulders.

Active-duty, Air Force Reserve and guardsmen under Title 10 Airmen must retest within 90 days following a failed fitness assessment. Unit commanders may not mandate Airmen to retest any sooner than the end of the 90-day reconditioning period. However, Airmen may volunteer to do so. Retesting in the first 42 days after an "unsatisfactory" test also requires unit commander approval in accordance with medical guidelines. It is the Airman's responsibility to ensure he or she retests before the 90-day reconditioning period expires and non-currency begins on the 91st day.

Any Airmen deployed for less than one year to a location that administers fitness assessments may complete fitness assessments on a volunteer basis only. Airmen will automatically be considered "exempt" if they are in a deployed location and their current fitness assessment expires.

Commanders will exempt Airmen who are on terminal leave or permissive temporary duty in conjunction with retirement or separation, incarceration, on appellate leave or excess leave pending separation from the fitness assessment.

Basic military training Airmen will complete official fitness assessments via training cadre physical training leaders. Graduated BMT Airmen will hand carry fitness assessment score sheets for input into the Air Force Fitness Management System by the FAC at their first duty station or the military training leader or unit fitness pro-

gram manager at technical training school, whichever location they report to first.

Recognition patches for members achieving and maintaining "excellent" fitness assessment scores is deleted.

For the complete AFGM 2, visit the Air Force e-publications site. An assessment video will be posted to the Air Force Fitness Program web page, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/affitnessprogram/index.asp> this month that provides a definitive set of instructions for administering and taking the Air Force physical fitness test.

IN THE NEWS

Promotion announced

Lt. Col. Henry Leis, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, has been selected for promotion to colonel.

King memorial luncheon planned

The annual memorial luncheon honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is 11 a.m. Jan. 13 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

The speaker is Rev. Eric Dickey, pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church, Gulfport.

The cost is \$16 by cash or check payable to the African-American Heritage Committee. Today is the deadline for reservations by calling 377-9386 or 5250.

Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group conducts warrior training noon to 5 p.m. Jan. 13.

Road closure for gas line repair

Z Street from L Street to M Street in front of Building 4705 (civil engineering) is closed Jan. 17 through Feb. 11 for gas line repair.

For more information, call Clabert Buillory, 377-5856.

Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for the Jan. 20 issue of the Keesler News is noon Jan. 13 because of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday Jan. 17.

Dragons deployed — 245



Sergeant Woodruff



Sergeant Dochnahl



Sergeant Carnes



Sergeant Williams



Mr. Fix

81st Force Support Squadron receives nine AETC awards

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Holcomb

Keesler Public Affairs

The 81st Force Support Squadron was recognized with nine Air Education and Training Command level awards for fiscal year 2010.

The squadron received two unit awards for its airman and family readiness program and manpower and organization program.

The seven individual annual award winners are:

Master Sgt. Jessica Woodruff, airman and family readiness center enlisted manager.

Tech Sgt. Bryan Dochnahl, manpower noncommissioned officer.

Staff Sgt. Charmaine Carnes, first term airmen center NCO in charge.

Staff Sgt. Jacob Williams, personnel NCO.

Michael Fix, manpower and personnel flight manager.

Curtis Greer, MPF specialist.

Lisa Lyons, airman and family services flight technician.

The airman and family readiness center supports a diverse training wing with 7,000 members and their families, 13,000 retirees and 3,000 civilians annually with 100,000 utilized services. The center



organized 13 deployed family events that benefitted 3,500 Keesler families. The staff also led a state-of-the-art child identification program for 450 children including DNA identification, teeth molds and voice recording.

The manpower and organization section established and managed 622 single-point standards and reloaded the Air Force with more than 27,000 Airmen in more than 60 Air Force Specialty Codes. The section was the first in Air Force history to convert the cyber communications and information course to My Base virtual environment. The staff also revived the Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century program and created an avenue for long-term success.

Sergeant Woodruff administered AETC's Year of the Air Force Family "deployment" program. She completed 96 pre- and post-deployment briefings that ensured the readiness of more than 2,000 members. She has also volunteered with the American

Heart Association, Habitat for Humanity, the Air Force Association and raised \$6,000 worth of toys with the Hard Rock Casino.

Sergeant Dochnahl led a four-person team in advising 81st Training Wing leadership on the use of \$556 million worth of manpower resources. He managed the commander's fitness program and developed a new administration process that ensured readiness and compliance. He also led nine squadron Combined Federal Campaign key workers in raising \$13,000.

Sergeant Carnes piloted 19 FTAC classes, coordinated 779 briefings and personally presented 57 briefings and transitioned 239 Airmen into the operational Air Force. She updated and streamlined the FTAC curriculum to meet Air Force Instruction requirements and ensure 100 percent compliance. She also raised \$3,800 for Fisher House and coordinated an Armed Services Blood Program drive.

Sergeant Williams main-

tained 100 percent accountability of all students arriving from basic military training and ensured that 8,297 Airmen were in-processed and scheduled for orientation within two days of arrival. He reduced student in-processing time by an average of nine hours by adding new steps and combining others for efficiency. He also volunteered at the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Keesler's Diversity Day and Interfaith Hospitality Network's shelter.

Mr. Fix managed more than 5,000 numbered Air Force, wing and group authorizations worth \$556 million. He facilitated deliberate and crisis action planning and execution training for the manpower and organization office at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. He also teaches a Sunday school class for adult couples.

Mr. Greer conducted National Security Personnel System briefings for more than 80 employees and wrote two articles to keep employees updated, reducing anxiety, preventing interruptions and increasing efficiency. He took over as disability program manager, a dormant position, securing equipment for employees with disabilities and improving production by 40 percent. He's a Sunday school teacher and volunteers with Biloxi High School's drama



Mr. Greer



Ms. Lyons

club and show choir programs.

Ms. Lyons briefed 5,114 students on financial management. She supported Year of the Air Force Family events for non-prior service students and reached 1,500 new Airmen. She also volunteered more than 100 hours and raised more than \$4,000 for St. Patrick Catholic High School.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Use-or-lose leave guidance

For guidance on special leave accrual for members in use-or-lose leave status, call the military personnel section's customer service element, 376-8347 or 8348.

Stop loss special pay extension

American Forces Press Service

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for retroactive Stop Loss special pay has been extended to March 4.

Congress established the retroactive pay to compensate service members who served involuntary extensions or whose retirement was suspended between Sept. 11, 2001 through Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members and their beneficiaries are required to submit a claim to their respective military service to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in stop-loss status.

Service officials estimate 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries are eligible.

Because most of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have engaged in persistent outreach efforts throughout the year. Efforts, including direct mail, engaging military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets, will continue throughout the period of eligibility, Defense Department officials said.

Change for MTI opportunities

The military training instructor corps has received authorization to pursue 18-month time-on-station waivers. First term Airman must be within their career job reservation window.

For more information, call the MTI recruiting team, DSN 473-1016 or 1018.

Classes for job hunters

These upcoming classes are held in the airman and family readiness center's conference room in Sablich Center.

There's a limit of 10 per class, and registration is required.

Interview skills and salary negotiation — 9 a.m. Jan. 20 or Feb. 24.

Federal format resume writing — 9 a.m. Jan. 19 and Feb. 2.

Civilian format resume writing — 9 a.m. Jan. 25.

Career skills assessment — 9 a.m. Jan. 26, Feb. 10 or March 10.

For more information, call 376-8728.

Transition assistance briefings

The airman and family readiness center has mandatory pre-separation briefings for members planning to separate or retire — 1 p.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 2:30 p.m. for retirees in Room 110, Sablich Center.

Bring one copy of separation or retirement orders. This appointment is required by law, and must be accomplished 90 calendar days before the separation or retirement date. For short-notice separations or retirements, the briefing should be done as soon as possible.

Permissive TDY procedures

All newly-arrived permanent party active-duty members, must report to their units upon arrival at Keesler.

Unit personnel coordinators assist members with completing permissive temporary duty requests and obtaining the commander's signature. Members may not depart on permissive TDY without in-processing the military personnel section and obtaining a leave number.

For more information, call 376-8347.

Air Force extends voluntary separation, retirement programs

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials have announced an extension of voluntary separation and retirement programs for fiscal 2011 as part of the service's ongoing force-management initiatives.

Voluntary and involuntary force-management programs were implemented in fiscal 2010 due to record-high retention. For fiscal 2011, the service remains over its congressionally mandated end-strength.

"We have extraordinarily talented Airmen answering our nation's call worldwide," said Brig. Gen. Sharon Dunbar, force management policy director at Air Force headquarters. "With so many Airmen wanting to serve, we now have nearly 2,000 more Airmen serving than authorized and funded by Congress."

Based on end-strength limits, more force-management measures are necessary to reduce the number of Airmen serving on active duty.

Officer voluntary measures include waiving time in grade and active-duty service commitments in targeted year groups; waiving all but two years of commissioning commitments for Air Force Academy and ROTC graduates, to include waiving recoupment of education and scholarship costs; and reducing the Reserve obligation for Palace Chase transfers from a three-year commitment ratio to one year for each remaining year of ADSC, officials said.

Enlisted voluntary measures focus on Airmen in non-critical, overage specialties and year groups. These include waiving time-in-grade, limited ADSCs and up to two years of enlistment obligations. Palace Chase transfers

are also available for enlisted Airmen with a one-to-one rather than a two-to-one year commitment.

Eligible Airmen can begin applying immediately for any of these voluntary programs.

General Dunbar said the challenge is balancing both the number and skills of Airmen within authorized, funded levels.

"Keeping the active-duty force within authorized end-strength levels will cause our active force to lose many great Airmen," she said. "However, our Air Force offers many ways to serve. We hope these Airmen will remain with us through civil service and reserve-component opportunities."

Airman and family readiness centers will continue providing transition support through transition assistance planning and veterans' benefits seminars.

These seminars will include information on opportunities available in the Air Force Reserve, the Air National Guard, Air Force civil service and the private sector, as well as educational options available with the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

Senior Air Force leaders highly encourage Airmen to consider opportunities along the Air Force continuum of service of Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and civil service at www.usajobs.gov.

"Our Airmen are a trained and ready resource with the skills our Guard, Reserve and civil service need," General Dunbar said. "We definitely want to keep top talent in the Air Force family."

A wealth of information is available
in the civilian force development corner on the Keesler public Web site,
<http://www.keesler.af.mil/civilianforcedevelopmentcenter.asp>

Virtual inprocessing eases civilian moves

By Debbie Gilea

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Revisions in the civilian permanent-change-of-station orders process at the Air Force Personnel Center are intended to save time and money, and reduce errors for hiring officials, relocating employees and personnelists.

The new civilian PCS process is conducted virtually through the Civilian Virtual Inprocessing system, or cVIP, available on the Air Force personnel services website.

“There used to be three or four different documents from different sources that had to be attached to an e-mail and sent to a selectee,” said Maili Peters, a systems specialist at AFPC. “Now there’s one online questionnaire that selectees use to provide all the information. It’s easier and faster now.”

Relocating for a position can be stressful, and officials said the PCS process should not add to that stress.

According to Tonya Harris, PCS unit chief, cVIP helps eliminate the confusion and should decrease employees’ stress.

“When a civilian is selected for a position, they will get an e-mail with a link that will take them to the virtual inprocessing page,” Ms. Harris said. “From there, it’s easy to follow the prompts.”

In addition to simplifying the process for civilians, built-in system requirements are intended to help prevent errors that previously would have bogged down the process. For example, selectees will not be able to send the questionnaire until they complete all mandatory information blocks.

According to Ms. Harris, a time-consuming aspect of the relocation process is “reach back.”

The more often a person has to go back to a document to correct information, the more time it takes to complete a process, she said. So, the new PCS process through cVIP decreases touch time, which increases productivity.

Also, once a selectee completes and sends the form, the next person in the process is automatically notified.

“Documents don’t sit in limbo unattended, because hiring officials and personnelists are notified when a document needs their attention,” Ms. Harris said. “That speeds up the process too.”

Selecting officials who need access to cVIP should have their supervisor send a digitally signed, encrypted e-mail request to the AFPC Personnel Systems Operational and Control Center service desk at psocc.sd@randolph.af.mil. The request must include the last name, first name, Social Security number, base e-mail address or e-mail for life address, and DSN phone number. E-mail sent to the address must also be digitally signed and encrypted to protect personally identifiable information, such as a Social Security number.

For more information, visit the AFPC personnel services website at <http://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil> or call 1-800-525-0102.



From left, Jewel, R.T. and Tiffany Holley enjoy refreshments at McBride Library's holiday open house. Jewel is 5 and R.T. is 2. Their dad is Wolf Holley, 81st Communications Squadron, who also serves as a technical sergeant with the 403rd Wing.



Stories, food, fun galore at library's open house

Three-year-old Aurora Mayo and her mom, Alyssa, assemble a Christmas stocking. Aurora's dad is 2nd Lt. Robert Mayo, 333rd Training Squadron.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Holly Dorris from the McBride Library staff reads "The Crunchy, Munchy Christmas" to Keesler children during story time at the library's open house, Dec. 15. Mrs. Dorris is married to Tech. Sgt. Robert Dorris, 333rd TRS.

Hospital installs new internal imaging cameras



Photo by Steve Pivnick
Tech. Sgt. Richard Coombs, nuclear medicine Phase II instructor, demonstrates the operation of one of the cameras using Phase II student Tech. Sgt. Michele Chapman as a simulated patient. He noted that a major improvement with the upgrade is the central control area allowing the controller to observe both cameras. In the past, there were two separate control rooms.

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group has purchased and installed two new nuclear medicine imaging cameras.

Valued at nearly \$2.1 million, the cameras place Keesler among the leaders in nuclear medicine imaging technology and provide improved diagnostic testing capability for nearly 45,000 authorized beneficiaries.

Nuclear medicine involves the use of radioactive isotopes that are introduced into the body to image various organs and systems. The devices the cameras replaced were close to 10 years old and at the end of their service life.

Master Sgt. Sydney Dyche, 81st Diagnostics and Thera-

peutics Squadron diagnostic imaging flight chief, said, "Ten years in medical imaging technology is a lifetime — the technology changes so quickly. These devices give us significantly enhanced capabilities and provide better diagnostic information to our radiologists and clinicians. The 81st MDG Hospital now has the most technologically advanced gamma cameras on the Gulf Coast.

"The cameras use computed tomography fusion and attenuation correction applications, which provide our physicians with improved quality and capabilities," Sergeant Dyche continued. "The shorter exam time offers greater patient comfort, gives us the ability to scan more patients per day and increases

appointment availability."

The installation project was several years in the making as various units were evaluated and plans reviewed. Construction began in July and was completed the last week of November. A medical physicist performed a week-long initial quality control and acceptance testing on the units, followed by applications training to instruct the staff on optimal use of the equipment.

Dec. 14, the department brought the cameras into full operation and began scanning patients. In addition, two nuclear medicine technologists are scheduled to attend a 40-hour course at the Philips Healthcare Training Center in Cleveland.

Losing weight means gaining healthy lifestyle

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

It's here. You knew it was coming. The first week of 2011 has arrived and all the fat and calories from the tail end of 2010 are stacked up like a freight train behind you hauling chins and spare tires. It's hard. It's heavy and your little engine that could would if it just had some help.

Fortunately, Keesler's fitness facilities have devised a little competition to help lighten your load. It's a weight loss competition called "I Lost It at Keesler."

Registration began on Monday and ends Jan. 13. The competition runs for eight weeks, Jan. 13 to Feb. 27. The competition is open to anyone who is 18 years of age or older who has access to the fitness centers at Keesler. This includes all Keesler employees, spouses and retired military and their spouses.

Initial and weekly weigh-ins as well as registration is being conducted at the Dragon Fitness Center. Winners are determined by the total percentage of weight loss. The male and female losing the greatest percentage of weight will be announced and contacted on March 1.

Ironically, what's gained is more important than what's lost, according to CSC fitness director and competition creator Bill Jinkse.

"I'm less interested in the pounds lost as I am helping people adopt and maintain a healthy lifestyle," he said. "In the end, it's about improving your quality of life."

As part of the registration process, each competitor must complete a health history profile. This three-page questionnaire is designed to shine a light on the junk you've got in your trunks, closets and pantries. It's used to determine alcohol, tobacco and sleep habits. What are your dietary habits? What are you eating and how many times a day are you eating it? What medications are you taking and do you have any issues

such as high blood pressure or cholesterol? Some competitors might need to obtain medical clearance before starting the competition. Once this information is gathered, there'll be personal trainers available, as well as a registered dietician on hand to help design a program that will best suit your needs and fitness goals.

Event coordinators offer these tips to help you achieve your fitness goals and perhaps win the competition.

Watch what you eat

"If you put garbage in, you get garbage out," emphasized Mr. Jinkse. "A sensitivity and awareness of what you are putting in your mouth is 80 percent of the battle."

"It's not about dieting either," added Donna Flynn, CSC fitness manager and event coordinator. "It takes daily maintenance to lose weight, to exercise and watch what you eat. Would you leave for work without taking a shower or getting dressed?"

Registered dietician Stephanie McCann with the health and wellness center is on board for this competition for those who are looking for guidance on how to change their diets. To schedule a dietary consultation, call 376-3170.

Work the program

As part of the competition, personal trainers are available to help design a workout routine that fits your abilities and fitness goals, and it's free. In fact, if you choose to take part in the competition, you are strongly encouraged to consult a personal trainer before starting.

"Many people who come to this competition wanting to lose weight have been what we call 'de-conditioned,' meaning that they have been inactive for more than 10 weeks. It takes time to get back up to speed and there is a right way and wrong way to perform this in order to prevent injury to the body," said Mr. Jinkse. "For those whose bodies have been de-condi-



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Ms. Flynn, left, records an initial weight reading for Linda Stockstill, 403rd Wing, who is entering the "I Lost It at Keesler" weight loss competition.

tioned, we recommend they work at 60 percent of their heart rate for the first 30 days, 70 percent for the second 30 days and 80 percent after that.

"Unfortunately, so many times we have people with all kinds of enthusiasm and they immediately want to work at 85-90 percent of their heart rate and the next thing you know, they start getting shin splints or some other type of injury," he pointed out. "It's just like running a marathon. You don't just wake up one morning and decide to run a marathon. You have to train and build up to it."

Following the guidelines set forth by the American Council on Exercise and the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America, the event coordinators are recommending no more than two pounds of weight loss per week. Exercising at least four times

a week is also being recommended.

"Once again though, people want instant gratification and want to lose 5-10 pounds per week," said Mr. Jinkse. "It just doesn't work that way. Losing weight is hard work and it takes time. If you do it the way we say to do it and work the program that the personal trainer designs, you will be in great shape."

The right motivation

"Basically what it comes down to is two words — lifestyle modification," Mr. Jinkse emphasized. "Those who have the will power to change what they eat and make time to exercise are the ones who will do well in this competition and beyond."

"Your goal should not be to lose a certain amount of weight to pass a PT test or even to win this competition but to make a lifestyle modi-

fication that will enhance your quality of life of which weight loss is simply a byproduct of that decision."

"But the motivation must come from within," said Mr. Jinkse. "You can create the best environment to lose weight but if you're not willing to change your eating and exercise habits, it won't do any good."

Use the buddy system

Finding a friend or co-worker, someone whose schedule is compatible with yours, to work out with and hold each other accountable will increase your percentage of success by 20 percent, Mr. Jinkse said.

Keep it interesting

Varying workout routines by running, biking, lifting weights, swimming or taking a fitness class keeps them interesting and is an important step in maintaining your motivation in the long run.

Lt. Col. Karen Castillo, 81st Training Wing inspector general, was last year's female winner. She lost 30 pounds over the course of the competition and offers her own advice on how to lose weight.

"I was raised in a food-oriented family where even our pets were foodies so this was a big challenge for me," Colonel Castillo said. "But when I decided to lose weight, I focused the rest of my life around that goal. I purged the house of junk food and bought only healthy food. I worked out every day and did yoga, pilates, zumba and spinning classes at the gym. I brought five containers to work every Monday for my week's lunches. I treated myself. I used the personal trainers and had friends and coworkers hold me accountable. I am very competitive and I wanted to win. But the biggest key to losing weight is your mindset — stay focused on your goal."

For more information on this year's weight loss competition, call the Dragon Fitness Center, 377-4409.

HAWC healthy living classes can help reach 2011 goals

By Stephanie McCann

Health and wellness center

The seemingly non-stop pace of the holiday season has slowed down and 2011 is finally here. Before the pace picks back up again with a vengeance and you still have a few minutes for quiet reflection, take the time to think about things you would like to change in your lifestyle during the year ahead.

Some people are anxious to drop the extra pounds accumulated between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Others may be ready to stop smoking or to start an exercise program. If your New Year's resolution involves building a healthier lifestyle, the professionals at the health and wellness center can help you jumpstart your program. The following classes or programs are offered on a recurring basis each month:

Balanced Eating — Workout Effectively — Live Long (BE WELL) — A 2½-hour workshop designed for individuals who are interested in improving their health and fitness. This program involves briefings and classroom activities that focus on setting realistic goals for exercise and healthful eating behaviors. BE WELL is now offered every Tuesday with alternating morning and afternoon sessions available. Although BE WELL is tailored for active-duty personnel interested in improving fitness test performance, this class is open to others as space allows.

BE WELL running module — This one-hour class provides specific guidance on running form, footwear, safety and surfaces, as well as training tips to enhance readiness for the Air Force fitness assessment. Participants should wear running gear.

BE WELL strength training module — This one-hour class helps participants develop a balanced strength training program. Equipment and examples are reviewed for exercising core, chest, back, leg and arm muscle groups. Specific guidance is also provided on pushups and crunches. Participants should dress in workout clothes.

BE WELL healthy weight module — This one-hour class offers guidance for individuals desiring additional information on nutrition concerns specific to weight loss and weight management.

The Sensible Weigh — This three-week lifestyle change program is designed to optimize long-term weight and fitness. Sessions are held on Monday afternoons and last 1 to 1½ hours each week. In Week 1, the focus is on strategies to achieve a healthful diet and developing skills and techniques for self-monitoring. In Week 2, the group explores behavior change strategies and building positive partnerships to facilitate lifelong weight management and fitness. In Week 3, the focus is on building a physical activity and exercise program. This class is open to all members of the Keesler community.

Eating out healthfully — This one-hour class, typically offered at lunch time as a lunch-and-learn activity, assists participants in selecting more healthy meals at restaurants, buffets and fast-food establishments. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch.

Food label reading — This one-hour class provides an armchair tour of the various products found in the supermarket and assists participants in making more informed choices about what to eat by reading food labels more effectively.

Gait analysis — Individual one-hour appointments with the HAWC's exercise physiologist are available to analyze running gait. Individuals must wear running gear and shoes to run on a treadmill.

Smoking cessation — Individuals have two choices when attempting to quit with assistance from the HAWC. Option 1 is classroom-based with four one-hour sessions. Start any Wednesday at either the noon or 5 p.m. class. Option 2 is a 12-week call-in quit line to the American Lung Association. Blood pressure measurements and weekly calls are required to receive medication. Continued support after completion of either program is available.

All programs are open to active-duty members, Department of Defense employees, retirees and dependents.

For more information, call the HAWC, 376-3170.

Heart Attack Symptoms

Men and women
may experience

some common symptoms,
but there are differences.



- Nausea/vomiting
- Jaw pain
- Back pain



- Chest discomfort
- Arm pain
- Shortness of breath

Keesler collects gifts, money for Toys for Tots

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Santa's helpers at Keesler collected 3,948 toys and \$1,659 to provide presents for local children through the Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots campaign at Keesler.

"A lot of children were happy this Christmas, thanks to all of the volunteers on base who helped out," said Cheryl Moore, who spearheading the base drive for the 10th consecutive year. Master Sgt. Ernesto Alvendia from the airman and family readiness center assisted Ms. Moore with the 2010 campaign.

Collection boxes were placed at strategic locations on base, and many units and organizations had special toy collection drives.

Santa makes guest appearance at Bay Breeze holiday brunch



Juliana Burdge, left, and her sister, Elena, visit with Santa during Brunch with Santa, Dec. 19. Juliana, 4, and Elena, 6, are the daughters of Lt. Col. Eric and Tally Burdge, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Serena Ellis, 335th Training Squadron, watches her 6-year-old daughter, Zoe Cardenas, color a Christmas picture during the holiday brunch at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Project Cheer

First sergeants' program provides grocery vouchers for families in financial need

By YoLanda Wallace

Keesler Public Affairs

During the holiday season, the Keesler First Sergeants Council's Project Cheer program raised more than \$10,000 and assisted 130 Airmen and their families with commissary vouchers.

The goal of the program, now in its seventh year, is to relieve stress of Airmen in need during the holidays. The 2010 ran from Nov. 26 through Dec. 20.

Commissary vouchers were distributed to all Airmen whose names were submitted to be part of Project Cheer, according to Master Sgt. Kevin Scharwarth, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron first

sergeant, one of the Project Cheer organizers.

"It's a very easy way to help our Airmen, whether single parents or others struggling with financial hardships," said Sergeant Scharwarth.

"I remember being an Airman and needing programs like this," Sergeant Scharwarth recalled. "They allowed me and my family to breathe, especially at Christmas time. The holidays are about helping those in need — what better way than to help those who could use some holiday cheer."

Project Cheer donations came from bell-ringer volunteers, the chapel's Catholic and Protestant parish councils and the Keesler Spouses Club.

Drunk busters



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Michael Diot, Army and Air Force Exchange Service loss prevention manager at Keesler, maneuvers through cones in the main exchange's parking lot wearing "drunk goggles" and driving a "drunk cart" Dec. 28. The demonstration was a joint effort between AAFES and the base's alcohol and drug abuse prevention program to educate store associates and customers on the dangers of drinking and driving, especially during the holidays.

For more news, photos, videos and information,
log on to www.keesler.af.mil



Be real, don't get behind the wheel

Airman 1st Class Tanya Schroeder, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, is the winner of the driving-under-the-influence slogan contest sponsored by the alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment program. She won a \$50 gift card from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service for her winning entry.

Volunteer — get connected.
For volunteer opportunities, call 377-0698.

Diamond Sharp Airmen



From left, Airmen 1st Class Ashley Beaty, Heather Holcomb and Derek Sanford received Diamond Sharp awards Dec. 14 from the First Sergeants Council. The Airmen were recognized for outstanding professionalism and dedication to duty. Airman Beaty is assigned to the 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, Airman Holcomb is assigned to the 81st Training Wing Public Affairs Office and Airman Sanford is assigned to the 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron.



CORRECTION

Normal duty hours for the 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron's flight medicine clinic are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and training Fridays and 8-11 a.m. Wednesday.

For appointments, active-duty military eligible for flight medicine care call hospital appointment services, 1-800-700-8603, 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Appointment services is closed on weekends, federal holidays and Air Education and Training Command Family Days.

For lost and found items,
call the
81st Security Forces
Squadron
investigations office,
377-4500,
7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
weekdays.



Photo by Senior Airman Kimberly Erickson

Sergeant Toepfer, a 403rd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, also works as a full-time firefighter and shift captain with the Biloxi Fire Department.

Civilian experience is valuable for 403rd Wing firefighter

By Senior Airman Kimberly Erickson

403rd Wing Public Affairs

Editor's note: This story is the second in a three-part series on civilian jobs of 403rd Wing Reservists.

"Grab some gear, we're going to the roof," a Biloxi Fire Department assistant fire chief told firefighter Master Sgt. Mark Toepfer more than a decade ago at the Beau Rivage Casino.

Sergeant Toepfer, a 403rd Wing Reservist, was home for lunch on a drill weekend when he heard the radio call dispatching his civilian coworkers from the Biloxi Fire Department and reacted.

On arrival, Sergeant Toepfer learned that construction scaffolding had fallen while workers were painting.

"Three people were suspended midair by their harnesses after the platform they were working on collapsed," Sergeant Toepfer said.

After reaching his crew, Sergeant Toepfer helped build a complex rope system and rappelled down alone to the endangered workers.

Helping people while doing something good for the community is what drives him to

be a firefighter, he said.

A year ago, Sergeant Toepfer returned from a four-month deployment with the 403rd Wing to Southwest Asia, where his civilian job helped him fulfill his military role in theater.

"When we get Reservists who are also civilian firefighters, it's a huge asset because we don't have time on a drill weekend to take someone who's green and turn them into a professional firefighter," Sergeant Toepfer said. "Really, that's what the Reserve gets out of a civilian firefighter is their civilian experience."

Ninety percent of Sergeant Toepfer's deployed unit also worked as civilian firefighters back home. For the first time ever, that deployed fire station was manned entirely by Air Force Reservists.

"Our primary mission was training the Iraqi air force and local city firefighters," Sergeant Toepfer said. "We really enjoyed seeing how much they developed their skills over the four months we were there."

While deployed, Sergeant Toepfer completed two professional firefighter certifications required by the Reserve, developing his abilities as a

firefighter and advancing his civilian career.

"Having those two courses now takes care of prerequisites required to qualify for a chief's position on the civilian side," Sergeant Toepfer said.

Being a Reservist has also been a positive influence on his civilian job, he said.

"I think my civilian leadership appreciates that I'm in the military," he said. "I hope it shows in the discipline and professionalism I bring to the job."

With more than 25 years of combined active duty and Reserve military experience, Sergeant Toepfer could retire whenever he wants, but said he still has two goals to achieve.

"I'd really like to make deputy chief (at the 403rd Wing) before I retire," he said. He needs to be promoted to senior master sergeant first.

"The Reserve offers a great career. I have a lot of time and years invested and I'm just not ready to give it up yet," he added.

In his civilian job, Sergeant Toepfer said he would like to earn the position of assistant chief "because I still want to be involved in the hands-on aspect of firefighting."

Construction starts on I-110 bridge

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Commuters who use I-110 to get to and from the base should be prepared to take alternate routes for the first few months of 2011.

The \$4.1 million project to replace the steel grid deck in the center of the I-110 bridge began this week and should be completed in May.

The first phase involves removing the concrete median that divides northbound and southbound traffic. All four lanes are open during this initial work, but lanes will narrow and shift slightly before the construction zone. Lanes will be closed in other phases of the work.

"Sometimes the traffic will be restricted to one or two lanes," said Kelly Castleberry, District 6 engineer for the Mississippi Department of Transportation. "We're totally replacing the steel deck span. We've been welding new plates constantly to repair the damaged areas."

Work on the 40-year-old bridge has been scheduled to avoid hurricane season, Mr. Castleberry said.

"This strategic timing will lessen the impact of the restricted openings of the drawbridge," he pointed out.

Motorists who want to avoid construction delays can use the Biloxi-Ocean Springs Bridge or Biloxi's Poppo's Ferry Bridge.

For more information as the work progresses, log on to www.gomdot.com.



Implementation begins for new ID card system

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Holcomb

Keesler Public Affairs

Monday, Keesler began registration for the Defense Biometric Identification System.

Registration for active-duty members and Defense Department employees runs through March 31. Registration for retirees and dependants is April 1 through June 31, but the pass and ID office won't turn away those wishing to register earlier.

The registration sits at the pass and registration office in the visitor center across from the White Avenue Gate is open. Other sites are planned at the military personnel section in Sablich Center, the exchange pharmacy and the 81st Medical Group Hospital's information desk.

With DBIDS, ID cards are scanned by gate guards with a hand-held device that provides real-time data that verifies identity electronically.

Everyone over the age of 16 who requires access to Keesler for more than three weeks must register in DBIDS.

Registration takes five minutes and involves scanning an ID card's barcode, verifying information and taking an electronic fingerprint.

All ID cards must have a barcode. Retirees who have ID cards without a barcode must obtain a new ID card from the military personnel section at the Sablich Center.

Individuals without a DOD ID card who requires long-term access to Keesler, such as a caregiver for a dependent child, must be accompanied by the person requiring their services to the MPF to obtain an agent card. This card, along with state-issued ID, vehicle registration and proof of insurance, must be presented to pass and registration to obtain a DBIDS Access ID card.

For more information, call 377-3844.

Worship schedule at base chapels

Roman Catholic

Daily Mass (except non-training Fridays), 11:15 a.m., Triangle Chapel.

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

Protestant

Traditional service, 9 a.m. Sunday, Larcher Chapel.

Contemporary service, 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

Gospel service, noon Sunday, Triangle Chapel

Islamic

Prayer is five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon on Friday, Building 2003.. For more information, call 377-2520.

Latter-Day Saints

Student group service, 2 p.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 396-5274 or 1-616-881-1994.



eight days a week

Arts and crafts center

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

Saturday — 8:30-10:30 a.m., beginning woodworking, \$25 includes supplies; 10 a.m. to noon, beginning intarsia, \$25 includes supplies; 10:30 a.m. to noon, glass painting, \$25 includes supplies.

Sunday — 4-6 p.m., beginning ceramics, \$35 includes supplies.

Monday — noon to 2 p.m., framing class, bring a 5x7-inch photograph to frame, \$25 includes supplies.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

Monday-Jan. 13 — 2 p.m., twilight special, play unlimited golf until closing. For information on fees or tee time, call 377-3832.

Monday-Jan. 13 — golf lessons with a professional, by appointment only. \$30 per half-hour.

Youth center

Saturday — 4-10 p.m., give parents a break. Free child care for Air Force families who are referred. For eligibility requirements and more information, call 376-8728.

Bay Breeze Community Center

Monday-Jan. 13 — 6-7 p.m., tae kwon do for ages 18 and older at the Vandenberg Community Center. \$75 per month per person.

Tuesday — 7-8 p.m., ballroom variety dance. Learn the cha-cha, swing, foxtrot and waltz. \$10 per class per person. For more information, call 377-2509.

Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center

Today — Keesler club member special, bowl for \$1.50 per game including shoes.

Friday — 9 p.m. to midnight, glow bowling.

Saturday — 7 p.m. to midnight, glow bowling.

KEESLER NOTES

Promotion ceremony

January's 81st Training Wing promotion ceremony is 3:30 p.m. today at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Housing decorations

Today is the deadline to remove holiday decorations in base housing.

Spouses club event

The Keesler Spouses Club

plans a wine and tapas tasting, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the third floor lounge at Bay Breeze Event Center for members and their spouses.

Chef Jon Marc Van Zutphen demonstrates appetizer preparation techniques and discusses wine pairings. Donnie D'Acquin from E&J Gallo Winery pours wines for tasting.

The cost is \$10 cash, check or club card for food and \$5 for three wine tastes. Additional

Monday-Nov. 14 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., bowling lunch special; buy any combo meal at the 11th Frame Café and receive one free game of bowling.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

Editor's note: Must be age 18 or older to enter collocated lounge.

Friday — 5-8 p.m., Mongolian barbecue in the ballroom. 95 cents per ounce for members, \$1.10 per ounce for nonmembers.

Saturday — 8 p.m. to midnight, dance night in the lounge. Drink specials. Free admission.

Sunday — 10 a.m. to noon, champagne brunch in the ballroom. \$16.95 per person. Members receive \$2 off.

Monday — 5 p.m., Bowl Championship Series football party. Watch the college football title game on our jumbo screens in the ballroom. Finger foods, drink specials, giveaways and football skills contests for youth and adults. Free admission for club members; nonmembers pay \$5; "UBU" cardholders pay \$3. Open to active duty, nonprior service students, Department of Defense civilians, contractors and their families.

Wednesday — 4 p.m., wingman Wednesday in the lounge. \$5 domestic draft pitchers. Wings and things free for members, nonmembers pay \$3 at the door.

Airman and family readiness center

Editor's note: To register for classes, call 376-8728.

Monday — 10-11 a.m., sponsor training, learn about resources, AETC deadlines and tips for making newcomers feel welcome.

Jan. 13 — 7-9 a.m., predeployment briefing for all individuals deploying. See your unit deployment manager to schedule attendance; 8-11 a.m., Veterans Administration benefits briefing, active duty members and their spouses are invited to attend.

wine and beverages are available for purchase at the bar.

Today's the deadline to call 1-660-864-1100 to sign up for the event.

Top III meeting

Keesler Top III meets at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday on the third floor at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

For more information, call 376-3055.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Watching the ball roll on New Year's Eve

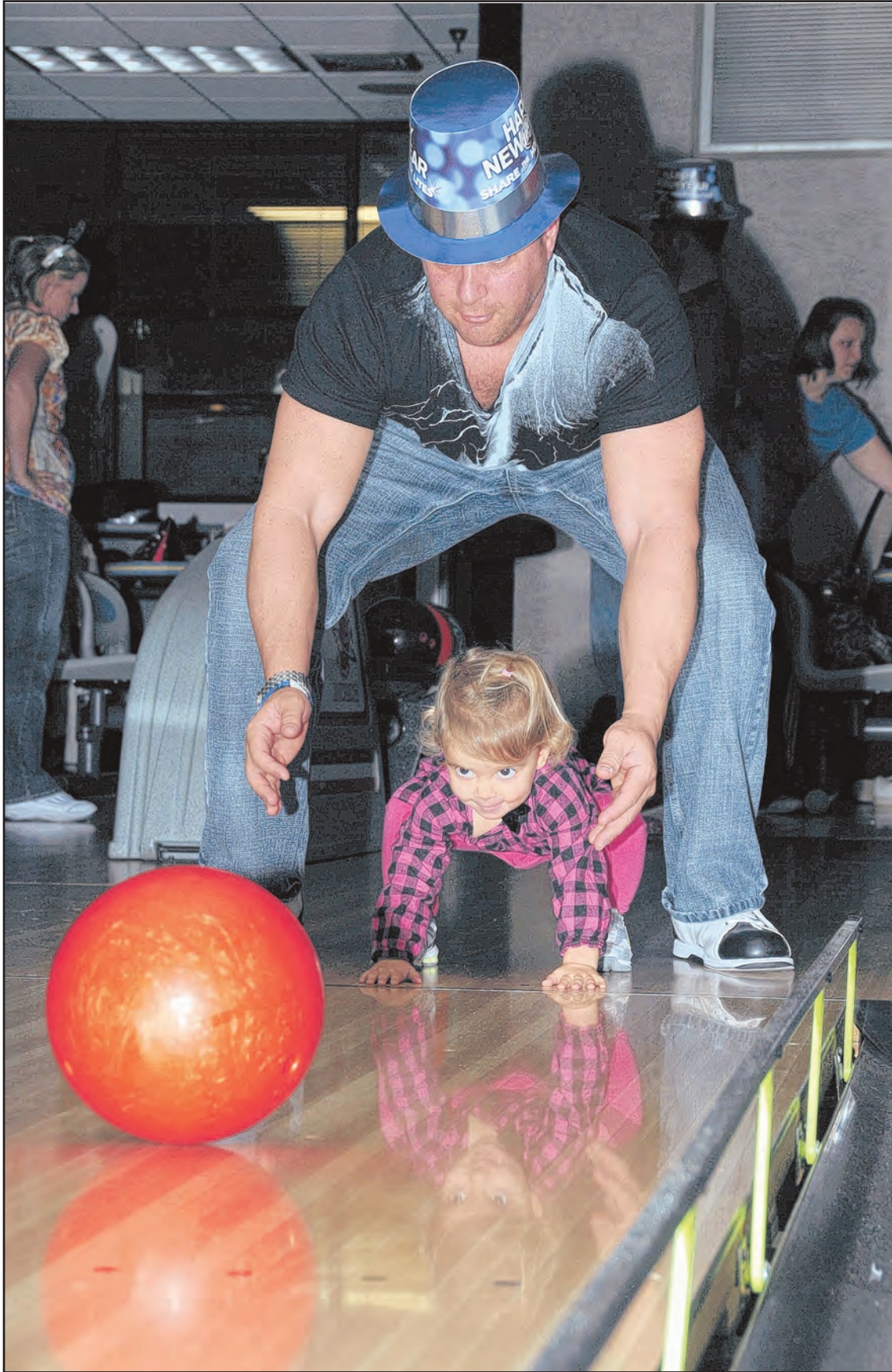


Photo by Kemberly Groue

James Sieloff, 403rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, teaches his 1-year old daughter, Alaina, the ins and outs and roundabouts of bowling at a New Year's Eve party at Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center Friday. Alaina's mom is Melinda Sieloff, 2nd Air Force.

MAN
USA
BOEING

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MARATHON START



Ready, set, go!

Thousands of runners assemble at the starting line at the 2010 Air Force Marathon's half-marathon Sept. 18. Registration for the 2011 marathon opened Saturday. The 15th annual event is Sept. 17 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. In addition to a full 26.2 mile marathon, runners also can compete in a 13.1 mile half marathon, a 10K run or a 5K race. Officials are raising the race cap to 13,000 for 2011. To register online or for more information, log on to www.usafmarathon.com.

Photo by Michelle Gigante

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.