

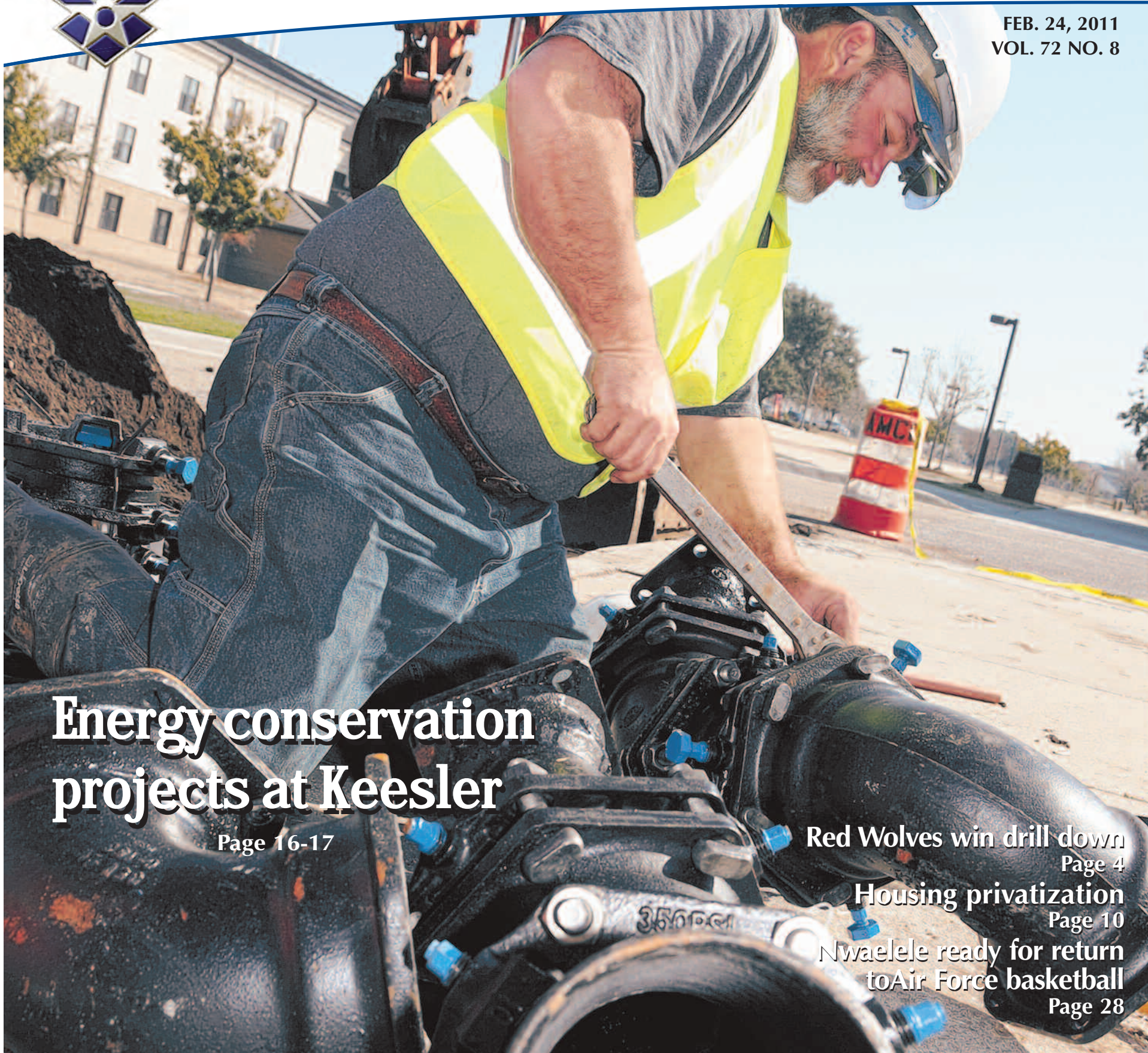


KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

FEB. 24, 2011
VOL. 72 NO. 8



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Air Force facilitates passionate pursuit of learning

By Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

The faint smell of sawdust from a pencil being sharpened, the kiss of air from flipping the pages of new book and the hum of my teacher's voice as she explained the world all contributed to my passion for learning.

My insatiable curiosity and desire to learn significantly influenced my decision to join the Air Force. I knew before I raised my right hand that this would be the greatest opportunity in my life to discover something new every day. I knew I'd have the chance to learn how to be a good Airman in basic training, learn my career in tech school and at my first duty station, learn about different people and different cultures not only on deployment but within my own country and continue my formal education after duty hours.

In today's Air Force, deciding to forgo a higher level of education is no longer an option. At a minimum, a Community College of the Air Force degree is required to advance into the senior non-commissioned officer ranks.

If planned carefully, that requirement can be easily completed in conjunction with at least a bachelor's degree within one enlistment. This is because in most cases it's possible to use the same credits for multiple degrees. For example, I completed my

associate's degree at a civilian community college before I joined the Air Force and I've been able to apply those classes to both my CCAF degree and my bachelor's degree.

The best part is — all it costs is time because the Air Force allows each of its active-duty members \$4,500 a year of tuition assistance in addition to their G.I. Bill benefits. This is free money and you can use it at nearly any accredited educational institution to learn about almost anything that interests you.

Now, because of my duty requirements, I've relinquished my notebooks, pens and classroom atmosphere for discussion boards, e-books and the glow of a computer screen. While it's definitely a different experience, I'm still moving towards my educational goals and feeding my sense of wonder.

Some advice that I have for active-duty members who want to pursue their education is —

Go to the education office. The staff is there to help you with every step of the tuition assistance process and answer any questions you may have about schools in the local area, G.I. bill benefits, testing for college credit, how to earn a CCAF degree and much more.

Use every penny of your tuition assistance. It's free money, and if you don't use it, you may as well set fire to \$4,500 dollars every year.

Make sure the school you wish to attend is

accredited and that you get a degree plan for the major you want to pursue. Both are required for tuition assistance approval, so drop by the education office and ask them to check the institution's accreditation.

Look for a school that is "military friendly." Many schools will actually cover the cost of books, fees and even tuition if it exceeds the \$750 per course tuition assistance limit.

Don't take on more than you can handle. Being in the military and attending college both have a tendency to increase stress on their own, so be realistic about how many classes you can take on at once without burning out.

Make time for the things that are important to you. College is time consuming, so use effective time management skills so you can still spend time with friends and family and take time for yourself.

Don't get discouraged. If you become overwhelmed, take a step back and evaluate your options. Most schools offer help for those struggling with classes, and don't forget the wingman concept.

No matter how you obtain it, an education is one of the most important things you can take away from your Air Force career because it will set you up for success even after you turn in your combat boots.

For more information, visit the education office in the Sablich Center or call 377-0048.

Planes break, plans change, people make things happen

By Gene Kamena

19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LITTLE ROCK Air Force Base, Ark. — The Air Force has its traditions; I guess a 4 a.m. show time for a 6:30 a.m. takeoff is one of them ... at least that was the plan.

The propellers were already turning on the C-130J Super Hercules as we walked out of the hangar towards the plane. The familiar smell of jet fuel sent me back to distant places and other times. I had been here before, but never as a civilian and never wearing blue jeans. I was preparing to travel to the Air Education and Training Command symposium in San Antonio.

Chalk two — my chalk — began loading at 6:30 a.m. The plane started rolling at 7 a.m., but 30 minutes on the ramp seemed unusually long. I knew something was awry. When the C-130J finally came to a stop, my suspicions were confirmed.

The plane was "hard broke," and I

knew this could turn into a long day. However, the NCOs took control, and within minutes, had the passengers divided up and placed on other planes. The plan was that my aircraft would have a two-hour layover at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to pick up other passengers before flying to San Antonio.

Thankfully, the flight to Eglin was uneventful, except for one thing — the plane's loadmaster. Having served more than 30 years in the Army had trained my eyes to watch people, particularly NCOs, while they went about their duties. I always learned something when watching a good NCO. This loadmaster was one of them. He went about his tasks with a determined purpose. He checked everything, he ensured other crew members completed their responsibilities, and he kept a watchful eye on all the passengers.

The plane landed with a jolt. We were no longer airborne, but the loadmaster was still diligent in his duties. He directed us off the back ramp while

the plane took on fuel, led us a safe distance away and kept all the passengers together. After all, herding a group of colonels and civilians is no easy task.

The remainder of our time at Eglin AFB was spent off the tail of the C-130J, watching the plane refuel and waiting for additional passengers to show. The time passed quickly as I conversed with the loadmaster — a great young American.

Staff Sgt. Dave Sanders was enthusiastic about his job, his Air Force and his unit — the 62nd Airlift Squadron from Little Rock AFB, Ark. He took pride in his plane, and it showed. It was also obvious he knew his job, and did it well.

Sergeant Sanders has been in the Air Force for 10 years and wants to continue serving as a C-130 loadmaster; in fact, that is all he wants to do. He is articulate, motivated and professional. Our chance encounter left this retired Army colonel with a sense of satisfaction; the aircraft and the people under the charge of Sergeant Sanders will

continue to be in good hands.

A couple leadership points are worth considering, especially for those of us who stay behind a desk or in classrooms a large portion of our day:

There are great people in the Air Force; you just have to get out and meet them. Take time to speak to enlisted members; ask them their stories. You will be amazed at their professionalism and patriotism.

The best thing a leader can do, when leading people like Sergeant Sanders, is provide them with what they need to do their jobs ... and then stay out of their way.

Airplanes break and plans change, but people of Sergeant Sanders's caliber overcome and make things happen.

My first AETC symposium was a good experience. The lectures and speeches were excellent, but I think what I heard and saw at the conference will soon fade. My conversation with an Air Force loadmaster has made a lasting impression.



ON THE COVER

Doug Ferrell from Shackelford Plumbing assembles chill water pipe fittings Feb. 15 in front of the Triangle Fitness Center. Keesler has garnered \$2.5 million for two projects that will reduce the base's energy consumption. The chilled water loop project will increase cooling reliability and cut 165,000 kilowatt hours from the base's monthly electric bill, saving Keesler nearly \$140,000 annually. The lighting modernization project will reduce energy consumption and improve lighting conditions in 16 buildings across the base. Story, more photos, Pages 16-17.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What's
your
dream car?



"One that works."

Staff Sgt. Shawn Rykken,
338th Training Squadron



"An H2 Hummer."

Lance Cpl. Brittany Blake,
Keesler Marine Corps
Detachment



"A royal blue Series 7
BMW."

Airman Basic Wayne
Cotton Jr., 338th TRS

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

Exceptions to
Keesler's 25 mph
speed limit:
15 mph in
housing areas, flight line
and unpaved surfaces;
10 mph
in close proximity to
marching formations
and when waved
through base gates;
5 mph in parking lots;
and **35 mph**
in some sections of
perimeter roads.

IT
TAKES
THE
COURAGE AND STRENGTH
OF A WARRIOR
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If you're in an emotional crisis
call 1-800-273-TALK "Press 1 for Veterans"

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Department of
Veterans Affairs

KEESLER NEWS

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Photo by Adam Bond

Friday's heavy fog nearly obscured the Red Wolves' freestyle team on the drill pad as they were observed by Col. Glen Downing, 81st Training Wing vice commander. Colonel Downing served as the reviewing officer for the first drill competition of the year.

Drill down transforms parade grounds into Red Wolves' lair

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The Red Wolves from the 336th Training Squadron howled their way to victory in the 81st Training Group's first drill down of 2011.

The Red Wolves took the top spot overall with first place finishes in open ranks and regulation drill and second place in the freestyle competition.

The second place team, the Gators from the 334th TRS, also placed in all three categories — first in freestyle drill, second in regulation drill and third in open ranks.

The 332nd TRS Mad Dogs took second place in open ranks and third place in freestyle and regulation drill to place third overall.

Red Wolves drill team members are:

Open ranks — Airman Delbert Simmons and Airmen 1st Class Kent Acquah-Abbiw, Michael Camacho, Martha Gonzalez, Jeffrey Ikeler, Jasmine Jackson, Frederick Quarles, Randy Rosimo and Linzy St. George.

Regulation drill — Airmen Basic Jessie Ludlum, Xlan Santiage, Dalia Theodule and Jeremy Wyeth; Airman James Cash; and Airmen 1st Class Kristina Burce, Michael Cooper, Breana Eden and Erika Wallfred.

Freestyle drill — Airmen Basic Jeffrey Adams, Wayne Cotton, Nestor Delgado, Kate Derkovitz, Cody Mulshine and Robert Sawyer; Airmen 1st Class Timothy Jackson, Meraldo Peguero and Steven Wong.

The next drill down competition is 8 a.m. April 29 on the parade grounds.



Airman 1st Class Ashley Figueroa, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, checks on Airman 1st Class Shanda Moreno and other “victims” in the triage area during a major accident response exercise Feb. 17. Airman Moreno is a student in the 336th Training Squadron. In the exercise scenario, two F-18s

collide mid-air during an air show. The first plane crashes in Oak Park just north of the base, killing the pilot and injuring military and civilians in a primary parking area. The second plane went down into Biloxi’s Back Bay, but the pilot ejected and was rescued by the D’Iberville Fire Department.

Keesler tests response to mid-air crash



Photos by Kemberly Groue
Senior Airman Harold Tamondong, left, and Airman 1st Class Greg Rollings, 81st AMDS environmental flight, work together at the crash site to identify potential hazards in order to recommend personal protective equipment for the clean-up crew and emergency responders.



Top from left, Frank Lewis, Tech. Sgt. Phillip Belle and Staff Sgt. Teddy Poole, 81st Security Forces Squadron, log wreckage personnel accountability.

At left, Keesler firefighters David Cleland, left, and Donovan Oosterhuis, right, work to stabilize Airman Basic Latoya Shepherd before removing her from a vehicle to receive medical care. Airman Shepherd is a student in the 336th TRS.

Personnel apprentice course graduates earn perfect scores



CLICK IT
— OR —
TICKET



From left, Airman Chayna Clary, Airman 1st Class David Fagerstrom, Senior Airman Joy Campbell and Tech. Sgt. Tamela Aman graduated Feb. 15 from the personnel apprentice course in the 335th Training Squadron with perfect scores. Airman Clary, from Yukon, Okla., is assigned to Will Rogers Air National Guard Base, Okla. Airman Fagerstrom, from Jamestown, N.Y., is assigned to the Air Force Academy, Colo. Airman Campbell, from Hanahan, S.C., is assigned to Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. Sergeant Aman, from Enid, Okla., is stationed at Vance AFB, Okla.

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

31 finish Airman Leadership School

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Thirty-one senior airmen are members of Airman Leadership School Class 11-2 that graduated Feb. 16.

45th Airlift Squadron — Lesley Beard.

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron — Lakedrian Guy and Kerry Zorns (John Levitow Award).

81st Communications Squadron — Kimberly Brooks and Brandy Defore (distinguished graduate).

81st Dental Squadron — Veronica Reese.

81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron — Kwamina Boyd, Ashli Maldonado (academic achievement award), Grant Sheely, Jason Venable (distinguished graduate) and Crystal Williams.

81st Force Support Squadron — Jessica Bryars.

81st Inpatient Operations Squadron — Johann Bermudez-Cadena, Anna Martin and Jason Syverson.

81st Logistics Readiness Squadron — Mark Skinner.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Brandon Ailes (commander's award and class first sergeant), Tina Anderson, Joseph Lockman, Ashley Ross, Douglas Wallace and Dominique Woodfork.

81st Medical Support Squadron — Noel Vindua.

81st Mission Support Group — Takara Cunningham and Ashley Garnier.

81st Surgical Operations Squadron — Edward Austin Jr.

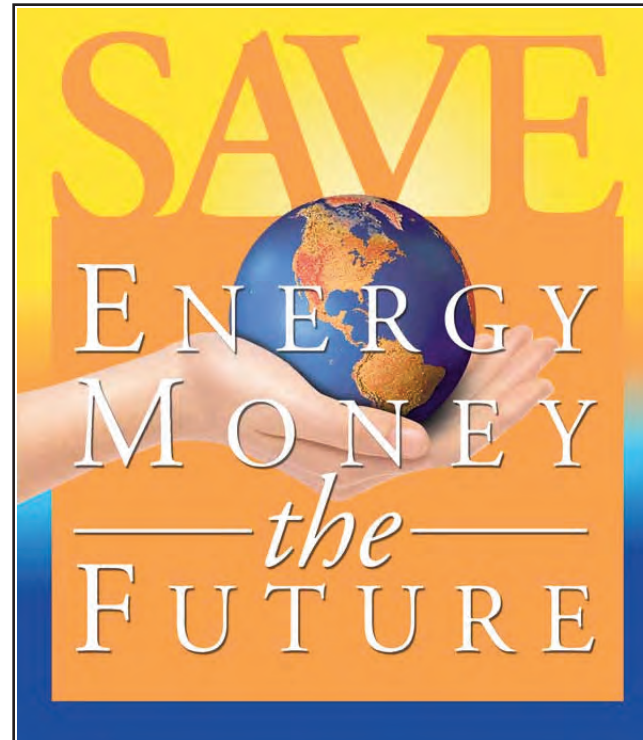
85th Engineering Installation Squadron — James Rammell.

104th Fighter Wing, Barnes Air National Guard Base, Westfield, Mass. — John Roach (class flight chief).

255th Air Control Squadron, Air National Guard, Gulfport — Justin Scarbrough.

338th Training Squadron — Charles Boyd.

919th Mission Support Flight, Duke Field, Fla. — Matthew Place.



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

81st Training Group names January's top student, military training flight



Airman Cregger

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 81st Training Group announced its student and military training flight for the month of January on Feb. 16.

Airman of the Month is Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Cregger, a student leader in the 332nd Training Squadron. Airman Cregger, who hails from Fredrick, Md., is a student in the precision measurement equipment laboratory course and expects to graduate in April.

The five squadrons that train nonprior service students select one Airman to compete at a monthly group board.

Airmen are graded on

personal appearance, communication skills and military bearing. They also respond to questions about customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, selected entries in the Airman's Manual and current events from that week's issue of the Keesler News.

The MTF of the month for September is the 336th TRS. The Red Wolves scored the highest overall in marching, physical training, room inspections, open ranks, Airman's Manual, charge of quarters and retreat. The flight received a roving sign to put in the front of its squadron to recognize its achievement.

Help share the Keesler story!

For information on the Keesler Speakers Bureau, call YoLanda Wallace, 377-1179.

Volunteer —
get connected!

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

Annual tech expo

The 16th annual Training Technology Products and Information Services Expo is 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

The expo is devoted to all types of distance learning and resident education and training. Civilian and military vendors display the latest in technical and support gear. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call 377-7799.

CCAF graduation

Friday 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.

MGCCC spring term

Pre-registration is under way for the spring session for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler Center through Monday, when the term begins.

The spring schedule is found on the college's website, www.mgccc.edu.

For more information, call 376-8477 or visit the office in Room 221, Sablich Center.

DeCA scholarships

Applications for the Defense Commissary Agency's 2011 Scholarships for Military Children program are available at the commissary, online at <http://www.commissaries.com> under the "news and info" tab under "scholarship info" tab; or at www.militaryscholar.org.

Hap Arnold grants

The application deadline for the 2011-2012 General Henry H. Arnold education grant program is March 11.

Application forms and eligibility requirements and other information to apply for the \$2,000 grants are found at the Air Force Aid Society's website at www.afas.org.

KSC scholarships

Applications are being accepted until April 1 for 2011 Keesler Spouses Club scholarships.

Eligible applicants include high school seniors entering a college, university or vocational studies as well as spouses pursuing a degree or vocational studies.

For more information, log on to www.keeslerspousesclub.com or call 273-2489 or 243-7133.

Swan scholarship

May 31 is the deadline to apply for the Hurricane Hunters \$2,000 Swan 38 scholarship.

The scholarship is open to active and retired 403rd Wing members and their dependents.

For more information, log on to www.hurricanehunters.com.

Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Group's drill downs are 8 a.m.. April 29, June 24, Aug. 19 and Oct. 28 on the parade grounds..

For more information, call 377-2103.

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

For more information, call 377-2789.

Manager certification

The Community College of the Air Force awards professional manager certification that formally recognizes an individual's advanced level of education and experience in leadership and management, as well as professional accomplishments.

The program provides a structured professional development track that supplements enlisted professional military education and the career field education and training plan.

For more information, log on to <http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/certifications.asp> or call 376-8708 or 8710.

Civilian training

Information about civilian training opportunities is available from the civilian force development corner on the Keesler public Web site, <http://www.keesler.af.mil/civilianforcedevelopmentcenter.asp>

Keesler housing privatization Negotiations continue toward agreement

Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment and 81st Mission Support Group

Negotiations continue between Keesler's housing privatization partner, Forest City Military Communities, and Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment officials.

In addition to Keesler, what is collectively known as the Southern Group also encompasses Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn., and Charleston and Shaw AFBs, S.C.

"Over the past several months, we have been working diligently with our Air Force partners towards the transfer of privatized housing assets for the Southern Group Air Force (project)," said John Ehle, Forest City Military Communities senior vice pres-

ident. "This is a rather complex process in which delays can arise, as has been the case with other privatized housing projects. We want to be sure the transfer is as seamless as possible as we look forward to enhancing the quality of life for the military families we will serve for years to come."

The goal of ongoing communications is to make sure that both Forest City and the Air Force can reach clear agreement on a way forward that can then be presented to Airmen and their families.

"We want our first presentation to be our final presentation" said Allen Fennigkoh, Air Force housing privatization project manager at AFCEE. "Our military members and their families remain our first priority, as always."

"As plans are finalized and timelines for housing privatization become more clear, Keesler Housing Office personnel will begin scheduling town hall meetings and other presentations so Airmen and their families will have a clear idea of what to expect, the anticipated timeline for transition, and the way forward," said Col. Rodney Berk, 81st Mission Support Group commander. "Those attending these meetings will have an opportunity to ask questions, provide input and obtain information about the project schedule, anticipated milestones and other concerns they may have."

Forest City's current military housing portfolio consists of about 12,000 homes in Hawaii, Illinois, Colorado, Washington, Indiana and Tennessee.

81st Training Wing annual awards banquet is tonight at Bay Breeze Event Center

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 81st Training Wing's 2010 annual awards banquet takes place tonight at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Competing for the awards are:

Airman — Airman Brittany Beltran, 81st Security Forces Squadron; Airman 1st Class Siera Wilson, 81st Training Support Squadron; and Senior Airmen Thomas Butler, 81st Comptroller Squadron, and Robert Tipton, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

Noncommissioned officer — Staff Sgts. Eric Goebel, 81st SFS, and Billy Wince, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron; and Tech Sgts. Paul Braun, legal office, and Javaughn Johnson, 334th TRS.

Senior NCO — Master Sgts. Bruce Milbrath, 81st MDTs; Torry Hickson, 338th TRS; and Ramon Santiago-Estrada, 81st Force Support Squadron; and Senior Master Sgt. Kimberlee Bauer, legal office.

Company grade officer — 2nd Lt. William Kiser, 81st CPTS; and Capts. Donna Burrowes, 81st Medical Operations Squadron; Allyson

Strickland, 335th TRS; and Jason Williams, 81st SFS.

First sergeant — Master Sgts. James Messer, 81st TRW; Charles Gallagher, 338th TRS; Kevin Scharwath, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron; and Lee Utsey, 81st AMDS.

Civilian category 1 — Amy Dye, 81st FSS; David Hanes, 81st AMDS; Ronnie Reagan, legal office; and Kristin Trujillo, 81st TRSS.

Civilian category 2 — Curtis Greer, 81st FSS; James Gunn, 334th TRS; Karen Teague, 81st CPTS; and Paula Tracy, 81st MDOS.

Civilian supervisor category 2 — Michael Chatham, 81st Medical Support Squadron; Michael Fix, 81st FSS; and Elizabeth LeBlanc, 333rd TRS.

Honor guard — Airman category, Senior Airman Justin Whitaker, 81st MDSS; NCO category, Staff Sgt. Tiffany Thompson, 334th TRS.

CSC President Award winners being recognized are Rebecca Mason, civil engineering operations; Jeff Light, weather service forecaster; and Greg Stoeger, real property manager.

IN THE NEWS

Boil-water notice

Monday morning, Keesler was ordered by the State of Mississippi to issue a boil-water notice.

"This was due to a water sample taken from one specific location within our water system testing positive for coliform bacteria," said Col. Glen Downing, 81st Training Wing vice commander. "No samples taken outside this specific source have tested positive, but due to the interconnected nature of our water system, we are bound to issue the boil notice for the entire system. This includes all base housing, (excluding Sandhills), the Veterans Administration Medical Center and the base proper.

"Since the contamination was in a specific area, we were able to quickly isolate the source of contamination," Colonel Downing continued. "We have submitted more than 24 water samples from throughout the water supply to the State of Mississippi. When these samples come back clean, we will resample from the same locations and submit new samples. These second samples must also be clean before we are allowed to lift the boil notice. The entire process takes 48 hours. The earliest the boil notice will be lifted is Friday morning.

"In the meantime, don't consume unboiled water," the colonel added. "Hand washing, clothes washing and other routine uses are OK, but avoid food preparation, dishwashing and drinking unless the water is boiled first."

National Prayer Breakfast

Keesler's National Prayer Breakfast is 7 a.m. March 8 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Team Impact will appear at the event. For more information, log on to www.team-impact.com.

"Children are out of school for the Mardi Gras holiday, so parents are encouraged to bring them along," said Chaplain (Capt.) Garrell Calton.

Tickets are \$5 and are available from Staff Sgt. Charles White, 377-2331.

No glass recycling in base housing

Effective immediately, glass products from base housing won't be recycled on Keesler. The recycling contractor can't find anyone in the local area to accept glass.

If you have any questions, call 376-8612.

Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for the March 10 issue of the Keesler News is noon March 3 because of the March 8 Mardi Gras regional holiday observed by the newspaper's publisher.

Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group conducts warrior training noon to 5 p.m. the second Thursday of each month except June, October and November, when training moves to the first Thursday of the month.



Free skin scan

Maj. (Dr.) Wendie Wohltmann, 81st Medical Operations Squadron dermatologist, examines a lesion for possible skin cancer on Robert Fell, a retired captain, Feb. 11 in the dermatology clinic. Dr. Wohltmann said a limited number of appointments are available March 9 in the clinic for skin cancer screening. Patients who've received a screening exam within the last year are ineligible. Patients will be screened for skin cancer only; no other skin issues are addressed or treated during the screenings. For an appointment, call 376-3501.

Photo by Steve Pivnick

PERSONNEL NOTES

Transition assistance classes

81st Force Support Squadron

The airman and family readiness center plans the following classes for 2011 at the Sablich Center.

For more information or to preregister for classes, call 376-8728.

Mandatory pre-separation briefings — 1 p.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 2:30 for retirees, Room 110. 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. Medical separation must receive a one-on-one briefing.

Transition assistance program workshops — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 14-16, April 11-13, May 9-11, June 13-15, July 18-20, Aug. 8-10, Sept. 12-14, Oct. 17-19, Nov. 14-16 and Dec. 12-14, Room 108A. Dress is business casual; no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms.

Veterans benefits briefing — 8-11 a.m. March 17, April 14, May 12, June 16, July 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A.

Retirement briefings — 1-3:30 p.m. March 17, April 14, May 12, June 16, July 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A; intended for members with less than a year until retirement.

Executive transition assistance workshop — Dec. 6-9 for colonels and chief master sergeants with the necessary knowledge and skills to organize their search for a second career in the private, nonprofit and government sector. Air Education and Training Command headquarters facilitates this workshop.

For more information, call Robert Bertels, DSN 487-2669 or 6106 or e-mail robert.bertels@randolph.af.mil.

MTI opportunities

The military training instructor corps has received authorization to pursue 18-month time-on-station waivers. First term Airmen 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

81st Force Support Squadron

The airman and family readiness center plans the following classes for 2011 at the Sablich Center.

For more information or to preregister for classes, call 376-8728.

Resumes for non-government jobs — 9-11:30 a.m. March 22, Room 108A. Maximum of 15 people per class; pre-registration is required no later than the day prior to the class.

Resumes for government or federal positions — 9-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 16 or March 30, Room 108B, 9 a.m. until 11:30 am. Pre-registration is required no later than the day prior to the class.

Skills assessment class — 9-11:30 a.m. March 10, Room 108A. Pre-registration is required no later than the day prior to the class.

Interviewing and salary negotiation class — 9-11 a.m. Feb. 24 or March 24, Room 108A.

Resume writing and job fair preparation — special class to assist in preparing for April's Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair in April; 2-4:30 p.m. March 29, Room 108 B, or 9-11:30

a.m. March 31, Room 108A.

Upcoming special classes — in May there'll be special civilian job resume writing, federal job resume writing and interviewing classes for instructors or other personnel with inflexible work schedules. Each topic's class will be 45 minutes each day for three days. Participants are expected to attend all three class days.

After attending a class, call 376-8728 to have your resume reviewed.

Discrimination hotline

Air Force Personnel Center

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

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

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

Military personnel contacts

Military personnel section phone numbers:

Customer support — 376-8738.

Career development — 376-8739.

Force management — 376-8740.

Student personnel center — 377-4111.

Testing — 376-4111.

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.

Air Force leaders provide defense budget details

By Capt. Chris Sukach

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz provided details on the service's fiscal 2012 national defense authorization budget request during a House Armed Services Committee hearing here Feb. 17.

Air Force officials are requesting \$150 billion in the baseline budget and \$16 billion in an overseas contingency operations supplemental appropriation, Secretary Donley said.

"Our budget request represents a careful balance of resources among the Air Force core functions necessary to implement the president's National Security Strategy and between today's operations and investment for the future," the secretary said.

General Schwartz said that the Air Force's FY12 budget request is sensitive to the current state of the economy.

"This budget request, fully appreciating the extraordinary fiscal condition that our nation faces, supports our Airmen and our continuing efforts to structure the force for maximum versatility across the full spectrum of operations for today's requirements and for tomorrow's challenges," the general said.

General Schwartz also said that despite development issues, the joint strike fighter remained a priority for the service, as does the procure-



Secretary Donley



General Schwartz

ment of a new tanker for the Air Force.

Another upcoming procurement for the Air Force that was discussed was the new long-range bomber, set to be part of a family of systems. Secretary Donley said the Air Force expects to field the new aircraft in the mid-2020s.

In addition to discussing the next fiscal year's budget request, both leaders also emphasized the importance of passing the current fiscal year's budget, telling members of Congress that operating under an extended continuing resolution will stress the force.

"A decision to extend the continuing resolution at FY10 levels through the remainder of this year will delay our ability to reach the secretary of Defense's direct goal of 65 MQ-1 Predator or MQ-9 Reaper Combat Air Patrols by 2013 in support of operations

in Afghanistan," Secretary Donley said.

The secretary added that a continuing resolution would cause a production break and a likely increase in the unit cost of the wideband global communications satellite, the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile, F-15 Eagle radar modernization and other programs.

General Schwartz similarly urged the committee members to pass the fiscal 2011 appropriations bill.

"In extending far beyond March 4 without a 2011 appropriations bill, we have to reduce flying hours, delay or cancel some weapon system sustainment and depot maintenance activity and disrupt other day-to-day operations, all of which will adversely affect readiness and impact our brave men and women who are preparing to serve or are serving in harm's way," the general said.

Don't drink and drive.

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

45 saves so far this year

Stop loss pay

Application window closes March 4

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The deadline for eligible members or legally designated beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay is coming to a close March 4.

Nearly 6,000 current and former Airmen have received a total of more than \$19 million in special pay since Air Force Personnel Center officials here began accepting claims in September 2009.

Airmen who were involuntarily held on active duty between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009, may be eligible for the special pay compensation of \$500 for each month they were affected. Eli-

gibility includes active, retired and former service members, as well as members of the Reserve component who served on active duty while their enlistment or period of obligated service was involuntarily extended, or whose eligibility for separation or retirement was suspended as a result of stop loss.

Claims are being evaluated based upon historical records as well as any supporting documents the applicant may submit. Officials here have received more than 10,500 claims to date with approximately 3,000 of those still pending review or approval determination.

Due to the large volume of applications received in the past few months, officials from the

separations branch here are asking claimants to allow 12 weeks for processing their claims before following up.

For more information or to file a claim, eligible members or legally designated beneficiaries may download a stop loss claim application at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss. Applicants who were serving in the Reserve or Guard at the time of stop loss may find an application by visiting the Air Reserve Personnel Center website, <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/>.

For more information on program criteria and application instructions, visit the Air Force personnel services website or call the Total Force Service Center, 800-525-0102.

Active-duty officers being recruited for Executive Leadership Development Program

Air Force Personnel Center

The Department of Defense is looking for active-duty Air Force officers for the 2012 Executive Leadership Development Program.

ELDP starts with an orientation in September 2011 and the first training event in October 2011.

ELDP is designed specifically for highly-motivated, active-duty officers with demonstrated leadership ability, commitment to public service, integrity and an interest in moving into senior management positions.

While placed in simulated environments, officers must be able to operate in real-life situations that involve short deadlines, be receptive to a unique training methodology where the participants assume responsibility for their learnin, and have the ability to conceptualize and analyze problems effectively.

Military participants contribute a vital perspective on the missions, operations, culture and customs of the military. These shared experiences enrich both military and civilian participants who are being groomed for further leadership roles.

Interested officers must be majors or major selects and have completed Squadron Officer School, Intermediate Developmental Education, either in-residence or by correspondence or seminar, and successfully occupied a flight-level or higher command position.

Active-duty military personnel must apply to Air Force Personnel Center Officer Developmental Education by May 31.

For more information or program applications, contact the military personnel section customer service element.

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

Leadership program gets ready for new class

Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce and Keesler News staff

Kimberly Adams, chief of training development for the 81st Training Support Squadron's faculty development flight, has spent almost a year learning more about the challenges and opportunities facing south Mississippi through the Leadership Gulf Coast program.

Now in its 21st year, Leadership Gulf Coast selects 37 participants each year to gain greater knowledge and understanding of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and to create a communication network between present and emerging leaders in the region.

The program, founded by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, currently has more than 600 graduates. The current program began in August and ends in May.

"Leadership Gulf Coast has been a rewarding experience," said Ms. Adams, a lifelong

Gulf Coast resident who's worked at Keesler for 22 years.

"The military presence on the Gulf Coast is impressive to say the least, but I now have a greater appreciation for what Keesler offers to the community," Ms. Adams pointed out. "Keesler is a tremendous asset to the entire Gulf Coast. Not only is Keesler the second largest employer on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but also in the entire state."

"LGC exposed me to many aspects of the Gulf Coast that I never knew," she explained. "The most important thing that I take away from this experience is an appreciation for the entire Gulf Coast region. While I respect the uniqueness each county, city and town brings to the overall Gulf Coast community, regional thinking is the key to the Gulf Coast's future suc-



Ms. Adams

cess. Individually we are great, but collectively we can be outstanding!"

An anonymous committee selects the participants based on a matrix, which ensures a true cross-section of all segments of the community. Attendance at monthly ses-

sions is strictly enforced with minimal absences allowed. Each session is based on current issues and concerns of the Gulf Coast.

The program's first two activities are a get-acquainted breakfast and an overnight retreat to introduce participants to the program itself and to each other.

Other days with specific themes are planned throughout the year, such as Military Day, with certain events hosted by Keesler, to provide insight into the role and impact of area military installations.

Other sessions focus on local and state government; human needs and health; economics and the role of business, industry, and employment in the Gulf Coast community; human relations and intercultural relationships; education from preschool to graduate studies; and the tangible and intangible ingredients of quality living in

the community.

Another overnight retreat serves as a review and culmination of the program in which study groups report their findings and participants discuss future trends in economics, business, and demographics.

A graduation ceremony honors and celebrates the success of program participants.

Chamber officials point out that Leadership Gulf Coast has succeeded in breaking barriers between communities and continues to build a unified vision for the Gulf Coast.

The 81st Training Wing will call for nominations soon, so interested persons are encouraged to begin the application process.

For more information, call Christen Hartley, 604-0014; or log on to LGC@mscoastchamber.com.

Susan Griggs, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.

\$2.5 million invested in energy saving projects



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Artesian Construction lighting technician Bill Corwin installs more energy-efficient bulbs in Bryan Hall, Feb. 15.

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler has garnered \$2.5 million from centralized funds approved strictly for energy conservation measure projects.

The Air Force has \$250 million set aside for energy conservation projects. Air Education and Training Command selected two Keesler initiatives as viable ways to reduce the base's energy consumption – a chilled water loop project and modernization of lighting systems in 16 buildings.

“These two projects are the beginning of additional CHW loop projects currently being designed and facility lighting enhancements combined with controls being planned,” base energy manager Okel Castleberry explained. “We anticipate future energy conservation opportunities and centralized energy funding to update and

upgrade inefficient energy systems on Keesler.”

“These funds are limited and very competitive, requiring each energy project to meet efficiency and financial credibility,” he noted.

The chilled water loop project affects the entire Triangle area from the mini mall to Garrard Hall.

“Expanding this CHW loop will not only increase cooling reliability in our hot, humid summers, but also slash 165,000 kilowatt hours from our monthly electric bill, saving Keesler nearly \$140,000 annually,” said Adrian Barcomb, Keesler's resource efficiency manager. “The saving is accomplished by utilizing centralized and virtual chiller plants to service multiple buildings.”

The lighting modernization project includes new or retrofitted fixtures and lighting control systems. This includes 8,717

fixtures and 550 occupancy sensors installed in classrooms, office areas, hallways and hangars. The upgrades not only reduce energy consumption, but also improve facility lighting conditions.

“When you consider the size and mission of the facilities that we have on Keesler, it is easy to understand that energy conservation is a big deal,” said Master Sgt. Bill Collum Jr., facility manager for Bryan Hall. “Our facility has about 150 rooms, each occupied for no less than 10 hours a day, and many that run for 18 hours or more. When you add the training equipment and cost to manage the environmental conditions such as heat and humidity in south Mississippi, we can burn a lot of power in a short amount of time.

“The installation of higher

Please see **Energy**, Page 17

Energy,

from Page 16

efficiency lights, with a brighter output, and motion detectors that shut the lights off when rooms are unoccupied will have a great pay-off in reducing the power consumption for our building,” Sergeant Collum added.

Hector Santiago, CSC electrical engineer, expects the lighting upgrade to yield a minimum of 39 percent energy savings while providing greater visual acuity, color rendering and a more even spread of light on the task areas.

“There’ll be a great impact on savings after duty hours, weekends and holidays with the installation of occupancy sensors,” Mr. Santiago pointed out.

Some hangars will receive a lighting upgrade to include the

removal of inefficient high intensity discharge metal halide or high pressure sodium lighting fixtures and replacement with highly efficient T5/HO fluorescent lighting fixtures.

Each energy project is driven by federal laws and executive orders that require each federal installation to reduce energy use by 3 percent annually.

“Keesler has met that challenge head-on, but missed the goal by 1 percent last year,” Mr. Barcomb pointed out. “It takes each person at Keesler to assist us in meeting or exceeding the 30 percent reduction goal by 2015. Identifying future energy projects are vital, but so are turning off that unnecessary light. Each of us must be a part of the energy solution and make energy a consideration in all we do.”

To suggest energy conservation ideas, call 377-5859.

Government information systems are for official use only.



Dennis Mason from Shackleford Plumbing prepares a ditch for pipe-fitting for the Triangle’s chilled water loop project in front of Triangle Fitness Center, Feb. 15.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Communicate, care, commit Air Force's top enlisted leader addresses suicide, alcoholism, violence

For chapel service schedules,
call 377-2520 or 4859.

By Master Sgt. Amaani Lyle

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

ORLANDO — The Air Force's senior enlisted leader discussed the importance of resiliency and its impact to the service Feb. 17 here during the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy spoke candidly about the repercussions of a force that fails to foster a culture of resiliency, referencing hot-button issues such as alcohol-related and ground-safety incidents, spousal and child abuse, sexual assault and suicide.

"People matter ... lives matter," the chief said in regard to the consequences of failed resiliency. "Overall, our Airmen and families are very resilient. We have to set that tone of resiliency culture within our units, within our communities."

To further emphasize Airmen vocalizing the need for or offering of help, the chief presented a video of the results of failed resiliency. Airman 1st Class Austin Gates-Benson died by suicide May 3 in Afghanistan.

Assigned to Robins Air Force Base, Ga., Airman Gates-Benson seemed unlikely to commit suicide, according to his friends and family. They came forward to share their memories of an outwardly jovial Airman, friend and son.

"Austin died because he was silent about his problem," said Fred Boenig, Airman Gates-Benson's father. "Don't be silent about yours; things that look perfect maybe aren't."

His parents, Joie Gates and Mr. Boenig, joined their son's friends and 54th Combat Communications Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Donald Cournoyer to urge viewers to

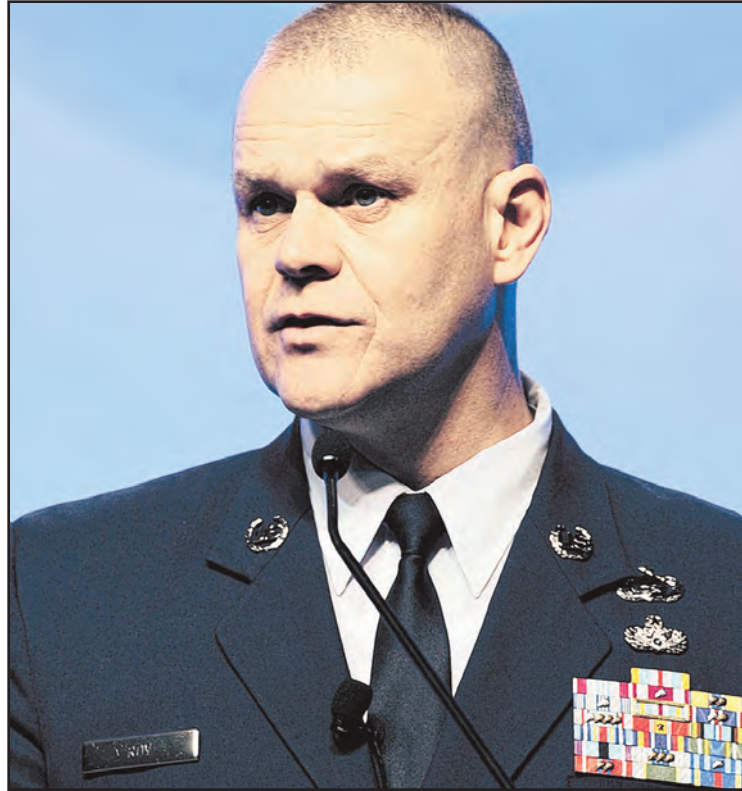


Photo by Scott Ash

Chief Roy speaks Feb. 17 during the Air Force Association's 2011 Air Warfare Symposium and Technologies Exposition. Chief Roy spoke about building resiliency in Airmen and their families.

speaking up about any issues they may be going through, find resources for help and assist others who may struggle.

The impetus behind the video was clear, according to Chief Roy.

"I want to make sure no other Airman feels it necessary to go to this extreme means of ending that pain," the chief said, relating Ms. Gates' motivation for participating in the video. "We ended up in 2010 with 100 suicides, and unfortunately, I have to report to you today we're already past that this year compared to where we were this time last year."

The chief also noted other trends impacting the force, adding that even dips in certain statistics should not be cause for complacency.

"Alcohol-related incidents have come down

slightly from 2009 to 2010 fiscal year, but nearly 7,000 incidents is still a lot," Chief Roy said. "I would also argue that 3,600 ground-safety incidents in FY 10 is a lot."

The chief expressed concern for indicators on the rise.

"Child- and partner-abuse cases are both up for 2009, and divorces are up for the third year in a row," the chief said. "Unfortunately, we also have about 600 cases of sexual assault each year."

The chief's final message was a call to action for all Airmen to "communicate, care and commit."

"Our Airmen are the ultimate weapons system we have, and we need to care for them," Chief Roy said. "(Promoting) the resiliency culture is the right thing to do for our Airmen, our families and for the United States Air Force."

Vandenberg Community Center reopening celebration is Friday

By Lisa Campbell

CSC marketing and community events center director

Committed to improving the quality of life for Keesler's non-prior service students, the 81st Force Support Squadron has rejuvenated the Vandenberg Community Center to create a more comfortable environment full of activities, new programs and modern amenities for the students.

The grand reopening kicks off at 4 p.m. Friday with an official welcome and ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by the "V" after party that includes a full night of dancing, performances, contests and prizes for NPS students.

After conducting student focus groups in 2010, it was clear that several areas needed improvement within the Vandenberg Community Center. Six months and \$128,000 later, the facility has been completely transformed. Some of the most notable changes include all new paint and carpet, new furniture throughout the building, a new sound system, installation of a brand new computer and gaming room, an instructional classroom, an outdoor patio and a movie room. A new piano, televisions and various gaming equipment were also purchased for the students. After elevating the scope of this project to Gen. Edward Rice Jr., Air Education and Training Command commander, another \$55,000 was earmarked to expand on the renovation project.

Food and prizes for Friday's celebration were made possible by the National Productions, Courtyard Marriott, Buffalo Wild Wings and Budweiser-Responsibility Matters. Federal endorsement of sponsors is not intended.

Over the years

In response to an expanding student population, Keesler underwent a \$20 million expansion program in the early 1950s known as constructing "The Triangle" that included new dormitories, classrooms and recreational facilities.

The Vandenberg Community Center, opened in 1954, was dedicated to honor Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Air Force chief of staff from 1948-1953.

The original use of the Vandenberg Community Center isn't much different than today. It was a service club and originally housed the base exchange, outdoor patios, a snack bar, ballroom and stage, game room, TV lounge and music room.

"Angel, General Hoyt Vandenberg Celebrates 70 Years"

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70th

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For more information, log on to keesler.af.mil

HAWC body composition machine provides valuable health analysis

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

It looks like something out of “Star Wars,” but serves as a valuable tool that allows people to be aware of their amount of body fat, one of the most important factors in everyone’s health, so they can change their diet and exercise plans. Common diseases like heart attacks, high blood pressure, diabetes and many forms of cancer are directly correlated to the amount of fat people carry around.

The BOD POD Body Composition Tracking System at the health and wellness center, is available to anyone 18 years of age and older in the Keesler community.

The BOD POD “will let people track and know their body fat percentage,” said Master Sgt. Jeffery Green, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron health promotions flight. “This will allow the HAWC staff to offer them classes on diet and exercise to improve their overall health.”

According to the equipment’s manufacturer, Life Measurement Inc., the BOD POD provides fast, accurate and safe assessments of fat and fat-free mass. It uses patented air displacement plethysmography (the study of measuring changes in the volume of the body or of a body part or organ), making it the most innovative device for measuring body composition.

Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, was one of the first base people to take advantage of the BOD POD and he was a little worried by the results. The Feb. 11 BOD POD body composition tracking system analysis showed he has 29.1 percent of body fat which equates to 64.7 pounds of weight. Two days later he had to haul all that fat around



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Michele Reid, left, LMI’s director of customer service, reviews the data provided by the BOD POD during General Cornum’s Feb. 11 analysis.

the streets of New Orleans when he walked the Rock ‘n’ Roll Mardi Gras Half Marathon.

“If I had been a more healthy 15 percent body fat, I would have carried 30 fewer pounds around with me and that would have been a lot easier,” he commented.

The HAWC purchased the BOD POD system after health promotion educator Patty McGruder heard about it from someone who had attended a conference where the system was featured. Sergeant Green used approximately \$56,000 in end-of-year fallout funds to purchase the equipment.

“We learned Eglin (Air Force Base, Fla.) had the equipment and we knew someone there (dietician Theresa Herring, who formerly was a member of the Keesler HAWC staff),” Sergeant Green said. “We made an appointment to visit and look at their system and talk with them about how they utilized it.

“When Ms. Herring demonstrated their BOD POD, I was

the guinea pig for the test. We learned a lot from that visit and used the information to format our own BOD POD program here.”

LMI background information noted that “with obesity rising at alarming rates, regular, accurate measurements of body fat and lean body mass can provide the necessary feedback for staying on top of what can be an ever-changing situation.

The BOD POD has the necessary accuracy to detect even small changes in body composition and it will provide the feedback that can be used to measure the effectiveness of fitness and nutrition programs, tracking the progression of diseases or fine tuning top athletic performance.”

LMI added that the BOD POD system is currently used in a wide variety of market segments throughout the world, including 38 military installations.

To schedule a BOD POD analysis, contact your unit fitness program manager or call the HAWC, 376-3170.

Work begins on new facility for 41st Aerial Port Squadron

By Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens

403rd Wing Public Affairs

The 403rd Wing's 41st Aerial Port Squadron will soon have a new place to call home. Construction began Feb. 11 at the future location of the 41st APS facility.

According to Lt. Col. Michael Grubb, 41st APS commander, this new state-of-the-art building will be a "purpose-built facility" designed to meet 41st APS mission requirements.

"The primary mission of the 41st APS is to safely coordinate the actions of anything going on or off the aircraft, whether it be passengers, equipment or vehicles," said Colonel Grubb. "We also perform joint inspections to ensure that items match up with packing lists, weights are correct, and palettes are built properly."

The 41st APS has been located in Hangars 3, 4 and 5 at various times since its activation in 1988. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the aerial porters moved into Hangar 4, but the building was not customized for the 41st APS mission.

"Space has always been an issue," said Master Sgt. Bill Grady, a 41st APS aerial porter who has been with the unit since 1998. "The new building will provide us the room we need for better utilization of our resources both for training purposes and accomplishing our mission."

The design for the new two-story facility allots approximately 30,000 square feet for workspace, classrooms and administration.

"The layout of the facility is dedicated to the current mission of the aerial port," said Colonel Grubb. "There's also enough flexibility in the design for us to handle any mission changes that may come down the line."

Plans for the new facility accommodate space for rigging parachutes used for airdrop missions by the 815th Airlift Squadron and for assembling loads in a controlled environment.

"Most of our work is performed outside on the ramp, but this facility will allow us to continue working and training inside in case of inclement weather," said Colonel Grubb. "In the load configuration area, we'll have a set of rollers built into the floor that we can use to assemble, weigh and move loads in a weather-tight environment."

According to Capt. Justin Cooper, 41st APS officer in charge of terminal services, location was a key element in selecting the site for the new facility.

"Aerial port has such an airfield-oriented mission that we need to be placed somewhere with direct access to the flight line. This is something we don't have in our current building," said Captain Cooper.

The site for the new facility sits between the 815th AS building and the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, right where the old Biloxi Hangar used to be. This location gives the Citizen Airmen of the 41st APS direct flight line access to aircraft for both squadrons, said Captain Cooper.

"We'll be able to drive our K-loaders right up to the dock, open the facility's bay doors, load up our vehicles, and then pull straight out onto the flight line," said Colonel Grubb.

According to the colonel, the new facility will help increase the overall efficiency of the 41st APS members.

"I have a bunch of great people that are excited about getting the job done," said Colonel Grubb. "I believe moving into this purpose-built facility with the caliber of people we have will really allow the 41st APS to shine."

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www.facebook.com/81stTRW.Keesler



WHO'S YOUR WINGMAN?

Getting divorced? What about retirement?

By Lt. Col. Jennifer Fournier

Legal office

Confused about what happens to your military retirement when you get divorced? You're not alone; let's set the record straight on a few points.

There are two players at work when it comes to military retired pay: the Uniform Services Former Spouses Protection Act and the state law of the state in which you're getting your divorce. Congress created the USFSPA in 1982. It gave states permission to treat military retired pay like any other retirement plan. In other words, if your state would divide a retirement plan from ABC Company, it will divide your military retired pay too.

For most people, this is how it works: the divorce court considers the value of the retirement plan and how much of that value was created during the marriage. The court splits the "marriage value" in half. If you were married for 14 years and all of those years you were in the military, the "marriage value" is 14/20, assuming a 20 year career. Half of that is 35 percent. So, your spouse would probably get 35 per of your retired pay. The "probably" is there for a reason: some states will handle this division differently. There could be an offset because of your spouse's retirement plan, or you could buy out your spouse's interest in your future retirement by giving money now.

For practical and tactical advice about your individual situation, call the legal office, 376-8601.

Service remains core value with retiree activities office for 40 years

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Founded in the early '70s as the Retired Enlisted Association of the Gulf Coast, the Keesler Retiree Activities Office has been serving the Gulf Coast military retiree community for nearly 40 years.

Currently there are more than 9,200 retirees in the local area and more than 30,000 in the catchment area which includes portions of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

"We also serve 'snowbird' retirees in the winter and vacationers any time of the year," said retired Master Sgt. Ivan McAllister. "The retirees are important to the local population and economy by their contribution of experience and money."

To make the retiree activities office available every duty day, 36 volunteers donate more than 6,000 hours of their time annually.

"Our volunteers enjoy getting out of the house, the opportunity to stay current with changes that affect retirees and veterans, associating with fellow retirees and the satisfaction of helping others," Mr. McAllister said.

The RAO is in Room 102, Sablich Center and is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and training Fridays. The veterans' affairs section is open 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Thursday.

The RAO offers information and assistance about retiree benefits, casualty assistance, Tricare, entitlements and programs as well as on-base functions and facilities available to retirees.

The office has had the opportunity to furnish a representative to the Air Force Retiree Council since 2003.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Anita McAllister, left, and Lula Barberee of Ocean Springs join other retirees and their spouses in the Pledge of Allegiance at Retiree Appreciation Day, Oct. 8. Mrs. McAllister is married to retired Master Sgt. Ivan McAllister, who directs the Keesler Retiree Activities Office. Mrs. Barberee's late husband, Austin, was a retired master sergeant.

The representative provides a voice for all bases in Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee, including the Guard and Reserve.

"The benefits, entitlements and services offered by the U.S. government and the support available at Keesler changes continuously, and the RAO assists the retiree population in staying up to date," Mr. McAllister said.

Also, every October the RAO coordinates with the 81st Training Wing to conduct an annual Retiree Appreciation Day. Last year's event included a free fish fry at the

Dragon's Lair, special sales at the base exchange and commissary, free flu shots at the 81st Medical Group Hospital and a variety of informational booths and giveaways.

"We are fortunate to have outstanding support from the Keesler wing commander and staff agencies, resulting in one of the best retiree programs in the Air Force," Mr. McAllister pointed out.

For more information and links to different RAO services, call 376-8111 or visit <http://www.keesler.af.mil/units/retireeactivitiesoffice.asp>.

E-mail is a privilege -- don't abuse it!

Children's Dental Health Month

Dental clinic provides free treatment for kids

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Volunteers from the 81st Dental Squadron Dental Clinic staff saw 15 young patients during their Feb. 4 "Give Kids A Smile" Day.

Almost 40 dental squadron members, including staff dentists, dental residents and enlisted and civilian dental technicians, volunteered to assist with the program, the first of several events on base offered as part of National Children's Dental Health Month.

"Give Kids A Smile" provides uninsured children ages 3-12 years from active-duty and retired military families, not enrolled in the Tricare Dental Program (United Concordia), free dental services ranging from screenings to fillings as part of the national event.

Pediatric dentist Maj. (Dr.) Stephen Gasparovich explained that the event is intended to provide free, desperately-needed dental services. Last year, more than 46,000 team members nationwide participated in the American Dental Association program.

"We identified an operating room case for a child in pain with severe early childhood caries," said Dr. Gasparovich, who spearheaded the event. "Temporary fillings were placed for 'caries control' until the child can be seen for surgery. We also identified a child with an unusual bone formation in the lower jaw and she was referred to oral surgery. The follow-up treatment that we will be able to provide to each child will be worth several thousand dollars."

"Values for the perceived costs of care ranged from \$50 to \$500," he continued. "The total for an exam, including bitewings and panoramic image, cleaning, fluoride and oral hygiene instructions is

approximately \$350. Four dental sealants on first permanent molars is an additional \$200. Most parents estimated the value for the day's visit to be \$400. One child received \$2,958 dollars in treatment due to the cost of a ConeBeam CT and 3-D imaging that was done by Dr. (Maj.) Jeffrey Ford, an orthodontist."

The team conducted a total of 95 procedures valued at more than \$7,300.

Dr. Gasparovich noted the goals for "Give Kids A Smile" Day are to raise awareness of untreated dental disease, build local and public partnerships to increase access to oral health care and identify parents' financial perceptions of dental treatment.

To encourage more participation next year, the clinic hopes to schedule the program for one of the days off school during Mardi Gras week.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Capt. (Dr.) Erin McNamara examines Tabitha Smith's teeth during the Feb. 4 "Give Kids A Smile" Day. Tabitha, 6, is the daughter of Suzette and the late Clive Smith, a retired soldier.

Dental hygiene promoted to area children during dental health month

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Members of the 81st Dental Squadron have been actively supporting National Children's Dental Health Month this month.

At McBride Library and the child development center, members of the dental team talked to children about good dental health, read stories about dental care, used a "Bugsy Malone" and presented an educational video

The team also took its

dental care message to several preschools and Magnolia Park Elementary School in Ocean Springs.

The American Dental Association sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month "to raise awareness about the importance of oral health." According to the ADA, "Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums."



Photo by Steve Pivnick

From left, Natalie Drummond, 8; Staff Sgt. Jacob Broersma, 81st DS; and Noble McGary, 5, learn how to brush "teeth" from Tech. Sgt. Caroline Bunce, an 81st DS dental hygienist, Feb. 9 at McBride Library. Natalie's parents are Tech. Sgt. Stephen and Rebecca Drummond, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron. Noble's mother is Capt. Janice McGary, 403rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

Black History Month

Remaining Black History Month events:

Soul food sampling — 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, youth center. Donations are accepted. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Rochelle Harden, 376-8662, or Staff Sgt. Ashley Brunson, 377-0378.

AAHC golf tournament — March 11, Bay Breeze Golf Course. \$50 per person for four-person team. For more information, call Kurt Higgins, 377-5250.

Sickle cell 5-kilometer run/walk — April 8, Blake Fitness Center. Registration 6:45 a.m., race time 7:30 a.m. Cost is \$10-\$15. For more information, call Master Sgt. Yolanda Jerry, 377-1201, or Tech. Sgt. Tyrone Deckard, 376-6603.

Singers sought

Vocalists are needed to sing the National Anthem at base or community ceremonies.

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

DBIDS registration

Registration continues for Defense Biometric Identification System cards.

Active-duty members and Defense Department employees register 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.

Register at the pass and registration office in the visitor center across from the White Avenue Gate, the military personnel section in Sablich Center, the exchange pharmacy, the 81st Medical Group Hospital's information desk and A tower lobby, 403rd Maintenance Squadron, Hewes Hall and the Levitow Training Support Facility.

Airman's Attic

Airman's Attic, at the corner of Meadows Drive and 1st Street, assists junior enlisted members with obtaining free basic household items.

Donations are needed such as furniture, area rugs, cutlery, dishware, infant wear and maternity

Taxing time



Photo by Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney

Parlee Barrow, left, 81st Comptroller Squadron, assists Tech. Sgt. Donelle Clark, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, in filing his taxes Feb. 17 at the tax office in Room 229, Sablich Center. The office is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on training Fridays. For more information and appointments, call 376-8141.

clothes which are clean and in good condition. Bring donations to Airman's Attic during regular hours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, non-training Fridays and the last Saturday of the month.

Airman's Attic is also open on a trial basis, 5-7 p.m. Tuesdays.

Thrift shop

The Keesler Thrift Shop, operated by the Keesler Spouses Club, is at the corner of Meadows Drive and First Street.

Profits benefit base and area charities and provide scholarships.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Consignments are accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

Donations are needed such as kitchen items, small appliances, furniture, rugs, household items and infant and children's items. Pickup is available.

For more information, call 377-3217.

Supply classes

Quarterly supply classes are held in Room 109, Taylor Logistics Building.

Block I basic supply class is 9-10 a.m., March 17, June 16, Sept. 22 and Dec. 15. All newly-assigned supply custodians and resource managers are required to attend.

Block IIA-Bench Stock and **Block IIB-Repair Cycle** are held 9-11 a.m. March 16, June 15, Sept. 21 and Dec. 14.

Block III supplemental training is 1-2 p.m., March 17, June 16, Sept. 22 and Dec. 15. All newly-assigned supply equipment custodians are required to attend, as well as all other custodians annually.

For more information, call 377-4480.

Visitor center hours

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

Periodontal patients

The 81st Dental Squadron periodontics department is seeking people with gum problems for the general dental residency teaching program.

Limited numbers of patients, including retirees and eligible military dependents, accepted as teaching cases

receive free periodontal care at Keesler.

Patients accepted for periodontal care will be treated by our Air Force general dentistry residents under specialty supervision. Patients must be readily available for lengthy recurring appointments, generally Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings.

For more information, call 376-5225.

Supply issues

For supply issues, contact the CSC supply customer service element, Room 126, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002; call 377-8891

Be Well class

The health and wellness center offers a "Be Well Class," 8-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, for Keesler military, retired, their families and federal civilian employees.

The three-part class focuses on exercise, nutrition and behavior modifications. It's recommended for people who aren't sure how to start an exercise program or make improvements in overall

health, fitness and diet. It's taught by an exercise physiologist, the HAWC dietician and a mental health technician.

Specific modules are offered each month that members can attend, such as running, strength training and healthy weight.

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

Speakers bureau

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

For more information, call 377-1179.

Healthy living classes

The mental health flight offers a series of classes encompassing healthy living from a therapeutic point of view.

Classes are 3 p.m. Wednesdays in the Arnold Medical Annex conference room.

They last 60-90 minutes and are open to military members and retirees, along with their family members, as well as federal civilian employees.

For more information on topics, call 376-0385.

Keesler basketball star selected to Air Force team

By 1st Lt. Joost Verduyn

Keesler Public Affairs

Not long ago, I had the opportunity to interview 1st Lt. Onyenma “Dan” Nwaelele at the Blake Fitness Center and catch up with someone whom I had watched play basketball through our days at the Air Force Academy.

Nwaelele has continued to work at his basketball skills and has been selected to be on the Air Force Basketball Team this year. He’s been on the team every year since his commissioning in 2007 except for 2010, when he was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

“It was a good experience to work with everyone (in the Department of Defense while in Kandahar),” Nwaelele said. “I had the chance to work with a lot of amazing people and it gave me the opportunity to work my contracting job and to also work out. I was in the gym all the time. We had access to a gym that was run by NATO that was very well kept. It keeps your mind off of being deployed and breaks up the day.”

Each year that Nwaelele has played on the Air Force team, he’s also been selected for the Armed Forces team.

“I didn’t know what to expect being on the Armed Forces team, but it was a great experience each time,” he said. “It’s a European rules style of basketball, so you have to adjust very quickly. You learn a lot, not only from our team, but from watching other teams play.”

The upcoming tournament for the Armed Forces team takes place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

“I have never been down there,” said Nwaelele, “so if I had the opportunity to go, it would be amazing to visit such a beautiful country.”

I asked him how his experiences in the Air Force and at the Air Force Academy have



Photo by Kemberly Groue

As a member of Keesler’s varsity basketball team, Nwaelele, third from left, played a key role in defeating Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., 72-68, Jan. 29.

helped his basketball career.

“The academy and Air Force experiences have been helpful,” he said. “When I’m on the basketball court training and I think something is hard, I look

back to basic training or (combat survival training). Now that stuff was hard. It gives you mental toughness. It teaches you to always push through.”

Lastly, I asked him what he

looked for in the future.

“One of my big goals is to play in the NBA or overseas,” he said. “I did workout with the (San Antonio) Spurs a little after the academy. They

brought me to a mini-camp and I did well, so they offered me a provisional contract and invited me back to training camp.”

“I look up to David Robinson and Chad Hennings, and now Chad Hall,” said Nwaelele. “It’s definitely something special to see these people from the service academies succeeding in professional sports.”

Robinson was a Naval Academy graduate who went on to play in the NBA after serving his commitment to the Navy. Robinson, nicknamed “The Admiral,” played 13 seasons with the San Antonio Spurs and won many awards including Rookie of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year and Most Valuable Player.

Hennings and Hall are Air Force Academy graduates who went on to play in the NFL following their service in the Air Force. Hennings played for the Dallas Cowboys from 1992-2000 and was part of three Super Bowl winning teams. Hall is currently playing for the Philadelphia Eagles.

“I hope to follow their lead and continue on and play professional basketball.”

New Orleans Mardi Gras Marathon draws contingent of Keesler medics

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

At least seven 81st Medical Group Dragon Medics participated in the Rock 'n' Roll Mardi Gras Marathon and Half Marathon in New Orleans Feb. 13.

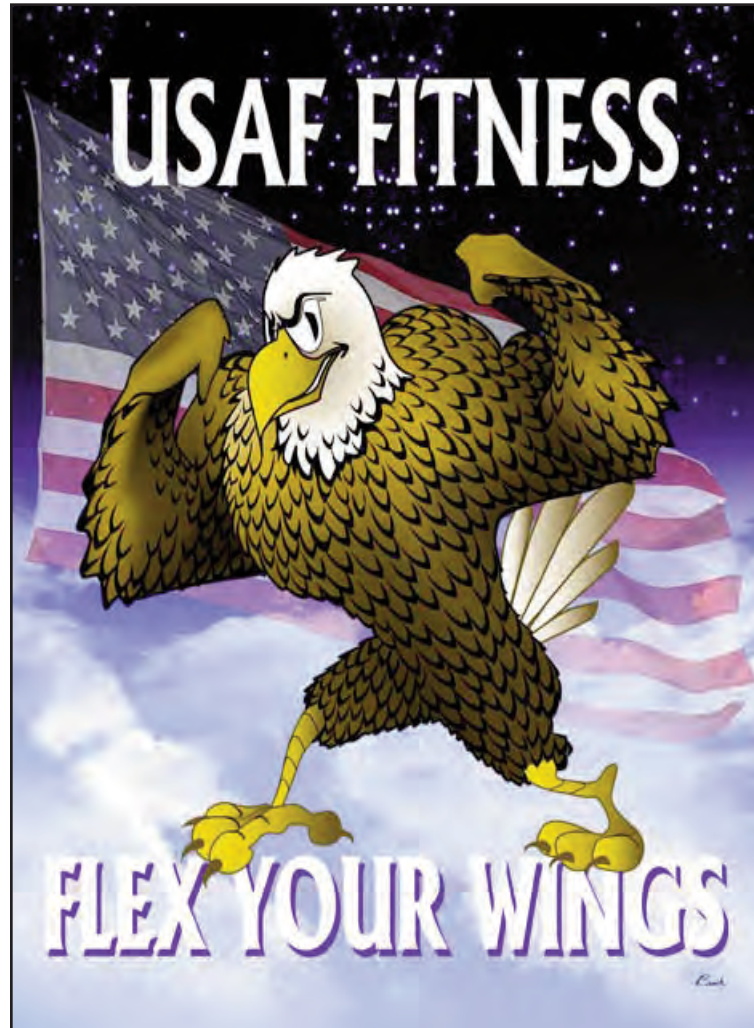
Yekaterina Karpitskaya, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, ran the full marathon with a time of 3:53. She was 757 out of 3,140 overall, 202 out of 1,437 female runners and 38 of 285 in the female ages 30-34 division.

Running in the half marathon were Kory Cornum (2:52), 81st MDG commander, participating in his first half marathon; Linda Sarpy (1:54:02), 81st MSGS; and Nelson Viniegra (2:17:27), Colleen Kersgard (2:07:37) and

Zsuzsanna Krovovay (2:02:07), 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Maria Robles, 81st MDOS, ran the two-man relay with her husband Lupe. She finished 8.6 miles (1:42) and Lupe ran 4.6 miles (1:9).

"The Mardi Gras Rock 'n' Roll Marathon was awesome!" said Sarpy, who finished 1,662 out of 10,272 half-marathoners. "The weather was extremely cooperative for the 16,000 marathon and half-marathon runners. The race began at the downtown Morial Convention Center, weaved through Mid-Town, Uptown, the Garden District, the French Quarter and ended at Tad Gormley Stadium at City Park. All runners began the race together and eventually separated at or around the 6-mile marker. Both races ended in City Park for a great after-race celebration."



Preseason tourney begins intramural volleyball season

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 2011 intramural volleyball season tipped off this week with a preseason tournament at Blake Fitness Center.

The preseason champion is decided at 7 p.m. tonight, according to Sam Miller, intramural sports director.

Teams tuning up for the regular season are the 81st Dental Squadron, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, 81st Security Forces Squadron and the 333rd, 334th, 335th and 338th Training Squadrons.

For more information, call 277-2444.

FIT FOR FREEDOM



FIT TO FIGHT !

It's time for a change. We're getting back to basics.

**Together through exercise, nutrition and coping strategies, we're staying fit for freedom!
For our team, our families, ourselves.**

Officials announce 2011 NASCAR sponsorship

Air Force News Service

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Force recruiting officials announced Jan. 21 that they are renewing the NASCAR partnership with Richard Petty Motorsports and the No. 43 car for the 2011 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series.

“This is our tenth season in NASCAR and we look forward to competing and winning with the Richard Petty team,” said Brig. Gen. Balan Ayyar, commander of the Air Force Recruiting Service. “This is a high-performing atmosphere that aligns with the leadership, technology and competitive spirit of our Airmen and Air Force, and we’re excited about NASCAR’s efforts to reach a broader audience. We certainly intend to go beyond the race track to reach supporters and fans and emphasize the speed, power, precision and teamwork that is common to both NASCAR and the Air Force.”

The Air Force is both a primary and associate sponsor of the No. 43 car, driven by A.J. Allmendinger, a 29-year-old driver with two Top 5 finishes and eight Top 10 finishes in the No. 43 car during the 2010 season. The car will feature the Air Force paint scheme in two of 36 NASCAR points



Photo by Dale Eckroth

Crew members prepare the No. 43 Air Force car for a practice run at the Pocono Raceway Aug. 2. Air Force officials recently announced the renewal of the NASCAR partnership with Richard Petty Motorsports and the No. 43 car for 2011.

races this season.

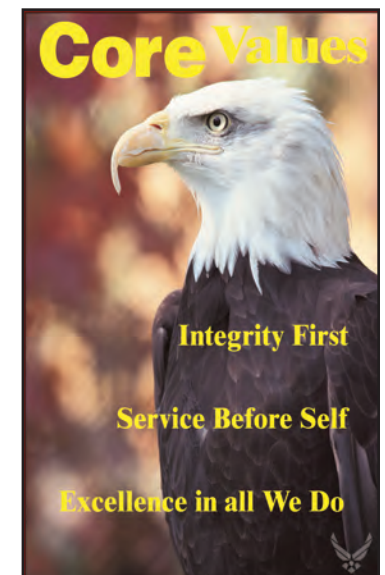
Air Force recruiting officials plan on activating the sponsorship both on and off the track with Air Force flyovers, swear-ins of new enlistees,

involvement in pre-race activities and school visits with the No. 43 show car. The show car will travel to recruiting events at local high schools, promoting mechani-

cal and technical careers to the nation’s highest performing young Americans who may be interested in serving in the United States Air Force.

“The Air Force is proud of

the partnership we have had with Richard Petty Motorsports,” said Col. Michael Tillema, AFRS chief of strategic marketing and communications. “They are perhaps the most respected team in NASCAR and they have been strong supporters of the Air Force. We share a strong set of core values, hard work, discipline and the desire to win.”



Family, festivals and fun

March 2011



2011 Keesler Air Show and Open House Sponsors

- American Lube Fast
- BancorpSouth
- Beau Rivage
- Budweiser Clydesdales
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- DECA
- Desporte and Sons Seafood
- Domino's Pizza
- Gulfport/Biloxi International Airport
- Gulfport Dragway
- Harrison County Board of Supervisors
- IP Casino, Resort, Spa
- Keesler Federal Credit Union
- L-3com
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Tourism
- Mississippi Power
- Northrop Grumman
- Quality Seafood
- REMIX
- Ship Island Excursions
- Skeeters
- USAA

By Lisa Campbell
CSC marketing director

The month of March offers some great opportunities for family fun at Keesler including Mardi Gras festivities, the Keesler Open House and Air Show, mystery dinner theater and more.

“Laissez le bon temps rouler,” is Cajun for “Let the good times roll,” and there’s no better way to get rolling than by attending a Mardi Gras Parade. Information, tickets and travel is offering round trip transportation to two New Orleans Mardi Gras parades: Endymion, March 5, and Bacchus, March 6. For \$35 per person ITT will take care of the driving and the parking. The bus departs the Bay Breeze Event Center at 9 a.m. and returns at 9:30 p.m. both days. Space is limited; call 377-3818 to reserve your seat. This is one trip you won’t want to miss.

For nonprior service students, there are plenty of ways to enjoy Mardi Gras locally, especially at the Vandenberg Community Center during Carnival Week March 7-12. “Hey mister, throw me something,” will echo all week long throughout the “V.” Prizes are awarded to the students with the most beads at one of two

masquerade balls, March 11 and 12.

Even the youth center is getting in on the fun with their annual Mardi Gras camp, March 7-9. Activities include bowling, a youth center Mardi Gras parade, breakfast, lunch and snacks. Fees are based on total family income. Drop-ins are welcome for \$4 per hour, provided space is available. To register, call 377-4116.

Set your eyes to the sky as Keesler celebrates 70 years of service to our country during the 2011 Air Show and Open House, March 19-20.

The air show brings in thousands of spectators from the local community for a weekend filled with flight demonstrations, static displays, vendors, family activities and great food.

The Navy’s Blue Angels are the feature act this year but they won’t be alone. Several other dazzling aerial displays will be performed by flying sensations such as the B-25J Mitchell Bomber, the Army Golden Knights, the Viper East, Keesler’s C-130J Hercules and many more.

This event is free to attend and has something for everyone including a guest appearance by television commercial

superstars, the Budweiser Clydesdales. A Kid Zone is available for a small fee. For more information and the schedule of events, visit <http://www.keesler.af.mil>.

And the fun doesn’t stop — bring that special someone out for a night of dining and laughter. Back by popular demand, the Bay Breeze Collocated Club hosts a mystery dinner theater, “Death by Bananas,” in the ballroom Friday, March 25. Social hour begins at 6 p.m.; dinner and show begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person, club members receive a \$5 discount. Purchase tickets at outdoor recreation. This event is sponsored by Alloy Marketing, Courtyard Marriott and Budweiser-Responsibility Matters.

For those looking for additional family fun, don’t miss family night out at the Bay Breeze Collocated Club 5-8 p.m. March 23. The club and community center co-host a night of family activities, board games, dinner and more. It’s a perfect opportunity to create memories while spending time with the kids. Dinner is \$12.95, club members receive a \$2 discount, ages 4-10 eat for half-price and ages 3 and younger eat free.

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Spring Brunch

Call 377-2334 to book your reservation.

10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

March 13

in the BBEC Ballroom

\$16.95

Club Members Get \$2 OFF!

Ages 4-10 eat for half-price.

Ages 3 and younger eat FREE!

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.

March madness — 2-4 p.m. Wednesdays in March. Receive 50 percent off all ceramics, plus no firing fees.

“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. Class fees include instruction and materials.

Ladies' night — 6 p.m. Feb. 4. \$5, ladies kick back and have a fun-filled night that includes games, snacks, drinks (non-alcoholic) and buy one, get one half off ceramics special.

Pottery class — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 5. \$30.

Pot-of-gold — 1 p.m. March 12. Children create their own St. Patrick's Day pot-of-gold. \$5, includes a snack.

Glass painting — 10:30 a.m. March 19. \$25, learn a new skill and leave with a finished product.

Acrylic painting — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 26. \$30, learn techniques for painting and leave with a finished piece of art work. \$30 includes supplies.

Frame shop

Custom orders — we will customize all work to individual orders. We can coordinate framing awards with engraving shop accessories.

Framing class — noon March 4 and 18, bring a photo or artwork no larger than 5x7-inches to frame.

Auto hobby shop

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

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.

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

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 — 10 a.m. Saturdays. Learn how to use over 20 woodworking machines and make a cutting board to take home. \$25 includes shop use, instruction and materials. Class certifies you to use the shop equipment in the future. Watching a safety video is required.

Beginning intarsia — 10 a.m. to noon March 5 and 19. \$25, learn the art of piecing wood together in a decorative pattern to create artwork.

Engraving shop — 10 a.m. March 12 and 26.

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.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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

Give parents a break — 4-10 p.m. March 12. This 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.

FAMILY CHILD CARE

Editor's note: 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.

HELP WANTED

Editor's note: The 81st Force Support Squadron human resource office is located in Room 213, Sablich Center.

Nonappropriated fund positions — apply in house or online. A computer lab is now available for job seekers to use on site during normal business hours; or apply online at <https://nafjobs.afsv.net>.

Current job openings — for complete list, call the 24-hour job line at 377-9055 or log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

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.

*Part of the late night dances; \$3 cover charge applies.

DJ battle — 10 p.m. March 4.*

Air guitar contest — 10 p.m. March 5.*

Mardi Gras Carnival — March 7-12, the student with the most beads by the end of the week will receive a prize and a mask for the masquerade ball.

Two-night masquerade ball — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. March 11-12, dance the night away.*

Country blow out — 8 p.m. March 19, grab your boots and hat for a two-steppin' good time.*

Fashion show — 9 p.m. March 25, models will be judged on creativity, originality and swag.*

Talent competition — 9 p.m. March 31, calling all singers, dancers, baton twirlers and more. Show your talents in our competition and win a prize.*

Comedy night — 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays, enjoy a gut busting, laugh-out-loud night of comedy from various comedians.

Improv at the “V” — 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays,

laugh-out-loud night of comedy from various comedians.

Late night dances — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursdays before nontraining Fridays and every Friday and Saturday.

Karaoke — 9 p.m. every Saturday.*

VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY

Editor's note: Located on 3rd Street, Building 0408. All animals in base housing must be registered with the veterinary 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 clinic.

Sick call and vaccines — by appointment only, call to schedule.

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.

Soccer registration — begins Tuesday.

Mardi Gras camp — March 7-9. Register now. Activities include bowling, youth parade, breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Fees are based on total family income. Drop-in rate is \$4 per hour.

New Orleans Hornets Basketball — March 12, Keystone/Trail teens will travel to New Orleans to watch the Hornets take the court.

Kids' zone — March 19-20 at the Keesler Air Show. Come play. Teen volunteers are needed.

Image makers photo show — March 28-April 9 for ages 6-18. Submit artwork for our traveling photo show by March 23. Exhibit will be displayed at the youth center and other base facilities during April.

Volunteers needed — for Keesler's annual Child Pride Day, April 9 in the Marina Park.

Friday night fun — 6:30-9:30 p.m. Fridays for ages 6-12. \$10 for the first child, \$5 for each additional child. Games, snack bar, skating, video games and more. Preregistration is required; drop-ins welcome when space is available. Show your Bay Breeze club card and get 10 percent off admission.

Open recreation — 3-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 3-6 p.m. Fridays. Computer media center, homework assistance, sports and fitness.

Instructional classes — tennis, tae kwon do, piano and guitar. Call to schedule.

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.

Lisa Campbell, marketing director; Diana Egger, marketing specialist; Cindy Milford, publications administrator; Hank D'Aquila, graphics illustrator; Tanja Smith, commercial sponsorship coordinator.

PLEASE PULL OUT AND KEEP THIS SUPPLEMENT AS A HANDY REFERENCE FOR MONTHLY EVENTS OF THE 81ST FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON.

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

AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS

Editor's note: Registration is required for all briefings, classes and workshops. To register, call 376-8728. Space is limited.

Financial counseling — one-on-one counseling for first term airmen and nonprior service students with more than 20 weeks. Complete your appointment and get a free car care voucher.

Pre-separation counseling — Tuesdays, 1 p.m. for those separating, 2:30 p.m. for retirees. Mandatory suspense for completion is 90 days prior to separation or retirement.

Post-deployment brief — 9 a.m. Tuesdays or 1 p.m. Thursdays for all those returning from deployment.

Newcomers orientation — 7 a.m. to noon March 9 and 23, get acquainted with the base.

Career skills assessment — 9-11:30 a.m. March 10.

Sponsor training — 10-11 a.m. March 14 and 28. Learn resources, Air Education and Training Command deadlines and tips for welcoming newcomers.

Transition assistance workshop — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 14-16. Help with transitioning to the civilian work force.

Federal resume writing/job search — 9-11:30 a.m. March 16. Learn how to prepare a resume for federal employment. Print a federal job announcement and bring to class. Limit 15 per class.

Veterans Administration benefits — 8-11 a.m. March 17.

Retirement benefits briefing — 1-4 p.m. March 17.

Civilian jobs resume writing course — 9-11:30 a.m. March 22. Bring a resume if you have one.

Pre-deployment briefing — 7:30-9 a.m. Feb. 10, for all those deploying. See your unit deployment manager to schedule attendance.

Survivor's benefit briefing — 9-11 a.m. March 23, for single and married members and their spouses.

Interview skills/salary negotiations — 9-11:30 a.m. March 24.

Smooth move — 1-2:30 p.m. March 24.

Resume/job fair preparation — 9-11:30 a.m. March 31.

BAY BREEZE COLLOCATED CLUB

Editor's note: All ranks and contractors welcome. Club members must show club card to receive discounts. For more information, call 377-2334.

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

Spring brunch — March 13. See ad on page A1.

All-you-can-eat buffet — served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. For menu, log onto <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

Pasta station — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays.

Catering — professional services for your special occasions.

Collocated lounge

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

Social hour — 4-7 p.m. daily. Domestic beer specials: pitchers \$5, draft by the glass \$1.50 and bottles \$2.

Jazz night — 5-8 p.m. March 11.

DJ Dynamite — 8 p.m. to midnight March 12.

Crud room — available. Bring your own cue sticks for pool.

Wingman Wednesdays — 5 p.m. Wednesdays domestic draft pitchers \$5. Wings and things free for members, nonmembers \$3.

Bonanza bingo — cards \$1, available at the cashier or ask your bartender. You could win a \$500 prize.

BAY BREEZE COMMUNITY CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2509. Free Wi-Fi.

Wingman Wednesday pool tournament — 6 p.m. every Wednesday in March. Players are allowed to bring their own pool sticks. Free to participate.

Free pool — enjoy a game of billiards on the house. Brand new tables and a flat screen television.

Free Internet gaming — in the gaming/media room. Consoles include Xbox, Playstation 3 and Wii. See the recreation aid to check-out controllers and games.

Tae kwon do classes — 5-7p.m. Mondays-Thursdays at the "V" for ages 18 and older. \$75 per month.

Ballroom variety dance lessons — 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays for ages 18 and older. \$10 per class per person. Learn the cha-cha, swing, foxtrot and waltz. Must have 10 couples for class to begin.

Piano lessons — \$100/month; Mon.-Sat., 30-minute sessions.

Voice lessons — \$100/month; Mon.-Sat., 30-minute sessions.

Drum lessons — \$25 per lesson for a 30-minute session.

Guitar instructor needed — call 377-2509 if interested.

Book your next event at the Bay Breeze Event Center — a variety of rooms and services are available for both personal and official base functions. We can accommodate parties up to 500 people. For more information, call or email bos.svc@us.af.mil.

BAY BREEZE GOLF COURSE

Editor's note: For more information or tee time, call 377-3832. Open 6 a.m. to dusk. Free Wi-Fi.

Breakfast — now served 6-9 a.m. in the snack bar.

Free golf clinics — 5 p.m. March 15 and 22 for company grade officers and noon to 1:30 p.m. March 12 and 19 for nonprior service students. Space is limited, call to reserve.

Twilight special — 2 p.m. until closing Mondays-Thursdays, play unlimited golf. E1-E4, \$12; E5-O3, \$20; O4 and up, \$22; and guests \$22. Fees include cart rental.

Professional golf lessons — \$30 for a half-hour lesson for any level golfer, from those learning the basic fundamentals to fine tuning the most advanced golfers' skills. Lessons are by appointment Mondays-Saturdays; call to schedule.

Bay Breeze club member special — show your club card and get 10 percent off cart rentals Mondays-Fridays.

"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.

DINING FACILITIES

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

Daily menu — call 377-DINE (3463).

Monthly birthday celebration — 5:30 p.m. Wednesday 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 377-4368. Those collecting basic allowance for subsistence must pay cash and surcharge.

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. Free Wi-Fi.

Casino night — 7 p.m. the first and third Saturday of each month. \$15 per person for three games, shoes included. Prizes.

Crazy eights bowling — \$5 per person per game immediately following casino night.

Bonanza bingo — \$1 per card, daily drawings. You could win \$2,000.

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 — 1:30-3 p.m. or 3:30-5 p.m. Saturdays. The birthday child is free; you provide the cake. Parties range in price from \$8.95 to \$15.95 per child. Reservations are required.

"UBU" special — show your UBU card and bowl for \$1.50 per game before 5 p.m., \$2 per game after 5 p.m., shoes included.

Fundraiser idea — score over \$450 cash for your organization and have fun doing it.

11th Frame Café

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

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

Kingpin daily specials \$6.95 — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. Call-in orders accepted 10-11 a.m. Mondays feature grilled smothered chicken, Tuesdays choose barbecue pulled pork sandwich or barbecue brisket sandwich, Wednesdays enjoy meat loaf, Thursdays get chicken fried steak or chicken and Fridays fill up on chicken parmesan and spaghetti with marinara sauce.

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

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 arriving after 6 p.m., please call with credit card information to hold reservation. A business center with free Wi-Fi access is on site for your convenience.

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 units with full kitchen. Pet TLFs are available for an additional \$10 per night.

INFORMATION, TICKETS AND TRAVEL

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

Mississippi Surge hockey tickets — \$12, get your tickets now. **New Orleans Audubon Nature Institute** — tickets available now for Audubon zoo, aquarium, insectarium and IMAX® theatre.

Disney World's® Salute to the Military — Four-day Park Hopper® ticket \$138, four-day base ticket with the water park option \$138, four-day Park Hopper® with the water park option \$165. Great deals on resort stays; blackout dates apply.

Trip to New Orleans Mardi Gras parades — see story on page A1 for more information.

Armed Forces Vacation Club® — A space-available vacation program. No membership fee, no dues; just a great vacation value for members of the uniformed services, Department of Defense and nonappropriated fund employees; \$369 for a week in a resort condominium. Log onto <http://www.afvclub.com> to reserve. Please designate installation #121 as your base when reserving.

Leisure travel office

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-1658.

Travel discounts — on cruises, airline tickets, hotels and more. **Seven-day Caribbean Cruise aboard the Norwegian Spirit, Aug. 7-14, 2011** — inside cabin \$673.86, ocean view \$703.86, balcony \$1023.86. Departs New Orleans to Costa Maya, Roatan Bay Islands, Belize City, Cozumel and back to New Orleans.*

Five-day Caribbean Cruise aboard the Carnival Ecstasy, Oct. 31-Nov. 5, 2011 — inside cabin \$372.19, ocean view \$417.19, balcony is available on request. Departs New Orleans to Progresso, Cozumel and back to New Orleans.*

Seven-day Valentine's Caribbean Cruise aboard the Royal Caribbean Voyager of the Seas, Feb. 11-18, 2012 — inside cabin \$619.76, ocean view \$789.16, balcony \$949.16. Departs New Orleans to Falmouth, Grand Cayman, Cozumel and back to New Orleans.*

*Prices are per person, based on double occupancy and include taxes, transfers, all meals and entertainment on board the ship. Passports are highly recommended.

LEGENDS CAFÉ

Editor's note: Dine-in or take-out. Located inside Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call 377-2424.

A fast and inexpensive place to grab a bite — serving pizza, wings, chicken tenders, hamburgers, wraps, quesadillas, sandwiches, salads and more. Open evenings Thursdays-Saturdays.

"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.

McBride Library

Teen tech week — March 6-12. This program encourages teens to use the library's nonprint resources for education and recreation. The library will display nonprint resources all week and help educate patrons on the importance of technology.

Children's story time — 10 a.m. March 16, ages 3-5.

"One Page at a Time" — ages 5-13 choose books from reading lists through March and earn prizes for completed readings.

Free Wi-Fi — available 24/7. Ask the front desk for login.

Search our online catalog — search for print and audio books,

DVDs, CDs, VHS, magazines, periodicals and more, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

Free Rosetta Stone online language learning — a web-based program with access to 31 languages. Check with the library staff for more information and eligibility requirements.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND MARINA

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

Back Bay fishing trips — \$30 per person. Mississippi fishing license is required. Minimum four, maximum six people.

Deep sea fishing trips — walk on or sign up trips are \$75 per person. Spend the day fishing the barrier islands and platforms of the gulf. Price includes everything you need to fish. Fishing license is not required. Trips run nontraining Fridays and Sundays. Minimum 12 people and at least 14 people for a trip to the rigs.

Recreational equipment rentals — canoes, kayaks, camping packages, barbecue grills, ice chests, softball kits, water skis and so much more. For price list log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us> and click on the link for Outdoor Recreation.

Towable campers for rent — \$50 per night, tow to your destination and enjoy. Two available; one sleeps six, one sleeps eight. Clean and roomy with side slide-out. To reserve, call 377-9050.

NONAPPROPRIATED FUND SALE

March 1 — 8-11 a.m. open to active duty military and/or their dependents only. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. open to all Department of Defense card holders.

March 2-3 — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. open to all Department of Defense card holders.

Guidelines — log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us> for more information.

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.

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.

5K Saint Patrick's run/walk — noon March 9 at the Blake Fitness Center. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Safe St. Patty's Day running attire encouraged. Sponsored by Keesler Federal Credit Union and Beau Rivage.

10 mile baton relay — noon, March 30 at the Triangle Fitness Center. Register at 11 a.m. Four-person teams may be male/female or all male/all female. Each person will run 2.5 miles, a quarter mile at a time. Awards will be presented to the first and second place finishers.

Free fitness classes — Zumba, Pilates, cycling, step aerobics, yoga and more are offered at the Dragon Fitness Center. For class descriptions and schedule, log onto <http://www.keeslerservices.us> and click on the fitness center link.

Tranquil touch therapeutic massage — hour and half-hour appointments available at Triangle Fitness Center. Swedish, deep tissue, aromatherapy, reflexology and La Stone original body therapy massages are offered. Call (228) 348-6698 to schedule.

Mystery Dinner Theater

March 25 in the Bay Breeze Event Center Ballroom
6 p.m. Social Hour
7 p.m. Dinner & Show

\$25
Bay Breeze
Club Members

\$30
Nonmembers

Death
by Bananas
a new comedy murder mystery
produced by Medlock Productions

Dinner with dessert, show and cash bar.

Tickets are available at the Outdoor Recreation retail store. Reserve your table now.

Sponsored by Alloy Marketing, Budweiser - Responsibility Matters and Courtyard Marriott.

Rated PG-13