



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

APRIL 14, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 15



Red Wolves gather books for Keesler children

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ON THE COVER

From left, Airman Priscilla Lugo and Airmen Basic Mark Patton and Ekaterina Bochkova, students in the 336th Training Squadron, sort books into age-appropriate sections Monday after a squadron book drive that netted 1,470 books for children and classroom libraries at the child development center, youth center and family child care homes. The drive was spearheaded by Staff Sgt. Twan Jennings, a 336th TRS instructor and member of the CDC's parent advisory board after learning of the center's book swap program.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What is something you are superstitious about?



"Stepping on a crack."

Airman 1st Class Gerald Jacobs, 338th Training Squadron



"I am big on karma."

Staff Sgt. Twan Jennings, 336th TRS



"I'm not really superstitious at all."

Randy Wilson, 81st Force Support Squadron

KEESLER NEWS

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Scott AFB to become 'one stop C-21 shop'

By Bekah Clark

375th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

SCOTT Air Force Base, Ill. — The 458th Airlift Squadron here will become the Air Force's sole C-21 formal training unit within the next four months.

The squadron will regain the C-21 training mission from Keesler's 45th Airlift Squadron.

The 45th AS will dissolve as a unit under Air Education and Training Command and will once again fall under Air Mobility Command's 375th Operations Group. The C-21 training mission had belonged to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., up until the early 1990s.

The first class, an initial qualification course, began April 4.

While the 458th AS will gain no aircraft and only one military position from the move, it will be a beneficial transformation for the squadron and the Air Force as a whole, according to officials.

"Having the training unit reunited with the forerunning active-duty C-21 unit is the perfect marriage of expertise, experience and excellence," said Lt. Col. VanHoose, 458th AS commander. "In a time of doing more with less while maintaining our exceptional level of service, the 458th will serve as a model for other units both here at Scott and abroad."

The 375th OG already serves as the central hub for the majority of the Air Force's C-21 operational support airlift mission.

"By making the group the hub for all C-21 training as well, the Air Force will have a centralized, consistent focal point for all things C-21," said Col. Terry Ward, 375th OG commander. "Our ability to bring lessons learned from the field directly into the training environment will give the Air Force an extra level of guarantee that upon graduation these pilots will be prepared to handle any situation that might arise in the air or on the ground."

According to Maj. Scott Russell, a 458th AS instructor pilot and the program manager for the project, the mission addition for the 458th AS began

45th Airlift Squadron deactivates July 14

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 45th Airlift Squadron, a tenant unit at Keesler, will deactivate July 14.

The 45th AS is a geographically separated unit assigned to the 314th Airlift Wing, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., which is owned by 19th Air Force.

"We continue to teach new C-21 pilot instructors until June 24, when our last students graduate," said Lt. Col. Scott Nishwitz, 45th AS commander. "We have three aircraft that will be flown to the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., shortly after the last instructor class graduates.

"I've already sent three of my 12 instructor pilots to assist with the school-house stand-up at Scott AFB, Ill.," he continued. "I still have two instructors slated to head to Scott later this summer."

The rest of the squadron's active-duty personnel will make permanent changes of station to other assignments throughout the Air Force after the unit is deactivated.

"Our maintenance contract with DynCorp will be cancelled after the aircraft have been decommissioned," the colonel added.

last June with the passing of Resource Management Decision 700, which called for the C-21 fleet to be cut from 56 aircraft to 28.

The training mission, which is open to members of the active-duty, Guard and Reserve, won't constitute its own squadron as it does at Keesler. Rather, it will be added to the pre-existing OSA mission of the 458th AS.

"The 458th will have six qualified instructor pilots to carry out the C-21 training mission," said Maj. Karl Zurbrugg, a 458th AS instructor pilot, who is also aiding in the mission's transition. "These pilots will also continue to fly the regular (operational support airlift) missions when they aren't instructing."

Two C-21s have been designated

for use in the three classes taught by the 458th AS: initial qualification, instructor pilot training and senior officer training courses.

Initial qualification is for those pilots who are fresh out of pilot training or pilots who are qualified to fly other aircraft but now need C-21 qualification.

It's a six-week long course, the first three weeks of which are accomplished at SimuFlite at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, Texas. While at SimuFlite, pilots accomplish simulator training and receive undergraduate-level classroom instruction. The final three weeks of training are at Scott, where the pilots accomplish classroom and in-the-air training. The class is expected to host two to four students at a time.

Instructor pilot training, which will also host two to four students each rotation, teaches C-21 qualified pilots to instruct C-21 pilots-in-training. The first instructor pilot training course begins July 5.

The instructor pilot training is a five-week course. During the course, instructor pilot trainees accomplish simulator training at SimuFlite and receive graduate-level classroom instruction. The last two weeks of training are held at Scott, where the trainees learn theory of instruction, how to instruct while flying, and safety rules and regulations.

"One of the biggest lessons we impart to them is to recognize their own limits as instructors," Major Zurbrugg said. "It's important that they know how to control the situation while they're instructing, in the event that the student has a problem or makes a mistake. They're teaching, but they're also several thousand feet in the air. It's ultimately the instructor's responsibility to ensure their and their students' safety."

The 458th AS will hold the senior officer course on an as-needed basis for senior officers, generally colonels and above, who have been designated, by their position or by superiors, as needing C-21 qualification. Depending on the requirement, this course qualifies senior officers to fly the C-21 as a fully-certified crewmember or a crewmember who must fly with an instructor pilot.

The move is being made in support of the fiscal 2011 force structure announcement, which cuts the C-21 fleet down from 56 aircraft to 28 by fiscal 2013. Seven C-21s will be cut in fiscal 2011.

The majority of the Air Force's C-21 fleet is owned by the 375th Operations Group and operated by the 458th AS at Scott AFB, and two geographically separated airlift squadrons: the 311th Airlift Squadron at Peterson AFB, Colo.; and the 457th AS at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

In light of the force structure announcement, officials said the 311th AS will lose one aircraft, while the 457th AS will lose three.



333rd TRS Mad Duck retires, yields to Spartan

By Capt. Magina Baonga

333rd Training Squadron

Friday, the 333d Training Squadron said goodbye to an old friend when Lt. Col. Doug Short officially “retired” the Mad Duck as the squadron mascot and welcomed a new mascot, the Spartan.

During the ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center, the Mad Duck was presented the Meritorious Mascot Medal and a letter of appreciation praising him for 19 years of dedicated service to the squadron and the base. Key to squadron success during his tenure as mascot was his dogged determination displayed during the recovery from Hurricane Katrina and his oversight of the transformation from a support mission to an operational role with the introduction of the cyberspace domain and undergraduate cyber training.

After bidding farewell to the Mad Duck, the squadron



Left, Lt. Col. Douglas Short, 333rd Training Squadron commander, presents Mad Duck, 333rd TRS mascot, the Meritorious Mascot Medal and letter of appreciation during its retirement ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center during a 333rd TRS commander's call April 8. The Spartan, right, was welcomed as the new mascot.

was introduced to a new mascot, the Spartan. The Spartan was chosen to represent the squadron as it moves forward in its mission of developing technical and operational warriors to dominate the cyber-

space domain. The Spartan, selected as a strong and honorable mascot to rally the unit, also represents the evolution of cyberspace.

Squadron officials noted the image of the Spartan is



Photo by Kemberly Groue

very symbolic and draws many parallels to the Air Force's Airman's Creed. The Spartan was a warrior, selected from birth to train and defend his land. His shield symbolizes a cyber shield, rep-

resenting the Air Force's mission to defend the nation. The spear reminds the squadron's members to fulfill their mission at the tip of the cyber spear when called upon to do so. As a professional warrior, the Spartan was expected to complete his mission and never let down the Spartan serving beside him, regardless of the consequences.

“It's a sad day to see the Mad Duck go but it's also exciting because the Spartan represents the new mindset of the warfighting spirit,” said Master Sgt. Juan Mederos, 333rd TRS.

The squadron's director of operations, Maj. Richard Bingaman, believes that the new mascot “fits more with the warrior ethos that we want to instill in all of our Airmen.”

Chief Master Sgt. Billy Abbott, 81st Training Group superintendent, said, “The change is a good thing with the evolution of our forces in to cyberspace.”

Top Airman, MTF announced

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

April 7, the 81st Training Group announced its Airman of the Month for March and military training flight for March and the first quarter of 2011.

Airman of the Month is Airman 1st Class Trevor Reiss, a weather student from the 335th Training Squadron.

Airman Reiss, who hails from Greenville, S.C., is in charge of the 81st TRG Drum and Bugle Corps. He plans to graduate July 12, but hasn't received orders for his first assignment yet.

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



Airman Reiss

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 March, as well as the first quarter of 2011, is the 336th MTF.

The Red Wolves scored the highest overall in marching, physical training, room inspections, open ranks, Airman's Manual, charge of quarters and retreat.

The training group MTLs judge the squadrons and maintain scoring throughout the month.

The flight received a roving sign to put in front of its squadron to recognize the monthly recognition.

For MTF of the Quarter recognition, the 336th TRS receives \$1,500 for its building for sports equipment, pool tables, air hockey tables and other morale and welfare enhancements.

Academic aces



Two students, Airmen 1st Class Jennifer Donovan and Joseph Hembrook, graduated from technical training with perfect scores. Airman Donovan completed the personnel apprentice course in the 335th Training Squadron. She's from Hurricane, W.V., and is stationed with the West Virginia Air National Guard's 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston. Airman Hembrook graduated from the radio frequency transmission systems course in the 338th TRS. He's from Kenosha, Wis., and is assigned to the 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

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

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Group's drill down is 8 a.m. Friday on the parade grounds.

For more information, call 377-2103.

USM admissions

University of Southern Mississippi admissions counselor Michelle Lane is available 2-5 p.m. Tuesday at the USM-Keesler office, Room 219, Sablich Center.

USM's summer semester begins May 30.

For an appointment or more information, call 376-8479.

ASMC scholarships

April 22 is the deadline to apply for one of two \$1,000 college scholarships being awarded by the Mississippi Sound Chapter of the American Society of Military Comp-trollers.

The scholarship is offered to graduating high school seniors entering a college financial or resource management

course of study, including business administration, economics, public administration, computer science, or operations research related to financial management, accounting, or finance.

Application packages include an ASMC Mississippi Sound Chapter application form; a recommendation letter from a high school principal, academic dean, or guidance counselor; and a recommendation letter from a high school teacher. A college acceptance letter is required at the time the scholarship funds are awarded.

For nomination packages, call 376-8212.

CCAF graduation

The Community College of the Air Force spring commencement ceremony is 3:30 p.m. April 26 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

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



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



Ms. Trujillo



Mr. Greer



Mr. Fix

Five from Keesler recognized with 2nd Air Force awards



Sergeant McCowan



Sergeant Fisher

By Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Five of 2nd Air Force's annual award winners for 2010 hail from Keesler.

Winners are:

Civilian category I — Kristin Trujillo, 81st Training Support Squadron. Since beginning her civil service career in the 81st TRSS 10 years ago as a part-time clerk while still in high school, Ms. Trujillo has moved up to her position as personnel liaison assistant while earning her bachelor's and master's degrees. Last year, she resolved 935 issues for 526 civilians in her unit. She's been the 81st Training Group's civilian of the year for the past three years. She organized a wounded warrior fundraiser, sent six care packages to deployed members of the unit and volunteered with a local food pantry and the Angel Tree program.

Civilian category II — Curtis Greer, 81st Force Support Squadron. Mr. Greer, a human resources specialist, is AETC's 2010 personnel flight specialist of the year. He manages Keesler's employee management rela-

tions efforts, was the contact person for a national union grievance and advised commanders on complex disciplinary cases. He reinvigorated the base's disability program and served as workforce recruitment program manager. Mr. Greer serves on the Keesler Federal Credit Union Board of Directors, teaches Sunday school and served on Biloxi High School's accreditation parent panel.

Civilian supervisor category II — Michael Fix, 81st FSS. Mr. Fix, AETC's manpower and personnel flight manager of the year for 2010, leads a staff that has been selected as the command's top manpower office for the past five years. He leads a team that managed more than 5,000 nonappropriated fund, wing and group authorizations worth \$556 million. He distributed 115 Christmas baskets to needy families, served as Sunday school teacher for 23 couples and raised funds for Jackson County's Backpack Buddies program that ensured nutrition for more than 300 needy children.

Honor guard program manager — Master Sgt. Monita McCowan, 81st Force Support Squadron honor guard superinten-

IN THE NEWS

Wing commander's calls

Three 81st Training Wing commander's calls have been scheduled — 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday and 3:30 p.m. April 21 at the Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom.

The commander's calls are open to all ranks, including military members, civilians and contractors.

AFAF pledges climb

Last week, Keesler raised \$16,159 for this year's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign for a total so far to \$24,647.

according to 2nd Lt. Joshua Anson, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, project officer.

This is nearly 30 percent of the base's goal of \$83,109.

Troops get full mid-month pay

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — All service members will receive their full mid-month pay they have earned in their paychecks Friday.

"It may be in two separate payments, but on the 15th everyone will receive their full allotted pay," Pentagon spokesman Marine Col. Dave Lapan said.

Confusion arose due to the threatened closure of the U.S. government last week. Administration and congressional leaders came to an agreement ending that action Friday.

Service members are urged to check their end-of-month leave and earnings statements carefully. The normal end-of-month statements are posted to accounts April 22.

For more information, visit the myPay website at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

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

Staffing is reduced in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics general surgery, pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services. For urgent situations, call central appointments at 1-800-700-8603 or report to the emergency room.

Dragons deployed — 217

dant. Sergeant McCowan, who earned the award for the second consecutive year, managed 32 honor guardsmen in four flights and was the primary liaison between more than 140 funeral directors. She supervised 174 color guard ceremonies and 533 military funeral honors across 68 counties and parishes. She also coordinated the ceremonial flag folding for 27 active duty retirements.

Military training leader — Master Sgt. Anthony Fisher, 81st Training Group military

superintendent. Sergeant Fisher founded Keesler's quarterly Teddy Bear Run in which the teddy bears are donated to children at the 81st Medical Group. He ran the 81st Training Group's transition program test cycle which resulted in the program being adopted in 36 AETC locations. He also was a part of the 2010 Unit Compliance Inspection team and contributed to 100 percent compliance of two detachments by inspecting them and providing assistance.

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Photos by Kemberly Groue
Ruth Dern of Biloxi, left, and Army Sgt. Tanya Salva sign up to win a display of prizes in celebration of the main exchange's first anniversary in its new location, April 6. Mrs. Dern's husband, Paul, is a retired senior master sergeant. Sergeant Salva is assigned to the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center.



Exchange celebrates first anniversary at new shopping complex

Tech. Sgt. Arnette Snow, an Air Force recruiter from the 369th Recruiting Group, Baton Rouge, La., receives free product samples from Jordan Sullivan, a representative for S&K Sales Company, during the exchange's first anniversary celebration. The shopping complex, which also includes the base commissary, was built after Hurricane Katrina gutted the former stores in August 2005.



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. 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. today, 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. today, May 12, June 16, July 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A; for members with less than a year until retirement.

Executive transition assistance workshop — Dec. 6-9 for colonels and chief master ser-

geants 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.

ID numbers change

81st Force Support Squadron

Starting in June, Social Security numbers will no longer be printed on any Department of Defense identification cards.

These changes are being made by DOD to protect the personal identity information of cardholders. A DOD ID number will be printed on all ID cards and will be used as the Geneva Conventions serial number.

Eligible beneficiaries will also have a DOD benefits number printed on their ID cards. Medical providers will use the DOD benefits number on new ID cards to validate eligibility and to process claims.

Cards with Social Security number remain valid until replaced. Changes to cards will be made upon renewal.

In a phased approach, removing Social Security numbers for dependents began in December 2008. Removing the numbers from all cards starts this June. Social Security numbers embedded in barcodes will be removed beginning in late 2012.



Base
construction sites
are off-limits
without
authorization.

Changes to Air Force leave program take effect

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — The changes to Air Force Instruction 36-3003 on Military Leave include revised rules for determining the first and last day of chargeable leave, emergency leave requests, permissive temporary duty and educational leave of absence, officials said Friday.

The leave rule for determining the first and last day of chargeable leave was changed to align Air Force procedures with Department of Defense guidance, according to Lt. Col. Jodi Riley, Air Force Military Pay, Entitlements and Allowances Policy chief in the directorate of force management policy.

The colonel explained that if a member is starting leave or signing up for space-available

travel on a non-duty day, then the member is on leave and that day will be chargeable as leave. If a member returns from leave on a non-duty day, that day will not be charged as leave.

For example, if an Airman who works a typical Monday through Friday work week starts leave on Saturday, Saturday counts as the first day of leave, the colonel said. However, if the Airman starts leave during the work week and returns from leave on a Saturday, the last day of chargeable leave is Friday. In addition, if the Airman starts leave during the work week and returns from leave on a Sunday, the last day of chargeable leave is Saturday. If the Airman returns from leave on a Sunday or holiday, that day is not

charged as leave.

The change means the rules for determining the first and last day of chargeable leave have been reversed, Colonel Riley said, adding Airmen were previously charged leave for returning on a non-duty day and now they're charged leave for starting leave on a non-duty day instead.

"There was nothing wrong with the way the Air Force implemented its leave policy," the colonel noted. "The change was made so the Air Force is consistent with the DoD leave policy. There is no need to correct anyone's records because the prior guidance was not wrong."

Because LeaveWeb is not configured to automatically differentiate between the last day of leave and the last

chargeable day of leave, Airmen and supervisors will be responsible to input the correct chargeable days into the program based on an Airman's duty schedule.

Air Force officials said Airmen and supervisors should carefully read Air Force Guidance Memorandum 2 to AFI 36-3003, Military Leave Program, paragraphs (i) through (m), before finalizing leave requests under the revised guidelines.

Other leave policy changes are:

- Expanding the conditions under which a member may request emergency leave, to include when the member or someone in the member's or spouse's immediate family is admitted into an intensive care unit in critical condition due to

a major illness or accident.

- Clarification of ordinary leave start and end dates when leave is taken in conjunction with permissive temporary duty as well as clarification of circumstances under which commanders may authorize permissive TDY in conjunction with an adoption.

- Members granted an educational leave of absence will now be charged leave for scheduled school breaks and extended holiday periods unless they return to duty with their units of assignment during the break.

Airmen and supervisors with questions about changes in the leave policy may contact their servicing military personnel section or the total force service center, 1-800-525-0102 or DSN 665-5000.

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

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.

Survivor plan payments require close attention

By Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Disch

Legal office

At the time of retirement, the retiree makes the irrevocable election to have their Survivor Benefit Plan payments to a spouse, child, spouse and child, former spouse or natural interest person.

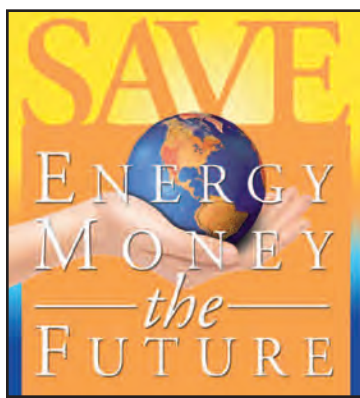
However, it's important to note that federal law requires Survivor SBP payments be made to a "natural person" and doesn't allow for payment to a trust. According to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, "the option is not available for a SBP beneficiary to be a special needs trust or supplemental needs trust."

Why does this matter? If a child with a disability is already receiving federal benefits, receiving SBP payments may be enough to disqualify him or her from receiving certain financial, medical, assisted living and job placement benefits while being financially inadequate to substitute for the loss of these services and benefits. Until this issue is addressed in the law, military members with a disabled family member will need to consider this issue in their long-term estate planning.

For more information, call the legal office, 376-8601, or visit the office in Sablich Center during legal assistance hours, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.



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Researchers find tobacco use doesn't reduce stress level

By Paul Fitzpatrick

Tricare Management Activity

FALLS CHURCH, Va.— Most tobacco users believe that tobacco reduces their stress and helps them manage unpleasant moods. Many service members report that stress is a major reason they smoke or chew tobacco, since military life produces unique pressures and challenges.

But a recent article published on the Department of Defense's tobacco cessation website, <http://www.ucanquit2.org/>, explains how tobacco actually increases stress and why stress levels go down after people kick the nicotine habit.

According to the article, tobacco users feel normal after using nicotine, but stress levels rise in between smoke or chew breaks. Thus, the tobacco user is kept constantly bouncing back and forth

between feeling normal immediately after using and feeling increasingly stressed as the hours since their last intake of nicotine go by.

"Nicotine gives the impression of reducing stress because, for those addicted to nicotine, the experience of not having nicotine in their body is extremely stressful," said Cmdr. (Dr.) Aileen Buckler, Public Health Service officer and chairman of DOD's alcohol and tobacco advisory committee.

Many tobacco users may fear quitting because they imagine that the discomfort of nicotine deprivation — and the accompanying anxiety and irritability — will go on indefinitely. But studies show that the tide quickly turns. Although stress levels rise in the initial days of the quit process, after 14 days of abstinence the former user is no

more stressed than he would be if he were smoking. From there, it only gets better. Six months out, the former tobacco user can expect to experience significantly less stress than he did as a tobacco user.

To help active duty military, veterans, retirees and their families achieve a less stressful, tobacco-free life, DoD offers stress management techniques and a variety of helpful tools at <http://www.ucanquit2.org/>. When tobacco users are feeling stressed as they withdraw from nicotine or just need to find support for quitting tobacco, they can access live help, a free, confidential online chat with trained tobacco cessation coaches, available 24/7 in real time.

They can also locate support with the interactive tool for finding local tobacco cessation programs.

Cyberspace
isn't a secure
environment.

Lenten, Easter, Passover worship

The Keesler Chapel has scheduled Holy Week and Passover services.

Roman Catholic

Holy Thursday Mass, adoration and confession — 7 p.m. April 21, Triangle Chapel.

Good Friday service — 7 p.m. April 22;

Easter Vigil Mass and reception — 7 p.m. April 23, Triangle Chapel.

Easter Mass — 9 a.m. April 24, Triangle Chapel, Easter Sunday Mass followed by Easter egg hunt.

(No Mass next week on Monday and Wednesday.)

Protestant

Easter sunrise service — 6 a.m. April 24, Bay Breeze Event Center, followed by breakfast.

Traditional service — 8:30 a.m. April 24, Larcher Chapel.

Contemporary service — 10:30 a.m. April 24, Triangle Chapel.

Gospel service — noon April 24, Triangle Chapel.

Latter-Day Saints — Student group service, 2 p.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

Jewish

Passover — Individuals can be matched with families in the local area by calling Congregation Beth Israel, 539-1655 or 207-2196.

Greek Orthodox

Services are conducted at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi.

Lazarus liturgy — 10 a.m. Saturday.

Palm Sunday — 10 a.m. Sunday.

Bridegroom service — 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.

Pre-sanctified liturgy/unction service — 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Divine liturgy — 10 a.m. April 21.

12 Passion gospels — 6 p.m. April 21.

Royal hours — noon April 21.

Lamentations — 6 p.m. April 22.

Divine Liturgy, St. Basil — 10 a.m. April 23.

Rush service — 10 p.m. April 23.

Agape vespers — 2 p.m. April 24.



Child Pride Day



A parade kicked off a fun-filled Child Pride Day at Keesler Saturday. In this float, deployed family members toss candy and beads to the crowd lining the parade route.



Photos by Adam Bond
Around her bright, blue eyes, Bethany Estep, 9, has a star painted by Senior Airman Raul Macias, 81st Medical Operations Squadron. Bethany is the daughter of Staff Sgt. Bryan and Erica Estep, 403rd Wing.



Left, with a little help from Airman 1st Class John Rojas, 336th Training Squadron, Bryson Bingaman, 5, scales the heights of the bouncy mountain. Bryson is the son of Maj. Rich and Wanda Bingaman, 333rd TRS.

Below, Emily Mederos, 7, works with Kevin Bethea, director of museum experiences at the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, on a paint rubbing impression. Emily is the daughter of Master Sgt. Juan and Maria Mederos, 332nd TRS.



Parents and children gather at marina park to make hand impressions in plaster. Volunteers were present to help mix, pour and set the plaster molds that would capture forever the size of the children's hands that day.



New program offers redemption, education for DUI offenders

By Airman 1st Class
Jarrod Grammel

23rd Wing Public Affairs

Editor's note: This story is reprinted from the January/February 2011 issue of Torch Magazine.

MOODY Air Force Base, Ga. — With the push to increase awareness of drunk driving, a new program has emerged. This program lets Airmen who have been charged with a DUI speak about their story in front of co-workers.

This is the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program, which leads Airmen troubled by alcohol or drugs down the right path through treatment and education.

“We ask our patients if they are willing to share their story with fellow Airmen so others can learn from their experience,” said Tech. Sgt. Bethany Hardin, ADAPT noncommissioned officer in charge. “Hearing about one of your peer’s experiences and how they learned from their mistakes creates something meaningful that other Airmen will remember.”

One of the Airmen who had to learn from his mistakes this way said he was glad to share his experience.

“Before the program, having a DUI was an overall very negative situation,” said Senior Airman Larry Mitchell, 723rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron communications navigator specialist. “I felt there was no way to come back from it, but the program made me feel like I can bounce back.”

Airman Mitchell had to speak to an audience full of peers, supervisors and commanders. His mission was to inform Airmen of all ranks about the dangers and consequences of drunk driving.

ADAPT is not a punishment, but rather a tool for informing Airmen about the dangers of drinking irresponsibly and using drugs.

“We want to emphasize that receiving care through



Photo by Senior Airman Stephanie Mancha
Airman Mitchell looks down at his coffin with disbelief during his mock memorial service. Airman Mitchell set up the skit to demonstrate the worst case scenario of what could have happened.

ADAPT is a not a punitive action,” said Sergeant Hardin. “It is a service that provides our members the care that they need to stay focused on successfully completing the Air Force mission.”

The program is a chance at redemption and to learn from mistakes. For Airman Mitchell, ADAPT was a positive experience.

“At first I was scared to tell everyone my story since a lot of them didn’t know it was me who had gotten the DUI,” said Airman Mitchell. “But after sharing my experience, I realized it was a positive thing. I got a lot of praise from both my leadership and at other bases.

“People would see me in the community and on base and thank me for what I did,” he added.

The impact that Airman Mitchell’s story had is some-

thing the ADAPT program hopes to continue.

“We hope all Airmen will take to heart the stories they hear and remember these lessons when they are making tough decisions,” said Sergeant Hardin. “We want them to use the insight they gained to help them make responsible choices and consider the consequences of their actions beforehand. We also hope it will encourage Airmen to seek the help they need early on, before a problem escalates.”

The mission of the ADAPT program is to educate the community as well as help Airmen who are troubled by alcohol or drug problems. Having Airmen with firsthand experience talk to their peers and supervisors about the dangers and consequences of using drugs or drinking irresponsibly is one of the ways they hope to accomplish this.

Tuesday’s Earth, Arbor Day includes tree planting, display

By Amanda O’Neal

CSC environmental office

Keesler celebrates Earth Day and Arbor Day Tuesday.

Arbor Day is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. Earth Day is a day to focus on environmental issues and learn about ways to improve the environment. It is an annual celebration that generates enthusiasm for environmental programs that benefit the base population and local community, such as preventing pollution and recycling.

At 10:30 a.m., there’s a tree planting ceremony at the child development center led by Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander.

The ceremony also includes the Tree City USA

award presentation, which Keesler is receiving for the 18th consecutive year. The award recognizes the importance and priority Keesler places on good management of its trees, along with commitment of budgetary resources. Representatives from the Mississippi Urban Forest Council, the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain, the Harrison County Beautification Commission, the City of Biloxi and the City of Gulfport will attend. In case of rain, the ceremony moves to the youth center.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the exchange, a booth distributes educational information on environmental stewardship, recycling and pollution prevention.

For more information, call 377-1262.

Help keep classified business classified.
Don't discuss information off base.

Tactics help spouses cope during deployment

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

When your spouse is deployed, the one left behind gets deployed, too. Not in a military sense, not in a boat or some foreign base but right here at home, in their home. The spouse left behind has to pick up all the duties that their spouse used to do. If there are children involved, that means they have to assume the role of not just one parent, but two. The stress can be overwhelming at times and might prompt some to call in their own personal, tactical airstrike on themselves.

However, before a spouse blows up, the airman and family readiness center would like that tactical call to come to them.

“There’s a saying that anything that can happen while deployed, does happen,” said Master Sgt. Jessica Woodruff, noncommissioned officer in charge of family readiness at the airman and family readiness center. “The AC breaks, the lawnmower dies, the dog dies, the kids get injured, etc. It all seems to come at once.”

If you are reading this and ankle deep in water and don’t have time to read the rest of the article, the airman and family readiness center can be reached at 376-8728.

“We sometimes forget just what our spouses did while they were here,” said Sergeant Woodruff. “If they cooked, you’re now the cook. If they paid the bills, you’re now the bill payer.”

Fortunately, there’s help and you aren’t alone. The airman and family readiness center has a number of strategies and programs to help spouses cope during deployment.

Give Parents a Break is an event that happens on the first Saturday of every month. Parents can drop off their kids at the youth center from 4–10 p.m. and the night is theirs to do whatever they want. The



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Dora Gelacio, center, wife of Tech. Sgt. Jesus Gelacio, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, is letting the good times roll with her daughter, Michelle, 13, and son Alex, 17, at the Mardi Gras parade in Biloxi, March 8. With Sergeant Gelacio currently deployed to Kuwait, his family attends a picnic at the Biloxi Town Green for families of deployed service members sponsored by the airman and family readiness center.

youth center provides a meal and has fun games and activities for the children while the parents are free to get together with friends, watch a movie or do nothing but sit and read a book.

For parents who need or want more breaks, daycare is also available by the hour at the child development center and informal babysitting groups have been spawned as a result of spouses coming together to help each other out.

Spa night is a new event that’s held in conjunction with Give Parents a Break. Local vendors are invited to the airman and family readiness center to provide massages, facials, manicures and pedicures for the parents. A meal is also provided.

According to Sergeant

Woodruff, getting families and spouses together, building a sense of community, sharing information and relating experiences is the driving force behind a lot of their programs.

“The networking that happens at our events is important,” Sergeant Woodruff said. “You may feel like you are all alone, but after one of these events, you meet so many others who are going or have gone through the same thing. Before, you would never have known these people were out there.”

The Key Spouse program is also an important networking tool. Every squadron on base has a key spouse, someone who serves as the information conduit between squadron commanders and the family unit. They send out

newsletters and emails about the who, what, when, where and why of base happenings.

“We don’t want a spouse or family member to feel like they are out on their own,” said Sergeant Woodruff. “Just recently we had a young woman who was going to give birth to twins while her husband was deployed. We contacted her key spouse and made sure she was looked after and was able to get the care she needed.”

Sergeant Woodruff is also the moderator of a private Facebook page that was set up just for deployed family members. Those in the group can share information, ask questions, get answers and talk about anything and everything they need to. Weekly e-mails are also sent to keep family members informed of upcoming

AFRC events.

Through all the organized programs and events, much of what the airman and family readiness center does for deployed family members is also very informal, organic and relational in nature.

“Many times, people will come to our office looking for one thing and by talking to them, asking questions and building rapport, we’ll find out there are other things we can help them with,” Tech. Sgt. Marcus Hogsden, airman and family readiness center, pointed out.

“We want to be the intermediary, we want spouses to know they can come to us with their problems instead of calling their spouse who is deployed and distracting them from their mission,” he added.

Military family life counselors are also available to provide specific, individual care to spouses and family members. These individuals are trained to help military service members and their spouses and family members with a wide variety of issues related to military life including deployments.

And even when an event isn’t specifically geared toward deployed family members, the airman and family readiness center likes to piggyback off these community and base happenings to get deployed family members together. At the recent Mardi Gras parade, a special section was set up just for deployed family members. They also had a float in last Saturday’s Child Pride Day parade.

“We like to organize these gatherings to make deployed family members feel special,” explained Sergeant Hogsden. “We want to set the stage to allow them to connect with each other and share information and experiences.”

For more information on resources available to help spouses and family members cope during deployment, call the airman and family readiness center, 376-8728.

Movies at Welch Auditorium

Friday — 6:30 p.m., Hall Pass (R).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son (PG-13); 6:30 p.m. Adjustment Bureau (PG-13).

Sunday — 1 p.m., Take Me Home Tonight (PG-13).

April 22 — 6:30 p.m., Red Riding Hood (PG-13).

April 23 — 2 p.m., Adjustment Bureau (PG-13); 6:30 p.m., Rango (PG).

April 24 — Mars Needs Moms (PG).



Flightline scare tactics



Photo by Justin Cooper

Wildlife hasn't taken over the airfield — the safety office has just placed some animal decoys out near the flightline to drive away some of the birds that can pose a threat to aircraft and their crews. Andrew "Ski" Przytarski, 81st Training Wing flight safety manager, said that two coyote and three fox decoys are being used to try to reduce the 3½ bird strikes the base averages each month. Keesler has a unique airfield with unique bird strike problems, with water at the end of the runway and a marina, golf course and ball fields nearby that create a great habitat for wildlife. Bird strikes can be catastrophic, leading to loss of life and severe damage to aircraft.

2 court martials, 18 Articles 15 during March

By Capt. Virginia Mack

Legal office

The 81st Training Wing convened two courts-martial during March.

- In U.S. v. Thompson, an airman first class from the 335th Training Squadron was convicted at a special court martial of wrongful use of cocaine, which was discovered by a random urinalysis. He was sentenced to a reduction in rank to airman basic, forfeiture of \$978 a month for 12 months, restriction to Keesler for two months, hard labor without confinement for two months, confinement for 10 days and was given a reprimand.

- A summary court-martial was held in the matter of U.S. v. Christman, an airman first class in the 334th TRS. He was found guilty of multiple false official statements, attempted fraudulent separation from the Air Force and underage drinking. He was ordered into confinement for 20 days and reduced in rank to airman basic.

Eighteen other Keesler members received Articles 15 from March 5 to April 5:

81st Training Group

332nd TRS

- A staff sergeant was reduced in rank to senior airman and given a reprimand for driving under the influence.

- An airman first class was restricted to base for 15 days, reduced in rank to airman basic and forfeited \$733 for underage drinking, false official statements and indecent acts.

- A second lieutenant was reprimanded and forfeited \$1,939 pay for two months for larceny of \$500 or less and dereliction of duty.

334th TRS

- An airman first class was restricted to base for 30 days and forfeited \$864 for use of a false phase card.

- An airman basic forfeited \$733 for underage drinking.

335th TRS

- An airman first class was reduced in rank to airman, restricted to base for 20 days and forfeited \$822 for underage drinking.

- An airman basic was reprimanded and forfeited \$733 for larceny of \$500 or less.

- An airman basic was reprimanded and forfeited \$367 for larceny of \$500 or less.

- An airman first class was reduced in rank to airman and forfeited \$822 for possession of drug paraphernalia.

336th TRS

- Two airmen basic each forfeited \$733 for underage drinking.

- An airman forfeited \$822 for underage drinking.

338th TRS

- An airman first class was reduced in rank to airman basic for possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance.

366th TRS

- An airman basic received extra duty for 30 days, restriction to base for 30 days and forfeiture of \$500 for use of marijuana.

81st Medical Group

81st Dental Group

- A staff sergeant was reduced in rank to senior airman and received a reprimand for dereliction of duty.

81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron

- A staff sergeant was reduced in rank to senior airman and received extra duty for 10 days for DUI and dereliction of duty.

81st Mission Support Group

81st Communications Squadron

- A senior airman received extra duty for 14 days for failure to go.

The military justice system is a commander's program designed to support good order and discipline in the unit and to ensure mission accomplishment. One important aspect of the military justice system is non-judicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military

Justice. When commanders decide to impose non-judicial punishment, they can choose from a variety of punishments.

For enlisted members, the list includes reduction in rank, forfeiture of pay, restriction, extra duties and a reprimand.

Officers can receive forfeiture of pay, arrest in quarters, restriction and a reprimand. When using non-judicial punishment, commanders take into account the member's duty performance, attitude, potential and disciplinary history.

Baby time

Keri Mueller, wife of Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, cuddles 4-month-old Mikayla Campbell Monday at the child development center. Mikayla's parents are Staff Sgt. Adam Campbell, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, and Lisa Campbell, CSC marketing director. Mrs. Mueller volunteers on Mondays at the center.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Retiree's spouse is grateful for return of wedding band

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The grateful wife of one of Keesler's former command chiefs is on a mission to thank an honest Airman.

March 29, Mary Cornelius was running errands on base when she realized her wedding band had slipped off her hand. She retraced her steps to the Popeye's Restaurant at the shoppette where she had stopped for lunch.

The manager of the restaurant had the ring, which he returned to her after she described it. The manager told her that a technical sergeant found the ring and turned it in.

"It was not only a good deed, but an honest and moral thing to do," said Mrs. Cornelius, who's been married to her husband, Bob, for 31 years. She said her husband had the ring custom made for her following the death of their youngest daughter.

"The ring holds great importance to me," Mrs. Cornelius remarked. "We'd like to write a note of appreciation to this man's commander and thank him ourselves."

To contact Mrs. Cornelius, send an e-mail to 13707corn@cableone.net.

Airman and family readiness center

Editor's note: Registration is required. Unless otherwise stated, all briefings take place in Room 108, Sablich Center. To register for classes, call 376-8728.

Today — 8-11 a.m., Veterans Affairs benefits brief; 1 p.m., volunteer recognition ceremony. Ice cream social immediately following ceremony; 1-4 p.m., retirement benefits brief.

Tuesday — 9 a.m., post-deployment briefing; 1 p.m., pre-separation counseling, for separatees; 2:30 p.m., pre-separation counseling, for retirees.

Wednesday — 7 a.m. to noon, newcomer's orientation; 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., survivor's benefits briefing. Open to active duty military and their spouses.

April 21 — 1 p.m., post-deployment briefing.

Arts and crafts center

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

Friday — 12:30 p.m., framing class. Bring a 5x7 piece of art or photograph for framing; 6 p.m., ladies' night. Enjoy games, snacks, non-alcoholic drinks, massage therapy sessions and buy one, get one ½ off ceramic specials. \$5 admission.

April 21 — 4-6 p.m., beginners ceramics. \$35 includes materials.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

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

Today — 5-8 p.m., Mongolian barbeque in the ballroom. 95 cents an ounce members; \$1.10 an ounce nonmembers.

Mondays-nontraining Fridays — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., all-you-can-eat buffet and salad bar in casual dining.

Tuesdays — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., potato bar in the casual dining area. \$7.95 members; \$9.95 nonmembers. Includes salad, soup, dessert and your choice of coffee, tea or soft drink.

April 22 — 5-8 p.m., seafood extravaganza dinner for two. Enjoy a platter of menu items that include shrimp, fried catfish, fried oysters, stuffed crab, gumbo, corn on the cob, hushpuppies and more. \$24.95 per couple for club members; \$26.95 per couple for nonmembers.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

Monday through April 24 — receive 5 to 15 percent off selected merchandise in the pro shop.

Tuesday — 4:30 p.m., free golf clinic. Open to everyone with access to Keesler. To sign up, call 377-3832.

Fitness centers

Saturday — 10 a.m., muscle mania Powerlifting competition, at the Triangle Fitness Center. Weigh-in begins at 8 a.m. Free to participate. Open to all men and women authorized to use Keesler facilities.

Monday through April 22 — Singles co-ed racquetball tournament registration at the Blake Fitness Center. Tournament begins April 25. Divisions include beginners, intermediate and advanced. Players are responsible for scheduling their matches. Awards will be presented to first and second place in each division.

McBride Library

Today — 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., digital bookmark competition. Design original, digital bookmarks. Compete in one of two categories: ages 6-12 and ages 13 and older. Free to participate. Prizes are awarded to winners in each category.

Friday — Tax party. Take a break from the hassles of tax season and enjoy free refreshments and games all day long.

Vandenberg Community Center

Editor's note: Friday and Saturday night activities are part of the late night dances, \$3 admission; nonprior students only.

Today — 8 p.m., last player standing pool tournament. Free to participate.

Wednesday — 6-9 p.m., come out to the "V" for a night of great debating. Choose from a list of topics to discuss. Free to participate. Registration deadline for the Air Force Chess Tournament. Base tournament is 6-9 p.m. May 3. Winner has the chance to compete in the Air Force Chess Tournament at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, May 8-13.

Friday — 9 p.m., comedy knock-off show. Go toe-to-toe with Keesler's own resident comedian Lee Wright. Free to participate.

Youth center

Friday — Registration ends for youth soccer, ages 3-14 years old. \$50 for the first child, \$25 each additional child. Fee includes uniform, award and end of the season party. Practice begins in April. For more information, call 377-4116 or visit the youth center.

April 21, 22 and 25 — Spring break camp for school age children and teens. Youth will tour a local museum, go bowling, participate in an Easter egg hunt, arts and crafts projects and more! Breakfast, lunch and snacks provided. For more information or to sign up, call 377-4116.

Chapel position

The chapel is looking for a part-time account manager to maintain, administer and account for all assets of the chapel tithes and offerings fund.

The account manager leads daily finance operations, including functional responsibility over the CTOF budget and all transactions.

The person chosen must be positive, self-motivated, able to interface well with parishioners and be a strong oral and written communicator fluent in English.

Familiarity with Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint and Word) is necessary. An associate degree in business or accounting is preferred but not required. A demonstration of skills may be required.

If selected, a criminal history background check is done.

More information and bidding instructions are available at Larcher Chapel. The deadline for bid submissions is April 25 and the bid is selected based on best value.

Interested applicants should call 377-4859.

Test proctors needed

The school liaison office has received requests for test proctors from various school districts.

Biloxi Junior High School has requested about 50 test proctors from 7:30 a.m. to noon May 10-12.

To volunteer, call 376-8505.

Tax office

The base tax office in Room 229, Sablich Center, 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.

DBIDS registration

Registration continues for Defense Biometric Identification System cards.

As of Friday, active-duty members and DOD civilians are being directed to the visitor center if they try to enter the base without a DBIDS card.

Reservists, retirees, dependants and contractors may continue to register through June

AAFES opens new mobile center kiosk

Army and Air Force Exchange Services

Sixty-six is the magic number for Keesler as the Army and Air Force Exchange Service opens its 66th Exchange Mobile Center kiosk.

The kiosks feature the phones from three major cellular service providers, with a variety of service plans and accessories at competitive prices effective April 15-28.

Saturday, shoppers can also enter to win a 55-inch HDTV, \$1,000 exchange gift card, Kinect unit for Xbox 360 or one of dozens of other prizes to be given away from noon to 3 p.m. No purchase is necessary to win, but shoppers must enter in person to be eligible.

On Saturday, Keesler kiosk offers in-store 66-cent specials on items such as ice cream cones, king-sized candy bars, chips, cookies and more. Phone company representatives will be available to demonstrate phones and answer questions, and other fun in-store activities are planned.

"There's no better time to shop and save for that new smart phone or tablet you've been wanting," said Penny Madison, the Keesler Exchange's general manager. "Our kiosk is the place to go to find the latest handset, coolest accessory or just to ask that wireless question no one else can answer."

30 at the visitor center, the military personnel section in Sablich Center, exchange pharmacy, 81st Medical Group Hospital's information desk and A tower lobby, Hewes Hall, 403rd Maintenance Squadron and the Levittow Training Support Facility.

Terminals will set up at the 403rd MXS building during the 403 Wing's unit training assembly, May 13-15 for reservists.

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.

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 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 open on a trial basis, 5-7 p.m. Tuesdays.

Lifeguards needed

Thirty lifeguard positions are available at Keesler this summer.

To qualify, applicants must be at least 16 years old and have adult, child and infant CPR certification; basic first aid certification and lifeguard certification covering lifesaving and water rescue. In addition to proof of these certifications, a complete application consists of an OF-612, OF-306, current transcript and letter of enrollment from school.

To apply, visit the civilian personnel office, Room 214, Sablich Center or call 376-8644.

Raise your voice — honor your country.

If you're interested

in singing the National Anthem
at base or community ceremonies,
call YoLanda Wallace, 377-1179.



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Candace Thompson, left, backs up 81st MDTs teammate Lauren Hedlund during Monday's opening round game against the 338th TRS. The 81st MDTs won, 2-0.

Volleyball champs decided Tuesday

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's intramural volleyball postseason tournament tipped off Monday.

The Eastern and Western Conferences each have two teams competing in the double elimination playoffs. Each conference's winner meets in next week's championship game, 6 p.m. Tuesday at Blake Fitness Center.

In the Eastern Conference, the 333rd TRS Spartans are the top seed at 9-1 in regular season play. Other contenders in the conference are the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, 338th Training Squadron and 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron.

In the Western Conference, the top seed is the 81st Medical Operations Squadron, 8-2 in regular season play. The 81st MDOS faces the 334th TRS, 81st Dental Squadron and 335th TRS in the playoffs.

For more information and schedules, call 377-2444.

Midnight softball planned for April 23

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Midnight softball is planned at the Triangle Fields, 8 p.m. April 23 to 2 a.m. the next morning.

Master Sgt. Anthony Fisher, 81st Training Group military training superintendent, said the tournament was the result of focus group meetings between his staff and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program staff

headed by Capt. Kara Wisniewski.

"Our overarching message is that Team Keesler doesn't tolerate underage drinking or contributing to this problem," Sergeant Fisher said.

Tech. Sgt. Steven Clinton and Staff Sgt. Jennifer Hamilton, 81st TRG military training leaders, are organizing the event.

"We're giving our Airmen an alternative activity for that Saturday night," Sergeant

Clinton explained. "We expect 10 teams of nonprior service Airmen, an MTL team and possibly a team of commanders and first sergeants. The airman and family readiness center is setting up a giant screen so Airmen can watch movies while waiting for their next game. We're working on food, music and other activities to make this a success."

For more information, call 377-2789.

10 events on Keesler Sports Day schedule

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler Sports Day is May 5. Events planned are:

7:15 a.m. — 5-kilometer run.

8 a.m. — softball.

9 a.m. — 3-on-3 basketball.

10 a.m. — beach volleyball.

11 a.m. — frisbee golf and golf long range drive.

12:30 p.m. — bowling.

1 p.m. — kayak race, weightlifting and tennis.

4:30 p.m. — closing ceremonies at Crotwell Track.

Squadrons earn points toward the Commander's Trophy, and the top three large and small squadrons win trophies.

For more information, contact your squadron sports day leader or call the health and wellness center, 376-3170.



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Sasaki, left, passes the baton to Balderas after completing a relay lap at the Triangle Track.

Medics take stick to win 10-mile baton relay race

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

A team of runners from the 81st Medical Group took top honors at a 10-mile baton run April 7 at the Triangle Track.

The winning team included Geoffrey Sasaki and Justin Hyde, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Mark Roberts, 81st Dental Squadron, and Emmanuel Balderas, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

Members of the second place team from the 81st Training Group included Scott Solomon, John Roy, Francis Rhodd III and Michael Coblentz.

Runners from the 81st MDTs, Gerad Lee, Mark Lagman, Charlene Vance and Pisit Moommala, made up the third place team.

Each person on a four-person team ran 10 laps, or 2½ miles. A log was kept for each team, and the first team to complete 10 laps each was the winner.