



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

MAY 19, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 20



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www.keesler.af.mil

Train, Care, Innovate...

Developing Combat Power for Air, Space and Cyberspace

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

To sustain Team Keesler's excellence, it's important for every member of our team to understand his or her role in how they contribute to the overall mission of our wing. The 81st Training Wing's new mission statement provides a common focus for our entire team so each of us can easily visualize our role and how it fits in enabling our overall mission success.

Train

Without a doubt, training is the foundation of our wing mission. Training is embodied in the very name of our wing. Since 1941, more than 2.3 million students have graduated from technical training at Keesler, earning initial qualifications in more than 39 different specialties. The training conducted here at Keesler provides Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines with the tools they need to make their individual contributions to the overall mission. Be certain that this technical training provides our students the knowledge, skills and experience which become the foundation for action when they join their operational squadrons. Simply put,

the success of the Air Force mission starts with the technical training we provide here at Keesler.

Although technical training is a large part of our training mission, we also must continually develop and improve our own abilities through training. As Airmen, we should challenge ourselves to improve our professional skills through advanced training programs to ensure we are able to meet the evolving operational requirements of the Air Force. In addition, we must maintain our readiness by completing the training required to be current in the expeditionary skills needed to operate in a deployed environment.

Care

It's extremely important to our mission to care for our most important resource ... our people. A large portion of our wing exists to provide some level of care for the full spectrum of Airmen, including active duty, Reservists, Guardsmen, civilians, family members and retirees who rely on our team for support. Our wing is at the forefront of delivering state-of-the-art health care services as well as providing award-winning programs designed to increase the quality of life and improve the morale of our fellow Airmen and their families.

Innovate

Innovation is the enabler of continuous process improvement in our wing. As new technology becomes available, we enhance our core mission functions by leveraging these opportunities to become more effective and efficient in delivering our services. Innovation is especially important when faced with the current challenges of reduced resources, increased operations tempo and mission growth. Innovation allows us to increase the wing's capacity to execute today's mission within an environment of limited resources.

When the citizens of Biloxi envisioned an Air Corps technical training center on the Gulf Coast, I'm certain they did it with training, caring and innovating in mind as these words have been dominate themes in Team Keesler's mission throughout our 70-year heritage. Make no mistake — the mission of the 81st Training Wing is very important and everyone plays a critical role in ensuring our mission success. We cannot train, care or innovate without you!

Train to Fight! Train to Win!

Avoid surprises in government purchase process

By Lt. Col. Jonathan Wright

81st Contracting Squadron

Remember the "Chance" cards in the Monopoly game? Some of them really catch you by surprise, like making you pay for items out of your own pocket when you least expect it and for requirements that you didn't expect. For example, "You are assessed for street repairs—\$40 per house, \$115 per hotel."

Instead of leaving unexpected surprise to chance, the "ounce of prevention" adage is worth more than an ounce of gold (or at least a stack of \$500 bills.) Because my contracting career involves taxpayer funds, I've unfortunately seen non-contracting personnel get the dreaded "Chance" card for some sort of mistake in the conduct of their official duties.

At Base X, I've seen a Government Purchase Card holder make a \$300 personal restitution to the U.S. Treasury for purchasing a

barbecue grill, which was specifically prohibited in the financial Air Force Instruction for purchase, even though the grill was for the unit. Elsewhere, I've seen members receive disciplinary action, and even removal from position, because they asked a contractor to do something that wasn't already covered by a contract. As a matter of Air Force policy, when this mistake occurs, the ratification process requires the supervisor to address what disciplinary action was taken.

These situations were avoidable. To protect fellow Airmen from personal liability and disciplinary action, we have a system and organization structure that includes contracting officers to represent the government in creating, modifying, or terminating contracts. Only contracting officers have this special authority. In order to achieve contracting officer authority, one must complete a rigorous professional development program. That means a ton of legalese, so that he or

she would know the rules, how to secure and protect the best interests of the government and how to obtain the best pricing on our contracts.

Hypothetically, if we didn't have contracting officers, what would happen? Each unit would have personnel with an additional duty to create contracts for their unit. These "additional duty contracting officers" would be required to take nearly two years of schooling and six years of experience to be appointed. The lack of a centralized buying organization would reduce the transparency to the public and make it extremely difficult for contractors, auditors and headquarters staff to verify if the manner in which we expend taxpayer funds is in compliance with federal laws and regulation.

Contractors wouldn't even know who to contact for upcoming bidding opportunities. Similarly, we wouldn't have a central representative to interact with the small business community. We wouldn't have a centralized

system for reporting all of the contract actions and obligated dollars to Congress.

Evidently, our system and organization structure is in place for good reason. This is often not communicated, but instead are heard the piercing words, "You have just performed an unauthorized commitment!"

An unauthorized commitment is simply an agreement that someone had made with a contractor without being a contracting officer. As a quick side note, GPC cardholders do receive their "contracting officer authority," but only to the constraint of a very small purchasing limit. So just don't create a contract, modify one or terminate a contract without getting the contracting officer involved. Easy, right? Unfortunately, 13 instances over the past year revealed a number of trends.

Please see **Wright**, Page 3

ON THE COVER

Special Olympian Deandre Brown, accompanied by Patrolman 1st Class Jamie Brooks, lit the cauldron with the “flame of hope” during Friday’s opening ceremonies for the Mississippi Special Olympics Summer Games. This year’s games were dedicated to Patrolman Brooks’ father, James “Jimmy” Brooks Sr., a longtime Special Olympics supporter. It’s the 25th year that Keesler has hosted the statewide event. Almost 1,000 athletes participated this year with their coaches and parents, bolstered by thousands of volunteers from Keesler and other organizations. For more photos, see Pages 16-17.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



KEESLER NEWS

81st Training Wing commander

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

Public affairs director

Jerry Taranto

Editor

Susan Griggs

Photojournalist

Kemberly Groue

Writer/graphic designer

Steve Hoffmann

Public affairs staff

Billy Bell

Tim Coleman

Airman 1st Class

Heather Heiney

Staff Sgt.

Kimberly Moore

Senior Airman

Eric Summers Jr.

Joel Van Nice

YoLanda Wallace

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DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

In what situation do you become the most impatient?



“When people are indecisive.”

Christy Sutton, Keesler Federal Credit Union



“Waiting in the hospital.”

Tech. Sgt. Billy Waller, 81st Security Forces Squadron



“None — I’m a very patient man.”

Tech. Sgt. Asim Siddiqui, Mathies NCO Academy from Travis AFB, Calif.

Wright,

from Page 2

Two unauthorized commitments were caused when the GPC cardholder purchased something that was valued in excess of his or her purchase limit. The purchase limit is derived from the special authority that is delegated in writing to the cardholder. Therefore, if the cardholder has exceeded that limit, then he or she has caused an unauthorized commitment. This isn't a “Go directly to jail” card, but it could lead to disciplinary action.

Three unauthorized commitments were triggered when someone with good intention to solve an emergency did so without the contracting officer's involvement. Again, disciplinary action could ensue for willful violation of a federal regulation, even though it was an “emergency.” To prevent this from

happening, contracting officers have even different, special authorities in an emergency situation in order to best represent the Government while simultaneously providing the contracting solution to the emergency at hand.

Four unauthorized commitments occurred when the contractor on a current contract exceeded his or her hours. For example, a contract had 250 hours of funding, the contractor performed 350 hours of service and the quality assurance person didn't put a stop to the extended service. This “change” to the contract, the quality assurance person's implied consent that the additional 100 hours of service are required, was the unauthorized commitment.

Four more unauthorized commitments occurred because a contractor performed a service and there simply was no contract in place. For instance, a contract was set to expire at the end of the month and the quality assurance personnel directed the contractor to contin-

ue to perform the next month without the next contract or an extension in place on the previous contract. Again, in each of these actions, supervisors were asked whether or not disciplinary action was issued.

Most of these issues were due to the lack of awareness. My best recommendation with this matter is that if you need a contractor, ensure that a contracting officer knows what you know. Maybe the contracting officer doesn't know that the hours have been exceeded or that there's an emergency situation and you need a contract in place. In each of these cases, your contracting officer can help you avoid an unauthorized commitment. Even in a deployment setting, contracting officers are high-demand, low-density problem-solvers. Just don't leave the unauthorized commitment — with possible financial restitution and disciplinary action — to Chance.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Miss Baas



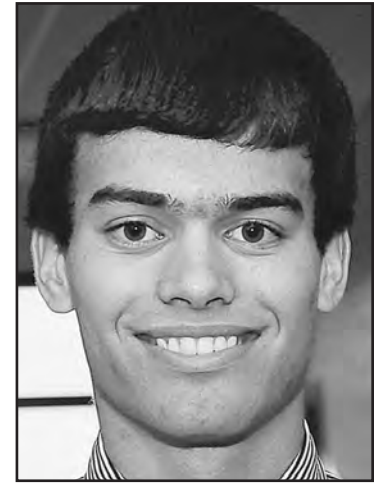
Miss Cross



Miss Dickerson



Miss Evans



Mr. Hogue



Miss Morano



Miss Ramsay



Mr. Reed



Miss Taylor



Mrs. Bingaman

Keesler Spouses Club awards 10 scholarships

By Mary Fitzgerald

Keesler Spouses Club

The Keesler Spouses Club awarded \$9,250 in scholarships to nine area students and one military spouse May 10.

The ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center, highlighted the academic, athletic, and artistic talents of the recipients as well as their community service.

The scholarships are funded in large part from the proceeds of the volunteer-supported Keesler Thrift Shop and the KSC annual auction fundraiser.

Emily Baas of Gulfport is the daughter of retired Master Sgt. Peter and Jean Baas. She's a senior at St. Patrick High School. She'll attend Ohio State University with double major in biology and philosophy in preparation for medical school. She received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Katelin Cross of Bay St. Louis is the daughter of Sara Cross and the late David Cross, a retired Navy petty officer first class. She's a senior at Bay High School and plans to major in wildlife and fisheries and biology at Mississippi State University. She received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Kathleen Dickerson is the daughter of Col. Alan Dickerson, 81st Dental Squadron, and Cheryl Streit. She's a senior at Ocean Springs High School and will be a biology major at Louisiana State University. She received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Brianna Evans of Biloxi is daughter of Lutrina Evans and the late Charles Evans, a retired master sergeant. She's a senior at Biloxi High School and will major in psychology with a minor in sociology at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College before transferring to the University of Alabama. She received a \$750 scholarship.

DJ Hogue of Biloxi is the son of Capt. David and Jessamyn Hogue, 81st Training Support Squadron. He'll attend MSU to major in aerospace engineering. He received a \$1,000 KSC Scholarship.

Callie Morano of Ocean Springs is the daughter of Paul and Cara Morano. Her mother works for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command resident officer in charge of construction at Keesler. Callie is a senior at Ocean Springs High School and plans to major in biology at the University of Mississippi. She received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Sarah Ramsay of Biloxi is the daughter of Leanne and Lt. Col. Steven Ramsay. Her father, formerly assigned to the 81st Training Group, is attending Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. She's a senior at Biloxi High School and plans to major in education at Charleston Southern University. As KSC's top scholar, she received a \$1,000 scholarship from the organization and a \$1,000 First Command educational foundation scholarship.

Cole Reed of Gulfport is the son of retired Master Sgt. Andrew and Donna Reed. He is a senior at Harrison Central High School and will major in aerospace engineering at MSU. He received a \$750 scholarship.

Kaysha Taylor of Biloxi is a senior at St. Patrick High School. She's the daughter of retired Tech. Sgt. Marvin and Ynes Taylor. She'll major in anthropology at LSU. She received a \$750 scholarship.

Wanda Wolfe Bingaman of Biloxi is married to Maj. Richard Bingaman, 333rd Training Squadron. She is studying health care reimbursement at Virginia College and received a \$1,000 scholarship.

CONTROL YOURSELF



Play it smart. Know your skill level and ride within it.



(800) 446-9227 • www.msf-usa.org

24 graduate from Airman Leadership School

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Twenty-four senior airmen graduated from Airman Leadership School May 12 as members of Class 11-4.

Graduates are:

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron — Senior Airman Colin Guzak.

81st Communications Squadron — Senior Airman Quincy Harris.

81st Dental Squadron — Senior Airman Casey Lovelace.

81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron — Senior Airman Zachary Merriam.

81st Force Support Squadron — Senior Airman Larry Moreno.

81st Inpatient Operations Squadron — Senior Airman KaTadrian Handley.

81st Logistics Readiness Squadron — Senior Airmen Sarah Owens, Joshua Dailey (distinguished graduate and class first sergeant) and Danielle McNerlin.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Senior Airman Dudley Callahan (class commandant).

81st Medical Support Squadron — Senior Airmen Alexis Ellsworth and Carmen Stafford.

81st Security Forces Squadron — Senior Airmen Lindsay Carmickle, Brian Delmar (flight chief), Chelsie McCall, Michael Phillips, Steven Showmaker and Terrell White.

81st Surgical Operations Squadron — Senior Airmen Teara Turner and Lacedric Womack.

85th Engineering Installation Squadron — Senior Airmen Neil Barrett (John Levitow Award), Brian Bone, Bo Brauer and Lawrence Stafford.

Volunteer —
get connected.



Keesler students play roles in airport's disaster drill

Firefighters from the Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport escort Airman Basic Stacie Ahlers to a triage area to receive medical treatment for her "injuries" during a simulated aircraft crash exercise May 10. Airman Ahlers, 332nd Training Squadron, was one of 50 students from the 81st Training Group who participated in the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport's tri-annual full scale disaster drill. The drill, which tests the airport's emergency plan, is part of its certification process and involves several federal, state and local agencies.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



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It's time to apply for test pilot school

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The next annual Air Force Test Pilot School selection board convenes Aug. 1-5 at the Air Force Personnel Center.

TPS graduates are in high demand in an era of increasing combat technological advancements on the battlefield. TPS trains pilots, combat systems officers, and engineers to develop, test and evaluate the newest aircraft and weapons systems. The manned pilot selects will fill positions in the fighter, multi-engine and helicopter categories. All others selects will fill positions in the fighter, multi-engine and remotely piloted aircraft categories.

TPS graduates are awarded a master of science degree in flight test engineering by Air

University, accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In addition, TPS conducts exchange programs with the U.S. Navy, United Kingdom, and French test pilot schools to train fixed and rotary wing pilots and flight test engineers. Rotary wing pilots and engineers will be assigned to conduct testing on the latest rotary wing systems and special operations assets.

Applicants from all aircraft types and backgrounds must have strong academic and technical experience and a desire to help develop the next generation of Air Force weapons and weapons systems.

For more information, visit the TPS Web site, <https://www.edwards.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=6467>

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

MGCCC summer term

The summer session for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Keesler Center begins Monday.

Today's the last day to register.

The class schedule is available at www.mgccc.edu.

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

USM summer term

University of Southern Mississippi onsite registration will be Wednesday in the Fleming Education Center at the Gulf Park Campus in Long Beach.

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

Classes begin May 30.

For more information, call 376-8479.

ERAU registration

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is now registering for

the summer term that begins May 30.

The university offers degrees in aviation/aerospace, management, and business administration with multiple course formats.

Graduate courses are available to complete Civil Service 1750 qualification requirements (curriculum development this term). Discounted tuition rates are available for active-duty military.

For more information, visit Room 217, Sablich Center, or call 376-8478.

MSMS visit

Wade Leonard from the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science gives a briefing for potential students and their families, 5-7 p.m. June 9 in Room 108B, Sablich Center.

Students entering the tenth grade in the fall, ninth graders and middle school students and their families are invited to attend.

MSMS, on the campus of Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, is the state's only public, residential high school for academically talented students.

For more information about MSMS, log on to www.themsms.org or e-mail wleonard@msms.k12.ms.us.

For more information or to sign up for the briefing, call 376-8505.

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.

Force development

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

'Severe' drought conditions call for prudent water use

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, nearly all of Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties in south Mississippi are currently experiencing severe drought conditions.

So far, the base weather station has recorded a total rainfall accumulation of only 11.32 inches. That is about half of the average for this time of year at 20.5 inches.

Keesler draws water from a network of 10 wells located on base and uses six elevated water towers for storage. According to Al Watkins, base water manager, Keesler consumes about 2-2.5 million gallons of water every day.

"Right now, there are no conservation or watering measures in place, but we have a plan if we need it," said Mr. Watkins. "We expect the water demand to rise to a normal usage for this time of year, but if water usage reaches high enough levels, we would suggest some type of conservation."

Here are a few tips from an online water conservation Web site, www.wateruseitwisely.com:

When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.

- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.

- Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation. If water runs off your lawn easily, split watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.

- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn



shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped.

- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they're full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

- Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time.

- For cold drinks, keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap.

- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk.

- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and

save 25 gallons a month.

- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.

- Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 150 gallons a month.

- Turn off the water while you shave and save up to 300 gallons a month.

- When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants.

- When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on and adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.

- Soak pots and pans; don't let the water run while you scrape them clean.

IN THE NEWS

AFAF campaign

Monday was the final day of this year's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign.

Donations are still being totalled, but the most recent amount reported is \$66,014.49. This is 79.4 percent of this year's goal of \$83,109.

Citizenship assistance

From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. today in the legal office, a representative from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is available to meet with military members, their families, retirees and their dependents.

Appointments are encouraged and walk-ins are seen as time allows.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 376-8501.

Hurricane town hall briefings

Town hall briefings emphasizing preparations for hurricane season are 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday and 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for the June 2 issue of the Keesler News is noon May 26 because of the Memorial Day federal holiday May 30.

Off-limits list

These establishments have been declared "off-limits" to all armed forces personnel by the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board:

Biloxi — Ya-ya's, 2623 Pass Road.

Ocean Springs — Pugs, 6213 Washington Avenue.

D'Iberville — Guitars and Cadillacs, 4031 Popps Ferry Road.

Gulfport — Herbal Alternatives, 1909 East Pass Road and 11530 U.S. Highway 49.

Reunion is planned for June

A reunion of the Air Force Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency/Mobile Depot Agency/Engineering Installation Association is June 14-16 at Keesler and Treasure Bay Casino Resort.

The association includes military and civilians who've engineered, installed and overhauled ground electronics communications systems since the late '40s and all modern communications infrastructure supporting Air Force base operations.

Events include a memorabilia display and hospitality suite at Treasure Bay, a picnic at marina park June 15 and a banquet at Bay Breeze Event Center June 16.

For more information, call 617-5766 or 324-9780.

Dragons deployed — 256

403rd Wing welcomes new commander



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Tanya King
Generals Rubeor, left, and Muscatell, right, lead the applause as Colonel Jensen is officially named 403rd Wing commander. Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Weitalla, 403rd Wing command chief, is in the background.

By Staff Sgt. Tabitha Dupas

403rd Wing Public Affairs

Col. Jay Jensen assumed command of the 403rd Wing from Brig. Gen. James Muscatell Jr. during a change of command ceremony held at the Bay Breeze Event Center May 12.

Colonel Jensen comes to the 403rd Wing from Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., where he was the programs division chief.

“The wing is in the middle of preparations for the (Operational Readiness Inspection), and I am ready to pick up the reins and make it happen,” said Colonel Jensen. “We have a lot to do in a short amount of time, but knowing the reputation of this wing, I know we are going to do great.”

Although he is taking command of the 403rd Wing in the middle of ORI preparation, the mission here is not foreign to him.

Colonel Jensen came to Keesler in

April 1999 as a C/WC-130J deputy test director/operations officer, then became 815th Airlift Squadron chief of tactics in July 2001. In March 2004, he was named 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron director of operations and moved on to become 403rd Operations Group commander. He’s been away for nearly three years.

“I’m glad to be back,” he said. “I look forward to focusing more on areas in the wing that I haven’t known much about in the past. When I was here, I mainly dealt with the flying squadrons. Now I have the opportunity to get out and visit the support missions and help them with any roadblocks they may be facing.”

Maj. Gen. James Rubeor, 22nd Air Force commander, pinned the Legion of Merit Medal, second oak leaf cluster, on General Muscatell during the ceremony. General Muscatell becomes the mobilization assistant to the director of operations for the U.S. Transportation Command at Scott AFB, Ill.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Civilian hiring controls implemented

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. 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, 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, 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 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.

Finance office closes

The 81st Comptroller Squadron's customer service office closes at noon today and 11:30 a.m. June 22.

Special duty team visit

Air Education and Training Command's special duty team visits Keesler July 12.

For more information, call 377-3697.

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.

ID card requirements

To obtain identification cards, military personnel in uniform have priority in customer service, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Customer service is also open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on non-training Fridays.

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

For more information, call 376-8339.

Leave after the fact memo

If a member is attempting to process leave after the leave has already occurred, a memorandum signed by a level no lower than the squadron first sergeant is required.

For more information, call 376-8347.

Use-or-lose leave guidance

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

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Air Force leaders announced that hiring controls were instituted May 12 to reduce projected growth of the civilian workforce.

The Air Force-wide efforts to stem the civilian personnel growth are a result of Secretary of Defense Robert Gates's efficiency initiatives to maintain civilian manning at fiscal 2010 levels.

Hiring controls will allow Air Force officials to take a targeted approach to meet the mandated manning levels.

Effective immediately, one person will be hired for every two new vacancies in areas affected by hiring controls. This doesn't apply to current hiring actions when a job selection has already been made; however, all other hiring actions may only be filled at a 1:2 ratio as new vacancies occur.

"As our nation and the Air Force face significant budgetary challenges, tools such as hiring controls help us manage hiring and posture ourselves for the future," said Paige Hinkle-Bowles, deputy director of force management policy.

Hiring controls will enable a more focused approach to hiring, giving higher priority to strategic mission areas such as the nuclear

enterprise, the acquisition workforce, and test and evaluation.

"Civilian hiring controls will be used as a bridging mechanism as the Air Force develops strategic plans for the future to ensure civilian authorizations are in the right place to meet mission priorities," said Lt. Gen. Darrell Jones, the deputy chief of staff of Air Force manpower, personnel and services.

Air Force officials will continue to monitor and assess hiring controls throughout the summer and will provide additional hiring guidance and prioritization details as the overall plan develops.

"The Air Force recognizes the invaluable contributions of our civilian workforce, but also recognizes the fiscal constraints under which all the services are operating. We will do our best to balance mission needs while taking care to minimize the effect on the civilian workforce," General Jones said.

For more information about hiring controls, individuals may contact their base civilian personnel office or visit the restricted-access Air Force personnel services Web site at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/home>. For information about other personnel issues, call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

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.

13 receive Articles 15

By Capt. Virginia Mack

Legal office

The 81st Training Wing didn't convene any courts-martial between March 6 and May 9.

During the same period, Articles 15 were finalized for 13 Keesler members.

81st Training Group

332nd TRS

An airman received extra duty for 15 days and forfeited \$822 for underage drinking.

An airman received extra duty for 15 days, was restricted to base for 15 days, was reduced in rank to airman basic and forfeited \$733 for underage drinking.

335th TRS

An airman first class was restricted to base for 20 days, reprimanded and forfeited \$822 for underage drinking. A suspended reduction in rank to airman was also imposed.

336th TRS

Three airman basic each forfeited \$336 for underage drinking.

An airman first class forfeited \$336 for underage drinking.

338th TRS

An airman basic was restricted to base for 14 days, reprimanded and forfeited \$678 a month for two months for being absent without leave for three days or less, making a false official statement, using marijuana and using another airman's transition card.

An airman first class was reduced in rank to airman for underage drinking.

A staff sergeant was reduced to the rank of airman for driving under the influence.

An airman first class was reduced in rank to airman and forfeited \$500 for underage drinking in the dorms.

81st Medical Group

81st Inpatient Operations Squadron

An airman forfeited \$411 for underage drinking.

81st Mission Support Group

81st Logistics Readiness Squadron

An airman first class was reduced to the rank of airman and reprimanded for Spice use.

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.

Traffic tickets on base carry hefty penalties

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Murphy

Legal office

What happens if you get a traffic ticket on base? The consequences vary for military members and civilians.

Offenders who are active-duty, Guard or Reserve members on active status receive a written citation known as the Defense Department Form 1408. These citations are reported to the individual's commander and first sergeant for appropriate action, which may include verbal counseling, letters of counseling or reprimand and Article 15.

Additionally, there's a base driving privilege point system which assesses points for violations. Keesler Air Force Base Instruction 31-204, available at www.e-publishing.af.mil, has a point system break-down for individual violations. If more than 12 points are accumulated in one year, or 18 points in two

years, an individual's base driving privileges are revoked for one year.

The process for civilians is different, as their traffic matters are handled in federal court according to the Assimilative Crimes Act, 18 U.S.C. Section 13. In many cases, such as speeding, failure to stop or expired inspection sticker, the person cited may mail the fine reflected on the citation. Fines range from \$25 to \$500.

However, more serious traffic offenses, such as driving under the influence, reckless driving or driving without insurance, require an appearance in federal court. In court, the cited individual may plead guilty or not guilty. If the person pleads guilty, an attorney from the base legal office makes a sentence recommendation, such as a fine, court costs, community service, probation and/or jail time, and the

judge immediately issues a sentence. If the individual pleads not guilty, the case is set for trial, usually for a month or two later. If an individual fails to appear in court these more serious offenses, an arrest warrant is issued.

In addition to these processes, both military members and civilians can have their driving privileges automatically revoked for certain traffic offenses. For example, driving while talking on a cell phone without using a hands-free device results in an automatic seven-day driving privilege suspension for the first offense and 30 days for the second. Driving with a suspended license results in a two-year driving privilege suspension. These strict policies reflect that the installation commander takes his responsibility to maintain good order and discipline on the base very seriously.

Motorcycle Safety Week

Instructor shares enthusiasm, concerns

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

When he straps on his helmet, he looks forward to the sights, sounds and smells of the road. He relishes the camaraderie. He loves the performance, handling and look of his mode of transportation.

Master Sgt. Gordon Comerford's love affair with motorcycles began 21 years ago when he started riding motocross bikes. Over the years, he's owned about 10 different motorcycles of various makes and styles.

"I ride motorcycles because it is fantastic method of transportation," the 81st Surgical Operations Squadron first sergeant said. "I try to ride every day that I can. I ride to work most days all year. The only days I plan not to ride are the ones with 100 percent chance of rain."

Sergeant Comerford, who came to Keesler 4½ years ago, said that one of the most important reasons he rides is the people he meets.

"There is a brotherhood of sorts when you ride a motorcycle," he commented. "You can meet complete strangers in an unfamiliar place and immediately become friends just because you ride. It is a commonality that few of us share that creates the bond."

Sergeant Comerford started teaching motorcycle safety classes in 2009 because "I saw too many of my fellow riders taking unnecessary risks and riding beyond their capabilities. I wanted to be able to teach both young and old riders the proper way to operate a motorcycle. The only way to do that was to become more knowledgeable myself."

The 16-year Air Force member even bought a sport bike so he could be more in touch with the younger riders.

"If I can teach one technique to one rider that enables them to avoid an accident, I have made a difference in that rider's life," he stressed.

Sergeant Comerford is the project officer for this year's Motorcycle Safety Week.

"I started thinking about a motorcycle safety event after teaching the first basic rider course of



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Sergeant Comerford and students in Tuesday's experienced rider course get ready to ride at the motorcycle course east of Dolan Hall.

the season," Sergeant Comerford explained. "I started brainstorming with fellow riders and the safety day turned into a safety week."

He admits he's experienced some mishaps as a motocross rider, "and I can say that every time was due to overriding the conditions and taking a little too much risk." He's also had several close calls on the road resulting from inattentive drivers entering his lane while in plain view of the driver.

"The biggest mistake I see motorcyclists making

Bike show is Friday

Motorcycle Safety Week winds up Friday with a bike show, noon to 5 p.m. in the Popeye's parking lot.

Local dealers display bikes, the base exchange provides motorcycle-related prizes and skill challenges and other activities are planned.

is riding beyond their abilities or the road conditions," Sergeant Comerford pointed out. "Most modern motorcycles can outperform their riders. This leads to riders pushing themselves in an effort to keep up with the machine. The highway is not the place to test your ability or your motorcycle's. Most riders are simply not skilled enough to react properly when they find themselves in a sticky situation. It takes years of practice and training to be able to ride the motorcycle at its limits.

"Highway conditions and traffic are too unpredictable to test one's limits, not to mention illegal," he continued. "If a rider wants to see what he or she and the motorcycle are capable of, find a racetrack where the road conditions and traffic are always the same."

Sergeant Comerford said the biggest danger from automobiles is simply being seen by them.

"That doesn't mean the answer is wearing a flashing red light on our helmets," he remarked. "Being seen is often making yourself noticeable by proper lane positioning, controlling your speed and leaving a safety margin between the motorcycle and automobiles."

Training and practice are the keys to being a good rider. Luckily, the training is free.

"Take advantage of every opportunity to improve your riding skills," he recommended. "I've had many seasoned riders tell me 'thank you' at the end of a training session for teaching them a skill they had forgotten or for showing them how to make a maneuver that they haven't been able to do for 25 years. Each and every rider should look for those opportunities daily."

This week's movies at Welch Auditorium

Friday — 6:30 p.m.,
Limitless (PG-13).

Saturday — 2 p.m.,
Sucker Punch (PG-13);
6:30 p.m., Hanna (PG-13).

Sunday — 1 p.m.,
Arthur (PG-13).

Honor Flight trip participants welcomed home



World War II Navy veteran Sam Beatty of Biloxi passes through an aisle of state flags held by Keesler students at the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport May 11 as he and 90 other war veterans returned from Mississippi's first Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. Standing from left, Mr. Beatty is accompanied by Honor Flight officer Jennifer Walton, volunteer Jeff Baldock and his daughter, Bridgette Aronson.



Photos by Kemberly Groue
World War II Navy veteran Walter Simm of Sumrall, Miss., is welcomed home by Staff Sgt. Ryan Britten, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron. The veterans visited the World War II memorial and other sites in the nation's capital.

Night of fun and knowledge for Keesler teens



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Stephanie McCann, left, a dietitian from the health and wellness center, talks to Keesler teens about nutrition at a teen lock-in May 13. The event, held in conjunction with other base youth centers around the world, also featured food, games, challenges and other speakers.

Special moments at Special Olympics

Team Keesler members cheer as Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, carries the Olympic Torch down the troop walk accompanied by runners from the 81st Security Forces Squadron in preparation for the Mississippi Special Olympics Summer Games, Friday. It's the 25th year that Keesler has hosted the statewide event. Opening ceremonies took place Friday night. Saturday's athletic competitions were followed by a victory dance. More than 1,200 athletes and coaches and 3,000 volunteers joined forces to make the weekend a success.



Tabatha Turnage competes in the 25-meter butterfly race at the Biloxi Natatorium.



Left, athlete Roderick Smith and his sponsor, Airman Basic Andrew Meier, 338th TRS student, share their excitement at the finish of the 30-meter assisted slalom wheelchair race.

Right, athlete Marilyn Holley and her sponsor, Airman Basic Rachael Herndon, 335th TRS student, look for a shady spot to sit and relax while they eat their lunch.

Photos by
Kemberly Groue



Athlete Perry Taylor takes his turn during the bocce ball competition as Airman Basic Tyler Deeds looks on. Airman Deeds, 332nd Training Squadron, is one of the Keesler students who served as sponsors for the athletes.



Vanessa Vanossenbruggen, left, 81st Force Support Squadron, dances with athlete John Toche as other athletes sing karaoke at the Olympic Village Saturday. Volunteers from across the base planned for months and provided support for all aspects of the games.

For more photos, log on to www.keesler.af.mil

Managing menacing mold

OPSEC is a mindset.

By Maj. David Hunt

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron

By Maj. David Hunt

As summer approaches and humid weather settles in, mold will make its annual appearance in homes and buildings.

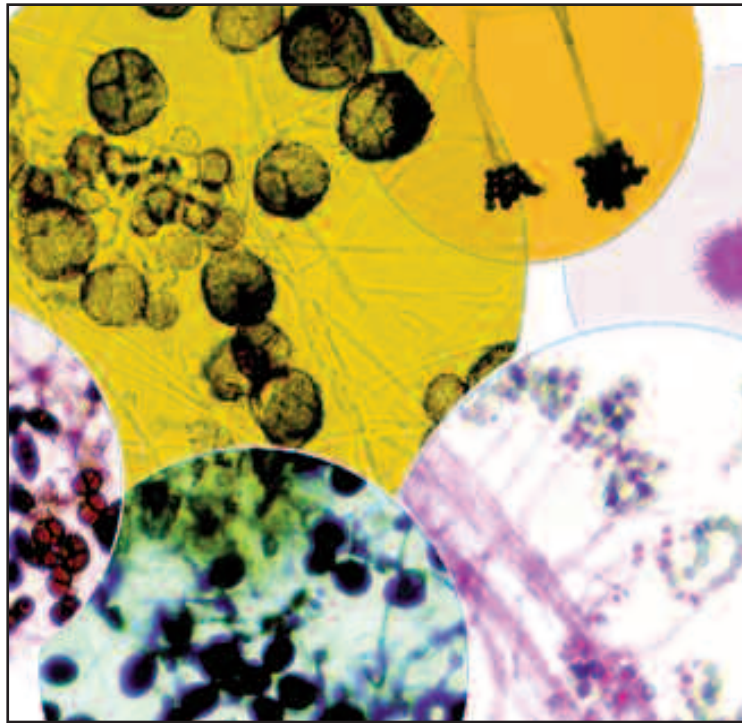
Mold that is normally in the air becomes challenging when it settles on moist surfaces and begins to grow, causing structural damage in addition to potential health problems for building occupants. It's important to take action to prevent mold growth in homes or offices well before summer begins.

Building occupants can prevent or eliminate most mold growth. The first step is to create an atmosphere that is not conducive to growth. A dehumidifier goes a long way toward minimizing the mold-friendly environment. Also, keep windows and doors closed to avoid excess humidity and condensation.

Next, if the contaminated area is less than 10 square feet, it can be wiped down with a solution of one part bleach and 10 parts water. Don't mix bleach with ammonia — it will create harmful vapors.

Protect skin and eyes from irritation by wearing gloves and eye protection. N-95 respirators are also handy and can be purchased at local hardware stores. They look like dust masks but are designed to fit snugly around the mouth and nose to provide more adequate protection from spores. They don't, however, protect against chemical gases or vapors. No matter how many times large porous items are cleaned, they're very difficult to thoroughly clean and mold is likely to return, so it's best to dispose of heavily-contaminated items.

If the moldy area is larger than 10 square feet, it may be necessary to hire a profes-



Virginia Department of Health

Molds are types of fungi that are found everywhere.

sional to remove the water-damaged area, but be wary of businesses claiming to test or sample mold. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Environmental Protection Agency don't advocate mold testing because test results provide little useful information. No matter what species or how many spores are present, the remediation process is the same. In addition, every person has a different threshold for mold sensitivity, so a higher quantity of airborne mold doesn't necessarily mean more health problems.

Anyone who experiences symptoms they suspect are caused by mold should visit their physician to be evaluated. If necessary, the doctor can direct an evaluation of the patient's on-base house. Those with no symptoms who see mold should notify their building manager so appropriate steps can be taken to remedy the situation.

The bottom line is that mold is all around in southern Mississippi, but prevention and control can mitigate its effects.

For more information, review the 2005 Air Force mold policy or log on to www.epa.gov/mold or <http://www.cdc.gov/mold/default.htm>

Pest management is year-round challenge

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Pests squirm, slither and scurry across floorboards and nestle themselves inside walls, ceilings and dumpsters. Even the word pest sounds like a coiled snake poised to strike. For Philip Remel, pest management supervisor, and Jamie Hopkins and Mike Thomas, technicians, pest control on Keesler is a year-round endeavor.

“There is no off season,” Mr. Remel said, “just a higher demand for certain pest treatments for each season during the year.”

The pest management office deals with everything from the standard ants and cockroaches, to wily coyotes and raccoons stuck in dumpsters.

The process they use is called integrated pest management. Mr. Remel said that IPM focuses on long-term prevention of pest problems through various techniques. These techniques include monitoring for the presence of pests, establishing treat-

ment thresholds, using non-chemical practices that make areas less likely to be infested, improving sanitation as well as using mechanical and physical pest controls. Pesticides have become almost a last resort and are used after careful monitoring and only when they pose the least possible hazard and have minimal risk to people, property and the environment.

“The IPM process is mostly common sense,” Mr. Remel said, “The challenge lies in having enough patience and skill to gradually replace old attitudes and habits.”

Mr. Remel said that no matter the size, each pest problem can be broken down into six basic tasks — understanding and educating the customer; analyzing the pest problem; taking short-term, corrective action; implementing long-term, preventive action; monitoring, documenting and evaluating results; and getting back to the customer.

Understanding and educating the customer involves explaining whether or not the



Mr. Remel, left, and Mr. Thomas prepare herbicide to control weeds.

customer's pest concerns are warranted and if their expectations are attainable.

“As in any service occupation, the ability to listen and communicate with people is absolutely essential,” Mr. Remel said.

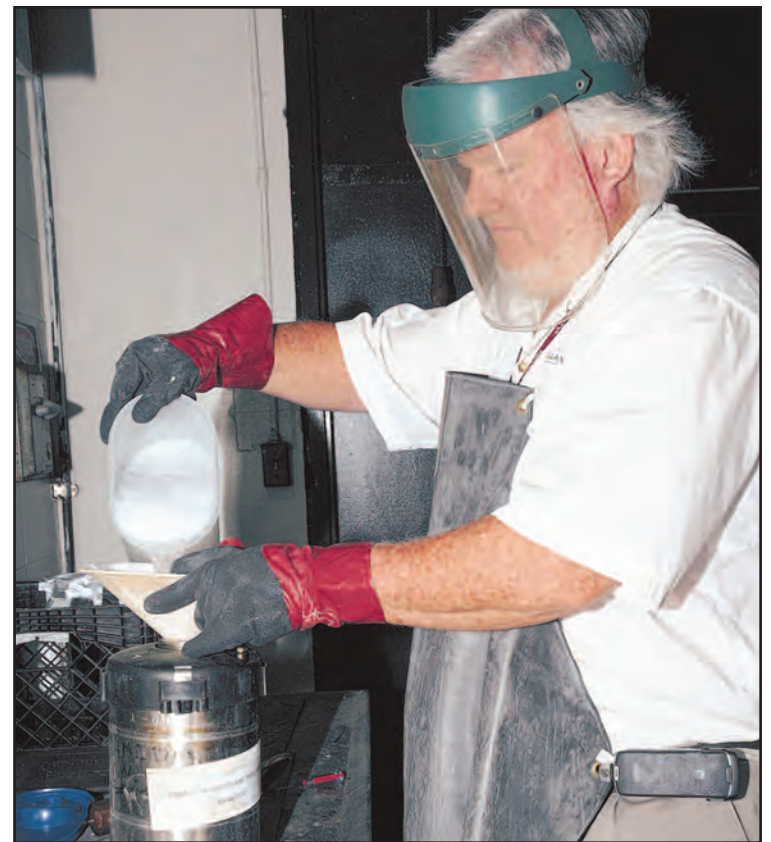
He also said that analyzing each pest problem is fairly simple, but having an understanding of structural engineering and design helps in determining where the infestation is coming from.

Short-term, corrective action often involves the use of pesticides.

“Although IPM emphasizes a preventive maintenance approach to pest problems, the real world often demands immediate corrective action,” Mr. Remel said, “However, all concerned must understand that every corrective action will employ the least toxic method.”

Long-term, preventive action involves creating “built-in” measures that reduce infestation by minimizing a pest's food, shelter and access to a building.

“These actions are the heart of the IPM process and a fundamental measure of its success,” Mr. Remel said, “For IPM to work, those responsible for sanitation and building maintenance must cooperate



Mr. Remel mixes insecticide for use around the base.

with the pest controllers.”

Monitoring, documenting and evaluating results shows the pest management team the effectiveness of each method and helps them determine future needs.

Getting back to the customer involves determining what they think of the pest management results.

“The pest controller's own performance evaluation may not totally coincide with the opinions of others who are more directly affected by the pest problem,” Mr. Remel said, “Customer satisfaction is a prerequisite for program support.”

For more information or to report a pest problem, call 377-7771



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Mr. Thomas sets a trap to catch raccoons.

Office of Special Investigations seeks agents

**Air Force Office of Special Investigations
Keesler Detachment 407**

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations is responsible for investigating major crimes and works against terrorist and foreign intelligence efforts. AFOSI is also looking for exceptional noncommissioned officers for duty as enlisted special agents.

With more than 2,700 members, AFOSI has been the Air Force's major investigative service since 1948. It provides criminal investigations and counterintelligence services to commanders of all Air Force organizations. To do that consistently well, AFOSI must constantly replenish its agent force and its primary source of new agents is the active-duty enlisted force.

"Airmen from all career fields in the Air Force can join AFOSI and bring something to the fight," Special Agent Angelina Montecalvo, superintendent of the applicant processing branch at AFOSI headquarters, relocated earlier this year to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., as part of a base realignment and closure mandate. "We are constantly seeking top quality Airmen to join our team by retraining into OSI."

"The standards are high and it's tough to make the cut, but we know there are many good Airmen who meet the standards and would make great agents," said Chief Master Sgt. John Fine, AFOSI command chief master sergeant. Chief Fine retrained into AFOSI 23 years ago from the security forces career field and said his career as a special agent has been "very exciting and tremendously rewarding."

According to Agent Montecalvo, AFOSI's primary recruiting focus is on staff sergeants with five to 10 years in service, technical sergeants with less than one year in grade and top quality senior airmen who are eligible to retrain. Others who don't fall within those parameters may be considered.

Once approved for retraining, all new special agent candidates attend training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, Ga. The candidates must complete both the 11-week criminal investigator training program and seven weeks of AFOSI-specific coursework. Both courses offer training in weapons

use, forensics, surveillance and surveillance detection, antiterrorism techniques, crime scene processing, interrogations and several other topics.

After successful completion of a one-year probationary period, some agents receive specialist training in economic crime, antiterrorism service, counterintelligence, computer crimes and other sophisticated criminal investigative capabilities. Others attend 12 weeks of training to acquire skills in electronic, photographic and other technical surveillance countermeasures.

"Besides being inquisitive and able to interact with a variety of different personality types, agents must be able to take initiative and be detached enough to handle the possible shock in criminal investigations," said Special Agent Shannon Jones of AFOSI Detachment 407 at Keesler.

For more information, log on to www.osi.andrews.af.mil.

Interested NCOs should review the applicant Web site at www.osi.andrews.af.mil/questions/topic.asp?id=1142 and call 377-3420.

FOCUS gives family support to members who deploy

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

A new agency to serve military families dealing with deployment has relocated to Keesler from the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport.

FOCUS — Families OverComing Under Stress — provides resiliency training to military families. FOCUS was developed at the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior in collaboration with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and Children's Hospital Boston / Harvard Medical School.

"This service is designed to help families address the stress related to deployment," said Ann Allen, a licensed clinical social worker who serves as the program's family resiliency trainer. "The program includes the entire family and is customized to suit its specific needs. A family can enter services at any place in the deployment or if they are gearing up for a deployment.

"In FOCUS, families develop a shared understanding of how their deployment experience creates a unique story to enhance resiliency and prepare for this or the next deployment," Ms. Allen added.

Monthly workshops are being offered and presentations can be made to groups on base.

For more information, visit the FOCUS office, Room 108, Hewes Hall; call 822-5736; or log on www.focusproject.org.

eight days a week

Airman and family readiness center

Today — 1-2:30 p.m., Smooth Move. Get expert advice on how to make relocation easier for you and your dependents. Open to anyone with access to Keesler.

May 26 — 9 a.m. to noon, Bundles for Babies. Open to all expecting active duty members stationed at Keesler. Receive a \$75 gift certificate upon completion of the class.

May 26 — 3-5 p.m., airman on the move.

Arts and crafts center

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

Saturday — 10 a.m., creative woodworking class. Create intarsia artwork by piecing together wood in a decorative pattern.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

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

Wednesdays — 5 p.m., Hump Day in the lounge. \$5 domestic draft pitchers, wings and more. Free for members, nonmembers pay \$5 at the door.

Saturday — 6 p.m., cocktails and canvas. Paint your very own masterpiece to take home. Drink specials. \$10 per person, includes materials. Pre-registration required. Hosted by the arts and crafts center.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

Saturday — 8 a.m., wingman stroke play golf tournament. Two-person team-flights (handicapped stroke play) with shotgun start. \$25 for inclusive members, \$30 for annual members and \$40 for nonmembers. Fee includes greens, cart, food, beverages, prizes and giveaways. To sign up, call 377-3832.

Gaudé Lanes

Saturday — 5:30 p.m., casino bowl. Strike with color-pin combinations and win money. "Guaranteed" progressive jackpots. \$15 per person for three games.

Sunday — family day. Bring the family and get two hours of bowling, shoes, one large pizza and one pitcher of soda or tea for \$35.

McBride Library

Saturday — 1-3 p.m., military spouses afternoon tea and plant exchange. Support a greener, more beautiful environment by bringing a plant or flower to exchange in celebration of Military Appreciation Month. Refreshments served.

Triangle Fitness Center

Triangle Fitness Center is being renovated, and the women's restroom/locker room is temporarily closed. Portable showers are available. For more information, call 377-3056.

Vandenberg Community Center

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

Today — 6-9 p.m., free last player standing pool tournament.

Friday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., black light party and nonprior service student club membership appreciation night. Club member drink specials, VIP area and more than \$1,000 in prizes! \$3 cover charge.

Youth center

Saturday — 9 a.m., America's Kids Run on I-81. Free for ages 5 and older in celebration of Armed Forces Day. Check-in at the youth center at 8 a.m. Participation is free. Sign up online at <http://www.americaskidsrun.org> or stop by to register.

Monday — school age and teen summer camps begin. Drop-ins are accepted on space available basis; hourly rates apply. Call for more information or to sign up.

Tuesdays — youth center dance class. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., ages 3 -5, introduction to tap and ballet. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., ages 6 and older, beginner combo class, tap, jazz, and hip-hop. For more information and to sign up call 377-4116

Dragon Wagon

Thursday-Sunday — Catch a ride to your favorite base "hot spots." 50 cents per ride. Air Force Club members ride free. For more information on transportation route and schedule, visit www.keeslerservices.us.



KEESLER NOTES

Car wash

The 81st Security Forces Squadron holds a car wash, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday in front of the unit's headquarters, Building 3501 on Larcher Boulevard.

Proceeds will be used to support the team that's marching in the 2011 Security Forces 9/11 Ruck March to Remember.

For more information, call 376-6625.

Office closed

The sexual assault prevention and assault office is closed May 27, but the 24/7 hotline number, 377-8635, remains available for emergencies.

Lunch and learn

"His, Hers and Theirs: Creating Blended Family Success" is noon June 1.

Bring your lunch to eat during the presentation.

To reserve a spot, call the airman and family readiness center, 376-8728.

Retirement ceremony

A retirement ceremony honoring Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Pray, 335th Training Squadron, is 3:30 p.m. June 7 in the Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom.

Finance closed

The finance office in Sablich Center closes at 11 a.m. June 16 for a squadron function.

DBIDS registration

Registration continues for Defense Biometric Identification System cards.

Active-duty members and Defense Department 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 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 during the 403rd Wing's unit training assembly,

May 13-15 for reservists.

Job opportunities

Forest City Residential Management, responsible for the privatized family housing initiative at Keesler, has property management, operations and maintenance positions available.

To apply and review job postings, log on to www.forestcity.apply2jobs.com.

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.

Worship schedule

Roman Catholic

Daily Mass, 11:15 a.m., Monday through Thursday, Triangle Chapel; Friday, hospital chapel

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

Protestant

Traditional service, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Larcher Chapel.

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

Gospel service, noon Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

Jewish

Services are 8 p.m. Fridays at Congregation Beth Israel, 12277 Three Rivers Road, Gulfport.

For more information, call 377-4050, 207-2196, 539-1655 or 1-405-740-9077.

Greek Orthodox

Sunday Divine Liturgy takes place at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi. For more information, call 388-6138.

Islamic

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

Latter-Day Saints

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

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

Quit smoking, stack up cash

By Paul Fitzpatrick

Tricare Management Activity

FALLS CHURCH, Va.— Tobacco users can look forward to improved health when they give up tobacco, and they can also stack up the cash. That includes young active-duty military members who smoke tobacco at the rate of 40 percent, nearly double the rate of their civilian counterparts.

A study that compared the total wealth of nonsmokers with both light smokers and heavy smokers found that, on average, nonsmokers have 50 percent more wealth than light smokers and twice as much wealth as heavy smokers. This wealth gap widens by another 4 percent every year that the smoker continues to smoke.

The study also found that the difference in wealth between smokers and nonsmokers is roughly equal to the amount that smokers spend on their habit. Apparently smokers spend money on cigarettes that would otherwise go into savings or be used to buy assets such as cars and homes.

At an average cost of \$6 a pack on military installations, a pack-a-day smoker spends more than \$2,000 a year just for cigarettes. Plus, they spend funds on lighters, gas to make emergency runs to the store for more tobacco, and extra cleaning and repair bills for their furniture, cars, clothing, and teeth. Smokeless tobacco products put a similar dent in their wallets.

Tobacco users who want to see exactly how much cash they'll save when they quit can use the savings calculator at <http://www.ucanquit2.org> to find out.

The Web site also features customizable tools and resources that can help service members create a tobacco-free future.

Golf gets going

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Thirteen teams are vying for intramural golf honors for the 2011 season that opened March 10.

After the league's first round at Bay Breeze Golf Course, five teams topped the leader board with eight points each — the 334th Training Squadron, 81st Dental Squadron, 81st Medical Support Squadron, 81st Force Support Squadron and the combined team from the 81st Comptroller Squadron/81st Training Wing Staff Agencies.

The 81st Security Forces Squadron and 81st Medical Operations Squadron each tallied four points.

Yet to score are the Navy's Gulf Coast Multi-service Market Office, 81st Training Support Squadron, 345th Airlift Squadron, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, 338th TRS and the Keesler Marine Corps Detachment.

Matches take place at 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Aug. 2, weather permitting.

For more information, call 377-2444.

Leaders emerge in intramural softball

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Two teams, one in each league, remained undefeated after the third week of the intramural softball season.

In the American League, the 335th Training Squadron Bulls are atop the standings with a 6-0 record as of Friday. After trouncing the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, 18-6, May 9, the Bulls went on to hand the 81st Training Support Squadron its first defeat May 11 with a lopsided 23-2 score, dropping the 81st TRSS to 5-1.

The other nine teams in the league are the 338th TRS (4-2), Keesler Marine Corps Detachment B-team (4-2), 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron (3-3), 332nd TRS (3-3), 81st Medical Support Squadron (2-3), Center for Marine Aviation Technical Training Unit (2-4), MARDET-C (2-4), 336th TRS-A (1-5) and 81st Contracting Squadron (0-5)

In the National League as of Friday, the 81st Training Wing Staff Agencies team upped its record to 5-0 with a 36-1 clobbering of the 81st Communications Squadron May 10, followed by a 14-4

victory over 2nd Air Force May 12.

The league's other nine teams are the 334th TRS (5-1), MARDET-A (4-1), fire department (4-2), 81st Dental Squadron (4-2), 333rd TRS (2-3), 403rd Wing (2-3), 81st Security Forces Squadron (1-3), 81st Medical Operations Squadron (1-4) and 336th TRS-B (1-4).

Games are 6, 7 and 8 p.m. on Fields 4 and 5 in the Triangle. The American League plays Mondays and Wednesdays and the National League takes the field Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information, call 377-2444.

**NO DUILS NO EXCUSES
DRINK RESPONSIBLY**

New equipment helps wounded, disabled

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

At first glance, a remote-controlled bowling ball might sound like a joke or cheating or something James Bond might use if World War III would ensue if he didn't win a bowling tournament. But it's no joke and Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center has one. In fact, for those with physical disabilities, a bowling ball like this can literally be a game changer.

"People love it," said Bart Bosarge, Gaudé Lanes bowling center manager, as he steered the ball along a collision course with the pins at the end of the lane.

There's no reverse, no varying speeds, no wheels and it won't say, "Nice shot!" when it returns to the queue. It simply moves left or right using a pair of gyros on each side of the ball that a player can control with a handheld remote. It does have the ability to tip itself off a ramp at the top of the lane and has flashing lights for the visually impaired as it rolls down the lane.

Developed by 900 Global,

the balls were first introduced to the Air Force at an expo in Las Vegas in 2009.

"A bunch of us bowling managers saw the demonstration and thought how perfect this would be for the wounded warrior program," explained Mr. Bosarge.

Don Freund, director of Air Force bowling, agreed but at \$1,499 each, these balls were originally a little too rich for Air Force blood. However, 900 Global made a deal the Air Force couldn't refuse — make a bulk purchase and we'll knock \$600 off the price of each ball. So the Air Force Services Agency bought 85 balls and distributed them to every bowling center in the Air Force. Gaudé Lanes got its ball in April. Wounded warriors and those with special needs, including civilians and dependents, have priority to use the balls at bowling centers at no charge. All others can use the ball for a fee.

But so far, other than a few demonstrations, no one has used the ball.

"I really wished I had the ball last summer. We had a

big program with Veterans Affairs. Some of these people have the use of only their fingers and this ball would have been perfect," said Mr. Bosarge. "But we get a group of eight to 12 people from the VA every week and we also plan to utilize it for children's birthday parties."

Having a son whose legs were amputated, Mr. Bosarge has a little extra motivation to make the bowling center accessible to the handicapped.

"We're gonna fix this place' was one of the first things I said when I started this job," said Mr. Bosarge.

The bowling center used to have a pit separating the back of the alley from the lanes. So Mr. Bosarge, along with his mechanic and night manager, framed it out, filled it in and tiled it all by themselves.

They assembled and installed new tables with swiveling seats that allowed more room for wheelchairs and made it easier for disabled people to sit down and access the lanes.

"A lot of thought went into making this place more accessible," Mr. Bosarge pointed out.

But he didn't stop there. Mr. Bosarge enrolled in a class through the wounded warrior program and became a certified adaptive need instructor. His training allows him to teach other how to work through their physical obstacles.

"I can teach you just about anything you want to know about bowling from a wheelchair," said Mr. Bosarge.

The bowling center is not the only place that has seen changes and adaptations to make Keesler's recreational facilities more accessible to those with disabilities.

Three years ago, the golf course acquired the SoloRider 3400, a golf cart that is designed to assist disabled people play golf. The seat of the cart can be swiveled 350 degrees and can be raised and lowered to get the user in a



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Mr. Bosarge, left, gives Brig. Gen. Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, a quick lesson on how to operate the RC900 remote-controlled bowling ball.

position to drive or putt the ball. It also has special tires designed to be able to drive on the green.

"But we haven't had anyone use it either," said Tama Manu, golf course manager. He said the golf course just doesn't see many people who are disabled enough to warrant the use of the cart.

However, for those who have trouble walking or limited use of their legs, the golf course has a blue flag program. With the blue flag, a player is able to drive right up to, but not on, the green. This greatly reduces the distances a player needs to walk in order to finish a hole.

According to Dan Ran-

som, wounded warrior recovery care coordinator, there are currently 16 wounded warriors under his watch. Not all of those are assigned to Keesler and none of them are amputees.

"I would imagine groups from the VA are going to be the biggest customers for these new recreational items," said Mr. Ransom.

Both Mr. Bosarge and Mr. Manu agree that part of the reason this new recreational equipment has gone largely unused is obvious — it's new and word needs to get out.

For more information on the bowling ball, call 377-2817. For more information on the golf cart, call 377-3832.



Luke Rooney, Bay Breeze Golf Course golf pro, adjusts the seat of the SoloRider 3400 to just the right spot to tee off. Dominic Curtis, equipment technician, stands back to observe and assist.