



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

JUNE 23, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 25



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AETC: Developing our future force

By Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr.

Air Education and Training Command commander

It has been almost six months since Teresa and I arrived at AETC. Since that time, we have traveled to a number of our AETC bases. Simply put, we are very impressed with the men and women throughout the command executing our mission. The breadth of our responsibility to recruit Airmen as well as to educate and train Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and our international partners cannot be truly appreciated until you have witnessed our team in action.

Thank you for your dedication and service to our Air Force and the nation. The diligence and professionalism you exhibit daily accomplishing the AETC mission is no small feat; having witnessed firsthand the motivation you display recruiting, training and educating our number one resource, people, is an eye-watering experience.

AETC's mission is critical, as we ensure our "trainees", all volunteers from our nation's youth representing the next generation of Air Force leaders, are instilled with the skills and knowledge needed to provide for our nation's defense. But, we must do more than just give them the best tools and resources to tackle future challenges.

We are also charged with teaching them how to learn and think. Why is this important? We live in an ever changing and dynamic world. In order to succeed in a complex environment, we must have the ability to adapt quickly to change. If we don't, we will lose our competitive advantage.

Our nation requires "Thinking Airmen"... Airmen that can define the



Photo by Kemberly Groue

General Rice surveys technical training students from the 81st Training Group before his Feb. 7 speech on the Triangle parade field.

right question and have the ability to develop executable courses of action. We enable the development of the future force so they will be prepared to lead and tackle the opportunities and challenges they will undoubtedly encounter.

The continuum of learning is built upon three pillars: training, experience and education.

Training our forces in their specific job is a disciplined, standardized approach ensuring our Airmen can follow established procedures (rules,

guidelines, technical orders, checklists, etc.) to accomplish a specific mission or task. To me, training is a very valuable and necessary development tool ensuring the job is done safely, securely and correctly.

As our trained forces work in their technical specialty, they build upon the second pillar...experience.

Experience is invaluable and is constantly honed by the mentorship and grooming of peers and supervisors.

Airmen rely on training and

experience to master their technical field; but it is the third pillar, our educational programs, that make our Airmen the best in the world.

Our Air Force prides itself on having a highly educated force, and our service culture has always relied heavily on intellectual capital. Education, when coupled with training and experience, serves as a force multiplier. Education enhances critical thinking skills and empowers individuals to ask thoughtful questions that search for root

causes and solutions. In a world in which the pace of change is arguably greater than it has ever been in human history, education is ever important. How we teach our Airmen to learn is often more critical than what we train them to do.

Therefore, we must pursue an approach to development that places increased emphasis on education and critical thinking.

The Air Force and the First Command are facing challenging times. While we must continue to train and educate, we must find ways to continue producing exceptional Airmen with fewer resources. There are multiple drills underway helping to create decision space regarding how we develop our future force. We need new models and frameworks to balance resources, requirements and risk. Relying on our training, experiences and education, we will find the answers.

And despite all the challenges that we face and the uncertainties of the future, I am certain of one thing...the confidence I have in the abilities that each of you brings and the key role you have in the development of future generations of warrior leaders. Each of you is a valuable member of a skilled team, transforming the youth of our society, those who have volunteered to defend the ideals and freedoms we all enjoy. You can take immense pride as you develop them; educating and training them into future leaders ready to tackle the unknown. We continue to shape our legacy, a legacy of developing future leaders not just for today, but for tomorrow.

ON THE COVER

Standing, Benjamin Thomas, left, and Staff Sgt. Jermaine Wilson, 81st Security Forces Squadron, search for a gunman who opened fire at the Airman Leadership School during Tuesday's active shooter exercise. Sergeant Thomas is questioning Tech. Sgt. Tanya Boyd, injured on the floor in the foreground, about the shooter's whereabouts and ensuring that she's not carrying a weapon as her 2nd Air Force co-worker, Tech. Sgt. Jason Reid, lies wounded against the wall. More exercise photos will be published in the June 30 issue of the Keesler News.

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

If you could have dinner with a famous person, who would it be?



"Actor Jack Black"

Staff Sgt. Josh Mustin,

335th Training Squadron



"Author Robert Kiyosaki"

Airman 1st Class

Donovan Hayes, 332nd TRS



"Hugh Jackman — he's gorgeous and I could listen to his accent all night long."

Tiffany Lowery, 81st Medical Group

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

332nd TRS stands down



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Lt. Col. Trevor Wall, 332nd Training Squadron commander, salutes the students of the 332nd TRS during the pass and review march at the 332nd TRS stand down ceremony, June 17. The ceremony was held in the parking lot outside Dolan Hall. Col Wall takes command of the 338th TRS June 29.

Col. Lynn Connett, left, 81st Training Group commander, observes as Col. Wall, right, slips a cover over the 332nd TRS flag held by Master Sgt. Jimmy Freeman, formerly 332nd TRS first sergeant, now 85th Engineering Installation Squadron first sergeant.



Spectators salute and show respect as the National Anthem is played.

PREPARING for the storm



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

Gators welcome new leader



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Lt. Col. Jeffrey McLemore, left, who assumed command of the 334th Training Squadron from Lt. Col. Michael Callender Friday, gets a tour of the air traffic control tower simulator Monday from Staff Sgt. Kevin McDonald, an instructor. The colonel previously served as deputy director of air traffic control and airfield management operations for the Air Force Flight Standards Agency in Oklahoma City. Colonel Callender becomes the deputy commander of the 422nd Air Base Group, Royal Air Force Creighton, England.

Keesler instructor trains Iraqi weather forecasters

By Tech. Sgt. Jason Lake

321st Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq — Throughout the history of warfare, weather has played a crucial role in determining the outcome of major battles and, in some cases, entire military campaigns.

In the 13th Century, Mongolian invasion plans for Japan were thwarted when their armada was decimated by a massive typhoon in the Sea of Japan. Today, weather still plays a major role in military operations and planning.

For this reason, U.S. Air Force weather advisors have been building up the initial cadre of Iraqi Air Force weather forecasters over the past three years. The training entered a new chapter of self-sufficiency last month when the cadre began teaching 18 new cadets at the Iraqi air force's weather center in

Baghdad.

"The instructor has taught the whole course by himself. This is an important step to Iraqi autonomy," said Capt. Debbie Swetland, Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Air senior weather advisor. "(The cadets) are learning how to exploit the weather to the best of their ability by tailoring forecasts based on specific mission needs. This will help the Iraqi Air Force get planes in the air, keep them in the air and ensure personnel and resources are protected while maintaining air sovereignty."

The six-month course covers weather observation and forecast techniques, satellite systems, atmospheric dynamics, regime-based forecasting and basic equipment set-up, tear-down and maintenance.

"This is the first Iraqi-led military weather school since the fall of Saddam," explained Captain Swetland. "They have not had an active



Air Force photo
Staff Sgt. Dan Alexander, a weather advisor deployed from the 335th TRS, reviews weather data with an Iraqi air force weather forecaster at the IqAF's weather center June 14.

weather program here since 1991. They have had weather forecasters since then, but they weren't always used for forecasting weather... mostly remedial jobs like working in the chow hall."

The captain deployed from Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and Staff Sgt. Dan Alexander, a weather instructor from the

335th Training Squadron at Keesler, helped build the curriculum for Iraq's schoolhouse.

Sergeant Alexander, whom the Iraqi airmen call "Alexander the Great," trained one of the Iraqi weather officers back at Keesler before the Iraqi-led program got underway. Then, two months ago, the staff sergeant deployed to

Iraq's weather center to help set up the "organic" course taught by the Iraqis.

He still remembers the first time he walked into the Iraqi weather center and saw his old student who is now a lieutenant colonel and full-time weather instructor at the weather center.

"I was greeted with a hug," Sergeant Alexander said. "It was great when the students came to the states to our weather school, but I always wished I could help them set up their own program. Now I'm here being a part of the Iraqis setting it all up. It gives me a sense of closure."

The class of cadets is expected to graduate from the Iraqi-led course this fall. After the cadets finish the new Iraqi-led course, they'll return to the Iraqi air force academy for several months before receiving their commissions and first duty assignments.

Provincial reconstruction team in Afghanistan

NCO manages technical communication needs

PRT Kapisa Public Affairs

KAPISA PROVINCE, Afghanistan — With its mission complete, the men and women of Kapisa Provincial Reconstruction Team are returning home to their friends, family and loved ones this July after serving in Afghanistan for nine months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Among these men and women is Tech. Sgt. Andrew Archer, Kapisa Provincial Reconstruction Team communications noncommissioned officer deployed from the 81st Training Support Squadron.

Sergeant Archer served as part of the civil-military team comprised of more than 100 personnel including active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, active duty Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Kentucky Argi-business Development team, local national



Sergeant Archer

interpreters, and civilians from the U.S. Department of State, Agency for International Development, Department of Agriculture and Army Corps of Engineers.

As the communications

NCO, Sergeant Archer worked to manage and provide all technical communication needs in support of the PRT's mission.

"With such an intricate mission, we relied significantly on each other's individual expertise and contribution to the mission," said Lt. Col. Michael Sierco, Kapisa PRT commander from Bowie, Md. "It's been an honor working with such a dedicated group of servicemen and women."

"Their persistence supported our team's commitment to unify the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Task Force LaFayette, Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police toward a common goal of increasing stability throughout the region to improve the lives of the local population and provide a better, more prosperous future free of insurgent influence for themselves and their families," said

Colonel Sierco.

Throughout its nine-month deployment, Kapisa PRT's mission focused on assisting the Afghan government in providing a secure, stable environment for reconstruction efforts by increasing Kapisa government officials' capabilities and capacities.

"To achieve this, Kapisa PRT focused on connecting GIRoA officials to the local population," said Colonel Sierco. "By collaborating closely with them, we were able to coordinate development projects that employed local workers and used local resources — improving quality of life thought out the province."

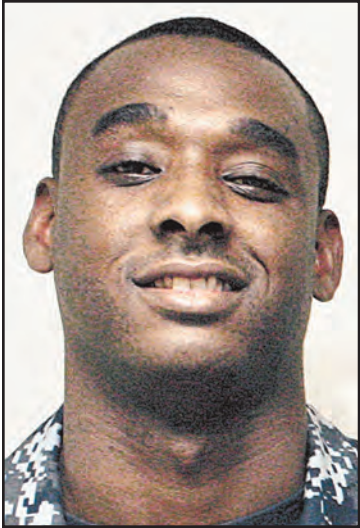
Since October, the combined efforts of all the men and women of PRT Kapisa have contributed to the completion of two courthouses in the Tagab and Nijrab district centers; three schools built to accommodate

the education of more than 2,000 children; 120 kilometers of road expansion; and the reconstruction of a bridge allowing the safe travel of more than 2,000 vehicles a day.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the PRT and provincial leadership with these development initiatives, the situation here within Kapisa has steadily improved.

Each road paved the way for new local commerce capabilities; each school expanded educational opportunities for the future generations; and each courthouse strengthened rule of law amongst the local communities.

"We did not win this war on our watch; however, it is gratifying to see a fledgling democracy survive and develop," said Army Maj. Anthony Killa, Kapisa PRT executive officer and operations officer .



AG1 Wimberly



ET1 Burpee



ET1 Thomas

CNATTU instructors earn master trainer designation

By Electronics Technician 2nd Class Gerald Nance

Keesler Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit

The Keesler Center for Naval Aviation and Technical Training Unit welcomed four new master training specialists to its ranks May 31.

They are Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Petty Officer Aaron Wimberly, Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Petty Officers Matthew Burpee and Kenneth Thomas and Chief Aerographer's Mate Charles Osborne.

The MTS designation signifies an individual has achieved a level of excellence above and beyond that of their peers by displaying superior instructor skills and demonstrating a thorough knowledge of training administration and curriculum development.

MTS is the highest qualification an instructor can achieve while attached to CNATTU or any other Navy training command, comparable to a warfare pin at an operational command.

This qualification is held in high regard and shows that the Sailor is willing to sacrifice extra hours on top of already long work days to sharpen instructional skills and master the Navy's training philosophy.

When asked what effect obtaining the MTS qualifica-

tion has had on his performance as an instructor, ET1 Thomas replied, "The MTS training really helped me understand how the 'science of learning' is so much a part of our everyday lives, and not just in the classroom."

His advice for any instructors striving to attain their own MTS

qualification is, "This qualification is not just going to help you in the class, but will affect your life in general. Everything that's learned during this process will help you in any of life's endeavors. Don't just think of this as a check in the box, but as an opportunity to enhance a true life skill."

Trainers prepare to roll out red carpet for spouses

The 81st Training Group is sponsoring a spouse tour of its training facilities July 20.

The tour begins at 9 a.m. at Matero Hall and ends at 12:40 p.m. following lunch at the Magnolia Dining Facility.

All spouses of permanent party, technical trainees and civilians assigned to Keesler are eligible to attend.

Attendance is limited to the first 30 spouses who call 377-3792. The registration deadline is July 14.

FIT FOR FREEDOM

FIT TO FIGHT!

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

Together through exercise, nutrition and coping strategies, we're staying fit for freedom!

For our team, our families, ourselves.

Two squadrons welcome new leaders next week

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Two 81st Training Group units welcome new commanders next week.

338th Training Squadron — Lt. Col. Daniel Gottrich passes command of the Dark Knights to Lt. Col. Trevor Wall, former commander of the 332nd TRS, 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at Welch Auditorium.

Colonel Gottrich, the squadron's commander since September 2009, is headed to Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., where he'll be the deputy

director for plans and requirements at 14th Air Force.

335th TRS — Maj. Tabettha Clark turns over command of the Bulls to Lt. Col. Bradley McAlpine, 9 a.m. June 30 at the Roberts Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Facility.

Colonel McAlpine comes to Keesler from Peterson AFB, Colo., where he's a chief of strategic studies, doctrine and policy at Air Force Space Command headquarters.

Major Clark remains at Keesler as the 81st Training Wing's inspector general.

Academic aces

Three students graduated from the force support officer course in the 335th Training Squadron with perfect scores.

They are Capt. Michael Quashne, Headquarters Air Force, and 2nd Lts. Erin Mires, 311th Training Squadron at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., and Sheila Flinders, 319th Force Support Squadron, Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.

CNATTU group gives scholarship



Breanna Lacy, a recent graduate of St. Martin High School, is the recipient of a \$500 scholarship from the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit First Class Petty Officer Association. Ms. Lacy is the daughter of Robert and Sharon Lacy. Her dad is a retired master sergeant. She'll attend the University of Alabama.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Quarterly awards

The 81st Training Group's quarterly awards ceremony and commander's call is 3:15 p.m. June 28 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

For more information, call 377-3979.

Cycle awareness ride

The 81st Training Group plans a motorcycle safety/awareness ride after the July 8 drill down hosted by the 336th Training Squadron.

Staff Sgt. Edward Lotz, a military training leader who is organizing the event, said it's intended to promote safety ethics and techniques to non-prior service students and to stress awareness of other rid-

ers on the road.

Riders gather on the troop walk at 8:45 a.m.

For more information, call 377-5197 or (504) 352-1443.

Drill downs, parades

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

Parades are 6 p.m. July 28 and Sept 29.

For drill down information, call 377-2103. For parade information, call 377-2789.

CCAF deadline

The deadline to apply for the Community College of the Air Force fall graduating class is Aug. 26.

By that date, all supporting

documentation must be on file at CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., including your nomination action request.

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

Manager certification

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

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

Leadership changes hands for 2nd Air Force July 21

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, 2nd Air Force commander, turns over the reins of 2nd Air Force to Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 9 a.m. July 21 on the parade field.

General Hertog is headed back to the Pentagon to direct the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

General Patrick is currently commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

As 2nd Air Force's commander since September 2009, General Hertog is responsible for the development, oversight, and direction of all operational aspects of basic military training, initial skills training, and advanced technical training for the Air Force's enlisted force and support officers.

Second Air Force provides training in over 250 Air Force specialties through 2,500 courses graduating 245,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and international students annually in diverse areas including aircraft maintenance, civil engineering, medical, computer, avionics, security forces, space and missile operations/maintenance, and multiple intelligence disciplines.

The command includes training wings at Keesler; Sheppard, Lackland, and Goodfellow Air Force Bases, Texas; a training group at Vandenberg AFB, Calif.; and a network of 92 field training units around the world. Second Air Force also oversees all Airmen throughout the joint expeditionary tasking/individual augmentee training pipeline at Army training sites across the country and provides a 24/7 opera-



General Hertog

tions center for pre- and post-deployment support.

General Hertog entered the Air Force in 1978 as an ROTC distinguished graduate. As a career security forces officer, she has worked at unit, major command and Air Staff level in various positions, to include commanding several large security forces units, a technical training group and one of the Air Force's largest training wings at Lackland. Prior to her 2nd Air Force assignment, she served at the Pentagon as the Air Force Director of Security Forces.

She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Miami University, Ohio, and a master's degree in industrial psychology from Webster University, Mo.

General Patrick commands Joint Base San Antonio which includes Randolph, Lackland and the Army's Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis. The 8,000-person 502nd ABW consolidates 49 installation management support functions for a military community with an annual operating budget of more than \$700 million and a \$10.9 billion plant replacement



General Patrick

value. It encompasses more than 80,000 full-time personnel, 145,000 students and a retiree community of more than 250,000. The 502nd ABW also supports in excess of \$4.5 billion in directed base closure and realignment and other major projects.

General Patrick is a 1981 Air Force Academy graduate with a degree in civil engineering and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Boston University and strategic studies from Air War College.

He commanded the 37th Training Wing, Lackland; 60th Mission Support Group, Travis AFB, Calif.; and 12th Civil Engineer Squadron, Randolph. He served as director of installations and mission support at Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill., and civil engineer at Air Education and Training Command, Randolph.

General Patrick served two years in foreign military sales as a construction manager for the Royal Saudi Air Force in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, coordinating host-nation support for deployed forces and performing contingency airfield analysis.

IN THE NEWS

July 1 is a 'family day'

July 1 is a "family day" for military members. A liberal leave policy is in effect for civilians

5 selected for promotion

Five Keesler members have been selected for promotion: **To lieutenant colonel** — Matthew Atkinson, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Siu Fai Joh Chan, 45th Airlift Squadron.

To major — Todd Hoggatt, 81st Medical Group, and Robert Watkins IV, 81st Training Wing legal office.

To master sergeant — Jay Kuns, 81st Training Support Squadron, and Christopher Yarbrough, 81st LRS.

New commander for 81st CPTS

Maj. Phelmon Williams takes command of the 81st Comptroller Squadron from Lt. Col. Randolph Toris, 7:30 a.m. today at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Major Williams comes to Keesler from Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he's been assigned to the Army and Command General Staff College.

Colonel Toris has led the 81st CPTS for the past two years. He's headed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, where he'll serve as director of financial management and comptroller.

81st FSS gets new leader

Maj. John Ponton assumes command of the 81st Force Support Squadron from Lt. Col. Richard Cole, 11 a.m. today at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Major Ponton comes to Keesler from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where he served as special action officer for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander's action group, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Colonel Cole, who's commanded the 81st FSS for two years, will be the deputy commander of the 52nd Mission Support Group, Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

No Keesler News July 7

The Keesler News isn't published July 7.

Under contract, the newspaper isn't published the weeks in which Independence Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall.

Wing calendar event planning

The 81st Training Wing events calendar at <http://www.keesler.af.mil/events/index.asp> is designed to help organizers avoid conflicts with other events.

Once an official date is set, event planners should send details to the public affairs organizational box, 81trw.pa@keesler.af.mil. Most items are posted within one business day.

Items that must be included are the name of event, date, time, location and a point of contact.

Events should be coordinated and approved through respective chains of command and be mission-relevant to a wide audience. All inputs are subject to review and editing by the 81st Training Wing Public Affairs office.

Dragons deployed — 244

Strong, rapid construction for new firing range

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

The new indoor small arms firing range being built off Chappie James Boulevard near the Larcher Chapel will have four standing walls in a matter of hours. But shouldn't it take a little more time? If any building should take the longest time to rise, it should be a structure that's housing speeding bullets. But when you realize these are thick, reinforced concrete walls bolted together with steel plates, you might breathe a sigh of relief.

"A large crane will pull on these walls and they will drop into place like a house of cards," said David Horner, construction oversight lead with CSC. Again, take a deep breath. These "cards" are big and heavy and made out of concrete that's eight inches thick with a mesh of steel rods throughout.

"The structure lends itself to this type of construction," said Mr. Horner. "It's a simple rectangle with four walls and a roof."

The type of construction is called tilt-up where, after the foundation and floor slab is in

"A large crane
will pull
on these walls
and they will
drop into place
like a
house of cards."

— Mr. Horner

place, the walls are formed on site, complete with door and window openings, tilted up using a crane and bolted or welded together. When it's appropriate, this type of construction can be an efficient, cost-effective way to get a building up quickly.

Once the walls are in place, the rest of the building will be built out and steel traps and bins will be installed to catch the bullets.

The small arms firing



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Pre-formed at the site of the firing range, concrete walls are hoisted into place by a crane and supported with temporary braces while construction workers bolt them together.

range is a \$5.3 million project that will provide weapons training at Keesler rather than having to travel 17 miles to the Navy's combat arms train-

ing and maintenance facility at Camp Keller.

The contractor, Northwind Inc., began construction last November and is scheduled to

complete the structure by December. Once completed, it will be handed over to 81st Security Forces and training will begin.

**Don't
drink
and
drive.**

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

PERSONNEL NOTES

Finance office closes

The 81st Comptroller Squadron's customer service office is closed 8-10 a.m. today for an official function.

Special duty team visit

Air Education and Training Command

Air Education and Training Command's special duty briefing team visits Keesler July 12 to provide information on careers as a military training instructor, military training leader or professional military education instructor:

8:30-10:30 a.m. — Sablich Center auditorium.

11:30 to noon — Mathies NCO Academy auditorium, for NCO Academy and Airman Leadership School students.

12:30-2 p.m. — Room GC612, Keesler Hospital.

2:30-3:30 p.m. — Sablich Center auditorium, senior enlisted members.

4-5:30 p.m. — Welch Auditorium.

Senior airmen with at least 35 months time in service through master sergeants with less than 16 years total active federal military service may be eligible to apply and are encouraged to attend the briefing. Spouses are welcome to attend.

For more information, call Keesler's career assistance adviser, 377-3697.

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. 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, July 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A.

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



4th of July Beach Party!

**4 p.m. on the front beach between
White Ave. and Morrison Ave.**

Games! Music! Contests!

**Food & beverages available 5-8 p.m. Food tickets
available for advance purchase at the marina,
bowling center and Vandenberg Community Center.**

Hot Dog	\$2	Gatorade	\$2
Brat	\$2	Soda	\$1
Corn on the Cob	\$2	Water	\$1

Sponsored by: Adams Produce,
Coca-Cola, DECA, ForestCity, Kraft Foods,
McCains Foods, Pepsico, Rex Distributing,
US Foods and the USO.

Note: No glass containers permitted on the beach. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Interstate professional licensing gets easier for military spouses

By Lisa Daniel

American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — A Defense Department organization is making it easier for military spouses to maintain professional licenses as they move from state to state.

State Liaison and Educational Opportunity, an office of military community and family policy here, announced June 13 that 16 states have adopted laws, or are close to doing so, to make it easier for military spouses to work in their career fields.

“It gets them to work faster, and that’s been our objective,” said Marcus Beauregard, the chief of the state liaison office and a retired Air Force officer.

States require licenses for practitioners in virtually every medical occupation, as well as for teaching, social work, cosmetology and other fields, and the standards vary from state to state, Mr. Beauregard said.

DOD’s state liaison office was created in 2004 to work with states to address military family issues, and the licensing problem has been among the top concerns of families, he said.

Of working military spouses, 33 percent work in fields that require licenses, mostly nursing and teaching, Mr. Beauregard said.

The state liaison office created a forum on its Facebook page for spouses to discuss the licensing problems. More than 100 spouses wrote in, describing licensing challenges ranging from the expense of having to license with a new state every two to three years, to lengthy processes of certification that include much paperwork, training, waiting periods and internships.

Many spouses said they found that by the time they could get through the process, it

would be time to relocate again.

“I gave up education as a profession because of all that was involved in obtaining licensure with each move,” a spouse wrote. “It was a difficult decision.”

The state liaison office formed partnerships with state agencies and professional associations to educate state lawmakers about the unique challenges to military families.

“We’re not looking to make the military community have a preferred status in states,” Mr. Beauregard said. “We’re looking at those things that impede people because of their military life. In all cases, we’re just looking to level the playing field.”

The office promoted two strategies for mitigating the licensing challenges. The first is for states to permit licenses by endorsement of the previous state license. The second option allows a temporary license to expedite the spouse’s employment options.

States that have enacted laws for endorsement of licenses, or those waiting for a governor’s signature, are Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, North Carolina, New York and Texas. States that allow temporary licenses are Alaska, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Utah allows nonresident military spouses to use out-of-state licenses, and Virginia allows military spouses who leave the state to re-use the license upon their return, Mr. Beauregard said.

The state liaison office’s efforts are in line with President Barack Obama’s directive released in 2011 to promote a “whole of government” approach to helping military families. Since 2008, the office also has succeeded in getting 39 states to pass laws to accept the out-of-state course work of school-age military children.





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YES program offers funds to youth volunteers for college

Keesler Public Affairs

The youth employment skills program is a volunteer internship program funded by the Air Force Aid Society and jointly administered by AFAS and Air Force Airman and Family Services Flight.

This program gives high school aged dependents of active duty Air Force members a chance to learn valuable work skills while having a positive impact on their base communities.

“YES is a year-round program,” said Ann Smith, youth programs director for the 81st Force Support Squadron. “The program is only available to dependents of active-duty Air Force members. One challenge we have is that many of our teens are dependents of retired military, Navy and Army and aren’t eligible. I wish we had a local scholarship fund for those kids.”

Program participation incentives are in the form of dollar credits for grant funding. The YES program allows all certified and enrolled high school students to “bank” volunteer dollar credits toward their post-secondary education/training at a rate of \$4 per hour volunteered in an on-installation position.

Students may accumulate up to 250 hours during their high school education, for a potential \$1,000 maximum.

In addition, the participating installation youth program “banks” base community credits at a rate of \$2 for every hour volunteered per student up to a maximum of \$10,000 per program year, June 1 through May 31 of each year.

For more information, call 377-4116 or log on to <http://www.afas.org/community/YESProgram.cfm>.

Yolanda Wallace and Susan Griggs contributed to this report.

Dorm management office helps permanent party members get settled

Keesler Public Affairs

CSC dorm manager Kennis Walden rolls out the welcome mat for Airmen who live in Keesler's seven permanent party dorms.

"We have a total of 407 residents — 261 are permanent party members and the rest are Phase 2 and seasonal training students," he said.

Some of these residents just made the move earlier this month to Keesler's first new permanent party dorm in 50 years.

"The new dorm will have fewer maintenance issues — that's a plus," Mr. Walden explained. "It provides a big improvement in the quality of life."

The retired Marine enjoys his job because he likes mentoring and interacting with young military members.

Mr. Walden says his office works hard to provide quality service and customer satisfaction as Airmen move in and out and maintenance issues arise. He said that keeping the residents vigilant about trash pickup is a constant battle.

The consolidated dorm management office is now in Building 6223, a new structure across from the commissary.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman 1st Class Stephanie Fitzpatrick, left, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, fills out the proper paper work to be checked into a permanent party dorm by Mr. Walden.

The office is open 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. weekdays, but closes at 3:30 p.m. on non-training Fridays.

Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney and Susan Griggs contributed to this report.

AAFES recognized as 'most valuable employer' for military members

AAFES Public Affairs

DALLAS – For the second consecutive year, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service has been recognized by CivilianJobs.com as a "most valuable employer" for military members.

The MVE list serves to help military-experienced job seekers identify the top employers to target for civilian careers.

"It is an honor to once again be recognized as a top employer for those with mili-

tary backgrounds," said the James Moore, AAFES senior vice president of human resources. "It validates our team's tireless efforts to hire and train people who share our commitment to the military communities we so proudly serve."

MVEs are selected annually based on those employers whose recruiting, training and retention plans best serve military servicemembers and veterans.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

From left, holding a check representing the \$3,900 donation are General Mueller, Mr. Mullins, Mrs. Ricketts, Tiffany Ricketts, Mrs. Mullins, Mr. Vetter, Ben Ricketts and Mr. Ricketts.

Family donates to Fisher House in memory of fallen Army son

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

A family that knows the sorrow of losing a military member to combat has turned their grief into support for the nation's military and, in particular, the Keesler Fisher House.

June 13, Bill and Sandi Ricketts, joined by their son and daughter and representatives of The American Legion Riders Post 6 from Corinth, Miss., in the northeast part of the state, not only donated almost \$4,000 to Keesler's Fisher House, they also provided a barbecue dinner for the facility's residents.

Their son, Army Staff Sgt. Seth Ricketts, was killed in action Feb. 27, 2010, in Bala Murghab, Afghanistan. A member of the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., he was serving on his third Afghanistan deployment — his fifth in all, including two others to Iraq. He left his pregnant wife and two children.

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, and Larry Vetter, Fisher House manager, accepted the \$3,900 in donations from the Staff Sgt. William Seth Ricketts Memorial Fund and American Legion Post 6 Riders. The donations were collected during the first memorial motor-

cycle ride and other events held in Seth's memory April 30. Future events will be held the third Saturday in April each year.

Others on hand for the presentation were Randy and Ann Mullins and Seth's brother Ben and sister Tiffany. Randy Mullins is director of the Corinth post riders.

They also donated two items to the Keesler facility: a framed inaugural rocker with annual patch and a card Tiffany made by hand signed by all the memorial run riders.

Mrs. Ricketts said Seth had wanted to join the military since he was very young. In fact, he had spoken to Army recruiters several times. Although he received a scholarship to attend college, he found college life wasn't for him. Then came the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"Seth came home after 9/11. I knew from the look in his eyes he was going to enlist. He didn't look back; he enlisted the next day."

She continued, "Seth reenlisted during his fourth deployment to Afghanistan." His parents mentioned he was extremely proud of his combat jump wings, earned in 2003 following a combat jump in Afghanistan — only the second combat jump by the 82nd Airborne since World War II, they said. They mentioned he also had received German

Army jump wings.

Mrs. Ricketts recalled that Seth and Bill planned to buy motorcycles and ride with the Patriot Guard Riders, whose members attend funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family and shield the family and their friends from interruptions created by protestors.

Commenting on their desire to help the Fisher House, Mrs. Ricketts said, "We believe in the Fisher House. I never heard of it, or the Gold Star Mothers (mothers who have lost a son or daughter during service to the country) until Seth was killed. Seth was the first military member from our area to be killed in action. We want to take the negative circumstance and turn it into something positive because of the amazing support we've received from the Corinth community. In fact, we left for Keesler right after a section of State Highway 72 had been named after Seth.

"We were surprised that more people aren't aware of Fisher House. Our Gold Star Mothers are involved in raising money to hopefully add a wing to the Keesler Fisher House," she added. "People like me just assumed all our wounded warriors are taken care of but that's not always the case. That's where the Fisher House comes in."

'Bounty Hunters' from Louisiana make Fisher House contribution

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

A bunch of Louisiana gunslingers in Old West garb delivered a check for \$12,200 to Keesler's Fisher House June 17.

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

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

"Aliases allow people to step out of their daily life and

assume an entirely fictitious persona," Mr. Gifford said. "Quite frequently, shooters only know their fellow club members by their aliases.

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

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

"That is the quiet joy of this game," Mr. Gifford said. "You roll back into a different time, slap on your spurs and your badge, hang out with people who are having a good time and listening to the pop and clang as metal meets metal. All this you get to do with your pardette (wife) and buckeroos while talking about the Old West and the day's festivities."

Keesler's Fisher House provides a home-away-from-home with free lodging to veterans and military families receiving treatment at the 81st Medical Group Hospital and the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center. There are 58 Fisher Houses at military installations and VA medical facilities, with 12 more under construction or in the design phase.

For more information, call 377-8264.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

At center, Larry Vetter, Fisher House director, holds a check for \$12,200 donated by the Bayou Bounty Hunters of Louisiana — from left, Terry "Cameo Rose" Calvert, treasurer; Robert "Crazy Emmitt" Calvert, president; Carey "Louisiana Cuz" Williams, board member; Nathan "Foard County News" Gifford, public relations; Gregory "Rattle Snake Blake" Boggs, territorial governor and Betty "Soiled Dove" Boggs, secretary. Flanking the group, from left, Brig. Gen. Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Jennings, 81st TRW command chief.

Mosquitoes: what's all the buzz, buzz about?

By Staff Sgt.
Carlina Moreland

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Mosquito bites are often thought of as annoying and irritating. People rarely correlate the possibility of contracting a potentially fatal disease with being bitten by a mosquito.

Although the panic of vector borne diseases such as West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis has subsided, it's important that people protect themselves and their families while outdoors. The climate on the Gulf Coast is well suited for mosquitoes to include the species capable of transmitting West Nile virus and EEE.

Vector-borne diseases transmitted by mosquitoes occur when they feed on infected animals such as birds or horses. After an incubation period of 10 days to two



weeks, infected mosquitoes can transmit the virus to humans and animals. Since the virus is located in the mosquito's salivary glands, the virus is then injected into the animal or human when the mosquito bites to feed. So far this year, there's been at least one confirmed case of West Nile Virus in Mississippi.

Here are ways people can protect themselves from mos-

quitoes while outdoors and ways to reduce breeding areas around the home.

Prevention measures

The risk of being bitten by mosquitoes can be reduced by taking the following precautions:

- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk and in the early evening.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants whenever you are

outdoors.

- Apply insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin. An effective repellent will contain 20 to 35 percent N-diethyl-meta-toluamide. DEET in concentrations greater than 35 percent may cause side effects, particularly in children, so they should be avoided.

- Repellents may irritate the eyes and mouth, so avoid applying repellent to the hands of children. (Insect repellents shouldn't be applied to children less than 3 years old).

- Spray clothing with repellents containing permethrin or DEET, as mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing.

- Whenever using an insecticide or insect repellent, read and follow the manufacturer's directions for use printed on the product.

To limit breeding areas

- Remove standing water around your home. Pay spe-

cial attention to any containers that may collect water such as buckets or flower pots and store them in a manner that would not allow water to accumulate in them.

- Install and use yellow "bug" lights at exterior door entrances, including garage and carport areas. These lights will attract fewer mosquitoes and other flying insects to your door, reducing the number of uninvited guest in your home or office.

Vitamin B, "ultrasonic" devices and "bug zappers" aren't effective in preventing mosquito bites or controlling mosquitoes.

For more information, call public health, 376-3163, or visit the Mississippi Department of Health Web site, <http://healthmys.com>, or the Centers for Disease Control Web site, www.cdc.gov

Cyberspace isn't a secure environment.

And the winner is...



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Shaunelle King, Bay Breeze Event Center club manager, draws names to see who won tickets to the Keith Urban concert, June 16. Two hundred tickets were donated to Keesler by the Mississippi Coast Coliseum, site of the concert.

eight days a week

Airman and family readiness center

Editor's note: Registration is required. All briefings take place in Room 108, Sablich Center, unless otherwise noted.

Today — 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Heart Link. Air Force spouse orientation. Lunch, prizes, tote bags and more. Limited child care available.

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 piece of art or photograph no larger than 5x7 inches to frame. Class certifies you to use shop equipment in the future. 2-4 p.m., free ice cream social and games to celebrate summer.

Saturday — 10 a.m., advanced creative wood-working class. Learn intarsia, a technique that uses varied shapes, sizes and types of wood inlaid together. \$25 includes materials.

Tuesday-June 30 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., summer arts camp, ages 9 and older. Creative jewelry making. Various crafts and activities offered. Preregister for one week or all summer camps. \$30 per week includes materials.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

Editor's note: Must be age 18 or older to enter collocated lounge. For more information or reservations, call 377-2334.

Friday — 4:30-8 p.m., Texas hold'em tournament. \$1,000 in chips to each player. Food and drinks available. Free for Air Force Club members, \$5 for nonmembers. Must be age 21 or older to participate. Call to reserve seat. Sponsored by Budweiser-Responsibility Matters. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Weekdays — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., free buffet a day giveaway, enter to win in the casual dining area. No purchase necessary. Ask cashier for more information.

Bay Breeze Community Center

Wednesday — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., PLAYpass recreation and education fair, function rooms 1 and 2. Learn about events and activities available for a discounted price or free through the PLAY-pass program.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

Sunday — Father's Day special. Free greens fees for fathers playing with their son or daughter; mandatory cart fee applies.

Tuesday-June 23 — youth golf camp, 8-10 a.m., ages 6-9; 10 a.m. to noon, ages 10-14. \$40 per child. Call 377-3832 to register.

Fitness centers

Saturday — 9 a.m., free Olympic Day celebration at the Triangle Track, ages 5-18. Races, baton relays and long jump. T-shirts awarded. Co-hosted by the youth center, health and wellness center and base helping agencies.

Gaudé Lanes

Friday-Saturday — 9 p.m. Friday and 7 p.m. Saturday, glow bowling.

Saturday-Sunday — anytime between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday, nine-pin no-tap tournament. Three game no-tap set with shoes, \$15 per person. Chance of winning up to \$800, multiple entries allowed.

McBride Library

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

Tuesdays and Thursdays — 10-11 a.m., "A Midsummer Knight's Read" summer reading program, ages 3-12. Visit www.keesler81fss.us and click on the library link for daily reading list.

Outdoor recreation

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

Friday and Sunday — Gulf barrier island fishing trips. Fish barrier islands and oil rigs aboard the Dolphin II. \$75 per person, 12-22 people. No license required. To reserve, call 377-3160.

Swimming pools

Editor's note: For more information call 377-3948 or 3568.

Daily except Monday — noon to 5:30 p.m., main base pool. Adult lap swim noon to 1 p.m.

Daily except Wednesday — noon to 7 p.m., Triangle Pool. Adult lap swim 11 a.m. to noon.

Open to anyone authorized to use 81st Force Support Squadron facilities. Identification and entry fee required for admission; \$1.50 daily or purchase a \$20 single season pass or \$60 family season pass, available at pools or outdoor recreation.

Vandenberg Community Center

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

Friday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., luau party. Hula dance, limbo contests and island fun. Food and drink specials from Legends Café.

Saturday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., guys' night. First 25 guys free with two female guests that pay \$3 admission. Drink specials for the guys.

Youth center

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-4116. Drop-ins accepted on space available basis.

Through June 30 — youth baseball and t-ball registration, ages 3-14. Ages 3-4 participate in the Smart Start T-ball program. Ages 5-14 participate in youth baseball. \$50 for the first child, \$25 each additional. Season begins in July. Air Force Club members receive 10 percent off first child's fee.

Monday-July 1 — youth summer camp, go green week, ages 6-12, create still life structures from recycled items. Fee based on family income.

Teen camp, photography and digital arts week, ages 13-18, learn computer programs, web design and team building activities. \$5 per day.

Memorial ruck march

Members of the 81st Security Forces Squadron ruck march team hosts a car wash, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today in front of their unit headquarters, Building 3501 on Larcher Boulevard.

The team will march 148 miles from Livingston, Texas, to Alexandria, La., July 20-24, as part of an Air Force Security Forces ruck march to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and to pay tribute to fellow defenders who have been killed since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom.

For more information or to donate to the cause, call 376-6606 or 6625.

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters begins its fly tying and fly casting program, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Friday at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

The classes for wounded veterans and active-duty military members has been established in

more than 100 locations around the country.

The program helps beginners to experienced fly fishers to overcome obstacles from their disabilities, relearn fine motor skills and enable participants regain the use of their recovering bodies.

For more information, log on to www.projecthealingwaters.com or call 818-5586.

School physicals

The 81st Medical Operations Squadron's pediatric clinic conducts a school and sports physical day 8 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Parents call the hospital appointment line, 1-800-700-8603, to schedule the physicals. Children 5-18 years of age are seen for school, camp or sports physicals only. Other matters require a separate appointment.

Parents should bring immunization records and any school physical forms to the appointment. Generic physical forms may be picked up from the pediatric clinic front desk, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. before Saturday.

Gospel service events

The Keesler gospel service is celebrating its 40th anniversary as the oldest continuously running gospel service in the Air Force.

"Pressing Towards The Mark" is the theme for this year's events:

Today — 4:30-6:30 p.m., fellowship reunion for past and present members, Triangle Annex; 7 p.m., praise service, Triangle Chapel.

Friday — 7-8:30 a.m., physical conditioning, Crotwell Track; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., throw back 70s picnic, marina park; 6-10 p.m., fellowship choir rehearsal, Triangle Chapel.

Saturday — 7-10 a.m., prayer walk from Larcher Chapel to the beach, continental breakfast; 6-11 p.m., gala at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Sunday — 10 a.m. to noon, gospel service at Bay Breeze Event Center followed by light refreshments.

For more information, call 377-0327 or 424-8331.

SAPR office closed

The sexual assault prevention and response office is closed July 1 and July 8.

The office hotline, 377-7278, is available for emergencies.

81st CS closed

The 81st Communications Squadron is closed 1-4 p.m. June 30 for an official function.

For emergencies, call 377-8127.

Vacation Bible School

Monday is the deadline at Larcher and Triangle Chapels for Panda Mania, an ecumenical Vacation Bible School program.

The program, for children 4-12 years old, kicks off with a fellowship cookout, 4 p.m. July 31. Families must arrive by 3 p.m.

Classes are 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 1-3.

To register or to volunteer, call 377-0834 or 2520.

DBIDS registration

June 30 is the deadline to register 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 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 Levitow Training Support Facility.

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.

Worship schedule for Keesler's faith communities

Roman Catholic

Daily Mass, 11:15 a.m., Monday through Friday, Triangle 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 celebrates its 40th anniversary, 10 a.m. Sunday at the Bay Breeze Event Center. The service is normally at noon Sundays at the 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.



Keesler's annual water quality report released

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline, 1-800-426-4791.

Where does my water come from?

Keesler drinking water is pumped from the Lower Graham Ferry Aquifer, a groundwater source. All water provided to Keesler is pumped from wells located on base property. The water from the wells is mixed, treated with chlorine and fluoride, stored and distributed.

Source water assessment and availability

The purpose of a source water assessment is to determine the quality of the raw water used for drinking water. At Keesler, the only treatment performed on source water is the addition of chlorine and fluoride. Because of limited chemical treatment, the analytical results for Keesler's drinking water are representative of its source water.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Examples of these contami-

nants include microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic waste-water discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

Education is the key to getting involved and understanding your drinking water. Additional information is available from the Centers for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/safewater/>.

Description of water treatment process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Water conservation tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference — try one today and soon it will become second nature.

Take short showers. A five-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.

Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.

Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.

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

Water plants only when necessary.

Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it

seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.

Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce water bills.

For more information, log on to www.epa.gov/watersense.

Cross-connection control survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross-connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Source water protection tips

You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides — they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste — Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Other information

To comply with the "Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies," Keesler must report certain results pertaining to fluoridation of our water system. The number of months in the previous calendar year that average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 11. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 61 percent.

Water quality,

from Page 25

Significant deficiencies

Failure to maintain correct 4-Log disinfection residual. The duration of the violation is from July 26-31, 2010. The corrective action taken by Keesler included increased disinfection and increased monitoring of disinfection residuals.

Additional information for lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Keesler (PWS ID#240049) is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water quality data table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products							
*There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants).							
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	1.16	0.85 1.16	2010	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.1	0.49 1.1	2010	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	3	2010	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.1	2010	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Undetected Contaminants

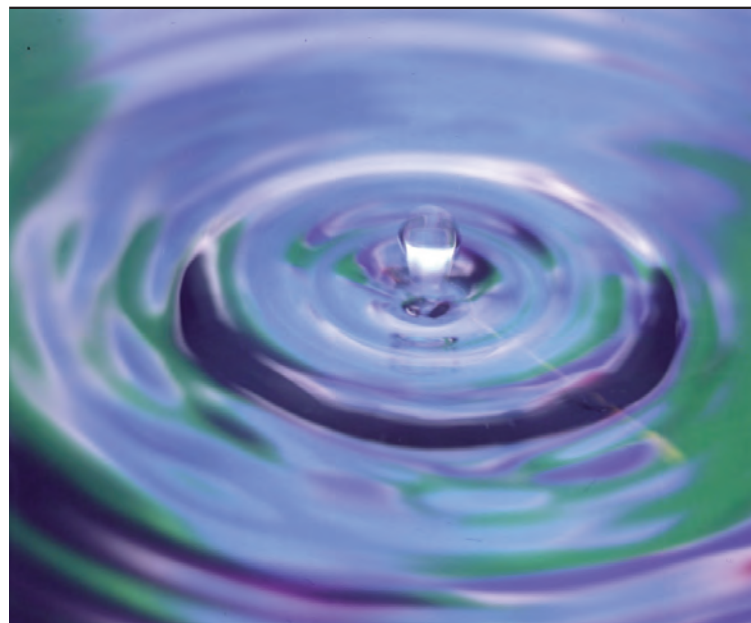
The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories.
Dichloromethane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories.
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	600	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	75	75	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities.
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	3	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners.
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene) (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories.
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills.
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum factories.
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries.
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	ND	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	ND	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories.

drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants

less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions following the table.

Unit Descriptions				
Term	Definition			
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)			
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)			
NA	NA: not applicable			
ND	ND: Not detected			
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.			
Important Drinking Water Definitions				
Term	Definition			
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.			
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.			
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.			
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.			
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.			
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.			
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.			
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated			
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level			
TT Violation	Explanation	Length	Steps Taken to Correct the Violation	Health Effects Language
Ground Water Rule violations	Failure to maintain correct 4-Log disinfection residual.	7/26/2010 to 7/31/2010	The system has increased disinfection and has increased monitoring of the disinfection residuals.	Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.



For more information,
contact
bioenvironmental engineering,
81 AMDS/SGPB,
301 Fisher Street,
Keesler AFB, MS 39534,
(228) 376-0590,
fax (228)376-0197,
e-mail 81amds.bio@us.af.mil

SPORTS AND RECREATION



Left, Bulls third baseman Mike Mazza tries to tag out Roberto Lugaro, but Lugaro was called safe in the June 15 intramural softball championship game. The Gators slipped past the Bulls, 16-15.

Right, Nick Volz keeps a tight eye on the ball as he gets ready to take a swing for the Gators.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Chomp! Gators win intramural softball title



Bulls shortstop Joe Regan soft-tosses the ball to third base after snagging a ground ball.

By Sam Miller

Intramural sports director

The 334th Training Squadron Gators defeated the 335th TRS Bulls in a 16-15 nail-biter to win the 2011 intramural softball championship June 15.

Both teams started the championship game with red-hot bats.

The Gators completed the top of the first inning with a home run and a 5-0 lead. Not to be outmatched, the Bulls added a home run and was only down by one run going into the second inning. More home runs followed in the next three innings, with both teams reaching the maximum of five home runs after only four innings of play.

The Bulls came into the fifth inning with a 12-10 lead and extended their lead to 15-12 in the bottom of the sixth inning. The Gators came back to score four runs in the top of the seventh inning to give them a 16-15 going into the last half inning of the game.

In the bottom of the seventh, the Bulls found themselves in an ideal situation,



Gators second baseman Toby Jacob dives for a line drive.

with the tying run on second base and the winning run on first with only one out.

The Bulls hit what could have been a three-run home run to win the game, but was ruled an out since the Bulls had already reached the maximum five home runs allowed per game. The last batter was flied out, securing the championship for the Gators.

The Gators finished the National League regular season 10-1, only losing to the 81st Training Wing staff agencies, 21-19, during the second week of the season.

A nine-game winning streak carried the Gators into a

second-round playoff matchup with the undefeated 81st WSA on June 13, which ended in a 14-13 WSA victory.

After a 22-13 playoff win over 2nd Air Force, the Gators were poised to do battle with the 81st WSA once again. Under the double elimination playoff format, the Gators had to win two straight games against the 81st WSA for an opportunity to compete in the overall base championship.

The Gators were able to pull off a narrow 18-17 defeat of the 81st WSA in the fourth round, forcing a fifth round game that would decide the National League champion.

The Gators were able to upset the 81st WSA, the regular-season top team in the National League, 14-8 to secure a spot in the championship game.

The American League finals were not as eventful.

The Bulls garnered the top seed in the American League after finishing the regular season with an 11-0 record. The Bulls accumulated playoff wins over the 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, 18-13), and two against the Marine Corps Detachment B-team, 10-8 and 18-17. The final win extended their undefeated streak to 13-0 to claim bragging rights for the American