



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

JULY 21, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 28



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Coping with Air Force's personnel challenges

By Col. Glen Downing

81st Training Wing vice commander

I recently attended a retirement ceremony for one of our finest master sergeants. Together we celebrated 25 years of magnificent service and an amazing career. But wait. You critical thinkers out there are doing the math and have already figured it out. You're right; the high-year tenure "rollback" caught this one. I can hear your grumbling. The Air Force robbed another great American of a successful career. Or did we?

I'll admit the ceremony was a little bittersweet. This senior noncommissioned officer certainly wanted to continue his career and advance in rank. In fact, he tested for senior right up to the end, eagerly awaiting test results prior to that final day. When I heard about the other decisions he made along the way, it all became very clear.

You see, early in his career, this master sergeant found himself the single parent of a young boy. He raised that young boy into a fine young man with values and purpose who is already a success and has his whole life in front of him. As many of you know firsthand, being a single parent is a great challenge.

Our master sergeant faced that challenge with style. He finished his college education and went on to earn a master's degree in business administration. He continued to advance in his career, moving from technical training instructor to professional military education instructor to career development course writer and finally squadron superintendent.

Somewhere in all that he found the time to meet a wonderful woman, get married and bring another young son into the world. His wife, an Air Force civilian, gives back to our community every day. So does our retired master sergeant, because now he is a civilian employee passing on his years of experience as a technical training instructor.

When I step back and take stock of this 25-year career, do I see some disappointment? Absolutely. More importantly, I see one of our nation's finest who made very real and crucial choices. He focused his attention on the things that were most important in his life and have the longest impact. His priorities forced some decisions that maybe weren't the best ones for making chief, but they were right for him. I consider him a tremendous success!

How are you coping with the many personnel challenges in our Air Force? What choices are you making? I challenge you to consider a few points when making those choices.

Don't dwell on what you can't control. Personnel adjustments will go on for a long time. Your best defense is to be the best Airman you can be. Do all the things we've trained and mentored you to do in order to continue advancing.

Maintain an internal balance in your life. You must develop yourself technically, physically, mentally and emotionally.

Balance work, family, and play. Many of us reach our career goals only to turn around and find ourselves standing alone. Don't lose your family along the way and don't let work consume every minute of every day. Never lose your sense of humor, wonder and play.

Who knows where each of our careers will end? All you can do is tackle every day with energy and enthusiasm. There will be successes and there will be disappointments. A very wise man named Garth Brooks once sang, "I could've missed the pain, but I'd of had to miss the dance." Don't miss your dance!

Deter, detect defend

Sound strategies fight fraud, identity theft

By Lt. Col. Brad McAlpine

335th Training Squadron commander

Fraud. It is a simple five-letter word that can have extraordinary impact on your personal finances.

On my recent permanent change of station move from Colorado to Keesler, someone managed to clone a debit card and discovered the personal identification number code. They then proceeded to withdraw cash from a location in Beverly Hills.

Within minutes, our bank contacted us to find out if we had authorized such charges. Obviously we had not, and the bank immediately deactivated the card and within days the money had been returned to our account pending a full investigation.

All of us have gone on

vacation and had to call the bank when one of our cards was declined as we tried to buy dinner or check into a hotel. While this may seem an inconvenience, it's done for your protection.

There are some good tips from the Federal Trade Commission to protect yourself from this kind of fraud and identity theft.

Deter — Protect your PIN codes from being observed and do not use obvious numbers and maintain computer security and avoid using public computers for financial transactions.

Detect — Ensure you monitor your bank accounts and having a good fraud protection program through your banks is ideal and monitor your accounts on a regular basis for unknown charges.

Defend — Make regular checks of your credit report and close any accounts that have been tampered with by an unknown person. If you're a victim, always be sure to file a police report or have the bank file one on your behalf.

Identity theft and fraud can be scary and financially debilitating personally and could potentially affect you professionally.

I hope none of you ever has to deal with these circumstances in your life, but if you have good fraud protection on each of your accounts, it will provide you peace of mind and protect your finances personally and professionally. Safe travels and safe finances!

PREPARING for the storm



For hurricane
preparation resources,
log on to
www.keesler.af.mil

ON THE COVER

Jack Parnell, who works in the 81st Communications Squadron's land mobile radio section, keys an encryption module for the fire department that allows firefighters to talk securely on their radios, July 7. The 81st CS, working through the challenges of a military-to-civilian conversion and migration to a more centralized network, keeps Keesler's communication channels open. Story and more photos, Pages 14-15.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



KEESLER NEWS

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DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What was your favorite childhood toy?



"The redhead G.I. Joe with a beard."

Joseph Spears, 335th Training Squadron



"Teddy Ruxpin."

Jessica Street, fiancée of Master Sgt. David Donnerstag, 81st Training Support Squadron



"A 'skip it' that attaches to the ankle with a cord with a ball on the end that you jump."

Staff Sgt. Carlina Moreland, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Connett honored to be part of 81st TRG legacy

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News

June 28, Col. Lynn Connett will be stepping down as commander of the 81st Training Group. She's been no stranger to Keesler, having graduated from the administrative officers course in 1987 and serving as commander of the 81st Mission Support Squadron from 2002 to 2004.

According to Connett, her third time has not only been a charm — it's been an incredibly rewarding experience. Here are some farewell comments from a recent interview with the colonel.

What does it mean to be the commander of the 81st Training Group?

For me, what it means to be the commander of the 81st TRG is understanding our mission and its relevance to the Air Force.

Our mission here is technical training. But at a strategic level we're building the next generation of Airmen. And making sure my folks understand our long term generational impact on this force is critical to me. What we do here doesn't just make a difference next week, next month, or next year. What we do here ripples through our Air Force for a generation. The Airmen we graduate at Keesler will be tomorrow's future leaders.

How has being the commander of the 81st TRG prepared you for your next assignment?

I graduated from Keesler technical training school in 1987. Fast forward to 2009 and I'm taking command of the 81st TRG. The 22 years in between had honed the functional and strategic competencies the Air Force needed for me to be successful in this job.

What has the last two years done for me? It's helped build my confidence. But more importantly it's continued to



Colonel Connett

hone my strategic appreciation for where we stand as a service and what we need to do as we look forward to the challenges ahead.

It's been an incredibly rewarding two years here at Keesler. In leaving, I know I've made an impact for the better and I now become a part of the legacy that the 81st TRG has in helping develop our next generation of Airmen.

Can you describe that impact?

I give full credit to the Airmen, and when I say Airmen, I mean the officer, enlisted and civilian members of our group. It's been an honor to be in command of Airmen who have engaged in historic transformations over the last two years. One of those was standing up the cyber schoolhouse. We transformed communications and information from a support focus to an operational posture.

We embarked on a game plan for facilities modernization. We've had several new facilities open throughout the 81st Training Wing since Katrina. However, we still have numerous 1950s era facilities. When I walked in the door two years ago I asked, "What's our five-year plan?" We've got a 30-year plan for the wing, but what's our five-year plan? You

Change of command for 81st TRG

Col. Lynn Connett turns over command of the 81st Training Group to Col. Maureen Smith, 6 p.m. July 28 on the parade field.

For the past year, Smith has been attending the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

Smith is no stranger to Keesler — she attended the operations management

course at Keesler after entering active duty in 1990.

Five years later, Smith was an instructor in the 335th Training Squadron's command and control officer course. She transferred to the manpower career field and served as chief of manpower management courses. In 1997, she became the 81st TRG's executive officer.

have to take small steps in order to get to that 30-year goal. We didn't really have one so I said, "We're going to build one." We're going to take our dollars and we're going to start targeting facilities for renovation.

For example, if you wanted to see what a building looked like in the 1950s, all you had to do was walk onto the second floor of Allee Hall. Last year, we started total renovation of the second floor. Upon completion, it's going to be a 21st century academic training facility. Over the last two years, we spent more than \$5 million targeting specific facilities to bring them up to current day standards.

Another huge accomplishment was our reorganization of the 81st TRG. After the Program Budget Decision 720 cuts, the group lost a significant number of key leadership positions. Remaining personnel were dual-hatted to cover the losses. When I arrived, I took a look at where we were following those manpower reductions and I said, "How do we fix this?" So we pulled together a team to take a look at how we could reorganize to fill in the gaps.

The fix entailed standing down a squadron and realigning the mission sets to other squadrons in the 81st TRG. That allowed us to take the management overhead and use those billets to buy back

the lost leadership positions. Reorganizing the group to align with our manpower is one of our most significant accomplishments. It entailed a great deal of work and was an emotional event, but the 81st TRG pulled together and we did it right.

We also received an "excellent" rating during last year's UCI inspection. Of our seven squadrons at the time, six received overall excellent ratings.

What do you like most about Keesler?

My family and I greatly enjoy the people. This community is one of the friendliest I've ever been in. I always refer to Keesler as a generational town. My kids are going to schools where parents and grandparents have gone to school. Folks know one another based on years of friendships and interaction. My family and I feel like a part of this community. In all of our Air Force travels, this is the one place we call home.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Probably resource constraints, but I think that's true for any commander in the Air Force. Whether it's money, facilities, or manpower, there's always going to be resource constraints. Those have been our biggest challenges, but they've never stopped us from meeting our mission requirements.

What are you looking forward to most with your next move?

Reuniting with my family. We came to Keesler as a family. My husband, Col. Jay Stone, was deployed three months after we arrived and was gone for seven months. While he was deployed, he was promoted to colonel, which we're very proud of. But the promotion led to his reassignment to Washington, D.C., shortly after he returned from deployment. So I jokingly tell folks I've been a geographic single mom for the last two years. We have three children. Our oldest has been with dad for the past year, so it's been a unique assignment for us as a family.

What is your next assignment?

I'm returning to Air Staff and will serve as deputy director for plans and integration, HAF/A1X. The directorate oversees all the information technology systems for personnel programs and the associated budgeting requirements.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I have a passion for what we do here in the 81st TRG. I was so honored to have been selected to be the commander of a training group. I think Air Education and Training is the most important command we have in the Air Force. We are not the world's best Air Force because of the quality of our technology. We are the world's best Air Force because of the quality of our Airmen.

I also want to add that the training group does not operate in a vacuum. We would not succeed without the support of the other groups, agencies and contractors in the 81st TRW. One of the things I will walk away with is the sense of pride and community Team Keesler shares as a whole in accomplishing our mission of training Airmen.

45th Airlift Squadron deactivates



Photo by Adam Bond

Lt. Col. Scott Nishwitz, left, 45th Airlift Squadron commander, and Major John Chan, 45th AS, slip a cover over the squadron guidon during the deactivation ceremony in Hangar 4 July 15. Col. Michael Bauer, 314th Operations Group commander, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., looks on. The 45th AS was a geographically-separated unit assigned to the 314th Airlift Wing at Little Rock. The last C-21 pilot instructors graduated June 24. The new C-21 schoolhouse stands up in the 458th Airlift Squadron at Scott AFB, Ill.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Cadet Robert Gibson, Cadet Joseph Truxal, Capt. Mike Deprey and Cadet Mark Kaminski walk the flightline while Deprey, 345th Airlift Squadron, briefs the Air Force Academy cadets on the duties and responsibilities of being a pilot.

Program gives academy cadets view of operational Air Force

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Operation Air Force is an annual program for Air Force Academy students to taste what the operational Air Force is really like.

Cadets have the opportunity to tour Air Force bases around the world and shadow company grade officers in various career fields.

The program consists of three three-week sessions and Keesler hosts about six cadets per session.

Keesler's second session began June 19 and extended through July 7. Activities included senior noncommissioned officer question-and-answer session, a company grade officers panel and tours of the air traffic control tower, hospital and the Naval Con-

struction Battalion Center in Gulfport.

Course objectives included gaining an appreciation for how operations and support functions integrate and contribute to successful accomplishment of a wing's mission; the role of CGOs at the squadron level; squadron leadership expectations of CGOs; career fields and Air Force Specialty Codes of interest.

The program also looks at the nature of enlisted personnel, their duties and their impact on mission accomplishment; and the enlisted corps' expectations of officers.

"I've learned a lot more about how the active-duty Air Force actually works and that there's light at the end of the tunnel," said Cadet Mark Kaminski.

Capt. Mike Deprey, 345th Airlift Squadron pilot, said that the importance of the Opera-

tion Air Force program is for cadets to see what the operational side is like and what the job entails in daily life.

"It has confirmed my desires to be a pilot and has given me a better understanding of the tempo of the job and what it's like day by day," said Cadet Robert Gibson.

During their stay, the cadets shadowed a host CGO at his/her assigned work center, trained on one or more tasks and duties in assigned operations and support squadrons, worked the same duty hours as their facilitator and attended mentoring sessions, tours and demonstrations.

"This experience has broadened my ideas of what I want to do in the Air Force," said Cadet Joseph Truxal. "I've seen more planes I'd like to consider flying and working with."



Can-do spirit

From left, Airman 1st Class Jason Kramer, Staff Sgt. Leonardo Nelson, Airman 1st Class Brittany Simmons, Staff Sgt. Anthony Powell and Airman 1st Class Allen Thomas, 338th Training Squadron, sort and stock canned goods at Winters Manor. Kramer, Simmons and Thomas are students and Nelson and Powell are military training leaders. The Dark Knights donated 2,058 cans of food and money to buy groceries to be delivered to local food pantries that serve the needy.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

NCO Academy graduate has deep Keesler roots

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

A July 13 graduate of Mathies NCO Academy Class 11-5 has ties to Keesler that reach back more than 50 years.

Tech. Sgt. Jason Cummings, a security forces member of the 91st Security Forces Group at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, father and uncle by training at Keesler.

Jesse Cummings, a contractor at Barksdale AFB, La., said his father, Loland Cummings, first came to Keesler in 1950 after basic training and returned on temporary duty in 1968. Jesse Cummings first visited Keesler in 1970 with his father and stepmother.

“My Dad had to attend some electronic technical training, which I thought was odd at the time since he was a master sergeant,” Jesse Cummings remembered. “I was just out of high school that summer and gladly tagged along for a few weeks of fun, sun, sand, seafood and cool gulf breezes.”

A few years later, Jesse Cummings found himself getting on the bus after graduating basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas.

“I thought I was headed to the airport and then to Keesler for more fun, sun, sand, seafood, girls, and cool gulf breezes and electronics training,” he recalled. “However, much to my chagrin, the bus let me off on the other side of the base. That’s when I discovered that one electronics school — crypto electronics school — wasn’t at Keesler. It was right there at Lackland for nine months!”

Later in his career, about 1985, he returned to Keesler



Left, Loland Cummings came to Keesler in 1950 for technical school after basic training and returned twice on temporary duty.

Right, Jason Cummings, a Mathies NCO Academy graduate, is stationed at Minot AFB, N.D. Jesse Cummings, his dad, also attended the NCO Academy at Keesler and works as a contractor at Barksdale AFB, La.

Courtesy photos



to attend the NCO Academy, just as his son has done this summer.

“I remember that I did my big paper and speech on the history of Air Force first sergeants,” Jesse Cummings said. “The First Sergeant School was conveniently located right next door. My younger brother, who was an F-16 crew chief over at Eglin AFB, Fla., came over for my graduation. Then, about 1988, he also attended the NCO Academy at Keesler.”

Jesse Cummings is extremely proud of his son Jason, who’s served several deployments in America’s war on terror.

“I’ve retired from the Air Force, but my son continues the Keesler TDY tradition begun by his grandfather way back in 1950,” Jesse Cummings declared. “For our family, the legend continues.”



CLICK IT
OR
TICKET



TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

ERAU registration

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is now registering students for the fall term, which begins Aug. 8.

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

Graduate courses are also

available to complete Civil Service 1750 qualification requirements (instructional system design this term).

Tuition discounts are available for active-duty military.

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

USM fall term

The University of Southern

Mississippi-Gulf Coast holds orientation, advisement and registration for admitted students July 29 at the Gulf Park campus in Long Beach.

The fall term begins Aug. 24.

For more information, call 376-8479.

GI Bill briefings

GI Bill briefings to address changes effective in August and October are 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Aug. 3 in the Sablich Center auditorium.

Academy LEAD program

The Air Force Academy's admissions office hosts 15 Airmen for a three-day tour Sept. 22-25 as part of its Leaders Encouraging Airman Development program.

For consideration, qualified Airmen must send letter of endorsement, Air Force Form 1786 signed by squadron commander, copy of high school transcript, copy of ACT or SAT scores and a biography by Aug. 17.

For more information and application procedures, call the education office, 376-8472.

CCAF deadline

The deadline to apply for the Community College of the Air Force fall graduation 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 Room 224, Sablich Center, or call 376-8708 or 8710.

Civilian tuition aid

Civilians using tuition assistance must receive a grade of "C" or higher for undergraduate classes or a grade of "B" or higher for graduate classes.

Failure to do so results in reimbursement to the government for its portion of paid tuition assistance.

Course grades must be provided to education services within two weeks of course completion.

For more information, call 376-8708.

3 graduate from electronic principles course with perfect scores



From left, Airmen Basic Loney Felder and Blaine Russell and Airman 1st Class Robert Van Wyhe graduated from the electronic principles course in the 335th Training Squadron with perfect scores. Felder is from Harrisburg, N.C.; Russell is from Sainte Genevieve, Mo.; and Van Wyhe is from Fresno, Calif. They're headed to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas — Felder and Russell for F-22 avionic systems training and Van Wyhe for electronic warfare systems course.

Superintendent wins AETC's award for women's meritorious service

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Boothe is the recipient of Air Education and Training Command's 2011 Federally Employed Women Military Meritorious Service Award.

Boothe wears two hats — she's the superintendent for the 81st Training Wing staff agencies and the 81st Comptroller Squadron, overseeing programs for 300 personnel.

In her nomination package, wing leaders described Boothe as "an amazing leader, mentor, motivator, and extraordinary example for others to emulate. She is the bearer of the Air Forces standards as well as the enforcer of the institution's high ideals and core values."

"Chief Boothe's squadron has developed a reputation as one where women and minorities thrive and succeed due to the positive climate she helps to enforce," her nomination stated. "Her most endearing feature is her concern for the young Airmen entrusted to her care."

The chief demonstrated strong leadership skills to bridge the gap with other wing groups, consolidated redundant duties and aligned



Boothe

17 staff units into one cohesive team. She and the WSA first sergeant developed enlisted calls and a robust awards program that garnered 53 unit, six wing and three Air Force awards.

As finance superintendent, Boothe placed special emphasis on training opportunities for military and civilian members. When she identified a training deficiency within the finance team, she developed a detailed training plan which guided and instructed her Airmen with immediate results — travel voucher accuracy rates jumped from 76 to 97 percent, military pay pro-

cessing accuracy increased from 82 to 95 percent and rejects declined by 48 percent.

Last year, the chief earned her bachelor's degree in business management and has completed 14 semester hours towards her master's degree.

While stationed at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, Boothe launched a teen scholarship pageant and "big hat brunch" held annually during Women's History Month to empower young women, bring awareness to women in history, and other women issues by highlighting education, job opportunities, health issues and diversity issues for women. Since 2008, the program has raised over \$20,000 in scholarships for teens, and Boothe has remained a mentor to the program since returning to Keesler. Her mentorship and example resulted in 16 teens going to college and enlisting in the Air Force.

The chief spearheaded training for reservists in the 403rd Wing, served as a guest speaker for the 335th Training Squadron graduations and stepped in for the career field manager as a senior leadership mentor to the squadron superintendent's course.

Discount on gas next week

AAFES Public Affairs

DALLAS — In 1895, the War Department issued General Order 46 directing commanders to establish an exchange at every post. Since then, exchange associates worldwide have served alongside U.S. servicemembers guided by the motto, "We Go Where You Go."

Exactly 116 years later, the exchange is marking the occasion offering 16 cents off per gallon of gas July 25-27 when patrons use their Military Star Card or Rewards MasterCard.

The 16-cent-per-gallon discount is above

and beyond the everyday 5-cent a gallon savings Military Star® cardholders enjoy when filling up at the exchange.

"It is our way of saying thanks," said Col. Colice Powell, Army and Air Force Exchange Service acting chief of staff "If it were not for the warfighters of the United States military, the exchange would not be where it is today."

To apply for the Military Star® Card and Rewards Mastercard, log on to www.shopmyexchange.com and click the link to Exchange Credit Program.

IN THE NEWS

2nd Air Force change of command

Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog turns over command of 2nd Air Force to Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 10 a.m. today on the parade field.

Hertog will direct the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office. Her new duty title was previously reported incorrectly.

Patrick previously commanded the 502nd Air Base Wing at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Gate work affects base access

White Avenue Gate — is closed Friday while asphalt is being poured. The Meadows Drive and Pass Road Gates remain open. Saturday and Sunday, intermittent lane closures or traffic delays may be required while holes are drilled for the foundation for awnings at the guard shack.

Meadows Drive and Pass Road Gates — have intermittent lane closures, 7 a.m. Friday until 7 a.m. Monday while foundation work for the new guard shack awnings is done.

New logistics leader Tuesday

Lt. Col. Robert Hicks relinquishes command of the 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron to Lt. Col. Stephen Wier, 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Hicks took command of the 81st LRS in July 2009 and is leaving Keesler to be chief of the logistics operations division at Fort Eustis, Va.

Wier comes to Keesler from Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. where he's commander of the 460th LRS and deputy commander of the 460th Mission Support Group.

DBIDS registration extended

Registration for the Defense Biometric Identification has been extended to July 31.

Anyone who hasn't been registered is being directed to the visitor center when entering the base.

Wing quarterly awards

The 81st Training Wing quarterly awards luncheon is 11 a.m. Aug. 2 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

To attend, contact group representatives:

81st Mission Support Group — Master Sgt. Chad Chapman.

81st TRW staff agencies — Master Sgt. James Gross.

81st Training Group — Staff Sgts. Anthony Bell and Kwadwo Agyenfremping.

81st Medical Group — Master Sgt. Rafael Pacheco.

Death notification

With great regret, the commander of the 81st Training Wing announces the death of Capt. Jennifer Gayle, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Anyone having claims for or against Gayle's estate, call the summary court officer, 376-3785.

Dragons deployed — 243

NCO retraining dates announced

By Jon Hansen

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

Nearly 900 Airmen have the opportunity to retrain as part of the fiscal 2012 NCO Retraining Program which began July 13.

"Based on extensive current and out-year analyses to develop sustainment requirements for each AFSC, the Air Staff determined approximately 868 opportunities for retraining into shortage AFSCs and special duty identifiers such as military training instructor, military training leader, recruiter or postal duty will be available for fiscal 2012," said Gary Schafer, Keesler's military personnel section chief.

The NCORP program consists of two phases designed to sustain the enlisted force by moving second-term and career Airmen from overage Air Force Specialty Codes to shortage AFSCs.

"Last year we made a major change in how NCORP was executed; in the past it was two very distinct phases, with each phase requiring two different announcement messages," said Senior Master Sgt. Deron Warman, superintendent of enlisted skills management at the Air

Force Personnel Center. "Fiscal 2011 was executed with one message and ran consecutively for the first time in program history.

"Fiscal 2012 will follow the same pattern due to the success we had last year," Sergeant Warman said. "No additional announcements will be made concerning NCORP during Phase I or Phase II."

Another major change is the listing of restricted and unrestricted Air Force specialties in each phase. Different suspenses are set for each and Air Force members need to read the announcement message in its entirety to determine their specific timeline for voluntary and mandatory retraining.

Officials noted 30 Air Force specialties have retraining-out requirements which is an increase from the 25 seen in the prior year program. Six of the specialties for fiscal 2012 have retraining-in restrictions requiring retraining into specific areas while all other Airmen identified for NCORP can volunteer during Phase I for AFSCs meeting AFSC and grade requirements as defined under NCORP. Full details can be found in the fiscal 2012 NCORP announcement message.

Phase I ends for those in

restricted Air Force specialties Aug. 6 and those in unrestricted specialties Sept. 16. Phase II, if necessary, will start immediately following Phase I. Airmen who are required to retrain in Phase II will receive an AFSC based on Air Force needs or based on restrictions as noted in the announcement message. Those in Phase II can expect to receive a training allocation notice no later than 10 days from the ending of Phase I.

Airmen can find the master vulnerability list on the Virtual Military Personnel Flight at <https://w20.afpc.randolph.af.mil/AFPCSecureNet20/CheckPortal.aspx>. The list is updated every Wednesday at 3 p.m. Central Time.

For more information, including a list of NCORP frequently asked questions, log on to the Air Force personnel services Web site at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil> under "enlisted" and then "retraining."

At Keesler, Airmen can call the MPS career development element, 376-8385, 8379 or 8353, or the Total Force Service Center, 1-800-525-0102.

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

This week's movies at Welch Theater

Friday — 6:30 p.m., X-Men First Class (PG-13).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Judy Moody and the Not So Bummer Summer (PG); 6:30 p.m., free screening of an unnamed new release movie, with tickets available at exchange food court. Seating open to non-ticket holders at 6 p.m.

Sunday — 1 p.m., Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG).

PERSONNEL NOTES

Transition assistance classes

81st Force Support Squadron

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

For more information or to preregister for classes, call 376-8728. **Mandatory pre-separation briefings** — 1 p.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 2:30 for retirees, Room 110. Bring one copy of separation or retirement orders. This appointment is required by law, and must be accomplished 90 calendar days before the separation or retirement date. For short-notice separations or retirements, the briefing should be done as soon as possible. Medical separation must receive a one-on-one briefing.

Transition assistance program workshops — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 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, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A.

Retirement briefings — 1-3:30 p.m. today, 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.

Training for new supervisors

Three mandatory supervisory training courses for newly-selected supervisors must be completed within six months of assuming a supervisory role.

The Air Force Supervisor's Course provides civilian supervisors with leadership and management skills required in supervisory positions.

The Civilian Personnel Management Course must be taken by all civilian and military supervisors who manage civilians. This course provides background information and an understanding of applicable civilian personnel laws and regulations needed to carry out civilian personnel management responsibilities.

The Military Personnel Management Course provides civilian supervisors of military members the basic skills, knowledge and abilities required to supervise enlisted and officer personnel.

Personnel requiring these courses can register online through the Air Force Human Resource Management School's virtual campus at <https://www.my.af.mil/afknprod/community/views/home.aspx?Filter=AF-ED-00-38>. Periodic reports will be provided by Air Staff and major commands identifying supervisory completion, so supervisors should complete the required courses in a timely manner.

For more information, call 376-8161 or 8154.

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.

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.

Security forces begin 148-mile ruck march to Ground Zero

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

Lackland and Keesler Public Affairs

After Tuesday's change of command ceremony for the 81st Security Forces Squadron concluded, nine of Keesler's force defenders embarked on a journey to march 148 miles to honor some of America's fallen heroes.

"Security forces units from around the country are conducting a ruck march to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and to pay tribute to fellow 'defenders' who have fallen by enemy hands since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom," according to Master Sgt. Daniel Fuentes Sr., Keesler's team leader.

Marching with Fuentes are eight other 81st SFS members who've been deployed to Southwest Asia — Master Sgt. Michael Asdel; Staff Sgts. Austin Sutton and Nicholas and Shannon Tessmer; Senior Airmen Chelsie McCall and Christopher Hernandez and Airmen 1st Class Anthony Wilson and Brian Fossum.

Members of the Joint Base San Antonio security forces community began the first of 15 legs of the 2,181-mile ruck march July 12 at the Air Force Security Forces Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and handed off to security forces from Barksdale AFB, La., in LaGrange, Texas, Saturday.

Keesler's team picked up the march Wednesday and proceeds to Alexandria, La., to pass the guidon to Airmen from Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., at noon Sunday. The Keesler team is based in Jasper, Texas, as the march progresses along U.S. Highway 190. The squad has been preparing for the challenge for several months with 8 to 9-mile training marches several times a week.

"While training, we've learned a lot about staying hydrated and how to keep our feet healthy by taping and wearing socks correctly," Fuentes pointed out.

The march proceeds through Shanksville, Pa., before terminating in New York City at "Ground Zero" in time for the 10th anniversary ceremony Sept. 11.

With Airmen carrying heavy ruck sacks and marching in temperatures near 100 degrees with high humidity, precautions by calling for rotating shifts, staying well hydrated and traveling with escort vehicles for safety and emergencies.

Fuentes said as each team completes its leg of the march, a streamer with the base's name is attached to the "Defensor Fortis" flag representing Air Force security forces and mirroring the beret flash they wear.

The "Ruck March to Remember" originated in late 2010.

Maj. Jim Alves, 4th SFS commander at Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., suggested the march after reading about how combat controllers and pararescuemen walked 800-plus miles from Lackland to Hurlburt Field, Fla., in honor of



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Staff Sgt. Nicholas Tessmer, 81st SFS, stuffs his camel back into his ruck sack along with a sandbag to help him get used to the weight during a training march June 7.

fallen special-tactics Airmen.

Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Broughman, overall march coordinator from the 4th SFS, said the march is a time security forces to reflection on how Sept. 11 changed their career field, their lives and a nation.

"We're doing it to reflect on the time we've been away from our loved ones due to deployments, the effects those deployments have had on each person, and ultimately to remember the defenders who lost their lives by enemy hands since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom," Broughman said.

Since 9/11, 10 security forces Airmen have been killed and more than 100 have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan combat operations.

Other participating bases are Tyndall AFB, Fla.; Moody and Robins AFBs, Ga.; Pope AFB, N.C.; Langley AFB, Va.; Andrews AFB, Md.; Dover AFB, Del.; Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.; and the New York Air National Guard.

To follow the progress of the march, check out the Security Forces 9/11 Ruck March to Remember page on Facebook.

Mike Joseph, 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.

Leaner 81st CS still keeps base communicating

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Where would Admiral James T. Kirk be without Spock? Still marooned on Ceti Alpha V? What would James Bond be without Q's ingenious gadgetry? And do you really think you'd be able to so easily share your precious photos of Junior with Memaw in Tulsa if it wasn't for the backend wizardry of Alan Cooper's Visual Basic programming language and graphical user interface and the Dartmouth professors, John Kemeny and Thomas Kurtz who forged the way in 1964 with BASIC? Please. You'd still be plunking out go-to statements in MS-DOS.

"We make the magic happen," exclaimed Rodney McGruder, network infrastructure lead. The 81st Communications Squadron is the brains behind the brawn of Keesler's mission, the fluid that keeps the synapses firing. To put it another way, if Keesler's mission were to make candy, the 81st Communications Squadron would be the nerve center to the entire Wonka factory.

Working through the challenges of a recent military-to-civilian conversion and a migration to a more centralized Air Force network, the 81st CS continues to keep the base communicating with one another. Whether it's person to person, person to plane, plane to computer, computer to computer or loudspeaker to everyone, the 81st CS keeps the base talking and listening.

"I think more than any other squadron on base, the 81st CS touches everyone. We're a lot bigger than people think," said Jack Parnell, installation spectrum manager. "Whether you're sending an e-mail or making a phone call, someone in the 81st CS had something to do with it."

And these days, the 81st CS is doing what they do with

a lot less people. Three years ago, the 81st CS was to take part in an Office of Management and Budget A-76 study, which is designed to determine the most efficient way of performing its mission.

The 81st CS was a primarily military organization with more than 200 personnel, a mix of mostly active duty and then civilians. The Most Efficient Organization structure was to determine the impact of employing a smaller, mostly civilian personnel. But the study was cancelled and the 81st CS converted abruptly from a military to civilian organization. Now, the 81st CS is manned by 90 civilians and only 24 military enlisted personnel.

"A benefit that this conversion brings is the greater continuity that civilians provide because they're here longer and we don't have to keep retraining," said John McKinley, the first civilian director for the 81st CS, rather than a military squadron commander. "But a lot of these benefits have yet to be realized because many of us are still fairly new to the job."

With recent civilian hiring controls, the squadron is a little short staffed right now said McKinley. Regardless, the 81st CS continues to operate the navigational, meteorological and communication equipment that Keesler pilots rely on to fly planes. They manage the records and Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act requests, forms, publications, SharePoint, portal content and hardware tracking. They maintain all the phones, wireless devices, radios, routers, switches and the cables, fiber optics and airwaves that transmit base communications. When something goes wrong with your office computer equipment, they deliver the manpower to troubleshoot those problems. They even deliver the mail.

Please see **81st CS**, Page 15

Communication points to remember

Memorize this number – DSN 510-HELPDESK (4357-3375). This is the new Enterprise Service Desk computer support line. For all computer-related issues, use this number as your first line of support.

Get the 81st CS involved early in communications projects. From software needs to new construction, the earlier they're involved in the process, the better results you'll have in the end.

Get to know your information assurance officer. You'll need their support for communication requests such as file permissions, user account requests and security group updates.

Remember not to move communications equipment such as computer systems, telephones and printers without proper coordination with the 81st CS.

Don't plug unauthorized USB devices into your government system. This includes not using the USB port to charge your gov-

ernment or personal cell phones. Don't plug your iPod or similar devices into your government computer system to listen to music.

Log off your computer when leaving for extended periods of time or at the end of each day so security updates and required software patches can be applied without interrupting your work.

Conserve energy by turning off peripheral devices such as monitors, speakers, printers and external hard drives when you're not using them.

File official records, both paper and electronic, in accordance with current Air Force guidance. See your functional area records manager if you're not familiar with the guidance.

Pay attention to both sets of warning lights along Ploesti Drive north of the runway. Driving through the lights affects navigation systems.

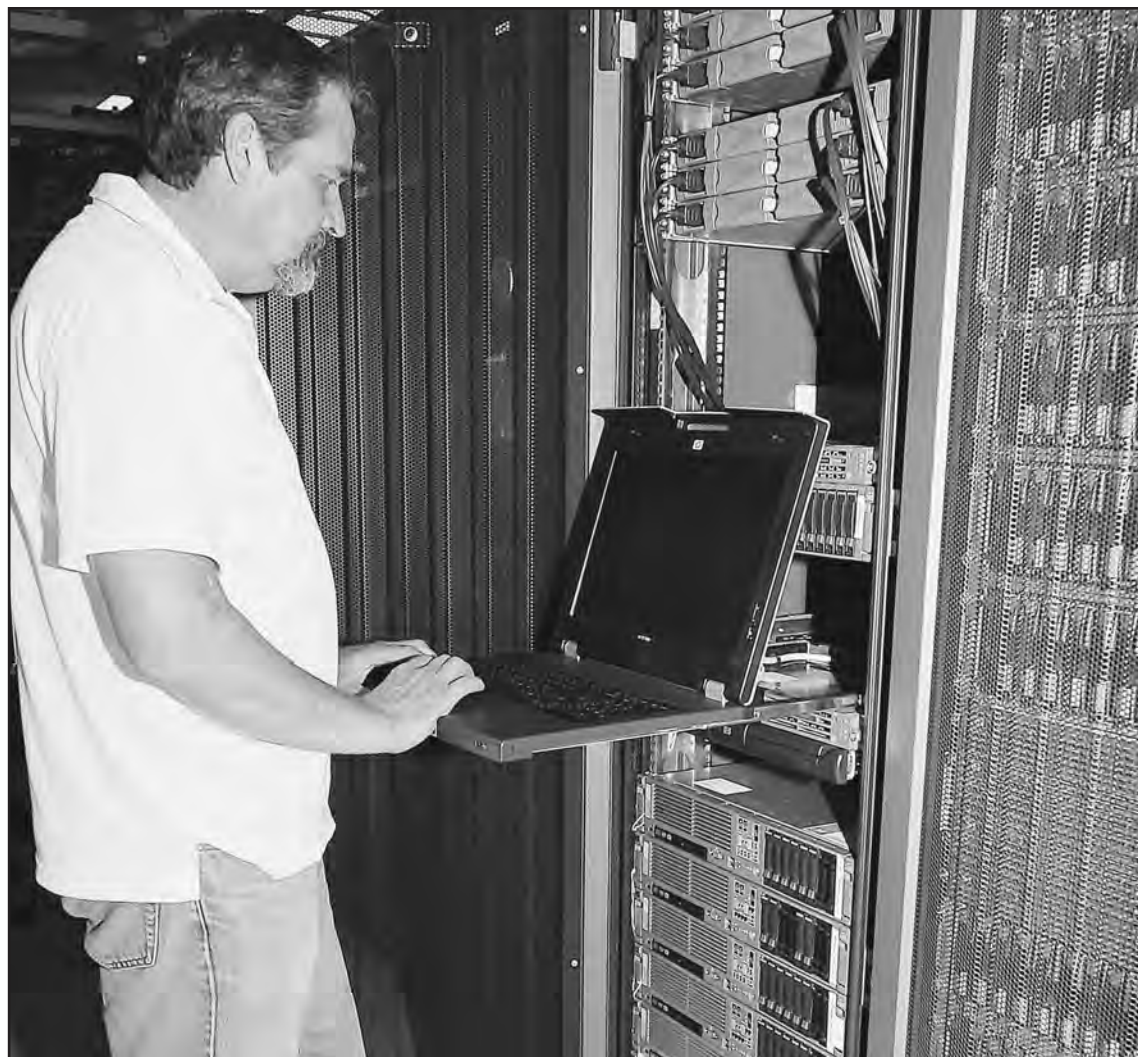


Photo by Kemberly Groue
Network operations technician Jeff May dials into one of the servers to perform routine maintenance on the nonsecure Internet protocol router network floor.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Senior Airman Chelsey Brown, client systems technician, troubleshoots a problem with a computer by checking cable connections inside the central processing unit.

81st CS, from Page 14

And then there are the network drives and the billions of bytes of information that must be authorized, protected, updated and available when Team Keesler needs it — from the most sensitive, like the latest cyber warfare tactics, to the least, like the photo of the first sergeant dressed like Ebenezer Scrooge at your squadron holiday party from 1995.

In 2009, Keesler was the very first base to migrate to the Air Force's new centralized Air Force Network where all e-mail, Internet and network traffic is managed from a centralized location off base. Greater security, standardization, stability and cost savings by lessening manpower and service redundancies are the goals of this move.

But when the glitch happens and you need the tender loving touch of the 81st CS, their hands are often tied. However, they can still be a strong advocate and champion of your network issues. And if the problem resides in the hardware on top or under your desk, they are able to send computer support technicians to fix those problems.

“As the Air Force matures in its centralization process and gets the manpower and money to support the bases, these efficiencies will start to be realized,” said Julie Noakley, operations flight chief. “But this process is still in its infancy and there are some growing pains to go through.”

“If base users retain nothing else, please get us involved early on any project,” McKinley emphasized. “The 81st CS is here to support Keesler so let us help you.”



Photo by Kemberly Groue

At left, Winston Downing, 11, marks every quarter mile along the I-81 track while Harrison Wright, 13, paints the mile markers. Winston's parents are Col. Glen and Vicki Downing, 81st Training Wing vice commander.

Eagle Scout hopeful leads troop to mark miles on Keesler tracks

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Harrison Wright has taken big steps forward — literally — toward earning his Eagle Scout award with a project to mark the miles on Keesler's tracks for the convenience of Keesler's runners and walkers.

The 13-year-old son of Lt. Col. Jonathan and Lisa Wright often runs the I-81 track from their home in Bay Ridge, which gave him the inspiration for the undertaking.

His dad, 81st Mission Support Group deputy commander, put him in touch with officials in the 81st Force Support Squadron to launch the work. He had two meetings with Keesler's fitness staff before walking I-81 and the Triangle and Crotwell tracks and doing conversions for the miles to ensure markings would be accurate.

"Blake Fitness Center supplied the paint, stencils and

supplies for the project, and I supplied food and drinks for the members of my troop that helped," Harrison said.

Eight members of Troop 250 that meets at Beauvoir Methodist Church in Biloxi pitched in to help during the two-day effort, along with Harrison's dad and scoutmaster Chuck Uren.

Each of the three tracks is now marked in ¼-mile increments.

"I've learned a lot about planning a project, organizing my crew and keeping them motivated," Harrison explained.

"The response has been very positive," he continued. "Many people use these routes on a daily basis. Now they know how far they have gone. Before it was a guessing game to a point."

Harrison, who moved to Keesler a year ago, also includes brother AJ, 9, and sister Madison, 4.

"My family has really enjoyed living here in base housing and living in this area," Harrison said. "I wanted to give something back to the base."

Harrison has been involved with Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts for eight years. He will be a freshman at Biloxi High School this fall and hopes to complete his Eagle Scout requirements during the upcoming school year.

"I have three merit badges left to earn," he pointed out. "I'll keep doing community service hours, apply for the Eagle Scout merit badge, fill out paperwork on my project and have a board of review from my troop's district representative."

Harrison's favorite subjects are math, science and band, where he plays the trumpet. He hopes to attend the Air Force Academy with a goal of becoming a pilot, astronaut and scientist.

Sports physicals

The 81st Medical Operations Squadron's pediatric clinic conducts school and sports physicals, 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 concerns require a separate appointment. Parents should bring any immunization records and any school physical forms to the appointment.

Generic physical forms are available at the pediatric clinic front desk, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. before July 23.

Immigration outreach

From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today, a representative from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is in the base legal office in Sablich Center to address concerns or questions regarding immigration issues.

Capt. Craig Dunham, assistant staff judge advocate, said information is available about legal permanent residence, naturalization and other citizenship questions, petitions for alien relatives, undocumented spouses of military members and other immigration topics.

Bring any paperwork to your appointment that pertains to your case.

Other sessions are planned at 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sept. 15, Nov. 17 and Jan. 19.

The USCIS website is www.uscis.gov.

For appointments, call 376-8601.

Housing office closed

The housing office, including community housing, is closed Tuesday and Wednesday for training.

Seafood roadshow

July 29-31, a seafood roadshow takes place at the Keesler Commissary.

The event teams the commissary with local small veteran-owned businesses to promote seafood products and values. Special savings on Gulf shrimp, catfish and crawfish are offered.

The event features music, raf-

fles, recipes, balloons and more.

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.

Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to noon non-training Fridays and the last Saturday of the month.

For more information, call 209-1390 or 377-3814.

Thrift shop closed

The Keesler Thrift Shop reopens Aug. 1.

For donations and pickups, call 377-3217.

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

Speakers bureau

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

The Keesler Speakers Bureau is a community relations program developed as a public service and information vehicle. It's comprised of military and civilian Air Force employees who volunteer their time and information to speak to community groups.

Speakers come from a variety of experiences and backgrounds that offer a variety of presentations.

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

Phone requirements

Only voice systems maintenance personnel assigned to the 81st Communications Squadron are authorized to install, relocate, modify or remove voice instruments and services.

To make changes, submit a request through your unit telephone control officer.

For more information, call 376-8127.

Visitor center hours

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

Airman and family readiness center

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

Today — 8-11 a.m., Veterans Administration benefits briefing. 1-4 p.m., retirement benefits briefing. 1-4:30 p.m., smooth move; advice on how to make relocation easier for you and your dependents.

Wednesday — 7 a.m. to noon, newcomers orientation. 9-11 a.m., survivors benefit briefing for single and married members and their spouses.

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.

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

Auto hobby shop

Friday — between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., vehicle maintenance training. Certified mechanics provide basic training including fluid checks and oil and tire changing, \$10 charge.

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. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Today — 5-8 p.m., Mongolian barbecue; performance by Gabriel, the hypnotist. 95 cents per ounce Air Force Club members, \$1.10 per ounce nonmembers. 6 p.m. show time; admission included in dinner price. Show only; \$5, adults; \$3, ages 4-12; ages 3 and younger, free. Proceeds benefit youth center Keystone Club. Sponsors Allen Toyota, Forest City and Harris Jewelry.

Friday — 5-11 p.m., Texas hold'em tournament. \$1,050 in chips to each player. Free for Air Force Club members, \$5 for nonmembers. Must be 21 or older to participate. Call to reserve a seat. Sponsored by Budweiser-Responsibility Matters and Forest City.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-3832.

Saturday — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., demo day. Product line demonstrations from Adams, Callaway, Cleveland and Srixon vendors.

Tuesday-July 28 — youth golf camp, 8-10 a.m., ages 6-9; 10 a.m. to noon, ages 10-14. \$40 per child.

Child development center

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-2211. Fee based on family income.

Through Oct. 1 — open enrollment for kindergarten transition program for 4-year-olds.

Through Oct. 1 — open enrollment for preschool part day program. Morning and afternoon sessions.

Fitness centers

Editor's note: Triangle Fitness Center is being renovated; the men's restroom/locker room is temporarily closed. Portable showers are available.

Through July 28 — intramural flag football sign-up. Contact unit sports representatives.

Gaudé Lanes

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

Sunday — family day. Two hours of bowling, shoes, large pizza and pitcher of soda or tea, \$35.

Through Aug. 4 — intramural bowling league sign; contact unit sports representative.

McBride Library

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

Today and Tuesday — 10-11 a.m., "A Midsummer Knight's Read." Tech. Sgt. Christopher Litton, 81st Communications Squadron is speaker.

July 28 — 1-3 p.m., medieval faire at Vandenberg Community Center. Games, competitions, crafts and medieval cuisine.

Outdoor recreation

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

Friday and Sunday — Gulf barrier island fishing trips aboard the Dolphin II. \$100 per person, fishing gear included; 14-22 people. No fishing license required.

Swimming pools

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3948 or 3568. 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 and outdoor recreation.

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.

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-Saturday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., late night dances. \$3; nonprior service students only.

Friday — noon to 3 p.m., strut your mutt. Bring your dog for free pampering, parading, contests and prizes. Sponsored by Powers K9 Dog Training, Penny's Pampered Pets, Two Dogs Dancing and Forest City.

July 28 — 1-3 p.m., medieval faire hosted by McBride Library.

Youth center

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

Monday-July 29 — Missoula Children's Theatre camp, grades 1-12. Free to participate. Visit <http://www.keesler81fss.us/YC.html> for audition, rehearsal and performance information.

Dragon Wagon

Thursday-Sunday — catch a ride to base "hot spots" for 50 cents, \$10 monthly passes available at Gaudé Lanes and Legends Café; Air Force Club members ride free. For route and schedule, visit <http://www.keesler81fss.us>.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Drought-busting downpour washes out soccer games

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 8½ inches of rain that fell on Keesler Monday was a welcome respite from this summer's drought, but it postponed three West Division matches for the base's intramural soccer league.

Intramural sports director Sam Miller announced that the 338th Training Squadron's A-team was withdrawing from this season's lineup and will join forces with the squadron's B-team in the East Division. Both divisions now have five teams.

In the West Division, the A-teams from the 336th, 334th and 333rd TRS posted wins in their first games July 13. The 336th TRS-A beat the 335th TRS, 5-4; the 333rd TRS-A defeated the Marine Corps Detachment, 2-1; and the 334th TRS-A won over the 338th TRS-A, 4-3.

In the East Division, the 338th TRS-A team won its only game so far, 2-1, over the 334th TRS-B team July 14. In the other game that evening, the 333rd TRS-B earned a victory over the 81st Medical Operations Squadron, 2-1. July 12, the 334th TRS-B trounced the 333rd TRS-B, 6-0, and the 81st MDOS topped the 336th TRS-B, 3-2.

The West Division plays Mondays and Wednesdays and the East Division plays Tues-



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Justin Ross, left, 338th TRS-A, moves in to block Jordan Giswold, 334th TRS-B, during an East Division contest July 14. The 338th TRS Dark Knights defeated the 334th TRS Gators, 2-1. However, the 338th TRS-A team left the East Division to join forces with the squadron's B-team for the rest of the season.

days and Thursdays, 6 and 7 p.m. on the multipurpose fields on Meadows Drive.

For more information, call 377-2444.

Keep safety
in mind
at work and play.

Mini-triathlon set for Sept. 10

Keesler's mini-triathlon is 8 a.m. Sept. 10 at the Triangle Pool.

Swimming, biking and running events are planned.

For more information, call the health and wellness center, 376-3171.

Tennis buffs anticipate court improvements

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler tennis enthusiasts can look forward to spruced-up courts on Meadows Drive soon.

“We’re resurfacing all but four of the courts, replacing the fencing and putting up

new shade canopies over the bleachers,” said Maj. John Ponton, new commander of the 81st Force Support Squadron, about the \$268,000 project.

“The courts have been in rough shape for a few years, so these repairs will provide our base population improved

tennis facilities and expand recreational programming for both adults and children,” deputy commander John Thurmon explained.

For the past few years, the Air Force has asked bases to submit fitness enhancement projects for funding.

“We’ve been fortunate the last three years to get a project each year,” Thurmon reported. “We’ve repaired the restrooms and locker rooms in the Blake Fitness Center and recently received funding for repair of the restrooms and locker rooms at the Triangle and Dragon Fitness Centers and those projects are almost complete.”

“We’ve just received notification that we’ll get money to repair I-81,” Thurmon added.



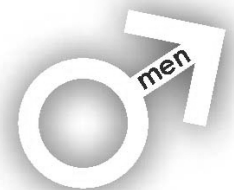
Photo by Kemberly Groue
Laborer Zack Bates, left, and project supervisor Billy Spiers from Industrial Environmental Management of Poplarville, Miss., sand the poles surrounding the tennis courts on Meadows Drive for repainting July 19.

Heart Attack Symptoms

Men and women may experience some common symptoms, but there are differences.



- Nausea/vomiting
- Jaw pain
- Back pain



- Chest discomfort
- Arm pain
- Shortness of breath