



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

JULY 28, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 29



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Stereotypical Airmen — defining ourselves

By Lt. Col. Chris Callaghan

71st Operations Support Squadron commander

VANCE Air Force Base, Okla. — When we hear the word “stereotype,” we tend to attach negative connotations to it. After a conversation I had a few months ago, that word changed for me.

In late March, my wife Kelly and I attended a course at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, as part of our preparation for squadron command. The course was a week long, and on the last day, we attended a basic military training graduation at Lackland AFB, Texas.

Following the graduation, we had lunch with trainees who were just one week from graduation themselves.

We ate with a female trainee from southern California. She didn’t have her assignment yet, but wanted to be in either air traffic control or acquisitions. I, of course, encouraged her to

become an air traffic controller and join us here at Vance.

We talked about why she joined the Air Force. She didn’t run through a variety of great reasons many of us have for joining: service, patriotism, opportunities, education or experience. Instead, she told us that she joined the Air Force because she wanted to be “stereotyped as an Airman.”

She explained that in her hometown of Compton, Calif., there are stereotypes and expectations that seem to go along with whether you are male or female, your national origin and what part of town you are from.

As she learned about the Air Force, it became apparent to her that, as an Airman, none of that “stuff” mattered. What does matter is our mission, our commitment, our professionalism, the core values by which we live, and the freedoms and ideals we defend.

This explanation by an 18-year-old Airman about to join our ranks absolutely floored my wife and me, and has had us talking about it ever since. There is a lot we can take away from what this Airman said.

First, it reinforces that our reputation as the world’s most dominant and most respected air, space and cyber-space force reaches far and wide.

Second, it tells us that our reputation is based on our people who serve something greater than themselves.

Third, it should convey to all of us that the impression we make on others translates into a calling for many to serve our country.

Her words reflect the trust and confidence that the American people have in us, and how important that trust is in defining us as Airmen and defining what we stand for.

By joining the Air Force, that young

woman from southern California earned the label of “Airman” in the hopes of being stereotyped with us, her fellow Airmen, for the integrity, service and excellence for which we are known. When she goes home to Compton, wearing her uniform, she will return mostly as the girl they all knew, but she will also be the Airman she has become.

She won’t fit the stereotype someone else had for her; she will have changed in their eyes. By deciding to serve and put on the uniform of her country, that Airman has become something far greater than the superficial expectation someone used to have for her.

When I think of the American dream, I think of Airmen like her who are living it. To me, being considered by others as a stereotypical Airman is a tremendous honor. That’s a label we should strive to attain every day.

Resilience rooted in caring for others

By Paula Tracy

Family advocacy program manager

Over my 24-plus years in government service, I’ve been exposed to many diverse career opportunities: active duty Army social work officer, oncology and renal clinic support, outpatient mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, healing of trauma survivors, family advocacy intervention, prevention and outreach, corrections, sexual assault prevention and response, and the development and delivery of programs designed to promote individual and family resilience. I’ve also held a variety of part-time clinical positions, including school- and home-based child therapy, private practice, providing mental health services to inmates in a maximum security women’s prison, and — for the last seven years — working with the terminally ill in a nursing home setting.

Each assignment has been professionally illuminating and personally rewarding. And every single one of them has taught me powerful lessons about the tensile strength of the human spirit — lessons I simply never could have learned in any other way.

It’s always been tough to convey to others why I love the work I do. I recall attempting in the past by explaining about the 3-year-old with terminal cancer who begged me to ensure her mommy and daddy would be all right because, after all, she had “seen an angel” and she was “going to be just fine!” Or about the hundreds upon hundreds of childhood trauma survivors I’ve known through the years that have made that conscious, albeit extremely tough decision, to bravely face their

pasts and claim their futures. Or the nursing home resident who, when faced with his imminent mortality, conducted an unflinching, agonizing life review with me. These explanations are sometimes met with blank stares.

In my daily work, people frequently share their life stories of pain with me. And what amazes me each time is that, so often when they have finished, they thank me. This always surprises me because I truly, deeply believe the honor is mine. You see, when a person makes a choice to share the insight, wisdom, maturity and understanding born of pain and loss, it’s a gift above all others. Even more, what I’ve really offered them is the one basic thing we all need and desire — simple human caring. But get this: the more I care for people and the more I give of myself, the stronger I become. It’s pretty nifty how it works. And this is what I struggle to relate to others to help them understand.

Early one recent evening, I was working out in one of our base fitness facilities. There happened to be a gentleman there with whom I have often exchanged a friendly greeting, and as I was finishing up the last few minutes of my cardio, he stopped for a quick chat. He explained that he was waiting on one of his best friends, a dear friend since the 1980s. He characterized their friendship as a brotherhood, leading us to a discussion about the true meaning of friendship and the preciousness of human connection. As we talked, he went on to share specific, character-molding life experiences: an abusive childhood, witnessing the tragic, sudden death of his mother, an assortment of life-threaten-

ing health issues. What I found to be interesting was the absolute absence of self-pity; instead, he focused on those things that had carried him through the difficult times. His face was positively glowing as he emphasized strong, nurturing friendships, spirituality — that faith in a higher power — working out, eating right and caring for others.

And I realized then that I had met someone who fully understood one of the “secrets” behind resilience: investing in other people.

I absolutely agree with him. I believe it is at the very core of resilience — why in family advocacy we can maintain effectiveness despite difficult and stressful caseloads, how I can continuously share the life reviews of nursing home residents and feel fortunate for having done so, the reason the sexual assault prevention and response folks can daily oversee the myriad needs of their clients. Excellent self-care skills, a strong spiritual base — these things are critical — but when it comes to continuously refueling that ... passion, that internal desire to serve others ... I’m certain it comes down to simple human caring — loving others and looking outside oneself.

So take a look around. There are Airmen on this installation right now who are hurting, lonely, confused or feeling invisible. You have a tremendous amount of power to make a positive difference in a person’s life by offering a smile, eye contact, a word of encouragement, the offer of support or a quiet, listening ear. You might be the person who will be remembered for the rest of someone’s life because of a simple, kind act. It’s quite easy. It’s fun. It might start a positive trend. And the coolest part? It’s **good** for you.

ON THE COVER

From left, Gen. Edward Rice Jr., Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick and Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog applaud the team that planned Thursday's 2nd Air Force change of command ceremony July 21 at Keesler. Rice is commander of Air Education and Training Command, Patrick is the incoming 2nd Air Force commander and Hertog is the outgoing commander. Patrick previously commanded the 502nd Air Base Wing at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Hertog is headed to the Pentagon to direct the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office. More photos, Page 4.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



KEESLER NEWS

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DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

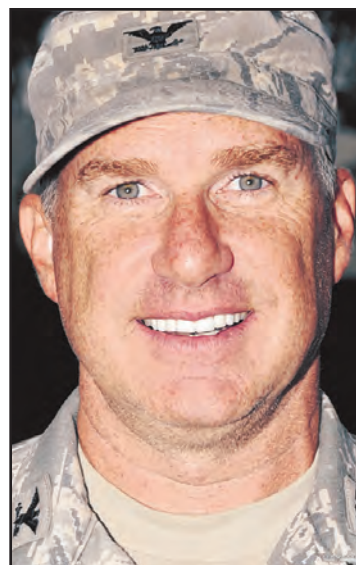
Keesler News photojournalist

What
severe weather
concerns you
the most?



"Hurricanes — I was pregnant during Hurricane Katrina."

Brittane Womble, CSC



"Tornados — they come unexpectedly and can be devastating."

Col. William Boleman,
81st Medical Operations
Squadron



"Tornados."

Sgt. Robert Perkins,
Keesler Marine Corps
Detachment

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Patrick takes command of 2nd Air Force



From left, Lynn and Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, the new 2nd Air Force commander, meets one of his new staff members, Tech. Sgt. Tanya Boyd, during a reception at the Bay Breeze Event Center following the change of command ceremony July 21 at Keesler.



Patrick speaks to the audience following the ceremony. Patrick previously commanded the 502nd Air Base Wing at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.



Gen. Edward Rice Jr., left, commander of Air Education and Training Command, presents the Distinguished Service Medal to Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, outgoing commander of 2nd Air Force. Hertog is headed to the Pentagon to direct the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.



Parade officers from the 81st Training Group come to the center of the parade field to salute the commander of troops at the ceremony.

Photos by Kemberly Groue

Junior ROTC cadets develop leadership skills at annual camp



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Col. Lynn Connett, left, 81st Training Group commander, salutes Junior ROTC cadets during a pass in review parade Friday on the parade field that ended a week-long encampment hosted annually by Biloxi High School's Junior ROTC program. The event trained about 140 cadets from 19 high schools in a six-state area in leadership skills.



Junior ROTC cadets perform a team-building exercise by forming a four-person pushup team July 21 at the Mathies NCO Academy. All four team members do pushups at the same time as other members of Raptor Flight cheer them on. NCO academy instructors and other Keesler personnel presented the seminars with a primary focus on leadership.

Mentorship, high standards fuel MTLs' passion

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Who would voluntarily sign up to have their life constantly scrutinized, looked at as an example, to open their lives up to the problems, concerns, fears of others. To bear the burden and responsibility of mentoring, leading and shaping potential future leaders? A military training leader would, that's who.

The textbook definition of a military training leader is an Airman who enforces military training that adapts nonprior service Airmen to military life and provides the Air Force with highly-trained, highly-motivated, self-disciplined and physically-fit Airmen with exceptional military bearing and whose behavior is consistent with the standards, core values and attitudes of the Air Force.

"We want people who are passionate," explained Tech. Sgt. Julie Hammond, 81st Training Group, when describing the role of a military training leader. "Those are the ones who will do the best job and help their Airmen out the most."

The job of a military training leader is voluntary. It's something MTLs want to do. Call them what you will — in the '80s they were known as student training advisors then military training managers in the '90s.

"Air Force leadership determined they didn't need Airmen to be 'managed'," said Master Sgt. Anthony Fisher, superintendent of military training. "They need to be led. So they adopted the military training leader that we have today."

Their job has always been to provide the operational Air Force with ready Airmen. But the philosophy on just exactly how best to do that has evolved over the years.

"When I was an Airman in the 338th Training Squadron 12 years ago, our military training managers were not very available to us," said Hammond. "They took a more directive



Photos by Kemberly Groue
From left, Staff Sgt. Lamar Gardner, 334th Training Squadron; Airman Basic Colby Cox, 336th TRS; Staff Sgt. Jennifer Hamilton, 81st TRG; Airman Basic Bryar Cole, 336th TRS; Hammond; Airman 1st Class Shawn Scott, 334th TRS; Tech. Sgt. Terrance Boyd, 336th TRS; Airman 1st Class Megan Lima, 338th TRS; and Tech. Sgt. Steven Clinton, 81st TRG, stand at the flagpole in front of the Levitow Training Support Facility. Gardner, Hamilton, Hammond, Boyd and Clinton are military training leaders and Cox, Cole, Scott and Lima are students.

approach like the military training instructors do at Lackland (Air Force Base, Texas) in basic military training. There was no mentoring. Everything was 'Do this because I said so.' I knew back then that I wanted to do this job and do it better and be available to my Airmen to help them, give them career advice and to set them up for success."

Military training leaders put the 'why?' behind what Airmen learned in basic military training at Lackland. There's more time for mentoring during technical training school.

"Basic military training is very structured," explained Fisher. "But here, when we make a correction, we have the opportunity to sit down with an Airman and say this is why we do this, this is why we wear the uniform this way — doing it this way as opposed to that way is what's going to set you up in the operational Air Force. We reinforce standards, but we also are providing good

mentorship."

Becoming a military training leader is also an excellent way to begin honing leadership and counseling skills, Fisher said. For those with aspirations of becoming a first sergeant, the job of military training leader is closely associated with what they do.

The decision to become a military training leader is also a decision to perform at a higher standard.

"It's like living in a fish-bowl," said Fisher. "Setting the example is tough. Everywhere you go you're being watched, you're being looked to for what is right and wrong,

proper and improper. The expectations are higher and anyone who signs up to do this welcomes that."

"When you get accepted, you don't fully know how much is going to be expected of you," said Hammond. "You don't go home at night and think, 'I'm good I'm free' — you're still working in your mind, still thinking about what you're going to do or what you should have said to this or that Airman."

Before earning the right to wear the blue aiguillette around the left shoulder, an MTL must be a senior airman, staff sergeant or technical sergeant with excellent military records and performance reports, among other qualifications. Upon completion of military training school, an MTL is certified and assigned to a squadron.

They become leaders and mentors to the airmen in their squadron. They organize and train Airmen for drill down competitions, they coordinate physical training, distinguished visitor tours, wing retreats and change of command ceremonies. They are responsible for personnel and room inspections and enforce proper behavior becoming of an Airman. And they do most of this not by telling Airmen what to do, but by showing.



Boyd, right, an MTL in the 336th TRS, marches toward the Triangle with some of his squadron's students.

Medical commissioning programs available

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs
RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Airmen have the opportunity to apply for Biomedical Sciences Corps training and commissioning programs for fiscal 2012, Air Force officials announced.

Applicants interested in the following programs should be U.S. citizens, meet the minimum commissioning age requirements, meet fitness standards and be medically qualified for worldwide duty.

Doctor of Physical Therapy Training Program

The U.S. Army-Baylor University Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy provides students entry-level competence in traditional physical therapy skills. Air Force enlisted students are commissioned in the Air Force Medical Science Corps at the rank of second lieutenant. Open to enlisted members, officers and cadets in their final semester, Airmen join the Air Force Biomedical Sciences Corps upon successful completion of training. Successful completion of the program awards a doctor of physical therapy degree from Baylor University.

Eligibility includes a Graduate Record Examination of 1,000, with a minimum score of 450 in the verbal portion; a minimum of 100 observation hours in a variety of clinical settings; an undergraduate grade point average of 3.1 on a 4.0 scale; and prerequisite courses including anatomy, physiology, biology, physics, chemistry, psychology, social science and statistics.

Applications are due no later than Nov. 25. Interested Airmen may submit an academic worksheet, transcript and GRE report to afpc.dpamw@us.af.mil or mail the package to the Air Force Personnel Center Biomedical Science Corps Utilization and Education Branch at AFPC/DPAMW, 550 C Street West Ste. 27, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4729.

Clinical Psychology Doctoral Training Program

The Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences graduate training program in military clinical psychology is designed to prepare broad-based Ph.D. clinical psychologists and to emphasize appreciation and understanding of the needs of the military and public health. Eligibility is open to active-duty members with a GRE of 1,100.

Applications are due to AFPC by Jan. 5. Interested applicants should visit the USUHS website at www.usuhs.mil/mps/clinindex.html for application details. Applications are due in early January for acceptance to USUHS. Applications that meet entry requirements will be forwarded by USUHS to the AFPC Biomedical Science Corps Utilization and Education Branch for selection.

Interservice Physician Assistant Training

Students who meet Interservice Physician Assistant Training admission criteria and successfully complete all required training are awarded a qualifying degree as

a physician assistant. The program is open to active-duty members in the grades of E-3 through E-8 with a minimum of two years and a maximum of 14 years active military service as of Aug. 31, 2012. Eligibility also includes an SAT score of at least 450 for all areas and a minimum combined score of 1,425 in critical reading, verbal and math; and a minimum general score of 80 points on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery or Air Force Classification Test. Applicants must have 60 semester hours of transferable college credits with a GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale with all courses completed by Jan. 25. Thirty of those semester hours must be actual in-classroom courses at an accredited college or university.

Interested applicants should contact the AFPC Biomedical Science Corps Utilization and Education Branch at afpc.dpamw@us.af.mil or mail their package to AFPC/DPAMW, 550 C Street West Ste 27, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4729. Completed applications are due Jan. 25, and the selection board will convene Mar. 22.

For more information on these medical training programs, including additional criteria, application procedures, and commissioning programs, go to <https://kx.afms.mil/afbsceducation>, or contact the local education office.

For more information about other personnel issues, visit the Air Force personnel services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.

Students receive training through paid internship

By Ashley Murphy

Air Force Services Agency

SAN ANTONIO — College students can intern in Air Force youth and recreation programs — and get paid for it.

The Air Force Services Agency Student Intern Program is open to college juniors or older to become Air Force nonappropriated fund employees at nearly any Air Force installation worldwide and earn college credit at the same time.

The program, established in 2009 by the Office of Secretary of Defense and Air Force Airmen and Family Services headquarters, is a way to recruit and retain high-performing students for future careers with the Air Force.

While the focus is on child and youth programs, it was recently expanded to familiarize interns with a variety of support functions such as community centers, outdoor recreation, arts and crafts, libraries and airman and family centers.

According to JoAnne Dimitriou, the AFSVA plans and force management director, the student intern Program provides an opportunity for college students to integrate classroom theory with practical on-the-job work experience in child, youth and school-age programs. The internships are challenging and help individuals become competent, effective and productive employees in a variety of occupational areas. The internship is a full-time position that can also be used as course credit at some universities.

“Working with military families allows me to serve my country and those who serve,” said April Osz, a student intern at Keesler’s child development center. “It also allows for me to make a difference in so many families’ lives. I know I am working with the best program out there and that is an extremely wonderful feeling — knowing I am learning from the best.”

“The most challenging part of the internship has been finding balance,” said Osz, an early childhood education major at the University of Cincinnati. “There are so many obstacles to tackle working in the CDC, between daily operations, trainings, scheduling, the budget and extra programs. Management puts in a lot of extra hours and heart to ensure their programs are a success. The team works very hard to see that everyone is happy, including coworkers, staff, parents and children. That is an extremely difficult job.”

The program is open to all

college students with at least two years of education completed. They can request to be placed at any Air Force installation in the world.

The application process starts with Purdue University, which partnered with OSD to publicize and manage similar internship programs across the Department of Defense. Students are required to fill out an application, write an essay, and provide letters of recommendation, as well as transcripts, before being considered for the position. Purdue provides incoming interns a week-long orientation.

“Orientation gives interns a

chance to meet their supervisors, learn about military child and youth programs, and generally prepare them for the next six months,” says Amy Schott, Purdue’s cooperative extension intern coordinator. “Interns also tour a local Air Force installation, and spend the week learning about the benefits of being an Air Force NAF employee.”

Applications are currently being accepted for Spring 2012. For more information, log on to www.ag.purdue.edu/extension/military.

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



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Osz, who’s married to Staff Sgt. Troy Osz, 345th Airlift Squadron, feeds Arianna Panama, 6 months, at the child development center. Arianna is the daughter of Senior Airman Jorge Panama, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron and Senior Airman Barbara Panama, 81st Medical Group.

Academic aces



Airman 1st Class Stephen Love, left, and Staff Sgt. Aisha Thomas graduated from technical training in the 335th Training Squadron with perfect scores. Love, a graduate of the electronic principles course, is headed to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, for communication, navigation and mission systems training. He's from Springfield, Mo. Thomas, a graduate of the personnel apprentice course, is a reservist at Bolling AFB, D.C., from Clinton, Md.

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.

MGCCC fall session

The fall session begins Aug. 22 for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler

Registration for active-duty military is under way. Others

may register Monday through Aug. 18.

View the fall schedule at www.mgccc.edu.

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

USM fall term

The University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast holds orientation, advisement and registration for admitted students Friday at the Gulf Park campus in Long Beach.

The fall term begins Aug. 24.

For more information, call 376-8479.

USM counseling

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

For appointments or 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. Wednesday 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.

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.

Manager certification

The Community College of the Air Force awards professional manager certification that 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.



Photo by Maj. Matthew Pignataro

The 81st SFS team included, front row from left, Senior Airman Chelsie McCall, Airman 1st Class Anthony Williams and Staff Sgt. Nick Tessmer; back row from left, Master Sgt. Daniel Fuentes Sr., Senior Airman Brian Fossum, Staff Sgt. Austin Sutton, Master Sgt. Michael Asdel, Senior Airman Christopher Hernandez and Staff Sgt. Shannon Tessmer.

Mission accomplished 81st SFS team completes 148-mile trek

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Nine members of the 81st Security Forces Squadron completed their 148-mile leg of the Security Forces 9/11 Ruck March to Remember Sunday.

"Security forces units from around the country are conducting the 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," said Master Sgt. Daniel Fuentes Sr., Keesler's team leader.

Marching with Fuentes were 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.

Maj. Matthew Pignataro, 81st SFS commander, traveled to Gardner, La., Sunday with Chief Master Sgt. Jeffery Bryant, security forces manager, to see his defenders hand off the 9/11 memorial guidon to the team from Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

"Keesler's defenders completed their grueling 148-mile ruck march in only 32 hours, finishing almost a day ahead of schedule," Pignataro said. "Everyone was in great spirits, with no injuries despite the high temperatures and humidity."

The handover ceremony took place near a

local church, and the Keesler marchers were greeted by the church congregation, a motorcycle association, sheriff's deputies and a local television station.

"The support we received along the way was phenomenal," Master Sgt. Michael Asdel, acting first sergeant, pointed out. "It was an amazing reminder of why we do what we do."

"The people in Jasper, Texas, our home base, and Mayor Mike Lout treated us like royalty," Asdel commented. "The patriotism along our route was heartwarming."

Asdel explained that a single team member ran or walked for 15 minutes before being relieved by another team member. Each Keesler participant averaged 18 miles during the march.

"When you hit the tenth or eleventh hour, 15 minutes is a long time," he added.

"I am so proud of our team members and I'll remember our accomplishment for the rest of my life," Fuentes said. "I am humbled and proud to serve with you."

"Outstanding! My hat's off to the Keesler team for their efforts in this great cause!" said Col. Rodney Berk, 81st Mission Support Group commander.

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

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

IN THE NEWS

New leader for 85th EIS

Lt. Col. Lonnie Hammack relinquishes command of the 85th Engineering Installation Squadron to Maj. Jeffrey Gomes, 10 a.m. today at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Gomes comes to Keesler from Newport, R.I., where he earned his master's degree in national security and strategic studies at the College of Naval Command and Staff. He was an Air Force director fellow for the Chief of Naval Operations strategic studies group, Naval War College.

Hammack, who commanded the 85th EIS for two years, is headed to a new assignment at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

3 medical officers to be promoted

Three officers in the 81st Medical Group have been selected for promotion to captain.

They are Diane Chang, 81st Medical Operations Squadron; Carol Walker, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron; and Jennifer Williams, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron.

DBIDS registration extended

Registration for the Defense Biometric Identification ends this week.

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. Tuesday 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 Agyenfrempong.

81st Medical Group — Master Sgt. Rafael Pacheco.

Recruiting, retention still strong

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A bumper crop of new high school graduates who joined the military in June helped the Defense Department continue its strong recruiting and retention streak.

All four services met or exceeded their fiscal-year-to-date goals for active-duty accessions through June 30, along with five of the six reserve components, officials announced July 25.

Fiscal 2011 began Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30.

The Army signed on 49,873 new Soldiers, topping its 49,000 goal by 2 percent. The Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps all reached their goals, with 24,550 Sailors, 21,025 Airmen and 18,926 Marines joining the force through June in the current fiscal year.

Dragons deployed — 225

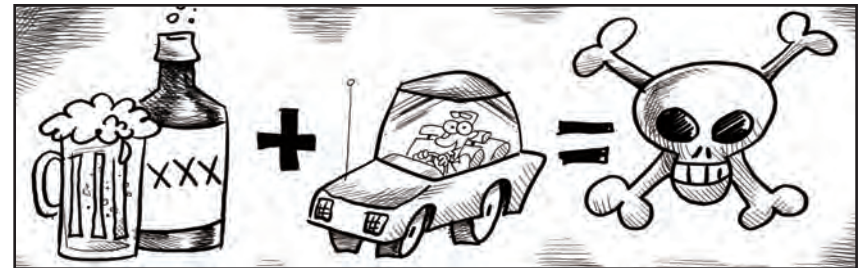
E-mail is a privilege -- don't abuse it!



Disposing of hazardous household waste

Wayne Smith, left, and Beau Hosch, employees with Clean Harbors Environmental Services in Baton Rouge, La., sort through various household chemicals for proper disposal July 12. Keesler's recycling center holds a bi-annual household hazardous waste turn-in day for base residents and employees.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Friday is lease-signing day for base's privatized housing

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Friday is the day for current and prospective Keesler residents to "sign on the dotted line" for privatized base housing.

The lease-signing event is 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Event Center for Keesler's 1,188 housing units in Thrower Park, East and West Falcon Park, Bay Ridge and Sandhill Landing.

"If someone isn't available on the lease-signing date, they can call the Forest City Military Communities office, 374-5336, starting next week to finalize the paperwork," said Brett Long, 81st Infrastructure Division housing flight chief. "The data sheets that were sent to residents to complete must be turned in so Forest City can have your information to complete the lease.

The forms may be turned in at the Forest City office, 303 Patrick Drive in Bay Ridge, or at the housing office, Room 118, Sablich Center.

The lease is available on the Forest City Web site for Keesler, <http://www.fckeeslerafb.com/>, by clicking on "current residents," then "resident forms." When a warning pops up, click on "continue."

Col. Rodney Berk, 81st Mission Support Group commander, said that Keesler is one of the last bases in the continental United States to privatize its housing.

"Privatization will provide our housing residents with more amenities than the government can provide, including pool, splash pad, dog runs and other enhancements," the colonel said. "Maintenance won't be limited by contract and property management has more latitude in the services it provides."

John Hoyt, Forest City's vice president for development, said his team is excited about the lease-signing event.

"We've been anticipating this occasion for some time," Hoyt commented.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Angela Wood, Forest City resident services management, explains the lease agreement to Senior Master Sgt. Julia Benavidez, 81st Support Squadron, as Brett Long, Keesler's housing flight chief, looks on. Benavidez's husband, Senior Master Sgt. Juan Benavidez, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, is currently deployed to Kyrgyzstan.

**For answers to leasing questions,
see Page 13.**

"This event really marks the first time we have the opportunity to meet and serve the family housing residents at Keesler on a one-on-one basis. We look forward to establishing relationships with all of our military families.

"The lease that's being used is a true testament of partnership between Forest City and the Air Force," he pointed out. "It's the product of collaboration to develop a contract that

meets the needs of military families while adhering to the necessary framework of a lease. "We're fortunate to have such a strong, committed and mindful command as a partner and leading the troops to mark this historic event."

Long indicated that Sept. 1 is the target date for privatization to begin, pending congressional notification. That's when BAH and allotments will begin.

Housing officials provide leasing information

81st Infrastructure Division housing flight and Forest City Military Communities

What amenities are to be included at Sandhill? Soccer fields and a row of landscaping for privacy are being added.

Is it true we'll have a paid move? Yes, if you don't sign a lease.

Will my basic allowance for housing be taxed? No.

Will there be an inspection of the units with the resident before the transition to determine damages? Occupied units won't be inspected. The housing office turns over the move-in inspection as documentation.

Will I be charged for maintenance when I move out? A move-out cleaning checklist is provided.

Are there any plans to improve landscaping and also help residents improve grounds? Yes, after a survey is completed.

Will security gates remain open during the day? No, but this may change.

If I get short orders, is there a process to get out of the lease? There's a military clause for a 30-day

notice and short orders. Forest City will work with you.

What happens if you break the lease? You pay one month rent and fee if the move isn't due to military orders.

Can my spouse call in a work order? Yes.

Will security forces continue to patrol the areas? Yes.

If we choose to not sign a lease, when does the 30-day countdown start? Thirty days from Sept. 1. If you sign a lease, you will not get a paid move.

How will I know the rules? The community handbook is available on the Forest City Web site.

If the home opens up to a civilian and an active-duty member needs the home, how does that work? There's a clause in the lease that requires the civilian to move if an active-duty member need the home.

What happens to the rent if I get promoted? Your rent is your BAH.

Has Forest City seen a history of problems with civilians in privatized homes? No. There are about 460 homes occupied by civilians Air Force-wide.

If I'm separating from the mili-

tary, can I become an "other eligible tenant"? Yes, you're welcome to stay. You'll need to sign a different lease and pay market.

There aren't a lot of amenities at Sand Hill — why? This is a 50-year program. The soccer fields and landscaping currently planned are just the beginning.

Is there a hurricane plan? Forest City is writing plans according to the Air Force partners.

Are there any plans to refurbish the existing playgrounds? Forest City will maintain them.

What if I want to maintain my lawn? Forest City has signs that will state, "This yard is proudly maintained by the resident."

What about our trash service and recycling? The same type of trash and recycling service will continue.

Are there any planned upgrades like microwaves? Not at this time.

How is eligibility for an Americans with Disabilities Act home determined? The determination is made through a reasonable accommodation form.

How does the utility process work? In the future, about four to six years from now, an average or base line for all units will be established. The baseline will be buffered above and below by 10 percent. The resident is responsible only for the difference. For example, if the base line is determined to be \$100, the buffer amount is \$90 to \$110. If the resident's utility bill is \$112, the resident will owe Forest City \$2.

Our fences are too small — can they be adjusted? This isn't in the current plans.

My husband just deployed. What do I need to do? Deployed members need a power of attorney. The legal office will assist the deployed member and spouse.

What happens when other people are allowed to move into housing? This is referred to as "other eligible tenants." They'll enter into an application process that includes a background check and income eligibility. They must verify that they can pay 2½ times the rent to occupy the home. For example, \$1,000 market rent multiplied by 2½ equals a verified amount of \$2,500.

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.

Leave accumulation extended

81st Comptroller Squadron

Members unable to use leave due to military necessity may accumulate a maximum of 75 days by the end of a fiscal year until Sept. 30, 2013. After this date, the limit returns to the previous 60-day limit of accrued leave.

If service members are unable to use their excess accrued leave prior to that date due to mission requirements, approval may be requested to carry over the excess leave days.

For more information, call the military personnel section, 376-8738, or the Total Force Service Center, 1-800-525-0102.

Permissive TDY procedures

All newly-arrived permanent party active-duty members, must report to their units upon arrival at Keesler.

Unit personnel coordinators assist members with completing permissive temporary duty requests and obtaining the commander's signature. Members may not depart on permissive TDY without in-processing the military personnel section and obtaining a leave number.

For more information, call 376-8347.

Discrimination hotline

Air Force Personnel Center

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

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

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

Traffic manager retires after 54 years of service

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Roy Carter, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, has kept the military on the move for 54 years.

After 30 years of active duty and 24 years of civil service, Keesler's traffic management officer is retiring Saturday.

"It's been a fast 54 years," said the native of Mangham, La., who enlisted in the Air Force after graduating from Rayville High School.

"Keesler offers a unique environment providing transportation services to all branches of the military and federal civilians," Carter pointed out. "We provide service to seven other major installations in our 29-county area of responsibility as well as ROTC programs in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, plus recruiters and federal agents.

Carter has spent his career honing his expertise in the traffic management field, start-



Carter

ing with the passenger and household goods course at Sheppard AFB, Texas. His first assignment was at Kirtland AFB, N.M., but he was assigned to the cargo movement section instead of the area he was trained for due to the needs of the Air Force.

He volunteered for a permanent change of station to Hickam AFB, Hawaii, which was subsequently changed to

successive assignments at Misawa, Johnson, Itazuke and Brady Air Bases in Japan. He was assigned duties as a passenger clerk, unit mail clerk and packing, crating and freight specialist.

Carter moved to the inbound freight section at Patrick AFB, Fla., for 2½ years before a one-year assignment to Samsun AB, Turkey, where he worked in the freight section unloading mail, priority cargo and surface supply shipments.

In 1965, he separated from active duty, but he reenlisted four months later and served at Columbus AFB, Miss., before a one-year assignment to Korat Royal Thai AB, Thailand. His next duty station was at Yokota AB, Japan, where he spent five years as a passenger specialist, inbound household goods shipment clerk, noncommissioned officer in charge of the quality assurance section and unit training NCO.

Carter spent almost two years at England Air Force

Base as NCO in charge of the traffic management flight before attending Tactical Air Force Command's NCO Academy at Langley AFB, Va. He returned to duty at Yokota to serve as the airlift clearance authority, base customs manager, airlift requirements forecaster and NCO in charge of personal property, cargo and mobility.

His next assignment was at Mather AFB, Calif., where he was NCO in charge of traffic management and served a short stint as traffic management officer. After graduating from the Senior NCO Academy at Gunter AFB, Ala., he headed to U.S. Air Forces in Europe headquarters at Ramstein AB, Germany, as a command traffic management specialist. He assisted USAFE in performing many staff assistance inspections in Germany, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Sardinia and England.

In 1984, Carter returned to Mather as traffic management superintendent and retired from active duty as a chief master sergeant three years later.

"After lying around the house and catching cabin fever, I went to work at the commissary at McClellan AFB, Calif.," he recalled. Seven months later, he was on his way to Hellenikon AB, Greece, as traffic management officer. When the base closed, he returned to England AFB to fill the same position, and when that base closed, he was selected as Keesler's traffic management officer.

"After four years at Keesler, I moved on to be the traffic management officer at Misawa and after almost three years, I was selected to be the traffic management officer at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England," Carter said. "Since I was limited to five years of consecutive service in overseas employment, I returned to Keesler in 2001 to assume my current position."

Carter said the thing he liked most about his years of Air Force service were the people — those he worked for and with, and those who worked for him.

"I enjoyed the friendship of professional transporters and the daily challenges in transportation," he explained. "There was always something important happening that required a workaround and intense coordination and cooperation."

Over the years, Carter has earned PACAF and Air Education and Training Command awards, in addition to group and squadron honors and superior and excellent performance awards.

"My wife, Gayle, and I plan on remaining in Gulfport after retirement," Carter said. "We have a son, two daughters and two grandchildren close by. We like the area because there are plenty of friends, areas for shopping and medical facilities.

"There are also fishing areas in both the Gulf of Mexico and nearby rivers," he added. "Finally I will have time to indulge."



Deployed Keesler chaplain hits ground running

By Master Sgt. Mary Davis

455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — It's midday in sweltering 100-degree Afghanistan heat. Two individuals approach a group of aircraft maintainers to offer assistance — not with a tool box in hand, but with fruit-flavored ice pops and words of encouragement.

For Chaplain (Capt.) Ralph Elliott, deployed from Keesler, and Senior Airman Hansel Orosco, chaplain assistant, this is one of many opportunities to provide aircraft maintainers much-needed relief from the heat, while spreading the word about the flightline religious support team's ministry on Bagram Airfield's east side.

"This is the first chance we've had to meet the Airmen to remind them they have a chaplain on the flightline for them," said Elliott, who arrived at Bagram earlier in July. "We also let them know about the flightline RST morale facility where they can relax and unwind from deployment stress."

Bagram Airfield has five RSTs — two in the hospital, one at the security forces squadron and one at the east side of the flightline. The flightline RST morale facility in Building 35516 has more than 500 movies, a movie room, morale phones and religious materials available 24/7. The chaplain is also on hand to lend his ear and advice to Airmen who need direction and support.

"I also have an office area



Staff Sgt. Michael Lanzino, left, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron armament shop, meets Elliott July 15. Since his arrival earlier this month, the chaplain visited various flightline units introducing himself, passing out ice pops and informing people about RST services.

to conduct counseling sessions that are 100 percent confidential," said the chaplain, who hails from Philadelphia. "It's important that people have someone they can speak to privately and the information will go no further. You can speak to any military chaplain — what is said to the chaplain will stay with the chaplain."

Elliott is no stranger to the flightline having worked on E-3 airborne warning and control system aircraft as a radar maintenance technician

for three years at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

He and Orosco will periodically bring ice pops and water to maintainers in the summer and hot cocoa to them in the fall and winter months.

"Working on the flightline is difficult work," the chaplain said. "Working in the elements — heat, cold and wind takes a toll on you. That's why I'm glad to do this. It's important for Airmen to know we are here for them."

As a chaplain assistant,

Orosco is the "eyes and ears" of the chaplain during the deployment. While military chaplains are non-combatants, chaplain assistants are combatants and are tasked with carrying and using weapons to protect chaplains.

Orosco's first three years in the Air Force Reserve were spent as an optometry technician, but he later cross-trained into the chaplain assistant career field to "fulfill my commitment to God and the military," said the San Antonio native and a digital video

and cinema production student at Northwest Vista College. "I'm a people person, so this was a perfect job for me. Working with people is 70 percent of the job."

Being a people person, Orosco enjoys meeting Airmen from different career fields and all walks of life on this deployment, which is his first since he began serving in the military six years ago.

"The best part of this job is traveling around the flightline and learning what everyone does," he said. "Sometimes I listen to stories that are difficult to hear, but I'm empathetic because they need someone who will listen. Helping people who seek our assistance is a rewarding part of this job."

Staff Sgt. Michael Lanzino, a shift leader at the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron armament shop, said it's convenient to have the chapel resources nearby.

"There isn't as much to do on the east side of the flightline, and it takes up to 45 minutes to take the bus to the west side," said Lanzino, who hails from Yearington, Nev. "Having the chapel staff provide this service here is convenient and good for morale."

Taking care of people is a huge part of the mission, the chaplain said.

"Every Airman is responsible for being physically, mentally, socially and spiritually fit to accomplish the mission," Elliott said.

"Being spiritually prepared can help you with all the other areas."



Back-to-school shoppers flock to base exchange



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Camryn and Layne Rankin shop for backpacks with their grandmother, Phyllis Horn, July 20 at the base exchange. Camryn, 5, and Layne, 11, are from Richland, Miss. Their grandmother is married to Myron Horn, a retired major. They live in Gulfport.

Sales tax holiday this weekend

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Mississippi's back-to-school shoppers get a price break on clothing or footwear purchases this weekend.

The state's "sales tax holiday" begins at 12:01 a.m. Friday and ends at midnight Saturday. During this period, the state's 7 percent sales tax isn't collected or paid on purchases of specific products priced at less than \$100.

"We'll be supporting the sales tax holiday by taking an additional 7 percent off for qualifying items Friday and Saturday," said Bill Buell, main exchange store manager.

"Clothing" is defined as any article of apparel designed to be worn on the human body including pants, shirts, blouses, dresses, coats, jackets, belts, hats, undergarments and multiple piece garments sold as a set.

"Footwear" is any article of apparel for human feet except for skis, swim fins, roller



blades, skates and similar items.

Accessories such as jewelry, handbags, luggage, umbrellas, wallets, watches, backpacks, briefcases and similar items aren't included in the tax break.

If a customer buys two shirts at \$50 each, a pair of slacks at \$75 and a pair of shoes at \$110, no sales tax is due for the two shirts and slacks at a cost of \$175, even though the combined cost exceeds the \$100 threshold. Sales tax is due on the entire \$110 price of the shoes since they exceed the \$100 threshold.

For more information, log on to <http://www.dor.ms.gov/secondsalestaxholiday.html> or call (601) 923-7015.

Programs targets veterans for teaching careers

Airman and family readiness center

A seminar on the Troops to Teachers program is 3:30-5 p.m. Wednesday in Room 108A, Sablich Center.

Troops to Teachers is valuable to people looking for a "second career" after military retirement, according to Lana Smith, community readiness consultant at the airman and family readiness center.

Troops to Teachers is a U.S. Department of Education and Department of Defense program that helps eligible military personnel begin a new career as teachers in public schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are needed.

Troops to Teachers, managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support, offers counseling and referral services to military personnel interested in beginning a second career in public education as a teacher. The program helps

applicants identify teacher certification requirements, programs leading to certification and employment opportunities.

In most states, Troops to Teachers doesn't train or certify teachers, but helps them find and enter the programs

that do. Then, if eligible, Troops to Teachers provides financial assistance in the form of stipends or bonuses.

Becoming a teacher through Troops to Teacher involves three distinct processes occurring at the same time. Some individuals

begin teaching before becoming fully certified. For others, registering with Troops to Teachers, pursuing certification, and job hunting can occur almost simultaneously.

For more information or to register, call 376-8728.



Keesler kids head back to school

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

It seems like summer just began — and next week, Keesler kids will start heading back to school.

Gerry Cross, 81st Force Support Squadron school liaison officer, said school starts Wednesday in the Jackson County school district.

Other start dates:

Aug. 4 — Biloxi, Ocean Springs, Gulfport, Harrison County, Pass Christian and Pascagoula schools.

Aug. 8 — Our Lady Academy and St. Stanislaus, Bay St. Louis; Resurrection Catholic Elementary and High Schools, Pascagoula.

Aug. 9 -- Long Beach schools; St. Patrick High School, Woolmarket.

Aug. 10 — Nativity BVM Catholic School, Biloxi; St. Alphonsus Catholic School, Ocean Springs; Holy Trinity Catholic School, Pass Christian; Moss Point schools.

Aug. 11 — Westminster Academy and St James Catholic School, Gulfport.

Aug. 12 — Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School, Biloxi; Temple Christian Academy, Gulfport.

Aug. 15 — Cedar Lake Christian Academy, Biloxi.

Updated dress, appearance instructions released

By Eric Grill

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force's instruction on dress and personal appearance recently received an appearance upgrade with the release of the updated instruction on July 18.

Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance, received the facelift after several years of interim updates as uniform items were introduced and phased out. The last revision to the AFI was in 2006 prior to the release of the airman battle uniform, which replaced the battle dress uniform and desert camouflage uniform.

Most changes to the AFI are more about mechanics and clarification than new policy. They're intended to make the AFI more user-friendly, said Ruth Ewalt, Air Force uniform programs and policies chief at the Air Staff.

"The changes are a result of Airmen in the field requesting clarification, leadership approving more specific policy and the need to integrate information from the 98th virtual uniform board and other wear policy approved since 2006," Ewalt said. "We added the ABU, green fleece and physical fitness uniform information not in the previous AFI and corrected instances of conflicting information."

For clarity and ease of reading, chapters were rearranged and sections were made inclusive to eliminate turning back and forth to configure a single uniform, she said. The differences in the old and new AFI are the tables are now integrated into the text. Each uniform has its own section, starting with the most formal through the utility, physical training and distinctive uniforms.

One thing Airmen might notice is the amount of pictures incorporated into the revised AFI.

"Individuals learn and retain information differently," Ewalt said. "For some a photo is a better tool than volumes of text or audio. We

Are you violating dress, appearance standards?

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

The Air Force uniform simultaneously connects Airmen to one another and sets them apart from the rest of the population. Military uniforms draw the eye and cause observers to draw conclusions about that person, their service and the military in general. That's why it is so essential to make sure that Airmen always follow the standards of dress and appearance.

All Airmen are responsible for our their own uniforms and according to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, section 2.13.5., "All Airmen should inform any Air Force member that is in violation of uniform and appearance standards."

Senior Master Sgt. Steven Mullens, Keesler's career assistance adviser, said, "Just make sure you have your facts straight and be tactful when you do. And for members being corrected – don't take it personally. Someone is taking the time to help you, make the correction and move on."

Recently, base senior non-commissioned officers evaluated what they see as the most common dress and appearance violations on Keesler.

Airman battle uniform

- Leaving buttons unbuttoned.
- Wearing the ABU hat either too low on head resembling a baseball cap or too high, allowing hair to protrude from beneath the brim of the hat.
- Hats visible outside of cargo pocket.

wanted to make this AFI as 'user-friendly' as possible. It covers every Airman — from the first-day recruit in basic military training to the 30-plus-year career Airman."



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Staff Sgt. Christopher Freimann, left, 335th Training Squadron military training leader, conducts an open ranks inspection.

- Sleeves rolled improperly (cuffs must remain visible and the sleeve must rest at or within one inch of elbow when bent at a 90 degree angle).

Service dress

- Improper fit.
- Not ironed.
- Dirty or scuffed shoes.
- Not wearing all earned ribbons.

Physical training uniform

- Rolling or pushing up sleeves and pant legs.
- Not tucking in shirt.
- Jacket not zipped.
- Wearing wrong color socks (must be white) and brightly colored shoes.

Flight duty uniform

- Sleeves rolled improperly (should be tucked under not to exceed the natural bend of the wrist).
- Zippers unzipped.

Other

- Improper wear, size, color, and material of handbags, backpacks and purses.
- Wearing bracelets that support a cause.

Sections are also inclusive, listing all items that may and must be worn with each particular uniform with the exception of outer garments which are covered in their own section.

- Wearing sunglasses that are mirrored, have ornamentation and display a logo that is not subdued.

- Wearing hair accessories that don't match hair color.

- Female hair worn below the bottom edge of the collar, too bulky or styled in a fashion that is not neat or could be considered faddish.

- Walking or standing with hands in pockets.
- Talking on cell phone (except for official business) or texting while walking.

- Men not shaved.
- Uniforms are soiled or stained.

- Tattoos exceeding 25 percent of exposed body part.

- Not wearing a cover outdoors off the installation.

"Everyone should take tremendous pride in whatever uniform combination they don and wear it correctly and proudly every time they put it on," Mullens said, "Doing so shows respect for the countless sacrifices of those who have worn it before them."

The first three chapters cover the basic philosophy, appropriate circumstances to wear uniform items, how and where to purchase them, roles and responsibilities, and

grooming and appearance standards. Chapters 4-7 cover uniforms worn and maintained by all Air Force members — dress, utility, and physical training uniforms. Chapters 4-5 include the dress and utility uniforms. Chapter 6 explains outer garments, headgear, rank insignia and accessories, and Chapter 7 covers the physical training uniform. The remaining chapters "customize" the uniforms of unique populations and discuss badges, awards and decorations unique to individual Airmen. The last chapter contains instructions for recommending changes to dress and personal appearance policy or uniform designs.

The revised AFI also added a tattoo measurement tool to standardize the process for Airmen and commanders to determine if a tattoo meets standards.

"There is also a form to document tattoos that are borderline excessive or require a commander-approved waiver," Ewalt said. "The policy regarding what constitutes an excessive tattoo has not changed — the standard is still not more than 25 percent of the exposed body part."

The revision involved input from people of all ranks and components of the Air Force, including Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members.

"This three-year effort included Airmen from all walks of Air Force life...(military training instructors, recruits, recruiters, first sergeants and Air Force leadership from all levels, professional military education instructors, functional communities, and support organizations," Ewalt said. "This Air Force instruction was influenced by a huge population of Air Force service members because it impacts the total force."

For online dress and appearance information, go to <http://www.afpc.af.mil/dress/index.asp>. For more information about personnel issues, visit the Air Force personnel services website, <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.

Defense Department officials launch cyber strategy website

By Cheryl Pellerin

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Monday, the Defense Department announced the launch of a new website to highlight the department's first unified cyberspace strategy.

Deputy Defense Secretary William Lynn announced the department's Strategy for Operating in Cyberspace July 14.

"We do not know the exact way in which cyber will figure in the execution of (DOD's) mission, or the precise scenarios that will arise," Lynn told an audience of military and civilian officials, educators and reporters. "But the centrality of information technology to our military operations and our society virtually guarantees that future adversaries will target our dependence on it."

The new website, <http://www.defense.gov/cyber>, is a tool that will help to explain and consolidate the Pentagon's cybersecurity accomplishments and the new way forward for military, intelligence and business operations in cyberspace.

The new site will help users explore the

"The centrality of
information technology
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virtually guarantees
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will target
our dependence on it."

— Lynn

five pillars of DOD's cyber strategy: treating cyberspace as an operational domain, using new defense operating concepts, partnering with the public and private sectors, building international partnerships and leveraging talent and innovation.

The website includes links to cybersecurity jobs in government, expert biographies, news items, news releases and cybersecurity videos.

Child care requires licensing

81st Force Support Squadron

People living in base housing who care for children in their homes could be breaking the rules.

Air Force Instruction 34-276, which governs day care in on-base quarters, states "any individuals caring for children more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis must get approval."

It states that the "installation commander may revoke the housing privileges of individuals who provide child care but refuse to become licensed or who continue to provide care after their license has been suspended or revoked."

The rule applies whether or not caregivers are paid for their services.

"We feel people living in base housing, who regularly care for children without being licensed, may be unaware of the regulation," said Mary Pleasant, family childcare program coordinator. "We want not only to bring the information to their attention, but to educate them on the alternative — to become a licensed family childcare provider."

Licenses are granted by the 81st Mission Support Group commander, usually within 30 days upon completion of the initial FCC provider training, background screenings and home inspections.

The training includes child guidance, play environments, nutrition, ages and stages of development, child abuse and neglect, recordkeeping, business management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid.

"FCC providers are professionals trained to give the best possible care to the children left in their charge," said Ms. Pleasant.

Once licensed, providers may care for children from 2 weeks through 12 years old assistance from the FCC staff in setting up their home and have access to an extensive library for toys, equipment and materials which help keep costs down. They may set up their own hours of operation and fee structure.

For more information, call 377-3189, 5934 or 5935, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Illegal parking on base creates safety hazards

By Virgil Mitchell

81st Training Wing safety chief

Parking spots are sometimes hard to find at Keesler.

Some drivers glance around and see an empty spot and pull right in if their vehicle fits. This haphazard method of parking is illegal.

Legal parking spots are marked on both sides by white lines, either diagonal or horizontal, or a white "T". Parking in any area not marked this way is prohibited by Keesler Instruction 31-204.

Parking on seeded areas, on troop walks and at the student dormitories in the Triangle also is not allowed.

Additionally, it's illegal to park with the driver's side of the vehicle nearest the curb, instead of the passenger's side.

At Keesler, if it's not marked for parking, then it's a "no parking" area.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

These cars are parked illegally in a grassy area adjacent to Stennis Hall.

'Blue Star' museums offer free pass to service members this summer

By Terri Cronk

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Service members and their families can visit a wide array of museums free of charge through Labor Day, courtesy of the second-annual Blue Star Museums program.

Kathy Roth-Douquet, Blue Star Families chairman, and, announced this year's program yesterday in San Diego.

"Blue Star Museums recognizes and thanks our military families for all they are doing for our country and simultaneously begins young people on a path to become lifelong museum-goers," said Rocco Landesman, chairman of the

National Endowment for the Humanities

Kathy Roth-Douquet, Blue Star Families chairman, noted the program's success in its first year.

"We are thrilled that 300,000 military family members visited our partner museums in the summer of 2010," she said. "We hope to exceed that number this year as the military community takes advantage of the rich cultural heritage they defend and protect every day.

"We appreciate the NEA and the nation's museums who chose to partner with us," she continued. "We also are grateful to our friends at the MetLife Foundation, the lead supporter

of the Blue Star Museums outreach initiative, whose generous donation helps make our work possible."

This year, more than 1,300 museums in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa are taking part in the initiative.

The program is available through Labor Day to active-duty military and their immediate family members — military identification card holders and up to five immediate family members. Active-duty National Guard and Reserve members also are eligible.

For locations throughout the country, log on to www.bluestarfam.org/Programs/Blue_Star_Museums.

Participating Blue Star museums

Mississippi

African American Military History Museum, Hattiesburg
B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center, Indianola
Delta Blues Museum, Clarksdale
Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, Camp Shelby
Mississippi Children's Museum, Jackson
Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson
Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Jackson
Oren Dunn City Museum, Tupelo
University of Mississippi Museum, Oxford
Walter Anderson Museum of Art, Ocean Springs

Alabama

Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University
Alabama State Capitol, Montgomery
Belle Mont Mansion, Tuscumbia
Birmingham Museum of Art
Confederate Memorial Park, Marbury
Fendall Hall Historic House Museum, Eufaula
Fort Morgan State Historic Site, Alabama
Historical Commission, Gulf Shores
Freedom Rides Museum, Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery

Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson State Historic Site, Wetumpka
Gaineswood National Historic Landmark, Demopolis
Huntsville Museum of Art
Magnolia Grove, Greensboro
Mobile Museum of Art
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts
The Museum of Mobile
Old Cahawba Archaeological Park, Orrville
Paul W. Bryant Museum, Tuscaloosa
Sci-Quest, Hands-on Science Center, Huntsville

Louisiana

Alexandria Museum of Art
DeQuincy Railroad Museum
Gallier House, New Orleans
The Historic New Orleans Collection
Louisiana Art & Science Museum, Baton Rouge
LSU Museum of Art, Baton Rouge
Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans
Sci-Port: Louisiana's Science Center, Shreveport
T.R.E.E. House Children's Museum, Alexandria
West Baton Rouge Museum, Port Allen

More news, videos, information and photos on the Web at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Don't drink and drive.

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

Keesler gift cards offer shopping convenience

Air Force Services Agency

In July, the 81st Force Support Squadron introduced gift cards for many of its facilities that are simple to purchase and easy to use.

“The overwhelming benefit of the new gift card is the convenience,” said Frank Black, chief of community programs for the Air Force Services. “It takes the worry out of what to give someone for a special occasion. The card can be used for everything from lunch at the bowling center to Disney trips with information, tickets and travel.”

The cards can be used at any Air Force base, making them a great gift idea for a friend moving to a new base or family member going on temporary duty.

To purchase a gift card, the patron decides how much goes on the card, pays only that amount and is issued the gift card. Any amount can be loaded starting at \$5.

Gift cards are reloadable and balances can be checked online

at www.myfssgiftcard.com. The gift cards never expire and don't decrease in value over time.

Force support squadrons are responsible for providing morale, welfare and recreational type activities along with troop feeding and lodging capabilities in deployed areas and at home stations. In addition to lodging, dining facilities, fitness centers and child development centers, the Force Support Squadron operates non-appropriated fund facilities including bowling centers, golf courses, community centers, and arts and crafts activities.

The gift cards are accepted in most activities. At Keesler, they're available at the crafts center, auto hobby shop, Bay Breeze Collocated Club, Bay Breeze Golf Course, child development center, Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center, Legends Café, outdoor recreation, veterinary clinic, youth center and the information, tickets and travel office.

**Government information systems
are for official use only.**

Use constitutes consent to monitoring.

Legal office reiterates guidelines for political activity, voting

Volunteer — get connected.

By Richard Brock

81st Training Wing Legal Office

With elections just around the corner, it's time to review what federal employees can and can't do.

These policies are based on the Hatch Act, 5 USC 7321-7325, and the Joint Ethics Regulation 5500.7R, Section 3, paragraph 6-300.

Defense Department civilians may:

- Be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections.
- Register and vote as they choose.
- Assist in voter registration drives.
- Express opinions about candidates and issues.
- Contribute money to political organizations.
- Attend political fund-raising activities.
- Attend and be active at political rallies and meetings.
- Join in and be an active member of a political party or club.

- Sign nominating petitions.
- Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments or municipal ordinances.

● Campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections.

● Make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections.

● Hold office in political clubs or parties.

DOD civilians may not:

● Use official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election.

● Collect political contributions unless both the collector and the donor are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization and the donor isn't a subordinate.

● Knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business with DOD.

● Engage in political activity while on duty, in any federal workplace, while wearing an official uniform or displaying official insignia identifying the office or position of the DOD employee, or while using a government owned or leased vehicle.

● Solicit political contributions from the general public.

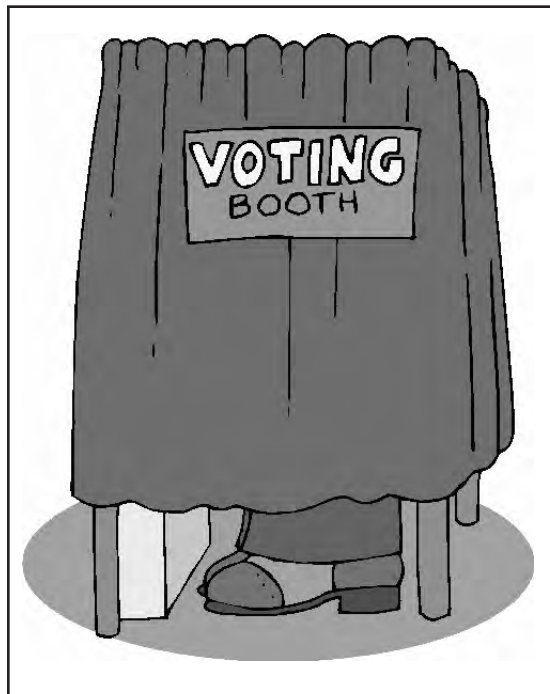
● Be a candidate for public office in partisan elections.

● Wear political buttons on duty.

● Contribute to the political campaign of another federal employee who is in the DOD employee's chain of command, including the political campaign to re-elect the President or Vice President.

Military members on active duty may:

● Register, vote and express a personal opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the armed forces.



● Make monetary contributions to a political party.

● Attend partisan and nonpartisan political meetings or rallies as a spectator when not in uniform.

● Display a political sticker on the member's private vehicle.

● Join a political club and attend its meetings when not in uniform.

● Serve as an election official, under specified circumstances, while not in uniform.

● Sign a petition for specific legislative action or a petition to place a candidate's name on an official election ballot, if it doesn't obligate the member to engage in prohibited partisan political activity, and is done as a private citizen.

Military members on active duty may not:

● Use one's official authority or influence for interfering with an election, affecting the course or outcome of an election, soliciting votes for a particular candidate or issue or requiring or soliciting political contributions from others.

● Be a candidate for, or hold, civil office except as authorized.

● Participate in partisan political management, campaigns or conventions.

● Make campaign contributions to another member of the armed forces or employee of the federal government, such the President, who is commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

● Military and civilian employees of the federal government are absolutely prohibited from using government supplies, equipment, communication systems and facilities in any political activity.

For specific questions or clarification, call the legal office, 376-8601.

Shoppers see \$6 million in savings from coupons

By Staff Sgt. Lewis Hilburn

AAFES Public Affairs

DALLAS — Last year, Army and Air Force Exchange Service shoppers clipped their way to savings as they redeemed more than \$6 million in coupons.

According to exchange officials, the biggest portion of these savings came during the holiday season.

“The Toyland Book gave Exchange patrons the most bang for their buck,” according to Col. Colice Powell, AAFES acting chief of staff. “Redemption of exchange coupons was more than \$446,000 with an average savings of \$13 per coupon redeemed.”

Customers increased their savings by combining exchange offers with vendor coupons, saving an average of \$1.35.

While the exchange honors vendor coupons, it encourages shoppers to be vigilant of fraud. The Exchange loses thousands of dollars annually when manufacturers do not accept or reimburse for fraudulent or altered coupons.

In addition to coupons, the exchange provides a variety of exclusive savings through the mail and online.

“With mobile marketing and social media on the rise, the Exchange encourages shoppers to log onto Facebook and Twitter or text ‘exchange’ to 95613 for additional savings delivered to their mobile device,” said Leah Miller, AAFES social media manager.

Patrons can also log on to www.shopmyexchange.com and check the savings center to see what daily specials, weekly promotions and advertised specials are available.

Proper planning crucial to train 'Citizen Airmen'

By Tech Sgt. Ryan Labadens

403rd Wing Public Affairs

Editor's note: This is part one of four in a series on how Air Force reservists from various career fields train throughout the year to serve their country.

Men and women of the armed forces train throughout the year to deploy wherever and whenever needed. For Airmen in the active duty Air Force, their full-time jobs focus on preparing for deployment in support of contingencies around the globe. But, what about Citizen Airmen? How do Air Force reservists, who mostly serve part time, train so they can fly, fight and win alongside their full-time counterparts?

Within the Reserve's 403rd Wing at Keesler, each unit tweaks its schedule according to its training requirements and workload. Two squadrons in particular, the 403rd Security Forces Squadron and the 403rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, have training plans that prepare their Airmen to meet the future needs of the Air Force.

While both squadrons have distinctly different missions, they share commonalities in their approach toward training Citizen Airmen.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Michael Moore, 403rd SFS superintendent, two factors weigh heavily in training Reservists for worldwide deployment: prioritizing and planning.

"We develop our training plans for the year based on Air Force Reserve Command core requirements, wing training, and our own security forces training requirements. It takes a lot of rigid planning," said Moore.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Klint Krieger, 403rd SFS operations superintendent, security forces Airmen are tasked with three main jobs: airbase ground defense, law enforcement and resource protection. Security forces people train on a variety of weapons, such as the M4 carbine assault rifle, the M249



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens

Staff Sgt. Justin Hayes, 403rd SFS combat arms training and maintenance member, shows Senior Airman Briana Dunnaway how to rapidly change a clip on an M-4 carbine. Airman Dunnaway, a 41st Aerial Port Squadron air transportation specialist, participated in the weapons refresher course as part of her preparation for the 403rd Wing's upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection. This is one example of the type of training Citizen Airmen perform in preparation for deploying in support of global contingencies.

light machine gun and the M203 grenade launcher.

"We're all trained in multiple tasks, but it's all based on a combat mindset," said Krieger. "Our mission is to train to deploy."

One common set of training requirements all reservists share is keeping up-to-date with ancillary training and computer-based training requirements. These include self aid and buddy care, anti-terrorism awareness and law of armed conflict training, to name a few.

"Quite often it takes some creative time management and supervisor awareness to accomplish both our additional training and job tasks within the time available," said Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Armata, 403rd AMXS superintendent.

According to Master Sgt. Miriam Berg, 403rd AMXS crew chief, squadron members are primarily tasked with

taking care of the airframe and ensuring that the planes for the 815th Airlift Squadron and 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron are fit for flight. Striking the right balance between mission tasking and additional training is essential, she said.

"It's a challenge balancing our workload with CBTs and ancillary training, especially for traditional reservists since they usually perform their training two days a month," said Berg.

The sergeant is also an air reserve technician with the 403rd AMXS. As full-time federal employees, ARTs perform their Reserve assignments as part of their regular jobs throughout the work week, as well as during unit training assemblies and annual tours.

"There are some jobs we perform regularly while here on drill weekends, but other tasks need to be taken care of

whenever they occur during the week," said Berg. "There are some things you just can't train on until something breaks," said Berg.

During the January UTA, a tire on the landing gear of a C-130J-30 aircraft was worn thin and needed replacement. Sergeant Berg supervised as Senior Airmen Dalton Andrepont and Scott Hamilton, two 403rd AMXS crew chiefs, removed the old wheel and fitted a new one in place. She offered pointers and correction along the way, but let the junior Airmen change the tire.

"One of the ways you learn is by doing," said Berg.

Citizen Airmen have more than just two days a month and 15 annual tour days a year available for training. The Air Force provides Reserve units with funding for service members for additional duty days throughout the year for Airmen to train or to support the mission.

Armata said one program in particular, the seasoning training program, is very useful for getting new Airmen up to speed. STP tours can last anywhere between 45 days to a year.

"Once new Airmen complete their technical training, they arrive at their home station to gain some first-hand experience in their career field," said Armata. "This program has been great at accelerating on-the-job training."

Overall, the chief said one of the main goals is to get each Citizen Airman the right set of training and experience to help them integrate seamlessly with the total force team while deployed.

"We want to have a good blend of people with experience and those gaining experience," said Armata. "This ensures that we have the right mix of skill levels to work with the active-duty Airmen downrange."

Facebook photo contest offers chance for publication in Keesler News

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Beginning in August, Keesler Public Affairs will host a monthly Facebook photo contest. The winning photos will be featured in the Keesler News. The contest is open to all members of the Keesler community.

This month's theme is "Heat Wave," and submissions are accepted Monday through Aug. 31.

To submit a photo, go to www.facebook.com/keeslerafb, "Like" our page, then click the photo tab on our wall and

upload your photo. When submitting, include your first and last name, rank, squadron and duty title (or your family member's name rank, squadron and duty title), where the photo was taken and a short description of what's going on in the photo.

Contest rules:

- Up to three images per person
- Photos must be taken during contest dates.
- Photoshop may be used to correct for exposure, color and cropping only. No illustrative effects.
- Photo must relate to Keesler. Note that while kittens, puppies, and other small

mammals are cute, fluffy will get you disqualified.

- Photo must have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.
- All photos must be the original work of the submitter.

Winners are chosen by Keesler Public Affairs.

By submitting photos to this contest, you give the 81st TRW the right to use the photo in any way to represent the wing. Public affairs reserves the right to disqualify any photo deemed inappropriate or presenting a negative image or message.

For more information, call 377-3837 or email 81trw.pa@us.af.mil.



Become a Keesler fan on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/keeslerafb>

Safety is as simple as ABC —
Always Be Careful.

TRICARE doesn't retire when you do

By Sharon Foster

TRICARE Management Activity

When beneficiaries retire from active duty, they may have big plans for how they're going to spend their time. Along with choices about where to live and their next great adventure, they must make choices about their health care. Understanding these choices will help beneficiaries and their families make the best health care decisions.

"While active-duty service members must use TRICARE Prime or Prime Remote, retirees who aren't eligible for Medicare may be eligible for TRICARE Prime or choose TRICARE Standard or Extra," said Kathleen Larkin, director of the health plan policy division at the TRICARE Management Activity. "Each program has advantages pertaining to cost, location and convenience.

If space is available, retirees can continue care in a military treatment facility with a primary care manager through TRICARE Prime. This requires re-enrolling and paying annual fees of \$230 for an individual and \$460 for a family. If beneficiaries choose to enroll in TRICARE Prime at an MTF, they'll receive care based on the same access-to-care standards as all other Prime beneficiaries.

TRICARE Standard or Extra may be the best option if a retiree moves to a location that isn't near an MTF or where Prime isn't offered. TRICARE Standard is a flexible, affordable plan that gives retirees and their eligible family members a greater choice of providers, no

Turning 65: Understanding TRICARE, Medicare

By Sharon Foster

TRICARE Management Activity

A 64-year-old beneficiary is currently receiving TRICARE benefits. When he turns 65, does he need Medicare if he already has TRICARE? Will he personally have to sign-up for Medicare or will TRICARE do this for him? Questions like these are normal for some beneficiaries not sure of their options when turning 65.

TRICARE and Medicare are separate programs. Medicare is health insurance for people age 65 or older, as well as for people under age 65 who have qualified for Social Security disability insurance.

TRICARE For Life is TRICARE's Medicare-wraparound coverage available to all Medicare-eligible TRICARE beneficiaries, regardless of age or place of residence, provided they have Medicare Parts A and B. There is no paperwork associated with Tricare for Life. Beneficiaries automatically gain coverage when they meet the requirements.

Beneficiaries must sign up for Medicare as soon as they become eligible to ensure that they continue to get benefits under TRICARE. Beneficiaries turning 65 receive reminder letters from the Defense Manpower Data Center. For more information regarding Medicare signup, beneficiaries can call (800) 633-4227 or go to www.medicare.gov.

Beneficiaries are ineligible for TRICARE benefits for any period of time that they have Medicare Part A but not Part B, with several exceptions. For information on these exceptions, beneficiaries can go to www.tricare.mil/factsheets/Medicare or talk



with their regional health care contractor.

While Medicare is the primary insurance when a beneficiary turns 65, TRICARE acts as the secondary insurance, minimizing out-of-pocket expenses. TRICARE covers

Medicare's coinsurance and deductible. After Medicare pays its part of the claim, TRICARE pays the remaining amount for any TRICARE covered services and the beneficiary pays nothing. As the primary payer, Medicare approves health care services for payment.

If beneficiaries have other health insurance, Medicare forwards their claims. Beneficiaries must then file a paper claim with their TRICARE contractor. If beneficiaries have employer group health plan coverage based on current employment, the employer group pays first, Medicare pays second and TRICARE pays last.

Medicare doesn't provide coverage outside of the United States and U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands). TRICARE is the primary payer for health care received overseas except U.S. territories unless the beneficiary has other health insurance. Overseas, TRICARE provides the same coverage as TRICARE Standard and has the same cost-shares and deductibles. When seeking care from a host nation provider, beneficiaries should be prepared to pay up front for services and submit a claim to the overseas claims processor.

For more information, log on to www.tricare.mil.

tion, go to www.tricare.mil/homedelivery.

Retirees also have the option to use the TRICARE retail pharmacy network and can purchase dental coverage through the TRICARE retiree dental program. For more information on dental coverage, visit www.trdp.org.

In addition to TRICARE retiree health care benefits, certain medical and pharmacy benefits also may be available to retirees from the Department of Veterans Affairs. For more information, log on to www.va.gov/health/default.asp.

The TRICARE Overseas Program Standard option is available to retirees planning to live outside the U.S.

They and their families must meet a deductible before cost sharing begins and generally file their own claims for reimbursement for covered health services. TRICARE also has additional country-specific requirements for care received in the Philippines.

Retirees should update the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System with any new personal information at www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dwp/index.jsp. Automatic coverage by TRICARE Standard and Extra or TOP Standard occurs after retirement as long as DEERS information is correct.

TRICARE officials recommend that beneficiaries consider all available choices before retiring and plan well in advance to ensure a smooth transition.

To learn more about retiree health care options, call (800) 444-5445 or visit the TRICARE Service Center, 2130 Pass Road, Biloxi.

enrollment fees, waiver of cost shares for more preventive health care services and the same low catastrophic cap as TRICARE Prime.

TRICARE Extra offers even lower out-of-pocket

expense if retirees use network providers. Although there's no enrollment fee for TRICARE Standard and Extra, a deductible of \$150 for individuals and \$300 for a family must be met before

cost-sharing begins.

Under TRICARE Standard and Extra, retirees retain the same access to pharmacy benefits through a local MTF or TRICARE pharmacy home delivery. For more informa-

Every member
of
Team Keesler
is important —
be safe,
not a
statistic.

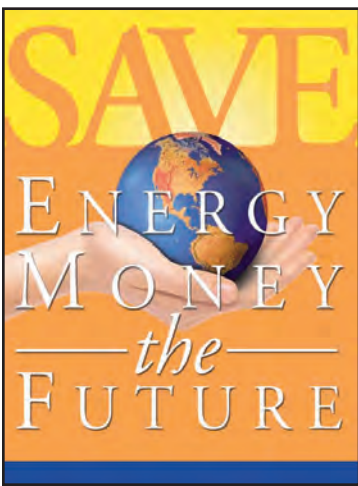


Strut Your Mutt spotlights Keesler's furry family members

Left, Dewi Clark, 81st Communications Squadron, holds her pet pomeranian, Chewy, during Friday's Strut Your Mutt event at the Vandenberg Community Center.

Bottom, Violet and Ivy McDermott show off their pet boxer, Nacho, at Friday's Strut Your Mutt event. Violet, 5, and Ivy, 9, are the daughters of Staff Sgt. Ian and Rachel McDermott, 338th Training Squadron.

Photos by Kemberly Groue





Sizzling fundraiser

From left, Chief Master Sgt. Michael Skidmore, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron superintendent, serves steaks to Col. Rodney Berk, 81st Mission Support Group commander; his wife Laurie and their two sons, 20-month-old Ricky and 5-year-old Brennan, at the chiefs' group steak sale at the Outback Steakhouse in D'Iberville, July 14. The event raised \$1,750 for support of Keesler's enlisted force.

Photo by Steve Pivnick

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.

Wednesday — 9 a.m., deployment briefing. All deploying members must attend prior to departure.

Arts and crafts center

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

Saturday — 9 a.m., basic woodworking. Class certifies you to use shop equipment in the future. \$25 includes materials.

Through Sept. 1 — summer photo contest. To enter, submit a printed copy of your photo to the center; entries will be placed on display. Prizes awarded. Free to enter.

Auto hobby shop

F.

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.

Tuesdays — 5-8 p.m., taco Tuesdays. \$1.50 for two tacos for Air Force Club members; \$1 per taco for nonmembers.

Wednesdays — 5-8 p.m., wings and things. Free for members, \$5 a plate for nonmembers.

Weekdays — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., free buffet a day giveaway, enter to win in the casual dining area. No purchase necessary. Winner drawn daily.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

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

Wednesday — 4:30 p.m., free golf clinic. Adults only.

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 and preschool part-day program (morning and afternoon sessions.)

Fitness centers

Editor's note: While the Meadows Drive tennis courts are being renovated, there may be limited court availability. Renovations to be complete by the end of summer.

Today — last day to sign up for intramural flag football. Contact unit sports representative.

Wednesday — 3:30 p.m., intramural flag football coaches' meeting, Vandenberg Community Center.

Through Aug. 24 — summer power lifting competition registration, Triangle Fitness Center. Free to participate.

Gaudé Lanes

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

Aug. 4 — 2 p.m., intramural bowling league coaches' meeting.

McBride Library

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

Today — 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.

Today and Friday — register at the marina for drawing for discounted Saints football tickets, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., today; 7 a.m. to noon, Friday. Tickets sold in pairs for \$170; includes transportation. For more information, visit <http://keesler81fss.us/ITT2.html>.

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

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

Wednesday — 6 p.m., last player standing pool tournament. Free; prizes awarded.

Youth center

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

Friday — 6 p.m., Missoula Children's Theatre performance; "The Tortoise Versus the Hare." Free admission.

Monday-Sept. 3 — youth flag football registration, ages 5 and older. \$50 for first child, \$25 each additional. Season begins in October. Air Force Club members receive 10 percent off first child's fee.

Through Oct. 1 — open enrollment for before- and after-school program. Ages 5-12, 5:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

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>.

Seafood roadshow

Friday through Sunday, 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, raffles, recipes, balloons and more.

Thrift shop reopens

The Keesler Thrift Shop reopens Monday.

For donations and pickups, call 377-3217.

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

Skin cancer screening

The dermatology clinic has a limited number of appointments available Aug. 10-11 for skin cancer screening.

Patients who've been screened in the last 12 months aren't eligible. Patients are

screened for skin cancer; other skin issues won't be treated.

For more information or appointments, call 376-3501.

Feds feed families drive

Food donations are collected 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 15 at the commissary as part of the Feds Feed Families campaign.

Tech. Sgt. Amanda Fisk, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron, said Keesler's partner for the drive is the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen in Biloxi.

The program was launched to encourage federal government employees to donate nonperishable food items for distribution to area food banks.

The overall federal collection goal is 2 million pounds. The Defense Department's goal is 733,800 pounds.

For more information, call 376-5633.

ID card service limited

The military personnel section's customer support section will have limited service Aug.

16-18 while new identification card is being installed.

Other locations to obtain ID cards are:

On base — 403rd Wing, 377-9588 or 4363.

Naval Construction Battalion Center — 4801 Marvin Shields Blvd., Gulfport, (228) 871-2322 or 2331.

Supervisor of Shipbuilding Gulf Coast — 1000 Jerry St. Pé Highway, PRECOM Building 2nd Floor, Pascagoula, (228) 769-4153.

Diversity Day

Keesler's second annual Diversity Day is Sept. 13 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

To volunteer for one of the committees, call 377-9160 or e-mail 81mss.dpn@us.af.mil.

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.

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.

Supply source

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office is a free source of supplies and equipment.

For more information, visit

CSC supply customer service, Room 126, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002; call 377-2005 or e-mail 81LRS.CustomerSVC@us.af.mil

Health benefits

Health benefit advisers for the 81st Medical Group are available at 376-4737 or 4010.

The Tricare contract liaison's number is 376-4752.

Zero overpricing

Submit zero overpricing items on Air Force Form 1046 to CSC supply customer service, Room 126, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002.

For overpricing issues or concerns call CSC customer service, 377-2005 or email 81LRS.CustomerSVC@us.af.mil.

Repair parts

For maintenance activities wanting to order bit/piece repair parts, call the wing awaiting parts monitors, 377-4180 or 5590.

Worship schedule

Roman Catholic

Daily Mass, 11:15 a.m.,
Monday through Friday, Tri-
angle Chapel.

Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., Tri-
angle Chapel.

Protestant

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

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

Gospel service, noon Sun-
day, 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 congrega-
tional 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.

This week's movies at Welch Theater

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

Saturday — 2 p.m.,
X-Men First Class (PG-13);
6:30 p.m., Super 8 (PG-13).

Sunday — 1 p.m., Mr,
Popper's Penguins (PG)

Summer storms stymie soccer season

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's traditional summer pattern of afternoon thunderstorms is wreaking havoc on the intramural soccer season.

Rains cancelled games July 11 and 18, as well as Monday and Tuesday this week.

Intramural sports director Sam Miller said that double-headers are being scheduled to make up the rained-out contests.

As of Friday, the 338th Training Squadron B-team is undefeated with three wins to its credit in the East Division. The Dark Knights recently combined their A and B teams, creating a formidable force, blasting the 81st Medical Operations Squadron, 13-1, July 19 and taking a win over the 336 TRS-B, 7-0.

In the West Division, the A-teams from the 336th, 334th and 333rd TRS each have 2-0 records, while the 335th TRS and the Marine Corps Detachment are still seeking their first wins after two losses.

July 20, the 333rd TRS-A team beat the 335th TRS, 4-3; the 334th TRS-A defeated MARDET, 5-3, and the 336th TRS-A was credited with a forfeit win over the now-defunct 338th TRS-A team.

West Division games are Monday and Wednesday at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. East Division matches are 6 and 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Some adjustments will be made to reschedule games. All games take place on the multipurpose field on Meadows Drive.

For more information and schedules, call 377-2444.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Jonathan Brown, 335th TRS, and Dalton Nguyen, 333rd TRS-A, battle for the ball during a West Division game July 20. The 333rd TRS Spartans won, 4-3.

Mini-triathlon set for Sept. 10

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's 7th annual mini-triathlon is 8 a.m. Sept. 10 at the Triangle Pool.

Patty McGruder, health promotion educator at the health and wellness center, said that three events are planned – a 200-yard swim, 9 miles cycling and 2 miles running.

For relay teams, one of the three members must be female. Each person does a different event. The top three teams earn Commander's Cup points. All teammates must be from the same squadron.

Individual categories are individual male and female (ages 18-29, 30-39, and over 50), elite male (less than 45 minutes), elite female (less than 50 minutes), Clydesdale (men more than 200 pounds) and Athena (women more than 150 pounds).

Competitors who sign up by Sept. 1 at the HAWC or Blake Fitness Center receive a T-shirt the day of the event. The last day to register is Sept. 7; no sign-ups are accepted on the day of the contest. Check-in time is from 6:30-7 a.m.

For more information, call the health and wellness center, 376-3170.

