



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

AUG. 4, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 30

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Whose sons, daughters have you influenced?

By Chief Master Sgt. Atticus Smith

93rd Air Ground Operations Wing

MOODY Air Force Base, Ga. — Serving as a command chief provides unique opportunities. One is being able to attend various retirement ceremonies. Most of the time I know the person retiring, but sometimes I'm invited merely based on being the command chief.

Regardless of how well I know the person, I try to make as many retirements as possible. It's not something I have to do; it's something I want to do. And don't think it's because of the reception afterward where there tends to be a choice of treats ranging from ice cream to ice-cold beer. I attend because I'm always intrigued as to what stories the honoree will tell. I've learned a common theme prevails.

When retirees reflect on their careers, it's very common for them to speak fondly of the friends and people they have gotten to know and the sense of purpose and pride they have serving their nation. Rarely, if ever, are stories of frustrations and stress-filled days spoken about, although we all know that there are plenty of those stories to choose from. I wonder if

those stories just naturally melt from memory lane, like ice cream in the hot sun ... a treat I often enjoyed growing up.

Recently, after eight years of not being home, I visited my hometown of Walton, N.Y. Growing up with four brothers and numerous neighboring children to play with, we often enjoyed ice cream on the hot summer days. I'm not quite sure if any of us pondered where life would lead us, but it's easy to ponder where life has led us when returning home. The only difference during this hot summer afternoon was that it wasn't spent over ice cream, but over an ice-cold beer.

I sat on the large front deck of my childhood home and stared at the long driveway. I saw the young, scared and timid boy with chubby cheeks and a chubby belly slowly being driven away in a white Ford van en route to the airport, then to basic training. As I sipped on my beer, I could only shake my head at the sight.

I was an unguided soul. I really had no clue about anything, very limited direction and just enough discipline to stay out of jail. As I reflect back, I can't help but thank those who shaped me and took responsibility of me.

I thank the NCOs and senior NCOs. From the onset of basic training through my first duty assignment, they were there, and what a grave responsibility they had. They turned a young boy into a young man with the delicate balance of direction, discipline and recognition. Eventually I became one of "them," an NCO responsible for someone's son or daughter. What a grave responsibility I had, but thankfully I still had the direction and discipline from my peers, as well as the senior NCO tier.

As I neared the end of my beer, I felt immensely fortunate that their influence helped provide me an opportunity for a long career. Across the years, there have been so many good times, good friends and good memories. Tough missions, challenges and shortfalls have been there. However, the focus, commitment and dedication by Airmen to overcome the odds are like no other.

From the corner of my right eye, my mom's flag moved gently in the summer breeze. A flag was flying the day I hopped in the van, but Old Glory means so much more to me than it did when I was 18. I'm grateful to be a small part of a team that

protects and secures America's freedoms and liberties, just as they have been protected by noble men and women for the past 235 years.

I realized my thoughts closely mirrored the stories I've heard during retirement ceremonies and began to wonder how many similar stories are beginning.

How many other sons and daughters from Walton are being driven to the airport? Are they as lost as I was? Are they as nervous as I was? Who will be the NCOs and senior NCOs responsible to serve them? Will I be one of them? I sure hope so, I couldn't think of a better way to return the decades of investment made in me.

If not sons or daughters from Walton, I know there are many of our national treasures from various parts of the world arriving at my current base each day. What a grave responsibility we have to them.

As I took my last sip, reminiscing on memory lane came to an end. Or maybe it was time for some ice cream.

Bring credit and honor to the U.S. Air Force and take care of each other in all your actions.

Critical Days of Summer

Boating safety — don't let your guard down

By Teresa Denney

53rd Wing

EGLIN Air Force Base, Fla. — My brother and his family visited us here in the beautiful Florida Panhandle last summer. I looked forward to showing them all the exciting things to see and do.

I was also eager to take them on a boat trip. I spoke extensively about the area wildlife and the beautiful waters. My niece was especially thrilled at the possibility of seeing dolphins. I rented a pontoon boat from outdoor recreation and waited impatiently for their arrival.

The time finally came, and we embarked on an awesome day on the water. As we got closer to our destination, a pod of dolphins came into view. My niece was mesmerized. They gave us a thrilling show to remember. I was so happy it was all going so well.

We spent a good four to five hours cruising around before deciding to go home. By then, it was hot, and the kids wanted to take off their life jackets because of the heat, but I told them Florida law required them to keep them on while in the boat. However, none of us adults were wearing them.

On the way home, the water became choppy. Out of nowhere, a rogue wave hit the bow and the front of the boat was instantly submerged. My brother's wife and two kids were thrown overboard. The rest of us went flying down the length of the boat. It was total chaos.

The boat finally straightened out, and we were able to stand. My brother and husband jumped into the water and pulled the three back into the boat. They were scared, coughing up water and battered. The adults on the boat were pretty bruised up as well and bewildered at how something like this could happen so quickly.

I hate to imagine what would've happened if those kids hadn't been wearing life jackets. I know now that the adults should have also been wearing them too.

This is a lesson I'll never forget. No matter how confident you are in your environment, never let your guard down, and never think that you can do without a life saving device that is readily available to you.

I thank God we all came out of it safe, but I'm not sure my brother and his family will want to go out on a boat again anytime soon.

**PREPARING
for the storm**



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

ON THE COVER

Marcella Kearns, 3, adjusts some of the leaves on the flower garland she made during the Medieval Faire at the Vandenberg Community Center July 28. Her parents are retiree Robert and Marcie Kearns of Gulfport. The event was the culmination of McBride Library's "A Midsummer Night's Read" summer program. The children also made sand art in bottles and knight's swords, played games and ate pizza. More photos, Page 17.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



KEESLER NEWS

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DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

If you had an unexpected windfall of \$1,000, how would you use it?



"I'd buy a new laptop for school."

Senior Airman Marcel Rivera, 81st Training Wing



"I'd use it to pay off student loans."

Senior Airman Brandon Maxwell, 81st Comptroller Squadron



"I'd put it toward my wedding."

2nd Lt. Sara Puckett, 333rd Training Squadron

TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Col. Lynn Connett, left, turns over command of the 81st Training Group to Col. Maureen Smith July 28 on the parade field. Connett returns to the Pentagon as deputy director for manpower and personnel plans and integration for the Air Staff.

Smith takes charge of 81st Training Group

Smith shakes hands with Staff Sgt. Marcus Hyatt, 334th Training Squadron military training leader, following the parade held in conjunction with the change of command ceremony. Smith is a recent graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. Smith is no stranger to Keesler — she attended the operations management course here in 1990 and became an instructor in the 335th Training Squadron's command and control officer course five years later. Smith transferred to the manpower career field and served as chief of manpower management courses. In 1997, she became the 81st TRG's executive officer.



Photo by Adam Bond



Master Sgt. Anthony Fisher, second from left, and Gerry Cross, near center with long-sleeved shirt without tie, tour the Triangle Area with 30 school superintendents, principals and counselors from schools along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Fisher is superintendent of military training for the

81st Training Group and Cross is Keesler's school liaison officer. Cross partnered with Kevin Byrd, the school liaison officer from the Seabee Base in Gulfport, to give the tour to acquaint area educators with Keesler's training mission and its resources.

Educators, family members tour Triangle training facilities



Photos by Kemberly Groue

From left, Megan Sorley, Kristen Foster, Mary Fitzgerald and Airman 1st Class Christopher and Mara Moomey with 4-month-old son Christopher are briefed by Senior Master Sgt. Reynaldo Garza and Master Sgt. Albrecco Jackson, 338th Training Squadron, about the air expeditionary force training area next to the Triangle Track. The 81st Training Group organized the spouses tour. Sorley is married to Airman Basic Eric Kosecki, 334th TRS; Foster is married to 2nd Lt. Steven Foster, 333rd TRS; Fitzgerald is married to Col. Jay Fitzgerald, 2nd Air Force; and Moomey is assigned to the 81st Operations Support Flight.

Lost & Found

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

Personnel training flight development chief dies

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Leonard "Len" Adams, 71, of Ocean Springs passed away July 27.

Adams was the training development element chief for the 335th Training Squadron's personnel training flight.

He retired from active duty in 1979 as a master sergeant with 22 years of service and immediately joined the civilian work force. His federal career spanned 54 years.

His supervisor, training support chief Doris Carleton, worked with Adams for 32 years and described him as a friend, not just a co-worker.

"He climbed the ranks as a civilian from instructor to instructor supervisor to training specialist to his current job," she said. "He was very dedicated to the mission and never watched the clock. He loved his job and never mentioned retiring until just a few months ago."

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Dorothy "Dot" Adams; his sons, John (Michele) Adams Jr. and Jeffrey Adams; his daughter, Jennifer Adams; his three sisters, Carolyn Adams, Darlene (David) Blair and Cathey Lovett; his brother-in-law, Bobby (Lucy) Tullos; his sister-in-law, Becky (George) Jenkins; 10 grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, Jordan "Jody" Adams Sr.; his parents, Clarence Leonard Adams and Annie Clyde Phillips; his stepfather, Vernon Phillips; and his grandparents, Asa Carl Eskew and Ettie Depree Eskew.

Funeral services were Mon-



Adams

day, with burial at Biloxi National Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to The Fisher House, 509 Fisher St., Keesler AFB, MS 39534, or to the American Kidney Fund, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 1010, Rockville, MD 20852.

View and sign register book at www.bradfordokeefe.com.

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

If you'd like to sing
the National Anthem
at base or community
ceremonies,
call 377-1179.

Academic aces



Senior Airman Eric Elias, Airman 1st Class Nathan Steiner and Coast Guard Marine Science Technician 2nd Class Matthew Tyson have completed technical training in the 335th Training Squadron with perfect scores. Elias, from Youngstown, Ohio, and Steiner, from Corpus Christi, Texas, graduated from the electronic principles course and continue their training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, in the communication, navigation and mission systems apprentice course. Tyson, from Wilson, N.C., graduated from the weather forecaster apprentice course and will be assigned to the National Ice Center, Washington, D.C.

Make safety a reality — don't be a fatality.

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

ERAU registration

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

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.

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.

Volunteer — get connected.

Keesler celebrates proud heritage '70 Years of Excellence ... With a Touch of Class!'

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

A single 70th birthday party isn't enough for Keesler. When Aug. 27 rolls around, three different celebrations will mark Keesler's seven decades of service, training, innovation and growth.

Army Air Corps Station No. 8 was activated June 12, 1941, as a response to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's plea to bolster national defense as threats to world peace unfolded. Aug. 25, the installation was renamed Keesler Army Airfield in honor of 2nd Lt. Samuel Keesler Jr., a Mississippi native and Army pilot who was shot down during combat in 1918.

Theme for the day is "70 Years of Excellence ... With a Touch of Class!" Birthday celebrations planned are:

Birthday golf scramble — 8 a.m., Bay Breeze Golf Course. Golfers must have verifiable handicaps for the four-person select-shot tournament. The cost is \$40 per player for

green fees, cart, coffee, pastries, lunch, beverages, prizes and giveaways. Preregistration is required. For more information or to sign up, call 377-3832.

Family birthday party — 9 a.m. to noon, Bay Breeze Event Center. Free activities and refreshments are planned, including games, clown, face painting, inflatables, pony rides, arts and crafts, cookies and ice cream. For more information, call 377-4116.

Keesler's birthday gala — 7-11 p.m., Bay Breeze Event Center. Guests are asked to come attired in Kentucky Derby garb for an evening of southern charm. Prizes are awarded for best dressed guests. There's live entertainment by Big Band Theory, dancing, scotch and cigar sampling, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a photo booth.

Tickets are \$15 for Air Force Club members and \$20 for nonmembers. Tickets are available at Bay Breeze club and pro shop, the marina and Gaudé Lanes. For more information, call 377-1690 or 2334.

Mullen wants balanced budget cuts

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — As the pressure increases on the federal budget, the Defense Department must make cuts in a balanced way, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said Monday.

"There are three dials: the people dial, the operations dial and the acquisition or equipment dial," Navy Adm. Mike Mullen said to about 300 Marines and sailors at this sprawling base in Helmand province. "We're going to have to make adjustments in all three."

Any changes must be done slowly and with forethought, the chairman said. He wants to avoid the hollow force of the 1970s and the kind of severe cuts made in the 1990s. There will be adjustments in all three

"There are three dials: the people dial, the operations dial and the acquisition or equipment dial ... We're going to have to make adjustments in all three."

— Admiral Mullen

service departments and they must be done in an integrated way, he said.

Cuts in defense can't come from personnel only or pay and benefits only or acquisition only, Mullen said.

Some aspects of the budget have to be studied because the expense is not sustainable.

"Our health costs in the Department of Defense have grown from \$19 billion in 2001, to \$51 billion this year,"

the chairman said. "In four years this will grow to \$64 billion. If we don't get control of that, we're going to be a very healthy, but small force, because those are bills that you just have to pay."

Military health care is a great system, Mullen said. It's a gold standard for health care in America, "but it's not inexpensive ... and the checkbook is not unlimited," he said.

IN THE NEWS

Dates slip for housing privatization

The dates for housing privatization closing has slipped by about a month, according to Brett Long, chief of the housing flight for the 81st Infrastructure Division.

The new tentative schedule:

Aug. 15-26 — Congressional notification to transfer funds.

Aug. 29 to Sept. 9 — transfer funds.

Sept. 12-19 — advertise bonds and lock interest rates.

Sept. 26-30 — close and take over Sept. 30; rent starts Oct. 1.

"It could be a few days sooner, but the Sept. 1 closing date is out," Long said July 28.

Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group conducts warrior training noon to 5 p.m. Aug. 11.

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

For emergency situations such as shortness of breath, chest or abdominal pain or bleeding with pregnancy, go to the nearest emergency room. If it's an emergency, contact 911 for an ambulance.

Dental residency program review

The Commission on Dental Accreditation is reviewing the general practice and endodontics residency programs of the 81st Medical Group Nov. 15-16.

Third-party comments from students and patients are solicited by CODA until Sept. 15, 60 days prior to the scheduled review. Such comments must pertain only to the standards for the particular program or policies and procedures used in the commission's accreditation process.

A copy of the appropriate accreditation standards and/or the commission's policy on third-party comments may be obtained by contacting the commission at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611, or by calling (800) 621-8099, extension 4653.

Many of the CODA standards and policies also are available at the American Dental Association's website at www.ada.org/100.aspx. Comments are screened by commission staff for relevancy. For comments not relevant to these issues, the individual is notified that the comment is not related to accreditation and, where appropriate, referred to the appropriate agency.

For local questions, consult the program directors or the 81st DS Residency Flight Commander, 606 Fisher Street, Keesler AFB, MS 39535, or call 376-5190.

Dragons deployed — 292

Schwartz speaks about importance of diversity

By Alicia Garges

Space and Missile Systems Center
Public Affairs

LOS ANGELES — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz spoke about the importance of diversity at the NAACP's Annual Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Awards Dinner July 26.

The banquet was one of several events held in conjunction with the group's annual convention and coincided with the 63rd anniversary of the executive order desegregating the military.

"As a nation, we are benefitting from having recognized the value of meaningful diversity," Schwartz said.

While earlier equal opportunity programs focused on race and gender, the current diversity movement looks beyond demographic considerations, the general said.

"We know that our strength is drawn from diverse perspectives that develop from different backgrounds — to name a few: socioeconomic, educational, geographic, philosophical and spiritual," he said.

Ensuring Air Force working environments are conducive to equal opportunity and fostering diversity of perspectives in the service will lead to enhanced

performance and effectiveness, Schwartz said.

"Our next challenge will be to identify more clearly how this is done and how we can measure our progress," the general said. Recently, the service formed the Air Force Diversity Committee, a senior-level working group chartered to find ways to leverage and better manage diversity, Schwartz said.

According to the general, diversity should not be an end unto itself, but rather a means toward a broader desired state of enhanced effectiveness for the Air Force and its overall mission. Schwartz pointed out that in academic literature, diversity management has been defined as the systematic and planned commitment on the part of organizations to recruit and retain employees from diverse demographic backgrounds.

"Note the open-ended sense of the phrase 'diverse demographic backgrounds,' which suggests that it is possible for any number of people, even of the same gender and race, to still have widely differing demographic backgrounds," Schwartz said.

"Therefore managing diversity, I would argue, also implies — as well as important consid-



Photo by Lou Hernandez

Schwartz's speech coincided with the 63rd anniversary of the executive order desegregating the military.

erations of race, gender and ethnicity — a more active recognition and appreciation of the increasingly multicultural nature of contemporary organi-

zations," he said.

The Air Force's diversity efforts focus on institutionalizing diversity throughout the service and allowing for the

recruitment, development and retention of a highly-qualified and talented total force, Schwartz said.

"As we approach this challenge, we will consider ways in which we can engage every Airman — officer, enlisted, and civilian — across the total force as participants in this process, and encourage them to share in the responsibility for ensuring that the talents and capabilities of each individual are mutually respected, valued and applied toward enhancing mission accomplishment," Schwartz said.

Commanders and supervisors at all levels will be taking the lead in advancing diversity priorities, deepening the lines of communication and taking a personal interest in orchestrating individual success of others whose potential to serve the Air Force so values, he said.

"Your Air Force embraces the fundamental value of a diverse workforce, whose individual members, while possessing different backgrounds and perspectives, are singularly bound in common cause, lending their creativity, energy and dedication to the betterment of our mission and our nation's security," he said.

Shredding documents
can protect
personal data.

For an appointment
to use a shredder,
call the
81st Communications
Squadron
records management
section,
377-2571.

The base
privacy act manager
investigates complaints
and violations
of the
Air Force Privacy Act,
Air Force Instruction
33-332.

If you think a violation
has occurred,
call 377-2286.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Online job fairs

Airman and family readiness center

Veterans and military spouses looking for work can participate in online job fairs if they have an Internet connection.

The free service has more than 15,000 jobs available from more than 80 industry leading employers. Quarterly large events and regional fairs. Veterans can register and visit the environment at anytime day or night, regardless of location..

For more information, log on to www.veteranscareerfair.com or call 202-558-2899, extension 101.

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. Monday through Wednesday, 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. Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A.

Retirement briefings — 1-3:30 p.m. 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.

Worship schedule

Roman Catholic

Daily Mass, 11:15 a.m., Monday through Friday, Triangle Chapel.

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

Protestant

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

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

Gospel service, noon Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

Jewish

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

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

Greek Orthodox

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

Islamic

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

Latter-Day Saints

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

**NO DRUGS NO EXCUSES
DRINK RESPONSIBLY**

Watering lawns during drought

The housing office advises residents to water lawns in the early morning or early evening hours, but not overnight or during the hottest part of the day.

Adjust sprinklers so water isn't wasted on non-grassy areas.

Cyber talk



Jim Christy, Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center director of futures exploration, spoke July 28 at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Christy is a retired special agent with more than 39 years of federal service specializing in computer crime investigations. In May, the top graduate in the Air Force's new cyber defense operations career field taught at Keesler was awarded the Jim Christy Award.

Security forces gets new commander



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Jeremy Ellway, 81st Security Forces Squadron, Maj. Matthew Pignataro, new 81st SFS commander, and Maurice Mathis, 81st SFS, discuss the associated challenges and benefits of Defense Biometric Identification System implementation at the White Avenue Gate. Pignataro took command July 16. The new commander

comes to Keesler from the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, where he was the chief of security forces air and space expeditionary force scheduling. Maj. James Clark, previous commander, is pursuing a master's degree in homeland defense at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey Bay, Calif.

Identity theft is a personal nightmare and security risk. Shred bills, statements, letters, old journals, records, outdated application forms and any documents that contain your full name, Social Security number, duty title and job information, credit card, bank account numbers and names of family members. If you see documents being removed from trash cans, call the 81st Security Forces Squadron law enforcement desk, 377-3040.

Hospital provides back-to-school physicals



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Maj. (Dr.) Allen Stering, 81st Medical Operations Squadron pediatric clinic, checks Ryleigh Sprague's reflexes during the clinic's July 23 school and sports physical day. Ryleigh, 10, and her brother Trevor, 14, were among the 57 patients seen by the clinic staff and volunteers from other clinics. The clinic conducted a similar event June 25, when 83 young people were seen. Ryleigh and Trevor's parents are Tech. Sgt. Anthony Sprague, 336th Training Squadron, and Michelle Kline.

Keesler Facebook page keeps 'fans' connected

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

A Facebook page is like a cork bulletin board where anyone can tack photos, information and questions. Keesler fans have many reasons to "like" the page including the important information about what's happening on base that's posted daily, articles, photos, links to base organizations and other Air Force-related pages and websites, interactive questions and discussions.

Brian Margavich said that he uses Facebook to keep in contact with friends and family.

"It's great while home and while deployed," Margavich said. "The Keesler page allowed me to feel a little closer to home while deployed to Cuba for six months."

The page reaches more than 2,100 members of the Keesler family and that number grows daily. Not only does it provide information, it's a forum to keep people connected to one another.

Megan Schroeder said, "I grew up Air Force and now I'm married into it. Growing up and moving everywhere, I made friends all around the

world and Facebook helps me keep in touch with them.

When posting on the Keesler page, always keep operations security in mind. Don't post anything that is offensive or inappropriate. All advertising will be deleted immediately. Other than that, feel free to share any thoughts, questions and photos that relate to Keesler (and maybe even have your photo published in the Keesler News).

Jamie Christensen Chevalier said, "Facebook is great for keeping in touch, but it can also lead to rumors and makes OPSEC more difficult, especially with some younger members who don't know what they should or shouldn't post."

Another purpose of the Keesler page is rumor control. For example, during the water boil notice, people could go to the Keesler page for the most accurate and up-to-date information available.

Kelly Brody said, "The Keesler page is incomparable because most of the pages that I enjoy are just for fun. Keesler's page can be very entertaining, but it is informative as well, it is timely and it is relevant, easy to read and none the less it is still fun!"

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**SUICIDE
AFFECTS
MORE
THAN
ONE**

MSgt Jay Blackwell

ENERGY AWARENESS

The Air Force is committed to energy efficiency. Everyone -- servicemembers, civilians and family members -- can help save energy and work toward a cleaner future. Here are some "Energy Facts" to think about:

- Each winter, the equivalent of of all the oil in the Alaskan oil pipeline is lost as heat through American windows
- "Energy Star" makes a difference. Energy Star tagged appliances typically use 50 percent less energy than their older counterparts
- Every time an oven door is opened, 25-50 degrees of temperature is lost
- Each ton of recycled paper saves the energy equivalent of 380 barrels of oil
- Ceiling fans cost about \$2.40 a month to run 10 hours a day; they can reduce energy bills by \$10
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours

Keesler's one command post has two roots

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Sometimes when two things come together, the resulting combination enhances and compliments the function of the other — like peanut butter and chocolate, John Lennon and Paul McCartney and the command posts for the 81st Training Wing and the 403rd Wing.

And while the benefits of that last combination might not be as readily enjoyed by the public at large, the members of Keesler's command and control structure have certainly acquired a taste for it.

Following a mandate issued in 2007 and approval from Air Education and Training Command and Air Force Reserve Command, the two command posts, one for the 81st TRW and the other for the 403rd Wing, combined a little less than a year ago. The mandate was issued by then-Gen. Michael Moseley as a way to alleviate some of the manning constraints the command and control career field had been experiencing. Bases with multiple command posts

were asked to find a way to combine.

"The command and control career field has been critically manned for a long time," said Master Sgt. Joseph Brady, 81st TRW command post superintendent. "So the idea was to share the manning provided to each base and have everyone involved in all base operations rather than assign it to a particular operation."

In Keesler's situation, the 403rd Wing specialized in flight-following operations and various other 403rd operations and the 81st TRW specialized in everything else but flight operations. In addition to the strain it placed on the manpower, it got confusing sometimes as to whom to talk to when something happened on base.

"Now, the commanders have one belly button they can talk to when they need to find out what's happening on the base," explained Brady.

"At one point, active duty manning was down to just four people trying to perform 24/7 operations," said Chief Master Sgt. Brian Harms, 403rd Wing chief of command post. "That's nearly impossible."



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Pinkney, at work inside the command post, communicates with the 403rd Maintenance Squadron for an update on the status of their aircraft.

Base command posts are responsible for up channeling and down channeling of critical information related to base operations and making sure base commanders and major commands know what they need to know.

"Most people don't know what our job is because it's so broad," said Harms. "Basically, we're the eyes and ears of the commander. Any messages that come down from command go through us before the base commander hears about it. So it's pretty important. If we don't do our jobs, it affects the whole base."

The controllers who sit in the command post work 12-hour shifts and maintain rigorous monthly certification and testing requirements in order to do their jobs. In the past, that meant something different to the active duty, civilian or reservist as each had a special function. But now anyone who works at the Keesler command post has to be trained and certified to do everything.

"It's been a lot of familiarization training and there have been some struggles along the way," explained Harms. "But we're light years ahead of where we were a year ago."

Another benefit is that it broadens the careers of Keesler command post controllers due to the additional duties to which they're exposed.

"Before we combined, some active duty would go to another base never having talked to an aircraft before," said Harms. "Now they're getting mission monitoring experience and it really helps their careers."

According to Airman 1st Class Ronnequa Pinkney, 81st TRW command controller, most of what she's doing now involves the hurricane hunting mission. She is responsible for relaying pertinent information such as the track of the storm, when the plane is flying into the storm, how long it is in the storm and when it comes back.

Not only does she relay this information to the Air

Force, but to outside agencies as well such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Hurricane Center.

Command controllers are also fully certified and trained to handle and authenticate emergency action messages that come down from Air Force headquarters or AETC as well as other classified information. They are trained and prepared to call base commanders and tell them that the base has been instructed to change its defense readiness, force protection or hurricane condition levels. All the lightning strike and weather warnings that pop up on desktop computer monitors are generated from the command post.

"It's been a fairly steep learning curve, but we've come a long way in a year," said Brady. "The working relationship has been great. There was some resistance early on, but now people are really starting to see the benefits of a single Keesler command post."



Brady, left, and Harms review the Keesler command post quick reaction checklists to stay prepared in the event of an emergency.



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OR
TICKET**

When you
gamble
with safety,
you bet
your life.



Handcrafted table presented to Bay Breeze

Airman 1st Class David Redding, pictured, 81st Medical Support Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Jim Hampton, another squadron member, presented the Bay Breeze Event Center with a handcrafted table for the collocated lounge. The cherry wood and polyurethane table is inlaid with coins from each of the 81st Medical Group squadrons. Redding and Hampton began the project in May at the arts and crafts center wood-working shop.

Photo by Eva Ferrell



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Renovations on one of Keesler's original structures at 602 Meadows Drive are scheduled to be finished in September. Upgrades include new heating and air conditioning, siding and asbestos abatement. The building has served many purposes over the years including most recently a heritage center where old photographs, artifacts and memorabilia were housed.

Old barracks undergoes 21st century renovations

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

There's a little old building off Meadows Drive that's having a pamper me year.

Exterior renovation began in October and should be completed next month.

According to Dave Horner, construction oversight lead with CSC, work by Birmingham Industrial Construction, the contractor, is progressing well.

Upgrades include new heating, ventilation, air conditioning, doors, glazing on the glass windows, lattice work on the underside of the house and new siding to replace old asbestos siding. At a cost of \$100,000, 602 Meadows Avenue will be ready to strut her stuff once again.

The structure is one of the last of the old barracks built during World War II. According to Susan Dawson, base historian, the building has been used for a variety of purposes in the past. Most recently, though, it served as an unofficial heritage center with displays, photographs and memorabilia. The artifacts that were there were

sent back to the National Museum after Hurricane Katrina and it still houses photographs and memorabilia. The

hope is that one day it will become a heritage center again, but no formal plans have been drawn up.

AAFES Xbox competition comes to Keesler Aug. 20

AAFES Public Affairs

Virtual sweat and avatar tears will be the order of the day as the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's "Kinect™ for Xbox 360® World Wide Competition" comes to the Keesler Exchange, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 20.

Participants can forgo the buttons and controllers as they'll compete in track and field events using their entire bodies.

"This event is open to all ages, but anyone who wants to play needs to register as soon as possible because we are limited to six hours of

competition," said general manager Penny Madison. "Registration is handled on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the tournament."

Xbox live cards, video games and T-shirts are given away at the event.

The player with the highest score wins a new Xbox 360 Kinect sensor and competes against the top scorers at exchanges of Army and Air Force installations throughout the southeastern U.S. The regional player with the highest score wins an Xbox 360 250GB Kinect Bundle.



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A Midsummer Knight's finale



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Charity Hurst, 10, encapsulates her sand art in a bottle during the Medieval Faire, the finale to the Midsummer Knight's Read summer reading program at McBride Library. The Medieval Faire was held at the Vandenburg Community Center July 28. Charity is the daughter of Staff Sgt. Travis and Kristy Hurst, 345th Airlift Squadron.



Alexander Doré, 3, prepares for battle by trying on a chain mail coif from Tech Sgt. Christopher Litton, 81st Communications Squadron. Litton is wearing a dismounted knight's uniform. Alexander is the son of Capt. Dean and Tara Doré, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron.



**Don't drink
and drive.**

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

403rd Wing reservists go extra miles for training

By Tech. Sgt.
Ryan Labadens

403rd Wing Public Affairs

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

For Air Force reservists, training and serving their nation often involves more than just the one weekend a month and 15 annual tour days a year. Members of many career fields often go the extra mile (or in some cases, fly a few hundred extra miles) to help fulfill their training requirements.

Two other squadrons within the 403rd Wing have career fields that make it necessary for Reservists to complete their training outside of their normal duty days: the 403rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron and the 815th Airlift Squadron "Flying Jennies."

Maj. Eduardo Medina, 403rd ASTS chief of the education/training/readiness committee, said the ASTS is comprised of many different medical careers, such as nurses, physicians and various medical technicians.

"The committee puts together a comprehensive training plan for the year that takes into consideration all the different (ASTS career fields)," said Major Medina. "As things come up throughout the year, the committee will alter the schedule so we can continue to accomplish our training goals, but still meet any other new objectives."

During a typical unit training assembly Saturday, Medina said most ASTS members work at Keesler Medical Center, performing immunizations and medical tests on other 403rd Wing Airmen to ensure they're physically able to perform their Reserve jobs. Sundays normally include other training, such as ancillary and computer-based training.

The major noted not all training can be done at the unit level, however.

"We might not have the resources or equipment available for them to train here," he said. "In those cases, we need to outsource and send our people to places where they can get their required training."

In other cases, some specialists need to maintain their



From left, Master Sgt. Dave Cooper, loadmaster; Capts. Eric Chapman and Elissa Granderson, pilots; and Master Sgt. Josh Stanton, loadmaster, stand in front of one of the 815th AS "Flying Jennies" C-130J-30 aircraft. The squadron's Airmen train throughout the year to maintain their readiness for deployment in support of global contingencies.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens

certification requirements through their civilian jobs, mainly because the ASTS might not have the credentials to teach some recertification classes. For example, emergency medical technicians need to recertify for their

National Registry Certification every two years, while physicians and nurses have to meet various continuing education hours for their respective specialties.

This can be accomplished through civilian medical training courses.

For members of the 815th Flying Jennies, much of their additional training requirements are performed during UTAs, while most of their flight training with the C-130J-30 cargo aircraft occurs during the week, said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Helm, 815th AS loadmaster and the non-commissioned officer in charge of training.

Helm said much of the squadron's training involves both day and night practice missions, such as combat offloads and air delivering heavy vehicles, supplies, equipment and troops. Many of these missions take place locally at the Stennis Space Center airport or the range at Camp Shelby, Miss. Other cross-country training taking place around the U.S. allows the Jennies to practice over

terrain and in environmental conditions they can't find locally.

Lt. Col. Frank Poukner, 815th AS assistant director of operations, said that since many of the traditional reservists are local, and since many of the pilots fly for commercial airlines, these Citizen Airmen can perform much of their flight training when they are not working or flying for their civilian jobs.

In addition to drill weekends and annual tours, Poukner said aviators also have 48 training periods allotted to them throughout the year. These four-hour blocks of time are used for flight training during the week.

Whether it's additional certification through a civilian job or extra duty days from the military, Citizen Airmen can still get the training they need to accomplish the mission.

"These additional training periods are essential," Poukner said. "We simply could not meet all of our training requirements just by performing UTAs and 15 annual tour days a year."



Senior Airman Laborian Jones, 403rd ASTS medical technician, prepares to take a blood sample from Master Sgt. Sonya Smith, 403rd ASTS health services management technician. The squadron's medical technicians, nurses and physicians train throughout the year to remain certified in their Air Force career specialties.

HAWC on smoking — 'never too late to quit'

Health and wellness center

It's never too late to quit smoking, and if that last attempt wasn't successful, it doesn't mean you should give up. The health and wellness center can assist you with your fight against nicotine.

Smokers don't have to battle nicotine addiction alone. Several options are available.

Onsite classroom or mobile classes utilize the American Cancer Society's Freshstart program, a four-week program that lasts one hour each session and meets Wednesdays at noon and 5 p.m. Participants attend class and have weekly blood pressures taken.

These are group settings and participation is required to increase the success of quitting. The four sessions address the how and why of tobacco use, mastering the first few days, overcoming obstacles and staying quit. Four consecutive visits are encouraged, but a missed class can be made up.

The quit line option is with the American Lung Association's Freedom from Smoking, a 12-week counselor-assisted program.

Participants initiate the call and inform the counselor that

they're at Keesler. Blood pressure readings are also required. Participants call at least once a week with updates and receive provided support during the program. Phone lines are open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week. If participants cannot reach a counselor, they provide a name and number for call back or the standard weekly call information for proper doctor notification.

Visiting www.ucanquit2.org offers a live chat 24/7 which can help anytime a craving strikes. This is a Defense Department tobacco cessation website available to eligible Tricare and Department of Veterans Affairs beneficiaries who are trying to quit. There are tools such as games, savings calculator and message board aimed at achieving the goal of tobacco freedom.

Medication is available for those in either the classroom or quit line program. For more information, call 376-3170.

Youth center hits the stage



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Tour director and actor Lanella Zotter, center, from the Missoula Children's Theater tour team, rehearses with young Keesler actors for Friday's presentation of "The Tortoise versus The Hare." Zotter and Lucy Habdas worked with the children during a week-long drama camp at the youth center. Ninety-five children auditioned for the 59 youth roles in the production.

Exceptions to
Keesler's 25 mph
speed limit:
15 mph in
housing areas,
flight line and
unpaved surfaces;
10 mph
in close proximity to
marching formations
and when waved
through base gates;
5 mph
in parking lots;
and 35 mph
in some sections of
perimeter roads.

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.

Monday-Wednesday — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., transition assistance workshop. Open to those 12 months or less from separation or 24 months from retirement. Spouses invited to attend.

Wednesday — 7 a.m. to noon, newcomers orientation.

Aug. 11 — 8-11 a.m., Veterans Administration benefits briefing. 1-4 p.m., retirement benefits briefing. 9-11:30 a.m., career beginnings and assessments.

Arts and crafts center

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

Friday — 12:30 p.m., framing class. Bring a piece of art or photograph no larger than 5x7 inches to frame. Class certifies you to use shop equipment in the future.

Saturday — 10 a.m., beginners creative woodworking class. Learn intarsia, a technique that uses varied shapes, sizes and types of wood inlaid together. \$20 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.

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.

Friday — 5-8 p.m., Mongolian barbecue in the ballroom. New low price; 75 cents per ounce for Air Force Club members, 95 cents per ounce for nonmembers.

Saturday — 8 p.m., dance night in the lounge. Music provided by DJ Dynamite.

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.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

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

Friday — 12:30 p.m., nonprior service student golf clinic. Free to attend.

Wednesdays — 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: For more information or to register, call 377-4385 or 3056.

Through Aug. 17 — doubles racquetball tournament registration, Blake Fitness Center.

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

Gaudé Lanes

Today — last day for intramural bowling league signup; contact unit sports representative.

Saturday — 6 p.m., casino bowling. Bowl three games, \$15 per person. Strike with color pin combination and win money. Limit five people per lane.

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

Outdoor recreation

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

Friday — 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., nonprior service student fishing rodeo. Catch and release tournament from marina piers. Limited poles and bait provided. Free to enter.

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

Swimming pools

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3948 or 3568. Identification and entry fee required for admission; \$1.50 daily or purchase a \$20 single season pass or \$60 family season pass, available at pools and outdoor recreation.

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

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

Vandenberg Community Center

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

Friday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., mix competition. Create a music mix to be played during the dance.

Saturday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., fashion show. Check out the latest styles fashioned by our own nonprior service students.

Youth center

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

Friday — 6:30-9:30 p.m., Friday night fun, ages 6-12. Games, skating, movies and more. \$10 for the first child, \$5 each additional. Air Force Club members receive 10 percent off first child's fee.

Tuesdays — tennis lessons, 5-5:30 p.m., ages 4-7; 5:30-6:30 p.m., ages 8-10; 5:30-7 p.m., ages 11-16. Prices vary. Dance class, 5:30-6:30 p.m., ages 3-5; 6:30-7:30 p.m., ages 6 and older. \$45 per month.

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

Thrift shop reopens

The Keesler Thrift Shop reopens Monday..

The Keesler Thrift Shop, operated by the Keesler Spouses Club, is at the corner of Meadows Drive and First Street.

Profits benefit base and area charities and provide scholarships.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Consignments are accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

Log on to www.keeslerspousesclub.com for a list of preferred donations. Pickup is available for bulk donations..

For more information, call 377-3217.

Skin cancer screening

The dermatology clinic has a limited number of appointments 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.

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..

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.

Hemodialysis care

The Keesler Hospital offers chronic hemodialysis to patients requiring the care.

Hemodialysis removes waste products such as creatinine and urea as well as free water from the blood when the kidneys are in renal failure.

The staff currently cares for Department of Defense beneficiaries only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The eight dialysis machines,

located in three treatment rooms, allow them to care for up to 12 patients a week.

For more information, call the nephrology clinic, 376-5537.

Speakers bureau

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

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

For more information, call 377-1179.

This week's movies at Welch Theater

Friday — 6:30 p.m., Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Cars 2 (G); 6:30 p.m., Bad Teacher (R).

Sunday — 1 p.m., Green Lantern (PG-13).

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

Gulfport Seabee Base plans annual Mud Run

Naval Construction Battalion Center

Gulfport's Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport hosts Seabee Mud Run 2011 Sept. 10. Registration and check-in begins at 6:30 a.m. and the race is at 8 a.m.

The course, open to the public, is a little more than 4 miles of mud, water, dry obstacles, a water slide and hills.

Teams compete for first, second and third place trophies, and members of these teams receive individual trophies.

Solo runners compete for medals.

To enter the base, bring identification such as a driver's license or passport, valid proof of vehicle insurance and valid vehicle registration.

To register, visit <http://www.active.com/running/gulfport-ms/seabee-mudrun-2011>.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Jinx Campbell was the overall female winner in last year's mini-triathlon with a time of 45:02. Mark Roberts, 81st Dental Squadron, was the overall male finisher at 37:50. The contest challenged 79 individuals and 11 three-person teams.

Mini-triathlon is 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, 40-49 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.