



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

NOV. 23, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 45

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COMMENTARY

Leader grateful for wingmen focused on success

By Gen. Edward Rice

Air Education and Training Command commander

Thanksgiving is a holiday of reflection, a look back at the many things we are thankful for, and Teresa and I want to first thank each of you and your families for the great things you do for our nation. It is your commitment and professionalism that allow Air Education and Training Command to develop the next generation of Airmen.

The First Command is an organization of wingmen dedicated to seeing each other succeed. One such example was Brad Shimp, an Air Force Recruiting Service Internet advisor, who took actions to save an Airman's life when his resilience was at its lowest. Brad could have passed the Airman off to another hotline or professional, but he stayed on the line, made the connections to save the Airman's life and in less than an hour, his first sergeant was knocking on his door to help him through the trying times.

We saw it again when 1st Lt Ryan McGuire graduated pilot training — the first officer to do so as an amputee. Through his own sweat and determination, he overcame and succeeded, but he could not have done it without his wingmen there to support and encourage him.

We also have countless mission successes to be thankful for. For instance, two AETC C-17 crews from Altus Air Force Base, Okla., supported combat operations in Libya as part of Operation Odyssey Dawn. On a moment's notice, they were ready to transition from their day-to-day training operations to real-world contingency operations.

Also, due to the motivated street and specialty recruiters of our Air Force Recruiting Service, we met 100 percent of the active-duty enlisted and line-officer recruiting goals for the fiscal year. In addition, we graduated the first class of combat systems officers, our air advisers taught countless Iraqi and Afghan Airmen to lead their services, and we welcomed the arrival of the first F-35A Lightning II joint strike

fighters to Eglin AFB, Fla. With too many to recount here, these are just a few examples of our successes and each is a testament to the dedication of the professionals within The First Command.

Lest we forget, there were sorrows this year as well. For some AETC families, this Thanksgiving will never be the same as they mourn Airmen who lost their lives. May we never forget them and may we continue to keep faith with their families as they will always be part of our Air Force family.

As you take this opportunity to recharge and relax with family and friends, I ask each of you to use good judgment and make sound choices. Watch out for your wingman. Have a plan...don't drink and drive. Use caution when travelling and don't overextend yourselves. Our nation needs all of you back safely, ready to continue the mission.

Teresa and I thank each of you and your families for your service to our nation and we wish you all a safe and joyous Thanksgiving holiday.

Native Americans always respond to duty's call

By Retired Col. Gene Kamena
and Dr. Roy Houchin

Air War College

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — Native Americans serving in the military long have been part of one of the largest per-capita ethnic groups in the profession of arms.

Young Native Americans have answered and continue to answer the nation's call of duty for many reasons. Some see it as a rite of passage, while others have been taught service, sacrifice and courage are virtues of value. The Native Americans serving today carry on a time-honored tradition, one continued from the time of the first settlers on this continent to the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"My people honored me as a warrior. We had a feast and my parents and grandparents thanked everyone who prayed for my safe return. We had a special (dance) and I remember as we circled the drum, I got a feeling of pride. I felt good inside because that's the way Kiowa people tell you that you've done well." — Kiowa Vietnam Veteran, according to Naval History and Heritage Command.

They have always been there; they were in the ranks of the military even before we were a country. In the early



days of our nation they were our eyes and ears, serving as scouts and guides. The last Indian Scout retired from the Army in 1947 at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., according to Naval History and Heritage Command.

Native Americans served in the War of 1812 and as auxiliary troops during the Civil War. Gen. Ely Parker, a Seneca Indian, wrote the terms for Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. Native American scouts served with distinction during campaigns in the western frontier and accompanied Pershing's troops in his pursuit of Poncho Villa in 1916. Teddy Roosevelt recruited Indian scouts, who accompanied the Rough Riders into Cuba during the Spanish American War.

Despite lack of citizenship status and not having the right to vote, more than 12,000 American Indians served in World War I. More than 600 were assigned to the 142nd Infantry Regi-

ment, seeing action in France. Many were decorated for bravery in battle.

Native Americans who served in World War I secured signal transmissions by using their native language. Joseph Oklahombi, a World War I Code Talker, captured more than 100 enemy during the Battle for Blanc Mont Ridge in October 1918, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs.

More than 40,000 Native Americans served during World War II, this time as American citizens after being granted citizenship in 1924. The now famous Code Talkers proved invaluable when they secured communications in the Pacific theater.

"It was always the warrior who was first in defending Mother Earth. It was his duty to be first. It is a part of traditional values, a part of protecting against any invasion that would endanger the people, our people and the land." — Dakota/Lakota Veteran,

according to Naval History and Heritage Command.

Native Americans have a tradition of serving above and beyond the call of duty. More than 20 have received the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor, many making the ultimate sacrifice. Still others served and sacrificed with less notoriety; during the opening stages of Operation Enduring Freedom, Army Spc. Lori Piestewa, a Hopi from Arizona, became the first female Native American service member to be killed in action. Not knowing she had been killed, Piestewa's family, tribe and community left their porch lights on to help her find her way home. During her memorial service, Daniel King read the following Oneida Indian warrior saying:

"When you adorn yourself with the implements of war, you are ready to kill. It is only right then you must be prepared to die as well. As Indian people, we know how to face war, we know how to sacrifice, we know how to honor, (and) we know courage. We know how to remember."

November is the time for all Americans to honor and remember the service and sacrifices of Native Americans, for they have always been there when needed.

Train, Care, Innovate ... Developing Combat Power for Air, Space and Cyberspace

ON THE COVER

Master Sgt. Rhonda Polanco, 336th Training Squadron, takes a spin around the dance floor with Air Force retiree Bill Williams during the fifth annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Senior Prom at the IP Casino, Nov. 17. Keesler Airmen volunteered for the event, sponsored by the Harrison County Development Commission and the Gulf Coast Retiree Partnership, with more than 800 senior citizens in attendance.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



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KEESLER NEWS

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Brazilian students visit Keesler

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Boulanger, 334th Training Squadron, briefs officer students Davi Medeiros, Flavio Diniz, Aramys Baptista, Carlos Mendes and Edson Rodrigues, Brazilian Air Force, during a tour of the air traffic control school at Cody Hall Nov. 16. Members of the Brazilian Air Force also toured base operations and ate lunch at Bay Breeze Event Center. Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, noted Keesler's cooperation with the Brazilian military over the past 67 years. Brazilian soldiers completed aircraft mechanics courses at Keesler beginning in 1944.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



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.

Academic ace

Senior Airman Jennifer Jones graduated from the financial management apprentice course in the 335th Training Squadron Nov. 18 with a perfect score. She's from Tulsa, Okla., and is assigned to the 138th Fighter Wing, Oklahoma Air National Guard.



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<http://www.facebook.com/keeslerafb>

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

Hap Arnold grants

The Air Force Aid Society provides \$2,000 grants for undergraduate studies through the Gen. Henry H. Arnold educational grant program.

The application deadline is March 9. Visit the AFAS website at www.afas.org for information and to access the online application.

Grants are available to selected sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 active Guard/Reserve members on extended active duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired Reservists with 20+ qualifying years of service, and deceased Air Force members; spouses (residing stateside) of active duty and Title 10 AGR/Reservists on extended active duty; and surviving spouses of deceased.

MGCCC winter term

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Keesler Center offers a winter term Nov. 14 through Feb. 17.

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

OTS boards

Officer Training School recruiting service board dates:

Rated — Dec. 1 application cutoff for Jan. 23; June 21, 2012, cutoff for Aug. 13, 2012.

Non-rated — March 1 cutoff for April 16.

Academy applications

The deadline to submit applications to the Air Force Academy is Jan. 1.

For more information, call 376-8472.

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.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Back to basics



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Members of the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron pathology and clinical laboratory flight participate in an open-ranks inspection Nov. 3 in front of the Keesler Hospital. Chief Master Sgt. Ramona Mayer, squadron superintendent, said the inspection is an effort to get back to the basics of dress and appearance and noted that some squadron members haven't experienced such an inspection since completing training. The squadron plans to conduct the inspections on a quarterly basis.

Retirement, separation offered to enlisted

By Eric Gill

Air Force Personnel, Service and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force officials are offering enlisted Airmen voluntary separation and retirement programs for fiscal 2012 as part of the service's ongoing force-management initiatives.

Voluntary and involuntary force-management programs were implemented in fiscal 2010 due to a 17-year high retention rate. For fiscal 2012, the service remains over its congressionally mandated end-strength.

"Extraordinarily talented Airmen have answered our nation's call," said Col. Kenneth Sersun, the Air Force military policy division chief. "With so many Airmen wanting to serve, we now have more Airmen serving than the authorized 332,800 end-strength funded by Congress."

Based on end-strength limits, the additional force-management measures are necessary to reduce the number of Airmen serving on active duty, he said.

The enlisted voluntary measures focus on Airmen in non-critical, overage specialties. These programs include limited Active Duty Service Commitment waivers, including waiving up to two years of enlistment obligations; Palace Chase transfers for enlisted Airmen with a one-to-one rather than a two-to-one year commitment; and enlisted Airmen may also apply to the Air Force Blue to Green interservice transfer to the Army program.

Eligible Airmen can begin applying immediately for any of these voluntary programs.

The challenge is balancing both the number and skills of Airmen within authorized, funded levels, Sersun said.

Airman and family readiness centers will continue to provide support through the transition assistance program and veterans' benefits seminars. These seminars include information on employment opportunities available in the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force civil service and private sector. Also included is information on the educational options available with the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

Senior leaders highly encourage Airmen to consider opportunities along the Air Force continuum of service in either the Air Force Reserve, <http://www.afreserve.com>, or Air National Guard <http://www.goang.com/careers>.

For information about this, and other personnel issues, visit the secure Air Force Personnel Services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.

IN THE NEWS

TRICARE data breach

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Science Applications International Corporation is mailing letters to affected military clinic and hospital patients regarding a data breach involving personally identifiable and protected health information.

Sept. 14, SAIC reported the loss of backup tapes containing electronic health care records used in the military health system to capture patient data from 1992 through Sept. 7, 2011, in San Antonio-area military treatment facilities.

This includes patients filling pharmacy prescriptions and other patients whose laboratory workups were processed in these same MTFs, even if the patients were receiving treatment elsewhere. The data may include Social Security numbers, addresses and phone numbers, and some personal health data such as clinical notes, laboratory tests and prescriptions. There is no financial data, such as credit card or bank account information, on the backup tapes.

The risk of harm to patients is judged to be low since retrieving the data on the tapes would require knowledge of, and access to, specific hardware and software and knowledge of the system and data structure. As a precaution, the assistant secretary of defense (health affairs) determined that SAIC should notify potentially impacted persons or households of this incident by letter.

As directed by TRICARE Management Activity, SAIC will provide credit monitoring and credit restoration services for one year for patients requesting them. The credit restoration services being provided exceeds current industry standards for responding to a data breach.

SAIC's Incident Response Center is available to answer patient questions, including helping with signing up for credit monitoring, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST. Concerned patients should call the response center to ask questions and verify authenticity of the letter:

United States — call toll free, 855-366-0140

International — call collect, 952-556-8312

For more information, visit <http://www.tricare.mil/Breach/>.

Wing calendar event planning

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

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

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

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



Airman 1st Class Alan Fogle, 338th Training Squadron student, sorts recycled items from the Sablich Center into various recycling bins Nov. 15 during America Recycles Day.

America Recycles Day



Photos by Kemberly Groue
 Petty Officer 3rd Class Anthony Moya, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7 in Gulfport, receives recycling handouts from Douglas Smith, contractor for Zero Waste Solutions at the Keesler Recycling Center and Amanda O'Neal and Aaron Carter, Lanier Environmental. The booth was on display at the base exchange to promote America Recycles Day.

Delivery unit has record-breaking baby boom

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Nov. 2 wasn't an average morning for Maj. (Dr.) Kermit Helo, who examined a record number of newborns in the 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron labor and delivery unit.

The 81st Medical Operations Squadron pediatrician encountered the highest number of admissions and deliveries the family birthing center has seen over a 48-hour period.

"With a capacity of eight labor/delivery/recovery rooms, we were caring for nine moms and babies, while two other prospective moms were in labor," said Maj. Amber Barker, 81st IPTS maternal child flight commander. "Our staff is phenomenal — they work as a team, nurses and techs alike. The communication and dedication to provide our patients optimal care didn't stop even with a 'full house.'



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Brenda Valdez, Maj. Amber Barker and Maj. (Dr.) Kermit Helo care for a record number of infants Nov. 2 in the 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron's labor and delivery unit. Valdez is a lactation consultant, Barker is the squadron's maternal child flight commander and Helo is the family birthing center's pediatrician from the 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

"Several staff members worked extra hours, showing their concern for and willingness to care for their

patients," Barker continued. "This attitude allows us to keep our moms and babies together, giving them the best

possible birthing and postpartum experience."

In addition to the labor and delivery staff members and the

obstetrics providers, nurses and technicians from the family health, women's health and pediatric clinics.

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.

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



PERSONNEL NOTES

Health benefits open season

81st Force Support Squadron

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program open season continues through Dec. 12.

During open season, federal employees can enroll or change plans in the Employee Benefits Information System at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil> or by calling 1-800-525-0102.

For more information, visit Room 214, Sablich Center, or call 376-8326.

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, call 376-8728.

Mandatory pre-separation briefings — 9 a.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 1 p.m. 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.

Federal-style resume writing for government agency jobs — 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday.

Transition assistance program workshops — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 12-14, Room 108A. Dress is business casual; no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms.

Veterans benefits briefing — 8-11 a.m. Dec. 15, Room 108A.

Retirement briefings — 1-3:30 p.m. 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 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.

Military personnel contacts

Military personnel section phone numbers:

Customer support — 376-8738.

Career development — 376-8739.

Force management — 376-8368.

Student personnel center — 377-4332.

Testing — 376-4111.

Sergeants council spreads holiday cheer with vouchers

Keesler Public Affairs

Once again, the first sergeants council is sponsoring Project Cheer, an annual program that provides Airmen with a commissary voucher to help out with their holiday food needs.

Last year, more than \$10,000 was raised for Project Cheer to assist 130 Keesler Airmen and their families.

Funds are being raised from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays this weekend through Dec. 17 with a bell-ringing campaign outside the main exchange and shopette. First sergeants take turns manning the collection sites

with members of their unit.

"The holidays can be a tough time for single parents, families of deployed members or Airmen in other difficult situations," said Senior Master Sgt. Joel Shepherd, 338th Training Squadron first sergeant.

"All donations go directly back to Keesler Airmen and are spent at the commissary," he added. "There are no other fundraisers planned, so we need maximum support for this one."

For more information, call 377-2337 or 1691.

Joel Van Nice and Susan Griggs contributed to this report.

Raise your voice — honor your country.
If you're interested in singing
the National Anthem
at base or community ceremonies,
call 377-1179.

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



Santa Police get ready for holiday 'incarcerations'

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 81st Security Forces Squadron's annual Santa Police fundraiser is 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2.

To put out a "warrant" for someone's arrest, call 377-XMAS (9627). Once apprehended, the individual is locked up and forced to listen to Christmas music and enjoy hot chocolate.

The cost to have someone incarcerated is \$10, with a \$5 charge for each additional 15 minutes. The detainee may pay bail to match the price of the amount paid for their warrant. Photos are available for \$5 more that will be printed on the spot.

Arts and crafts center encourages creativity



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Gabriel Livingston, 3, and his mom, Amanda, work together to decorate a mask made out of clay during a "make a mask" event at the arts and crafts center Oct. 22. Gabriel's dad is 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Livingston, 81st Force Support Squadron.

By **Rebecca Stryker**

CSC marketing specialist

Keesler's arts and crafts center is a wonderful resource to excite and inspire creativity, whether you're a novice or an advanced craftsman.

The center, located north of the Meadows Drive tennis courts, is a fun and comfortable place to explore your creativity this fall with hands-on classes and workshops. It's open to anyone with a Department of Defense identification card.

"We try to have a little bit of everything to accommodate everyone," said new arts and crafts director Debra Pearson, 81st Force Support Squadron. "I'm very proud of what we have — our team is dedicated, knowledgeable and friendly. Our center connects the community to the joy of creating, educating and experiencing the arts."

The center houses four departments: a large, well-equipped wood shop; framing and engraving shops; a multipurpose area and gift shop stocked with one-of-a-kind items.

Additionally, the center offers a variety of classes and services for people of all ages in one location.

Holiday classes include basic painting strokes, tips and techniques of the flat brush, ladies night, penguin decorating and a Keesler favorite, Cocktails and Canvas. In addition to craft classes, private painting parties, team-building sessions, birthday celebrations and squadron functions are offered.

In addition to classes, you can make gift-giving special this holiday season by creating your own custom-made gifts. The wood shop offers a woodworking safety class and can assist patrons with making furniture, toys, ornaments and more.

The frame shop provides custom framing on everything from photos and athletic jerseys to commemorative military items. You can take a framing class or have one of the center's custom framers do the work at an affordable price.

The engraving shop has a large selection of plaques, desk sets,

shadow boxes, mugs and other items for the perfect personalized gift.

The multicraft shop has plenty of space for individuals or small groups to work on projects, gifts and decorations, as well as a retail store stocked with craft and art kits, supplies, scrapbooking items and more.

The arts and crafts center wants to expand the number of how-to programs offered in the upcoming year.

"Afternoon woodworking projects, hand building with clay, power and hand tool instruction, age-appropriate classes, ceramics and one-time instructional classes are just a few," said Pearson, an arts educator and avid arts promoter.

If you have ideas for a class you'd like to see offered at the center, the arts and crafts staff wants to know. The center's goal is to keep things exciting with offering new, fun classes.

For a complete listing of classes, fees, PLAYpass-eligible programs and hours of operation, visit www.keesler81fss.us/artsandcrafts2.html.

PLAYpass cards promote resiliency at Keesler

By **Rebecca Stryker**

CSC marketing specialist

The PLAYpass card program is one way Air Force quality of life programs help build a resilient force.

Since the program launched in late May, nearly 23,000 eligible members have participated in PLAYpass.

The cards, valued at more than \$500, allow eligible members to participate in services activities such as trips, sports, classes and child care at either a reduced cost or free of charge. Eligible members include single Airmen returning from deployments, families of deployed members and families of members at dependent-restricted assignments.

The PLAYpass program has been popular at Keesler, with nearly 400 participants to date. Officials with the 81st Force Support Squadron said the top activities used with the discount cards include youth programs, child care, outdoor

recreation and classes.

This year, the PLAYpass program was extended to single Airmen, a demographic that represents 40 percent of the Air Force. So far, nearly 1,000 single Airmen have registered for the cards.

"We're excited to expand this program to single Airmen to provide deployment respite and help with reintegration," said Linda Weston, Air Force Services Agency marketing specialist. "We wanted to ensure all family members left behind — whether due to deployments or dependent-restricted assignments — can take advantage of the many benefits PLAYpass cards offer to foster a sense of resilience." Weston said.

Airmen with families can contact their first sergeant or airman and family readiness center at their home station to get their family members started on the program.

According to Tech. Sgt. Tomeika Washington, 81st FSS family readiness noncom-

missioned officer in charge, the program helps ease the pressures and stress associated with deployments for families and presents an opportunity for single Airmen to reintegrate with friends and family while utilizing 81st FSS facilities.

"Families tell me how grateful they are for the program because it helps them and their children get out and enjoy various activities together at little or no expense while their spouse is deployed," she said.

Washington said many Keesler spouses with children have taken advantage of the hourly child care, special events and youth sports discounts offered at the youth center and child development center while their spouse is deployed. One spouse was thrilled about being able to do arts and crafts with her little one, as well as the option for some 'mommy' time by signing up for Cocktails and Canvas at the arts and crafts center.

Single Airmen returning

from deployment have expressed their enthusiasm that the program includes them, Washington said.

PLAYpass participation runs through Dec. 31, 2012.

For more information about the PLAYpass program and eligibility visit the airman and family readiness center in the Sablich Center or log on to www.MyAirForceLife.com.

Holiday festivities full of cheer for everyone

81st Force Support Squadron

A variety of family-friendly festivities are planned by the 81st Force Support Squadron to brighten this holiday season.

Dec. 1

3:30 p.m., free 5-kilometer Jingle Bell Run/Walk, marina park. Register at 3 p.m. Awards presented to top three finishers in the male and female divisions. Holiday attire encouraged. Hosted by the fitness centers.

4:30 p.m., Holiday in the Park, marina park. Kickoff the holiday season with a tree lighting ceremony, hay rides, holiday music by the Keesler Choir, visit with Santa, free food and beverages.

Dec. 1-18

Elf Vandy. Commanders, first sergeants and supervisors, thank the people working on Christmas Day with a goody bag. Registration, donations and pick-up at Vandenberg Community Center. Bags should be picked up by 6 p.m. Dec. 24. Free to participate.

Dec. 2

6:30-9 p.m., Cocktails and Canvas, arts and crafts center. Paint a unique gift on canvas



Photo by Kemberly Groue

After making her gift requests known, Jenna Douberly, 4, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Dustin and Shannon Douberly, 81st Training Support Squadron, receives a candy cane from Santa Claus at last year's Holiday in the Park celebration.

using acrylics. Light snacks provided, bring your favorite beverage. \$15 per person. Registration required; call 377-2821.

Dec. 3

8 a.m., holiday shopping trip to the Tanger Outlets in Foley, Ala. Bus departs the

Bay Breeze Event Center at 8 a.m., returns 5 p.m. \$25 per person; 15-24 people. Sign up at information, tickets and travel office by Nov. 30 or call 377-3818.

Noon to 8 p.m., holiday tree trimming party, Vandenberg Community Center. Join the "V" staff and fellow non-prior service students to deck the halls, trim the tree and enjoy free cookies and cocoa. Decorations provided or bring your own.

3 p.m., boarding time for Christmas on the Water, base marina. Be a part of Biloxi's 26th annual boat parade aboard the Keesler Dolphin II. \$40 per person, includes boat ride, fireworks, food and beverages. Sign up by Dec. 1; tickets first come, first served. For more information, call 377-3160.

Dec. 7

4-5 p.m., free children's story time, McBride Library. Holiday themed stories and crafts, ages 3-12. Co-hosted by airman and family readiness center as part of the family resiliency training program.

Dec. 9

12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., penguin decorating, arts and crafts center. Kids of all ages are invited to transform a bowling pin into their very own tuxedo clad friend. \$5 per person. Registration required; call 377-2821.

Dec. 10

9 a.m. to noon, breakfast and bowling with Santa, Gaudé Lanes. Bring the whole family for a delicious breakfast and bowl a few games with old Saint Nick. \$10 per person, Free ages 4 and younger.

6-10 p.m., teen holiday Party, youth center. Rock the night away with a reindeer skating race, music, crafts, holiday helping projects and more. \$5 admission.

Dec. 14

10 a.m., Christmas in Candy Land, McBride Library. 10-11 a.m., holiday themed story time and crafts, ages 3-5.

1-5 p.m., Everyone is invited to come and see the library's holiday displays and enjoy free refreshments.

4-6 p.m., Enjoy traditional children's holiday stories and create holiday crafts at the library. Free hot chocolate and treats for the whole family.

Dec. 16

6:30-9:30 p.m., Friday night fun holiday party, youth center. Celebrate the holidays with festive games, refreshments, music and surprises, ages 6-12. \$10 for first child, \$5 each additional. Registration required. Drop-ins welcome on a space-available basis; call 377-4116.

Dec. 17

8:30 a.m., Santa scramble golf tournament, Bay Breeze Golf Course. Two-person select shot with handicap by flight. Prices vary. Fee includes greens, cart, food, drinks, prizes and giveaways. Registration required; call 377-3832.

10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 12 hours of "A Christmas Story", Bay Breeze Community Center. Enjoy this holiday favorite as it plays nonstop. Free popcorn. Order from the grill or bring a snack.

Dec. 18

11 a.m. to 1 p.m., brunch with Santa, Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom. Get a picture with Santa. Live entertainment provided by Jesse Hill. \$17.95 for Air Force Club members, \$22.95 nonmembers; ages 4-10 half-price, ages 3 and younger free. Reservations required, call 377-2334.

Dec. 19-23

Full day holiday camp, youth center for school-age program and open recreation. Registration required, call 377-4116.

Dec. 27-30

Full day holiday camp, youth center for school-age program only. Registration required, call 377-4116.

Dec. 31

8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Free New Year's Eve party, Vandenberg Community Center. Ring in 2012 playing video games, pool, ping-pong, cards or board games. Watch the ball drop on the big screen. Non-prior service students only.

8 p.m. to 1 a.m., club New Year's Eve Party, Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom with 80s theme, live entertainment, contests, hors d'oeuvres and late night breakfast. \$35 for Air Force Club members, \$45 nonmembers. Tickets available at the collocated club Dec. 1-22, Bay Breeze Pro Shop Dec. 23-31 or at the door.

8 p.m. to 1 a.m., New Year's Eve Party, Gaudé Lanes. Bowling, dancing, party favors, food and drinks. \$35 for adults, \$25 for ages 6-17, free for ages 5 and younger. Alcoholic beverages sold separately.

Young drivers get free safety lesson

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Young Keesler motorists have more safe driving tools at their disposal after completing the Tিরerack Street Survival School, Nov. 12-13.

The 81st Training Wing hosted the free course conducted by the Sports Car Club of America Gulf Coast Region, according to Master Sgt. Richie Frias, 81st Medical Support Squadron medical resource management office chief, who spearheaded the event.

The aim of the school is to reduce deadly car crashes involving teenagers and beginner drivers by providing them a controlled setting where they can gain valuable hands-on experience in car control in real-world situations. Coaches helped the students learn how important experience is rather than guessing when something unexpected happens on the road that could kill them, their passengers or others sharing the road.

After a welcome by Col. Glen Downing, 81st TRW vice commander, the 13 students were briefed by a Biloxi Police Department representative on local traffic laws. Then an instructional presentation covered topics ranging from proper vehicle safety inspections to proper braking techniques and accident avoidance.

Next came hands-on training in which course designers set up a skid-pad, a slalom/obstacle course and a braking zone. Students learned how to avoid an accident with real-world situa-

tions while driving their own vehicles. Looking, listening, emergency braking and spin control were some of the skills the students practiced in a safe environment with experienced instructors passing on tips during the day.

To add to the realism, the base fire department wet down the course so that the students could practice how to control their vehicles on rain-slick roads.

On Day 2 of the course, students continued to polish their new safe driving skills.

Keesler's alcohol, drug abuse prevention and treatment program's "drunk busters" team briefed the class on the risks of driving under the influence of alcohol and dangerous drugs. Students donned "drunk goggles" and attempted to complete an obstacle course in a pedal cart — none were successful.

As the course ended, students had an opportunity to ride in the instructors' vehicles and to discuss the importance of continue to learn and refine safe driving techniques in the future.

"This is a fantastic course to help new drivers build confidence while learning to safely control their vehicles," said Col. (Dr.) Paul Nelson, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, about his 17-year-old daughter, Lacy. "This is important to me as a doctor, but most importantly as a dad."

"If I would have known our eldest son was coming home for the weekend, we would have signed him up, too," remarked Johnny Robinson, 81st Communications Squadron, who had two

sons in the class — Benjamin, 18, and Zackary, 23.

"One of the drivers called her dad to come and watch, and she proceeded to take him for a ride around the obstacle course, improving her time," Frias pointed out. "He was so impressed that he said he might allow her to take his sports car to the prom."

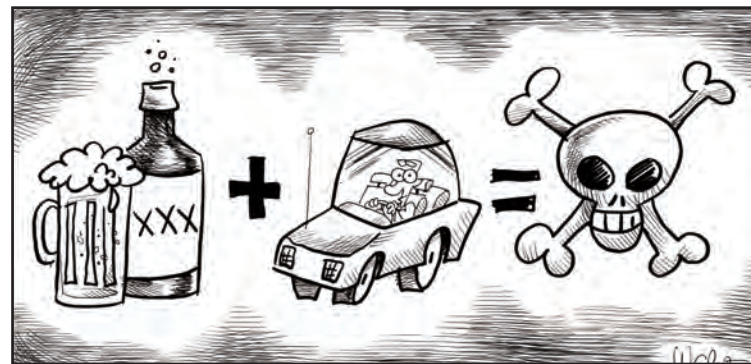
Along with a certificate of completion that can be provided to their insurance companies to see if they qualify for discounts, the students received a one-year SCCA membership. The organization provides opportunities to practice driving techniques in a controlled and safe environment.

"If you golf regularly, you become a better golfer," Frias remarked. "If you're able to drive and test the limits of your vehicle regularly, you become a better driver."

"If we can save one life, we've done our job," said lead instructor Joe Ricard, a Huntington-Ingalls project manager.

"The success of this life-saving endeavor can be attributed not only to the SCCA training team, but to strong support from parents and Team Keesler members in the 81st Mission Support Group, wing safety office, base operations, 81st Security Forces Squadron, the fire department, ADAPT, Top III and the career assistance adviser's office," Frias noted.

For more information on future street survival classes, call 376-2123.



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Photos by Kemberly Groue

Capt. Trenton Selah, 345th Airlift Squadron, attempts to communicate using a ten-tec high frequency transceiver while logging his efforts at the Locker House.

Amateur radio club HAMs it up

By Joel Van Nice

Keesler Public Affairs

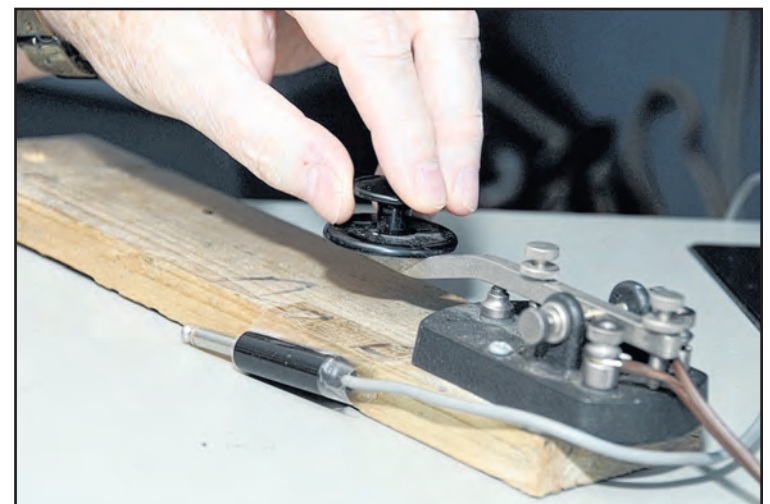
There are many stories of why amateur radio is called “HAM” radio — from the noble idea that HAM stands for “Help All Mankind” to the more pragmatic possibility that it stood for the first three radio scientists, Hertz, Armstrong and Marconi. No one knows for sure.

What is known is that amateur radio operates everywhere around the world including here at Keesler.

“Keesler Amateur Radio Club appears to have been started in the 1940s,” said club president Harry Samuelson. “Through the years, the club’s degree of activity was dependent upon how many members it had.

“During its active periods, the club was involved with community service events such as Special Olympics and air shows,” he explained. “After natural disasters, the club members were available to provide communications if needed.”

Presently the club has six members who are in the process of re-activating the station in Rooms 5438 and 5439 of Locker House.



Allan Hubbert, resident at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, uses Morse Code on a daily basis to communicate worldwide. Hubbert attended ground radio operator school at Keesler in 1962.

They’re working to obtain furnishings and to have an antenna installed.

According to Samuelson, the club’s goal is to get a high frequency station on the air for those amateurs stationed or on temporary duty at Keesler. The group would also like to hold future classes for amateur radio licensing and to become involved with Keesler community events once again.

“The biggest thing that keeps my interest in the club is its history, and knowing I

am part of it gives me a pride that only few know about,” said Capt. Trenton Selah, 345th Airlift Squadron, an active club member. “The club provides a place to practice my radio and digital skills to be ready in times of emergency.”

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the club’s station in Locker House. The club’s call sign is K5TYP. All active-duty members, retirees and civilian staff members are welcome to attend the meetings.

Airman and family readiness center

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

Tuesday — 9 a.m. to noon, federal jobs resume writing. Bring current job announcement.

Nov. 30 — 7-11:30 a.m., newcomers orientation. 9-11 a.m., survivor benefits briefing. For single and married members and their spouses.

Dec. 1 — 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Heartlink. Air Force spouse orientation. Lunch, prizes, tote bags and more. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Limited child care spaces available.

Arts and crafts center

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

Nov. 30 — 10:30 a.m. to noon, basic strokes. Painting tips and techniques of the flat brush for beginners. \$10 includes materials.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2334. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Thursday — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thanksgiving brunch in the ballroom. \$17.95 Air Force Club members, \$22.95 for non-members; ages 4-10 half-price, ages 3 and younger free. Live entertainment. Reservations required.

Monday — 6 p.m., \$100 weekly giveaway in the lounge. Air Force Club members present have a chance to win cash.

Weekdays — food and drink specials in the lounge. Taco Tuesdays, wings and things Wednesdays and ladies night Thursdays.

Saturdays and Sundays — 11 a.m., lounge opens; noon, grill opens. ESPN College GamePlan Saturdays; NFL Sunday Ticket and tailgate buffet Sundays.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

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

Thursday — free golf all day. Golf carts and rental clubs not available.

Nov. 30 — 4-5 p.m., free golf clinic for company grade officers. Space limited.

Daily — 6-11 a.m., breakfast platters less than \$4 at snack bar.

Information, tickets and travel

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-3818.

Through Nov. 30 — sign up for the holiday

shopping trip to Tanger Outlets in Foley, Ala. Dec. 3. \$25 per person. 15-22 people.

Inns of Keesler

Editor's note: For more information, call 374-0088.

Through Dec. 17 — accepting holiday reservations for Dec. 17-Jan. 3.

Outdoor recreation

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

Saturday-Sunday — overnight deep sea fishing trip. \$375 per person; includes license and tackle. Bring sleeping bag and beverages. Eight people required. Preregistration and advanced payment required.

Dec. 1 — 3:30 p.m., 5-kilometer jingle bell run/walk at marina park. Registration begins at 3 p.m. Safe holiday running attire is encouraged. Free to participate. Hosted by Blake Fitness Center. 4:30 p.m., holiday in the park at marina park. Tree lighting, holiday music, train rides, food, beverages and a visit from Santa.

Vandenberg Community Center

Editor's note: Friday and Saturday night activities are part of the late night dances, \$3 admission; non-prior service students only. For more information, call 377-3308 or 5576.

Friday and Saturday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., late night dances.

Nov. 30 — last day to sign up for inter-training squadron arm-wrestling competition held Dec. 2. Free to participate.

Wednesdays — 5 p.m., free movie night; popcorn provided.

Youth center

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

Through Dec. 1 — winter soccer registration, ages 3-14. \$50 for first child, \$25 each additional. Season begins in January. Volunteer coaches needed.

Dragon Wagon

Thursday-Sunday — all new route and schedule. Air Force Club members ride free; \$1 for nonmembers. For new route and schedule, visit <http://www.keesler81fss.us>.

To advertise in the Keesler News, call:
896-2380 (Classifieds)
896-2415 (Display)

**black
friday
2011**

Exchange opens at 4 a.m.

AAFES Public Affairs

Shoppers will get a jump on morning Reveille as the Keesler Exchange's doors open at 4 a.m. the day after Thanksgiving, "Black Friday."

"We understand the industry push is to open earlier and earlier with some retailers opening before Thanksgiving even ends, but as a part of the military community, we also understand that time with family, for both customers and associates, is a priority," said Penny Madison, exchange general manager. "While we're opening early Friday, the Exchange's hours will allow shoppers to give thanks with loved ones and still partake in the savings."

The Exchange is prepared for customers to start lining up as early as midnight Friday morning. To ensure a fun and safe event, the exchange will hand out numbered tickets to shoppers waiting in line for "door buster" items including laptops, televisions and large appliances.

"Customers waiting in line will be asked which item they are there to purchase and will receive a ticket for that item," said Ms. Madison. "In years past, the 'take-a-ticket' program has been extremely helpful in ensuring people get what they came for."

For more information on weekend specials, visit shopmyexchange.com.

KEESLER NOTES

Commissary closed

The Keesler Commissary is closed Thursday and Friday.

Housing office hours

The housing office in Sablich Center has limited service Dec. 6-8 due to training.

The community housing office is closed during this time.

Wingman Day

Keesler's Wingman Day is Dec. 8.

Keesler Thrift Shop

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

Profits benefit base and area charities and provide scholarships.

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

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

For more information, call 377-3217.

Airman's Attic

Airman's Attic, at the corner of Meadows Drive and 1st Street, assists junior enlisted members with obtaining free basic household items.

Donations are needed such as furniture, area rugs, cutlery, dishware, infant wear and maternity clothes that are clean and in good condition.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 4-6 p.m. Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the last Saturday of the month.

Airman's Attic is closed on federal holidays.

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

Air Force Aid assistance

Air Force Aid Society assistance, including Falcon Loans, is provided by appointment only. Emergency travel aid is still provided on a walk-in basis.

For an appointment, call 376-8728.

SPORTS AND RECREATION



Photo by Adam Bond

Dark Knight Timothy Hilton breaks through the Gators' defense in the intramural flag football championship game, Nov. 17. The 338th TRS C-team won, 20-13.

Dark Knights surprise competition to win intramural flag football title

By Sam Miller

Intramural sports director

The 334th Training Squadron Gators came into the intramural flag football championship game confident that they would replicate their success from last season, but the 338th TRS-C Dark Knights charged to victory, 20-13, Nov. 17.

The Gators had good reason to be confident — this was their third trip since 2009 to the big game and they were looking for back-to-back championships. The team comprised of mostly permanent-party members found much success in consistently having the same team return season after season. The 334th TRS finished the regular season near the top of their division at 7-3, just behind the undefeated 81st Medical Group.

With a two-game winning streak to end the regular season, the Gators had no problem taking care of business in the first three rounds of the single-elimination postseason tournament. The 334th TRS defeated the combined 345th Airlift Squadron-81st Dental Squadron team 26-7; 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, 19-0; and 81st Security Forces Squadron, 20-7, to bring them to a matchup with the American Football Conference champions, the 81st MDG.

After suffering a 25-6 loss at the hands of the Dragon Medics during the regular season, the Gators returned the favor by crushing the 81st Dragon Medics, 20-7, in a quarter-final matchup to determine who would represent the conference in the title contest.

The National Football Conference sent an unlikely candidate to the championship game. The 338th TRS-C team finished the regular season at 6-4 and finished fifth in their division during the regular season. The Dark Knights C-team came into the postseason with a big victory over the Marine Corps Detachment, 40-14, and were also confident they could make a strong run for the postseason title.

With narrow victories in the first two rounds against the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, 21-14, and the Dark Knights B-team, 20-14, a rematch of the final regular season game versus MARDET would determine the NFC representative. The Dark Knights secured their place in the title game with a 19-13 victory over MARDET.

The 334th Gators were the clear favorite to win the overall championship — they'd been there before and their strong postseason play had them poised to win the championship trophy. But the 338th TRS-C Dark Knights had other ideas — they weren't playing for second place as everyone else believed.

The Dark Knights scored on their opening drive to take a 7-0 lead over the Gators. The Gators first possession was stalled by an interception which was capped off by a touchdown and a converted point-after attempt. The Dark Knights jumped out to 14-0 lead and were clearly not intimidated by the defending champs. A 50-yard

Please see **Champs**, Page 24

Champs,

from Page 22

pass followed by a two-yard score and extra point finally put the Gators on the board, but they still trailed 14-7 at halftime.

The Gators scored on the opening drive of the second half to cut the lead to 14-13 after a failed extra point. The next possession by the Dark Knights can be described by two words — clock management. The 338th TRS-C, content with their one-point lead, began to consume large amounts of time by throwing short passes along with short runs, keeping the down and distance to a minimum. Finally the Dark Knights aimed for the end zone and completed a touch-down pass to take a 20-13 lead after the failed extra point.

The Gators get the ball with minimal time left in the game and looked to tie or win with the last possession of the game in hand. The Gators relied on

the deep ball all season and it was no surprise a long pass put them on the 25-yard line in a great position to score. On first down, the 334th TRS looked to have completed a pass in the end zone, but the ball was dropped and their last three tries are unsuccessful.

The Gators turned the ball over on downs and gave the Dark Knights the intramural flag football crown.

Wingman Day run

The 81st Training Wing kicks off Wingman Day with a fun run, 7 a.m. Dec. 8 on the flightline.

Use the entrance near the wash rack.

The run is open to everyone. Military members wear their respective service's physical training uniform.

For more information, call 377-9011.

Today is deadline for walking program

Today is the deadline to sign up at the health and wellness center for "Walk Your Way through the Holidays," Friday through Jan. 2.

Participants track their daily and total steps in a log book and turn it in at the end of the program.

Gold, silver or bronze medals are awarded to those who complete the program and return their log books.

All who complete the six-week program and attend the awards ceremony, 11 a.m. Jan. 10, receive a T-shirt.

The HAWC also is offering group walk and run sessions at the Crotwell Track, 4-5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays from Nov. 28 through Dec. 28.

For more information, call 376-3170.

Mr. Butts is hot on the trail of Casy Boomershine, 81st LRS, the first female runner to cross the finish line in the Great American Smokeout Run Your Butts Off 5-kilometer run, Nov. 17. Her time was 25 minutes, 12 seconds. The event was sponsored by the health and wellness center.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Smokeout run underscores tobacco-free lifestyle

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Geoffrey Sasaki and Casy Boomershine were the top runners in the Great American Smokeout Run Your Butts Off 5-kilometer run.

Sasaki, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, was the first male to cross the finish line with a time of 20:31.

Boomershine, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, finished the race with a time of 25:07.

Other winners:

Males under 30 — Eliezer Vieira, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, first; Nicholas Hinton, 81st Medical

Support Squadron, second; Jeremy Barnes, 81st MDSS, third.

Males 30-39 — Paul Jones, 81st Dental Squadron, first; Brian Smith, 81st LRS, second; Carl Schuett, 81st Training Support Squadron, third.

Males 40-49 — Gerry Cross, 81st Force Support Squadron, first; Kevin Endsley, 81st Training Wing, second; Chris Morgan, 81st MDSS, third.

Males 50 and over — Alan Rose.

Females under 30 — Melissa Neild, 334th Training Squadron, first; Jillian Balderas, 345th Airlift Squadron, second; Rosalba Ramize, 335th TRS, third.

Females 30-39 — Tomeika Washington, 81st FSS; Felicia Muniz, 81st MDSS; Nakia Shy, 335th TRS.



Geoffrey Sasaki, 81st MDTs, was the first finisher of the smokeout run with a time of 20:31.