



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

FEB. 23, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 8



Keesler Hospital has Defense Department's only genetics center

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COMMENTARY

'GOO' impedes Keesler's purchasing power

By 1st Lt. Bill Kiser

81st Comptroller Squadron

Do you get a huge refund back at tax season? For some, the federal tax system provides the best savings account available. Receiving a large check at the end of the year is nice, but the ultimate outcome is lost interest and buying power for an entire year. What if you had those funds available during the year to liquidate debt or invest? We tax the GOO in the same manner. I'm not talking about a substance frequently referenced as slime in the Ghostbusters films, but our Government Orders Outstanding list that's used to track open travel orders.

When a travel order is created funds are set aside to cover the cost of the travel, including per diem, hotel, rental car, airline tickets and any miscellaneous expenses. Certification of fund availability is the final step allowing the traveler to press ahead with the mission. When the traveler

returns from temporary duty, he or she, by regulation, has five duty days to file the voucher.

Before you start throwing hand grenades in my direction, I realize that it can take some time to get the voucher paid and the voucher process will never be user-friendly enough to satisfy everyone; however, let's save that discussion for another time. What I'd like to focus on is the cost to your unit, the 81st Training Wing and the Air Force that occurs when you neglect to file a voucher within five duty days or fail to cancel the order when travel is no longer required. Travelers who fail to file a travel voucher end up on our "slimer" list, better known as the GOO.

The GOO file consists of all open travel orders and advances that have not been filed. For the 81st Training Wing and tenant organizations, 2,500 open orders are accounted for, with almost 900 of those orders aging to 60 days or more past due, according

to the estimated return date. The 2,500 open orders currently obligate over \$4 million of 81st TRW funds.

Allowing orders to age on our accounting records "taxes the GOO." When you fail to file your travel voucher, the accounting picture becomes murky. It's unclear if funds must be added to cover additional expenses or if funds should be returned for unit utilization. A true picture of actual purchasing power can't be ascertained, which results in lost purchasing opportunities.

Imagine you create an order totaling \$5,000. The TDY subsequently gets cancelled, but a modification to the order isn't completed to remove the obligation. Tomorrow, your commander needs \$5,000 to purchase organizational clothing for deployed members, but \$5,000 isn't available. I admit that this is an oversimplified example, but this lost purchasing power is the cost of taxing the GOO and it increases over time.

You file your taxes every year by April 15 because you know the Internal Revenue Service will hold you accountable. The 81st Comptroller Squadron contacts members who are identified on the GOO, but unlike the IRS, the resources to hold you accountable are limited. We are in a shifting paradigm where resources are becoming severely constrained. Filing your voucher on time makes a difference.

If you want to use the federal government as a savings account, then do so — that's your money. But you're also a taxpayer, and the funding used for these TDYs comes from your pocket. In our culture of cost consciousness, each of us is responsible to use government resources wisely. Your help with timely filing and followup on unpaid or outstanding vouchers can help the wing recapture lost purchasing power.

For more information or assistance in filing a voucher, call 376-8225 or e-mail 81CPTS/Travel@us.af.mil.

Derogatory terms have no place in the workplace

By Staff Sgt. Candice Compton

28th Bomb Wing Equal Opportunity Office

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. — Derogatory comments are comprised of words that tend or intend to detract, disparage, or belittle and can often be considered offensive. Derogatory words have the power to hurt and potentially cause violence or other forms of hostility. The origins of these disparaging/derogatory terms can depend on geographic location, history and culture of a particular region. The list of derogatory words based on religion, race, ethnicity, sex, color and disability, among others, is growing as people find new words to categorize a particular group with the intent to demean or persecute.

Everyone has a particular bias. Their bias, combined with experiences or encounters with members of a particular group, will at times determine the use and meaning of these terms.

People resort to using disparaging terms when logic fails to resolve a disagreement or conflict. For some, it's often easier to use ignorant, destructive, yet powerful strategies consisting of insults, generalizations, detrimental stereotypes and profanity to support their argument. These profane words lack any inherent truth about any group of people.

Derogatory terms are ingrained in our society. They can often be heard in the workplace, music,

In accordance with Air Force policy, use of disparaging terms is considered to be a form of unlawful discrimination. They contribute to a hostile work environment and will not be tolerated.

movies and social media. Referring to someone with derogatory words while playfully joking around is still offensive. By using these terms, it associates members of a particular group with behavior, beliefs or actions that are extremely negative. People can use these so-called jokes or terms as a way of expressing how they truly feel.

In accordance with Air Force policy, use of disparaging terms is considered to be a form of unlawful discrimination. In addition to communicating hate or contempt for others, these terms have a negative impact on individuals, the mission and the installation's human relations climate. This

form of unlawful discrimination causes decreased productivity, legal issues and loss of credibility. Ellsworth prides itself on being a military organization that consists of professional, world-class Airmen. This persona will be maintained as long as personnel are allowed to work and live in an environment free from unlawful discrimination.

Air Force policy states that disparaging terms contribute to a hostile work environment and will not be tolerated. This zero tolerance policy ensures that once a complaint is alleged, immediate and appropriate action will be taken to address the issue and ensure the behavior stops.

Everyone regardless of rank has a responsibility to respect one and all. Air Force core values state that Air Force members will show mutual respect. Genuine respect involves viewing another person as an individual of fundamental worth. This means members should not be judged on the basis of his or her possession of an attribute that places him or her in some racial, ethnic, economic or gender-based category. If that type of behavior is condoned or left uncorrected, disparaging terms and comments will eventually become the norm and result in a loss of integrity and promote an unhealthy work environment.

By becoming more aware of the power that words have, each individual should consider taking the time to think before speaking and recognize that some words may be offensive to others.

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

ON THE COVER

Chris Williams, 81st Medical Operations Squadron cytogenetics technologist, views cell changes during metaphase under a microscope and logs his findings Friday at the Air Force Medical Genetics Center at Keesler Hospital. The center, the only one of its kind in the Department of Defense, offers clinical patient evaluation and counseling, consultation services to other providers, diagnostic genetic laboratory services, cytogenetic analysis and molecular genetic studies. Story and more photos, Page 18-19.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Photo by Kemberly Groue

DRAGONS THAT I MEET

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

Thane Halsey, who served in the Navy for 25 years, came to Keesler 18 months ago as our installation exercise program chief.

Mr. Halsey is responsible for developing, coordinating and assessing installation exercises to prepare our team for real-world crises, such as terrorist attacks, weapons of mass destruction and hurricane response and support. He advises me and other base leaders on a full range of comprehensive readiness exercise so we can be ready for appropriate crisis response and consequence management.

He's turned Keesler's program into a top-notch operation recognized by his peers throughout Air Education and Training Command.

Our people are our most valuable resource. I'm proud that Mr. Halsey is a part of Team Keesler.

Email news submissions to keeslernews@us.af.mil

KEESLER NEWS

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Lovett



Ferguson



Ambrus



Kesler



Naoe

81st TRSS, 333rd TRS garner Jumper Awards

By Staff Sgt. Kimberly Moore

Keesler Public Affairs

Airmen from the 81st Training Support Squadron and 333rd Training Squadron earned an Air Force award and six Air Education and Training Command awards in the 2011 Gen. John P. Jumper Excellence in Warfighting Integration and Information Dominance competition.

Staff Sgt. Courtney Lovett, 333rd Training Squadron, won the Air Force's outstanding spectrum operation noncommissioned officer award. Lovett proved to be invaluable, both stateside and during a deployment to Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa. Her accomplishments include arming the Department of Defense with 30 frequency managers after 85 hours of instruction with a 100 percent pass rate. Lovett also crafted a \$1.5 million Seabee

bridge project and acquired five information technology assets that eliminated the need for a swing shift and boosted material quality.

Tech. Sgt. Stephen Ferguson, 333rd TRS, won AETC's award for outstanding cyber defense operations NCO. Ferguson implemented a 400-hour course during the new enlisted cyber training standup resulting in 50 cyber defense-trained warriors yearly. He also redesigned schedules of 19 instructors to ensure Air Force training requirements were met for 1,272 Airmen.

Staff Sgt. Leslie Ambrus joined his teammates with an AETC win as outstanding radio frequency transmission systems NCO. He instructed 52 cyber Airmen on ITF with a 100 percent pass rate. Ambrus also saved the Air Force \$64,000 when he located 50 misplaced communications information equipment items

through managing an inventory account, ensured \$1.6 million in equipment is available for 4,000 students yearly.

The 333rd TRS also won the AETC Small Unit award. The squadron was recognized for having trained 7,000 Department of Defense cyber warriors. The squadron managed \$100 million in property and equipment along with a \$3.7 million budget to improve cyber training efficiency. The 333rd TRS also held its first seminar to educate spouses on what they can expect during cyber Airmen deployments.

Finally, the 333rd TRS information assurance element won AETC's outstanding information assurance element award. The element earned seven squadron awards, two 81st Training Group awards, one 81st Training Wing award and one AETC awards. The element eliminated \$22,000 in

annual temporary duty assignments by slashing 24 hours of obsolete information from a course. The element also identified a fire hazard and initiated a shutdown that saved \$1.2 million in training networks.

Tech. Sgt. Robert Kesler, 81st TRSS, is AETC's outstanding airfield systems NCO. Kesler went temporary duty for 45 days and resolved critical outages at three bases. He also verified 243 tasks, validating training for 1,200 technicians on \$303 million of equipment. Kesler analyzed a security fence's effect and approved its installation, protecting \$1.2 million in assets.

Staff Sgt. Lester Naoe, 81st TRSS, won AETC's outstanding ground radar systems NCO award. Naoe was responsible for quality assurance for the new CFETP and identified 91 errors, preserving the integrity of C4I capa-

bilities. Additionally, he transferred 630 tons of cargo for the 403rd Wing's deployment. Naoe also revised 163 tasks and 151 pages in Radar JQS ensuring training was up-to-date on \$37.4 million of equipment.

Since 1942, Kesler has graduated more than 2.2 million students. Kesler's training mission is the responsibility of the 81st Training Group, the largest electronics training group in the world. On any given day, more than 5,000 students attend classes in one of more than 600 courses. The 81st Training Group annually provides training to more than 38,000 officers, Airmen and civilian employees of the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, other DOD agencies and DOD contractors, as well as allied nations.



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Photos by Kemberly Groue

The Dark Knights perform during Friday's freestyle drill.

Dark Knights charge to drill down victory

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

It's a new leader for the new year in the 81st Training Group's drill arena.

Friday, the Dark Knights from the 338th Training Squadron threw down the gauntlet to the other three drill teams in the bi-monthly competition by taking first place overall, as well as first place in regulation drill and open ranks inspection and third place in the freestyle drill.

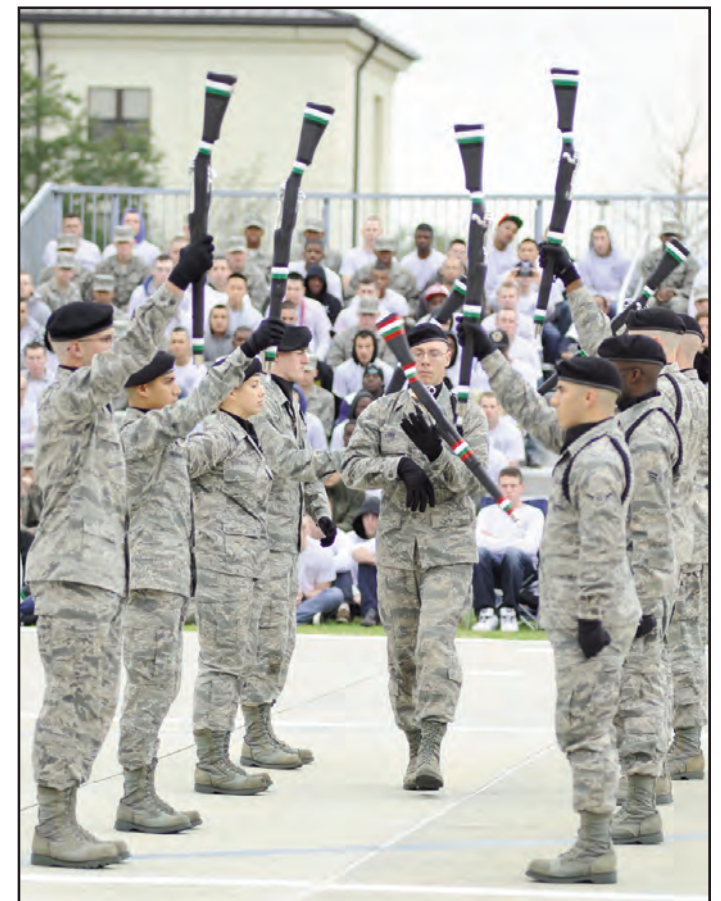
The Red Wolves from the 336th TRS, last year's overall drill team winner, finished in second place overall, with seconds in open ranks and regulation drill.

Third place overall went to the 334th TRS Gators, with a first place in freestyle drill and third in regulation drill.

The 335th Bulls placed second in freestyle drill and third in open ranks.

Members of the winning Dark Knights team are Airmen Basic William Allison, John Cavassa, Autumn Compton, Matthew Distanfano, Michael Handy, Marie Johnson, Brandon Lopez, Mark Lozada, Jake Montes and Adam Talley and Airmen 1st Class Brandon Brown, Kazuhito Ikematsu, Michele Hreso, Steven Pelletier, Logan Reynolds, Torren Stoner and Eric Williams.

The next drill down is 8 a.m. April 13 on the drill pad.



The Gators from the 334th Training Squadron placed first in the freestyle drill and third place overall.

Special evening for married students



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Airman 1st Class Kristin Queen, 336th Training Squadron, and her husband, Shawn King, are served dinner by Lt. Col. Bradley McAlpine, 335th TRS commander, and Master Sgt. Fred Woodruff, 334th TRS, during the family night dinner for training students and their spouses Feb. 15 at the Levitow Training Support Facility.



Paul Larevel and Becky Stanley, airmen and family readiness center, prepare dinner plates for guests. The meal was served by members of the Key Spouse group, squadron commanders and first sergeants.



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and recycled

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

CCAF graduation

Friday is the deadline to apply for the Community College of the Air Force's spring graduating class.

By that date, all supporting documentation must be on file at CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., including your nomination action request.

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

KSC scholarships

Applications are now being accepted for 2012 Keesler Spouses Club Scholarships.

Eligible applicants include high school seniors entering a college, university or vocational studies as well as spouses pursuing a degree or vocational studies.

For applications and more eligibility information, visit www.keeslerspousesclub.com, call 210-825-2273 or email scholarships@keeslerspousesclub.com.

The deadline is April 2.

OTS boards

Officer Training School recruiting service board dates:

Non-rated — March 1 cut-off for April 16.

Hap Arnold grants

March 9 is the application deadline for Air Force Aid Society \$2,000 grants for undergraduate studies through the Gen. Henry H. Arnold educational grant program.

Visit 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 or more qualifying years of service,

and deceased Air Force members; spouses (residing state-side) of active duty and Title 10 AGR/ Reservists on extended active duty; and surviving spouses of deceased.

Tuition assistance

Effective April 1, students who want to use Air Force tuition assistance must ensure their school has signed the Department of Defense memorandum of understanding.

Tuition assistance submitted for non-participating schools won't be approved and is currently unwaiverable.

For more information or to check on participating schools, visit www.dodmou.com.

CALT program

The Civilian Acculturation and Leadership Program is a two-week in-residence course patterned after the Officer Training School curriculum.

CALT is open to Air Force civilians in permanent General Service 7-13 with a bachelor's degree and two to five years experience. Applications are open on a continuing basis.

Nominees can apply by completing the Air Force Civilian Competitive Development Nomination Form.

Classes are open until all seats are filled.

For more information, call 376-8161 or log on to Air Force Personnel Services.

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.

Civilian developmental education applications due starting in March

By **Debbie Gildea**

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force civilians interested in developmental education should work on their nomination packages now, Air Force Personnel Center officials advised.

The official call for nominations will be in March, but some people may need more time to gather information and coordinate their package, said Joan Gudinas, AFPC civilian developmental education program manager.

"Waiting until the last minute to prepare your package may result in preventable errors," said Gudinas.

"Developmental teams and CDE board members noted last year that there were spelling, grammar and punctuation errors that could have been avoided. There are frequently other errors too - like using the wrong forms and format - that can be avoided if you start now and contact us when you have questions."

A variety of CDE programs are available for civilians at every level, including Civilian Acculturation and Leadership Training, Defense Civilian Emerging Leader Program, Squadron Officer School, Education with Industry, and intermediate and senior developmental education, Gudinas said.

Options vary by grade, she explained, so AFPC has scheduled several March webcasts that will focus on opportunities available to civilians in each grade. Webcasts will be held at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. central standard time March 1 for GS 14 and 15; March 8 for GS 12 and 13; and March 15, 21 and 29 for GS-7 through 11. Developmental education experts

will provide a presentation during each webcast, followed by question and answer periods.

A big change this year, Gudinas said, is that applicants are no longer required to have 12 months in their current position to be able to apply.

"In the past some civilian employees who were ready for developmental opportunities were unable to pursue them because of the 12 month requirement," she said. "That not only affected their ability to pursue personal goals, but also delayed their ability to gain knowledge from CDE experiences to help improve the Air Force. That didn't make sense, so the requirement has been eliminated."

Another change benefits senior civilians. This year, GS-14 and GS-15 civilians will be able to apply for the Defense Senior Leader Development Program for academic years 2013 and 2014.

"This year, we are advertising both academic years to align the Air Force selection process with the tight DOD timeline," said Gudinas. "The nomination sheet from the DOD application is the only portion required initially when applying for DSLDP. Once employees have been vectored by their developmental teams, we will contact them to have them complete their DOD application."

The nomination process starts with the employee, Gudinas said. The first step is for an interested employee to complete the AF IMT (form) 4059, and submit it to their supervisor for coordination and approval through the chain of command.

"The coordination process could take time, so that's another reason to start preparing the package now," Gudinas said. "The first gen-

eral officer, Senior Executive Service member or installation or wing commander in your chain of command must endorse the nomination. We recommend that you provide your leadership with ample time to review and sign off on your package."

In addition, Gudinas explained, the submission process this year will require that employees submit their own application packages to AFPC via the Air Force Personnel Services website after the packages have been coordinated through the chain of command. Instructions for submission will be included in the March call for applications, she said.

When completing the application form, Gudinas reminds applicants that they can identify up to three programs.

"Don't limit yourself to one program — take advantage of all the opportunities you can," she said.

Packages will be due May 1, with developmental team boards slated to meet during the summer to rank and vector the packages. The CDE board will convene in the early fall and final approval of primary and alternate candidates will be released around October.

"CDE is part of the civilian continuum of learning that ensures the right combination of education, training and experience is available to help all Airmen develop as Air Force leaders," said Gudinas. "Opportunities are out there, but Airmen must put the time and effort into the process and apply for the opportunity to compete."

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

Don't drink and drive.

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

NEWS AND FEATURES

Wing commander receives new assignment

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, has been selected for a new assignment as Commander, E3A, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Airborne Early Warning and Control Force, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Geilenkirchen, Germany.

His successor is Col. Bradley Spacy, who currently serves as Chief, Senate Liaison Office, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon, Washington.

A date for the change of command hasn't been set.

Mueller, wing commander since July 2010, commands 12,000 Airmen and civilians, providing technical training

for officers, enlisted and civilians of the Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve as well as other Department of Defense agencies. The training covers numerous electronic, computer, weather, medical, personnel, controller, and information management career fields, and creates combat capability for air expeditionary, space and cyberspace forces.

An Air Force Academy graduate, Mueller is a master air battle manager with more than 3,800 hours flying on the E-3 AWACS aircraft. The general commanded the 964th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., leading the squadron through deployments in support of operations Southern Watch, Enduring

Freedom and Noble Eagle. As commander of the 505th Training Group, Hurlburt Field, Fla., he was responsible for providing education and training to joint and coalition warfighters on air and space command and control weapons systems and procedures at the operational level of war.

Mueller served on the staff of U.S. Pacific Command where he was responsible for the integration of command and control systems, missile defense and space operations. Before coming to Keesler, he was deputy commander, Combined Air Operations Center 6, Allied Air Forces Southern Europe, NATO, Eskisehir, Turkey. The center was responsible for Southern Region NATO air policing, as

well as training and preparing defensive and offensive forces to support crisis management actions and transition to wartime employment.

Spacy, who's been selected and confirmed for promotion to brigadier general, currently is responsible for congressional legislative affairs in the U.S. Senate, articulating and communicating Air Force priorities and programs to senators and staff members.

Spacy, a 1987 ROTC distinguished graduate of Fresno State University, Calif., is a career security forces officer with extensive air base defense and antiterrorism/force protection experience.

The colonel is no newcomer to Keesler, having served as executive officer to the com-

mander of 2nd Air Force from 1994-96.

He's commanded a security forces squadron and the Air Force Honor Guard, where he led more than 250 Airmen in ceremonies for the president and other high-level military and civilian leaders. As the director of force protection for U.S. Air Forces Central Command Forward during Operations Enduring/Iraqi Freedom, Spacy created, planned, and participated in Operation Desert Safeside/Task Force 1041, an offensive ground combat operation to kill or capture insurgent forces in Iraq.

Spacy also commanded the 375th Mission Support Group, Scott AFB, Ill., and the 88th Air Base Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Annual awards presented tonight

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Tonight is the 81st Training Wing's annual awards ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

The social hour begins at 6 p.m. and is followed by dinner at 7.

Thirty-nine nominees will be recognized in 14 categories, according to Senior Master Sgt. Derek Fromental, 81st Training Support Manager, project officer for the event.

Airman — Airman 1st Class Fredrick Taylor, 81st TRSS; Senior Airman Joshua Bice, 81st Comptroller Squadron, and Sheila De L'etoile, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron; and Staff Sgt. Angelo Banks, 81st Security Forces Squadron.

Noncommissioned officer — Tech. Sgts. Scott Mendoza, 81st TRW legal office; Gary Hutcheson, 336th TRS; Tammy Pfeifer, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; and Anthony Wallis, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Senior NCO — Master Sgts. Stephen Carter, 81st Operations Support Flight; Mark Lorenzo, 333rd Training Squadron; Kendrick Hinton, 81st Medical Support Squadron; and Michael Smith, 81st Security Forces Squadron.

First sergeant — Master Sgts. Kendal Dismute, 81st MDTS, and James Messer, 81st

SFS; Senior Master Sgt. Joel Shepherd, 338th TRS.

Company grade officer — 1st Lts. Semira Moore, 81st CPTS, and Joshua Wilkerson-Bienick, 81st LRS; Capts. Todd Matheny, 334th TRS, and Donna Burrowes, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Civilian Category I — Christine McGill, 81st TRW; Kristin Trujillo, 81st TRSS; Gary Bradshaw, 81st MDTS; and Michael Haney, 81st Communications Squadron.

Civilian Category II — Richard Brock, 81st TRW legal office; Vanessa Williams, 81st TRSS; Robert Tash, 81st MDSS; and Jose Fuertes, 81st CS.

Civilian Category I supervisor — Michael Saucier, 81st LRS.

Civilian Category II supervisor — George Holbert, 81st TRSS, and John Cobb, 81st CS.

Honor guard program manager — 2nd Lt. Aftan Boudreaux, 81st Force Support Squadron.

Honor guard member — Airman 1st Class Jake Denslow, 81st LRS; Senior Airman Kerry Moore, 81st MDSS; Staff Sgt. Travis Meyer, 338th TRS, and Amber Oaks, 334th TRS; and Tech. Sgt. Lagaydra Lawrence, 334th TRS.

Key Spouse — Kelly Cloninger, spouse of Master Sgt. David Cloninger, 336th TRS.

Mathies NCO Academy — Master Sgt. Nicole Dismute, NCO; Master Sgt. Raun Howell, senior NCO.

IN THE NEWS

School drop-off area opens

The new drop-off and pick-up drive-around area for Jeff Davis Elementary School off Ploesti Drive opens Monday.

One-way traffic enters on the north side and exits on the south side of the drive. There are 40 parking spaces available, with parallel parking on the right side of the drive and additional parking in three existing parking areas.

National Prayer Breakfast

Keesler observes the National Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m. March 6 at Bay Breeze Event Center.

Team Impact returns this year for the interfaith program. Team Impact's unique method of ministry uses the physical talents of elite athletes to demonstrate a spiritual message.

For tickets, see your first sergeant or visit Larcher Chapel. For more information, call 377-2520 or 4859.

AETC family days

Air Education and Training Command family days for the remainder of 2012, 2013 and 2014 are:

2012 — May 25, July 5, Nov. 23 and Dec. 24.

2013 — May 24, July 5, Nov. 29 and Dec. 26.

2014 — May 23, July 7, Nov. 28 and Dec. 26.

Dragons deployed — 193

Chief Jennings retires after 30 years of service

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Although the impact of a 30-year career could never be compressed into any form that would do it justice, the retiring 81st Mission Support Group superintendent created a reminder of his time in the Air Force that he can carry in his pocket.

The small, pewter-colored coin is inscribed with the words Chief Master Sergeant Curtis A. Jennings; 30 years of dedicated service; integrity, service, excellence and In God I trust. The symbols that decorate the coin include the enlisted rank insignia as he wore them, shields of the eight commands that he served, the civil engineering occupational badge, his signature and a set of dumbbells. Each detail was carefully placed to represent an important aspect of his service.

Jennings grew up in Washington D.C. and since he joined the Air Force in 1982, he has completed 12 assignments and six deployments. Some of his duty stations include Air Force and Navy bases across the world with locations including Egypt, Sicily, North Africa, Turkey, Germany, Korea and Iraq.



Jacquelin Jennings accompanied her son to Keesler's 70th birthday celebration at Bay Breeze Event Center, Aug. 27, 2011.

"I look at my beginning
and where I am now
and the Air Force
has been a vessel for all that.
Ultimately, I want to allow myself
to be led by God and be a
good student to His guidance."

— Jennings

"My deployments were a lot different than the ones I hear about today," the chief said.

The chief said he completed nearly 5,000 miles of convoy operations on resupply and construction missions. He said that there was a lot of devastation in the areas to which he deployed to and his team felt vulnerable because they weren't inside or outside the wire.

"We were actually building the wire," Jennings said. "We were knee deep in the Iraq desert. It was frightening — I did a lot of praying."

He began his career as a carpenter in the civil engineering structures career field and has also held positions as

an interim first sergeant, civil engineer school superintendent, convoy commander with the Navy Seabees and interim command chief for the 81st Training Wing.

"A lot of people ask me, 'How do you make chief?'" Jennings said. "My answer — work hard."

He said that if you work hard, leadership will recognize what you've done and you will rise to the top among your peers. The first step is to take responsibility of your charge and treat tasks with ownership.

He said that if he's learned anything in his career, it's, "It is not about you, it's about the mission."

Col. Rodney Berk, 81st MSG commander, said that one of the chief's philosophies is to never walk past a problem. He will stop and correct an Airman or stop and pick up trash if he sees it.

"Chief Jennings, with 30 years of experience, is probably one of the most inspirational and enthusiastic leaders I've ever worked with," the colonel said.

Berk said that the chief makes a difference to every Airman with whom he interacts and has made a personal impact on thousands of Airmen. Berk said the chief fell in love with the Air Force and sacrifices his personal life for that passion.

"He even says he's married to the Air Force," Berk said.

Jennings said that of all the places he's been, the people at Keesler have the most ded-



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Jennings was honored Friday as the reviewing officer for the 81st Training Group's drill down.

ication and enthusiasm he's ever seen and that they truly want to make a difference.

"The bulk of people here are locked, cocked and ready to rock. I'd go to war with them any day."

Jennings said, "What a phenomenal way to culminate a career than to work with people who truly give a damn."

Berk said that the chief made a significant contribution to the base's third place finish in the 2011 Commander In Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence competition because he inspired and motivated Airmen to reach that level.

"Chief Jennings is one of the most dedicated Airman I've ever had the pleasure to serve with," said Chief Master Sgt. Glen Usherwood, 81st Training Group superintendent. "I'm absolutely convinced that if you cut him, he would bleed blue."

"A true 'people's chief,' he takes care of his folks and isn't afraid to square them away

when they need it," he added. "I will miss working with him."

"Chief Jennings completely represents what the United States Air Force is all about. Through my three years of service, I have tried to live up to his inspiration. It has been an honor to serve with the chief," said Airman 1st Class Jake Denslow, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron.

The chief said his immediate plans are to spend time catching up with his adult sons, David, 22, and Spencer, 24, who live in Pensacola, Fla., lift some heavy weights, do some traveling and work on a personal life.

"I look at my beginning and where I am now and the Air Force has been a vessel for all that," Jennings said. "Ultimately, I want to allow myself to be led by God and be a good student to His guidance."

"If he could stay in, he would, and we would love to have him," Berk said.

A 3-5 minute steady tone on the base siren is a tornado warning — take cover.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Special duty team here March 5

81st Force Support Squadron

Special duty assignment team briefings by a recruiting team from Air Education and Training Command are scheduled at Keesler March 5:

9-11 a.m. — Sablich Center Auditorium, 2nd floor.

11 a.m. to noon — Sablich Center Auditorium for senior leaders such as commanders, superintendents, first sergeants and Top III members.

2:30-3:30 p.m. — Room GC612, Keesler Hospital, for 81st Medical Group members.

4-5 p.m. — Welch Auditorium.

Briefers discuss opportunities for recruiters, military training instructors, military training leaders and professional military education instructors.

Spouses are highly encouraged to attend. Senior airmen with at least 35 months time in service through master sergeants with less than 16 years total active federal military service may be eligible to apply and are encouraged to attend a briefing. Since each specialty has some varied rank needs and requirements the briefings are open to everyone on base.

The team will also be recruiting first sergeants. For qualification and eligibility standards for prospective first sergeants and information about the other specialties being recruited, call 377-3697.

WAPS testing cycle

81st Force Support Squadron

The 12E6 and E7 Weighted Airman Promotion System testing cycle continues through March 31.

Contact your unit WAPS monitor if you have not received a test date for this current cycle or haven't received your WAPS specialty knowledge test study materials.

The online 2011 Professional Development Guide is currently an approved official reference for WAPS testing and can be found at the Airman Advancement Division website on its professional development page at <https://www.omsq.af.mil/index.htm>.

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 any time day or night, regardless of location..

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

Transition assistance

Airman and family readiness center

Transition assistance program workshops have been scheduled for 2012 in Room 108A, Sablich Center, according to Steve McDaniel, transition assistance program specialist at the airman and family readiness center.

Workshops are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 12-15, April 9-12, May 14-17, June 11-14, July 16-19, Aug. 12-16, Sept. 17-20, Oct. 15-17, Nov. 26-29 and Dec. 13.

The final day of the workshop includes Veterans Affairs briefings and retirement briefings.

Dress is business casual — no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms.

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

ESOH CAMP

Base inspection focuses on environmental compliance, occupational health, safety

Environmental office

Keesler is preparing for an external Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program inspection March 5-9.

The assessment is a wide-ranging audit covering facets of base activities with the potential to impact the environment, as well as a review of occupational health and safety protocols.

The inspection team will consist of military, civilian and contractor personnel from Air Education and Training Command who will conduct a compliance assessment as well as an audit of the base's Environmental Management System. The EMS provides an overall management system for policy development, organizational structure, planning, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes, and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining programs for meeting environmental goals.

The ESOHCAMP will monitor for standard regulatory compliance issues associated with Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Air Force and state environmental, safety and health requirements. Shop supervisors and workers can expect to be checked for compliance in environmental areas such as air emissions, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, fuel storage tanks, drinking water and wastewater.

Occupational health and

safety inspections will also be conducted in areas including chemical hazards, hazard communications, hearing conservation, personal protective equipment and respiratory protection programs.

Shop personnel should also expect to be asked questions about the 81st Training Wing commander's EMS Guidance. The guidance emphasizes compliance with laws and regulations, minimization and elimination of wastes and the release of pollutants, conservation of natural resources through recycling and conserving energy, seeking continual improvement and implementation of the EMS throughout all organizations.

Units can also expect generalized questions about the installation's environmental management plans and steps being taken to achieve objectives of those EMPs, as well as questions about each individual's own shop regulations and environmental impacts.

Other questions will focus on worker knowledge of compliance with energy conservation measures, methods used to conserve fuel, and efforts to find alternative products to prevent generation of hazardous waste.

Checklists and questionnaires are available on Keesler's eDASH site to assist supervisors and workers in preparing Keesler personnel for this ESOHCAMP inspection. The eDASH page can be accessed from the Keesler Portal web page.

For more information, call the environmental section, 377-1262.

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

Raise your voice — honor your country.

If you're interested in singing the national anthem
at base or community ceremonies,
call 377-1179.

President Obama nominates first female Air Force officer to be four-star general

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama nominated Air Force Lt. Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger for promotion Feb. 6, which, pending Senate approval, would make her the first female four-star general in Air Force history.

Wolfenbarger currently serves as the military deputy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition here and she is one of four female lieutenant generals in the Air Force.

“I am humbled and honored to have been nominated by the President to the rank of general and to serve as commander of Air Force Materiel Command. I look forward to participating in the Senate confirmation process when the time comes. At present, I remain focused on the important Air Force acquisition work I’ve been charged with,” Wolfenbarger said.

A Beaver Creek, Ohio, native, Wolfenbarger was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1980 after gradu-



Wolfenbarger

ating in the first class with female cadets at the Air Force Academy.

She also holds a graduate degree in aeronautics and astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge.

The general has held several positions in the F-22 System Program Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; served as the F-22 lead program element monitor at the

Pentagon, and was the B-2 system program director for the Aeronautical Systems Center, Wright-Patterson AFB.

She commanded ASC’s C-17 Systems Group, Mobility Systems Wing and was the service’s director of the Air Force Acquisition Center of Excellence at the Pentagon, then served as director of the headquarters AFMC Intelligence and Requirements Directorate, Wright-Patterson AFB.

Prior to her current assignment, Wolfenbarger was the vice commander of AFMC, Wright-Patterson AFB.

She has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the National Defense Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

Wolfenbarger received her third star in December 2009 and became the Air Force’s highest-ranking woman in January 2010.

DOD urges members to quit smokeless tobacco

Department of Defense

FALLS CHURCH, Va.—The Department of Defense wants active duty and retired personnel and their families to join today’s Great American Spit Out and quit chewing tobacco for 24 hours.

“Many smokeless tobacco users don’t think they can quit for good, but we challenge them to believe in themselves and try to quit for a single day,” said Cmdr. (Dr.) Aileen Buckler, U.S. Public Health Service officer and chairman of the DOD Alcohol and Tobacco Advisory Committee.

DOD’s tobacco cessation campaign website, www.ucanquit2.org, contains tips on how to approach a quit date and tools to prepare a quit plan that can increase chances for success.

“Our service members can do anything they put their mind to,” states Buckler. “Whether it’s completing their fit test or defeating the enemy, their belief gives them the confidence and courage to meet any challenge. We encourage them to use that same belief to overcome the obstacles they

face in quitting smokeless tobacco.”

Service members can go to the DOD website and use Train2Quit, an online support system that walks users through the steps of building their own customized quit plan. Train2Quit has interactive components such as quit tools, self-assessment questionnaires, quizzes, and other activities. The site includes links to personal quit coaches available 24/7 to get answers to questions about quitting tobacco and staying tobacco-free.

Users also can get a savings calculator, quit tips via text messages, personal widget downloads, medication information, news articles, podcasts, RSS feeds and special monthly features. The DOD website will help service members assemble the best set of weapons to combat any obstacles that come along during the quit day, and afterwards.

All non-Medicare-eligible beneficiaries can receive assistance with smoking cessation through the TRICARE toll-free smoking quitline. Toll-free telephone lines, available in each TRICARE region, offer support 24/7, 365 days per year.

Air Force is Worsham family business

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

It's not unusual for a married active-duty Air Force couple to be assigned together. But there are three Worshams wearing blue at Keesler, all members of the 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

First Lt. Angelica Worsham is a physician assistant in the family health clinic. Her husband, Tech. Sgt. Matthew Worsham, is non-commissioned officer charge of the cardiac cath lab and a respiratory therapist with the critical care air transport team. Matthew's brother, Senior Airman Daniel Worsham, is an emergency medical technician who works with Angelica in the family health clinic. Their younger brother, Airman 1st Class David Worsham, is completing contracting technical school at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and will be stationed at MacDill AFB, Fla.

Angelica, Matthew and their 4-year-old daughter, Isabella, arrived at Keesler in July 2007. Daniel joined them in 2009 for his first Air Force assignment.

Matthew and Angelica, both enlisted at the time, met at Andrews AFB, Md., where they worked in the hospital intensive care unit. They have been assigned together for seven years.

Angelica, from Linden, N.J., enlisted in the Air Force in 1998 "to go to school." In addition to Andrews and Keesler, she has been assigned to Langley AFB, Va., MacDill and Eglin AFBs, Fla., and Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. She considers the assignment at Andrews the most memorable, since, "That's where the magic all began!"

She earned a degree in biology with a minor in genetics from the University of Maryland and was commissioned in 2010 through the Interservice Physician Assistant Program. Through IPAP, she received a second



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Airman Worsham, Sergeant Worsham and Lieutenant Worsham are members of the 81st MDOS.

bachelor's degree and a master's degree in physician assistant studies through the University of Nebraska.

Remarking about the three of them being together at Keesler, Angelica said, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime career opportunity. Having a support system and someone reliable you can trust is priceless, but we're sad that eventually it will have to come to an end."

Matthew and Daniel are natives of St. Augustine, Fla.

Matthew entered the Air Force Sept. 18, 2001. "I was in the delayed enlistment program and went to basic training a week after the 9/11 attacks. My parents are former active-duty Air Force, so I had planned to join from a young age. I wanted the opportunity for education and training, as well as the ability to travel."

He has served at Andrews and Keesler and has deployed to Turkey, Haiti, Afghanistan, Iraq and three times to Germany.

Discussing the opportunity for the three Worshams to serve together, Matthew said, "I talked Daniel into enlisting more than three years ago. When he went to basic, he was guaranteed a medical job and placed Keesler as his No. 1 base selection on his 'dream sheet.' Luckily, he got the assignment."

He continued, "It is a true blessing to be stationed together. Often you don't get to see family unless you go home on leave. It's great for Isabella to have her uncle living so close. It's wonderful to be able to see each other every day while we work together in the hospital."

Commenting on his Air Force career, Matthew noted, "Every assignment brings great memories. Andrews is where I met my wife and had a beautiful daughter. All six of my deployments are special to me as they involved flying our critically-injured comrades home. Keesler gave me the opportunity to run a successful cath lab and

the ability to be close to my brother again."

Daniel explained he enlisted in the Air Force in January 2009 because "I wanted to serve my country. My parents and older brother are Air Force veterans and I felt it best suited me."

In addition to his duties in the family health clinic, Daniel also trained for and served in the Keesler Honor Guard.

He remarked that attending younger brother David's recent basic training graduation with his father and brother was a moving experience and being at Keesler with Matthew and Angelica "is awesome! Not only are we all assigned here, we are in the same squadron. To be able to go around the corner and see my brother isn't something everybody gets to do here every day. So we are pretty lucky to have the opportunity, not to mention, I get to watch my niece grow up!"

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.

This week's movies at Welch Auditorium

Friday — 6:30 p.m., Contraband (R)

Saturday — 2 p.m., Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (PG-13); 6:30 p.m., The Devil Inside (R).

Sunday — 1 p.m., War Horse (PG-13).

Bone marrow donor drive March 1

Painless process screens potential lifesavers

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

A painless process could place you in a position to save someone's life.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 1, Keesler is holding a C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense Marrow Donor Center registration drive at the base exchange pharmacy. The entire process takes only a few minutes and involves filling out a registration form and taking a swab of the inside of your cheek.

"It's easy to sign up and if you get called, it could be one of the most unselfish things you could do in your life," Master Sgt. Michael Rutledge, 333rd Training Squadron, said.

"They fill out their form, do their swab and I'll seal it up and mail it off," said Lisa Lynn, Keesler Blood Donor Center donor recruiter.

Eligible donors include active-duty military members and their dependents, DOD civilians, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reservists between the ages of 18 and 60 and in good health.

"The potential exists to save someone's life," said Master Sgt. Shane Sullivan, 81st Training Wing equal opportunity office.

If a positive match is found, the donor and a companion will travel to Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, D.C.; the University of Maryland Greenbaum Medical Center, Baltimore; or Fairfax Pathology Associates in Fairfax, Va., to make the bone marrow donation.

According to the program's website, www.dodmarrow.com, "The primary objectives of this program are the development and application of this distinctive life-saving technology toward the military medical application for rescue of casualties with marrow damage resulting from radiation or certain chemical warfare agents containing mustard."

There are two ways for stem cells to be collected —



Yoko Gardner, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, swabs the inside of her cheek to collect a sample to be sent away for bone marrow screening Feb. 16 at the blood donor center.

through bone marrow extracted from the pelvic bone or peripheral blood stem cell collection. Of the two, most people go through PBSC donation which involves receiving hormone injections for five days that increase stem cell production before stem cells are extracted on the fifth day. The process usually takes between three and five hours and blood is drawn through tubes in one arm, filtered through a machine that extracts the stem cells and then put back into the body through the other arm.

Donors even have the opportunity to explore Washington, D.C., the first few days because their only obligation is to report in the morning to receive a shot.

For many people, the bone marrow registry is their last chance of survival because by the time doctors consult the

registry, they have tried everything else including testing family members and friends of the recipient for a match.

In order to protect the privacy of both the recipient and donor as well as prevent emotional obligation, the donor only knows basic facts about the patient throughout the process. One year after the donation, the recipient has the option to contact the donor.

Once a person registers, it could take years before they get that call saying they're a match for someone in need. Some people never get called. Lynn said that she's been registered for 18 years and never received a call.

"If I got that call, I can't imagine hesitating," Lynn said.

People react to the hormones differently and side effects can include fatigue, bone soreness, nausea and headaches.



Lynn prepares a registration kit to be sent away for bone marrow screening Feb. 16 at the blood donor center.

Sullivan went through the PBSC collection and said it was a little uncomfortable, but that it's not much compared to living with cancer.

"I didn't require anything more than Tylenol the whole week I was there," Sullivan said.

"Everyone wants to be a part of something bigger and better," Sullivan said. "I saw this as an opportunity to help someone out with no strings attached. It's not an (enlisted performance report) bullet — it's the potential to change someone's life."

Sullivan said that when he told people he donated, they were amazed that someone would do that. But he didn't think it was that big of a deal because it was so easy.

"They put a couple needles in your arm and you're done," Sullivan said. "It's not like you're actively risking your life. The biggest concern I had was having to go to the bathroom."

"Don't let the fear of the unknown stop you," he continued. "If you're worried about the pain or complications, do research and ask those who have done it. 'I was humbled by it, but anyone can do this — all you have to do is give up a few days and some stem cells.'"

"Everyone says, 'I heard it hurts,'" Sullivan said. "I guess it does a little, but would you rather hurt a couple days or have cancer?"

Tech. Sgt. Tarissa Fulton, 403rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron and Keesler Blood

Donor Center medical lab technician, went through PBSC donation less than two weeks ago and produced enough stem cells that the doctors were able to cryogenically freeze the extra for potential future use.

Fulton said she registered in 2004 in hopes that she was a match for a little girl with leukemia. The test was negative, but she got a call last October that she was a possible match for someone else.

"I counted it an honor and a privilege to be a part of that," Fulton said. "Remember what you're there for and the pain isn't that bad."

Rutledge registered in 2005 and donated last July.

He said that the process was uncomfortable, but the worst symptoms resembled having the flu. Rutledge also said that there are cases where the recipient takes on traits of the donor and he likes to think that someone out there is not only his genetic sibling, but now they have a strange idiosyncrasy that he passed on to them through his stem cells.

"I think it was one of the coolest things I ever did," Rutledge said. "I had a part of this person's life."

Rutledge also said that most recipients without a donation at that stage in their illness only have a 5-10 percent chance of survival, but with a donation, their chances increase to around 60 percent.

There are 284 registration kits available for the March 1 drive. If they're all used, that's 284 more opportunities to find a life-saving match.

Air Force hospitals turn to secure messaging

By Gary Pomeroy and John Stock

Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Patients at Air Force medical treatment facilities will soon be able to communicate securely and privately with their health care teams anywhere and anytime due to the Air Force-wide expansion of secure messaging.

Secure messaging will be available to patients through what is known as the MiCare portal. The MiCare portal is built to facilitate secure, online communications between patients and their health-care team.

The MiCare portal is already in use at Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; Offutt AFB, Neb.; and Travis AFB, Calif.

There's no word yet on when MiCare will be available at Keesler, said Steve Pivnick, 81st Medical Group public affairs chief.

The goal of MiCare is to improve the quality of healthcare that patients receive and provide a mechanism for patients to have better access to their own health information at whatever time is most convenient to them. MiCare will streamline communication and access to information between office visits, reducing the frequency of office visits for some

patients. It will also reduce reliance on telephone calls, providing more convenience for the patients, AFMS officials said.

“MiCare will make routine health care more convenient for our patients, while reducing unnecessary visits to the MTF, thus freeing up our providers to see more acute patients. This is an important goal in Air Force Patient-Centered Medical Home,” said Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Charles B. Green, Air Force Surgeon General.

Benefits from MiCare's secure messaging tool include patient access anytime, anywhere to:

- Communicate privately with their healthcare team online without waiting in phone trees or playing phone tag
- Ask their healthcare team for advice about non-urgent symptoms
- Receive medical test and lab results
- Request medication renewals
- Request a copy of immunization records
- Access physician-approved health resource links at their convenience

The healthcare team will be able to contact patients via MiCare to provide:

- Appointment reminders

- Follow up on a condition without requiring a trip to the MTF

- Medication alerts/refill information
- Medical test and referral results
- Notifications regarding Flu vaccinations, school and sports physicals, MTF closure dates, etc.

In addition, according to Air Force Medical Service officials, in the near future MiCare will offer patients secure access to their personal health record (PHR). The PHR feature will allow patients to capture medical information in a central, online location. Officials emphasized that this has not been an option for patients in the past, making it difficult for them to keep track of health information coming from different doctors, treatment locations, emergency providers and overseas stations.

Since MiCare is a patient-driven service, the beneficiary must register with their MTF to have an active account. MiCare deployment to Air Force hospitals and clinics is underway and will progress through the remainder of 2012. In the coming months more information will be coming directly from the MTF regarding when MiCare will become available at each base and what to expect when MiCare arrives.

Copyright laws apply to Keesler, too. Is your software legal?

Airmen Against Drunk Driving relies on large pool of dependable volunteers

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

As a young child, she watched her dad climb into the driver's seat after drinking heavily, powerless to stop him. When she turned 16 and got her driver's license, she often had to pick him up after bartenders took his keys away.

"Fortunately, he never hurt himself or anyone else, but it could have just as easily turned out otherwise," said Tech. Sgt. Bobbie Longe, who became president of the base's Airmen Against Drunk Driving chapter Feb. 1. She arrived at Keesler a year ago to be an advanced airfield management instructor in the 334th Training Squadron.

Keesler had 57 driving-under-the-influence arrests in 2011, according to Maj. Matthew Pignataro, 81st Security Forces Squadron commander. Fortunately, A2D2 recorded 306 "saves" during the same period. However, the success of the program is dependent on a large, dependable pool of volunteer drivers, Longe said. A2D2 currently has 200 volunteers, including military members and civilians.

"Driver volunteers are the very lifeblood of A2D2, even if they can only spare one night every few months," said Senior Airman Ashley Jordan, a bioenvironmental engineering technician in the 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron and A2D2's outgoing president. She joined the Air Force right out of high school and knew many drivers, both underage and legal drinkers, who claimed they were just "buzzed," not drunk.

"In my opinion, buzzed driving is drunk driving," Jordan said.

"The number of calls varies widely," Longe pointed out. "Some weekends are very slow with few calls; others are



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Jordan and Longe change the numbers on one of the signs showing the number of A2D2 "saves" so far in 2012.

very busy. It's a 'feast or famine' situation. But if just a few calls mean that people are drinking responsibly and have a plan that works for them, that's a good thing."

Jordan said A2D2's free services are available from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. on Thursdays before a non-training Friday, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays if Monday is a federal holiday. The boundaries for the program are U.S. Highway 90 in Gulfport on the west, U.S. Highway 57 in Gautier to the east, two miles north of Interstate 10 to the north and the south Mississippi shoreline.

Volunteers work their shifts from home and can pick and choose what days they'd like to work. Before each shift, the dispatcher does a phone check with the volunteers for the night to make sure they're still willing and able to drive.

"Most pickups are for an individual, sometimes two to four people," Longe explained. "Most pickups are from casinos or bars, but once I did a pickup at a McDon-

ald's — it just depends on where people find themselves without a ride.

"I believe some people may be reluctant to call A2D2 because they think they're going to get in trouble for using the program," she continued. "A2D2 is intended as a backup plan for your backup plan. We're here to help in case your wingman bails, your designated driver starts drinking or you find yourself short of cash for a taxi. It's confidential and we don't report on who has used the service."

"A2D2 is an amazing program for all Defense Department identification cardholders, including dependents and civilians," Jordan said. "It's an alternate and safe mode of transportation instead of getting behind the wheel and driving when impaired."

To request a ride, call 377-SAVE (7283). To volunteer or for more information, email 333trs.AADD.Keesler@us.af.mil or log on to https://www.my.af.mil/gcssaf/USAF/site/AETC/AETC_2AF/81TRW/KAFB_AADD.

Keesler genetics lab helps doctors, patients fight

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Many times, medicine is a war – doctors helping patients or parents of patients fight against whatever disease or condition they may be up against. If that's true, geneticists would be your CIA operatives, your undercover agents providing valuable intelligence on the adversary.

And here at Keesler, the Air Force Medical Genetics Center would be the central intelligence agency for the entire Department of Defense. Doctors from around the world can call on the genetics center to perform laboratory tests that will help them understand what's really going on — who's the enemy, where the fight is and the most effective course of action.

Chartered in 1979, the genetics lab was established to be a comprehensive genetics center with three missions — provide clinical services, lab testing and be a source of expertise to the Air Force for consultation.

According to Col. Michael Bashford, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, the clinical

portion of the genetics center has shrunk. But with the advent of the entire human genome having been mapped, laboratory testing has seen huge growth over the last decade. Along with that growth, the different kinds of tests and screenings the genetics center can offer have grown as well.

“Clinical services is part of what we do, but it's a small part,” said Bashford. “The lab has gotten bigger and bigger and busier and busier.”

Being the only lab for the DOD, one might assume a stand-alone facility with multiple floors and row after row of scientists in white lab coats peering through their microscopes conducting groundbreaking research — futuristic, top secret and maybe even a little scary.

But the genetics center at Keesler doesn't do any research, occupies a small corner of the hospital on one floor and is manned by a small but dedicated staff with many having been there since the '80s and '90s.

The genetics center is actually two labs with two different fields of testing — cyto-



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Mike Hart, 81st Medical Operations Squadron molecular genetics technologist, prepares samples to do real-time polymerase chain reaction testing.

netics and molecular genetics.

Cytogenetics is the art of taking a cell, in most cases a white blood cell, smashing it and looking at the wreckage, specifically the strands of chromosomes that lie strewn about. This work is done by a cytogenetic technologist who is trained to pair the chromosomes and determine if there are any pieces missing, extra, not where they're supposed to be or just don't look right. An analysis of the bands in the chromosomes or by applying a technique of fluorescent tagging, a cytogeneticist can determine the presence or absence of certain genetic diseases and disorders. The presence of Down syndrome, for example, can be determined by looking to see if a patient has an extra chromosome 21.

Molecular genetics looks at the DNA itself, the proteins and amino acids that form the chromosomes, and seeks abnormalities or mutations. They can test for the presence of specific genetic diseases such as cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease and

a variety of prenatal screenings. According to Bashford, the genetics center did about 25,000 genetic tests last year and the number has been growing at 15-20 percent a year.

“We do as much as we can but not all that needs to be done,” said Bashford. “A lot of bases will need to send their testing requests to commercial labs because we simply can't do it all.”

Tests can also be run to determine a person's likely response to a drug, how it will be absorbed and metabolized. Oncologists, for example, can use this information to determine which chemotherapies will or will not work and the proper dosages for their patients.

And just recently, the genetics center acquired a new machine, a new operative in the acquisition of genetic intelligence. It is the 007 of cytogenetics — the DNA microarray. Instead of being able to view only a few hundred pieces of a chromosome, now the cytogeneticist

can view over a million.

“It allows us to look at all the DNA at once,” said Dr. David Rigdon, medical director of genetics. “It's useful for situations like autism where the patient's chromosomes look completely normal.”

But at this level of resolution, everyone's unique. Abnormal becomes normal. It becomes a matter of determining what's threatening and what's not. Does this person have a gun and why? Maybe he just likes to hunt. Or maybe, the gun is a high-powered rifle with a silencer and she's a vegetarian. If so, further investigation might be required.

Sometimes you have to look at the parents — are they have rifle-toting vegetarians with silencers? If not, then you might very well have your man — or, getting back to cytogenetics, a tiny spot of the chromosome that's causing the genetic disease or disorder in the patient.

According to Bashford, it's See **Genetics**, Page 19



Jawana Blankenship, 81st MDOS flight secretary, sorts DNA samples sent from Department of Defense medical facilities for further testing for chromosome anomalies and DNA mutations.

Be proactive in reporting computer security violations.

Genetics,

from Page 18

precisely this kind of scrutiny and information analysis that those who work at the genetics center love.

“It’s new. It’s rapidly evolving and there’s always new stuff to learn,” said Bashford. “And it’s highly specialized. For every 500 people who know how to read your blood, there’s only one who knows how to read your DNA.”

“It’s a very challenging and often frustrating field,” said Mary Leigh Shramko, molecular laboratory technical supervisor. “There are so many factors that can influence results. You have to think of ways to create the ideal conditions for testing. But we don’t control the conditions of a test. The conditions of a test control us.”

“You have to be very careful and meticulous because you’re dealing with lots of tests for lots of different people,” said Rigdon. “You could accidentally switch someone or a skin cell from the lab technician falls into the test and you have to start over.”

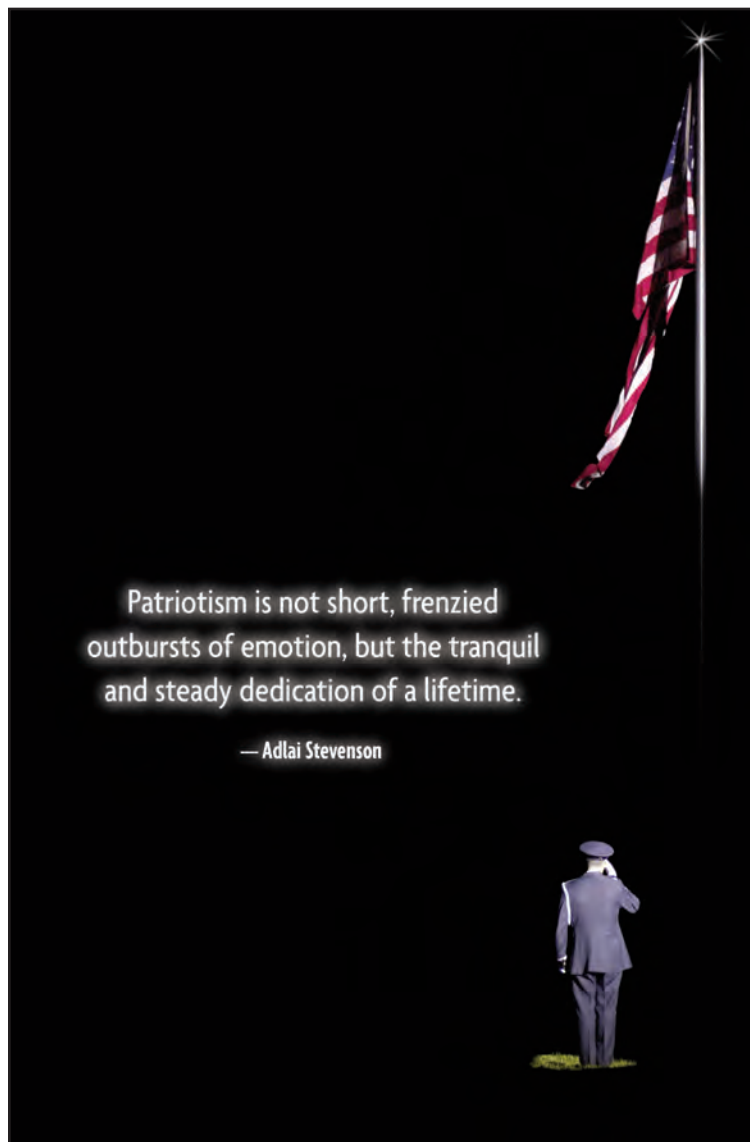
Keesler’s genetics center is accredited by The College of American Pathologists and consistently ranks high among other labs in the country.

“That’s exciting too,” said Shramko. “It’s exciting to see where we fall in comparison to all the other labs doing this type of work.”

Both Rigdon and Schramko admit that the work they do is not personal.

“Most of the tests we perform are not for conditions that can be treated medically,” said Shramko. “But it does provide doctors information on what course of action to take going forward.”

“The only time it gets personal is if you’re seeing the patient,” said Rigdon. “But many times the information we provide can be helpful in starting treatments earlier. A child with developmental delays, for example, can begin treatment much sooner than in years past.”





Base observance takes place today

Environmental office

Today is Arbor Day, a national observance that encourages tree planting and care.

A 9:30 a.m. ceremony at the child development center includes a tree planting by Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander.

The ceremony also includes the Tree City USA Award presentation that Keesler is receiving for the 19th consecutive year. The award recognizes the importance and priority Keesler places on good management of its trees, along with commitment of budgetary resources. Representatives from the Mississippi Urban Forest Council, the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain, the Harrison County Beautification Commission and the City of Biloxi are expected at the presentation.

In case of rain, the ceremony is held at the youth center.

For more information, call 377-1262.



Keesler's African-American Heritage Committee has two more events planned for Black History Month:

Friday — 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., youth center, soul food sampling. Donations accepted. For more information, call 376-8682.

March 1 — noon, Gaudé Lanes, 8th annual AAHC bowling tournament. \$10. For more information, call 377-5250.

Trained Keesler volunteers help with tax return filing

Tax office

Here's a listing of volunteer income tax representatives at Keesler.

Tax office — Jessica Barattini, Hope Blankenship, Diane Thompson, Jennifer Disch, Theresa Arbogash, Edward Ring and Rob Shavers, 376-8144; Kerry Bartels, 376-8141.

Legal office — Brenden Carbonell, John Smith and Dick Brock, 376-8601.

Equal employment opportunity office — Sheila Alexander, 377-2975.

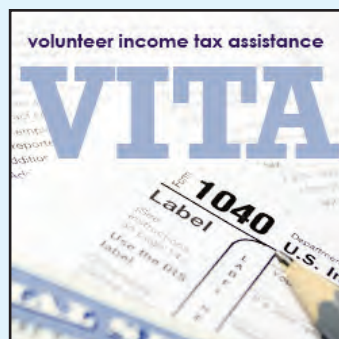
Fisher House — Larry Vetter, 376-2201.

81st Communications Squadron — Allyson Hill, 377-2277; Shaun Cooper, 376-6330.

81st Contracting Office — Timothy Moore, 377-1823, or Amanda Nesbitt, 377-1810.

81st Dental Squadron — Caroline Bunce, 376-5225; David Valencia, 376-5130.

81st Force Support Squadron — Marcus Hogsten, 376-8501.



81st Training Group — Vickie Simants, 377-2108.

333rd Training Squadron — Gloria Lewis, 377-0153.

334th TRS — Kerry Ann Gaubault, 377-8705.

335th TRS — Staff Sgt. Chris Quattlebaum, 377-7642; Damien Rapp, 377-0124; Daniel Alexander, 377-1748;

336th TRS — Mack Kolath, 377-0140; Beverly Jackson, 377-2617.

338th TRS — Clayton Herron, 377-3777; Brian Dice, 377-0134; Sharon Floyd, 377-2220; Tony Sargent, 377-3870; Enrico Fiorentino, 377-1978; Vernon Morgan, 377-1630.

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.

Online dating can be fun, but keep safety in mind

By Tech. Sgt. James Fountain

17th Training Wing Safety Office

GOODFELLOW AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — You've watched the commercials on television, heard the slogans and seen the statistics. One online dating site declares that one in five relationships begin online. It seems as if almost everyone today uses Facebook, Twitter or some other form of social networking.

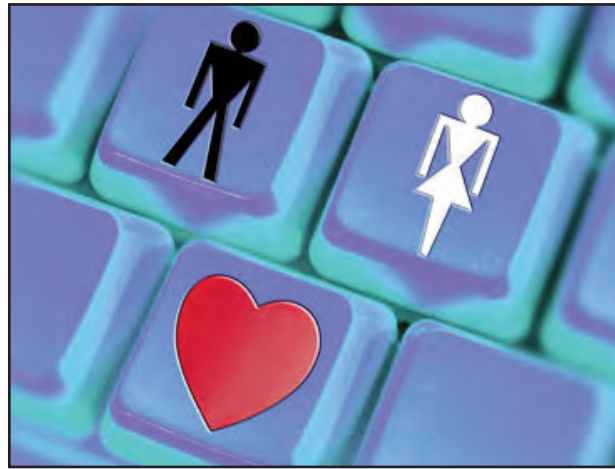
No one can say social networking is a bad thing — in fact, it can be useful and fun — but people tend to forget the possible dangers of using it. When it comes to online dating, it's important to be cautious.

Here are some tips:

Stay anonymous. Most online dating services provide secure messaging through their site, so to remain smart and safe, remain anonymous online until you get to know the other person better.

Be realistic. You are not going to find Mr. Perfect or Mrs. Right the first time around. Take your time, don't set high expectations and eventually you'll find a good, mutual match.

Use common sense. Don't get wrapped up with someone you just met online or get disenchanted with an "instant connection." Don't try to be someone you're not or try to reinvent yourself online.



Proceed slowly and listen to your instincts. Take things at your pace. Also, remember that if something makes you uneasy or uncomfortable, you have the power to call it quits at any point in time.

First dates should be public. It's smart and safe to meet in a public place, such as a restaurant for dinner. Be observant and pay attention to all verbal and nonverbal signs.

Take your own transportation to and from the date. Tell a friend of your plans in case of an emergency and be sure to have your cell phone with you, charged and ready to go.

Be on the lookout for red flags. You can't always trust someone you barely know, so be on the lookout for signs that suggest different outlooks on life from yours or immoral actions.

Here are a few red flags:

Avoids answering questions directly, especially about issues that are important to you. It's OK if people joke about their answer, but eventually they need to get around to answering the question or explain why they feel uncomfortable doing so.

DemEANING or disrespectful comments about you or other people. How your match treats others can be a telling sign into their future behaviors.

Inconsistent information about any basics, especially anything within their profile — this especially includes marital status, children, employment and where they are living, but also things like age, appearance, education, career or similar things.

Your match is nothing like the way he describes himself in his online profile.

Physically inappropriate or unwanted behavior, such as touching or kissing.

Pushes quickly to meet in person.

Avoids phone contact.

Be sexually responsible. It shouldn't be a surprise, but some matches could lead to a sexual relationship. Ask your partner about his or her sexual background and always use protection.

Diet, regular exams can protect children's teeth

By Capt. (Dr.) Jessica Milburn

81st Dental Squadron

As a child's teeth develop, they should be routinely checked with dental exams. The dentist evaluates the developing bite, presence of negative habits and risk factors associated with cavities. Dental visits every six months allow the dentist to catch problems early, hopefully before extensive and expensive treatment is needed.

Prevention of cavities is related to proper nutrition. A diet low in sugary foods such as chips, cookies, cake, fruit juices, soda and candies is beneficial to overall health and weight maintenance and keeps teeth strong and healthy. Sugary foods are used by the bacteria to break down tooth structure and cause cavities. Generally speaking, sticky food is high in sugar. Only gum containing "xylitol" has been proven to help prevent cavities.

To prevent cavities, a meal can be finished with a piece of cheese or glass of milk or water. If parents have cavities, they may transmit those bacteria to their infant and children through their saliva and sharing utensils at meal time, so they need to get cavities fixed.

Fluoride is a naturally-occurring mineral found in water and some foods and is known to help prevent cavities. In fact, water fluoridation has been cited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as one of the "10 greatest public health achievements of the 20th century." Fluoride helps strengthen and remineralize teeth from the acidic effects of foods and bacteria that break down teeth. A dentist can help determine if a child is adequately exposed to fluoride.

Excessive fluoride consumption can lead to "fluorosis" where teeth have a chalky white- or brown-stained appearance or, worse, can lead to fluoride toxicity. Fluoride supplement pills or drops are not advisable

because of their potency and difficulty in precisely determining how much fluoride is actually consumed. Instead, drinking bottled fluoridated water is suggested. Use of fluoridated toothpaste is not recommended prior to age 3 or before most children are able to spit.

At around 6 years old, the first adult teeth come in the lower molars — and the dentist may recommend these teeth be "sealed." Eighty percent of all cavities in young patients are due to bacteria from food that remains in the grooves of the biting surfaces of teeth that a tooth brush can't effectively remove. A sealant fills these grooves preventing cavities. With the development of more teeth, a child will need to be evaluated to determine if more sealants as well as specialty referral are needed.

A beautiful smile throughout life starts with proper nutrition and good oral hygiene practices from an early age. Dentists are not only there to fix dental problems, they are also a valuable tool to help prevent costly dental problems in a child's future.

Guarding youthful teeth from injuries

By Capt. (Dr.) Jessica Milburn

81st Dental Squadron

When a child suffers an injury to the mouth, the first step is to remain calm. If teeth have moved or are broken, gums are bleeding or swelling is present, then a dentist should be called immediately.

Adult teeth can be knocked out. Try to place the tooth back into the open socket. If this is not possible, place the tooth in a glass of cold milk and go straight to the dentist. The tooth should not be scraped or cleaned. This may damage the root surface, complicating the long-term success of reattaching the tooth. This situation only applies to adult teeth, not baby teeth.

Don't try to stick a baby tooth back into the socket. This could damage developing adult teeth. However, in case a baby tooth is knocked out, seek immediate dental care.

After an injury where a tooth gets hit, the affected teeth may darken. If a "pimple" develops in the mouth, the child will need to see a dentist — this could indicate that a

tooth has "died" and is infected. Untreated infections can cause pain and spread, possibly becoming life-threatening.

If a child decides to participate in sports, a dentist can make a soft plastic mouthguard or custom-molded mouthguard to help protect lips, cheeks, gums and teeth from injuries. A simple solution is also a boil-and-bite mouth protector that may be purchased at any pharmacy. These boil-and-bite mouth protectors come with at-home instructions and in a variety of sizes and are more affordable than a dental emergency visit. These mouth protectors shouldn't be boiled for a child or teen in braces, because they will become very difficult to remove once they mold to the braces.

Accident prevention begins with exercising proper safety. Furniture with sharp corners and edges should be removed from areas where young children play. Helmets and other safety gear should be worn at the appropriate times and mouth protectors should be worn while playing sports. In the case of any mouth injury, a dentist should be consulted without delay.



For more news, photos, videos and information,
log on to keesler.af.mil

eight days a week

Airman and family readiness center

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 376-8728.

Today — 9 a.m. to noon, Bundles for Babies. Open to expecting military members and dependents at Keesler. Receive a layette gift valued at \$75 upon completion of the class.

Arts and crafts center

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

Friday — 6-8 p.m., ladies' night. Games, snacks, beverages and ceramics painting. \$5 admission.

Saturday — 9-11 a.m., basic woodworking. Class certifies you to use shop equipment. \$25 includes materials.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2334.

March 2 — 6 p.m., "America's Got Murder" mystery dinner theater in the ballroom. \$25 for Air Force Club members, \$30 non-members. Price includes dinner and show. Purchase tickets at the Bay Breeze golf pro shop. Seating limited.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

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

Friday and Wednesday — noon to 3 p.m., ladies golf development. 30-minute driving range lesson plus four to nine-hole option. \$40 per person includes cart.

Fitness centers

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-4385 or 3056.

Friday — 8 a.m., healthy heart 5-kilometer run/walk, Blake Fitness Center. Awards presented. Registration begins 7:30 a.m. Wear red in recognition of National Heart Month.

Saturday-Sunday — 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Southeastern Military Athletic Conference women's varsity basketball tournament, Blake Fitness Center. Free admission.

Feb. 27-March 9 — Blake Fitness Center is closed for installation of a new fire alarm system. During this time, Dragon Fitness Center extends its hours to mirror the regular hours of Blake Fitness Center, 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends. Regular hours resume March 10.

Gaudé Lanes

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2817.

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

Saturday-Sunday — 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday, pizza and pins special. Two hours of bowling, shoes, large pizza and a pitcher of soda or tea, \$35.

Sunday — noon to 6 p.m., Sunday funday. Three game special including shoes. \$6 for adults, \$3 for youth.

Weekdays — 6:30-9 a.m., fast \$5 breakfast served at 11th Frame Café.

McBride Library

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

March 1 — 4-5 p.m., free children's story and craft time, ages 3-12.

Outdoor recreation

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

Through Wednesday — Valentine's special. 10 percent off a camping package.

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

Saturday — 1-4 p.m., free Call of Duty: Black Ops tournament. Limited space available, arrive early.

Wednesdays — 5-9 p.m., friends and flicks. 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.

Friday — 6:30-9:30 p.m., Friday night fun, ages 6-12. Games, skating, movies and more. \$10 for first child, \$5 each additional.

Through March 9 — youth baseball registration, ages 3-14. \$50 for first child, discounted price for each additional. Season begins in April. Coaches needed, call for information.

Dragon Wagon

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

**NO DUIs NO EXCUSES
DRINK RESPONSIBLY**

KEESLER NOTES

Wood shop items

A number of items at the wood shop need to be picked up by the end of February.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held 7-8 p.m. Fridays upstairs in the Triangle Chapel Annex.

All active-duty and retired members and their dependents are welcome to attend.

Finance office closed

The finance office closes at noon March 22 and will reopen at 8 a.m. March 23.

Supply classes

Quarterly supply classes are held in Room 109, Taylor Logistics Building.

Block I supply indoctrination class is 9-10 a.m. March 15. All newly-assigned supply custodians and resource managers are required to attend. For more information or to sign up, call 377-5998.

Precious Metals Recovery Program is 10-11 a.m. March 15. All newly-assigned PMRP monitors are required to attend, and refresher training is required annually. For more information or to sign up, call 377-5998.

Block IIA bench stock training is 9-10 a.m. March 29. For more information or to sign up, call 377-4180.

Block IIB repair cycle training is 10-11 a.m. March 29. For more information or to sign up, call 377-4191.

Block III equipment custodian refresher training is 1-2 p.m. March 15. All newly-assigned supply equipment custodians are required to attend, as well as all other custodians annually. For more information or to sign up, call 377-2270.

For information on all supply classes, call 377-4480.

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, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the last Saturday of the month and closed on federal holidays.

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

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.

AFSA meetings

The Air Force Sergeants Association meets the second Thursday of each month in Room 2 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

For more information, call 377-9193.

Supply source

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

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

Supply source

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

Zero overpricing

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

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

Air Force Aid

Air Force active-duty members and spouses, retirees and surviving spouses of deceased active duty members can apply for Air Force Aid Society assistance online.

Log on to <https://my.afas.org/memberportal/Login/Login.aspx>. The client completes and submits the application to the airman and family readiness center at the selected base. The applicant receives an e-mail and is instructed to call the center, 376-8728, to schedule an appointment.

Periodontal patients

The 81st Dental Squadron periodontics department is seeking people with gum problems for the general dental residency teaching program.

Limited numbers of patients, including retirees and eligible military dependents, accepted as teaching cases

receive free periodontal care at Keesler.

Patients will be treated by Air Force general dentistry residents under specialty supervision. Patients must be readily available for lengthy recurring appointments, generally Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings.

For more information, call 376-5225.

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



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Team captains Rob Campbell, Mississippi Surge, and Dan Buccella, Pensacola Ice Flyers get ready as Warrant Officer Tom Ponte, U.S. Coast Guard Station Gulfport; Capt. Jason Burgan, Marine Corps Reserves, Gulfport Seabee Base; Capt. Stan Wiles, executive officer, Civil Engineer Corps at Gulfport Naval Construction Battalion Center; Col. Steve Parham, Camp Shelby commander; and Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, gather to drop the puck for the professional hockey game Saturday at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum. The Mississippi Surge honored south Mississippi's military at Military Appreciation Night. The Ice Flyers downed the Surge, 5-2.

Pucks fly at Military Appreciation Night



Airman 1st Class Amanda Nesbitt, 81st Contracting Squadron, sings the national anthem at Military Appreciation Night.



Nine-year-old Sophie Mueller, daughter of Brig. Gen. Andrew and Keri Mueller, 81st TRW commander, has her photo taken with Nick Eno, Mississippi Surge goalie. Sophie was the "little saver" in a promotion sponsored by Trustmark Bank. She received a goody bag and their photo was displayed on the "big screen" during the game.

Intramural basketball

81st Logistics Readiness Squadron wins crown



Top, Matthew Smith and Leviticus Robinson, 81st LRS, double team V.J. Peoples, 333rd TRS, as he makes his way toward the basket.



Right, Peoples rushes toward the goal while keeping his eyes on his teammates.

By Sam Miller and Ryan Rice

Intramural sports office

Two teams that brought a losing regular season record into the intramural basketball postseason tournament ended up in the championship finals Feb. 16.

The 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, 2-8 in the Eastern Conference during the regular season, defeated the 333rd Training Squadron Spartans, 4-6 in the Western Conference during the regular season, with a final score of 46-41.

In the intramural finals, both teams put together impressive playoff wins, landing them in the finals.

The Spartans jumped out to an early lead, hitting three out of their first four three-point field goals, resulting in a 13-2 run at the 13:02 mark in the first half.

The 81st LRS buckled down defensively and cut the lead to 21-19 at the 3:57 mark. Both teams went into half time knotted up at 23. Adam Gonzalez-Kilgo, 81st LRS, led all scorers with 10 points at the half.

The second half went back and forth as both teams strengthened offensively.

The Spartans kept the lead until 8:04 left in the second half, when the 81st LRS converted a key three-point goal to tie the game at 33-33. The 81st LRS players continued to shoot well from outside the arch and found themselves with a 42-39 lead with less than one minute left in regulation.

Derek Brooks, 333rd TRS, attempted a three-pointer that would have tied the game with 29.3 seconds remaining, but the 81st LRS secured the crucial defensive rebound, then added another two points that sealed the championship with the final score of 46-41.

Gonzalez-Kilgo led all scorers with 17 points, with Brooks as the Spartans' top scorer with 16.

The 81st LRS will represent Keesler against the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport for the inaugural basketball game between the two base champions, 6 p.m. Tuesday in Gulfport.



Photos by Kemberly Groue
Kyle Rimando, 333rd TRS, and Amos Daniels, 81st LRS, reach for the basketball at half court



Intramural sports director Sam Miller and Gerald Peterson, 336th Training Squadron, keep up with statistics and the scoreboard.

Fitness center closed

Blake Fitness Center is closed Monday through March 9 for installation of a new fire alarm system.

Dragon Fitness Center is open 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends.

Normal hours resume March 10 at both facilities.

Thursday intramural bowling

Week 21 of 34

| Team | Won | Lost |
|----------------|-------|-------|
| 335th TRS-A | 122.0 | 46.0 |
| 81st FSS | 106.0 | 62.0 |
| 403rd AMXS | 100.0 | 68.0 |
| 81st CS | 95.0 | 73.0 |
| 338th TRS | 94.0 | 74.0 |
| 81st TRSS-PMEL | 87.0 | 81.0 |
| 334th TRS | 86.0 | 82.0 |
| 81st LRS-B | 85.0 | 83.0 |
| 81st LRS-A | 84.0 | 84.0 |
| 336th TRS | 82.0 | 86.0 |
| 81st WSA | 80.0 | 88.0 |
| ECS Strikers | 78.0 | 90.0 |
| 335th TRS-B | 75.0 | 93.0 |
| 81st TRSS-A | 64.0 | 104.0 |
| 2nd Air Force | 60.0 | 108.0 |
| Seabees | 40.0 | 72.0 |

Season high scores

Team game — 335th TRS, 1,043.

Team series — 335th TRS, 2,990.

High handicap game (team) — 335th TRS-A, 1,144.

High handicap series (team) — 81st CS, 3,300.

Game/men — Jamie Sieloff, 265.

Series/men — Jeff Miracle, 734.

High handicap game/men — Robert Dickinson, 279.

High handicap series/men — Mike Sullo, 744.

Game/women — Sabra Miracle, 212.

Series/women — Sabra Miracle, 567.

High handicap game/women — Carol Wetzler, 258.

High handicap series/women — Sabra Miracle, 678.

Average/men — Jeff Miracle, 204.79.

Average/women — Sabra Miracle, 157.53.

Most improved — Matthew Such, 15.08; Carol Wetzler, 4.77.

Play hard — play safe.