



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

MARCH 8, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 10

Air Force drill team practices new routine at Keesler

Page 12

Air Force Assistance Fund
Page 7
Bone marrow donation
Page 15
Volleyball season starts
Page 24

INSIDE

Commentary, 3 Training and Education, 5 News and Features, 7-21 Sports and Recreation, 23-24

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KEESLER NEWS

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ON THE COVER

The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team from the Air Force District of Washington practices a new routine on the parade field behind the Levitow Training Support Facility March 1. The team is the traveling component of the Air Force Honor Guard. Its mission is to inspire Air Force awareness among military and civilian audiences through complex drill routines. In all they do, the members of the drill team personify the integrity, discipline, teamwork and professionalism of every Airman and Air Force mission.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



DRAGONS THAT I MEET



Photo by Kemberly Groue

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

Airman 1st Class Terrance Cooley serves as Keesler's Blue Knight Drum and Bugle Corps commander. He arrived at Keesler Sept. 26, 2011 and is studying radio frequency systems in the 338th Training Squadron.

When Cooley is not in class or with the Blue Knights, he also serves as a member of the white rope program where he volunteers at the Fishbowl Student Ministry Center.

It was an honor to meet this week's Dragon.



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

Lessons from book 'From Jeep Driver to General'

By Col. Glen Downing

81st Training Wing vice commander

Recently our nation and Air Force lost a great hero in Maj. Gen. Jesse M. Allen. General Allen's life not only represents the true spirit of our nation, it embodies the very history of our Air Force. I had the great fortune of befriending the general over the last two years and he became a mentor. He impressed three very important lessons on me.

First, if you can dream it, you can become it! General Allen was born in 1925. The youngest of 11 children, he was raised on a simple farm in Illinois during the depression. In 1943, as soon as he turned 18, General Allen enlisted in the Army Air Corps. Originally destined for a flying training class, he was quickly diverted due to the impending invasion of Europe. Private Allen became what we now call an individual augmentee and literally drove a jeep across Europe with Patton's 3rd Army.

Discharged in 1946 as a technical sergeant in the Army, he used the Montgomery G.I. Bill to finance a college education at the University of Illinois. Second Lt. Allen received a direct commission upon graduation in 1950 and finally got the pilot training opportunity he originally sought in 1943. General Allen went on to fly fighters for 19 months in Korea and command the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron, flying 87 combat missions over Vietnam. General Allen retired in 1976 as deputy chief of staff, operations and intelligence, U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

Gen. Allen wrote, "I'm certain that there isn't another country in the world that could have provided the opportunities and training that carried me from jeep driver to fighter

pilot to general." General Allen spent more than four years in combat and received nine enlisted and eight officer promotions. As a mentor to young airmen and officers in our Air Force, the general never hesitated to remind them they could become whatever they dreamed.

Second, the Air Force must take pride in its leadership role in promoting ethnic diversity. General Allen's earliest experiences in the military bore witness to poor treatment of African-American soldiers forced to live below decks on transport ships crossing the Atlantic Ocean on their way to England. He witnessed the lynching of African-American soldiers during the preparations for invasion. Most troubling of all, General Allen assisted with the clean up and recovery of the Dachau concentration camp.

These memories were never erased; however, General Allen always took great pride in the fact that while he commanded the Triple Nickel in combats over Vietnam, his wing operations officer was Col. Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. Allen's first encounter with James was at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., in the mid-50s after then Major James was refused service in a base barber shop. Allen relished the fact that same person was now his boss. Flying as wingmen and working together during tough times forged a bond that lasted until General James' death in 1978.

General Allen took great joy in observing the Air Force of today where our ethnicity has become something to celebrate rather than a barrier between people. He made a point to remind his fellow Airmen to be proud of the progress we've made as a service.

Lastly, our families are our greatest asset. I was fortunate



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Retired Maj. Gen. Jesse Allen of Biloxi discusses his autobiography, "From Jeep Driver to General," during a company grade officers council book club meeting Jan. 5, 2011 at 81st Training Wing headquarters.

enough to see firsthand the importance of family to General Allen. Twice I joined his larger family in celebrating his birthday with his two surviving sisters. I've met both of his adult children and seen the love and admiration they all share for each other. Even a remarkable military career couldn't get between the general and his

family. As his first wife's health began to fail, he left the service nearly 10 years prior to mandatory retirement in order to care for her. General Allen remarried later in life and shared his last 10 years with another wonderful woman who very appropriately was at his bedside with his two children and a host of close friends when he passed

away on Sunday.

A fighter pilot and a leader to the very end, General Allen mentored and inspired many in his local community. He frequently shared his life's experiences with technical training Airmen and young officers at Keesler. The lessons he taught and the life he lived are an example to all Airmen everywhere.

Military family maintains long, proud heritage

**Commentary By
Senior Master Sgt.
Joseph Kerzic III**

**366th Training Squadron
Detachment 6**

By definition, heritage is a tradition or culture that can be inherited, passed from generation to generation.

Additionally culture is the sum total of activities of any specific people. So the heritage of an Airman is basically the Air Force culture he or she inherits. But in my particular case, I think it goes even deeper than that.

With Airmen, it's as though when the recruiter has us raise our right hand, that is conception. Basic training is the belly of the Air Force, nurturing and molding us. Finally, the day we march across the field at Lackland Air Force Base, we are born as Airmen. At that time, we inherit the culture left by our forefathers who shaped the Air Force into what it is today. The Air Force branch was born with the National Security Act of 1947, but my family tradition of honor and service to country began 10 years earlier.

In 1937, my grandfather, Joseph Kerzic, joined the Army and served for three years.

Later, after Pearl Harbor was attacked, like many young patriots, he heard the call to duty, but this time he joined the Navy, became a carpenter's mate, and fought valiantly and honorably in the Pacific.

According to the story I have, he had a ship shot out from under him but vowed to serve until at least after V-J Day. In the late 1940s, the Air Force was breaking off from



Joseph Kerzic



Joseph Kerzic Jr.



Joseph Kerzic III

Heritage doesn't pass on with time as we mortals do — it grows.

— Kerzic III

the Army and starting up by itself. It sounded exciting and new with many new fields to work in, and they were looking for personnel with military experience, so he switched services yet again. He later remarked, "It doesn't matter what service you end up in, as long as you are serving your country, ready to protect its principles and ideals." He quickly advanced through the enlisted ranks to master sergeant when that was the highest enlisted grade. In 1962, he honorably transferred to the retired reserves of the Air Force. I'm sure he didn't know it at the time, but he was starting a legacy of valor.

His son, my father, Joseph Kerzic Jr., was faithful to a proud heritage set before him by his father. He joined the

Navy in 1968 to defend the principles of freedom and our country during the Vietnam War Era. In 1976, the year I was born, he was promoted to chief petty officer. Throughout my childhood, I was always reminded of the pride of being "The Chief." On Pearl Harbor Day 1979, he was compelled to discharge from the Navy, but never lost his sense of duty. In 1984, he reentered the service of his country, though this time in the Army. Although he grew to love the Army, he always said, "There's nothing like being a Navy Chief." He retired in 1994 and because of his love for his country and for tradition, he convinced me to be faithful to a proud heritage, too, and I joined the Air Force in December 1995.

When I joined the military, both my father and grandfather said that out of all the services, the Air Force was the best for taking care of its troops.

In 2010, while stationed with the Navy Seabees in Gulfport, Miss., I was selected for promotion to master sergeant like my grandfather had been. It was then that the Navy chiefs in Charlie Company heard my father was a Navy chief back in the day and my grandfather a Navy builder, maybe even one of the first Seabees during World War II.

The Navy is rich with tradition and heritage is one of the chief's guiding principles. So, the Seabee chiefs asked me if I would be interested in going through the Navy chief initiation. It is the process the Navy E-7 selects go through every

year in order to earn their anchor. I remembered hearing stories from my dad almost my whole life about being "The Chief." So I asked him if I should go through it and if it was worth it. All he did was laugh and say, "If you don't, you're a (wimp)," but he didn't say wimp. So I accepted. I put my Navy request "chit" in and my Navy leadership training started.

On Sept. 16, 2010, after six weeks of Navy chief's leadership training and the "Final Night," on what is known as "The happiest day of my life," I was accepted and anchored as a Navy chief petty officer. On April 1, 2011, the Navy Chief birthday, my master sergeant line number finally came up. That day I was wearing master sergeant stripes like my grandfather and a Navy Chief anchor like my father.

This last induction season, I carried on the tradition of honor. I helped train and initiate the next generation of chief petty officers. On Sept. 16, 2011, I was a "sideboy" during the chief pinning ceremony. I got to salute this year's chiefs as they walked across the red carpet and between the ceremonial bullets as newly-pinned chief petty officers, and I did it wearing master sergeant stripes and a Navy chief anchor.

My father often tells me how proud he knows my grandfather is and that he hopes my sons will carry on the family heritage of honor and tradition. If they do he says, he can't wait to be there when they get pinned. Even if only in spirit as he is sure my grandfather was with me. Heritage doesn't pass on with time as we mortals do — it grows.

EDUCATION NOTES

Embry-Riddle

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is now registering for the new term that begins March 19.

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

Graduate courses are also available to complete Civil Service 1750 qualification requirements (simulation systems this term).

Discounted tuition rates are available for active-duty, reservists and Air National Guard.

For more information, visit Room 217, Sablich Center, or call 376-8478 or 432-5312.

Pitsenbarger Awards

March 23 at 4 p.m. is the deadline for members of the Community College of the Air Force spring graduating class to apply for a Pitsenbarger Award sponsored to the Air Force Association.

The awards provide a one-time cash award to selected top Air Force enlisted personnel graduating from CCAF who are pursuing or plan to pursue a baccalaureate degree. Prior winners are not eligible.

Applications are available at the education services office or may be downloaded from the Air Force Association web site, <http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/pit.asp>. Applicants must carefully review and follow the requirements/selection criteria and guidelines for the award.

The Pitsenbarger Awards are presented at the CCAF spring commencement ceremony at 3:30 p.m. April 19 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

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

AFAF provides another opportunity for giving

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Military members help others on a daily basis, but the Air Force Assistance Fund is an opportunity to take care of themselves and their own.

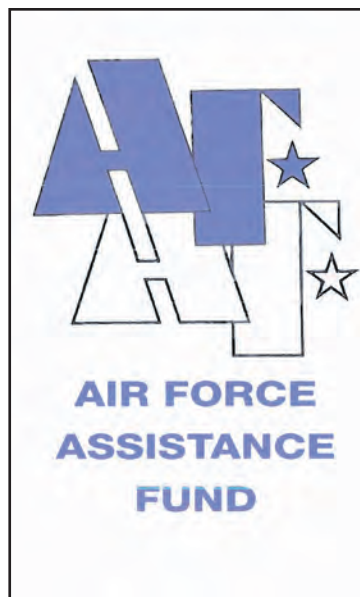
This year's AFAF campaign officially kicked off at the 81st Training Wing promotion ceremony March 1, and runs through April 13.

Keesler's goal for 2012 is \$83,255. That's how much the base will raise if half of eligible participants donate the amount recommended based on pay grade. Last year, Keesler raised more than \$69,000.

Second Lt. Adam Brown, 81st Medical Support Squadron and this year's AFAF campaign project officer, said that one of the biggest things people ask is why Keesler holds both Combined Federal Campaign and AFAF donation drives. Brown said the reason is that while CFC is a way to give back to others, AFAF is a chance to give back to ourselves.

"Every penny counts," Brown said. "If you can't donate \$2 a month that's fine, but what about \$2 right now?"

The AFAF benefits four organizations — The Air Force Aid Society, Inc.; the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation; the Air Force Villages; Inc.; and the Air Force Enlisted Village, Inc.



Air Force Aid Society

The Air Force Aid Society provides worldwide emergency assistance to Airmen and their families, sponsors educational assistance programs and offers base and community programs to improve the welfare of members and their families. In 2011, AFAS provided nearly \$18 million of assistance to more than 40,000 people. Of that, \$148,614 went directly to 283 Keesler members.

AFAS provides financial assistance in two interest-free forms — Falcon Loans and traditional loans. A recent policy change increased Falcon Loans amounts from \$500 to \$750 and frequency from twice per career to four times per career. Falcon Loans are limited to basic living expenses, vehicle expenses,

emergency travel, child care and medical or dental expenses. Traditional loans are assessed on a case-by-case basis and are intended for any amount greater than \$750. Both types of loan are repaid via monthly allotment generally beginning one month after the loan has been granted.

"Falcon Loans were developed so members don't need to go to payday loans," Linda Edison, AFAS officer said. "Sometimes you just need that small amount of money to get over a hurdle."

For more information or to apply for assistance, visit the airman and family readiness center or go to www.afas.org.

LeMay Foundation

According to its website, "The LeMay Foundation helps widows of all Air Force Retirees, both officers and enlisted, through financial grants of assistance. These widows spend much of their lives coping with the difficulties of military life, and supporting their spouses through years of active duty. We are not interested in why they need help, only that they need it."

The foundation provides assistance to widows as long as it is needed and funds are available. Whether monthly for several years or just once, all funds distributed are considered grants.

For more information, go to www.lemay-foundation.org.

Air Force Villages

The Air Force Villages are retirement facilities for the widows of retired Air Force officers who need assistance financially or with their health care needs.

According to its website, "The Village has been building an endowment to assist widowed spouses who, through no fault of their own, and often as a result of tragic circumstances, have exhausted their financial resources. These men and women selflessly served their country alongside their spouses and we are here to respectfully let them know they have not been forgotten."

For more information, go to <http://www.afvillages.org/about/widows-widowers/>.

Air Force Enlisted Village

The Air Force Enlisted Village provides housing and financial care for widows of retired Air Force members.

According to its website, the surviving spouse with the greatest need is cared for first and none are refused assistance due to financial status. Low pay and frequent military moves leave some spouses without careers, home equities, retirement plans or any significant assets.

For more information, go to <http://www.afenlistedwidows.org/>.

"It's nice to give because you never know when you might need to use Air Force

aid," Edison said.

Master Sgt. Michael Raff, 81st Training Wing Plans installation exercise program office deputy chief, is one of the Keesler members who has benefited from AFAF.

Raff said during the Thanksgiving holiday, he drove to Oklahoma to visit family when a \$2 plug on his engine blew, resulting in a \$1,500 repair bill.

"Even though I am a senior NCO, having \$1,500 as extra money on leave was a little out of my budget," Raff said. "I contacted the (airman and family readiness center) at Keesler."

After filling out the online application, Raff made a phone call to Tinker Air Force Base's airman and family readiness center to make an appointment. The next morning when he received a quote from the dealer who was completing repairs, he went on base, finalized his application and was on his way.

"Each time I received a loan it was paid back," Raff said, "and each year I set up a monthly contribution so others can benefit from the AFAF."

Anyone can donate to AFAF, but only active duty and retirees can donate via payroll deduction.

"Even though it's bad economic times, we should step forward and donate what we can," Brown said.

For more information, contact your unit representative or go to www.afassistancefund.org.

When Spring is in the air, spring forward.

March 11 (Sunday) 2 a.m. — remember to set clocks forward one hour.





Photos by Kemberly Groue

A C-130J Hercules aircraft takes flight from Keesler's recently maintained flightline Monday.

Keesler airfield gets much needed makeover



Airman 1st Class Tiffany Johnson, right, scoops up a piece of debris on the flightline during a foreign objects and debris walk February, 2010. Also participating are other members of the 81st Force Support Squadron, including Senior Airmen Kathryn Brown, center, and Iris Franklin.

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News co-editor

The Keesler airfield is getting a facelift, a pamper me day if you will, to remove its rough, dry, aged and cracking surface to allow new layers of smooth concrete to be applied. It's getting a little tender-loving care. Of course, this will involve rakes, shovels, jack hammers, and the pouring of concrete and boiling-hot asphalt. But if you had 80-ton C-130s landing on you every day, you'd probably like it like that, too.

"The Keesler airfield and flight line are going through some dynamic changes in order to make it a viable airfield for today, tomorrow and into the next decade," said Tech Sgt. Timothy Larson, 81st Operations Support Flight and airfield management quality assurance evalu-

ator. "The airfield management team, airfield manager and operations support flight leadership have fought for funding for airfield projects on a constant and relentless basis with a sight picture for future growth and mitigating hazards to assigned aircrews."

Pavements, both asphalt and concrete, are the skin of runways and taxiways. With age and use they begin to lose their structural integrity and show signs of aging by cracking, breaking and producing loose debris. So periodically, a makeover is needed to ensure aircraft and crews have a safe surface to do their jobs.

Airfield facelifts aren't cheap, either. According to Larson, the running tab is approximately \$1.1 million. However, this money is going to local and regional contractors that often trickles into the

local economy.

Since September, five projects have been completed. These projects include completely tearing out and replacing concrete slabs, re-pouring asphalt on the primary taxiway, removing rubber from countless tire skids and repainting various runway, taxiway and apron markings.

"The reason for these repairs is to allow the aircrew to have more flexibility in accomplishing their mission," said Larson. "It will allow the airfield to sustain operations safely, efficiently and with reduced chance for costly overhauls and damages to aircraft. With these repairs being accomplished now rather than later, the sustainability of the airfield to support airframes can be highlighted in discussions in the ongoing battle for funds in a constantly shrinking Air Force budget."

Drug testing to include abused prescriptions

By John Stock

Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The Air Force and other military services will expand their drug testing to include testing for commonly abused prescription drugs beginning May 1, 2012.

On Jan. 31, 2012, the Secretary of Defense gave a 90-day advance notice of the drug testing expansion which aims to counter the nation's growing epidemic and encourage those abusing prescription medications to seek treatment before official testing begins.

"Abuse of prescription drugs is the fastest growing drug problem in the United States, and unfortunately, this trend is reflected in the military services," said Maj. Gen. Thomas W. Travis, Deputy Air Force Surgeon General. "While pain medications are highly effective in alleviating suffering from injuries, they are dangerous and potentially addictive when used outside medical supervision."

Taking controlled medications in a manner other than how they were prescribed poses a risk to the person's health and safety and can put others at risk as well.

Prescription medications should be taken only for the purposes for which they were prescribed and at the dose and frequency prescribed. Additionally, Airmen are reminded never to take a medication prescribed to someone else.

"Members who need help discontinuing use of these drugs are encouraged to seek care at a military treatment facility immediately," said Maj. Gen. Travis.

The policy being addressed is not new to Air Force personnel. In accordance with Air Force guidance and existing law, the knowing use of any prescription or over-the-counter medications in a manner contrary to their intended medical purpose or in



excess of the prescribed dosage may have negative health consequences and may also violate the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

AFI 44-121, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) Program provides limited protections under certain circumstances for voluntary disclosure of prior drug use or possession to unit commanders, first sergeants, a substance abuse evaluator, or a military medical professional. Once an Airman has been ordered to provide a urine sample as part of the drug testing program, any disclosure is not considered to be voluntary.

"There are no changes to procedures that will directly affect drug testing collection sites and military members who are selected for testing," said Lt. Col. Mark Oordt, Chief, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Drug Demand Reduction. "The changes will occur at the Drug Testing Labs where the standard panel of substances each specimen is tested for will be expanded."

The scope of the problem

- The Centers for Disease Control report 52 million Americans age 12 years and older had used pre-

scription meds non-medically in 2009, with 7 million Americans having done so routinely.

- Prescription medications appear to be replacing marijuana as the top "gateway drug." Six of the top 10 abused substances among high school seniors are prescription drugs; 20% of high school students have taken prescription medications without a prescription.

- Military data also suggests increases in prescription drug misuse. The DOD Health Behaviors Survey shows self reported misuse of pain meds for non-medical purposes by Service Members (all Services) increased from 2% in 2002 to 7% in 2005 to 17% in 2008.

How to dispose of prescription drugs

"Patients are encouraged to dispose of prescriptions once they are no longer needed for their prescribed purpose," said Lt. Col. Oordt. "The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) prohibits pharmacies from taking back controlled substances. However, the Services collaborate with law enforcement agencies in the DEA drug take back days which occur several times each year in most communities."

For more information on drug take back visit http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

The Food and Drug Administration also offers guidance on disposal of prescription drugs before consumers throw them in the garbage.

- Take the medication out of their original containers and mix them with an undesirable substance, such as coffee grounds or kitty litter. The medication will be less appealing to children and pets, and unrecognizable to people who may intentionally go through your trash.

- Put medications in a sealable bag, empty can, or other container to prevent the medication from leaking or breaking out of a garbage bag.



85th EIS NCO wins 'Jumper' award

Tech. Sgt. Michael Rowley, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron readiness office noncommissioned officer in charge, won at Air Force level, the General John P. Jumper Award for Warfighting Integration.

Among many distinguishing accomplishments, Rowley utilized convoy operations to reduce equipment transit time to Forward Operating Bases from two months to two weeks. He also managed a project material warehouse valued at \$2 million.

The 85th EIS, which is part of the 38th Cyberspace Engineering Group, falls under the major command, Air Force Space Command. It is the only active duty command, control, communication-computer engineering and installation squadron in the Air Force. It is located just outside Keesler's gate but most work is primarily done on the road at temporary duty stations and deployed locations.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

The Air Force Drill Team practices a new routine on the drill pad behind the Levitow Training Support Facility March 1. The drill team has been training here at Keesler since February 27.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Air Force Drill team comes to Keesler



The Air Force Drill Team stands at ease prior to practicing.



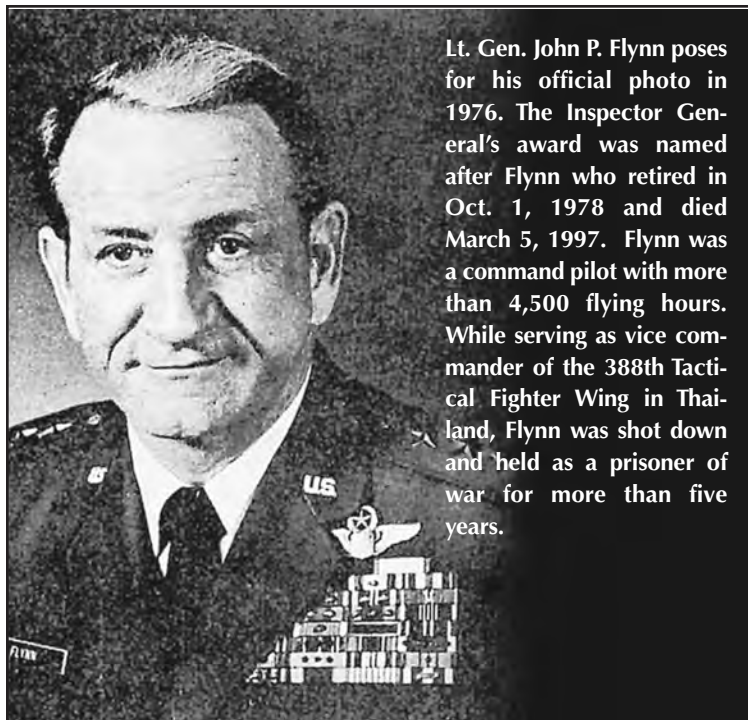
Staff Sgt. Joshua Vanderbeck, U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team, practices moves with his rifle as part of the drill team's training camp. The team is here to practice and learn a new drill routine.

Riding to recovery



Photo by Kemberly Groue

More than 200 people cycled through Keesler Monday in support of physical rehabilitation of injured veterans for a portion of the 2012 Ride 2 Recovery. Col. Glen Downing, 81st Training Wing vice commander, rode with the group as they crossed Keesler on their path from New Orleans to Tallahassee, Fla. Veterans, military members and supporters began in New Orleans Sunday on a variety of cycles including hand cycles, recumbent, tandem and traditional bicycles. The 450-mile trip will end Friday in Tallahassee with an "Honor Ride" in which the public is invited to join. Other stops include Gulfport; Mobile and Orange Beach, Ala.; and Fort Walton and Panama City, Fla. Any funds raised by the Gulf Coast Challenge are used to fund cycle-based physical therapy and to build custom cycles for injured veterans.



Lt. Gen. John P. Flynn poses for his official photo in 1976. The Inspector General's award was named after Flynn who retired in Oct. 1, 1978 and died March 5, 1997. Flynn was a command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours. While serving as vice commander of the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing in Thailand, Flynn was shot down and held as a prisoner of war for more than five years.

Keesler's Inspector General office wins AETC's John P. Flynn award

By Staff Sgt. Kimberly Rae Moore

Keesler News co-editor

Team Keesler brought home another Air Education and Training-level award when the Inspector General office's team won the Lt. Gen. John P. Flynn Inspector General Award.

The John P. Flynn Inspector General awards recognize the inspector general complaints resolution program office that best embodies the six fundamental characteristics of Flynn's leadership model: integrity, justice, compassion, loyalty, courage, and spirit.

The Air Force's goal is to process complaint

actions within 29 days. Keesler's IG team distinguished itself by fielding 154 complaint actions on average within three days.

Additionally, the team generated a weekly congressional report for the 2nd Air Force commander keeping him in the loop on the status of complaints.

The team also trained 60 first sergeants allowing them to be better equipped to handle issues at the lowest level.

Keesler's IG team now moves on to compete at the Air Force level.

IDENTITY THEFT

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

Donation for life



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Tomeka Gordon, 81st Training Wing, completes a bone marrow donor form while Dana Rutledge and Master Sgt. Shane Sullivan, 81st TRW, explain to Gordon the process she would undergo if she was a match to a patient during a bone marrow donor drive Friday. More than 70 individuals signed up for the DNA registration. There are plans to have another drive in the next couple of months in the Triangle area to give students an opportunity to register.

Keesler single parents devise coping strategies

By Paula Spooner

Family Advocacy Outreach Manager

During last May's Caring for People Forum, the Keesler Integrated Resource Team gathered a substantial amount of valuable feedback from specific base populations regarding quality of life concerns facing Keesler Airmen. Single parents comprised one of the many groups that provided input and feedback.

Through focus groups, emails, telephone contact and personal inter-

views, Keesler single parents provided candid information regarding the myriad stresses and concerns facing today's solo parent. But it didn't stop there — they also brainstormed potential strategies to decrease stress and strengthen connections with other Keesler single parents.

Knowing firsthand how tough it is to arrive at a demanding, new assignment with no local support system, the participants expressed interest in establishing a single parent network that could serve as welcoming committee

for newly arriving Airmen.

Ideas that were further discussed included establishing an actual support group run by the members — a forum for information exchange, moral support, resource linkage and possible educational speakers. Other possibilities included organizing a volunteer child care group and a skill or hobby exchange network in which one member who knows how to work on a car could do so in exchange for another decorating their child's birthday cake.

If you are a single parent and are

interested in getting this off the ground, now is the time. Participants may be separated, never married, widowed, divorced or "geographically single" — the formal status doesn't matter as much as being a current single parent. Active duty, retired, reservists, civilian employees and family members are all welcome.

Plans are currently underway to schedule the kickoff meeting. For more information, call 228-376-3457 or 228-376-3459.

New test center at Keesler

By Joyce James

**81st Force Support Squadron
education services specialist**

Keesler has a new national test center here at the education office run by Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas.

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests will be available free of charge to active duty members, paid for by Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support. Per DANTES's policy, they won't pay for a second administration of the same exam.

The advantage to the computer-based testing is that members receive their scores

immediately after administration of the test.

After a three-month unavailability, members can now sign up for CLEP testing. DSSTs can be scheduled beginning March 14. Two sessions are available each Wednesday and Thursday at noon and 2 p.m. in Sablich Center room 241.

College exams can also be proctored at the national test center free for active-duty members. Family members, retirees and civilians can use the NTC also, but will have to pay the associated cost/fees for test administration.

For more information, call 228-376-8707

Academic aces

Staff Sgt. Ryan Buenaventura graduated from cyber systems operations course in the 336th Training Squadron Feb. 27, 2012, with a perfect score. He will return to his home unit with the 232nd Operations Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. The 334th TRS also had a student with a perfect score. Senior Airman Robert R. Houston Jr., (not pictured) graduated Feb. 27 from command post apprentice course. He is from Warren, Ohio, and is currently stationed with the 42nd Air Base Wing, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., as a command post controller.

Photo by Adam Bond



Notification of death

With great regret, Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, announces the death of Staff Sgt. Eric Ro Kuster, 148th CS, assigned to Keesler for formal training with the 338th TRS. Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of Kuster, previously assigned to the 338 TRS should contact the Summary Court Officer, Lt. Tyler Oar at 377-1617.



Keesler hosts 'Prayer Breakfast' at Bay Breeze



Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Thomas and his wife, Cynthia, and daughter Meredith, 10, bow their heads during Keesler's National Prayer Breakfast ceremony Tuesday at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Jeff Neal, Team Impact leader, rolls a frying pan during the team's performance at the Bay Breeze Event Center.



U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team members, fill their plates at the buffet line. The drill team did a four-man drill performance during the ceremony.

Keesler's events calendar

Today

8 a.m. — Heartlink spouse orientation program at the Sablich Center room 108B. Call 228-376-8728.

1 p.m. — Airman and Family Readiness Center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center room 108.

Friday

Air Force Association Drive at the Sablich Center room 108

Monday

8 a.m. — Department of Labor Employment Workshop at the Sablich Center room 108 A (March 12-14). Call 228-376-8728 to register.

Tuesday

9 a.m. — Airman and Family Readiness Center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center room 108.

— Separates pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center

room 110. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

1 p.m. — Retiree Pre-separation Counseling every Tuesday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center conference room. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

6:30 p.m. — Interested in Aerospace? Love to be outdoors and want to make a difference by participating in Search and Rescue missions? Want to learn how to lead? Civil Air Patrol unit MS-048 holds its meetings weekly on Tuesday nights at Hewes Hall

Wednesday

10 a.m. — Children's Story Hour at the McBride Library.

3 p.m. — Healthy thinking group at the Arnold Annex conference room every Wednesday. Must begin class the first Wednesday of the month and commit to four weeks.

4:15 p.m. — Diamond Sharp Ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event

Center third floor.

March 15

8 a.m. — Veterans' Benefit Briefing at the Sablich Center room 108A. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

1 p.m. — Airman and Family Readiness Center post deployment briefing in room 108 Sablich Center — Retirement benefit brief in room 108A, Sablich Center.

5 p.m. — Digital Animation "Blender" workshop at the McBride Library.

March 16

3 p.m. — 5K National Nutrition Month St. Patty's Day run/walk at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

6 p.m. — Cocktails & Canvas at the Arts and Crafts Center. Cost is \$20 per person. Call 228-377-2821 to register.

March 17

1 p.m. — Children's Pot-O-Gold class at the Arts and Crafts Center.

March 20:

9 a.m. — Airman and Family Readiness Center post deployment briefing in room 108 Sablich Center.

— Separates pre-separation counseling in room 110 Sablich Center Call 228-376-8728 to register.

1 p.m. — Retiree Pre-separation Counseling every Tuesday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center conference room. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

March 21

7 a.m. — Newcomer's Orientation in room 108B Sablich Center.

9:30 a.m. — Non-prior service Airmen separate rations briefing in room 134 Levitow airman and family readiness center annex (also at 3:30 p.m.).

6 p.m. — Kiddie Bingo at the Bay Breeze Event Center function rooms.

Movies at Keesler

For a
recorded listing
of movies
at Welch
Auditorium,
call 377-6627.

**KSC March Function
"All Things Biloxi"**

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 • 10:00am

Hosted by Keesler Spouses Club

Mission Support Group Spouses

Biloxi Visitor's Center

1050 Beach Blvd; Biloxi, MS

Meet at the Visitor's Center at 10am. We will tour the Visitor's Center followed by a tour of the Biloxi Lighthouse. At noon, we will proceed to Mary Mahoney's for lunch!

Lunch Menu: \$15/person

A choice of one (1) entree of the following:

Broiled Salmon with Crabmeat Sauce over Pasta

Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus

Shrimp and Crab Au Gratin

Fresh Jumbo Fried Shrimp

Grilled Chicken Breast

George Salad

Each lunch includes Tossed Green Salad and Bread Pudding with Rum Sauce for dessert.

RSVP required by noon Friday, March 9th. "No-shows" still responsible for payment. Money collected through March 13th. Money collected by Devalynn Solomon, KSC Treasurer or dropped at Thrift Shop during shop hours.

See you for our "All Things Biloxi" Function!

Donating blood helps save lives drop by drop

Commentary by Lisa Lynn

Armed Services Blood Program blood donor recruiter

Donors like those from the 81st Medical Group are the heart and soul of the military blood program.

The 81st MDG recently sponsored an Armed Services Blood Program blood drive in the Keesler Hospital. When these remarkable people — whether active-duty service members, family members, Department of Defense employees or civilians, take time out of their busy schedules to donate blood, they save lives.

According to a sampling of blood drive participants, the top reason donors gave blood was because they wanted to help those in need. There isn't an easier way to help a person in medical need than to take about an hour to roll up a sleeve and donate blood.

Not only does the ASBP support U.S. combat troops worldwide, it also supplies the military's stateside and overseas hospitals with blood products for daily operations. Recent deployments have had an impact on collections and in the number of available military blood donors at some ASBP installations. This makes it a challenge to recruit a continuous donor supply.

Keesler is a large training installation with a revolving quantity of potential donors, providing a great opportunity



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Airman 1st Class Andriy Odayskyk collects tubes of blood as lab technician Kellie Potts draws a pint of blood from Staff Sgt. Peter Dunn, 338th Training Squadron instructor, during a blood drive at Hewes Hall Aug. 3. Airman Odayskyk and Ms. Potts are from the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

to build up blood collections.

Anyone wanting more information about supporting the military blood program, visit [http://www.militaryblood.](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/Donors/default.aspx)

[dod.mil/Donors/default.aspx](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/Donors/default.aspx).

Those unable to donate are also needed. They may sponsor a blood drive, volunteer at the refreshment table or sim-

ply spread the word — all of this helps.

To learn more about the Armed Services Blood Program or to schedule an appoint-

ment, visit www.military-blood.dod.mil. To interact directly with the staff or to get the latest news, visit www.facebook.com/militaryblood.

Driving school reduces risk to young drivers

By Susan Griggs

Keesler Public Affairs

The second installment of Keesler's Street Survival School is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 31. Registration is open until March 27.

The aim of the school is to reduce deadly car crashes involving teenagers, beginner drivers, and experienced drivers by providing them a con-

trolled setting where they can gain valuable hands-on experience in car control in real-world situations, according to Master Sgt. Richie Frias, 81st Medical Support Squadron Unit Deployment Manager, who's spearheading the event.

All students, whether beginner or experienced, will have a knowledgeable coach at their sides throughout the class to help them understand how important experience is

rather than guessing when something unexpected happens on the road that could kill them, their passengers or others sharing the road.

Driving is done in the student's own car, but no 4x4 or lifted vehicles are allowed, so drivers can learn about their vehicle's handling limits and how to control them.

Challenging courses are created in a controlled area to allow the student to experi-

ence abnormal car behavior and how to handle the new situation. Part of the driving course is wet to let students experience "mistakes" at a very slow speed.

It's not a course for learning how to drive at high speeds—safety and car control are the objectives. Some insurance companies have offered discounts for participants that take courses like this.

Spaces are limited to the

first 30 participants. Those with driver's permits are allowed based on space availability.

There is a \$35 fee for participation, and registration must be received and paid for by March 27.

To reserve a spot or for more information, call 228-376-3123, email keeslerautox@gmail.com, or visit www.streetsurvival.org.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

www.keesler.af.mil


Photo by Senior Airman Eric Summers, Jr.

Tech. Sgt. David Hough, 81st Operations Support Flight, passes the rugby ball to fellow teammate to avoid being tackled during a Mississippi Gulf Coast Rugby Club practice March 1 at the Biloxi Recreational Area. The MSGCRC is a local team comprised of Keesler Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers and civilians.

Rugby club helps build camaraderie off duty

By Senior Airman Eric Summers Jr.

Keesler Public Affairs

A club founded in 1958 has regained momentum on the gulf coast in a sport that is known world wide.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Men's Rugby Football Club is comprised of Airmen from Keesler, Sailors, Soldiers and civilians who come together and play this full-contact sport.

John Wehrman, MGCRC utility player and interim president, described rugby as a barbarian sport played by gentlemen who work in cohesion with intelligence and teamwork strongly based on fitness and selflessness.

The object of rugby is that two teams of 15 or seven players each, observing fair play according to the laws and sporting spirit, carry, pass, kick and ground the ball, scoring as many points as possible. The team scoring the most points is the winner of the match.

"I started playing when I was in the Air Force in 2003 at Cannon (Air Force Base, N.M.) and fell in love when i saw officers, enlisted and civilians playing together," said Wehrman. "It's not just about one person who's an all-star. It's about team work."

David Hough, 81st Operations Support Flight air traffic controller, said that teamwork is one of the things that kept him playing the game.

"You don't really see the camaraderie that you see on the field anywhere else," said Hough.

Stephen Brett, Mississippi Army National Guard, agrees that the teamwork on the field is a great experience and something he's familiar with.

"It's like working with military — we have the same camaraderie and team cohesion. We work as a team, same in the military," said Brett. "I've learned to quit thinking about myself and think about the team. Out here, everybody is looking to pass not score."

Wehrman said that rugby is one of the most demanding sports in the world.

For he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother tomorrow, a quote from William Shakespeare's Henry V.

"Its the most exhausting thing I have ever done, physically and mentally tiring," said Wehrman. "Out there each man takes a lead and it kind of gives you a rush because you know the team you're playing is just as exhausted, but you have to be better than them."

"This helps out with physical training test — we're out here two hours non-stop sprinting," said Hough. "I just love the contact. I love the aggression and getting dirty."

Wehrman said that anybody is welcome to play and they are always looking to recruit new players and fans.

For more information about the MSGCRC call 228-243-2673 or visit www.msgulfcoastrugby.com.

Keesler volleyball season serves up fast start



Photos by Senior Airman Eric Summers Jr. Jessica Price, 338th Training Squadron, attempts to spike the ball against members of the 85th Engineering Installation Squadron March 1 at the Dragon Fitness Center. Volleyball season began Feb. 27 and will continue until April 5.



Ben Rowley, 85th EIS, spikes the ball while Brenden Park, 338th TRS, defends.



Steven Hall and Jessica Price, 338th TRS, volley the ball during warm-up before a game against the 85th EIS.