



# KATRINA Daily News

Monday, September 5, 2005

## Keesler personnel reach out, provide aid to local community

### 1st Lt. Albert Bosco 81st Training Wing Public Affairs

Military and civilian volunteers from Keesler Air Force Base are reaching out to help the local community after surviving and beginning recovery operations after Hurricane Katrina struck early this week.

Saturday, more than a dozen Air Force members from the 81st Training Wing here provided medical aid, food, water and ice to approximately 450 Biloxi community members sheltered at the Biloxi Junior High School.

“A Biloxi police officer came to the command post this morning to request immediate help,” said Capt Marion Mullinix, executive officer for the 81st Training Wing commander. “She said people in the shelters were

### At A Glance

MRE's ..... nearly 12,000  
 Water..... more than 11,000 bottles  
 Ice ..... 1 Truckload  
 Volunteers ..... more than 40  
*\* Keesler also provided medical supplies and offloaded clothes, blankets and personal items for distribution to hurricane victims in the surrounding community.*

getting sick from lack of sanitation and food.”

The captain assembled a team of volunteers, including pediatricians, nurses, a chaplain and members of the 81st Services Squadron, which delivered nearly 500 Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), more than 1,400 bottles of water, a truck load of ice and medical supplies, such as Pedialite, baby wipes and intravenous aid.

“Within two hours of her request, our team was at the school offloading the supplies and medical aid,” Captain Mullinix said.

A second group of approximately 30 Keesler Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps personnel delivered more than 11,500 MREs and more than 10,000 bottles of water to two community distribution centers, where the volunteers then assisted Red Cross and local authorities by distributing the supplies to the lines of cars awaiting the much-needed supplies.

“This was a huge task, but our military

volunteers met the challenge and ensured the community knew Keesler is coming online and is helping out where it can,” said Maj. Al Estes, 81st Communication Squadron commander and team lead. “It was a great feeling to see our military members reach out beyond our gates to assist families who were devastated by Hurricane Katrina.”

Although recovery operations are ongoing for Keesler, volunteers are taking every opportunity to extend aid to the battered parts of the surrounding community, and as personnel continue to arrive and the base’s infrastructure is rebuilt, the base can provide additional support to the local community.

“We’re still trying to get our facilities up and running on the base, but these are just some of the things we are doing for our local community, which has done so much for us over the years,” said Brig. Gen. William Lord, 81st TRW commander.



Tech. Sgt. Ronald Blackburn, A HAMMER ACE member deployed to Keesler AFB from the 83rd Communications Squadron, Langley AFB, Va., loads MREs into the vehicles of Hurricane Katrina victims in Biloxi, Miss., during a humanitarian aid mission Saturday. Despite being impacted themselves, dozens of Keesler’s Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps members, including deployed troops, welcomed the opportunity to show their support for their Gulf Coast community neighbors. (U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Dan Oberly)



Capt. Robert Frees, HAMMER ACE chief, 83rd CS, assists fellow volunteers from the Marine Corps detachment here as they offload bottled water to a local supply distribution center during a humanitarian mission Saturday. Keesler volunteers delivered nearly 12,000 MREs and more than 11,000 bottles of water to hurricane victims.

# KEESLER BASICS:

## General Information

**Town Hall** – A town hall meeting with Brig. Gen. William Lord, 81st Training Wing commander, will take place at 5 p.m. behind the Levitow Bldg. Personnel and dependents are encouraged to attend to get the latest information on Keesler's evacuation, finance, personnel and legal issues, and to answer your questions.

**Food** – Hot meals are available at the Azalea Dining Facility from 5:30 to 8 a.m. and the Magnolia Dining Facility from 5 to 9 p.m.

**AAFES** – The mini mall BX hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The BX accepts cash, credit and debit cards and personal checks. Milk, bread and more are available with no purchase limit.

**Gasoline** – Gasoline is available at the AAFES Service Station. Members and their families evacuating the area have priority over personnel remaining on Keesler. There is a \$25 cash limit and must be pre-paid.

**Showers** – Shower facilities are available at the Blake Fitness Center from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Bring a towel.

**Fitness Center** – The Blake Fitness Center will open Monday for fitness/recreational activities.

**Family Assistance Center** – Personnel and family members needing assistance dealing with personal issues can visit the Family Assistance Center at the Levitow Bldg.

**Airport Transportation** – A bus is scheduled to transport personnel and dependents to the Mobile Airport Friday for a 7 a.m. departure. Those evacuating the area who are interested in getting a ride should visit the Family Assistance Center to sign up.

**Top III** – A Keesler Top III meeting will take place Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. at the 2nd Air Force conference center to discuss leading volunteer efforts in the local community.

**Volunteer Opportunities** – Dependents interested in volunteering can sign up at the Family Assistance Center, located in the Levitow Building Fish Bowl.

## Personnel Information

**Assignments** – Outbound personnel PCSing from Keesler AFB with a report no later than date of August through Dec. 31 will be accelerated so they can report early to their next assignment. Assignments will be cancelled or changed for inbound personnel PCSing to Keesler AFB within the next 60 days.

**Food Service** – All able A&A Food Service employees are requested to return to work when safe to do so.

## Claims Information

**Claims Briefings** – The legal office is located in the Levitow Bldg. Legal representatives provide hourly claims briefings for all personnel, to include permanent party and dependents from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call DSN 597-5404

**USAA** – Representatives from USAA have set up a claims room at the Levitow Bldg. Their hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Personnel should contact a representative calling toll-free (800) 531-8222 before visiting.

**GEICO** – A representative from GEICO is available to answer questions at the Levitow Bldg. until further notice. Please call claims into the GEICO regional office at (800) 841-3000.

**Vehicle Damage** – If your vehicle is damaged, do not move it until you talk to your insurance company. For additional information, contact the legal office at DSN 597-5404, or visit them in the Levitow Bldg.

## Finance Information

**Finance** – Limited financial services are available at the Levitow Bldg. from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Customer service hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. To reach a representative for customer service/travel pay related issues call DSN 597-7479. For budget issues, call DSN 597-2770. Contact a finance representative at DSN 597-7256 for additional information.

**Cash Advances** – Up to \$200 is available from the finance office located in the Levitow Bldg. Additionally, Travel pay and pay advances are available to military members and their spouses from other military installations' finance centers.

**Air Force Aid Society** – A limited number of monetary grants for evacuation purposes are available to families in need through the Air Force Aid Society. Single active duty military members from all services may be eligible to receive up to \$250, and military members with families may be eligible to receive up to \$500. Contact your unit first sergeant for application instructions.

## Medical Information

**Emergency Room/Urgent care clinic** – Medical care is available at the EMEDS tent hospital located directly across from Tyler House and beside the Sablich Center. Routine or non-urgent sick call hours are 8-11 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. daily. 24-hour emergency care is available at the Clinical Research Laboratory located behind Tyler House. Those not in the local area can contact the nearest military medical facility or call (800) 444-5445.

**Transportation** – A medical shuttle will transport personnel for routine medical issues from 8 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. Shuttles will stop at the Welch Theater, Thompson Hall, Wolfe Hall, Building 5022, Shaw House, Muse Manor and the Clinical Research Laboratory.

## Chapel Information

**MRE Leftovers** – Unused MRE leftovers are being collected by chapel staff for distribution to the local community.

## In Quotes

*Description of Hurricane Katrina as overheard in the Fish Bowl: "This hurricane was like God and the Devil fighting it out here with Godzilla as the referee."*

**Name This Operation** – Today is the last day to submit a name for the Keesler Air Force Base recovery effort. Send your submission to the Public Affairs Office via email at 81 TRW/PAall. Submissions must be received by close of business to be considered.