



# **KATRINA Daily News**

VOL. 1, NO. 1 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2005

## **PREPARE TO GO HOME SAFELY**

**By Brig. Gen. William Lord  
81st Training Wing commander**

I'm proud of how our team is working together to help each other make it through these difficult times. As promised, I want to keep you safe and get you home as soon as possible.

### **THE WING'S OVERALL PLAN:**

**Training will be shut down.** Right now, our primary mission is to get the base operational, and we, along with assistance from other bases, and even commands, are going to do everything we can to accomplish this. As a result, we will suspend training and ask other bases to support our training mission.

**Work schedule extended.** What I ask is that all of you help get the base cleared of debris as quickly as possible. I want supervisors and commanders to make sure your troops have adequate rest. We're going to need everyone's help.

**Treat this like a deployed environment.** At some deployed locations, ops are 12-hour shifts, seven days a week. We will be operating under a similar situation for the immediate future. It will take some time for us to get things cleared. I have asked you to do great things in the past, and you have done so. I have all the confidence in the world that we will get this done as well.

### **THE STUDENT PLAN:**

**The first group** is the non-prior students and their dependents. They'll be airlifted to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas where they'll process their claims.

**The second group** is the TDY students and their families. They'll be airlifted out as soon as group one is complete sometime early next week. We are still working on which base they'll process their claims.

**The third group** is those students who drove to Keesler. If their car works and they can drive out, they'll be released this morning to return to their rooms and gather their belongings. They'll be able to process their claims at their home station.

**The fourth group** is the permanent party military and civilians and dependents who live off base. If their homes are safe, they may reside in their homes and in accordance with local laws and curfews. And only if they are able to safely travel to and from their duty location.

### **THE PERMANENT PARTY PLAN:**

**The fifth group** is the permanent party or dependents who live on base. They have the same right to occupy their quarters or be assigned a residence on base. To further assist them in determining which option to take, we have set up a phone line for you to call, 1-800-435-9941



#### **A KATRINA PET REUNION**

A pet owner visits her dog at the hurricane Pet Shelter. The pets survived the wrath of Hurricane Katrina.

## KEESLER BASICS:

**Food** – The Magnolia Dining facility is open for hot lunch everyday. Contact your shelter control manager for the latest times as they will vary each day. The Azalea Dining facility will open soon.

**Ice** – An 18-wheeler full of ice arrived yesterday to provide ice for the dining facilities.

**Power** – Mississippi Power reports that they are “totally offline.” Expect the Gulf Coast to be without power for at least three weeks.

**Claims Briefings** -- The base legal office will provide briefings for automobile, personnel property and food spoilage claims to include how to fill out the appropriate paperwork as well as answer your questions. On Thursday and Friday, they will provide hourly briefings at Wolfe Hall auditorium from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and at the Levitow Bldg from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for NPS and TDY personnel only. On Saturday and Sunday they will provide hourly briefings from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. permanent party personnel and remaining NPS and TDY personnel.

**Insurance** -- A USAA manager and four representatives from Mobile, Ala., will arrive sometime Thursday with a mobile claims center. They will process claims from the Levitow Bldg. We ask that, if possible, permanent party personnel wait until after Friday to allow NPS and TDY personnel who will be leaving to process through.

**AAFES** -- A mini-base exchange is being set up at the Triangle Mall. The AAFES general manager is here to personally oversee operations. Hours of operation will be announced soon.

**Cell phones** – Nextel is here and will erect a tower for cell phone service. Verizon will add their service to the same tower.

**Medical** – Each shelter has medical personnel staying in the shelter. Check with your UCC for info.

**Chapel services** – Check the entry of your shelter for information about chapel services.

**Driving** – A three and half hour drive to Montgomery, AL has taken 11 hours

**Gas** – Conserve your gas. A one tank trip now takes two. Regular unleaded was not available yesterday between here and Mobile. Gas prices have gone up a dollar.



### HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF

Three C-17 "Globemaster III" aircraft download equipment in support of Hurricane Katrina Relief at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. on Aug. 31, 2005. Aircraft are arriving daily to resupply the base and evacuate students and family members. Hurricane Katrina battered the Gulf Coast with wind gusts in excess of 140 miles per hour, flattened buildings and flooded areas from Florida to Louisiana. Millions of people were left without power and hundreds of thousands homeless. {U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Buytas}

### Name this “operation” contest:

You’ve survived it, you’re living it, now name it. The following names were rejected.

~~KATRINA AND THE WAVES~~  
~~PROVIDE GUMBO~~  
~~DENY COMFORT~~

Here’s your opportunity to name the Hurricane Katrina recovery operation. Submit your name idea to your UCC or the Public Affairs UCC, room 148, Wolfe Hall, or email 81 TRW/PAall. DEADLINE: Tuesday, 5 Sept

**Operation Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Shelter \_\_\_\_\_