



KATRINA Daily News

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Lights, Camera, Action! Keesler hosts Media Day



Brig. Gen. James Dougherty, the 81st Medical Group commander, is interviewed by members of the local and national media at the Emergency Medical Station near Keesler Medical Center as part of Keesler's Media Day Sept. 10. Base leaders discussed the situation on Keesler following Hurricane Katrina, as well as the ongoing humanitarian mission and support of federal, state, and local officials in the relief process. (US Air Force photo by Senior Airman Vanessa Valentine)

Bush Lauds American Spirit on Sept. 11 Anniversary

By John D. Banusiewicz
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – As the nation observes the fourth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and as recovery efforts continue along the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast, President Bush praised the American spirit Saturday in his weekly radio address.

The president said that as night fell on Sept. 11, 2001, the nation felt grief and sorrow. "Yet we also saw that, while the terrorists could kill the innocent, they could not defeat the spirit of our nation," Bush said.

"The despair and tragedy of that day were overcome by displays of selflessness, courage and compassion. And in the days and weeks that followed, America answered history's call to bring justice to our enemies and to ensure the

survival and success of liberty. And that mission continues today."

As the anniversary of the attacks is commemorated, the nation remembers the fears and uncertainty of Sept. 11, Bush noted.

"But above all," he added, "we remember the resolve of our nation to defend our freedom, rebuild a wounded city, and care for our neighbors in need."

The president also spoke of the destruction and misery caused in Gulf Coast states by Hurricane Katrina.

"Once more our hearts ache for our fellow citizens, and many are left with questions about the future," he said. "Yet we are again being reminded that adversity brings out the best in the American spirit."

He said citizens have witnessed "the courage and determination of rescue personnel who willingly risk their lives

to save the lives of others."

"We have seen the spirit of America's armies of compassion who have rallied in response to this tragedy," Bush noted.

He urged Americans to visit the USA Freedom Corps Web site at usafreedomcorps.gov to find out how they can help in the recovery effort.

"The citizens of the Gulf Coast can count on their fellow Americans in this time of trial, and their government is standing with them, as well," he said.

The nation's collective spirit is good cause for hope, the president said.

"Our greatest resource in such times is the compassionate character of the American people, because even the most destructive storm cannot weaken the heart and soul of our nation," he said.

"America will overcome this ordeal, and we will be stronger for it."

KEESLER BASICS:

General Information

Housing Residents – Beginning noon Monday, personnel who are in the local area, and whose on-base homes are habitable, are directed to resume occupancy of their homes. Also, BAH for military members reoccupying their military family housing and in-place TDY per diem for all military members in the local area will stop. Displaced dependents not in the area will continue to receive entitlements. Personnel who reside off-base and whose residences are habitable are directed to resume residence of their homes immediately. Off-base members are exempt from the local curfew while traveling to/from work. Mission essential civilians who are in the local area will be recalled to return to work Monday.

CE Civilian Recall – All civilian members of the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, Keesler AFB, are asked to return to work on Sep. 17. Personnel presently at safe haven locations are also asked to return. All 81st CES employees are deemed mission essential at this point to aid in the recovery of the base.

Uniforms – Uniform Issue will begin 7 a.m. Monday at the Taylor Logistics Building (Bldg. 4002). Uniforms will be issued only to those who lost their uniforms in the hurricane or damaged them during recovery work.

Postal Service - The Keesler Official Mail Center began official mail delivery service on Sept. 9. Personal mail service has been moved to Postal Service Center #2, located in the Levitow Supprt Center, Bldg. 7310. So far, the postal center has received the following mail from the West Biloxi Post Office.

Letter Class Mail – over 4,600 pieces
Parcels – 225

Accountable Mail (Insured and Certified mail) – 46

The West Biloxi Post Office is delivering mail to West & East Falcon subdivisions. The United States Postal Service is picking up mail from the blue collection boxes on base.

AAFES – Mini Mall retail store, barber shop and Subway hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The Service Station remains open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Unattended fueling is available 24 hours with a major credit card.

Food – Both dining facilities are open.

Breakfast: 5:30 to 8 a.m.

Lunch: 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Dinner: 5 to 8:30 p.m.

Services – These services are now open:

Library – 3 to 10 p.m. daily; **Community Center** – 3 to 10 p.m. daily; **Car Wash** – 24 hours daily; **Muse Manor Mini Mart** – 7 a.m. to midnight daily; **Warrior Lounge** – Friday and Saturday 5 to 10 p.m.

Keesler 24-hour bus schedule:
(minutes past the hour)

332nd Training Squadron: 0000/0030

Shoppette/Subway parking: 0000/0032

Welch Theater: 0004/0034

Levitow Bldg.: 0007/0037

CE/Supply bus stop: 0010/0040

Dorm/Tent City bus stop: 0011/0041

5000 block/main gate stop: 0013/0043

Shaw House: 0014/0044

Muse Manor: 0015/0045

Hospital/Tyer House: 0017/0047

Tent City/Comm Sq./Soccer Field:
0018/0048

TALCE/Bldg. 222: 0020/0050

Base Ops: 0022/0052

FEMA contacts – The Federal Emergency Management Agency's main information line is 240-372-6345.

Storage – If you need temporary storage due to the hurricane, contact your group POC. Also, Avery Manor is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for key sign out. POC is MSgt Ransom, DSN 597-3297 or 860-3014. If you can not fit your articles into a room in Avery Manor, contact Chief Seaton at 697-0874 for clearance to use a container.

Personnel Information

MPF – The military personnel flight is open upstairs in the Levitow Building from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. A walk-in center is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Those with assignments, retirements or separations call DSN 597-3595 for an appointment.

Claims Information

Claims briefings – Briefings resume today at 10 a.m. at 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.

Health Care Information

Active Duty Military: Care is available at the EMEDS tent hospital located just east of the Sablich Center on Fisher Street.

Routine or non-urgent sick call hours are 8-11 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. daily. 24-hour emergency care is available.

Limited dental care is available at the Dental Clinic from 7:30 to 9 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. For more information, call 377-3003.

Retirees, Dependents of Retirees, and Dependents of Active Duty Living Off-Base:

Care is not available at Keesler AFB. Seek care through other Department of Defense medical treatment facilities, TRICARE network providers, or other civilian providers. TRICARE has waived referral requirements for Keesler's TRICARE Prime enrollees. Necessary care can be obtained from any network provider with no preauthorization required.

For more information, contact TRICARE by phone at (800) 444-5445, or visit TRICARE's Katrina Web site at:
www.tricare.osd.mil/Katrina/index.cfm

Dependents of Active Duty Living On-Base:

Limited care is available at the EMEDS tent hospital located just east of the Sablich Center on Fisher Street. Other care is available from TRICARE network providers.

Life Skills – Life Skills Support Teams are located in the Fish Bowl and at the EMEDS tent hospital. A mental health provider is on-call 24 hours through the EMEDS.

SARC – Keesler's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator is available 24 hours a day.

If you are the victim of an assault, contact DSN 597-7278 or the Keesler Command Post at DSN 377-4330 for immediate assistance.

Retiree News

Retiree Support Office – A temporary Retiree Affairs and Air Force Aid Office opens Monday at the Family Child Care Center in the Thrower Park Military Family Housing Area. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Retirees will be able to learn about base support services and procedures for applying for Air Force aid, if applicable.

For additional information, retirees can call (228) 377-5934/5935 during office hours. The base exchange and commissary are closed due to damage from Hurricane Katrina. Retiree medical care is also not available here, as the Keesler Medical Center was heavily damaged.