



KATRINA Daily News

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Keesler opens retiree support office at Thrower Park



U.S. Air Force photo by Kemberly Groue

Denise Shuman and her husband, retired MSgt. John Shuman of St. Martin, receive information Monday from Becky Stanley, right, 81st Mission Support Squadron, at the Family Support Retiree Assistance Center. The office, located at the Family Child Care Center in the Thrower Park off-base military family housing area on Pass Road, is the focal point for a wide variety of support services, including Air Force Aid, for retirees. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. For additional information, retirees can call (228) 377-8033/1541 during office hours.

Local Keesler members can return to base residences

Effective today, all military members who are in the local area, or who reside in military family housing, and whose homes are habitable, are directed to resume occupancy of their homes.

Personnel who evacuated to their safe haven location have not been recalled to Keesler and should remain where they are. This directive only applies to members who are currently in the immediate local area.

According to the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, those whose on-base homes received no structure damage due to wind or fallen trees, received no flood damage, and whose utilities have been restored can reoccupy their homes. Additionally, Basic Allowance for Housing will end effective the date members occupy their military family housing residences.

Before resuming residence of on-base housing, personnel should survey their property, checking for broken windows, trees downed on houses, electrical lines downed on or near their home, sink holes in yards and missing siding blocking doorways and

windows. Additionally, residents should remain vigilant for spiders, snakes or other animals that may have entered residences.

Once inside the home, residents should check for wet floors, ceiling damage and leaking gas. If floors are wet, DO NOT operate electrical devices. If a gas leak is suspected, evacuate the premises and contact the civil engineer squadron's customer service center from a neighbor's phone by calling 377-5562/5563.

Personnel who have flood damage to their military family housing units or feel their homes are uninhabitable should call 377-9741 to schedule an assessment prior to reoccupying the home.

Military members who reside in off-base housing, whose homes are habitable, are directed to reoccupy their residences immediately. Those personnel are exempt from local curfew restrictions provided they are traveling to or from work.

Also, effective today, "In-place" temporary duty per diem entitlements will terminate for all military personnel in the local area, though

per diem for dependents displaced from their permanent residences will continue.

For additional information regarding entitlements, contact the finance office at 377-7479 or 377-7256 and monitor the Keesler AFB Web site for the latest updates at www.keesler.af.mil.

All other personnel who are unsure of their respective status should contact their unit control center and continue to monitor the Keesler AFB Web site.

(Compiled by 81st Training Wing Public Affairs)

Mass briefing

A mass briefing on Hurricane Katrina evacuation entitlements and personnel plans takes place 2 p.m. today in the Welch Auditorium.

KEESLER BASICS:

General Information

Alcohol policy – Alcohol possession and consumption is allowed in base lodging, military family housing and during designated hours at the base club. Alcohol possession and consumption is not allowed in base dormitories.

CE civilian recall – All civilian members of the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron at Keesler AFB are asked to return to work on Sept. 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.

Services civilian recall – All civil service and all nonappropriated fund civilian members of the 81st Services Division at Keesler AFB are asked to return to work on Sept. 14. Personnel presently at safe haven locations are also asked to return. All 81st Services civilian employees are deemed mission essential at this point to support recovery of the base. If unable to report, call the Human Resources Office at 228-377-8118

Uniforms – Uniform issue is open 24 hours 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 services - Due to building damage from the storm, the Mail Bag, building 3913, is now closed. If you had a PSC box, specifically TDY personnel, dorm residents, and students, your mail is now being delivered to the postal facility located in the Levitow Support Center (Triangle Area).

Permanent party residents of Harrison Court, Bayridge, Pine Haven, and Oak Park can retrieve their mail in Bldg. 901 (Fisher Street) at the Official Mail Center on base. Also, mail can be retrieved from the West Biloxi Post Office. For the residents of East Falcon, West Falcon, and Thrower Park, mail delivery has returned to normal. Those residents can expect their mail to be delivered directly to their homes as it had been before the storm. If your residence is located in one of the flooded areas you may do a change of address electronically once you know what your new address will be. You can do this at:

www.changeofaddressform.com.

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.

Dining Facilities – 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.

School Update – Biloxi Public Schools are scheduled to open on Oct. 3. For updates, visit www.biloxischools.net/. Schools in the Ocean Springs School District will open Sept. 26.

For updates, visit www.ossd.k12.ms.us/

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.

Family support – The Family Support Center Annex in Chapel 1 (across from Sablich Center) has a variety of items for distribution, i.e., household, hygiene, futons, cots, baby items, shoes and clothing. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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. and 3 p.m. at the Levitow Bldg.

Legal assistance – Attorneys are available to assist with personal civil legal matters Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. Call 377-5404 to schedule an appointment.

Finance Information

Finance – 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.

Chapel Services

Please note all services will be conducted in the Fishbowl.

Sunday: Protestant worship, 9 a.m.

Catholic Mass, 10:30 a.m.

Latter Day Saints, 4:30 p.m.

Protestant worship, 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Protestant mid-week prayer and Bible study, 6:30 p.m.

Friday: Jewish Shabbat service, 6 p.m.