

IN THE NEWS

Energy

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contractor will cut the weeds around the drilling site. However, residents will be responsible to keep the remainder of the grass in the backyard cut.

Third, the contractor will notify residents of the time when their old unit will be removed and the new unit will be installed. During this time, residents will have to be home, and the job should only take about six hours. Residents will be required to move any of their possessions in the attic from around the unit, out of the contractor's way. Residents will be without air conditioning or heat for only a short time.

If a resident's sponsor is away and help is needed with moving possessions in the attic or back yard, Scharf advises them to contact the sponsor's first sergeant for help.

The GSHP system utilizes the constant temperature of the ground, between 65-70 degrees in the Charleston area, to help provide both air conditioning and heating. A mixture of water and glycol (to prevent freezing) flows through the sealed system and into an exchanger unit located in the housing unit's attic. During hot months, the warm liquid flows deep into the ground, where it is cooled, and flows back up into the exchanger unit where it is used to help produce cold air.

GSHP works in much the same way during cold months, according to

Capt. David Scharf, chief of maintenance engineering, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron. Heat from the ground warms the liquid flowing through the pipes. The warmed liquid is used to

produce hot air in the exchanger unit. An added benefit, according to David Bean, project manager for Georgia Geothermal, is that enough heat is produced by GSHP to be used

for hot water heating units as well. It provides 60 percent of the energy needed to run a hot water heater in winter and 100 percent in summer months.

Because GSHP is a sealed system, the liquid will not have to be replaced unless a break in the system occurs, Scharf said. Also, the exchanger units are located inside housing units to protect them from the elements and ensure a longer life.

Contractors are currently installing GSHP units in Hunley Park and will continue with on-base housing units after that, Scharf said. Work began July 7 and the drilling phase in Hunley Park is almost finished, according to Jeff DeOre, construction manager for Duke Solutions. Drilling on O'Neal Avenue units will begin soon. The entire project is expected to be finished in March.

"Everything is going well and residents have been very cooperative," he said. "The weather has also been fine."

The GSHP system is providing benefits for both the government and base housing residents.

"Typically, geothermal will be about twice as efficient as conventional heating and cooling units, so that's saving the government money," Bean explained. "The biggest compliment we've received from residents is how quiet the new units are. They seem pretty happy about that."

For more information about the GSHP project, call the base housing office at 963-3859. **(Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe contributed to this article.)**



Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe
Jeff Foster (left) and Jim Gardenhire of Georgia Geothermal drill a small well in the yard of a Hunley Park housing unit.

CAFB hurricane awareness

Hurricane Condition Four - Winds of 50 knots (58 mph) or greater are possible within 72 hours.

Hurricane Condition Three - Winds of 50 knots or greater are possible within 48 hours.

Hurricane Condition Two - Winds of 50 knots or greater are possible within 24 hours.

Hurricane Condition One - Winds of 50 knots or greater are possible within 12 hours.

In the event of a hurricane, stay calm and tune into local TV and radio stations. Also, listen for updates on the Giant Voice. If told to evacuate, inform your supervisor prior to leaving. Upon arrival at your destination, call 1-800-435-9941 to report your location and to get information on the status of the base.

Once the "all clear" has been given, begin recovery operations and listen to the radio or TV for announcements regarding resumption of work schedules and personnel recalls. During recovery, help injured persons by giving first aid where possible. Also, beware of snakes, insects or other animals driven to higher ground by floodwaters.

For more information, call the 437th Civil Engineering Readiness Flight at 963-5332.



Important telephone numbers

- Fire Department** - 963-3777
- Security Forces** - 963-3600 or 963-3100
- Medics** - 963-6750
- Civil Engineering** - 963-2392

GI Bill goes unused by half who 'buy'

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

Can you imagine turning down \$20,000 in education benefits - especially if you paid for it in advance with cold cash and sweat equity?

Half of all service members eligible for Montgomery GI Bill benefits regularly do just that, according to Department of Veterans Affairs officials.

Service members qualify for the Montgomery GI Bill benefits by contributing a nonrefundable \$100 per month throughout their first year of active service and successfully completing an active-duty "hitch."

Walking away from the benefit is a waste of great investment, VA officials said. At the current \$536 monthly benefit for 36 months of full-time schooling, the MGIB pays \$16 for every \$1 members

must invest, Dennis Douglas, VA deputy director for education services told the American Forces Information Service.

He and other VA officials stressed MGIB benefits do not have to be paid back, unlike student loans.

Recent changes to the Montgomery GI Bill make it even better, said VA spokesman Terry Jemison. The program, he said, now pays the cost of some preparatory courses for college and graduate school entrance exams. Also, eligibility has been expanded to some officer training school graduates and surviving spouses.

Proposals now under consideration before Congress would increase monthly payments, he added.

The education benefit provides many military men and women with education opportunities that otherwise might not be available, according to Jemison.

"We owe them, I believe," Douglass said. "It really is an opportunity for us to honor them for what they did for this nation."