

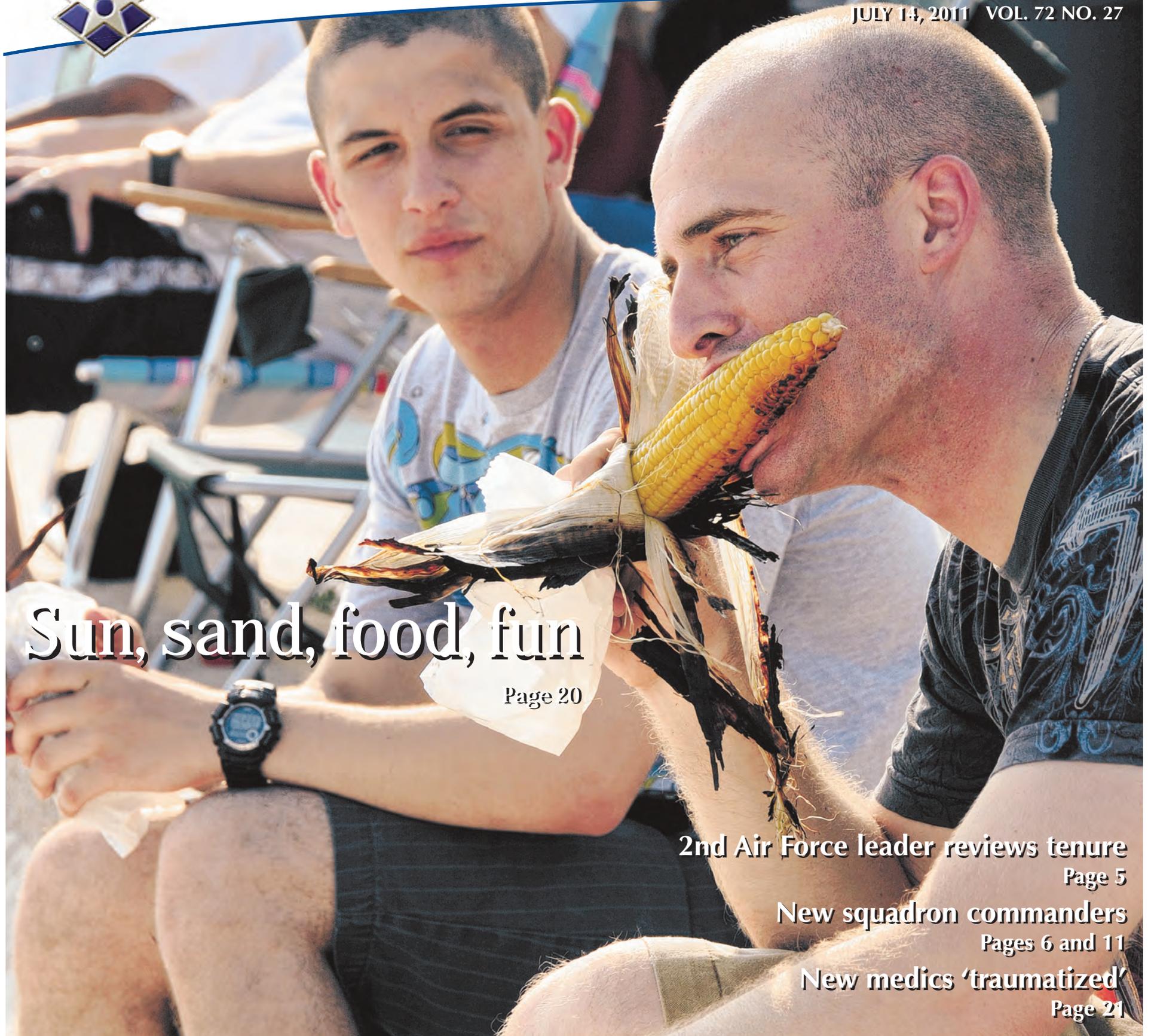


# KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

JULY 14, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 27



Sun, sand, food, fun

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## No place for discrimination in our AETC workplaces

By Gen. Edward Rice Jr.

Air Education and Training Command commander

As the "First Command," Air Education and Training Command plays a unique role in educating and training current and future Air Force Leaders. Respect is a core value we seek to instill in those who come through our doors. Our people are our top priority and deserve to work in an environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, both on and off duty.

Discrimination, to include harassment (sexual or non-sexual) and mistreatment based on a person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy) or national origin is illegal. For civilian employees, it is also illegal to discriminate based on age, disability or genetic information. Retaliation against a person who

opposed discrimination, engaged the complaint process or was involved in a discrimination investigation or lawsuit is also illegal.

Leadership involvement is key to combating discrimination. Commanders must ensure all personnel understand the anti-discrimination policy, properly investigate reports of discrimination and take prompt, appropriate action against individuals who engage in, condone or ignore harassment and discrimination.

We have the best people in the world in our Air Force and they deserve to be treated as such. Your personal and continued attention to combating harassment and discrimination is vital — it is part of our culture and you cannot afford to ignore it. The Air Force is committed to this basic principle and I expect all members of the First Command to join the effort.

## Did you find your keys yet?

By Lt. Col. Janet Pattison

81st Training Support Squadron commander

Whether you are leading an organization, a project, or just your friends to the base championship in golf-frisbee; following a few lessons learned can help you along the way in accomplishing a group's goals and in building stronger relationships. In leaving squadron command, I offer these key ideas, that put together in this way may offer you success.

### Find the right goals

If you are privileged, as I was, you can join an organization that already has great vision and goals. Spend your time learning the context of these goals to ensure for yourself that they are attainable. Sometimes you will need to re-scope goals to achieve the correct end result. There will also be times when a group will need help with goal setting.

For example, as you put

together your huge golf-frisbee team, you will need to meet with your team to assess their needs. Do they know the mission of the game? Are they trained? What are their strengths and weaknesses? Do they have equipment? When is practice? How do they communicate between practices? Through a team meeting, you can learn the needs and set goals to fulfill those needs.

But what are the right goals? I offer this approach to you: P/M, or people/mission.

First, set one or two people-focused goals related to health, fitness, training and resources, then set one or two mission goals. You may have heard this before: Take care of your people and they will get the mission done.

### Make goals priorities

The second key area in leadership is making the goals priorities and sticking to them. This is very difficult because there are so many things to do that will get in

the way of your priorities.

Clear the path for your team and help them to achieve the goals. Write down the goals and review them every day. Ask yourself at the beginning of each week what you are doing to help reach these goals this week. As your team about these goals each time you meet. Keep them accountable for their part in reaching the goal by asking about their progress and helping them in areas they are struggling. You may even choose to post banners and posters with these goals for all to see and to remember. Also announce or make visible the progress towards the goal. Talk about the goals with everyone around you. A focused leader will bring the team back to the goals and until the goals are accomplished, which brings me to the third key of tenacity.

### Be tenacious

A tenacious leader doesn't have to be negative or a

## ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

First, try to work concerns through the proper chain of command. When you've exhausted this recourse, turn to the commander's action line for assistance.

We welcome any suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool. You may call the commander's action line at 377-4357, write to Commander's Action Line, 81 TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, e-mail 81 TRW Commander's Action Line (on base) or commanders.line@keesler.af.mil (off base). For a personal response, include your name, address and phone number.

Items of general interest may appear in this column.

**Comment** — According to weather.com, south Mississippi is in a record severe drought. Yet, in Bay Ridge housing, we see many folks watering their lawns for hours, even overnight. I'm concerned that we're wasting water that will be needed by the base or surrounding communities in the future. I know we have our own water system, but what happens when we need to share it with off-base folks? Why do we allow base housing residents to waste water? When might we see restrictions?

**Response** — Thank you for your concern. Although we're in a drought situation, Keesler's water supply isn't in danger of running dry. There are currently no watering restrictions at Keesler and the water system and levels are constantly being monitored by the 81st Mission Support Group. Our water source is from two aquifers and not from local surface water sources. The water level in the aquifers hasn't dropped significantly enough to warrant any restrictions. The neighboring communities are on their own water system. However, it's important to keep our grounds irrigated while conserving our natural resources. Watering should be done in the early morning or evening hours, but water shouldn't run overnight. Watering shouldn't be done during the extreme heat of the day. Sprinklers should be adjusted so water isn't wasted on non-grassy areas. Sprinklers should be moved around so water doesn't run into the street. We'll publish a short article in the Keesler News to remind residents about these watering guidelines.

micro-manager. A tenacious leader can be very positive and will not give up on a goal when it feels like it's impossible. Tenacity comes with focus and restraint.

Back to the golf-frisbee example. You assess your team needs and find out you have 12 semi-pro golf-frisbee athletes. Their needs are uniforms, practice time and beverages. One of the team members goes to order team shirts and comes back to find out if everyone wants matching hats, then socks, then

frisbee carrying cases. Then they want to know the size, then color, then price range.

Once those are settled, you learn the company went out of business and you need to find a new shirt distributor. Mere mortals would throw in the towel at this point and buy each member a blue shirt. A tenacious leader will provide the team member with a mail order catalog, Web site or a list of local shirt companies and get them back on track.

Please see **Pattison**, Page 3

## ON THE COVER

Airman Basic Alex Kurdo, left, 334th Training Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Matthew Bowen, 334th TRS, enjoy grilled corn on the cob at Keesler's 4th of July celebration on the beach in Biloxi just south of the base. The festivities included food, drinks, games, music and contests. Keesler was one of the sponsors for the city's Independence Day fireworks display. More photos, Page 20.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## KEESLER NEWS

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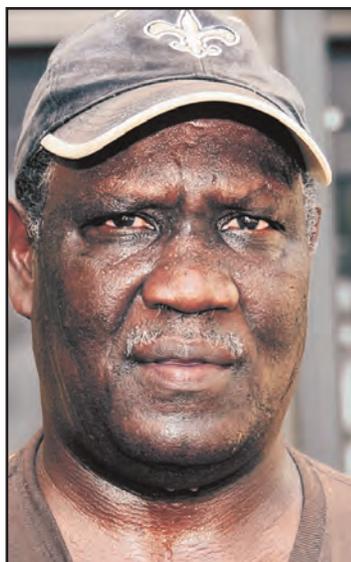


## DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

Besides photos, if a hurricane is coming and you could only save one item, what would it be?



"All of my important documents."

**B.C. Atmore, 81st Medical Support Squadron**



"My grandfather's World War II mementos."

**Cherie Auger, spouse of retiree Robert Auger**



"My trunk filled with military mementos."

**Staff Sgt. Will Mitchell, 338th Training Squadron**

## Pattison, from Page 2

### Recognition

The last key is more like the ring that holds your keys together than an actual key. Recognize your people along the way. Sometimes it may take years to achieve a goal, hopefully not for the golf-frisbee team, and people will forget the goal or how what they are doing will impact reaching the goal.

Recognizing people along the way helps to keep them positively motivated to achieving the goal. In an organization, you can do this with quarterly awards, in performance reports, through letters of appreciation and

other formal mechanisms. You can also simply do this with personal thanks and verbal recognition while you are talking to people about your goals throughout the week. Both informal and formal recognition will keep people focused and motivated.

I hope that these keys (and key ring) will help you in becoming the leader you want to be. Leadership can be learned and takes practice. Take every opportunity you can to jump into a leadership role and practice. I would like to thank the 81st Training Support Squadron for allowing me to be a part of the team and being able to help our unit accomplish some of their goals in fitness, new and improved facilities and enhanced performance.

## Hertog leaving one 'great' mission for another

By Airman 1st Class  
Heather Heiney

### Keesler Public Affairs

Change is an indisputable aspect of the military, and changes of command come around like the red second hand on an analog clock. However, this gives each commander an opportunity to make a difference with the seconds in between.

"When I came in I said, 'I work for you, not the other way around,'" said Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, 2nd Air Force commander. "I'm here to make your job easier by getting you the resources you need and the clear and concise commander's intent that you need."

In just one week, Hertog will pass the 2nd Air Force legacy to Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, current commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The legacy is one that Hertog said was woven together by its people.

"It's been a team effort," Hertog said, "from my staff here at Keesler, to my wing commanders, military training instructors, instructors, civilian and military alike and military training leaders."

Hertog said that she looks at the holistic pipeline of military training in order to make sure it's a smoothly-flowing process. She said that during her time as commander, she's tried to focus on the idea of a continuum of training because training starts at recruiting and continues throughout an Airman's entire career.

"What a great mission we have," she said. "We get to take people that say, 'I want to make the Air Force the next step in my future,' and we get to turn them into Airmen."

Hertog said that she's had the opportunity to travel to all the 2nd Air Force wings and many of its detachments to experience the different training environments firsthand.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Hertog speaks during a ceremony that marked the beginning of her 2nd Air Force command, Sept. 9, 2009.

"What a great mission we have. We get to take people that say, 'I want to make the Air Force the next step in my future,' and we get to turn them into Airmen."

"I get to see the Airmen in action and I get to see the great instructors we have and what they invest in terms of time and their own experience and effort," the general said.

She said that the challenges in leading 2nd Air Force have been what many commanders face, including fiscal constraints and trying to balance end strength. Chal-

lenges more specific to the training environment include training the right amount of Airmen in the specialties that need them and ensuring that the training is relevant.

"We have to focus our training on the way that our Airmen today coming in learn," she said. "They learn online, they learn with what we call blended learning by inserting

### July 21 ceremony

Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog turns over command of 2nd Air Force to Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 10 a.m. July 21 on the parade field.

technology and they learn at a faster pace than we do."

Hertog also said that in today's tech-savvy society, many people are more comfortable spilling their life story behind the glow of a computer screen to someone they've never met than talking to someone face to face.

The general said, "It's incumbent upon us as commanders and supervisors to know our Airmen and look them in the eyes and ask, 'What's on your mind?' Let's not get in too much of a hurry because we're on our e-mail. We just can't lose that human touch."

The 2nd Air Force mission also includes ensuring that the Joint Expeditionary Tasking, or JET Airmen, are provided with everything they need during their training. This involves a bi-annual training equipment and requirements board.

"We've done a really good job of getting their needs known," the general said. "They tell us what they need and we work towards a resolution on problems such as Airmen having to take too much equipment with them into the theater, making sure they have reporting instructions that can be easily understood by everybody and making sure our Airmen are fit enough to go to JET training."

"I hope that we've made it easier for people to do their jobs; that was my intent," she said.

Soon Hertog will be leaving the sultry Mississippi Gulf Coast for the Pentagon to direct the Sexual Assault and

Response Office for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. She'll lead the program for all branches of service.

"I think this is going to be a very tough and challenging job and it's a very important job," Hertog said. "What I hope to do is get across to all the services that the Department of Defense is committed to preventing sexual assault and if unfortunately it does occur, we are committed to taking care of the victims and committed to pursuing action against the perpetrators of sexual assault."

The general said she would like to ensure that the necessary resources are available to all branches of service and emphasized the importance of a training and education program that begins with the services' accession platforms and builds a climate where victims know that they can come forward and receive the help they need.

"The other part of my job is to make sure that other folks outside of OSD know what we're trying to do, such as Congress, because sexual assault is a problem not just inside DOD. It's a nationwide problem, it's a worldwide problem and every bit of prevention and education helps," she said. "The way I look at it is that one sexual assault is one too many."

While Hertog is transitioning into a new role, she will be packing her experience at 2nd Air Force along with all her household goods and taking them with her.

"I have just loved this job," Hertog said. "I'm certainly going to miss being the commander of 2nd Air Force because of the great mission we have and the great people we get to build every single day."

"My husband Herm and I just want to thank everyone for making this assignment so special," the general said.

## Bikers bring safety message



Photo by Kemberly Groue  
Master Sgt. Kendal Dismute, center, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron first sergeant, displays some of his motorcycle safety gear to Airman Basic Stephen Pase, left, and Airman 1st Class Ryan Schroeder, students in the 338th Training Squadron, after Friday's drill down. The ride, part of the 81st Training Group's motorcycle safety awareness campaign, is the second organized this by motorcyclists in the 336th Training Squadron.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

The Red Wolves drill team performs its freestyle drill at Friday's competition.

# Drill pad is Red Wolves' lair

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 336th Training Squadron Red Wolves howled their way to their second overall

drill down win in Friday's 81st Training Group's drill down competition.

The Red Wolves, who earned first place overall in February, placed first in open ranks and regulation drill and second place in freestyle drill.

The 334th TRS Gators, who took overall honors in April's competition, finished second overall as they did in February, with a first place in freestyle drill and second place in open ranks.

The 338th TRS Dark Knights finished third overall, with second place in regulation drill and third in open ranks.

The 335th TRS Bulls finished third in freestyle drill and regulation drill.

Members of the Red Wolves

team are Airmen 1st Class Victor Delgado, Arron Eldridge, Michelle Green, Leeland Kimmel, Christa Little, Santos Ortiz, Julieann Parks, Clayton Talbot and Melissa Yarger, open ranks; Airmen Basic Jorrel Buen (drill instructor), Daniel Bruce, Austin Manuel, Brian McCollum, Gabriel McMaster, Joshua Romeo, Andre Tucker and Jake Verheyen and Airman 1st Class Darryl Dalesandry, regulation drill; and Airmen Basic Mark Davison (drill master), Ariles Amokrane, Joshua Alldredge, Brittany Bacle, Marquis Craft, Richard Duffy, Kevin Heidt and Timothy Kelly, freestyle drill.

The next drill down is 8 a.m. Aug. 19 on the parade grounds.



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## New commanders for Bulls, Dark Knights



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Lt. Col. Brad McAlpine, left, commander of the 335th Training Squadron, receives an orientation briefing July 5 from Capt. Scott Smith, acting director of operations. McAlpine, who took command June 30, came to Keesler from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., where he was chief of strategic studies, doctrine and policy at Air Force Space Command headquarters.

Right, Lt. Col. Trevor Wall, left, 338th TRS commander, is briefed on high frequency antenna assemblies by Master Sgt. Albrecco Jackson outside Jones Hall July 5. Wall, former commander of the 332nd TRS, assumed his new duties June 29.



# Company grade officer PME being transformed

By Phil Berube

Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL Air Force Base, Ala. — Air Force senior leaders recently approved a plan to transform professional military education for company grade officers.

The two existing developmental education venues for lieutenants and captains will soon merge into a single in-residence opportunity for CGOs.

The air and space basic course at Air University here will transfer portions of its content to the squadron officer school in-residence program, and the final group of lieutenants will graduate ASBC this summer.

The revamped SOS course will expand from its current five-week duration to an eight-week program and will retain the “combined operations” with the U.S. Air Force Senior NCO Academy.

ASBC and SOS are aligned under Air University’s Squadron Officer College, one of the colleges included in the Carl A. Spaatz Center for Officer Education.

“ASBC has been a success,” said Col. Terrance McCaffrey, SOC commandant. “It accomplished the mission for which it was created back in the 1990s. As a direct result of ASBC, today’s officer corps now collectively embraces the warrior ethos, reflects an expeditionary mindset, better comprehends ‘the family business’ and is more adept at articulating what our Air Force brings to the fight.”

Incorporating lessons from 20 years of expeditionary operations, the remaining training and educational offerings, from accessions programs to career-specific training to deployment and readiness training, will continue to meet basic developmental needs that ASBC was originally designed to address, McCaffrey said.

“Our senior leaders decided to have today’s junior officers focus first on learning their individual specialties,” McCaffrey added. “After these officers have mastered their specialties, SOC will help them to build upon their technical and experiential foundation with the expanded understanding of Air Force operations and processes, lead-

ership and joint operations that will be core to the new SOS course.”

The ASBC commandant, Col. Louis Dupuis, said that although the Air Force valued the learning outcomes produced by ASBC, senior leaders had to weigh these outcomes against the potential cost savings and the fact that some of those outcomes could be achieved through other means.

“The savings are considerable,” Dupuis said. “The savings will be about \$12 million in fiscal year 2012.”

Upon discontinuation of the ASBC program, those instructors and staff members currently assigned to the school will transition from teaching duties to developing curriculum for the transformed SOS.

“Those ASBC topics that remain relevant to the learning needs of the more-senior SOS audience will have to be reworked to ensure students receive a valuable developmental experience within the overarching context of the SOS leadership development mission,” McCaffrey said. “As those changes are made, other adjustments will have to be made in the existing SOS curriculum to

ensure that the result is a coherent, engaging educational program that reaches, teaches and inspires its students at a graduate-level of learning.”

“Although the goal for the new eight-week SOS is 100 percent in-residence attendance for line-of-the-Air Force officers, experience indicates it will be difficult to achieve this goal because of operations tempo,” Dupuis said. “ASBC had an identical attendance goal, but because of operational concerns, it was unable to maintain that level of throughput.”

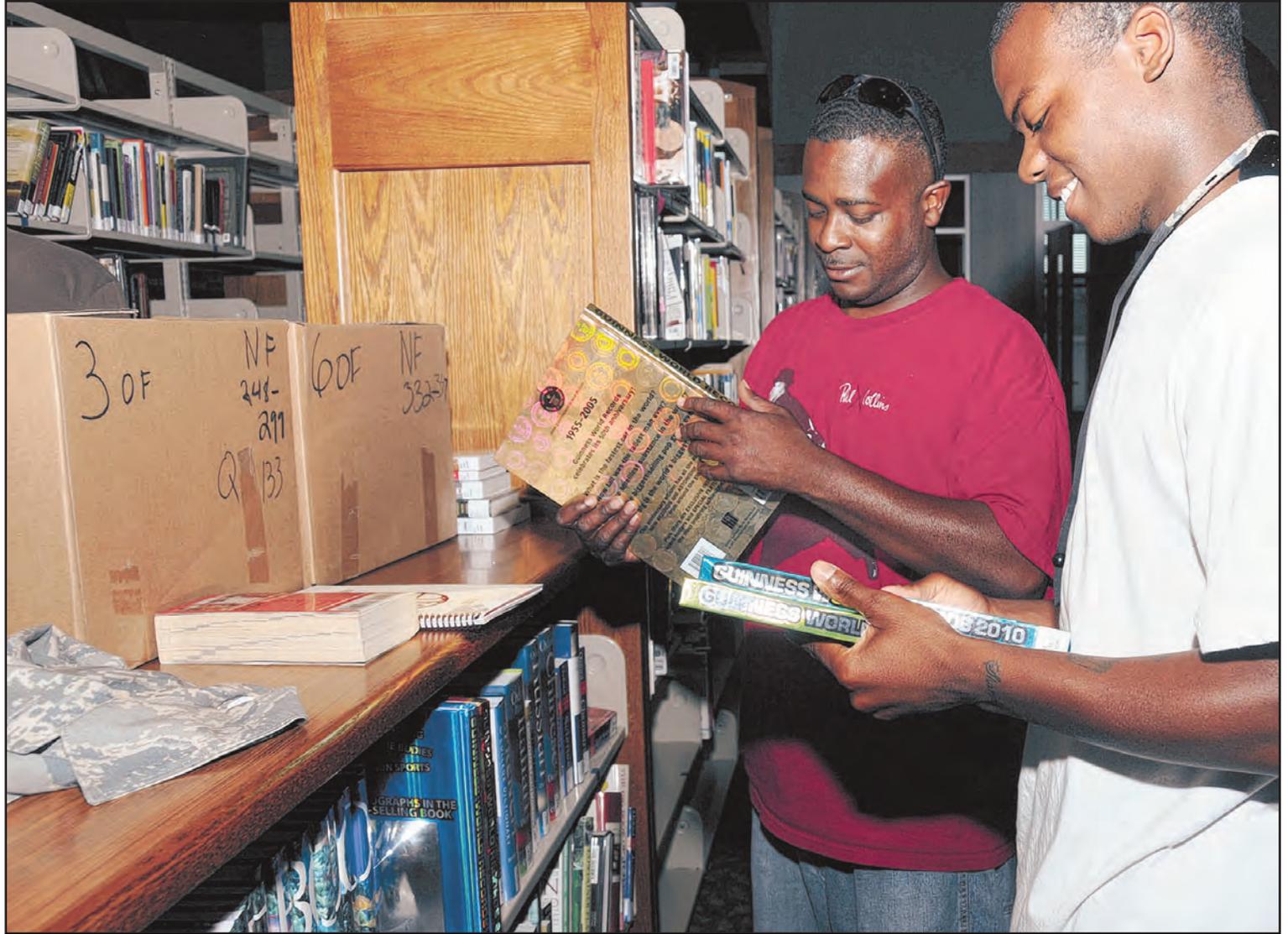
Consequently, there will be a distance-learning alternative for those officers and civilians who are unable to attend the resident program, he said. The existing squadron officer school distance-learning course will continue to take new students until the revised course is completed and made available by June 2012.

The current five-week SOS courses will continue through September, when SOS will stand down temporarily while the curriculum is retooled. The new eight-week SOS course is scheduled to debut in early 2012.

## Biloxi library gets squadron support

Tech. Sgt. Bennie Williams, left, and Staff Sgt. Stephen Johnson, 81st Training Support Squadron, were some of the 81st Training Support Squadron volunteers that moved and shelved thousands of books at the new Biloxi Public Library on Howard Avenue that opens at 6:30 p.m. today. The new library, part of a \$20 million complex that also houses a new civic center, replaces the former structure on Lameuse Street that was decimated by Hurricane Katrina nearly six years ago.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Identity theft is a personal nightmare and security risk.

Shred bills, statements, letters, old journals, records, outdated application forms and any documents that contain your full name, Social Security number, duty title and job information, credit card, bank account numbers and names of family members.

If you see documents being removed from trash cans, call the 81st Security Forces Squadron law enforcement desk, 377-3040.

# Training group recognizes top Airman, military training flights

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

July 6, the 81st Training Group announced its Airman of the Month for June and military training flights for June and the second quarter of 2011.

Airman of the Month is Airman 1st Class Andrew Lipian, an aviation resource management student in the 334th Training Squadron. Lipian is from Grafton, Ohio, and serves his squadron as a green rope student leader.

The four squadrons that train nonprior service students select one Airman to compete at a monthly group board.

Airmen are graded on personal appearance, communication skills and military bearing. They also respond to questions about customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, selected entries in the Airman's Manual and current events from that week's issue of the Keesler News.

The MTF of the month for June is from the 334th TRS. The MTF of the quarter is from the 335th TRS.

In June, the Gators scored the highest overall in marching, physical training, room



**Airman Lipian**

inspections, open ranks, Airman's Manual, charge of quarters and retreat.

The flight received a roving sign to put in front of its squadron to recognize the monthly recognition.

For MTF of the quarter recognition, the Bulls received \$1,500 for its building for sports equipment, pool tables, air hockey tables and other morale and welfare enhancements.

The training group's military training leaders judge the squadrons and maintain scoring for each competition.

# 21 graduate from ALS

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Twenty-two senior airmen graduated from Airman Leadership School June 30 as members of Class 11-5.

Graduates are:

**81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron** — John Reed.

**81st Dental Squadron** — Hansil Jules.

**81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron** — Phillip Cunningham (academic award).

**81st Force Support Squadron** — Tranisha Brown and David Cannon.

**81st Logistics Readiness Squadron** — Patsy Chandler and Carlos Zuniga.

**81st Medical Operations Squadron** — Michael Siedzik.

**81st Mission Support Group** — Sabine Bell.

**81st Security Forces Squadron** — Justin Caudill, Angelica Damore, James Matthews, Joshua Miller and Jereme Van Gundy.

**81st Surgical Operations Squadron** — Destinee Avila (commandant) and Kimberly Delus.

**85th Engineering Installation Squadron** — Roderick Hall, Steven Hurne, Matthew Proctor and Vincent Swider (distinguished graduate).

**345th Airlift Squadron** — Deonte Spann.

**366th Training Squadron Detachment 6** — Joseph Wheeler (Levitow Award).



# Academic ace

Airman 1st Class Jordan Berkebile graduated from both the information technology fundamentals and cyber operations courses in the 336th Training Squadron with perfect scores. He'll be assigned to the 609th Air Communications Squadron, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

## TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

### Spouse tour

Today is the deadline to register for Wednesday's 81st Training Group's spouse tour of its training facilities.

The tour begins at 9 a.m. at Matero Hall and ends at 12:40 p.m. following lunch at the Magnolia Dining Facility.

All spouses of permanent party, technical trainees and civilians assigned to Keesler are eligible to attend.

Attendance is limited to the first 30 spouses who call 377-3792.

### USM fall term

The University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast holds orientation, advisement and registration for admitted students Friday and July 29 at the Gulf Park campus in Long Beach.

The fall term begins Aug. 24, according to Sandy Laubersheimer, administrator of the Keesler teaching site.

For more information, call 376-8479.

### USM admissions aid

University of Southern Mississippi admissions counselor Michelle Lane is available at the Keesler teaching site, 2-5 p.m. Tuesday.

For an appointment, call 376-8479 or visit the USM office, Room 219, Sablich Center.

### GI Bill briefings

GI Bill briefings to address changes effective in August and October are 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Aug. 3 in the Sablich Center auditorium.

### CCAF deadline

The deadline to apply for the Community College of the Air Force fall graduating class is Aug. 26.

By that date, all supporting documentation must be on file at CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., including your nomination action request.

For more information, visit the education office, Room 224, Sablich Center, or call 376-8708 or 8710.

### Civilian tuition aid

Civilians using tuition assistance must receive a grade of "C" or higher for undergraduate classes or a grade of "B" or higher for graduate classes.

Failure to do so results in reimbursement to the government for its portion of paid tuition assistance. Course grades must be provided to education services within two weeks of course completion.

For more information, call 376-8708.

### Manager certification

The Community College of the Air Force awards professional manager certification that recognizes an individual's advanced level of education and experience in leadership and management, as well as professional accomplishments.

For more information, log on to <http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/certifications.asp> or call 376-8708 or 8710.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Tracy speaks during Keesler's Caring for People forum May 24.

## Forum targets family care issues

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Paula Tracy, chair of the Keesler Integrated Resource Team, represents Keesler at the Air Force Caring for People forum, Tuesday through July 21 in Arlington, Va.

The forum solicits information and develop recommendations for targeted support to the total Air Force Family.

"Each Air Force installation held its own forum, at which the key issues for that base were to be brainstormed, discussed, prioritized and then forwarded to its respective major command," said Tracy, family advocacy outreach manager.

"We identified issues that most significantly impact the quality of life for Team Keesler," Tracy explained. "We organized specific focus groups of various populations, including special needs families, single parents, school issues, spouse issues, reserve component issues, deployment concerns and other areas of interest."

Keesler's focus groups met in April and early May to formulate the top 10 issues to be briefed at the base's forum May 24. They identified 10

issues, seven which required response at Air Education and Training Command or Air Staff level.

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, and his team reviewed, discussed and evaluated the issues before deciding which would go forward as Keesler's three primary issues:

**1. Single parents and families are unable to work out due to family obligations and lack of child care.**

"This issue was a big one — it surfaced with single active-duty parents who didn't have time to work out during the duty day, then were unable to do so after work because the child development center was closed and the 'family friendly' area of the gym didn't meet their needs," Tracy pointed out.

"It was also a big one with spouses who wanted a family-focused fitness area with events planned to interest and include the entire family," she continued. "We would request funding to expand the size of, improve the quality of equipment for and increase the variety of options within the family area of the fitness center."

**2. Families with special-**

**needs children face numerous obstacles.**

"These issues involve child care, financial, location of resources and transportation," Tracy said.

"Also, families aren't being reimbursed for travel to and from medical appointments less than 100 miles," she added. "There must be an improved system for identifying and assigning special-needs dependents of Keesler families and providing the requisite resources."

**3. Keesler doesn't have a full-time coordinator for its exceptional family member program.**

"To provide families the services they need and deserve, a full-time permanent EFMP coordinator is needed," Tracy said.

At the Air Force forum, representatives from all installations meet to discuss the findings from their respective bases.

"We'll discuss which issues impact the total Air Force, how to best resolve these issues, how to improve quality of life at installation level, explore trends and disconnects and review lessons learned from this year's installation Caring for People experience," Tracy commented.

## IN THE NEWS

### Work at gates impacts traffic flow

**White Avenue Gate** — July 22, two lanes at a time are blocked while asphalt is being poured. Another construction project that's expected to run through August may require lane closures for short periods while certain work is in progress.

**White Avenue, Meadows Drive and Pass Road Gates** — from 7 a.m. July 22 until 7 a.m. July 25, contractors are installing awnings at the guard shack, so one lane at a time is blocked while holes are drilled for foundations.

### New leader for security forces

Maj. James Clark relinquishes command of the 81st Security Forces Squadron to Maj. Matthew Pignataro, 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Clark has commanded the 81st SFS since July 2009 and leaves Keesler to pursue his master's degree in homeland defense from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey Bay, Calif.

Pignataro comes to Keesler from the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, where he was the chief of security forces air and space expeditionary force scheduling.

### Clinics close for warrior training

**81st Medical Group Public Affairs**

The 81st Medical Group conducts warrior training noon to 5 p.m. today.

Staffing is reduced in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, general surgery, pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services. For emergency situations, go to the nearest emergency room or call 911 for an ambulance.

### DBIDS registration extended

Registration for the Defense Biometric Identification has been extended to July 31.

Anyone who hasn't been registered is being directed to the visitor center when entering the base.

### Death notification

With great regret, the commander of the 81st Training Wing announces the death of Capt. Jennifer Gayle, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Anyone having claims for or against Gayle's estate, call the the summary court officer, 376-3785.

### 'Excel by 5' community

Biloxi has been certified as an "Excel by 5" community, an early childhood education initiative.

Mississippi had the first Excel by 5 program in the nation, and this is the first Excel by 5 program in Harrison County. A family resource center opened in December at Lopez School to help parents of preschoolers find resources to prepare their children for school.

**Dragons deployed — 254**

## 2 new commanders in 81st Mission Support Group



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Deputy comptroller Joyce Sloan gives Maj. Phelemon Williams II a budget briefing June 24. Williams, who took command of the 81st Comptroller Squadron June 23, is a recent graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Left, unit program coordinator Amy Dye reviews staff summary sheets for private organization funds with the 81st Force Support Squadron's new commander, Maj. John Ponton, June 28. Ponton, who assumed command June 23, comes to Keesler from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where he served as special action officer for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander's action group.

# New short-term tour policy now in effect

## Air Force News Service

Starting this month, Airmen no longer receive short tour credit for overseas temporary duty assignments of 181 consecutive days. This change initially was announced in a memorandum signed by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz in April.

In June 2003, a temporary exception to policy was approved to award short-tour credit to Airmen who deployed to hostile environments for at least 181 consecutive days after 9/11. This exception was initiated since traditional expeditionary deployments at the time were 120 days. A similar exception was made for Airmen deploying in support of Desert Storm in the early 1990s.

The decision to end the current short-tour credit exception to policy is largely based on the number of Airmen who now deploy for longer periods of time. Additionally, with transportation delays and mandatory overlap with successors, the vast majority of Airmen deployed for 179 days remained in the area of responsibility just long enough to reach the 181-day threshold.

"The standard Air Force deployment is now 179 days," said Col. Ken Sersun, chief of the military force policy division on the Air Staff.

"Granting short-tour credit based on 181 days deployment has become inconsistent with the short-tour credit earned by our Airmen who deploy for 365 days."

Guidelines under the new policy are:

Airmen who were previously awarded short-tour credit under the temporary 181-day policy will keep their short-tour credit

Airmen who arrived in the area of responsibility prior to July 1, 2011, and serve at least 181 days consecutively in a hostile fire or imminent danger pay area will receive short tour credit under the previous criteria

Airmen who arrive in the AOR on or after July 1, 2011, will not receive short-tour credit under the temporary 181-day policy

Airmen will be awarded short-tour credit based on TDY service stipulated in Air Force Instruction 36-2110, Assignments

Since the exception to policy went into effect in 2003, 16,795 Airmen have deployed more than once on 179-day taskings. Since 9/11, more than 52,000 Airmen have deployed for 181 to 200 days. The number of 179-day taskings also has grown significantly since January 2006 from about 6,500 taskings to about 16,600 taskings.

For more information visit <http://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil>

# PERSONNEL NOTES

## Transition assistance classes

### 81st Force Support Squadron

The airman and family readiness center plans the following classes for 2011 at the Sablich Center.

For more information or to preregister for classes, call 376-8728.

**Mandatory pre-separation briefings** — 1 p.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 2:30 for retirees, Room 110. Bring one copy of separation or retirement orders. This appointment is required by law, and must be accomplished 90 calendar days before the separation or retirement date. For short-notice separations or retirements, the briefing should be done as soon as possible. Medical separation must receive a one-on-one briefing.

**Transition assistance program workshops** — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through July 20, Aug. 8-10, Sept. 12-14, Oct. 17-19, Nov. 14-16 and Dec. 12-14, Room 108A. Dress is business casual; no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms.

**Veterans benefits briefing** — 8-11 a.m. July 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A.

**Retirement briefings** — 1-3:30 p.m. July 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A; for members with less than a year until retirement.

**Executive transition assistance workshop** — Dec. 6-9 for colonels and chief master sergeants with the necessary knowledge and skills to organize their search for a second career in the private, nonprofit and government sector. Air Education and Training Command headquarters facilitates this workshop. For more information, call Robert Bertels, DSN 487-2669.

## ID card requirements

To obtain identification cards, military personnel in uniform have priority in customer service, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Customer service is also open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on non-training Fridays.

To be issued an identification card, two forms of legal identification are necessary.

Dependents are required to be accompanied by their sponsor unless they have power of attorney or a Defense Department Form 1172.

For more information, call 376-8339.

## Training for new supervisors

Three mandatory supervisory training courses for newly-selected supervisors must be completed within six months of assuming a supervisory role.

**The Air Force Supervisor's Course** provides civilian supervisors with leadership and management skills required in supervisory positions.

**The Civilian Personnel Management Course** must be taken by all civilian and military supervisors who manage civilians. This course provides background information and an understanding of applicable civilian personnel laws and regulations needed to carry out civilian personnel management responsibilities.

**The Military Personnel Management Course** provides civilian supervisors of military members the basic skills, knowledge and abilities required to supervise enlisted and officer personnel.

Personnel requiring these courses can register online through the Air Force Human Resource Management School's virtual campus at <https://www.my.af.mil/afknprod/community/views/home.aspx?Filter=AF-ED-00-38>. Periodic reports will be provided by Air Staff and major commands identifying supervisory completion, so supervisors should complete the required courses in a timely manner.

For more information, call 376-8161 or 8154.

Government information systems are for official use only.  
Use constitutes consent to monitoring.

# Keesler NCO deployed for 'monumental task'

By Senior Airman  
Amber Kelly-Herard

## 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

SALAH AD DIN, Iraq — The 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron has undertaken the immense task of removing more than 12,000 pieces of automated data processing equipment from Joint Base Balad in preparation for the base's transition later this year.

Nine airmen from various communications-related Air Force specialty codes have been tasked to accomplish this job.

"As one of the largest wings in United States Central Command, this has proven to be a monumental task to accomplish," said 1st Lt. Nate Kane, plans and programs deputy flight commander, who's deployed from Maxwell Air Force Base-Gunter Annex, Ala. "Nobody has a how-to book for something like this."

Items being collected include computers, monitors, laptops, printers, televisions, routers, switches and servers.

"When equipment is turned in, we categorize it for disposition off Joint Base Balad," said Tech. Sgt. Juan Diaz, asset management non-commissioned officer in charge, who's deployed from Keesler, where he's a member of the 81st Communications Squadron's airfield systems team. "Everything has to be accounted for and cleaned, both physically and logically. It takes about 15 minutes per item."



**Sergeant Diaz**

"It feels great to be here to help disperse the inventory and be part of history," added the sergeant who is a native of Ocala, Fla.

Most of the equipment is being redistributed within U.S. Central Command. Unserviceable equipment is turned over to the Defense Reutilization Management Office.

"It's a challenge to collect equipment while the mission continues," said Kane, who is a native of Rock Hill, S.C. "We rely heavily on commanders and supervisors to ensure their squadron equipment custodians are turning in 10 percent of ADPE assets monthly."

"The headway we make today will assist in handing the keys over to the government of Iraq at end-of-mission" added the lieutenant.

The squadron is making preparations for the combat communications unit that will deploy to sustain operations until the end of the mission.

# DOD deputy Lynn to step down among other leadership changes

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Deputy Defense Secretary William Lynn III will step down later this year to return to private life, Pentagon officials announced July 7.

Lynn's impending departure is the latest in a series of changes in Pentagon leadership. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta took over from retired Defense Secretary Robert Gates July 1. Marine Corps Gen. James "Hoss" Cartwright is scheduled to step down as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff next month, and

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen will complete his four-year term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs at the end of September.

Panetta asked Lynn to remain in office until a successor is nominated and confirmed, and that's expected to happen by autumn. President Barack Obama nominates Lynn's successor, the Senate Armed Services Committee holds a confirmation hearing and the full Senate votes on confirmation.

Lynn has worked within DOD to strengthen its defense posture and put in place policies, procedures and techniques to safeguard data on

the information superhighway. He worked closely with military officials to establish the U.S. Cyber Command.

Lynn also has worked with close allies to ensure all nations work together to protect military information. He stressed the importance of cyber security to NATO, and the alliance adapted a roadmap to protect vital secrets during its summit last year.

He also concentrated on space and operational energy policies and the department's Quadrennial Defense Review and was instrumental in the process that led to award of the Air Force aerial tanker contract.

**Raise your voice — honor your country.  
If you're interested in singing the National Anthem  
at base or community ceremonies,  
call YoLanda Wallace, 377-1179.**

# Outdated records can hinder promotion

By Susan Griggs

Keesker News editor

Are your records up to date? Your career advancement could depend on them.

According to Gary Schafer, military personnel section chief at Keesler, more than 1,700 electronic source documents were found to be missing during the centralized data verification process conducted at the Air Force Personnel Center for members being considered for promotion to technical and master sergeant.

"These source documents are required to validate the associated data updated in the Military Personnel Data System," Schafer pointed out. "These missing documents jeopardize an individual's select status and create undue stress on members having to locate the missing items to ensure they retain their stripe."

Schafer said it's vital that members review and verify the data updated in the virtual military personnel flight, or vMPF, with an associated source document in the Automated Records Management System and Personnel Records Display Application.

ARMS and PRDA are online programs used to electronically store personnel records. PRDA is an electronic viewer for the Automated Records Management System, facilitating search, retrieval and management of personnel records in ARMS through a role-based access process.

"It's each member's responsibility to ensure records reflect true, factual data and all source documents have been placed in personnel records accordingly," he emphasized. "Their promotion now or in the future could depend on it."

For more information, call 376-8738.

More news, videos, information and photos  
on the Web at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>

## New tactics employed to steal PINs

By **Richard Brock**

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### Legal Office

The conflict between efforts to protect personal information and development of new techniques to steal it continues to escalate.

In a recently reported case, criminals used a different approach to “skimming” to record details from the magnetic strips of payment cards and capture individual personal identification numbers.

In the past, criminals have employed skimming devices on automatic teller machines outside of banks and other commercial businesses and have operated at night, wearing hoods to make identification by security cameras difficult.

In this latest incident, the crooks entered bank buildings and modified lobby ATMs by replacing the PIN pads with ones which recorded customer PINs and card account information and transmitted them to a remote location. Using the stolen information, the criminals encoded the individuals’ account information onto credit and gift cards — employing the cloned cards to steal more than \$1.5 million from customer accounts.

Be sure to carefully inspect any ATM machine before swiping your credit card. Skimmers generally look slightly out of place with the rest of the ATM. If you have any doubts regarding the security of a machine, use a different machine or make your transaction directly with a clerk or teller.

For more information, call 376-8601.

## Hands-on learning for Keesler kids at Astro Camp



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Brendan King, 9, and Keana Utsey, 12, learn about building, redesigning and controlling Lego robots from Stennis Space Center camp counselor Robyn Pascal June 30 during the youth center's week-long Astro Camp. Brendan's grandfather is David Moore, 81st Comptroller Squadron. Keana's parents are Master Sgts. Lee Utsey, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, and Sharon Utsey, 335th Training Squadron. The camp ended with a trip to the space center in Hancock County.

**Don't drink and drive.**

Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving,  
377-SAVE,  
for a safe ride home.

## Chief Cole meets with enlisted medics



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Chief Master Sgt. Charles Cole, third from left, talks with enlisted members of the 81st Medical Operations Squadron family health flight during his June 23 visit to the Keesler Hospital. Chief Cole, the Air Force surgeon general's chief of the medical enlisted force, spent the day meeting with many 81st Medical Group Airmen to update them on issues that affect them. From left are Senior Airman Sheene Giray, Airman 1st Class Ismail Amuessel, Tech. Sgt. Daniel White, Master Sgt. Jerry Dameron, Staff Sgt. Makela Hutchins, Senior Airman Tina Anderson and Airman 1st Class Brent Weber.

## Sun, sand, food, fun

Airman Basic Patrick Risch, left, 334th Training Squadron student and Airman Basic Jay Werley, 338th TRS student, get the blood pumping with a lively game of volleyball at Keesler's 4th of July beach bash in Biloxi south of the main entrance to the base.



When information is classified,  
it's your job to protect it.



Tom Golden, 81st Force Support Squadron, gives hot dogs and bratwursts the perfect char.

From left, Staff Sgt. Sabine and Eddarious Bell, 81st Mission Support Group, are served hot dogs, corn on the cob and bratwurst by Staff Sgts. Tawny Crutcher, 81st Training Wing, and Elizabeth Aguirre, 81st Training Support Squadron; Ashlee Goff, and Tech. Sgt. Kim Sturdivant, 81st Contracting Squadron. Ashlee, 16, is the daughter of Wayne and Carrie Cox, 81st FSS.



Photos by Kemberly Groue



## New residents train for trauma

Maj. (Dr.) Heather Bright, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, observes new surgery resident Capt. (Dr.) Jacob Anderson as he assesses “burn patient” Airman 1st Class Kenton Spencer during a June 15 advanced trauma life support training session. Dr. Anderson was among the new surgery and internal medicine residents who arrived at the hospital the first week of June. Dr. Bright explained the ATLS training was part of the orientation for the new residents to test their ability to manage patients involved in a trauma. Airman Spencer was among the four Aerospace Medical Apprentice Phase II course students who graduated June 17.

Photo by Steve Pivnick

# FirstStop helps military families with special needs children

## Airman and family readiness center

Frequent moves are nothing new to military families. The excitement of a new place is felt along with the anxiety of being in unfamiliar surroundings. Finding where to go to meet needs and interests can be a daunting task for any family.

For families who have a child with a disability, finding necessary resources can be challenging. There's a feeling of starting over with every change of station. For families who have already made the transition to a new location, having a child with a special need can be an ongoing challenge.

Now there's help for area families of all branches of the military, active duty, reserves and retired.

First Stop is a program for military families with a child who has a special need, particularly a developmental delay.

"The mission of First Stop is to improve the quality of life for military families by assisting them in locating appropriate services," said Maggie Landry, who's been working at Keesler in the airman and family readiness center under a University of Southern Mississippi grant since January. She'll meet with families at Keesler, other area military installations, the

USM Gulf Park campus in Long Beach or at their homes, whatever is most convenient.

The grant is part of the Family Support 360 grants funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The grant was awarded to USM's Institute for Disability Studies in October 2009. IDS is the university center for excellence in developmental disabilities for the entire state.

"With southern Mississippi having such a large military population, the Gulf Coast is fortunate to have this program to assist families," Landry pointed out.

She explained that family members must be under age 25 to be eligible for the program. Families meet with trained program staff members to determine their needs and develop an effective family plan. The program staff then assists families in linking to state or community services and services offered through the grant and USM.

Staff members can also assist families in negotiating with existing community or military-based services that aren't currently meeting their needs.

For more information about First Stop, call 376-8703.

## ENERGY AWARENESS TIP

### Lead by Example in the Office with Smart Energy Choices



- Switch off all unnecessary lights
- Turn off lights when you leave at night
- Use natural lighting when possible
- When working late, use task lighting for work areas
- Unplug equipment that uses energy when not in use
- Turn off printers and monitors at the end of the day
- Use efficient ENERGY STAR® products
- Reduce cooling needs by closing window blinds
- Photocopy and print only what you need
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator

Each of us can make an impact to reduce Keesler's energy consumption. For more energy saving tips visit [http://www.energysavers.gov/your\\_workplace/](http://www.energysavers.gov/your_workplace/)

**Make Energy A Consideration  
In All We Do!**

# Worship schedule

## **Roman Catholic**

**Daily Mass**, 11:15 a.m., Monday through Friday, Triangle Chapel.

**Sunday Mass**, 9 a.m., Triangle Chapel.

## **Protestant**

**Traditional service**, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Larcher Chapel.

**Contemporary service**, 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

**Gospel service**, noon Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

## **Jewish**

Services are 8 p.m. Fridays at Congregation Beth Israel, 12277 Three Rivers Road, Gulfport.

For more information, call 377-4050, 207-2196, 539-1655 or 1-405-740-9077.

## **Greek Orthodox**

Sunday Divine Liturgy takes place at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi. For more information, call 388-6138:

## **Islamic**

Prayer is five times daily; Salaat ul-Jummah congregational prayer, noon on Friday, Building 2003.. For more information, call 377-2520.

## **Latter-Day Saints**

Student group service, 2 p.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 396-5274 or 1-616-881-1994.

## **Watering lawns during drought**

The housing office advises residents to water lawns in the early morning or early evening hours, but not overnight or during the hottest part of the day.

Adjust sprinklers so water isn't wasted on non-grassy areas.

## Airman and family readiness center

**Editor's note:** Registration is required. All briefings take place in Room 108, Sablich Center, unless otherwise noted.

**Monday-Wednesday** — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., transition assistance workshop. Open to those 12 months or less from separation or 24 months from retirement. Spouses invited to attend.

**July 21** — 8-11 a.m., Veterans Administration benefits briefing. 1-4 p.m., retirement benefits briefing. 1-4:30 p.m., smooth move; advice on how to make relocation easier for you and your dependents. Open to anyone with access to Keesler.

## Arts and crafts center

**Editor's note:** For more information or to register, call 377-2821.

**Saturday** — 10 a.m., beginners creative woodworking class. Learn intarsia, a technique that uses varied shapes, sizes and types of wood inlaid together. \$20 includes materials.

**Tuesday-July 21** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., summer arts camp, ages 9 and older. Woodworking; coat rack. Preregister; \$30 per week includes materials.

## Bay Breeze Collocated Club

**Editor's note:** Must be age 18 or older to enter collocated lounge. For more information or reservations, call 377-2334. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

**July 21** — 5-8 p.m., Mongolian barbecue with performance by Gabriel, the hypnotist. 95 cents per ounce for Air Force Club members, \$1.10 per ounce for nonmembers. 6 p.m. show time; show admission included in dinner price. Show only; \$5, adults; \$3, ages 4-12; ages 3 and younger, free. Show proceeds benefit the youth center Keystone Club. Sponsored by Alan Toyota, Forest City and Harris Jewelry.

**July 22** — 5-11 p.m., Texas hold'em tournament. \$1,050 in chips to each player. Free for Air Force Club members, \$5 for nonmembers. Must be 21 or older to participate. Call to reserve a seat. Sponsored by Budweiser-Responsibility Matters and Forest City.

## Bay Breeze Golf Course

**Editor's note:** For more information or to register, call 377-3832.

**Tuesday-July 21** — youth golf camp, 8-10 a.m., ages 6-9; 10 a.m. to noon, ages 10-14. \$40 per child.

## Child development center

**Editor's note:** For more information or to register, call 377-2211. Fee based on family income.

**Through Oct. 1** — open enrollment for kindergarten transition program for 4-year-olds.

**Through Oct. 1** — open enrollment for part day program. Morning and afternoon sessions.

## Fitness centers

**Editor's note:** Triangle Fitness Center is being renovated; the men's restroom/locker room is temporarily closed. Portable showers are available.

**Today** — 7 a.m., 5-kilometer firecracker run/walk at Blake Fitness Center. Registration at 6:30 a.m. Free; prizes awarded, patriotic running encouraged.

**Through July 28** — sign up for intramural flag football. Contact squadron sports representative or inquire at fitness centers.

## Gaudé Lanes

**Saturday** — 6 p.m., casino bowling. Bowl three games, \$15 per person. Strike with color pin combination and win money. Limit five people per lane.

**Sunday** — family day. Two hours of bowling, shoes, large pizza and pitcher of soda or tea, \$35.

**Through Aug. 4** — sign up for intramural bowling leagues; contact squadron sports representative.

## McBride Library

**Editor's note:** For more information, call 377-2181.

**Tuesdays and Thursdays** — 10-11 a.m., "A Midsummer Knight's Read" with Tech. Sgt. Christopher Litton, 81st Communications Squadron, as guest speaker.

## Outdoor recreation

**Editor's note:** For more information, call 377-3160.

**Through July 21** — sign up for sailing classes. Classroom instruction; 5:30 p.m. July 21 at McBride Library. On-the-water instruction July 22, 23 or 24, to be arranged with instructor. \$45 per person. Space is limited.

## Swimming pools

**Editor's note:** For more information, call 377-3948 or 3568. Identification and entry fee required for admission; \$1.50 daily or purchase a \$20 single season pass or \$60 family season pass, available at pools and outdoor recreation.

**Daily except Monday** — noon to 5:30 p.m., main base pool. Adult lap swim noon to 1 p.m.

**Daily except Wednesday** — noon to 7 p.m., Triangle pool. Adult lap swim 11 a.m. to noon.

## Vandenberg Community Center

**Editor's note:** Friday and Saturday night activities are part of the late night dances, \$3 admission; non-prior students only.

**Friday** — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., late night dance.

**Saturday** — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., scooper bowl night. Free ice cream and toppings.

## Youth center

**Editor's note:** For more information or to register, call 377-4116. Drop-ins accepted on space available basis.

**Today** — school age program registration begins. Fee based on family income..

## Dragon Wagon

**Each week, Thursday-Sunday** — catch a ride to your favorite base "hot spots." 50 cents per ride or \$10 unlimited monthly pass available at Gaudé Lanes and Legends Café. Air Force Club members ride free. For more information, transportation route and schedule, visit <http://www.keesler81fss.us>.

## Memorial ruck march

Members of the 81st Security Forces Squadron march 148 miles from Livingston, Texas, to Alexandria, La., Wednesday through July 24.

The team is part of an Air Force Security Forces ruck

march to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and to pay tribute to fellow defenders who have been killed since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom.

For more information or to make a donation, call 376-6606 or 6625.

## CGOC leaders forum

The company grade officer council holds a leadership symposium open to all ranks, military and civilian, noon Tuesday at the Keesler Hospital's Don Wylie Auditorium.

The panel includes Maj.

Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, 2nd Air Force commander; Col. Lynn Connett, commander, and Deborah Sterling, 81st Training Group; and Chief Master Sgt. Debra Strickland, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron.

The forum gives the audience

to interact with panel members and gain insight into achievements, obstacles and strategies for successful leadership.

## Sports physicals

The 81st Medical Operations Squadron's pediatric clinic conducts school and sports physicals, 8 a.m. to noon July 23.

Parents call the hospital appointment line, 1-800-700-8603, to schedule the physicals. Children 5-18 years of age are seen for school, camp or sports physicals only. Other concerns require a separate appointment. Parents should bring any immunization records and any school physical forms to the appointment.

Generic physical forms are available at the pediatric clinic front desk, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. before July 23.

## Airman's Attic

Airman's Attic, at the corner of Meadows Drive and 1st Street, assists junior enlisted members with obtaining free basic household items.

Donations are needed such as furniture, area rugs, cutlery, dishware, infant wear and maternity clothes which are clean and in good condition.

Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to noon non-training Fridays and the last Saturday of the month.

For more information, call 209-1390 or 377-3814..

## Speakers bureau

The public affairs office is looking for people who enjoy public speaking to tell the Air Force story.

The Keesler Speakers Bureau is a community relations program developed as a public service and information vehicle. It's comprised of military and civilian Air Force employees who volunteer their time and information to speak to community groups.

Speakers come from a variety of experiences and backgrounds that offer a variety of presentations.

For more information, call YoLanda Wallace, 377-1179.

## Soccer Intramural season kicks off

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Eleven teams are facing off in the 7-on-7 intramural soccer season that kicked off Monday.

Last year's champion, the 334th Training Squadron, is fielding two teams this year. The Gators A-team plays in the West Division along with the Marine Corps Detachment, the 335th TRS and the A-teams from the 333rd, 336th and 338th TRS.

The Gators B-team is in the intramural league's East Division with the 81st Medical Operations Squadron and the B-teams from the 333rd, 336th and 338th TRS.

The West Division plays at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, while the East Division plays at 6 and 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. All games are played on the multipurpose field on Meadows Drive.

For more information, call the intramural sports office, 377-2444.

### News tips?

Call the Keesler News, 377-4130,  
or e-mail keeslernews@us.af.mil

## Alcohol, water activities don't mix

By Staff Sgt. Cecilia Cardenas

81st Medical Operations Squadron

It's summer — people are firing up the poolside grill, soaking up the sun and heading out to the beaches, lakes and rivers.

Summer brings countless water activities including boating, jet skiing, swimming ... and drinking alcohol.

Whether we like to admit it or not, many people make drinking a part of these activities, unaware of the increased risks.

Even one drink can make a difference. Alcohol doesn't follow the normal digestive route; instead it is directly absorbed into the bloodstream, altering brain chemistry. This causes impairment in judgment, reaction time, balance and vision. These critical skills are required for safety in any water activity.



After consuming just one standard alcoholic drink — 12 ounces of beer, 4 to 5 ounces of wine or 1½ ounces of liquor — your risks of injury or death increase dramatically. Exposures to noise, vibration, sun, glare and wind can intensify the risks.

Boating or operating any motor vessel requires coordination, concentration and attention to detail, just like driving any vehicle. Would you get behind the wheel of a car after consuming an alcoholic beverage? In Missis-

sippi, it's illegal to operate a watercraft under the influence of alcohol in public waters.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, "Alcohol is a major factor in approximately 50 to 70 percent of all recreational boating fatalities nationwide." In 2008, 124 deaths and 276 injuries occurred in boating accidents that directly involved alcohol.

Boat operators are not the only ones at an increased risk when alcohol is involved; also consider their passengers.

About two-thirds of annual drowning victims never intended to go into the water.

The Centers for Disease Control estimate 140,000 injuries are associated with swimming and about 25 to 50 percent involve alcohol.

Diving is a risky activity itself; mixing it with alcohol is a dangerous combination. Diving accidents result in 5,000 deaths and 8,000 paralyzing spinal cord injuries annually.

During the Critical Days of Summer, it's very important to keep safety in mind. Following these safety tips can reduce the risks of injuries or death:

- Never drink alcohol before operating a boat, jet ski or other watercraft
- Learn how to swim. Swimming classes are given in numerous locations in the area.
- Always use the Wingman concept
- Know how to respond in an emergency. It's a good idea for all members to know basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques and to have a first aid kit handy.
- Know how to operate the watercraft, including the safety cut-off switch, etc.
- Know the laws and regulations.
- Always wear a life vest.