



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

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KEESLER NEWS

**81st Training Wing
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ON THE COVER

Senior Airman Joshua Hoover, 81st Training Wing command post; Airman Basic Ian Shoup, 338th Training Squadron, and Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Riordan, Navy and Marine Corps liaison at the Keesler Hospital, fill out patient administration forms during a disease contaminant plan exercise Feb. 23 at the Vandenburg Community Center.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



DRAGONS THAT I MEET



Photo by Kemberly Groue

By Brig. Gen.
Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

George Roberts of Gulfport, Miss., displays a French Legion of Honor medal he received from the president of France for his duty during World War II in support of France. Roberts served 38 months active duty, six years inactive and is a Purple Heart recipient. He retired from civil service in December 1976. Roberts turns 91 years old today



Train, Care, Innovate ... Developing Combat Power for Air, Space and Cyberspace



COMMENTARY

Embracing change leads to growth, adventure

“Hang on, my friends — it’s bound to be an interesting ride.” — Griggs



Courtesy photo

Susan Griggs, 81st Training Wing public affairs specialist and former editor of Keesler News, gives her grandson, Jesse “Jay” Thompson, 8, a kiss on the forehead.

By Susan Griggs

Keesler Public Affairs

A day rarely passes without more news about budget cuts, force shaping and downsizing in our Air Force. It’s hard to put on a “smiley face” and to continue to do your job when your co-worker’s position is cut, services are reduced, responsibilities are reallocated and familiar faces no longer greet us every day.

Change is hard and I feel overwhelmed.

Yesterday, I noticed a card on my bulletin board titled, “The Handwriting on the Wall.” It was a list of suggestions for coping in a changing workplace from a 1998 New York Times best-seller by Dr. Spencer Johnson called “Who Moved My Cheese?” It was given to me by a friend who retired from a job at Keesler and knew how difficult it can be for me when change challenges me.

This business allegory describes ways to deal with work and life through the eyes of two mice, Sniff and Scurry, and two miniature humans, Hem and Haw, and their efforts to adapt their circumstances to “find the cheese.” Critics fault the book as an attempt to portray unfavorable or unfair changes in an optimistic way, and some of those observations may be valid, but I find the “Handwriting on the Wall” guidelines as a realistic approach to change in the workplace.

Change happens — they keep moving the cheese. This is true in today’s military, as well as corporate America. Consolidations, reorganizations and downsizing are our new reality. Many government employees who felt sure they had “jobs for life” are having their professional lives turned upside down.

Anticipate change — look for the cheese to move.

Don’t assume that the job you have now is the job you’ll have until you retire. More budget shortfalls are coming, so keep your eyes open to see how the employment landscape is shifting.

Monitor change — smell the cheese often so you know when it is getting old. Try to sense how your career field and duties could be changing. Keep your skills current and look for opportunities to upgrade your talents.

Adapt to change quickly — the quicker you let go of old cheese, the sooner you can enjoy new cheese. This is the suggestion that challenges me the most. I’m comfortable with my current job and apprehensive about what lies ahead.

Unfortunately, this can paralyze me and keep me from adapting to the new challenges in my life. I’m working on this and trying to accept my new role.

Change — move with the cheese. Don’t drag your feet and hang on to “the way things have always been.” Don’t let your comfort zone become a barrier to what might be an exciting future.

Enjoy change — savor the adventure and enjoy the taste of new cheese. It’s hard to imagine enjoying my new job as much as I’ve relished the challenges, contacts and camaraderie of the editor’s job. But I’ll be meeting new people, getting reacquainted with community leaders and even buying new clothes for social functions.

Be ready to quickly change and enjoy it, again — Another friend once told me, “Change is mandatory — growth is optional.” Who knows what job I’ll be doing a year from now? What possibilities are waiting down the road? Hang on, my friends — it’s bound to be an interesting ride.



TRAINING AND EDUCATION

'Pneumonic plague outbreak' tests Keesler's response during exercise

See full story on page 22



Photos by Kemberly Groe
Tech. Sgt. Holly McCune and Master Sgt. Tasha Thomas, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, sort candy for packing which represents prescription drugs to be given out to "patients" during a disease contaminant plan exercise.



Capt. Brandon Shealey, 81st Medical Support Squadron team chief for patient administration and Robert Tash, 81st MDSS emergency management coordinator, direct the patient administration area.



Airman 1st Class Jeremy Walkes, 338th Training Squadron, signs a patient administration form with the assistance of Staff Sgt. Consuelo Patterson, 81st MDSS, after receiving "medication" for his "symptoms."



Maj. Christa Sechrist, 81st MDTS, provides patient consultation on prescriptions.



TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

Embry-Riddle

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is now registering for the new term that begins March 19.

The university offers degrees in aviation/aerospace, management, and business administration with multiple course formats.

Graduate courses are also available to complete Civil Service 1750 qualification requirements (simulation systems this term).

Discounted tuition rates are available for active-duty, reservists and Air National Guard.

For more information, visit Room 217, Sablich Center, or call 376-8478 or 432-5312.

Hap Arnold grants

March 9 is the application deadline for Air Force Aid Society \$2,000 grants for undergraduate studies through the Gen. Henry H. Arnold educational grant program.

Visit www.afas.org for information and to access the online application.

Grants are available to selected sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 active Guard/Reserve members on extended active duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired Reservists with 20 or more qualifying years of service, and deceased Air Force members; spouses (residing state-side) of active duty and Title 10 AGR/Reservists on extended active duty; and surviving spouses of deceased.

Pitsenbarger Awards

March 23 at 4 p.m. is the deadline for members of the Community College of the Air Force spring graduating class to apply for a Pitsenbarger Award sponsored to the Air Force Association.

The awards provide a one-time cash award to selected top Air Force enlisted personnel graduating from CCAF who are pursuing or plan to pursue a baccalaureate degree. Prior winners are not eligible.

Applications are available at the education services office or may be downloaded from the Air Force Association web site,

<http://www.afa.org/af/aid/pit.asp>.

Applicants must carefully review and follow the requirements/selection criteria and guidelines for the award.

The Pitsenbarger Awards are presented at the CCAF spring commencement ceremony at 1:30 p.m. April 19 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

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

KSC scholarships

Applications are now being accepted for 2012 Keesler Spouses Club Scholarships.

Eligible applicants include high school seniors entering a college, university or vocational studies as well as spouses pursuing a degree or vocational studies.

For applications and more eligibility information, visit www.keeslerspousesclub.com, call 210-825-2273 or email scholarships@keeslerspousesclub.com.

The deadline is April 2.

Tuition assistance

Effective April 1, students who want to use Air Force tuition assistance must ensure their school has signed the Department of Defense memorandum of understanding.

Tuition assistance submitted for non-participating schools won't be approved and is currently unwaiverable.

For more information or to check on participating schools, visit www.dodmou.com.

CALT program

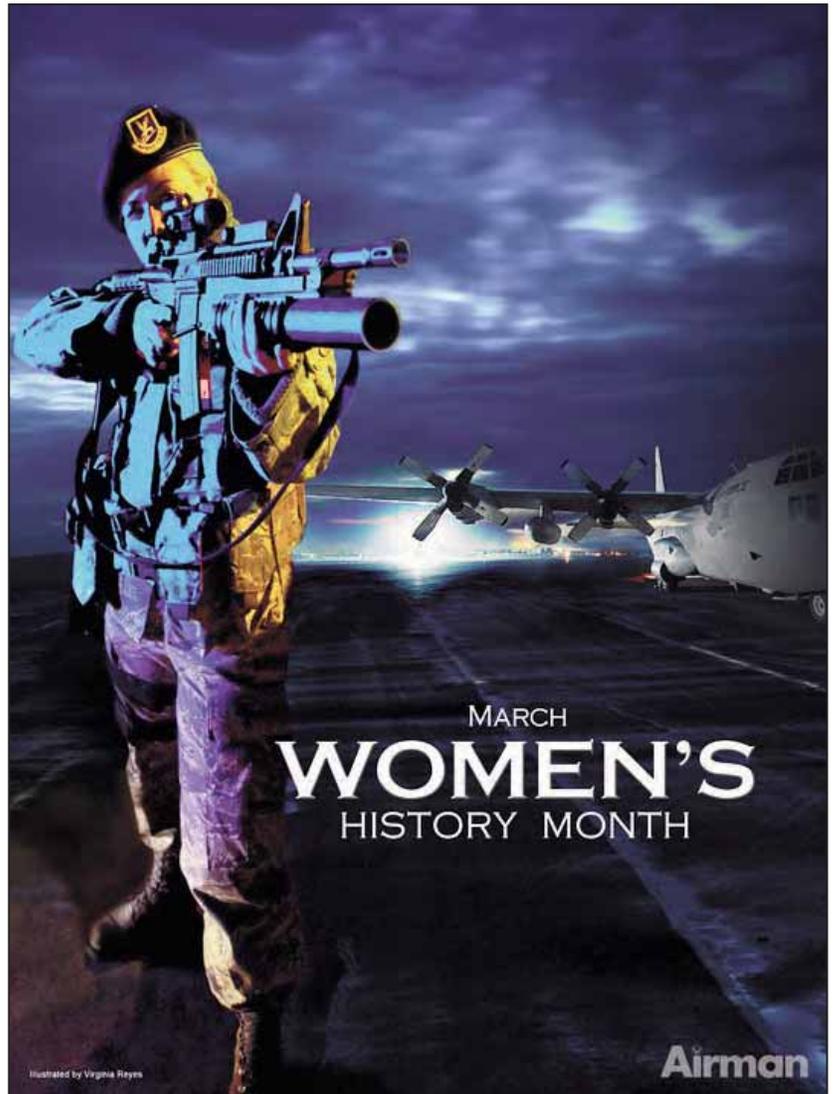
The Civilian Acculturation and Leadership Program is a two-week in-residence course patterned after the Officer Training School curriculum.

CALT is open to Air Force civilians in permanent General Service 7-13 with a bachelor's degree and two to five years experience. Applications are open on a continuing basis.

Nominees can apply by completing the Air Force Civilian Competitive Development Nomination Form.

Classes are open until all seats are filled.

For more information, call 376-8161 or log on to Air Force Personnel Services.



NEWS AND FEATURES

Air Force submits budget to fund leaner force

By Dianne Moffett

AETC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force will support a smaller, leaner and lethal capable force and encourage a more disciplined use of defense dollars, according to senior leaders who unveiled the fiscal 2013 budget Feb. 13. The Air Force is requesting \$154.3 billion for FY13, five percent less than the FY12 budget.

Despite having to make some hard choices to rebalance the force, a clear priority for Air Force senior leaders is continuing to take care of its most important resource — the Airmen and their families.

In a speech at the 2012 Air

Education and Training Command Symposium Jan. 11, Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr., AETC commander, explained that now, more than ever, is a time for a culture of cost consciousness.

“Every AETC Airman should constantly consider the cost implications of our actions, our inactions and our decisions,” Rice said. “It is about being good stewards of America’s resources. It is more than just achieving greater efficiency; it really is about a mindset that makes cost considerations a part of everything we do.”

Col. Charles Fiquett, AETC comptroller, said the command will maintain the right number of Airmen on the job

to complete the mission. He said that while the command will be smaller, the Air Force will help Airmen do their jobs smarter and more efficiently through new technology and more streamlined programs.

Airmen are also scheduled to receive a 1.7 percent pay increase in 2013.

“Even though the overall budget is becoming more constrained, the Air Force and AETC is committed to the quality of life of its Airmen and families and will sustain through cost-effective services and programs,” Fiquett said. “AETC will continue to offer Airmen essential quality of life programs such as the health and wellness center, the child development center and

morale, welfare and recreation programs.”

Fiquett also said the Air Force implemented the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness plan to reach audit readiness goals.

“Congress and the Secretary of Defense mandated the Department of Defense to achieve auditable financial statements, beginning with the Statement of Budgetary Resources in FY14,” the colonel said. “An independent auditor will come in, look at our books and provide an opinion on how well we allocate, spend and track dollars.

“This is an important first step for the DOD, particularly in light of the broader economic challenges facing the

American people and our charge to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars,” he added.

AETC continues to look for innovative ways to promote new ideas to deliver its mission as the command embarks on and embraces a culture of cost consciousness.

“We believe this period of resource constraints is not a time for hand-wringing and slowly dismantling the recruiting, education and training structure we have had in the past, but an opportunity to build a fundamentally different construct and structure for the future,” Rice said. “If we do it right, it will require less resources and be more effective.”

Inspirational performance



Photo by Kemberly Groue

The Keesler Inspirational Choir performed during the City of Biloxi tribute to Black History Month annual ceremony Feb. 23, at the Biloxi Civic Center. First Lt. Diandra Davis served as the mistress of ceremonies.



81st Training Wing

annual award winners



Master Sgt. Michael Smith
Senior noncommissioned officer



Tech. Sgt. Gary Hutcheson
Noncommissioned officer



Senior Airman Angelo Banks
Airman



John Cobb
Civilian category II supervisor



Senior Master Sgt. Joel Shepherd
First Sergeant



Michael Saucier
Civilian category I supervisor



Capt. Todd Matheny
Company Grade officer



Jose Fuertes
Civilian category II non-supervisor



Kelly Cloninger
Key Spouse



Master Sgt. Nicole Dismute
Mathies NCO Academy
noncommissioned officer



Master Sgt. Raun Howell
Mathies NCO Academy
senior noncommissioned officer



Tech. Sgt. Lagaydra Lawrence
Honor guard member

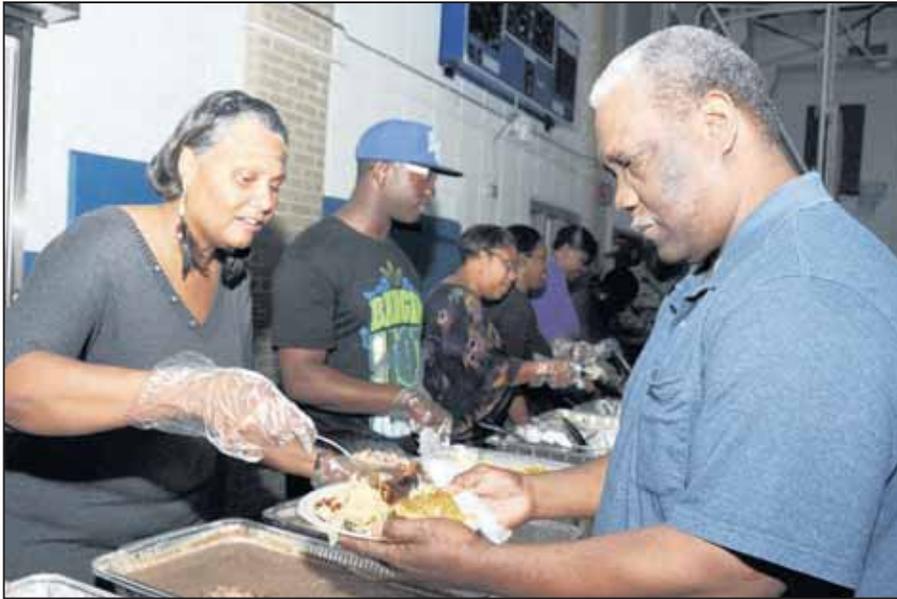


Michael Haney
Civilian category I
non-supervisor



2nd Lt. Afton Boudreaux
Honor guard program manager





A serving of soul



Photos by Kemberly Groue
Cynthia Lee, 334th Training Squadron, serves black-eyed peas to B.C. Atmore, 81st Medical Group, during the African-American Heritage Committee soul food sampling Friday at the youth center.

Airman 1st Class Kevin Donis and Airman Basic William McCarren, 336th Training Squadron, serve desserts.



Brigid Suter, child development center caregiver room lead, explains the planting process of the live oak tree to a few of the children in her class.



Keesler children celebrate trees on Arbor Day

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, and 4-to-5 year old children from the child development center, plant a Live Oak tree during an Earth Arbor Day ceremony Feb. 23.
Photos by Kemberly Groue



Developing Airmen key to success, says Roy

By Tech. Sgt.
Richard Williams, Jr.

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

ORLANDO, Fla. (AFNS) — Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy emphasized the evolution of training Airmen before a crowd of approximately 400 Airmen, industry officials and Air Force Association members here Feb. 24.

Roy, who spoke on the second day of the Air Force Association's 2012 Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition, told attendees that developing Airmen and working to unlock their full potential are keys to the success of the future force.

"We have great Airmen, we have a good process as to how we develop those Airmen and we need to evolve that process," Roy said.

With around 68 percent of Airmen in the Total Force

joining after Sept. 11, 2001, and with an average age of 21 years upon enlistment, Roy said these Airmen tend to be a bit more mature than recruits were 10 years ago, and they quickly get a different Air Force experience than the pre-9/11 force.

"In my view, we have the most combat hardened force that we have ever had," he said. "The experiences they have received over their tenure are certainly different than maybe mine over the last 30 years."

This means several challenges face leaders in today's Air Force, including how to train and mentor the 21st Century Airmen, many of whom have served on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Another significant challenge in today's Air Force is training Airmen in an effective, efficient manner using advanced technology, Roy said.

"Today's Airmen are digital natives," he said. "They know new technology, how it works, what it should look like and how it should interact."

"We have Airmen who are using this equipment, using laptops and other devices out on the airfield doing aircraft maintenance," he added.

These "digital natives" are certainly in tune with how to use the latest technology, and Roy is convinced the service can exploit that to better prepare Airmen to meet mission requirements.

Air Education and Training Command officials are looking into the concept of deploying training materials through electronic readers.

Airmen can already find promotion test study materials online, and Roy said Airmen are in many cases jumping at the chance to download these to their electronic devices.

"Some Airmen today get a

link to their CDC's and they have a choice of a hard copy or a soft (electronic) copy," Roy said.

Many opt for the electronic CDCs because they get them immediately, he added.

With this in mind, Air University and the Air War College are both providing electronic materials for distance learning to their students with some success. This could become a viable way to enhance professional military education not only for active-duty Airmen, but for Guardsmen and Reservists, of whom only 10 percent currently attend in-resident PME, Roy said.

"Digital media would allow everyone to get the most updated versions of material possible," Roy said, adding this would lead to earlier, more consistent exposure to Air Force institutional competencies, better preparing Airmen for mission requirements.

The use of new technologies could be a beneficial tool for developing Airmen from basic training until retirement, but Roy cautioned that it's not a fix-all.

Leaders must still use the proper mix of training and hands-on applications in order for Airmen to maintain their technological edge, said Roy.

"We have to make sure our Airmen are absolutely grounded in the idea of tactical expertise," Roy said. "Fundamentally that's who we are."

Reiterating earlier comments made by Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Schwartz, Roy said, "We are going to have a smaller force so we need to make sure our Airmen, the right Airmen, are at the right place at the right time, with the right skills."

Keesler's events calendar

Thursday, March 1

1 p.m. — Airman and Family Readiness center Post Deployment Brief at the Sablich Center room 108. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

3:30 p.m. — Wing enlisted promotion ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center 2nd floor ballroom.

4 p.m. — FOCUS Children's Story hour at McBride Library.

6 p.m. — Kumihimo Bracelet Class at the Arts and Crafts Center. Ages 10 and older. Cost: \$12.50.

Monday, March 5

5 p.m. — Coupon Basics Class at the Bay Breeze Community Center function rooms.

Tuesday, March 6:

9 a.m. — Airman and Family Readiness Center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center room 108.

— Separates preseparation counseling at the Sablich Center

room 110. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

1 p.m. — Retiree Preseparation Counseling every Tuesday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center conference room. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

— Anger Management at the Arnold Annex conference room every Tuesday for four weeks. Must begin class the first Tuesday of the month and commit to four classes.

Wednesday, March 7

7 a.m. — Newcomer's Orientation at the Sablich Center room 108B.

9:30 a.m. — Non-prior service Airmen separate rations briefing at the Levitow Airman and Family Readiness Center annex room 134 (also at 3:30 p.m.).

3 p.m. — Healthy thinking group at the Arnold Annex conference room every Wednesday. Must begin class the first Wednesday of the

month and commit to four weeks.

— Keesler Integrated Resource Team meeting at the Sablich Center room 108A.

Thursday, March 8

8 a.m. — Heart Link spouse orientation program at the Sablich Center room 108B. Call 228-376-8728.

1 p.m. — Airman and Family Readiness Center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center room 108.

Monday March 12:

8 a.m. — Department of Labor Employment Workshop at the Sablich Center room 108 A (March 12-14). Call 228-376-8728 to register.

Tuesday, March 13:

9 a.m. — Airman and Family Readiness Center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center room 108.

— Separates preseparation counseling at the Sablich Center room 110. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

1 p.m. — Retiree Preseparation Counseling every Tuesday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center conference room. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

— Anger Management at the Arnold Annex conference room every Tuesday for four weeks. Must begin class the first Tuesday of the month and commit to four classes.

Wednesday, March 14

10 a.m. — Children's Story Hour at the McBride Library.

3 p.m. — Healthy thinking group at the Arnold Annex conference room every Wednesday. Must begin class the first Wednesday of the month and commit to four weeks.

4:15 p.m. — Diamond Sharp Ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center third floor.

Keesler puts disease containment plan to test



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Senior Airman Ryan Wallace, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, signs in patients electronically during a disease contaminant plan exercise Feb. 23, at the Vandenberg Community Center.

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The exercise conducted Feb. 23 was designed to test the 81st Training Wing's Disease Containment Plan for mass prophylaxis point of dispensing and was a first for the Air Education and Training Command.

Mass prophylaxis is the ability to protect the health of the population by stopping the spread of disease during a public health emergency such as a plague.

The exercise scenario called for several 81st Training Group Airmen to have been sprayed with an unknown agent while attending the Feb. 21 Biloxi Mardi Gras parade. The next day, they reported to the student health clinic and 81st Medical Group emergency room with various symptoms. When test results showed an airborne disease had affected the Airmen, public health officials declared a public health emergency, which included Keesler. As a result, the scenario called for the 81st Medical Group to activate the disease containment plan and the decision was made to treat the base population with prophylaxis. A mass prophylaxis

POD was then set up at the Vandenberg Community Center in the Triangle.

"The DCP goal was to process 500 patients per hour through the POD. We exceeded that; I will put the final number who processed through the POD averaging at 720 per hour. We had almost 140 volunteer 'patients' from various 81st TRW units and the medical group as well as family members, including an infant," said Robert Tash, 81st Medical Support Squadron medical emergency manager for plans and exercises.

"Patients" cycled through the POD several times to meet the goal.

"The (81st Medical Support Squadron) Medical Logistics Team mobilized seven pallets of home-station medical response material specifically for this event. This included crowd-control and patient-flow equipment, easels, administrative supplies, medication-dispensing equipment, personal protective equipment and color-coded identification vests," Tash said.

Col. (Dr.) Paul Nelson, 81st MDG chief of aerospace medicine and public health emergency officer, advises the 81st TRW and 81st MDG commanders during situations when medical issues,

including disease, could impact the base's mission or the base population's health.

"The 81st TRW Exercise Evaluation Team provided outstanding support in advance exercise planning with our 81st MDG planners. The 81st TRG provided a large number of students to participate as role-player patients. The Vandenberg Community Center staff was essential and assisted with advance planning and making their building available for the POD. The 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron provided a forklift and flatbed truck and the 81st Security Forces Squadron furnished the medical group security team with metal detectors. And the 81st MDG supplied role-player volunteers and exercise participants," Tash said.

"This is an 81st TRW plan with medical support. It was a robust exercise in command and control and disease containment demonstrating the ability for medical personnel to rapidly provide medications to prevent the spread of serious public health threats. The exercise showed how well we work together," Nelson said.

Biloxi cadet wins Air Force scholarship

Cadet Col. Autrionne Monroe of the MS-781st Air Force Junior ROTC at Biloxi High School receives a letter from from retired Maj. Ed Butler for her selection as the 2012 Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action Program High School Cadet Leadership Award. This national award comes with a \$1,000 scholarship.

Monroe, daughter of Vanessa and Dennis Thompson, an Air Force retiree, is also a member of the Keesler Gospel Service at the Triangle Chapel. She plans to major in physical therapy at the University of South Alabama.

Courtesy Photo





SPORTS AND RECREATION

Youth soccer gets kicking



Three-year-old Jude Barber, son of Lindsay and Staff Sgt. Isaac Barber, 334th Training Squadron, kicks the ball down the field during a youth soccer game against the Kings, Saturday on the fields behind the Youth Center.



Seven-year-olds Mecquela Boggs and David Solomon defend the ball against Raloni Bonner during a game between the Knights and the Flyers five-to-seven year old youth soccer game. Mecquela's parents are Crystal and Tech. Sgt. Bryan Boggs, 338th TRS. David's parents are Devalynn and Lt. Col. Scott Solomon, 81st Training Group deputy commander. Raloni's parents are Angie and Staff Sgt. Reggie Bonner, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.



Twelve-year-old Austin Simek, son of Master Sgt. Joseph Simek, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, takes control of the ball from Kolbe Conger, 14, son of Alicia and Lt. Col. Nicholas Conger, 81st MDOS, during a game between Fire and the Knights eleven-to-fourteen year old youth soccer game.

Ilycia Perez, 10, and Deiondre Holmes, 8, scramble to get the ball from Austin Blankenship, 9, during a game between the Kings and Magic eight-to-ten year old youth soccer game Ilycia's parents are Natasha and Airman 1st Class Matthew Wilson, 338th TRS. Deiondre's parents are Inez and Staff Sgt. Quan Holmes, 81st Training Support Squadron. Austin's parents are Hope and Tech. Sgt. Daniyel Blankenship, 81st Infrastructure Division.





Running with a heart



Photo illustration by Kemberly Groue

Participants begin a 5K Heart run/walk Feb. 24, 2012, at the Blake Fitness Center. Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Jennings, 81st Mission Support Group superintendent, uses a blow horn to start the race. The race was in honor of Jennings who retired later that evening. First place winners were Mark and Kathy Roberts. Mark, who finished in 19:30 minutes, is with the Dental Squadron. Kathy Roberts who is Mark's wife finished in 21:20 minutes.





Run, teddy bear. Run!



Photo by Kemberly Groue
 More than 100 Airmen from the 81st Training Group participated in a Teddy Bear Run Saturday on the Ocean Springs/Biloxi Bridge. Over 250 stuffed bears were donated to the run, which will be given to the Keesler Hospital's pediatric clinic.





Lady Dragons place third overall in tournament



Erica Sims, team Mayport, plays defense against Keesler's Tomeika Washington, while Mayport's Nicole Bolden stands fast to protect the goal during a Southeastern Military Athletic Conference Women's basketball tournament game Saturday, in the Blake Fitness Center. Naval Station Mayport defeated Keesler 56-49. Keesler finished 3rd place in the tournament with 5 teams participating.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Lady Dragons Washington and Brittany Deichmann move the ball around the court as Mayport's Erica Sims plays defense.



Washington and Mayport's Sims stretch for a loose ball.