



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

APRIL 19, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 16



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drill-down pack

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ON THE COVER

Students and supporters of the 336th Training Squadron Red Wolves burst into cheers at the announcement of their overall victory at Friday's drill down behind the Levitow Training Support Facility. The 336th TRS won second place in drill down regulation, first in open ranks and first overall. Friday's competition was Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller's last as 81st Training Wing commander.

Photo by Adam Bond



DRAGONS THAT I MEET

John Lowe



Photo by Kemberly Groue

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

I would like to introduce you to John Lowe. He works in the airman and family readiness center as a community readiness technician. Mr. Lowe has been at Keesler since 1986 when he cared for people in the intensive care unit as a medical technician. In 1993, he retrained into medical logistics where he served for 10 years here at Keesler and one year at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea. Upon being accepted for a special duty assignment with the Keesler airman and family readiness center, he implemented several programs as the readiness NCO such as Operation Hero, deployed families Mardi Gras and many other events in support of Keesler families. Today, he continues to assist others when they need it most. He is an asset to the base and to the community.



TRAIN, CARE, INNOVATE — DEVELOPING COMBAT POWER FOR AIR, SPACE AND CYBERSPACE

Economic impact reflects Team Keesler's talent

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

Each year as a key component of our community relations program, our base public affairs office describes the economic impact of Keesler on south Mississippi. In 2011, it's estimated that Keesler's economic impact exceeds \$700 million. This total includes more than 1,400 civil service and 1,600 contractor jobs that provide more than \$200 million in annual salaries, in addition to more than \$150 million in purchasing through local vendors and contractors.

According to the Sun Herald, Keesler is the second largest employer in South Mississippi! This huge impact comes with important responsibilities to our surrounding communities that every member of

Team Keesler should understand and support whenever possible.

First, we should take every opportunity to describe to our community partners what we do at Keesler and why it's important to the mission of the United States Air Force. While the "Hurricane Hunters" and undergraduate cyberspace training are easily associated with our base, operating the only genetics laboratory in the Department of Defense is just one of the key components of our team. Everything we do is important, so take time and learn more about Keesler and be proud to tell folks everything our team does.

Second, Keesler is an outstanding base. In fact, in 2011 Keesler was recognized the best installation in Air Education and Training Command. Be proud of the heritage of this base and take the opportunity to showcase

our facilities to the members of our community. Get to know your unit's honorary commanders who represent our community partners and encourage them to be a part of your unit activities. Get involved in programs like next month's Mississippi Special Olympics that opens our installation to 1,500 athletes from around the state or the our biennial Air Show that offered more than 160,000 visitors a chance to watch "Angels over the Bay" in 2011.

Finally, make no mistake — we could not do our mission without the support of our community partners. Simply put, without our local community we would have no place to send our children to school! Take the time to be involved with programs in our neighboring communities. In 2011, Keesler's men and women contributed more than 300,000 hours of volunteer

work in the surrounding area. Each of us has talent and experience — get out and use these gifts as a part of our volunteer force in 2012.

There is more than \$700 million associated with Keesler's mission of Training, Caring and Innovating ... developing combat power for air, space and cyberspace. That economic impact is a reflection of the incredible dedication, talent and experience of each member of Team Keesler. You are the face of Keesler — let others know what you do and take pride in showcasing our base to our community neighbors. Keesler is an integral part of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and I hope you're proud to say, "I work at Keesler."

The 2011 economic impact numbers are on page 18.

Illustrator tells Keesler story through graphics

By Terry Lee

K-MAR Industries, Inc.

Like most of you, I get asked on occasion what it is that I do for a living. The simple answer is, "I am an illustrator." However, the simple answer doesn't really tell the whole story. What does an illustrator do, and why are illustrators a necessary part of the Air Force mission at Keesler?

As an illustrator, I provide support for the production of colorful posters, informative signs, charts, graphs and other visual aids that assist in communicating ideas and providing information. In addition, our graphics department offers the ability to mount these items on foam-core and laminate them, as well as applying a decorative and protective perimeter edge trim in a variety of colors and finishes.

My immediate employer is K-MAR Industries, Inc., the company contracted by the government operating under the Multimedia Support Services Contract. I work in the multimedia center at Wall Studio, which also houses

the public affairs offices. In fact, our contract falls under the public affairs umbrella, and it is through this group that KMI supports the public affairs mission, championing the Air Force story, through the services we provide. One of the aspects of my job that I enjoy the most is the opportunity to work with the men and women in public affairs; in my opinion, these are some of the finest people you will find in the U.S. Air Force.

Wall Studio is referred to as the multimedia center because, although as an illustrator my focus is on graphic design and static displays, multimedia incorporates all manners of visual and audio information to communicate its message. Therefore, in addition to the previous list of products my particular department supports, KMI also maintains the Keesler Commander's Access Channel, provides photography services, engraving of nameplates and signs, video documentation and full video production services. If you require such support for your official training or other mission essential



Photo by Adam Bond
Lee, aligns mounted poster displays for cutting at Wall Studio Friday. Creating visual displays is one of the many tasks Lee completes in his role as an illustrator. He also helps create colorful posters, informative signs, charts, graphs and other visual aids that assist in communicating ideas and providing information to Keesler personnel.

needs, the staff at Wall Studio is here for you.

So I guess the right answer to the question of what I do

for a living should be that I work for you; if you have a need for our services, or if you just want to stop by and learn

more about what it is we do here at Wall Studio, feel free to come see us. We'll be glad to help you.

Drill down season begins with Red Wolves win



Photos by Adam Bond

The 334th Training Squadron drill team members toss rifles to one another during their freestyle routine Friday on Keesler's drill pad.



Ben Paynter, 3, meets the 334th TRS Gator mascot with his father, David. The two are in town from Goldsboro, N.C. to visit Airman 1st Class Reese Paynter, 338th TRS. Though Airman Paynter is a Dark Knight, his father says Ben "likes the Gator better."



Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, addresses drill down competitors and attendees. Friday's drill down was Mueller's last at Keesler.



The 336th TRS mascot gets stealthy during drill down. The Red Wolves won the competition which included an open ranks inspection, regulation drill and freestyle drill categories.



Three trophies rest in front of the 336th TRS Red Wolves drill team. The team placed second in regulation drill, first in open ranks and first overall.

CCAF graduates 141 students in 36 specialties

By Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Today at the Bay Breeze Event Center, 141 Keesler members receive 153 associate's degrees from the Community College of the Air Force in 36 specialties.

Graduates are:

2nd Air Force:

Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Mann; Staff Sgt. April Green.

5th Operational Weather Squadron — Staff Sgt. Joshua Hjemvick.

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron — Tech. Sgt. Erica Shepherd.

81st Comptroller Squadron — Senior Airman Bryttanie Colletta.

81st Communications Squadron — Senior Airman Daniel Egert.

81st Dental Squadron — Staff Sgts. Lakeisha McKitchen and Amber Rachels; Senior Airman Aaron Betancourt.

81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron — Tech. Sgts. Kyle Grantham and Chad Robbins; Staff Sgts. Jennifer Minervine, Ian Riley and Wesley Wilkerson.

81st Force Support Squadron — Tech. Sgt. Alberto Trujillo; Staff Sgts. Crystal Connelly and Adrienne Russell-George; Senior Airman Sadie Barcroft.

81st Infrastructure Division — Staff Sgt. John Wright.

81st Inpatient Operations Squadron — Staff Sgt. Tanaessa Smaith; Senior Airman Sheene Giray.

81st Logistics Readiness Squadron — Staff Sgt. Isunte Barnes.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Tech. Sgt. William McMillan; Staff Sgts. Brandon Ailes, Kristin Nelson and Kayla Spiel; Senior Airmen Miranda Tomb and Randy Tuazon.

81st Medical Support Squadron — Staff Sgts. Aaron De Letoile and Andrea Jones.

81st Operations Support Flight — Staff Sgt. Leroy Simmons.

81st Security Forces Squadron — Staff Sgts. Bryan Fleming, Carrie Haroulakis, Chelsie McCall and Shannon Tessmer; Senior Airman Amanda Green.

81st Surgical Operations Squadron — Master Sgt. Pierre Vallee.

81st Training Support Squadron — Tech. Sgts. Jeffrey Dean and Scott Karter; Staff Sgts. Lester Naoe and Aaron Wilson.

81st Training Wing — Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Doriocourt.

85th Engineering Installation Squadron — Staff Sgt. Edward Perez; Senior Airman Benjamin Byers.

333rd Training Squadron — Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Mark Cleveland; Tech. Sgts. Stephen Ferguson, Danny Gargano, Phillip Harris, Ezra Holmes, Lasandra President, Charles Read, Jason Roberts, Michael Tucker and Dennis Wilson; Staff Sgt. Frank Meagher; Senior Airman Frank Rich.



334th TRS — Chief Master Sgt. Richard Boulanger; Tech. Sgts. Michael Fuelleman, Joseph Jeffers, and Bobbie Longe; Staff Sgts. Rachel Brinegar, Bryan Etzler, Marlene Jackson, Amanda Koldeway, Guy Miller, Magdalena Sousa and Shane Wilkinson.

335th TRS — Senior Master Sgt. Gleny Kevelier; Master Sgt. Corey Lockhart; Marine Staff Sgt. Matthew Cline; Tech. Sgts. Kerry Holmes and Joseph Overley; Staff Sgts. Travis Boyer, Edgar Casola, Steven Colletta, Teresa Davis, Myranda Decker, Andrea Dill, Angela Gaston, Shanon Gylquist, Ry Ottulich, Christopher Quattlebaum; Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Watkins and Senior Airman Richard Schuster.

336th TRS — Master Sgt. Rhonda Polanco; Tech. Sgt. Joseph Dill, Jaclynn Gaddis, Todd Quinn and Mark Sanders; Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Walker; Staff Sgts. Kenneth Black, Jason Blunt, Nathaniel Evans, Joshua Fuqua, Ashley Hadley, Mary Lewis and Jonathan Ransbottom.

338th TRS — Master Sgt. Joel Shepherd; Tech. Sgts. Robert Kerezsi and Jedediah Moss; Staff Sgts. Brandon Fidler, Shawn Johnson, Alexis Moreno, Andrew Pratt, Shaniqua Smith, Rachel Thompson and Amanda Wyatt.

345th Airlift Squadron — Senior Airmen Rich-

ard Griffin, Philip Hernandez and Bryan Skedgell.

366th TRS Detachment 6 — Tech. Sgt. Jeffery House; Staff Sgts. Michael Cousins, Scotty Gray, Brian Rugg and James Williams.

403rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron — Master Sgt. Matthew Leonard.

403rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron — Master Sgt. Jason Browne; Tech. Sgt. John Cotton.

403rd Civil Engineering Squadron — Master Sgt. Larry Tait; Senior Airman Kristina Kilpatrick.

403rd Communications Flight — Senior Master Sgt. Keith Gardner; Staff Sgt. Matthew Jones.

403rd Force Support Squadron — Tech. Sgt. Callie Jones.

403rd LRS — Tech. Sgt. Valerie Magee; Staff Sgt. Larie Johnson.

403rd Maintenance Squadron — Master Sgt. Benjamin Smith; Tech. Sgts. Schlania Bercaw and Latessa Birtner; Staff Sgts. Sean Delcambre, John Gafford and Patrick Williams; Senior Airmen Christopher King, Joseph Martinez-Hernandez and David Vennen.

403rd Wing — Tech. Sgt. Deblair Tate.

Air Force ROTC — Staff Sgt. Rasheedat Shinaba.

Mathies NCO Academy — Tech. Sgts. Michael Goodwin, Trey Horn, Michelle Moss and Becky Patterson.

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Innovations, waste reduction sought for Earth Day

By Jenniger Schneider

Air Force Civil Engineering
and the Environment Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — In its 42nd year, Earth Day provides an international opportunity every April 22 to voice appreciation for the planet and unite for a sustainable future.

Across the Air Force, installations are taking measures to enhance sustainability in support of the Earth Day theme, “Conserve Today. Secure Tomorrow,” but Air Force leaders hope a campaign seeking new innovations will provide even greater results.

“I call upon every Airman to re-think how we approach waste in the Air Force,” said Terry Yonkers, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics. “As the Air Force becomes leaner, we need to reduce the burden of waste disposal costs that impact our budget. Ask yourself what you can do to be a little greener and leaner in your workplace.”

To help emphasize the importance of individual efforts, the Air Force recently launched a “Blue Acts of Green” social media campaign, during which Airmen and their families are encouraged to commit to perform an environmentally friendly practice at home or work. During the campaign, which began Monday and runs through April 27, people can visit the Facebook site at www.facebook.com/blueactsofgreen to enter their “green” act. Officials will monitor the inputs in search of innovations that can be put into practice Air Force-wide.

This year, the Air Force is highlighting pollution prevention efforts, as organizations look for ways to minimize waste and reduce operating expenses. Air Force officials emphasize there is always more that can be done, and it takes a concerted effort from all members of the team.

Across the force, installations



are taking aggressive strides to enhance sustainability and cut costs. Many endeavors involve modifying current processes to include innovative, environmentally friendly technologies.

The Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, is leading efforts to reduce the pollutants and heavy metals currently involved in stripping paint from Air Force aircraft. The robotic “de-painting” system uses a laser as an effective and environmentally safe alternative to existing processes, said Tom Naguy, senior program manager for environment and energy in AFRL’s materials and manufacturing directorate, who is overseeing the project.

While the Air Force has been working with laser and robotics systems for the maintenance of aircraft parts since the 1990s, the focus is now on systems that can handle entire aircraft, Naguy said.

Use of the technology has been estimated to reduce the number of hours spent on the process by as much as 75 percent, he said.

In addition to the time and material savings, the process also generates only a fraction of the hazardous materials when compared to the traditional process, not only reducing risk to the workers involved, but also dramatically reducing hazardous waste disposal costs, Naguy said.

Strategic reuse of products and materials is another way the

Earth Day events at Keesler

Keesler’s environmental division, recycling services and friends across the Mississippi Gulf Coast will be at the exchange and commissary from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday to share information about conservation, environmental health and opportunities to enjoy the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Visiting with Keesler on Earth Day are:

Infinity Science Center at Stennis Space Center — Representatives from Infinity will share information and answer questions about the science center and the By-Ways to Space program which opened April 12. Infinity challenges children, youth and adults to participate in learning about earth, water and space.

Wolf River Conservation Society will tell their story about how they have preserved the 90-mile pristine Wolf River by purchasing easements and property along the river banks.

They currently control about 50 percent of the waterfront along the river and work with property owners to converse the river banks. Wolf River Canoes is offering a special military discount April 28, and will provide a guided tour of the Wolf River and details on how the Wolf River Conservation Society has preserved this watershed. Call Wolf River Canoes at 228-452-7666 for reservations.

Gulf Regional Planning Commission will present information about the impact of idling your car while waiting for your children at school or in-line at the drive through may have impacts on your health. Additionally, representatives from GRPC will be in the classroom at Jeff Davis Elementary School on Keesler Earth Day to work with fifth graders on steps they can take to protect air quality.

Stop by and visit with these organizations at the exchange Tuesday.

Air Force is trimming costs and controlling its waste stream.

Hill Air Force Base, Utah, is implementing additional ways to save money and simultaneously reduce hazardous waste disposal. According to Guy Whalen, environmental representative for the Commodities Maintenance Group there, engineers have implemented solvent filtration systems that allow multiple reuse of cleaning solvents used for aircraft parts.

“There are acquisition cost savings associated with not having to purchase as much new solvent which costs \$1,500 per 55-gallon drum,” said Debbie Hall, environmental scientist of the environmental pollution prevention team at Hill. “Being able to filter and reuse solvents also saves in not having to dispose of as much spent solvent, which costs \$350 per 55-gallon drum for each of the five solvent recycling units we have on base.”

The Air National Guard’s 187th Fighter Wing in Alabama successfully conserved energy by recovering all of its contaminated JP-8 fuel for use in aircraft ground equipment, said Lt. Col. Elmer Norvell, base civil engineer there.

Even seemingly small chang-

es can have a large impact.

Implementation of a moving box exchange service at Fairchild Air Force Base Wash., resulted in the reuse of six tons of moving boxes and a savings of \$5,000 for base personnel.

Substituting nonhazardous and environmentally friendly materials for hazardous ones is another way the service is going green. Such product replacements not only create a healthier environment for Airmen, but also reduce the need for hazardous material disposal.

For example, a conversion from steel brake assemblies to carbon brakes on KC-135 aircraft at Fairchild led to a reduction in hazardous waste. According to Senior Airman Kera Tracy, aircraft hydraulics system journeyman from the 92nd Maintenance Squadron, the pucks used in steel brake assemblies consist of many metals including arsenic, cadmium, lead, copper, zinc and selenium. Some of these metals are very hazardous and can cause major health concerns in addition to environmental contamination.

“We discovered the impact the brake repair had on the environment when our mop water was tested and found to have high levels of cadmium,”

Tracy said. “Our mop water then became hazardous waste and a program was made in the shop for proper disposal.”

Between 2005 and 2006, the base began the process to convert to carbon brake assemblies and now all of the KC-135s are equipped with the new brakes, she said.

“Because the plates on the carbon brakes are not made up of any heavy or toxic metals, they do not have such a hard impact on the environment,” Tracy said. “Since converting to the new carbon brake assemblies, our mop water has been tested and deemed no longer hazardous to the environment.”

Members of the 187th FW reduced their hazardous waste generation by 40 percent over the past two years through purchase of efficient pollution prevention equipment, product substitutions and process modifications. For example, substituting vinyl stenciling for aerosol paints led to a decrease in hazardous waste and associated health hazards, Norvell said.

Visit the Air Force Earth Day website at www.af.mil/earthday.asp for more information, resources and tips.

29 athletes selected for Warrior Games team

By Eric Grill

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO — Twenty-nine Air Force athletes will compete for gold after being chosen to represent the service at the 2012 Warrior Games.

Warrior Games is an Olympic-style event open to all wounded, ill and injured military members and veterans. This year's event takes place April 30 through May 5 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The Air Force team will compete against teams from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard. Additionally, 20 volunteers from the United Kingdom's Armed Forces will also compete as guest athletes.

Athletes for the 2012 Air Force team are:

Maj. Scott Bullis, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Maj. Gregg Rich, Robins AFB, Ga.

Retired Maj. Gwendolyn Sheppard, Brown Deer, Wis.

Capt. Anthony Simone, Chicago, Ill.

Retired Capt. Adam Tanverdi, Potomac Falls, Va.

1st Lt. Ryan McGuire, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Damian Orslene, Ocean Springs, Miss.

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Sanders, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Noel Sepulveda, Severn, Md.

Retired Senior Master Sgt. George Stiltner, Wilburton, Okla.

Master Sgt. Christopher Aguilera, Nellis AFB, Nev.

Retired Master Sgt. Kimberly Bradshaw, Yorktown, Va.

Retired Master Sgt. Kenneth Gestring, Ocean Springs, Miss.

Master Sgt. Benjamin Horton, Peterson AFB, Colo.

Retired Tech. Sgt. Corey Carter, Columbus, Ohio

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Murphy, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

Tech. Sgt. Kathryn Robinson, March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

Tech. Sgt. Keith Sekora, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Wolff, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Retired Tech. Sgt. William Wymore, St. Charles, Mo.

Former Staff Sgt. Claude Owens, Beavercreek, Ohio

Retired Staff Sgt. Stacey L. Pearsall, Goose Creek, S.C.

Former Staff Sgt. Elmer Sanders, California City, Calif.

Retired Staff Sergeant Jack Shaw, Marine on the Croix, Minn.

Retired Staff Sgt. Kevin Taylor, Satellite Beach, Fla.

Retired Senior Airman Kendell Madden, Destin, Fla.

Former Senior Airman Jeffrey Odom, San Diego

Retired Senior Airman Jennifer Stone, Denver

Retired Airman 1st Class Ramina Orah, Chicago.

The Warrior Games was



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeremy Lock
Capt. Anthony Simone (front) and Ramina Orah, a retired senior airman (back left) train with their coaches on their cycles March 29, while at the Air Force Academy, Colo., during the Air Force Wounded Warrior Games selection camp.

created in 2010 as an introduction to Paralympic sports for injured service members and veterans.

This year's team is nearly a 50/50 mix of veteran players and rookies. Their disabilities range from post-traumatic stress disorder to traumatic brain injury, quadriplegia, kidney disease and leg amputation. The team members will compete in seven sports -- wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, archery, swimming, track and field, shooting and cycling.

"The goal of Warrior Games and the Air Force's Adaptive Sports Program is to inspire wounded warriors

to reach for and achieve a rich and productive future," said Col. Sandra Adams, Air Force Services Agency commander. "We also show them through these types of competitions they can defeat their illness or injury and maximize their abilities to have a rich and fulfilling life beyond what has happened to them in service to their nation."

Maj. James Bales, 2010's Air Force Male Athlete of the Year, from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., will coach the 2012 team.

The games are not about medals but helping wounded warriors recover from injury,

Bales said when he was selected to be the Air Force's 2012 Warrior Games head coach.

"At the end of the day, it is about looking back and seeing how far wounded warriors have come and celebrating their triumph over their injuries," he said. "Warrior Games is about each wounded warrior competing at the best of his or her ability."

For more information about the 2012 Warrior Games, visit 2012 Warrior Games. For more information about Air Force wounded warriors, visit www.woundedwarriors.af.mil.

81 CONS wins 'Outstanding Contracting Unit'

By Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney
Keesler Public Affairs

Keesler's 81st Contracting Squadron won the Air Force Outstanding Contracting Unit Award in the small unit category April 9.

"We strive for the catch-phrase, 'That Must Be 81 CONS,'" said Lt. Col. Jonathan Wright, 81st CONS commander. "If we deliver awesome contracting support to the point that a customer notices we've made a difference for his or her unit and says 'That [difference] Must Be 81 CONS', then we have scored. Also, if you see

an Airman provide the best possible representation of the Air Force and wonder what unit he or she is from, we strive for the answer 'That Must Be 81 CONS.'"

In 2011, the 81st CONS saved the Air Force millions of dollars through innovation and resource management. They crafted a new method of evaluating the contract oversight for 57 service contracts, developed training on performance-price tradeoffs and have several pending best practices, four of which have already been approved.

"Our folks are encouraged to ask 'Why?' By asking a "why" question,

one of two things will result: either education from a justifiable answer, or change," Wright said. "Both outcomes to a "why" question are great results. With a squadron full of open-minded, motivated, and energetic professionals, there is no limit to the good that will result from asking "why" on a whole range of issues such as processes that we use to support customers, policies that exist, and changes that we may apply to improve effectiveness and efficiency."

In fiscal year 2011, 23 percent of the squadron personnel won an award at the group, wing or AETC levels. Through-

out the past year, the squadron sent 2 civilians to Squadron Officer School. Also the squadron averaged 90.1 percent on the first level of their career development courses.

"I am genuinely appreciative that the awesome efforts of the men and women of 81 CONS were recognized by the Air Staff," Wright said. "Ever since my first month, back in June 2010, I sensed a degree of teamwork and camaraderie that is so real, you can almost touch it. I see this teamwork extend outside the squadron to how our squadron members interact with and support our customer and higher headquarters."

PME instructors prepare Airman for leadership

By Senior Airman Eric Summers Jr.

Keesler Public Affairs

Editor's Note: This is the third in a series about people at Keesler in special duty positions outside of their primary Air Force specialty code.

A team is only as strong as its weakest member, but a team's potential is also limited by its strongest leader. One special duty provides current and future supervisors with the tools to become better leaders.

Enlisted professional military education instructors, a special duty position at the Mathies Noncommissioned Officers Academy and Keesler Airman Leadership School, help groom Airmen to be leaders by building the foundations for critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

"As instructors, we make sure we have all curriculum available and ensure students have everything they need to be successful," said Master Sgt. John Mitchell, Mathies NCO Academy instructor and superintendent of curriculum and test data analysis. "We lead them in class discussions, prepare them for drill and ceremony and provide an environment for learning."

The Mathies NCO Academy trains and develops technical sergeants to become leaders and attendance to an NCO Academy or equivalent course is a requirement for promotion to master sergeant. Airman Leadership School develops senior airmen to become supervisors and is required for promotion to staff sergeant.

"The Air Force has said that PME is important and provides leadership, discussion and all the lessons that come together to increase awareness and refine tools to be more effective at leading Airmen," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Nolen, Mathies NCO Academy commandant.



Senior Airman Benjamin Byers, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, far left, guides a blindfolded Senior Airman Emily Zanes, 81st Medical Support Squadron, through a balloon "minefield." The activity is part of a series of airman leadership school exercises to enhance communication skills.

Nolen fills one of only 11 positions in the Air Force in charge of an NCO Academy and is responsible for selecting instructors, communicating needs of the academy to the Barnes Center at Gunter Annex, Ala., and sharing time with students.

"One of the best parts of this job is developing the staff here and mentoring them," Nolen said. "My desire is for them to have their experience here be the best possible and be prepared to lead Airmen better after they leave."

The impact that instructors

here have on students is portrayed in the leadership capabilities of the Airmen when they return to 20 different bases.

Mitchell said that NCO Academy instructors have students for six weeks. By the end of the course, he can see the light bulbs come on as students

use thinking processes. He hopes the theories they learn are passed on to their subordinates.

"PME is a great way to develop a thinking process, leadership, conflict management and another perspective on how to handle things," said Mitchell.

Nolen said that enlisted

PME instructors are absolutely instrumental and helped shape his career path when he attended ALS here at Keesler in April 1994.

"Staff Sgt. Gordon Blighton was my ALS instructor and had a tremendous impact on me. Because of him I decided

Photos by Adam Bond



Tech. Sgt. Adrienne Russell-George, airman leadership school instructor, reacts to Senior Airman Alex Hand's, 85th EIS, response to the solution of a communications exercise. Senior Airman Benjamin Byers, right, gave oral instructions to draw a shape provided only to him and the class attempted to recreate the original shape.

to become an ALS instructor," the chief said. "Looking back over those years, they were the most fulfilling six years of my career." The influence of the instructor and hard work led Nolen to accomplishing his career goal of being an NCO Academy commandant.

Mitchell said that since he became an enlisted PME instructor, he's not only taught students but learned from them as well, viewing a wider spectrum of the Air Force as a whole.

"As an NCO instructor you get out of your comfort zone," Mitchell said. "I teach crew chiefs, medical, air traffic controllers, special forces (and many other jobs)," Mitchell said. "You get their perspectives on the Air Force and what they do, which provides a bigger picture and prepares me to be a better leader."



Tech. Sgt. Alberto Trujillo, airman leadership school instructor, shows Senior Airman Michael Coblentz, 81st Training Wing, the solutions to a group communications exercise in which students attempt to redraw a shape solely from the instruction of a classmate. Enlisted professional military instructors fill a special duty position that teaches Airmen the skills necessary to be effective leaders.

Wing releases 2011 economic impact numbers

Keesler Public Affairs

The 81st Training Wing released Keesler's 2011 fiscal year economic impact on South Mississippi's regional economy. Here is a snapshot of Keesler's fundamental operations.

Technical training

Since 1941, Keesler has graduated more than 2.2 million students, hosting top-tier graduate, undergraduate and technical training facilities supporting all four services. Today's training specialties include cyber operations, computer/communication systems, electronics, air traffic control, weather, personnel, finance and force support.

First class health care

The 81st Medical Group provides quality, cost-effective health care for more than 27,000 enrollees, including almost 7,500 active-duty members in a 40-mile prime service area. The hospital offers 60 services and education programs with a staff of more than 1,600 military and civilian members and partners with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the University of Mississippi Medical Center and local area hospitals. The 81st MDG operates the only genetics lab and the second largest catheter lab in the Department of Defense.

Keesler's flying missions

The 403rd Wing, the Air Force Reserve flying unit, is home to the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron "Hurricane Hunters," the only DOD unit tasked to organize, equip, train, and perform weather reconnaissance. The 815th Airlift Squadron "Flying Jennies," and the 345th Airlift Squadron shattered mission records by moving 5.6 million tons of cargo in 81 missions in Afghanistan. They are the Air Force's first integrated C-130J active associate unit.

Community support

- Celebrating 26 years hosting the Mississippi Special Olympics Summer Games
- 2011 "Angels Over the Bay" air show drew a record audience of 160,000 visitors to Keesler.



Standard Economic Impact

The Standard Economic Impact Statement includes payroll, contracts and secondary jobs created as set forth in procedure directed by Headquarters, Air Force. Below is Keesler's 2011 fiscal year data:

Payroll — Military

	Manpower	Payroll
Total*	8,038	\$178,841,743

* Includes student population and reservists who may not reside in the local area.

Payroll — Civilian Personnel

	Manpower	Payroll
Civil Service	1,468	\$125,022,831
Non-Tax Funded	391	\$9,313,163
BX	360	\$6,270,000
Contract	1,620	\$70,424,062
Other	392	\$15,640,224
Total	4,231	\$226,670,280

Purchasing — local vendors/contractors

Construction	\$63,452,443
Services	\$38,033,407
Commissary/BX	\$23,028,233
Health care	\$9,765,120
School impact aid/tuition assistance	\$999,718
Other (material/equipment/supplies)	\$1,461,993
Lodging	\$14,797,526
Total	\$151,538,441
Secondary Jobs Created	\$148,000,181

Economic Impact *\$705,050,645

Mississippi state standard economic multiplier* — An accepted principal where initial dollars expended are re-spent again and again, creating jobs and income for businesses and other workers. A multiplier is used to determine the greater economic impact of Keesler's expenditures. *Standard Economic Impact with multiplier 1.9 percent (excludes retiree payroll and community services)

FY 2011: *\$1,178,674,421

Community Involvement

Standard Economic Impact Statement plus:

Military retiree population

Ala.: 6,629	Miss: 13,637	La.: 11,800	Total: 30,619
Military retiree annuitants:			57,719

Military-affiliated on coast

Keesler military/ civilian employees	12,269
Keesler military family members	2,849
Keesler's total extended population	103,456
Total students enrolled in local colleges	1,238

DOD Students Enrolled in Public Schools

Biloxi	699
Harrison County	686
Ocean Springs	433
Gulfport	346
Long Beach	310
Jackson County	295
Total	2,769

Community College of the Air Force	368
Volunteer hours in community	303,342
Combined Federal Campaign total	\$186,370
Air Force Assistance Fund total	\$66,014

Total Economic Impact: \$1.1 Billion

Keesler snapshot

Daily student load	3,800
Annual student load	22,392
81 Medical Group/VA patients served	6,015
403rd Wing flying sorties	3,103
Airmen deployed	505
Physical assets (billions of dollars)	\$2.4

Keesler dentist wins award at 'Hinman' meeting



By Steve Pivnick
81st Medical Group Public Affairs

A member of the 81st Dental Squadron Advanced Education in General Dentistry one-year residency program was recognized at the prestigious Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting March 22-24 in Atlanta, the program's 100th anniversary.

Capt. (Dr.) Thomas Heidenreich, who received his dental degree from the University of Iowa, received a "Best in Show" award for his presentation during the session.

Col. (Dr.) Roy Marlow, deputy director of the AEGD-

1 program, explained, "Our AEGD-1 residents participate in the three-day conference every March. They usually attend four or five continuing education class to expand their knowledge base. The sessions cover dental topics ranging from materials to practice management.

A major part of the Hinman conference is the presentation of table clinics, which provide continuing education credit to the general dental participants."

The colonel noted, "There are approximately 20 presenters at every continuing education segment, two segments per

day during the conference, and a committee votes for a 'Best in Show' for each segment."

He continued, "Our 10 residents began preparing their individual projects in October. They first collected data, did research and documentation on their chosen topic. After procuring photographs about the subject, each created a story board. A staff dentist reviewed their information and by January they completed their drafts. Each then sent their draft to the Wall Studio graphics staff who provided wonderful support."

Courtesy Photo
Heidenreich stands with his award for "best in show" and the winning presentation at the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting. The conference, March 22-24 in Atlanta, marked the program's 100th anniversary. Sessions covered dental topics ranging from materials to practice management.

KEESLER NOTES

MarriageCare Retreat

The MarriageCare retreat will be held this weekend at the Riverview Plaza Renaissance Hotel in Mobile, Ala.

MarriageCare provides couples an opportunity to take time out for their relationship. It is not designed to fix marriages, but to encourage couples to build a healthy marriage. The retreat is open to any couple, but priority will be given to active duty deployers and redeployers. There are slots for 15 couples. The retreat is free with rooms and meals provided.

To sign up, call the chapel at (228) 377-4859. The chapel will provide transportation if needed.

Magic show

The 81st Training Wing Chapel and Airman and Family Readiness are sponsoring a magic show for deployed families, 6 p.m. April 27 at the Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom.

This event is open those whose military members are currently deployed, those who have just returned or getting ready for upcoming deployments.

Due to limited space, the

first 200 individuals who pick up tickets from Tech. Sgt. Marcus Hogsten, family readiness specialist in Room 127 at the Sablich Center will be able to enjoy this free event.

A continental dinner is served from 6-6:45 p.m. At 7 p.m., humorist and entertainer Matt Fore will perform.

Awards luncheon

The 81st Training Wing quarterly awards luncheon is at 11 a.m. April 26 at the Bay Breeze event center.

Tickets are \$13 for Air Force club members and \$15 for non-members. Ticket purchases are due to group award representatives by April 19.

Sports physicals

The 81st Medical Operations Squadron Pediatric Clinic staff encourages parents to schedule their children now for sports physicals for the next school year.

The clinic is offering more availability for these exams by appointment only to prevent a large influx of requests traditionally experienced in August and September.

Appointments will be booked with the child's primary care manager to support the Patient Centered Medical Home initiative.

Call appointment services at 1-800-700-8603 to schedule an appointment.

TRICARE location

The TRICARE Service Center, currently located on Pass Road, moved to 284 DeBuys Road April 2.

To reach the new location from the White Avenue gate, turn right (west) on Highway

90, travel 6.7 miles and turn right on DeBuys Road. Drive another 0.8 miles and the service center is on the right.

From the Pass Road gate, drive 2.3 miles west on Pass Road and turn left on DeBuys Road. The service center is on the left.

The TRICARE Service Center telephone number is 1-800-444-5445. It's open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Keesler Thrift Shop

The Keesler Thrift Shop, operated by the Keesler Spouses' Club, is at the corner of Meadows Drive and First Street. Profits benefit base and area charities and provide scholarships. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Consignments are accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays. Visit www.keeslerspousesclub.com for more information and a list of preferred donations. Pickup is available for bulk donations. For more information, call 228-377-3217.

Keesler Events Calendar

Today

1 p.m. — Tear vase class at the arts and crafts center. Cost is \$20 per person.

— Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

3:30 p.m. — Community College of the Air Force graduation at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Saturday

9 a.m. — Operation Hero for ages 5-17. For more information call 228-376-8728.

6 p.m. — Kid's night out at the arts and crafts center. Cost is \$25 per person. Today is the registration deadline.

Sunday

9 a.m. — Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

— Separatees preseparation counseling at the Sablich Center in 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.

Tuesday

9 a.m. — Airman and family readiness center post

deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

— Separatees preseparation counseling at the Sablich Center in Room 110. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

Noon — Truths and myths of supplements class at the health and wellness center.

1 p.m. — Retiree preseparation counseling every Tuesday at the airman and family readiness center conference room. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

6:30 p.m. — World War II veterans honor flight welcome home event at the Gulfport Airport.

April 26

11 a.m. — 81st Training Wing quarterly awards luncheon at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

1 p.m. — Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

7 p.m. — Glow golf tournament at the Bay Breeze Golf Course in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness month.

April 27

9 a.m. — "Drunk Sex or Date Rape?" presentation at the Welch theater. (Showings also at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.).

10:30 a.m. — Ceramic

mold pouring class at the arts and crafts center. Cost is \$25 per person.

6 p.m. — Ladies night at the arts and crafts center.

— Magic show hosted by the chapel for deployed families. For more information call 228-377-4105.

May 1

9 a.m. — Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

— Separatees preseparation counseling at the Sablich Center in Room 110. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

Noon — Truths and myths of supplements class at the health and wellness center.

1 p.m. — Retiree preseparation counseling every Tuesday at the airman and family readiness center conference room. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

3:30 p.m. — 81st Training Wing enlisted promotion ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

May 2

7 a.m. — Newcomer's orientation at the Sablich Center Room 108B.

1 p.m. — "Art for Wee" class for children 2-5 years old and their guardians at the arts and crafts center.

Keesler, DEA offer 'Take-Back Day' to prevent misuse of prescriptions

By Master Sgt. Holly McCune
81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron

The 81st Training Wing and Drug Enforcement Administration join forces to offer the Keesler community an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft through a prescription drug "Take-Back Day" program 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 28 at the exchange main entrance.

All Department of Defense beneficiaries are encouraged to bring medications for disposal and rid their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. The service is free and anonymous. Controlled, non-controlled and over-the-counter medications will be accepted. However no syringes, needles, opened vials or anything with blood-borne pathogens may be included.

According to a DEA news release, last October, Americans turned in 377,086 pounds — 188.5 tons — of prescription drugs at nearly 5,400 sites operated by the DEA and more than 3,000 state and local law enforcement partners. When the results of the three take-

back days to date are combined, the DEA and its state, local and tribal law-enforcement and community partners have removed 995,185 pounds (498.5 tons) of medication from circulation in the past 13 months.

The release continued, "This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines — flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash — both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Local law enforcement agencies and the DEA plan to hold prescription drug take-back events every few months.

Runners raise alcohol awareness with 5-K run



Photos by Adam Bond

Runners in the National Alcohol Awareness 5K Run at Keesler receive final updates about the course prior to start.



Geoffrey Sasaki, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, displays the running shoes of his friend, Bill Gasparrini, who recently died of cancer. Sasaki ran the National Alcohol Awareness 5K run in his honor, carrying the shoes with him and placed first overall with a time of 20:25. Sasaki won the race pushing his son Carson, 6, and daughter Alexandra, 3, in a double stroller.

333rd TRS wins volleyball championship



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Elaine Smith, 333rd Training Squadron, bumps the ball over the net as her teammates, Rudy Dacqual and Jason Ylagan, stand ready to assist.



Chargualaf, 81st Diagnostic and Therapeutics Squadron, dives for the ball while her teammates, Mark Lagman and Geoffrey Sasaki, 81st MDTs, prepare to back her up during the intramural volleyball championship game Monday, at the Blake Fitness Center. The 81st MDTs defeated the 333rd Training Squadron with a best three out of five win.

Keesler medics join Bataan Memorial March

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Four “Dragon Medics” and several family members were among the almost 7,000 participants in the 23rd annual Bataan Memorial Death March held March 25 at New Mexico’s White Sands Missile Range.

They were Nelson Viniegra and Nicholas Conger, 81st Medical Operations Squadron; Norites Bittig, 81st Dental Squadron; and Ashley Beaty, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron. Each had a personal reason to take part.

This was the fourth Bataan march for Viniegra, a dermatology clinic nurse. “The Bataan march is one of my favorite runs. I was in the civilian light category and my time was 7:21:32.”

Beaty, a medical administrative technician in the 81st MSGS command section, completed 15 miles of the full marathon before encountering a medical issue. It was the first time for her and she was in the military heavy category.

Conger, chief of infectious diseases, said, “My wife’s nephew, Sgt. Christopher Sanders, died fighting in Iraq (a booby-trapped house in Sinsil, Iraq, on Jan. 9, 2008). Her family lives in Roswell, N.M., and a friend of theirs recommended they participate in the march to remember his sacrifice as well as others who fought before him. There were about 40 family and friends who did the march with T-shirts bearing Christopher’s photo. This is her extended family’s fourth or fifth year and my family’s second year to do the march.

“I participated as a ‘civilian light’ and ran my first marathon. I placed 25th in my age group (over 40) and 85th overall with a time of 4 hours, 30 minutes. My son Kolbe, 14, walked the marathon for the second year. My son Christian, 12, and daughters Julia, 11, and Olivia, 9, and wife Alicia completed the 14-mile memorial walk. Olivia was the youngest female to participate, as she turned 9 five days before the event (9 is the minimum age). My mother-in-law, Margaret Rodriguez, was the oldest female, placing second in the 26.2-mile marathon at the age of 74!”

He added, “We were honored to meet a survivor of the actual death march at dinner the night before. Also, we were moved and impressed by how many wounded warriors participated in the event, many with lower-extremity prostheses.”

Norites was in the military heavy

category and finished in 10:04:50 while carrying a 43-pound rucksack.

Explaining her motivation, she said, “During my deployment last year, I drafted my 2012 calendar of activities; I scheduled myself to do something almost every weekend. The Bataan Memorial Death March is a major challenge I set and the rest fall under the ‘just for fun’ category.

“I participated in the Bataan Memorial Death March simply because it’s a 30th birthday challenge that I set for myself. I registered under the military heavy category (minimum of a 35-pound rucksack). When I clicked the registration ‘submit button,’ I already was nervous because I knew it would be tough. Last year, when I did the march in the military light category, I was in a lot of pain and ended with 11 blisters. I knew the pain probably would be 10 times worse than last year. Before the march, I texted my contacts and posted a message on Facebook for my friends to call or text me because I would need their motivation and encouragement, especially towards the end, to finish the march.

“The event started with what was for me an emotional ceremony. When the signal was given to start marching, I just focused and told myself repeatedly that I would cross the finish line, no matter what. I was doing great until reaching the first hill; I thought my lungs would collapse. Halfway up, I had to stop for the first time and just laid down on the side of the road to rest. I almost gave up. I think I was only in Mile 11 at that point but I remembered what was written on my bandana: ‘Unless you faint, puke or die, KEEP MOVING!’ So, I got up and continued marching. The farther I walked, the heavier my rucksack got. Every mile, I made it a point to stop and rest for at least a minute or two.

“At Mile 15, I received a phone call from Martha Prieto (81st Medical Group) who made sure I was hydrating and eating my oranges and bananas. Most of all, she motivated me to keep going. I also received phone calls and messages from friends and family which really helped a lot. At Mile 20, I felt a blister pop on my left heel and it was so painful. Actually, my whole body was in pain. I walked slower and it seemed everybody was passing me. After that, I stopped two or three times every mile. On one stop, I almost gave up for the second time and complained that this was too tough.”

Then she thought of those who were in



Photo by Airman 1st Class Daniel Liddicoet
Participants in the Bataan Memorial Death March begin their trek through the sand March 25. The event included both a full marathon and a 15.2-mile honorary march.

the actual death march.

“They didn’t have power bars, energy drinks, energy candies, Gatorade, bananas, oranges, cookies, etc. They didn’t receive phone calls and text messages motivating them to finish the march or rest when they needed to. Most of all, I’m only marching 26.2 miles while they were forced to march more than a hundred miles. I told myself I had no right to complain, got up and continued to walk. After Mile 22, I didn’t stop to rest and just kept going. I was ready to get the march over with. I tried my best to mentally block all the pain. Finally, I saw the Mile 26 marker. I was so happy; I only had 2/10 of a mile more to go. Yet, it felt like it was the longest 2/10 of a mile I’d walked.

“And I did it! I crossed the finish line! My rucksack officially weighed 43 pounds, not including my water. I was so happy and proud of myself because I successfully completed my challenge. I ended up with nine nasty, big blisters and was so sore for several

days. I literally had to crawl the first night after the march.

“Will I do it again next year? I might do it in the military or civilian light category. The pain that I went through is a great factor to consider when it comes to deciding if I would enter the military heavy class again. It was tough and painful.”

Norites has some advice for anyone contemplating joining in the march.

“Train. Read the testimonies or talk to those who participated in the past. Ensure you’re hydrated. Bring a lot of energy bars, candy and camel pack (for back-up). Drink water and sports drinks at every water station. (I drank two cups each of water and sports drinks at every stop.) Eat bananas and oranges too. Bring some packets of salt just in case you get muscle cramps. Have good, comfortable boots. Most of all, you will need lots of will power and determination to finish the march. Good luck!”. For more information, go to <http://www.bataanmarch.com>