



# KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

APRIL 26, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 17



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## 81st Training Wing Public Affairs

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## ON THE COVER

Six-year-old Eathen Bunce, son of Master Sgt. James and Tech. Sgt. Caroline Bunce, 81st Dental Squadron, gets up-close and personal with an M240 Bravo weapon with the assistance of Staff Sgt. Richard Gibbs, 81st Security Forces Squadron, during Operation Hero Saturday.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## DRAGONS THAT I MEET

### Sandy Brzovic

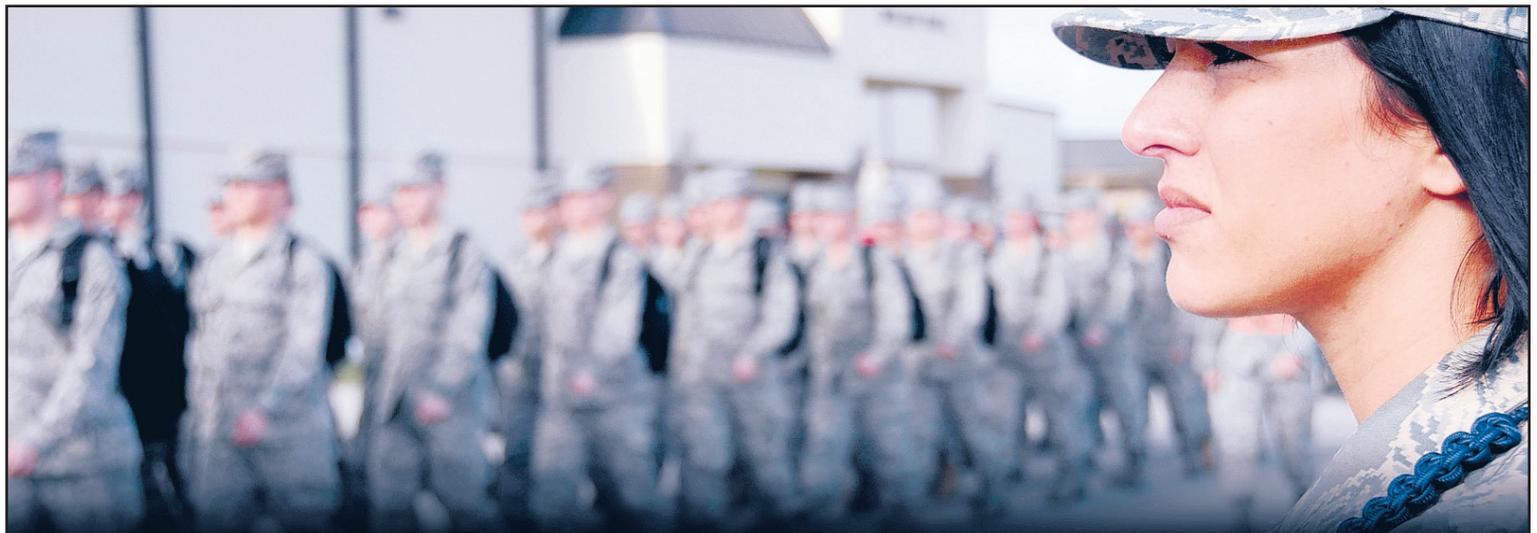


Photo by Kemberly Groue

**By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller**

81st Training Wing commander

I would like to introduce you to Sandy Brzovic. She works in the airman and family readiness center as a volunteer program coordinator. Brzovic has been at Keesler since 1994. The volunteer office is the link between on and off-base agencies. Many requests for Keesler volunteers come from the off-base community. Sandy also coordinates the Volunteer of the Quarter program and is the team lead for the airman and family readiness center relocation annex at the Levitow Training Support Facility. The relocation annex assists nearly 2,000 non-prior service students per week with travel itineraries and sponsors at their first duty station, as well as any other pertinent information needed for traveling. Brzovic also assists in the coordination of quarterly spouse dinners for students' families and provides a weekly personal financial management training briefing that instructs approximately 150 students on financial management.



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

# Lessons from general who 'never saw this coming'

By Maj. Gen. A.J. Stewart

Air Force Personnel Center commander

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — I had the world by the tail: U. S. Air Force Academy graduate, Air Force pilot, six-time commander, 30-year Air Force career, and two stars; fit, healthy and strong. But subtle problems appeared out of nowhere: occasional vertigo, mild persistent headaches, cognitive challenges, having to stop during a hard run.

I went to see the flight surgeon and was immediately referred to a neurologist. An MRI revealed a golf-ball sized tumor on the left temporal lobe of my brain and the doctor bluntly told me, "Your life will never be the same." I was literally stunned.

Swelling was critical and I was admitted for surgery five days later. The surgeon briefed me on all that could go wrong, but the young Air Force captain performed expertly. He gets my vote if I ever need another surgery.

The tumor was successfully removed down to the microscopic level. The question remained: "Why did I have a tumor?" The news from the lab was not good: malignant growth from Stage IV of the worst form of brain cancer.

It was time to fight.

After a few weeks of recovery from surgery, I felt like a million bucks. My fitness and strength were returning and I was back to full duty and physical activity. Also, I simultaneously started a six-week, aggressive anti-cancer radiation and chemotherapy treatment plan.

The doctors told me I would be fatigued, suffer nausea and lack energy from the treatment. To

counter those potential symptoms, I got back in the weight room, back on my bike, back on the running trail, back on the golf course and back to full time duty as commander of the best organization in the Air Force — Air Force Personnel Center!

The negative side effects never showed up. My fitness, strength and health remained good, but it was also the hundreds of emails, cards, letters and prayers from my family, friends, coworkers and even strangers that helped me keep my spirit up.

Last week, I completed my last of 30 radiation and 42 chemotherapy treatments and I still feel great! The next critical step is another MRI in a few weeks to see if the cancer has returned. I pray for good results.

I never saw any of this coming, but I have learned a few lessons along the way that may help others who find they are facing tremendous challenges:

## Be fit, be strong, and be healthy every day

Fitness is not about just passing the Air Force fitness test or deploying; it is about saving your life. A well-rested, strong body and a healthy diet can help you fight off tough challenges when they come.

## Life is short and precious

If there are things you want to accomplish in life, get busy now. "One day" and "someday" may never come. Push yourself to do more, now. Tomorrow is not promised, so do not waste a day.

## Be positive

Brain tumors can be fatal, so there's no room for defeatism; you have to fight a challenge like you intend to win. Leave negative thoughts behind and be ready to endure. Run your race like a winner. Atti-

tude may be the number one component of success.

## Be open and honest, up and down the chain

Our Air Force is a family. I have received the support of literally hundreds of kindred Airmen, with a big "A." The Air Force has proven itself a family from our senior leadership to our youngest Airmen, including civilians and supporters. If folks know your challenges, they can help. My AFPC and A1 family have been magnificent. They have opened their arms and hearts, and carried me through the tough times.

## Be a bouncer

Bad things sometimes happen. It is not a question of whether you will take a fall, so get over it. The question is, will you bounce back? It is really up to you. Be tough minded — you are a warrior! Think like a winner and bounce.

## Love your family

My wife, Areetha, has been the "wind beneath my wings" and my rock. She has been beside me every step of this journey and she insists I keep a positive attitude. She ran the Marine Corps Marathon last fall at age 50! She is 100 percent positive and endures. I thank God for having her as my wingman. My mom, sisters and extended family have also been my cheering section. They are irreplaceable and I love them dearly.

This is a tough, unexpected fight and it is not over. Our most humble "thank you" from Areetha and me. We are overwhelmed with your support, words of encouragement and prayers.

I've cleared a few hurdles but the fight is still on. I intend to win.

# Leaders should walk, talk instead of click, send

By Chief Master Sgt. Harold Hutchison

7th Air Force

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Recently, I received and reviewed, with great concern, the alarmingly high Air Force suicide rates for fiscal 2012. As of March 27, we have had 30 suicides for the year, compared to 23 at this same time last year.

You may be thinking, "Chief, why are you telling me this?" I would respond that I believe one of the many things we as leaders and Airmen can do to reverse this negative trend is employ increased face-to-face communication with your Airmen, to show we care.

Leaders need to get out

from behind the desk to visit, mentor and socialize with our Airmen. Communicating in person has always been and still remains extremely important in today's Air Force.

We have all been ingrained with the definition of leadership. After reading numerous professional military education articles, one could recite a phrase that would probably sound like, "Leadership is the art or the ability of an individual to influence and direct others to contribute toward the effectiveness and success of the organization and its mission."

There are other ways to describe leadership. Ultimately, leadership is the ability of great leaders to effectively and efficiently lead Airmen to execute the wing's mission, while mak-

ing Airmen fully understand and feel their immeasurable contribution to the success of the Air Force's overall mission. In my humble opinion, that exemplifies true leadership.

Effective personal communication is no small task in the modern military. With units consistently deploying, issues associated with increased family separation, long hours and countless other factors, Airmen may feel a heavy physical and/or mental burden to which no rank is immune.

We have come to a crossroads in communicating with our folks. Long forgotten is the talent of the one-on-one, face-to-face mentoring that used to be commonplace in. Email has certainly expedited the communication process, but it has

also hindered, to some degree, the ability and willingness of some of us to get out from behind the desk. It's taken away from the time we spend with our Airmen because we spend so much time emailing. I've seen Airmen send emails to someone 10 feet away from them in the same office. Is this the way we want to communicate with each other in today's stressful environment?

In a peacetime military atmosphere, relying on email to communicate is sufficient, but a wartime force, with all the demands placed upon it, needs face-to-face communication. An often neglected leadership principle in today's environment of technology is getting to know your workers and showing sincere interest in

their problems, career development and welfare. It's hard to show someone you really do care about them in an email.

I believe cultivating our interpersonal skills is as simple as just taking the time to talk to your subordinates and get to know them, the things they like and the things they dislike or perhaps about his or her next deployment. A leader who knows his Airmen will be able to recognize when one of them is having problems, either in their personal life or with assigned tasks, and hopefully will be able to take steps and actions to affect change in the situation. If a leader doesn't know what normal behavior is from one of his or her Airmen....how will you know what abnormal is?

# Three CCAF graduates receive scholarship awards

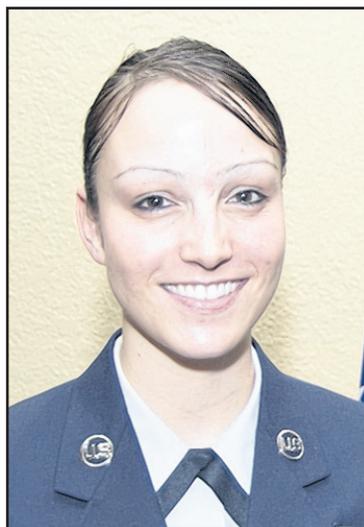
By Harry Reichner

**CSC education services counselor**

Three spring semester graduates of the Community College of the Air Force received awards at the commencement ceremony April 19 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Awards included a \$400 Air Force Association Pitsenbarger Award, \$200 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Excellence Awards, a \$100 University of Southern Mississippi Textbook Scholarship Award, a \$100 William Carey University Excellence Award and \$100 Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Sal D'Aquila Scholarship Awards.

Staff Sgt. Kayla Spiel, 81st Medical Operations Squadron,



**Spiel**

received a Pitsenbarger Award, an Embry-Riddle Award, a University of Southern Mississippi Award and a William



**Coletta**

Carey University Award. She has earned 79 college credits with a 3.6 grade point average. Her goal is to gain acceptance



**Coletta**

into the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences to become a physician.

Senior Airman Bryttanie

M. Colletta, 81st Comptroller Squadron, received an Embry-Riddle Award and a Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Award.

Staff Sgt. Steven A. Colletta, 335th Training Squadron, received an Embry-Riddle Award and a Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Award.

Spiel and the Collettas were among 141 Keesler enlisted members who earned a total of 153 associate degrees.

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, presented the diplomas, and Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Boothe, 81st Mission Support Group superintendent, gave the commencement address.



## Academic ace

Senior Airman Sarah Rachel Stephens graduated from the 3D032 cyber operation apprentice course in the 336th Training Squadron with a perfect score April 18. Stephens, a native of Gloucester, Va., is now assigned to the 718th Intelligence Squadron, Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Tech. Sgt. Walter Shutler, 81st Infrastructure Division firefighter, places a firefighter helmet on the head of Lincoln Dooley, 4. Lincoln is the son of Senior Master Sgt. (retired) Darren and Maj. Melissa Dooley, 81st Medical Operations Squadron. Maj. Dooley is currently deployed to Afghanistan.



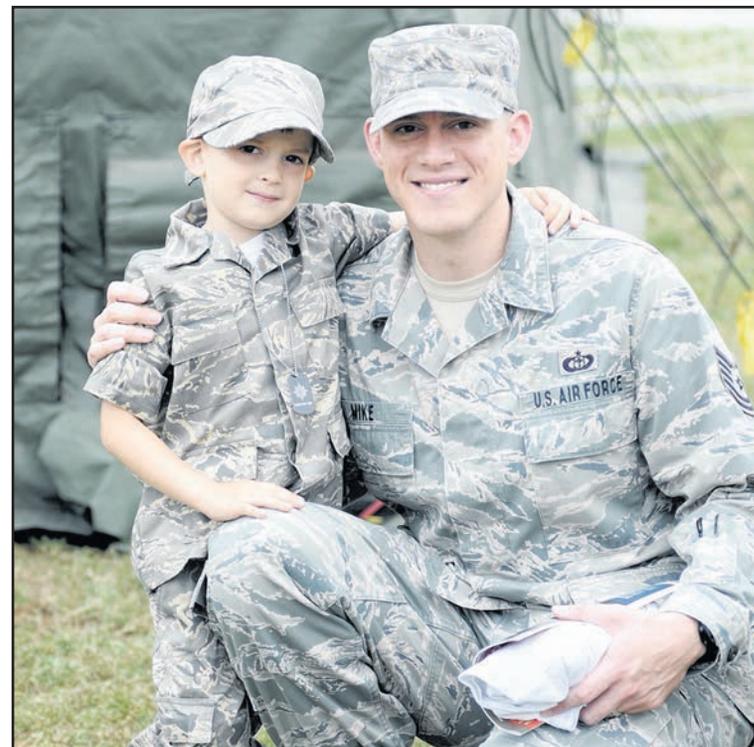
Photos by Kemberly Groue

Layliani, 4, Xiomara, 2, and Juan Sanchez, 6, show off their painted faces during Operation Hero Saturday. Their parents are Cindy and Officer Juan Sanchez, 81st Security Forces Squadron. Juan is also a sergeant in the Army Reserves at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Operation Hero takes place twice a year. The event was designed to help children better understand what a deployment is and what happens when their parents deploy.

# OPERATION HERO



Anna Kate Ratcliffe, 6, and her brother, Andrew, 8, watch as Sgt. Milton Houseman, Bomb Squad Unit for the City of Biloxi, shows Alex Chandler, 8, how to operate an F6A Andros bomb robot. Anna Kate and Andrew's parents are Jennifer and Maj. Andy Ratcliffe, 1108th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, Gulfport, Miss. Maj. Ratcliffe is currently deployed to Afghanistan. Alex is the son of April and Master Sgt. Jake Chandler, 334th Training Squadron.



Four-year-old Ezra Mike and his dad, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Mike, 335th Training Squadron, take a photo together showing off their matching airman battle uniforms.

# The Band Perry visits Keesler, members are Gulf Coast natives

Photos and story by  
Staff Sgt. Kimberly Rae Moore

Keesler Public Affairs NCOIC

The Band Perry members, Kimberly, Neil and Reid Perry, came out to Keesler's Bay Breeze Event Center, April 21; to take photos with and sign autographs for Keesler members.

The group is the Academy of Country Music Awards' 2011 Top New Vocal Group and holds Country Music Association Awards 2011 Single of the Year with their quadruple platinum hit, "If I Die Young."

When asked why the group wanted to come to Keesler, Kimberly explained, "I don't know if a lot of folks on the Gulf Coast know this but the three of us grew up in Mobile, Ala. and that's where music started for us."

"We have always been so close to Keesler and have had friends who have been on the base. We had this afternoon off so it was really important to us to come out and say hello to some of the good folks here."

Kimberly's brother and band mate Reid emphasized that they wanted to thank all of Keesler's members.

"It's important to us, not only to thank the service members but also the families who are left behind while their loved ones are deployed,"

he said.

Being raised only an hour away from Keesler, Neil, the third band member and sibling, said they feel a close tie with the base and the military.

"One of Kimberly's first guitar players was in the military; we grew up surrounded by military members," he said. "So we definitely feel an appreciation for them."

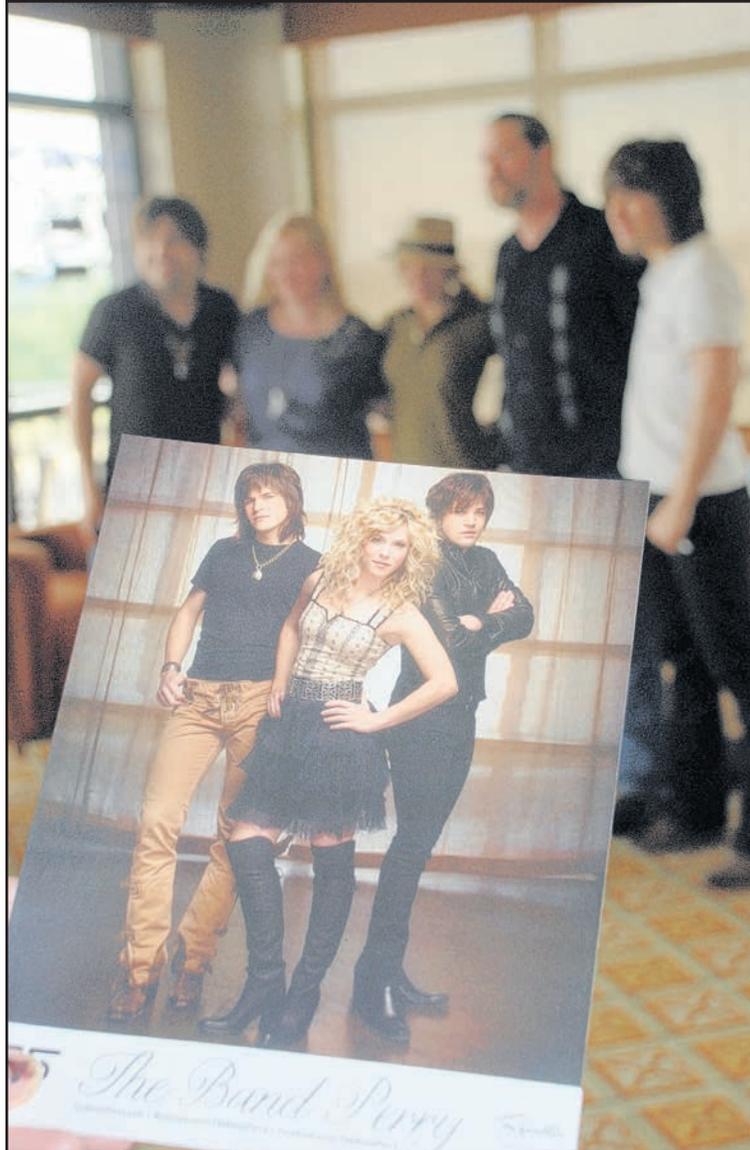
Kimberly explained that not only did they relate to the military by association but also on a lifestyle level.

"Being a service member isn't a 9-to-5 job," she said. "It really is a lifestyle and we understand a lifestyle career choice and it was amazing to get to say thank you in person."

Maj. John Ponton, 81st Force Support Squadron commander, thanked the band for coming out to Keesler and presented each of them with a coin, a military tradition symbolizing gratitude.

The group said that once they left the base, they planned to go see their grandmother who lives in Gulfport. Then they were playing a concert that evening in Biloxi.

"It's so great to be home," Kimberly said. "We've played in Biloxi before, so it's like a homecoming and we're excited to be here."



While waiting in line, a fan holds a photo to be signed by The Band Perry members, Kimberly, Neil and Reid. The group came to Keesler's Bay Breeze Event Center to sign autographs and take pictures with Keesler members prior to their concert in Biloxi, Saturday.



The Band Perry members, Neil, Kimberly and Reid are interviewed by WLOX reporter Elizabeth Vowell following a meet-and-greet held at Keesler's Bay Breeze Event Center Saturday. The group discussed why it was important to them to come out to Keesler and their connection to the local area.



Maj. John Ponton, 81st Force Support Squadron commander, poses for a photo after presenting The Band Perry's members, Neil, Kimberly and Reid, with a coin to thank them for coming out to the Bay Breeze Event Center for a meet-and-greet Saturday.



## Ready. Aim. Open!

Col. Rodney Berk, 81st Mission Support Group commander, fires an M4 Carbine rifle at the target supporting the ribbon during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the 81st Security Forces Squadron Firing Range building Friday. The small arms firing range is a \$5.3 million project that will provide weapons training and qualification to 81st Security Forces Squadron members and those who need weapons qualification for deployment. Previously, to meet mission requirements, Keesler members had to travel 17 miles to the Navy's combat arms training and maintenance facility at Camp Keller, Miss. Construction began in November 2011 and the safety test was completed March 28.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

## Honoring 40 years of service



Photo by Kemberly Groue

John McKinley, outgoing director of the 81st Communications Squadron, presents a 40-year pin to Ruthie Atchley, 81st CS chief of base records management, in celebration of her commitment to the Air Force as a Department of Defense civil service member April 17 at the 81st CS building.

## 81st CS issues practices to aid network security

### 81st Communications Squadron

**Keep your common access card in your possession at all times.** Do not leave it unattended in your workstation. According to Air Force System Security Instruction 8502, "Use a secure screen saver and require users to screen-lock their workstations when unattended...If a common access card is used for workstation access, users must remove it from the reader when workstations are unattended."

**Logoff your workstation at the end of every duty day.** Do not turn your workstation off, especially when going on leave. Also note that removing your CAC is not logging off. Many patches will not successfully install if a user is currently logged onto the workstation. In most cases, patches are pushed to workstations after normal duty hours to reduce impact to our mission; machines that are powered down at night will not receive critical patches in a timely manner.

**Protect passwords.** Do not place passwords on desks, walls, or on the sides of terminals. According to Air Force Instruction 33-100, "Memorize your password. Do not place passwords on desks, walls, sides of terminals, or store them in a function key, log-in script, batch file, or other communications software. If documentation is necessary

for mission accomplishment (i.e., pre-established accounts for contingency or exercise), place the password in a properly marked, sealed envelope and store it in a safe."

**Do not allow other individuals to access Air Force computer systems using your credentials.** AFI 33-100, Section 2 outlines inappropriate use specifically. Be sure to properly mark all removable media such as external hard drives, CDs and DVDs. According to AFI 33-100, "Safeguard, mark, and label removable media according to the requirements for the highest level of information ever contained on the media using applicable information security guidance in AFI 31-401 and AFI 33-332, Privacy Act Program. Additionally follow external and internal labeling guidance in Air Force Manual 33-363."

**Do not connect unapproved USB devices to any government computer.** Do not plug your government or personal phones into government computers for any reason. Even if they are turned off! According to AFI 33-100, "Connecting non-government-owned PEDs to an Air Force network is prohibited. If individuals have a requirement to use a PED on an Air Force network, they must request issuance of a government-owned PED."

# MTLs model excellence for Airmen to succeed

By Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

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

If a randomly selected group of Airmen were standing in a row, perhaps poised for an inspection, and one was a military training leader, the MTL would immediately stand out. Not only because the deep-blue rope on his or her shoulder draws the eye in a sea of sage green, but because they are expected to represent the precise execution of standards and discipline.

They have to radiate military customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, physical fitness and the core values so that the new Airmen under their care can absorb the characteristics necessary to be successful in the operational Air Force.

"When I began to see a decline in military bearing and customs and courtesies at my last base, I decided that instead of looking the other way at a growing problem, I would become part of the solution," said Staff Sgt. Victoria Brady, 334th Training Squadron MTL. "I wanted to get back to military basics and instill pride and professionalism in our newest Airmen."

While the duties of an individual MTL vary greatly depending on the needs of their squadron, their essential mission is to mentor and care for Airmen.

Some specific tasks include marching Airmen to and from class; conducting physical training, open ranks and room inspections; organizing and participating in retreat and parade ceremonies; advising and counseling Airmen; planning, organizing, and directing military education;



Tech. Sgt. Terrance Boyd, right, an 81st Training Group military training leader, marches a flight of students toward the Triangle. While the duties of an individual MTL vary greatly depending on the needs of their squadron, their essential mission is to mentor and care for Airmen.

ensuring maintenance of military standards; preparing and maintaining records pertinent to military education and counseling matters; and supervising subordinate MTL personnel.

"One of my main responsibilities as a night MTL is to give briefings to the Airmen on transitioning up, recruiters

assistance program, charge of quarters and out-processing," Brady said. "Much of my time after that is dealing with questions from the Airmen about the military, personal problems, and mentoring in general."

Staff Sgt. Shaundarius Martin, 336th TRS MTL said in a typical week he picks up new

Airman that arrive from basic military training, in-process them to their squadron, gives briefings, gets the new Airmen ready for class, marches them to and from school, takes accountability, performs open ranks, prepares for next week's airman to arrive by issuing rooms, keys, sheets and other

necessary items; leads PT, fills out paperwork, reads emails, assists other MTLs, and performs lunch point.

"Now with all that being said, all it takes is one phone call and that schedule goes out the window," Martin said.

"We are very busy as MTLs and much of our time is spent

doing administrative work. It is a definite challenge to complete everything on the administrative side along with spending time with the Airmen, but we always make it work," Brady said.

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Schumann, 335th TRS MTL said that his position calls for him to be a facility manager and take care of the

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Master Sgt. Anthony Fisher, 81st Training Group, gives mentoring advise to Senior Airman Jenifer Mathes, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, during a speed mentoring program Nov. 30, 2011, at the Bay Breeze Event Center. The program provided mentorship from various senior NCOs to Airman Leadership School students.

Airmen who are in limbo waiting for their class to start or waiting to leave for their first permanent duty station.

"I don't think there is an average day as an MTL," Schumann said. "I like the sporadic environment even when I get frustrated with it."

Schumann also said that if nothing else, he wants the Airmen to learn what's necessary to succeed in the Air Force and get involved in their communities.

"I want them to get out there and be awesome Airmen and learn that they won't achieve greatness by flying under the radar," Schumann said. "I don't have a quota to fill, I just have an opportunity to mentor and guide them."

Martin said he thinks it's important for the pipeline airmen to have the guidance of not only MTLs but everyone they come into contact with on the base.

"When they are in our squadrons we do guide them but, it's the unspoken actions of everyone around them that speaks volumes," Martin said.

To become an MTL, one must be a senior Airman or above, submit an application for the special duty position including a photo and their past enlisted performance reports, have 48-months time on station and attend a two-week course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

"To be an effective MTL, you have to want to make a difference in people's lives, to be dedicated to the mission of sending effective Airmen out to the operational Air Force," Brady said. "If you don't have a passion for the job, it's difficult to be effective."

"I want them to know this is a career, this is defending a nation and not just a 9-to-5 job," Schumann said.



From left, military training leaders Tech. Sgts. Julie Hammond, 81st Training Group, and James Hoover, 335th TRS, and Staff Sgts. Lamar Gardner, 334th TRS; Shaundarius Martin and Edward Lotz, 336th TRS; and Jared Whitcomb, 338th TRS, march with the folded flag after formal retreat Sept. 9, 2011, at Keesler.

# KEESLER NOTES

## Corrections

- The Blake Fitness Center's Child Fitness Room is open 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends and holidays.

- The 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron defeated the 333rd Training Squadron with a best of three out of five win.

## Magic show

The 81st Training Wing Chapel and airman and family readiness center are sponsoring a magic show for deployed families, 6 p.m. Friday 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.

## Immigration assistance

From 8 a.m. to noon May 17, a representative from the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is in the legal office to meet with military members, their families, retirees and their dependents to answer questions about the immigration application process and how being a military member helps the immigration process. Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are seen as time allows. For more information or to schedule an appointment,

call 228-376-8601.

## Arm gate cards

Forest City residents can pick up their personal access cards for arm gates in their community May 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 151 Adams Ave. (West Falcon) or from 3-6 p.m. at 234 McNarney Dr. (Thrower Park). For more information call (228) 374-5336.

## Airman Development Day

Airman Development Day is 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Sablich Center auditorium. Airmen can learn about finances, promotions, retraining and board etiquette as well as ask questions during a chiefs' panel. For more information call (228) 376-3124.

## 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](http://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

**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.

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

## Friday

**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.

## Tuesday

**9 a.m.** — Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the

Sablich Center Room 108.

— Separatese pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110. Call (228) 376-8728 to register.

**1 p.m.** — Retiree pre-separation 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.

## Wednesday

**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.

## May 4

Keesler Sports Day will include sporting events throughout the day and an awards ceremony at 3:30 p.m. For more information call (228) 376-3171.

## May 5

**1 p.m.** — Mother's Day Special at the arts and crafts

center. Children paint ceramics and special frames for Mother's Day.

**7 p.m.** — Keesler youth and family talent show at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Call (228) 377-2503.

## May 8

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

— Separatese pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center 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 pre-separation counseling every Tuesday at the airman and family readiness center conference room. Call (228) 376-8728 to register.

## May 9

**4 p.m.** — FOCUS recycled materials planter class for children at the arts and crafts center.

# Defense IT conference, May 7

The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), in partnership with the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, will once again bring together "thought leaders" from military communications and information technology (IT) and from industry at its annual Mission Partner Conference. The conference, which was previously called the Customer Partnership Conference, will be held at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Fla., May 7-10.

"This year's conference theme, The Joint Enterprise:

Delivered Through Partnership, reflects DISA's commitment to work with all our mission partners to deliver an enterprise that improves security, enhances effectiveness, achieves efficiency, enables innovation, and reduces the warfighter's burden," said Air Force Lt. Gen. Ronnie Hawkins Jr., DISA director. "The objective is an environment in which the user can connect with any device, anytime, anywhere on the globe and be productive."

For more information or to register for the conference, go to [www.disa.mil](http://www.disa.mil).

# Local area offers 16 locations for child safety seat inspections

Bay St. Louis Police Department (228) 467-9222

Biloxi Regional Trauma Center (228) 436-1345

Citizens Against Needless Death in Youth (228) 769-2175

Coastal Family Health Center (228) 234-5557

George County Health Department (Lucedale) (601) 947-4217

Gulf Coast Community Action Agency Head Start (228) 236-5032

Hancock County Sheriff's Department (228) 466-6900

Harrison County Health Department (Gulfport) (228) 863-1036

(228) 324-5590

Miss. State Dept. of Health (228) 436-6770

Moore Community House (228) 297-5074

Morning Star Pregnancy Center (228) 864-4221

Pass Christian Police Department (228) 452-3302

Stone County Health Department (Wiggins) (601) 928-5293

Waveland Police Department (228) 467-3669

Women's Resource Center (228) 897-8958

For more information go to [http://msdh.ms.gov/msdh-site/\\_static/resources/4454.pdf](http://msdh.ms.gov/msdh-site/_static/resources/4454.pdf).

# Leaders gather to discuss sexual assault prevention

By Tech. Sgt. Jess Harvey

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. — Air Force leaders from around the globe gathered at the 2012 Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Leader Summit here April 17 and 18 to learn about service-wide SAPR issues and programs.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Phil Breedlove both spoke at the event, stressing the importance of dealing with and ultimately eliminating sexual assault within the Air Force.

“Our dedicated men and women selflessly put themselves in harm’s way,” said Breedlove during the first day of the summit. “We owe our Airmen a safe environment

where they may continue to focus on defeating our nation’s enemies.”

Breedlove cited a 2010 Gallup survey of a representative sample of Air Force active duty members, which revealed that 19 percent of female Airmen and 2 percent of male Airmen reported being the victim of sexual assault at some point while they have been in the Air Force.

Eighty-one percent of these women said they were sexually assaulted by a fellow military member, as did 50 percent of the men. Among those whose perpetrators were in the military, the large majority said their perpetrator was in the Air Force.

Breedlove said any sexual assault is unacceptable, and that the Gallup survey data should anger every leader in

the Air Force.

“It is a cancer that has the ability to tear our units apart,” Breedlove said.

Donley, who spoke April 18, emphasized that a professional work environment is a fundamental right due every Airman, and that Air Force leadership will do whatever it takes to stop sexual assaults in the service.

“Our moral imperative in this area is clear,” Donley said. “Sexual assault is a crime and is categorically unacceptable. It is incompatible with our core values, it is harmful to our people and it makes us a less effective fighting force. We need to crack down on this harder than ever to get this out of our culture.”

Breedlove said the problem of sexual assaults has crept into the Air Force and onto its bas-

es, citing other Gallup survey data indicating that of those reporting being sexually assaulted while in the Air Force, 51 percent of the women and 41 percent of the men said they were assaulted on a military installation.

The general said it is up to the Air Force’s leaders to do all they can to ensure professional work environments for all of the service’s members.

“The days of telling inappropriate jokes and turning our backs on offensive behavior are over,” Breedlove said. “A duck-and-cover posture to this problem has never been, and never will be, an acceptable approach.”

Breedlove encouraged commanders and enlisted leaders to get out of their offices and get back to face-to-face leadership principles. He also said

they must ensure their subordinate commanders, supervisors and other leaders are on-board with eradicating the sexual assault problem.

“If your senior NCOs and your company grade officers don’t understand the severity of this issue, or your level of commitment to this matter, they’ll not be able to influence the force,” Breedlove said. “This issue will not go away, unless you take it head on.”

Donley summed up both leaders’ comments by emphasizing that one sexual assault is too many.

“Sexual assault is a violation of everything the U.S. military is supposed to stand for,” Donley said. “We have an obligation to live by our core values, and meet or exceed the high standards that the American people expect of us.”

## Expert teaches child safety course



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Ken Wooden, an educator, published author and developer of several child safety programs, presents a child safety course titled “Child Lures” Friday, at the Sablich Center auditorium. Wooden has dedicated his life to making a safer world for children a reality.

## Keesler celebrates volunteer spirit



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Liah Wadleigh, Keesler volunteer, and Linda Edison, 81st Force Support Squadron, cut a cake during the Keesler Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 17 at the Sablich Center. Many individual and group awards were presented including volunteer excellence nominees and award winners, volunteer of the quarter nominees and squadron key spouses.

# Lab technicians gather to celebrate vital role

## 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron

Laboratory technicians of Keesler Hospital's 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron join laboratory professionals across the nation to celebrate National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week April 22-28.

The week honors laboratory professionals and the vital role they play in helping diagnose illnesses and treat patients. The event provides the profession a unique opportunity to increase the public's awareness and appreciation of laboratory professionals. This year's theme is "Laboratory Professionals Get Results."

According to web sources, laboratory professionals represent the second largest sector among health-care workers, following nurses. Up to 85 percent of the decisions about a person's diagnosis and treatment are based on laboratory test results, so both patients and doctors depend upon the accuracy of lab results. The laboratory is the front line of the public health system, protecting

communities from emerging infectious diseases and antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

"Our technicians provide critical information about your health to providers by analyzing a wide variety of specimens from routine blood tests and cultures to biopsies," said Maj. Christina Encina, core lab chief. "Our technicians work hard behind the scenes completing hundreds of tasks daily to ensure the 81st Training Wing, the 403rd Wing and more than 27,000 beneficiaries receive the highest quality of care through laboratory results."

To further improve the laboratory's capabilities, the 81st Medical Group is home to the only medical genetic center in the Department of Defense. The genetics laboratory supports more than 120 military medical facilities by providing chromosome, gene and DNA testing capabilities.

The clinical and pathology laboratory also maintains one of only three Air Force Blood Donor Centers. The center's personnel and their donors

play a key role in ensuring the DOD ships more than 1,000 units of blood weekly to more than 50 U.S. military hospitals throughout Afghanistan and the Middle East. These units play a vital role in the direct medical care of wounded service members in worldwide contingency operations.

Securing Homeland Defense is another crucial mission the laboratory maintains. The laboratory uses the Joint Biological Agent Identification and Detection System. This instrument system provides medical leaders and commanders with rapid and specific identification of biological threat agents. This capability is especially important in the deployed environment where rapid identification enables commanders and health-care providers to make decisions that govern early warning, intervention and disease prevention.

To participate in a lab tour, call 228-376-4419.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Clinical lab technician Senior Airman Christopher Boyd, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, uses a microscope to examine a stained blood slide for abnormal cells. Identification of abnormal cells could aid providers in diagnosing patients with various conditions like anemia or even cancer. Boyd was one of the many lab technicians honored for National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week April 22-28.

## Surgeon general coins Keesler medic

Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Charles Green "coins" Staff Sgt. Peter Bevis, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron Pharmacy Flight, April 16 at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Bevis's supervisor, Maj. Thuy Vo, also deployed from the Keesler pharmacy flight, nominated him for the honor based on Bevis going "above and beyond." He coordinated the in-theater mass-dispensing of anti-malaria medication and combat first-aid kits, protecting more than 250 service members and was lauded by the Task Force Med East commander for his efforts. Bevis also identified potential drug abusers and appropriately reported them.

U.S. Air Force photo





Photo by Kemberly Groue

The U.S. Air Force Drill Team practices a new routine on the drill pad behind the Levitow Training Support Facility March 1. The drill team began developing its routine at Keesler. The Air Force team outperformed the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Merchant Marines and Coast Guard teams in the fourth annual Joint Service Drill Team Competition at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial April 14, earning the title “best of the best.”

# Air Force team ‘best of best’ in drill competition

By Airman 1st Class  
Daniel Burkhardt

11th Wing Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team outperformed the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Merchant Marines and Coast Guard teams in the fourth annual Joint Service Drill Team Competition here April 14.

In a symphony of discipline and precision, the U.S. armed forces’ most elite drill teams gathered at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial to compete

for the title of the “best of the best.”

For the Air Force team, however, something went dangerously wrong during the competition.

“I had a broken weapon,” said Senior Airman Christopher Martinez-Hernandez, a U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team member. “Three or four people were exchanging with it, and at first it was just cracked. But, after it was butted on the ground so many times, when I got it, it was just done.”

Despite the unforeseen challenge, the Air Force team pushed on as if nothing had happened.

“Military bearing, discipline,” Martinez-Hernandez said. “You just got to keep going. That’s our job.”

Their dedication to unbreakable bearing paid off, as the Air Force team took first place in the competition.

“I didn’t notice (the broken weapon),” said Master Sgt. Nathan Todd, one of the Joint Service Drill Team Competi-

tion judges. “Their bearing was not broken and their training propelled them to victory.”

The other services’ teams also performed well, making the competition a very close call.

“The scores were very close, and I know that I was impressed by a few things from the other branches of service,” said Todd. “I think this was one of the best performances I’ve seen from our guys in the last two years.”

The victory didn’t come without a price, as the Air

Force team put in many hours of practice to perfect their new routine.

“We trained for anywhere from eight to 12 hours a day specifically for this,” Martinez-Hernandez said. “We put in a lot of hard work and stayed extra hours.”

As the saying goes, nothing good comes easy.

“Putting on this kind of show is really rewarding,” said Martinez-Hernandez. “That was our mission today, and that was what we accomplished.”

## 4-H Cloverbuds convene at CDC



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Kim Gowdy, 4-H representative, leads the Keesler 4-H Cloverbuds in their pledge April 17, at the Child Development Center. The Keesler 4-H Cloverbuds program is an interactive curriculum-based program designed for 5-6 year olds. The group meets twice a month while attending the CDC.



Five-year-olds Trenton Peters, Joseph Lenkowski and Braelyanna Rawaekklang decorate their kazoos. Trenton is the son of Maj. Laurie Peters, 81st Medical Group. Joseph is the son of Master Sgt. Joseph Lenkowski III, 403rd Maintenance Squadron. Braelyanna is the daughter of Staff Sgt. Naronksuk Rawaekklang, 81st Diagnostic and Therapeutics Squadron.



Kim Gowdy, 4-H representative, teaches the Keesler 4-H Cloverbuds how to feel vibrations on your throat as you make noises in preparation for the day's activity of making hand-made kazoos.