



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train. Fight. Win.

DEC. 20, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 49



A year in review at Keesler



Keesler EXCELLENT in CIII!

'Guardians' honored to fly with WWII heroes

By Susan Griggs

Keesler Public Affairs

Editors note: This story originally ran in the May 3rd issue of the Keesler News.

April 24, two "Dragon Medics" were among the 64 volunteer guardians who escorted 94 veterans on the third Mississippi Gulf Coast Honor Flight — pediatric nurse Sylvia Jones and my sister-in-law, Joann Griggs, who works in pharmacy supply.

The guardians served as companions for the flight's honorees. My sister-in-law accompanied two Army Air Corps veterans — 93-year-old Albert Mangin from Biloxi and 86-year-old Bill Clark from Covington, La. Mangin, a fighter pilot, served 20 years in the service and later taught air traffic control at Keesler. Clark saw action in four geographical battle areas during the war and went on to a civilian career as a chemist and civil engineer.

Mechanical problems delayed the plane's departure from the Gulfport/Biloxi International Airport for more than two hours, but Griggs said the organizers kept things "running like clockwork" to make the most of every remaining moment. When the schedule was

adjusted, visits to the Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and Iwo Jima Memorial were abbreviated to drive-by viewing.

One highlight of the trip was seeing "their" World War II Memorial, dedicated in 2004 to honor the 16 million Americans who fought for freedom seven decades ago.

The memorial's 56 granite pillars represent the American states and territories that fought in the war. Lining the west side of the memorial are 4,048 gold stars, each signifying a hundred Americans who died in the war. At the north and south ends of the plaza are 47-foot pavilions where the floors are inlaid with the World War II victory medal surrounding by the years 1941-1945 and the words "Victory on Land," "Victory at Sea," and "Victory in the Air."

In a special moment at Arlington National Cemetery, participants viewed the changing of the guard and four of the Mississippi veterans were chosen to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"Sure, our veterans appreciated seeing these sights, but it was so much more than that," Griggs explained. "It was so



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Joann Griggs, 81st Diagnostic and Therapeutics Squadron, escorts World War II Army Air Corps veterans Albert Mangin and Bill Clark through a welcoming line after the veterans arrived from the third Mississippi Gulf Coast Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., April 24, at the Gulfport/Biloxi International Airport.

moving as they talked to each other about their experiences — the smells, the sounds, the conditions. You could see that spark of recognition as they talked to their comrades who understood — it's different than telling your family or friends who weren't there. The war brought them together and made them a family, but then they had to go their

separate ways.

"One of the most emotional times on the trip was the 'mail call' on the trip back to Gulfport," Griggs recalled. "It seemed to bring back a lot of memories. There were packages full of letters from family, friends and area schoolchildren ... some made them laugh, others brought tears to their eyes.

"The homecoming celebration at the airport meant a lot to them," she said. "Many of them never had a special welcome when they returned home from the war." The Keesler Honor Guard, the 81st Training Group's drum and bugle corps and 50-flag team, representatives from Keesler's Navy and Marine Corps units and other base representatives joined the thousands of community well-wishers that greeted the returning veterans.

My sister-in-law saw her participation in the Honor Flight as a way to honor her late father, a Navy chief who served in the submarine corps during World War II.

"Now my two veterans feel like family to me," she said.

As much as she appreciated

the opportunity to be a part of the Honor Flight experience, she felt it would mean even more to Keesler's military members.

"Service members should go to discover their roots and gain insights about their heritage — you can learn a lot from books and films, but this is an incredible opportunity to talk to these men, one on one, and share their stories and experiences," she insisted.

A fourth Mississippi Gulf Coast Honor Flight is planned for September, and then the local organizers will evaluate the program. Future flights may be opened up to include Korean War veterans.

Volunteer guardians pay \$500 to cover their own expenses to travel with the veterans. Just a thought — maybe organizations on base could sponsor a member to share this experience.

If you know a World War II veteran that lives anywhere in the state of Mississippi that might be interested or if you'd like to serve as a guardian on a future flight, log on to www.mgchonorflight.com.



Lance Corporal Martin Douglas, Keesler Marine Detachment, welcomes back World War II Army veteran Owen Waters following his return from the Honor Flight.

KEESLER NEWS

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy
81st Training Wing
commander

**81st Training Wing
Public Affairs**

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Chief

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ON THE COVER

A collection of all 49 covers from 2012 illustrates the significant events that have occurred on base celebrating the accomplishments of Team Keesler.

Illustration by Steve Hoffmann

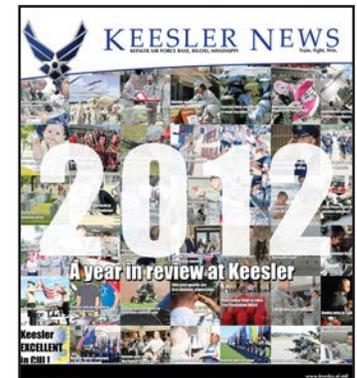


PHOTO OF THE YEAR



Hurricane Isaac

A storm surge in the Back Bay raises waters over the Keesler Marina's docks. In an effort to ensure the safety of Keesler personnel and assets during Hurricane Isaac, the base was closed Aug. 28-29 and reopened Aug. 30 following minimal damage.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Rae Moore



THE WORLD'S BEST AIRMEN — TRAINING, FIGHTING, WINNING

Keesler celebrates 'EXCELLENT' CUI results

By Senior Airman
Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

Editors note: This story originally ran in the Nov. 8th issue of the Keesler News.

After months of diligent preparation, hundreds of Keesler Airmen cheered and one blue dragon danced, when they heard the 81st Training wing was deemed "EXCELLENT" after the Oct. 29 to Nov. 2 Air Education and Training Command Consolidated Unit Inspection.

"Congratulations to all the great Airmen here on Keesler who worked so hard getting ready for the 2012 CUI — and thank-you for your EXCELLENT performance! I have always believed people like to work and they like to work hard as long as that work is challenging, interesting and you recognize them for it. The men and women at Keesler have been proving this to me every single day since I arrived and this EXCELLENT rating only further demonstrates their dedication," said



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander; Col. Rene Romero, 81st TRW vice commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Angelica Johnson, 81st TRW command chief, applaud the 'Excellent' rating the base received during the consolidated unit inspection out brief Monday, at the Welch Theater. The CUI was held from Oct. 29-Nov. 2, and evaluated the base's level of compliance with Air Force and Department of Defense guidelines.

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing Commander. "I also believe in continuous improvement which means that even though we're already EXCELLENT, we can't stop here — I know you all are really OUTSTANDING!"

Each unit had the potential to be rated either "unsatisfac-

tory," "marginal," "satisfactory," "excellent," or "outstanding."

Every group in the 81st TRW including the commanders items, 81st Training Group, 81st Mission Support Group and 81st Medical Group received an "EXCELLENT."

According to the IG definition, an "EXCELLENT"

rating indicates that a performance or operation exceeds mission requirements, procedures and activities are carried out in a superior manner and resources and programs are very efficiently managed and relatively free of deficiencies.

Keesler also received an "EXCELLENT" on its response to an Oct. 31 major accident response exercise in which base members came together to respond to a simulated hazardous material scenario.

Before reviewing the group results at the outbrief, one team and several individuals were recognized for their contribution to the inspection and the wing.

The team chosen for recognition by the inspector general was the 2012 CUI readiness team.

Lt. Col. Jonathon Wright, Senior Master Sgt. Jason Hanley, 1st Lt. Johnny Smith, 2nd Lt. Curan Clonch and Mr. Charles Spase, were each presented with an Air Force Achievement Medal by Spacy for helping prepare Keesler for the CUI.

"I have been at Keesler for more than two years now, and I can see that Keesler is awesome. It's my favorite assignment of the 10 that I've had. People here go above and beyond in so many areas all the time," Wright said. "Therefore, it was an honor to lead the CUI readiness team. Our role was to help bring to light the exceptional things that every unit across the base has been doing. We are thrilled to see units get the recognition that they deserve."

The IG team chose what they believe to be the top five percent of Keesler members and named them "Professional performers," they also chose five individuals to receive the AETC Inspector General coin.

They are: Airman 1st Class Blakeny Pittman, 81st Contracting Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Caroline Bunce, 81st Dental Squadron, 1st Lt. Kenneth Hawkins, 81st CONS; Robert Tash, 81st Medical Support Squadron; and Thane Halsey, installation exercise evaluation team chief.

81st MDG receives 'Excellent' rating on care

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Editors note: This story originally ran in the Nov. 1st issue of the Keesler News.

The 81st Medical Group provides "Excellent" patient care. That was the overall rating the group received from the Air Force Inspection Agency Health Service Inspection that concluded Oct. 25.

Team Chief Col. John Sell, AFIA director of medical operations, told an audience of "Dragon Medics" packing the hospital's Don Wylie Auditorium Oct. 26, "Your medical group is the best I've seen. As General Cornum (Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander) told me at the outset, it's all about the patients and that's how you operate the medical group. Your attitude is infectious — you are a true team! I would be glad to get care here or for my family to do so. You have done your commander and the Air Force Medical Service proud!"



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Cornum gestures to the "Dragon Medics" who packed the hospital's Don Wylie Auditorium Oct. 26 as he announces the group's overall "Excellent" HSI results.

After Sell made his remarks, he and senior enlisted inspection team member Chief Master Sgt. Dawn Fruits departed. At that point, Cornum commenced a quick rundown of the inspection results, culminating with the announcement of the "Excellent" rating.

"I'm really proud of what you folks do," he said. "I'm proud of the patient care you provide and your hard work."

The 10-person team arrived over two days, five got here Oct. 21 and the rest the following day. The earlier arrivals began scrutinizing the medical group Oct. 22, a day ahead of the anticipated start. During their assessment the team from Kirtland AFB, N.M., conducted interviews and did walk-around inspections of the hospital's work centers. In addition, they reviewed 184

binders of information compiled by the group staff.

Among the areas they examined were public health, patient safety, nursing services and operations, referral management, infection control, dental services, mental health, bioenvironmental engineering, readiness and the medical group's business plan.

The team cited five group members for special recognition for their work readying the unit for the inspection: 81st MDG HSI team chief Lt. Col. Paul Langevin; and outstanding performers Senior Airman Candace Caudill, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Staff Sgt. Tammi Fish, 81st Medical Support Squadron; Master Sgt. David Boydston, 81st Medical Operations Squadron; and Betty Schoen, 81st MDSS.

Later, Sell explained, "We conduct approximately 25 active-duty HSIs a year and inspect every Air Force medical group both in the United States and around the world. This is a compliance-based in-

spection during which a team of medical functional experts looks at more than 750 criteria." He noted, "General Cornum and his team should be very proud of an extremely successful inspection."

Cornum also recognized three group personnel for their efforts preparing the organization for the HSI. They were: Master Sgt. Mary Jamison and Senior Master Sgt. Scott Strickland, 81st MDOS; and Maj. Ronald Eller, 81st MDSS.

With the HSI over, the "Dragon Medics" completed preparations for this week's Air Education and Training Command Consolidated Unit Inspection. In addition, the medical group is vulnerable for The Joint Commission survey anytime between today and March 31, 2013. TJC can arrive with a week's prior notice. The organization accredits and certifies more than 19,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States.

New PT program

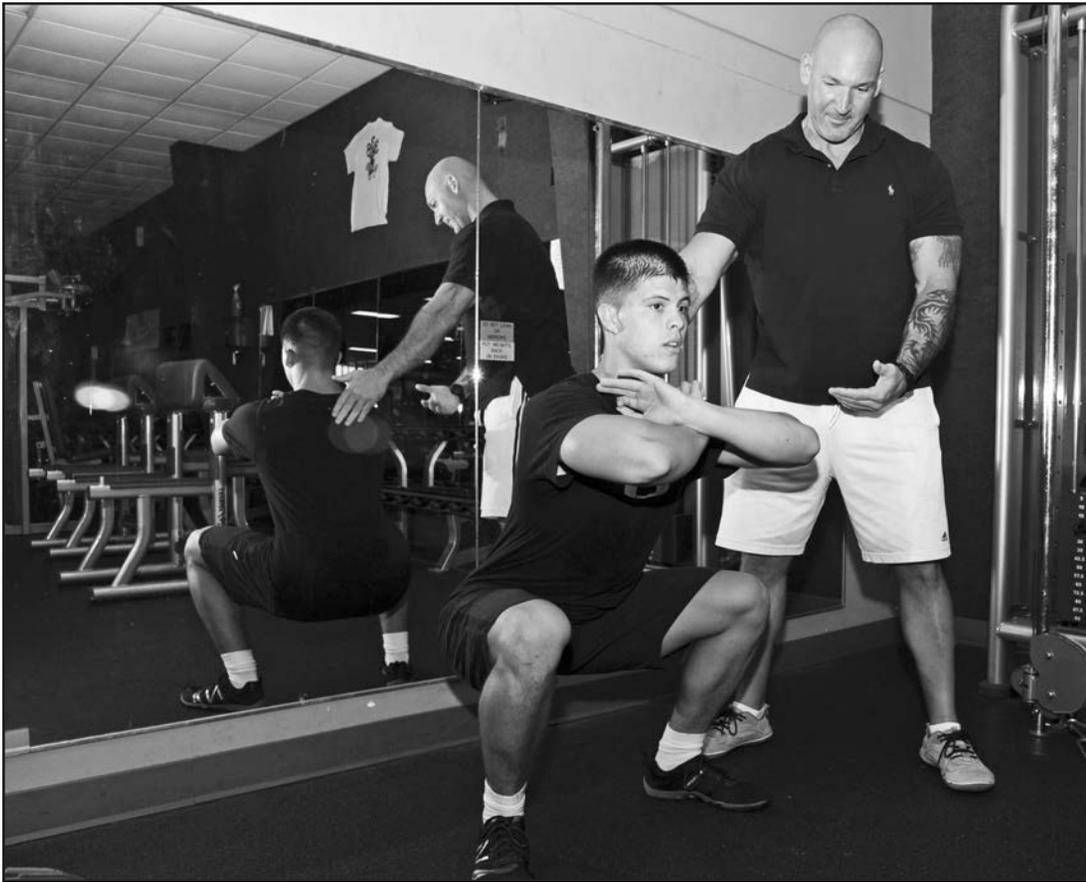


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Albert Ciampa, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron exercise physiologist, teaches proper techniques for body-weight squats to Airman 1st Class Keilan Snider, 338th Training Squadron, July 23 at the Triangle Fitness Center. Ciampa is trained to prescribe exercise regimens based on fitness assessments. With the opening of the new Warfighter Training Court at the Dragon Fitness Facility, Ciampa has begun his new 8-week human performance course that teaches physical training leaders how to train and lead their Airmen in proper exercise technique.



Safety Sam says,

“A fugitive from the laws of averages — that’s you if you don’t use your safety gear.”

Keesler member chosen for 'Portraits in Courage'

By Susan Griggs

Keesler Public Affairs

Editors note: This story originally ran in the Aug. 23rd issue of the Keesler News.

In the nightmare of bullets racing past his head and rounds impacting in front of him, Staff Sgt. Christopher Jarrell focused on a symphony ... not Beethoven or Bach, but the harmony of a warrior and his dog facing the enemy together.

Jarrell, a military working dog handler from the 81st Security Forces Squadron, was one of 20 Airmen recognized Aug. 19 to be featured in the seventh volume of the Air Force Chief of Staff's "Portraits in Courage." Jarrell was one of five "Portraits in Courage" recipients chosen to participate in sporting events, special tours, a heroes' luncheon and other activities during Air Force Week, Aug. 19-21 in New York City.

Jarrell, who arrived at Keesler in March 2011, was deployed from September through February to Afghanistan with Toki, his 4-year-old German shepherd partner. The job required frequent duties "outside the wire."

"Keesler has one of the most combat-proven kennels I've ever worked in," said Jarrell, who's been a dog handler for six years. "Toki is probably the best dog I've ever teamed with. Working with Toki was like a concert, with all of the instruments blending together.

"I can honestly say that's why Toki and I came back from Afghanistan unharmed for the most part," Jarrell stated. "When he goes out and finds those (improvised explosive devices), he knows that's his job, he does what he's supposed to do and protects 'Daddy.' I tried to show Toki that same devotion."

Nov. 21, 2011, while assigned to the U.S. Army 3-71 Cavalry in the village of Rangrazan, Jarrell and his platoon came under direct fire from an unknown number of Taliban fighters.

"One minute I'm sitting in the middle of this field breaking into my lunch and giving Toki some attention

because we had pretty much been walking all day," Jarrell remembered. "The next minute, bullets were flying past our heads and rounds were impacting in front of us. It was chaos, hell on earth."

Jarrell, Toki and four Soldiers were pinned down by sniper and machine gun fire and separated from the rest of their platoon for about 45 minutes during a firefight that lasted more than three hours.

"Afghanistan is one big minefield," Jarrell explained. "You're always thinking ... did we clear the path to get up here? Every step you take, you're watching, thinking, second-guessing. Is this step going to be it? Is this going to be it? That comes from the subconscious, and you have to push it away."

When Jarrell began his Air Force career 10 years ago, he admits that he questioned the necessity of technical school exercises like the rush-and-roll, tactical bounding techniques and overwatches.

"As a trainee, you wonder if you'll ever use any of it," he admitted. "But when you find yourself in a firefight and use those skills that our leadership has ingrained in us, it's like muscle memory. You don't even realize what you're doing. Canine leads the way – it's what we're trained to do instinctively.

"It's like football – like learning pages out of a playbook. You run the plays over and over again and when game time comes, you're ready. When your adrenaline is pumping and bullets are flying past you, that survival instinct kicks in."

When they made their way back to the rest of the platoon, Jarrell immediately provided suppressive fire that allowed other U.S. forces to recover those wounded or killed in action and move back to safety.

As U.S. forces prepared to evacuate the casualties, the platoon leader realized that two Army AH-64 Apache helicopters and half of his Soldiers were out of ammunition. To make things worse, the platoon's mine-detection equipment operator didn't



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Christopher Jarrell, 81st Security Forces Squadron kennel master, poses for a photo with Military Working Dog, Toki, while deployed in Afghanistan. Jarrell has been selected for the Secretary of the Air Force's "Portraits in Courage" for 2012.

have the necessary equipment to clear a route because he'd been forced to leave it in the field where they'd been pinned down.

Jarrell stepped up and put Toki on mine-sniffing duties. During their sweep, Jarrell and Toki detected and marked a possible IED, allowing the platoon to clear a safe landing zone for casualty evacuation and resupply operations.

"It wasn't my first firefight, but it's the first time I thought that if I got out alive, it was going to be one of those 'God saved me' stories," he pointed out. "There's no other way to explain it ... it was a miracle."

Army intelligence later reported that 14 enemy insurgents, including the regional commander, had been killed during the engagement.

Jarrell's courage under fire was credited with keeping a precarious situation from deteriorating and directly contributed to saving the lives of several service members. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Force Combat Action Medal and the Army Combat Action Badge for his actions. At first he was very uncomfortable in the spotlight, but now he can direct that spotlight as a public service to show what it takes to get the mission done.

"They recognized me for my actions out there, but I wasn't the only one," Jarrell

insisted. "It gave me a sense of pride to know that I could perform at that level — but man, I don't want to see myself there again."

Not long ago, Jarrell began seeing a counselor to help deal with the panic attacks that have affected him since he returned from deployment.

"Canine tends to be an 'alpha male' career field and I had to get over the perceived stigma of reaching out for help," he pointed out. "My family and friends wanted me to talk to somebody, but I thought I could handle things on my own."

It's hard to predict what will trigger one of the attacks – even crowds at the base exchange or social situations are sometimes hard to handle.

Jarrell is glad that he sought help and wants other handlers to understand that something they may think is abnormal is really normal.

"It's going to be a long road to recovery, but I've taken that first step," he added. "Our commander, Maj. Matt Pignataro, is one of the best commanders I've ever had. He sits down with us one on one, gives us tremendous support and lets us know he's proud of us. He took the time to give us a 'fit check' and makes sure we have the time and help we need to reintegrate. But the mission still takes priority and we understand that – we can

be tasked at any moment to pick up a dog and go."

"Sergeant Jarrell is a great example of how the Air Force's military working dog handlers have collectively risen to new levels of combat expertise during the past decade," Pignataro said. "He's a quiet professional who would never brag about his accomplishments. I'm very proud to have him and the rest of our experienced MWD handlers as part of our squadron."

Jarrell is on the fence about whether to continue his Air Force career when his enlistment is up in two years. He remembers the close calls in Afghanistan as he looks to the future with his wife, Dani, and the child they're expecting.

Earlier this year, Jarrell became Keesler's kennel master and had to step back so Toki and his new handler could bond. That new canine team is currently deployed to Southwest Asia.

"It's part of our career progression — I'll pin on tech sergeant this fall," he observed. "Folks move on, new handlers move in, older guys tend to get pushed out of canine. It's good to make rank, but sometimes it hurts to move on. My days of pushing dogs are winding down. I'm coming to grips with that and trying to ease the transition for others."

Donley speaks at Gulf Coast 'Salute' to military

By Susan Griggs

Keesler Public Affairs

Editors note: This story originally ran in the Nov. 1st issue of the Keesler News.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley praised the robust partnership of the Air Force and its sister services with south Mississippi at the Salute to the Military, Oct. 23 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum Convention Center in Biloxi.

Donley addressed nearly 1,000 military members and community representatives at the 34th annual event sponsored by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce.

"It's wonderful to see the strong bond of camaraderie that helps make the partnership here between the people of Mississippi and men and women who serve in our armed forces such a tremendous asset to our national security," Donley said. "This community enjoys a long tradition of supporting our service members, joining generation after generation of Americans who laid the foundation for a strong national defense."

Donley pointed out that outstanding community support for all Department of Defense missions and military members across the state "is just one of the characteristics of Mississippi neighborliness and patriotism that make the Gulf Coast such a great place to serve our country and to live, which is evidenced by the thousands of military retirees who choose to plant roots here.

"America's Airmen are in the fight," the secretary emphasized as he highlighted the contributions of the Air Force and other military branches in combat, humanitarian and stability operations around the world.

Donley noted that while the Air Force has embraced technology that continues to revolutionize its capabilities in



Photo by Kemberly Groue

The Honorable Steven Palazzo, United States Congress; Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, and The Honorable Roger Wicker, United States Senate, applaud Master Sgt. Nicole Dismute, Mathies NCO Academy, after she was announced the winner of the Thomas V. Fredian Community Leadership Award during the 34th Annual Salute To The Military Oct. 23 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi.

air, space and cyberspace, "it's simply a fact that everything we do depends on our people, the living engine of our Air Force."

The secretary recognized the importance of Keesler's training mission, noting, "Thousands of Airmen trace their professional careers back to this location." He also mentioned the critical mission of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron's Hurricane Hunters in tracking dangerous storms.

Donley also addressed the challenges facing the military services from both the international strategic environment and domestic budget constraints. He referred to the hard choices the Air Force was

forced to make to align its fiscal 2013 budget proposal with the new defense strategic guidance and to comply with the requirements of the Budget Control Act that calls for a defense budget reduction of \$487 billion in the coming decade.

"In the Air Force budget, we made a conscious choice to protect readiness by trading size for quality, resulting in some force structure reductions that would divest 286 aircraft and reduce personnel in the active Guard and Reserve by approximately 9,900 over the next five years," Donley explained. "Reductions to force structure and manpower are necessary to ensure we have the resources to support

a ready force today and a modern force capable of meeting tomorrow's challenges ... To achieve these reductions, it is impossible to avoid impacts to Airmen, various civilian and contractor workforces and the communities they live in."

The threat of budget sequestration overshadows all budget decisions across the federal government, according to Donley.

"We have little more than two months before sequester goes into effect, a meat ax-like approach which would drive additional reductions of approximately \$55 billion to FY 13 defense accounts," the secretary stressed.

"This is not a responsible

way to achieve deficit reduction," he continued. "These additional and arbitrarily applied across-the-board cuts would leave the military without a workable strategy to counter global threats."

For the Air Force, sequestration would lead to reduction in flying hours, procurement, weapon sustainment and training, as well as civilian workforce reductions, Donley said.

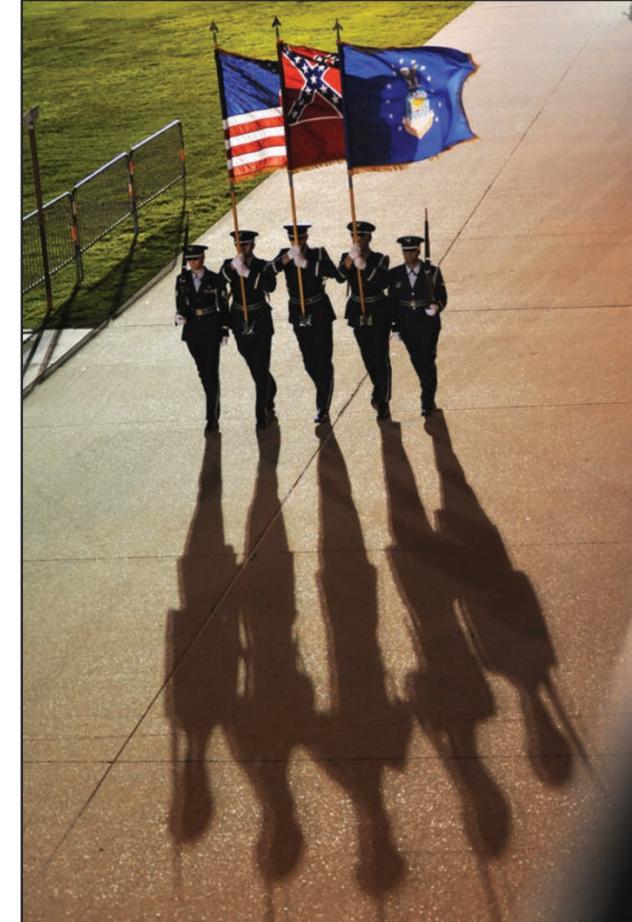
In closing, the secretary thanked military members and the surrounding communities "for building and sustaining a partnership that continues to benefit the Air Force, the state of Mississippi and our nation — what a great track record, what a great legacy."

Capt. Christopher Porta, 81st Security Forces Squadron, reviews the security plan for Special Olympics' traffic and base access with Col. Mark Vivians, 81st Mission Support Group commander and Col. Rene Romero, 81st Training Wing vice commander, during a one-day immersion tour of the 81st MSG for Romero July 24.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Tech. Sgt. Barry Hardy, 81st Security Forces Squadron combat arms, fires an M240B from the prone position into the metal backstop as other 81st SFS members Staff Sgt. Michael O'Neil and Staff Sgt. Richard Gibbs stand by during an indoor firing range safety test March 28. The ricochet containment test was conducted to ensure the metal backstop would catch each round fired.



The Keesler Honor Guard marches the American, Mississippi and Air Force flags onto the parade field during the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics Mississippi Summer Games.

Photo review: Looking back on 2012



Layliani, 4, Xiomara, 2, and Juan Sanchez, 6, show off their painted faces during Operation Hero April 21. 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 and was designed to help children better understand what happens when their parents deploy.



Lt. Col. Brian Worth, 336th Training Squadron commander, teases the crowd with a strand of beads during the 81st Training Group's annual Mardi Gras parade Feb. 10. The parade stretched from Thomson Hall to Matero Hall.



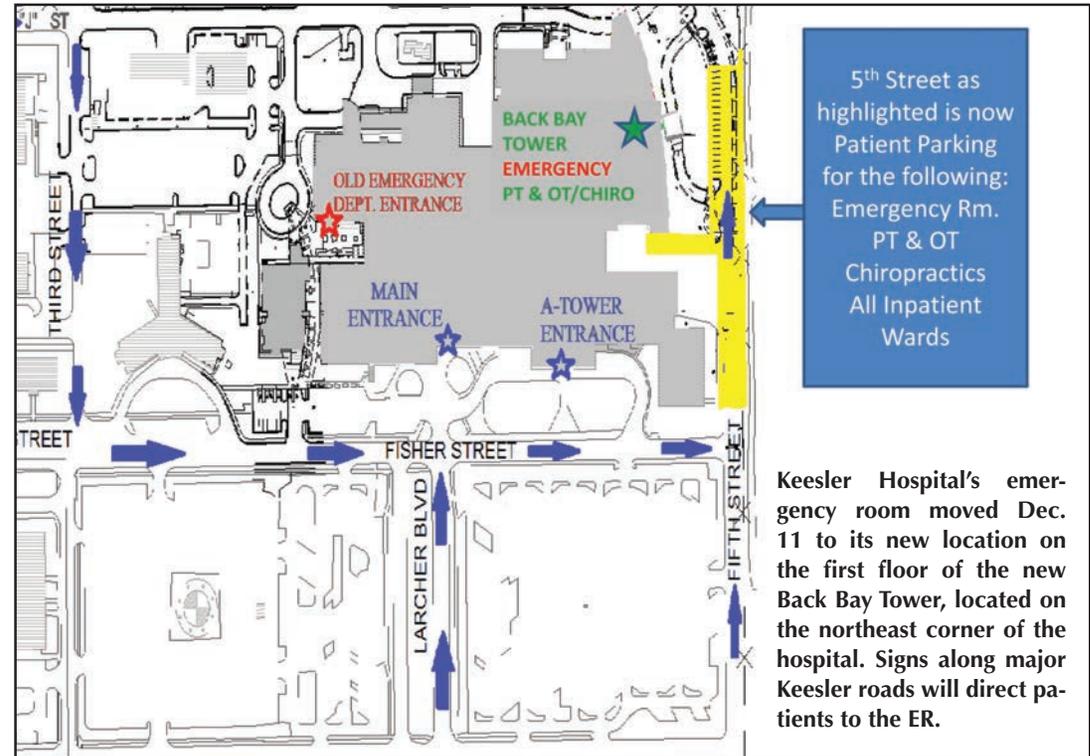
Steve Jones, a volunteer from Ingalls Ship Building in Pascagoula, Miss.; watches Alonzo Gaddy, athlete, toss a hula hoop while playing ring-a-saurus in Olympic Village as Gaddy's sponsors' Airman Basic Brandon Jackson and Airman First Class Wendell Mutz, 335th Training Squadron, cheer him on during the Special Olympics Mississippi Summer Games May 12. The Olympic Village is an area set up on the parade field with vendors, arts and crafts, games and karaoke for entertaining the athletes while not competing.



Staff Sgt. Angelo Banks, 81st Security Forces Squadron, updates and organizes the Visitor Center file plan for records management in his office at the Visitors Center July 9. Banks was selected for Air Education and Training Command's Airman of the Year for 2011 and has since been named one of twelve Air Force Airmen of the Year.

**NO DUIs NO EXCUSES
DRINK RESPONSIBLY**

ER moves to new tower



Dental Squadron to change policy

By Col. (Dr.) Chad Harris

81st Dental Squadron commander

The 81st Dental Clinic is scheduled to change their dental sick call policy Jan. 2.

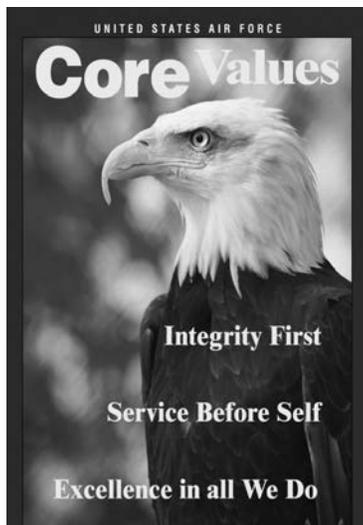
Under the new process, active-duty members will be able to call 228-376-0511 or 0512 and schedule an appointment to see a dentist for a diagnosis of their problem.

The Dental Clinic's duty hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and in addition to routine care, it provides emergency care such as trauma, active bleeding, extreme pain or swelling. The dental clinic staff only provides appointments for active-duty military. Retirees, dependents and others may only be seen on a space-available basis.

Family members of active-duty personnel are encouraged to participate in the TRICARE dental program. For general information about TDP or enrollment information, call 1-855-638-8371 or visit <https://mybenefits.metlife.com/tricare>.

Retirees and their family members are eligible for the TRICARE retiree dental program. For more information, visit www.trpd.org.

Some dental care also is available through the 81st DS Dental Residency Program, but access to this program is not available through the dental sick call system. For information about this aspect of care, please call 228-376-0511 or 0512.



Fata Morgana

Bello Nock, comedic daredevil and international circus star for Fata Morgana, leads a military appreciation show for Keesler families July 21 at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Fata Morgana, whose name is an Italian phrase meaning optical illusion, featured a small number of various acts throughout the show.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Off limits establishments

The following establishments are off limits to Armed Forces personnel with duty at Keesler:

Biloxi:

- Ya-ya's – 2751 Pass Rd.

Gulfport:

- Herbal Alternatives,
1909 E. Pass Road and
11530 U.S. Highway 49
- BJ's Bar (Club 228),
17920 16th St.

Sinsations Night Club,
1809 30th Ave.

Nick's Place, 12460
Hwy. 49

Pascagoula:

- Bunksmall Apartments,
708 S. Pascagoula St.

Spacy assumes command of 81st Training Wing

By Susan Griggs

Keesler Public Affairs

Editors note: This story originally ran in the May 24th issue of the Keesler News.

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy assumed command of the 81st Training Wing from Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller Friday on Keesler's parade field.

Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 2nd Air Force commander, officiated the ceremony and remarked on the bittersweet mood of a change of command.

"There's an officer that I'm about to have to rip the flag of command out of his hands because the 81st Training Wing has become his heart and soul and has taken on his personality," he said of Mueller. "Then there's the officer who's about to feel the burden of command as a wing commander for a second time."

Patrick recapped Mueller's accomplishments, both at Keesler and in the surrounding community, by leading the base's cyber training transformation and earning recognition as a local civic leader.

"But what you won't hear about is his passion to do what's right, his personal energy to leave the campground behind better than he found it and his 'glass house' attitude to do what he asks of others," he added. "In short, General Mueller has had a magnificent command tour and has been a driving force in change for the better in a time of political and economic uncertainty, and in a time of war. Your footsteps and fingerprints are all over the successes of this wing."

The 2nd Air Force commander said he's convinced that Spacy and his wife, Lisa, have the "right stuff" to lead the 81st Training Wing.

"The Spacys won't walk in the Muellers' footsteps — they're going to plow their own path," Patrick predicted. "They're ready to tackle their new adventure, a complex training wing, with many mission partners inside and outside the fence that will help you with every decision you make."

"Brad and Lisa, hold on — it's going to be a wild ride and

don't blink — the time will go way too fast," he advised.

During the ceremony, Patrick awarded Mueller the Legion of Merit, first oak leaf cluster, for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements." Mueller is headed to Geilenkirchen, Germany, to command NATO's Airborne Early Warning and Control Force.

Mueller used Keesler's 70 years of heritage as his touchstone for guiding the base for 22 months and reiterated Keesler's mission statement, "Train, care, innovate — develop combat power for air, space and cyberspace."

"When I look across this parade field at our Airmen, I see the tech sergeants of 2020 — I see the master sergeants in the year 2025 — and out there standing before you today, I see the chief master sergeant of the Air Force in the year 2042," he remarked. "This heritage comes with some responsibility — Team Keesler must be at its best every day."

Of the wing's new commander, Mueller said, "I can think of no better person to entrust this heritage to than General Brad Spacy and his wife, Lisa. He comes to Keesler with the experience of tech training. You won't be able to overwhelm him with acronyms like you did me."

"More importantly, they've been on the inside of 2nd Air Force — they know the larger spectrum of tech training across our Air Force," he continued. "And probably most importantly, they know the city of Biloxi. They know the heart and soul of those who live on the Gulf Coast — they've been here before and they know what a wonderful thing we have here at Keesler Air Force Base. For the Airmen of Keesler, I find in him an example to emulate."

In assessing Mueller's Keesler legacy, Spacy noted, "I've been around the Air Force long enough now that I can drive onto a base and can tell within a few minutes how that base is run. Within a couple hours I can tell you what they do well and in a couple more



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 2nd Air Force commander, passes the guidon to Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander, during the 81st TRW change of command ceremony Friday on the Levitow Training Support Facility parade field.

minutes I can tell you what they do wrong. And after just being on Keesler for just a few days, I can tell it's a well-led, well-run, excellent training base and America should be proud, so thank you, General Mueller, for this opportunity."

Spacy, who formerly served as chief of the Air Force Senate Liaison Office at the Pentagon, gave Team Keesler a preview of what to expect from his command by outlining six principles that guide his leadership style.

"I believe in the core values. My parents raised my sisters, my brother and I on the concepts of integrity, service and excellence long before the Air Force officially adopted them as core values. They're more than words — they're the way we live our lives."

"I believe in hard work. I believe that all Americans like to work and they like to work hard, as long as that work is challenging and interesting and you recognize them for it."

"I don't believe in gray areas

— I believe in absolutes.

I believe in right and wrong, good and bad, and win and lose. I think gray areas are a weak leader's excuse to avoid accountability. I think it's the responsibility of every leader at every level to clear up gray areas to give their Airmen the clear guidance they need to do their mission. I challenge you to find gray areas and clear them up, and if you can't, see me and I guarantee you I'll clear them up."

"I don't believe in trying to do anything — I believe in doing things. It sounds like a small difference, but it's an important difference — when you say, 'I'll try,' you've already done two things — first, 'I might fail,' and then second, 'That's OK.' You might say, 'Well, I tried,' and as long as we try our best, that's OK, but not in our business ... we have to do things. Think about our oath — we said we WILL support and defend the constitution of the United States. We didn't say we would try and do

it. We're going to do it.

"I believe in continuous improvement. Now that's a watchword that's been very in fashion the past few years, but it's always been the core of what the Air Force is all about. If we didn't believe in continuous improvement, we'd still be flying the Wright flyer; we'd be using a string on cans to communicate. We have to improve. I challenge you, the young people in the Air Force today, to come up with the next great idea — don't wait for me to do it."

"I believe in the Air Force family. We share something — we wear blues. You can come find me any time, day or night. When times are good, we're cheering, and when times are bad, we're mourning. You can knock on my door and you're always welcome."

"I'll make you only one promise," Spacy concluded. "While we're here, you'll get everything we've got every single day we're at Keesler — we're yours."



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy welcomes inprocessing Airmen to Keesler during his tour of the Levitow Training Support Facility Oct. 16. Roy toured the unique support facility available to non-prior service students and their families to see Keesler's new initiatives to improve the environment for students. Roy visited to meet with Airmen and further his understanding of Keesler's various missions, including the 81st Training Wing, 403rd Wing, and 2nd Air Force.

Roy to Keesler — “Motivation is contagious”

By Senior Airman
Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

Editors note: This story originally ran in the Oct. 25th issue of the Keesler News.

Memories burn themselves into the places they were made. For Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy, Keesler Air Force Base holds several fond memories including the birth of his sons and earning the honor to be called “chief.”

Roy spent Oct. 16 reacquainting himself with the base at which he was stationed from 1997 to 2000. During the chief's visit he was refreshed on the missions and accomplishments of several Keesler organizations including 2nd Air Force, the 81st Training Group and the 81st Medical Group.

“It's such a great honor to be back here at Keesler Air Force Base,” Roy said.

“What's always a treasure to me is to come back here and see the spirit of Keesler.”

While stationed at Keesler, he was the facility maintenance chief with the 81st Civil Engineering Squadron, superintendent of the 81st Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight and then superintendent of the 81st Mission Support Group.

Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Boothe now holds Roy's last position at Keesler and had the opportunity to escort the CMSAF around the base.

“It was wonderful having Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Roy here with us on Keesler. We feel like he is one of our very own family so it was a homecoming,” Boothe said. “Having the opportunity to showcase our wing and our folks gave me great pride. He was also excited to see how much the wing has changed

and grown over the years.”

During his tour, Roy also had an opportunity to meet non-prior service Airmen in the 81st TRG and interact with the Air Force's newest assets.

“Those young students are so motivated and if we could keep that motivation through a 20- or thirty-year career just think where we would be,” he said. “Motivation is contagious.”

The CMSAF said that Keesler's people understand that the mission they do here is important to the continued success of the United States Air Force.

Keesler's mission, “Train Airmen across the spectrum of warfighting skills and deliver overwhelming combat power for the Air Force,” also fits snugly within what the CMSAF said are three of his areas of focus.

“Certainly as the chief master sergeant of the Air

Force there's always plenty to do but we've focused on three areas — our joint and coalition operations and what we're doing to win today's fight and prepare for the next natural disaster; deliberately developing our Airmen through the three pillars of experience, training and education; and continuing to focus on the resilience of our Airmen and their families,” Roy said. “I will continue to focus on those three areas throughout my tenure.”

The chief had an opportunity to see these three focus areas in action throughout Keesler including the joint training environment, Airman Leadership School, Mathies NCO Academy and the newly-created teal rope program initiated by the 81st Training Wing Sexual Assault and Prevention Response Office.

“We have a resiliency culture in our force called ‘compre-

hensive Airman fitness' and it's about taking care of yourself, it's about knowing your limits, it's about growing through very difficult situations and it's about taking care of people,” the chief said. “I want to reach out to the Keesler community and say a special thanks to them. When we can deploy an Airman and their family staying behind feels comfortable in that community that's a great thing.”

The CMSAF also expressed his excitement after seeing the development of future leaders at Keesler.

Roy said, “Thank you for the opportunity to come back to Keesler and see your professional Airmen. It's an honor for Ms. Paula and me to be back here and to see many of the people whom we served with and also to see the next generation of Airmen who will carry on our Air Force's legacy.”