



# KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

MAY 10, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 19



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## 81st Training Wing Public Affairs

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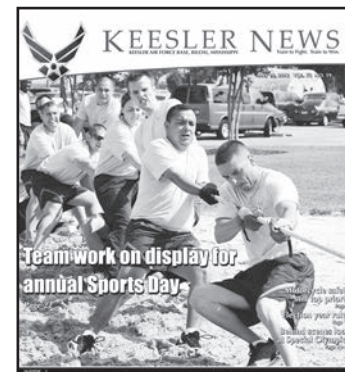


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## ON THE COVER

Members of the 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, pull the rope with all of their might in the tug-of-war competition against 81st Diagnostic and Therapeutics Squadron during Sports Day Friday. Sports Day was held in conjunction with May's National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. The event consisted of a variety of sports with participation from the base squadrons. The winner of the small squadron division was 81st Training Support Squadron and the winner of the large squadron division was the 334th Training Squadron.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## DRAGONS THAT I MEET

### Capt. Ronny Bowman



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller**

81st Training Wing commander

I would like to introduce you to Capt. Ronny Bowman. He is a 1995 graduate of Southern College of Optometry and the Optometry Flight commander in the 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron who has been at Keesler for more than two years. Bowman said he joined the Air Force because medicine in the Air Force is centered on patient care.

"I can take care of my patients with state-of-the-art equipment and only be concerned with their well being and not insurance policies or the bottom line."

I'm happy to have Ronny as a part of Team Keesler and proud to have him as this week's Dragon.



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

# Enlisted performance ratings earned, not given

Commentary by  
Master Sgt. Chris Stagner

Robert Gaylor NCO Academy

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas  
— Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy recently issued a call to arms for all enlisted Airmen in his perspective paper: “Now is the time for bold leadership.”

In this message, he states it is up to the enlisted force to lead with integrity and return stability to the enlisted performance report system. Specifically, he said of his message sent to command chiefs, functional managers, and major command commanders and vice commanders, “the theme of the message was that too much arbitrary guidance could prove to be counterproductive. As supervisors, the more leverage we have to deal with situations on a case-by-case basis, the better.”

The response to this message and the resulting discussions has been phenomenal — and varied. Opinions range from enthusiastically supportive to continued concern about the system.

I’m currently attending the Robert Gaylor NCO Academy at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and the theories behind leadership are something we discuss every day. Based on what we’re being taught here, I find it hard to understand the confusion about the chief’s message.

We’re taught to communicate with our Airmen. We’re taught to provide constant feedback to our Airmen. We’re taught to establish standards for our Airmen and, more importantly, hold them to the standards we establish. We’re taught to counsel those same Airmen if they fail to



## THE AIRMAN'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.  
I AM A WARRIOR.  
I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.  
MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN.  
I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,  
A TRADITION OF HONOR,  
AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN,  
GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,  
MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,  
ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.  
I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN:  
WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.  
I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND.  
I WILL NEVER FALTER.

AND I WILL NOT FAIL

meet our standards.

So ponder me this: If we are all doing this every day, if we’re actively leading our Airmen versus passively leaving them to do their jobs, if we’re training our Airmen and are involved; how can writing an EPR with integrity be so difficult? Why do we constantly hear, “That’s not how it’s done in the real Air Force?”

I learned early in my career not to expect a 5 EPR. My second EPR, as a matter of fact, was a 2 referral. As an entitled Airman, I was furious with the rating. How could I warrant a 2 referral with the amount of effort I put into the job every day? How could my supervisor ruin my career? She explained to me very simply that she’d established standards, and I’d failed to meet them. It took years and a number of supervisory

experiences of my own before I understood what she meant: No one deserves a rating; we all earn our ratings.

NCO academy lesson plans say the same thing: establish standards, hold subordinates accountable to those standards, provide feedback constantly and rate fairly. If all of us are being taught the same way, why aren’t we executing those simple expectations in “the real Air Force?”

Chief Master Sgt. Craig Howell is the commandant of the Robert Gaylor NCOA. He’s spent 15 years involved in professional military education and eight years as a first sergeant. He’s also spent a great deal of time asking himself this same question.

“Having dissected it (the enlisted evaluation system) over the last 28 years, our EES is probably the most per-

**It took years and a number of supervisory experiences of my own before I understood what she meant: No one deserves a rating; we all earn our ratings.**

— Stagner

fect I’ve seen,” he said. “However, it is misunderstanding, misuse, and sometimes abuse and fear of supervisors to do the right thing that makes the system appear broken.”

During our discussions in class about this very topic, many of my classmates have stated they’ve given 5 ratings because they didn’t have the paperwork to justify a 4 or a 3. Those statements perfectly support Howell’s statement.

Why would you need paperwork to justify a 4 EPR? A 4 is an excellent rating. You don’t need a letter of counseling to receive a 4 on your EPR. You need to come to work, do an excellent job, be involved in your community and pursue your education.

Did you read what I just wrote?

In order to earn a 4 on your EPR, you need to come to work, do an excellent job, be involved in your community and pursue your education. That is what qualifies you as a 4 — being excellent.

It’s been said that leaders refuse to allow less than a 5 (which is a topic for another day since no one can tell you how to rate your Airmen)

because it reflects negatively on leadership.

Comic book hero Thor says, “I say thee nay.” I tend to agree with him on this one. So does Howell.

“It’s not a reflection on leadership when a follower is less than perfect,” he said. “Sometimes it’s a battle of will instead of a battle of skill. No one is perfect all of the time.”

So how do we fix this? How do we move from this “broken” system into a fixed one? Do we as enlisted leaders require someone else to tell us how to do our jobs and lead our troops? Do we need a quota system to tell us how many of our Airmen are allowed to shine? Do we ask for a switch back from EPRs to APRs? A mulligan, perhaps?

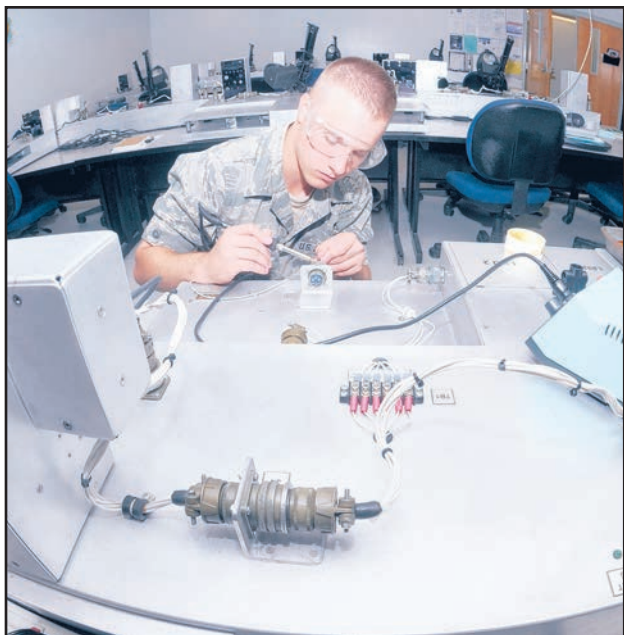
No.

In order to fix this system, all we have to do is what we’re taught in PME. All we have to do is follow Roy’s direction and be bold, confident leaders who take care of our Airmen.

If that’s not how it’s done in “the real Air Force,” then it is up to us to have the integrity to make it so.

No one can do that but us.

## Students display academic excellence



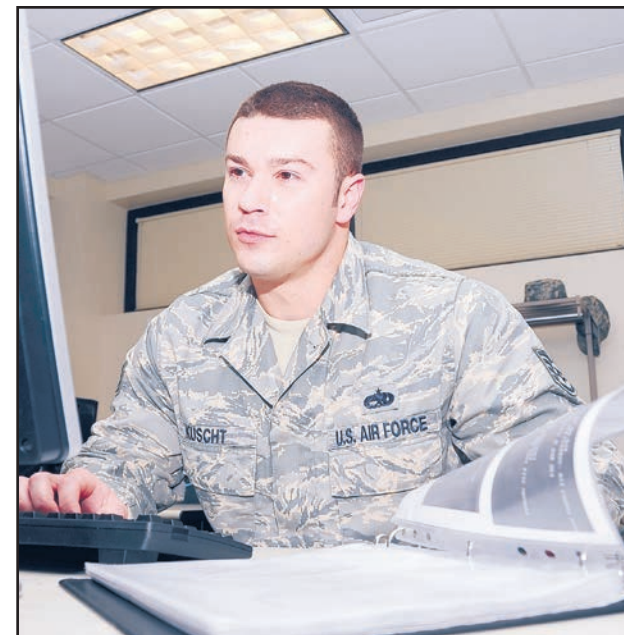
**Airman Basic Vincent Lanzo**

Airman Basic Vincent Lanzo graduated with a perfect score from avionics fundamentals course in the 335th Training Squadron May 2. Lanzo, a native of Baltimore, Md., is now assigned to the 2A335C remote piloted aircraft avionics course Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.



**Senior Airman Justin Ross**

Ross graduated with a perfect score from cyber surety course in the 336th Training Squadron May 2. Ross, a native of Charlotte, Mich., is now assigned to the 122nd Fighter Wing Communications Squadron, Fort Wayne, Ind.



**Staff Sgt. Christopher Kuscht**

Staff Sgt. Christopher Kuscht graduated with a perfect score from cyber system operations course in the 336th Training Squadron May 2. Kuscht will be returning to his home at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, Syracuse, N.Y.

## Airman, MTL of the Month



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Johnathan Turner, 334th Training Squadron, won the Dragon Award for outstanding military training leader for April. One MTL is nominated from each of the four squadrons that train nonprior service students. Nominees take a knowledge test of the Air Force Instruction that governs the job and perform control of flight marching and open ranks. The award is intended to raise the level of adherence to military training standards and military excellence set for technical training students. The 336 TRS was awarded the Military Training Flight of the Month for April.



Airman Basic Samantha Kovalewski, 336th Training Squadron, is the 81st Training Group's Airman of the Month for April. Her award was presented during a ceremony May 3 on the drill pad. Kovalewski, from Bloomsburg, Pa., is here for cyber system operations training. The four squadrons that train nonprior service students each select one Airman to compete at a monthly group board. Airmen are graded on personal appearance, communication skills and military bearing. They also respond to questions about customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, dormitory common areas and current events from that week's issue of the Keesler News.

# Motorcycle safety top priority for DOD leaders

By Army Sgt. 1st Class  
Tyrone Marshall Jr.

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Preventing motorcycle accidents and fatalities remains a top priority for Defense Department leaders, a senior defense official said today, with training and awareness reducing the number of incidents.

“We had seen fatalities and accidents increasing as motorcycle ownership increased,” Joseph Angello, DOD’s director of operational readiness and safety, told the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service. In 2008, the peak year for fatalities, he added, 124 service members died in motorcycle accidents.

“Since that time — through training, through emphasis, through leadership [and] through the phenomenal work of our military services — we’ve brought that number down,” he said. “We lost 92 [service members] last year, and this year our trends look like we will be at that level or less.”

Every loss is tragic and affects spouses, parents and other family members, the service member’s unit and the Defense Department, Angello said.

“We don’t want anyone to lose their life in a motorcycle accident,” he said. “We want them to drive safe; we want them to wear protective gear — helmets, appropriate shoes, appropriate attire, and leathers. ... But sometimes, the best protection against a motorcycle accident is awareness, training and control. That’s your best protection.”

As a motorcycle rider since age 11, Angello said, he knows how much fun riding can be. But it’s important for riders to respect the fact that motorcycles also are inherently dangerous, he added.

“It takes effort to ride a motorcycle properly,” he said. “Accidents happen in the blink of an eye, [and] those mistakes are unforgiving.” Riders who



Photo by Kemberly Groue  
Master Sgt. Kendal Dismute, center, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron first sergeant, displays some of his motorcycle safety gear to Airman Basic Stephen Pase, left, and Airman 1st Class Ryan Schroeder, students in the 338th Training Squadron, July 8, 2011.

ride safely 99 times out of 100, he added, can experience a “high regret factor” the one time they don’t.

The director noted motorcycle training is mandatory for all DOD personnel. In addition, military personnel are required to wear personal protective equipment, such as long sleeves, eye protection and helmets, even if they are in a “no-helmet” state.

“If you are a military member and you want to ride a motorcycle, you must have the training,” Angello said. “Each of our services — a lot of them are common courses — have a basic motorcycle safety course. You must take it or a refresher course, an advanced rider course, or a sports bike course.”

The Navy and Marine Corps developed the sports

bike course in 2008 and shared it through the Defense Safety Oversight Council Private Motor Vehicle Task Force. “Sports bikes are phenomenal pieces of engineering, with power-to-weight ratios like we’ve never seen before,” Angello said. “As a result, they are very dangerous. If ridden properly, it’s enjoyment — it’s fun. But they are unforgiving.”

Numerous deployments over the last decade have had an impact on the number of service members involved in motorcycle accidents, Angello said.

“We have noted, and other studies have noted, there is an increase in motorcycle accidents when people return from deployment,” he said. “Our data shows [it happens] particularly within the first year when returning from de-

ployment.”

Theories as to why these fatalities are occurring include service members not having the opportunity to ride a motorcycle during deployment or the change in driving conditions when they’re back home, Angello said.

“Others talk of theories such as, ‘You become ‘bulletproof’ from your experience in theater, and you take more risks at home,’” he said. “Whatever the cause, we in DOD are taking it very seriously. When people return from deployment our leaders are ensuring people get trained.”

Angello, who noted he has taken motorcycle training himself, urged all service members to take advantage of “some of the best training offered in this nation.”

“Right now, the courses are for service members,” he said. “Some of the installations, on a space-available basis, make arrangements for family members. However, any military member who has a dependent who wants to ride a motorcycle — they should be trained.”

Angello lauded military leaders for their commitment to addressing motorcycle safety for having “offered courses that make a difference in people’s lives,” and urged all military members to be ready to ride, just as they are ready for the mission when they serve in uniform.

“Ready to ride — right equipment, right training, right conditions,” he said. “Keep your awareness up, and you’re ready to ride.”

# Political engagement rules for military, civilians

The Constitution is the most important document to a military member or Department of Defense employee. All swear an allegiance to support and defend it. It protects the right to free speech, to assemble and to vote among other rights; however, because of the nature of service, our uniform and what they represent, there are special rules.

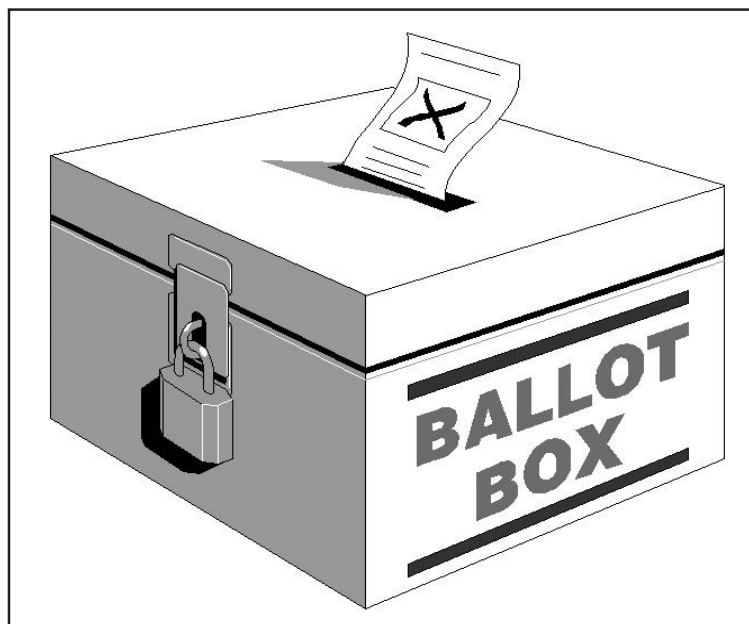
These rules are designed to ensure that we use our public position to execute the will of the people we serve, and not promote our own political beliefs. Knowing the rules below will allow you to exercise your rights without negative repercussion.

## Active duty do's

If you are an active duty Air Force member, AFI 51-902, Political Activities by Members of the US Air Force, is your guide concerning political "dos" and "don'ts." It is important to take note, because failing to follow any of these rules is a violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Obviously, you can vote and sign petitions. You can also express a personal opinion on political candidates so long as you do not appear to be acting as a representative for the Air Force or DoD. You are also free to give money to a political organization, party or committee favoring a particular candidate or slate of candidates.

There are a number of things you can do as long as you are not wearing your uniform. When out of uniform, you are free to attend political fundraising activities, meetings,



rallies, debates, conventions or activities as a spectator. You can also join and attend political clubs. If you want to wear a political button or shirt, feel free to do so in civilian clothes.

There are special rules regarding social media, personal blogs or writing letters to newspapers. If you can be identified as a member of the Armed Forces, for example if you have a picture of yourself in uniform on your Facebook page, then you must clearly state that the views expressed are yours only and not those of the Air Force or DoD.

## Active duty don'ts

So, what are you prohibited from doing? You cannot use your official authority to influence or interfere with an election or solicit political contributions. But there are also other prohibitions which may

be less obvious. For example, you **may not**:

- Participate, other than as a spectator, in partisan political fundraising activities, rallies, conventions (including making speeches), management of campaigns or debates. You also may not speak before a partisan political gathering; go on radio or television to advocate for a political party, candidate or cause. You may not march or ride in a partisan political parade. These prohibitions apply whether or not you are in uniform and regardless of whether an inference or appearance of official sponsorship, approval or endorsement may be drawn.

- Allow, or cause to be published, partisan political articles, letters or endorsements signed or written by the member that solicits votes for or against a partisan political

party, candidate or cause.

- Serve in any official capacity or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club. You may not perform clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee or candidate during a campaign, on an election day or after an election day during the process of closing out a campaign.

- Solicit or otherwise engage in fundraising activities in federal offices or facilities, including military reservations, for any partisan political party, candidate or cause.

- Display a large political sign, banner, or poster (as distinguished from a bumper sticker) on a private vehicle.

- Display a large political sign, poster, banner, or similar device visible to the public at one's residence on a military installation, even if that residence is part of a privatized housing development.

- Participate in any organized effort to provide voters with transportation to the polls, if the effort is organized by or associated with a partisan political party, cause, or candidate.

If you are an officer, there is one other rule you should know about. Article 88 of the UCMJ makes it a crime to use contemptuous words against the president, the vice president, Congress, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of a military department, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Governor or legislature of the state where you are present or on duty.

## Civilian do's and don'ts

Rules governing civilian po-

litical activities are not quite as extensive as for military members, but there are still restrictions. Most of these restrictions are found in the Hatch Act and the Joint Ethics Regulation. These restrictions prohibit civilian DoD members from:

- Using official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election.

- Collecting political contributions unless both the collector and the donor are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization and the donor is not a subordinate.

- Knowingly soliciting or discouraging the political activity of any person who has business with DoD.

- Engaging in "political activity" while on duty, while in any Federal workplace, while wearing an official uniform or displaying official insignia identifying the office or position of the DoD employee, or while using a government owned or leased vehicle. The term "political activity" means an activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office or partisan political group.

- Soliciting political contributions from the general public.

In all cases, knowing the rules about what political activities are permitted and which are prohibited can ensure you are able to exercise your rights while ensuring compliance with the law.

# Child care in housing areas requires licensing

## 81st Force Support Squadron

People living in base housing who care for others' children in their homes could be breaking the rules. Air Force Instruction 34-276, which governs day care in on-base quarters, states "any individuals caring for children more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis must get approval."

It states that the "installation commander may revoke the housing privileges of individuals who provide child care but refuse to become licensed or who continue to provide care after their

license has been suspended or revoked."

The rule applies whether or not caregivers are compensated for their services.

"We feel people living in base housing, who regularly care for children without being licensed, may be unaware of the regulation," said Mary Pleasant, family child care program coordinator. "We want not only to bring the information to their attention, but to educate them on the alternative — to become a licensed family child care provider."

Licenses are granted by the 81st

Mission Support Group commander, usually within 30 days upon completion of the initial FCC provider training, background screenings and home inspections.

The training includes child guidance, play environments, nutrition, ages and stages of development, child abuse and neglect, recordkeeping, business management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid.

"FCC providers are professionals trained to give the best possible care to

the children left in their charge," said Pleasant.

Once licensed, providers may care for children from two weeks through 12 years old assistance from the FCC staff in setting up their home and have access to an extensive library for toys, equipment and materials which help keep costs down. They may set up their own hours of operation and fee structure.

For more information, call 377-3189, 5934 or 5935, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

# DLA Document Services to hold open house

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News co-editor

Defense Logistics Agency Document Services will be holding an open house to showcase their services to the base — electronic document management, equipment management systems and in-house document reproduction. The event will occur 9 a.m.-1 p.m., May 24. DLA Document Services is located at 708 Fisher Street, Building 901.

Over the past 60 years, DLA Document Services has evolved into much more than the guys in the back making copies for the Department of Defense. While its thumb is still poised on the copier's start button, there are a whole range of document services available both online and off, hard copies or soft.

Indeed, they are not your grandparent's Document Automation and Production Service, literally. Formally known as DAPS, DLA Document Services just recently underwent a name change. Defense Logistics Agency is the DOD's largest logistics support agency providing the services and supplies they need to operate. DLA Document Services supports the warfighter and DOD community with all things related to document reproduction and distribution.

"One of our mottos is 'we exist for the convenience of our customers,'" said Patrick Jacobs, supervisory document automation specialist. "We are here to help the various squadrons and base agencies obtain the necessary documents they need to perform their mission."

All of the booklets, manuals, testing material and study guides needed to perform the training mission at Keesler are printed by DLA. However, since a large percentage of DLA's customer base is military, often the knowledge of its presence and services leaves when the service member leaves without being transferred on to a replacement. So periodically, DLA Document Services needs to remind base customers that the agency is open for business.

In one form or another, copying and printing has been available on base throughout Keesler's history. The Air Force used to employ a large staff to operate large printing presses which printed documents in bulk and then stockpiled in warehouses. In the printing industry, that way has become a thing of the past. Today, DLA Document Services employs a much smaller, more efficient team using much smaller, faster printers that can print orders on demand without the need to warehouse them.

"On average we process 250 to 260 orders per month which translates into roughly up to 3 million copies per month and we do it all with five employees," said



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, electronic duplication specialist Barry Eubanks assists Tech. Sgt. Christopher Ré, 2nd Air Force, and Yeoman 2nd Class Rosann Hoffmann from Special Boat Team 22 at the Stennis Space Center with their printing needs.

Mr. Jacobs. In addition to copies, DLA Document Services provides printing, collating, binding, scanning, imaging, document conversion, CD-ROM, web and design services.

The Keesler facility not only supports the base community, but other area military installations as well. The Seabee Base in Gulfport, Miss., Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg and Stennis Space Center in Hancock County all benefit from the services DLA Document Services can provide. The Keesler facility is one of 15 regional centers with headquarters at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. and one of 180 worldwide located primarily on U.S. military bases in seven countries. Mr. Jacobs manages five offices, including the one at Keesler.

"Being in this network results in better service for the customer," Mr. Jacobs pointed out. "If one office doesn't have the capability to meet a customer's needs, there's an office that does and we can get the job done."

"Also, our office is structured such that if only one person showed up to work on any given day, that person would be able to do whatever job needed to be done," he added.

DLA Document Services has developed a robust online ordering system that

allows their facilities to process orders received from customers via the Internet. For the past three years, the Keesler facility has participated in and was one of the pilot facilities for the Air Force's new technical order distribution program. Updates on anything from equipment maintenance manuals to weapons manuals, flight manuals and procedural operations can be made to the original document and ordered online. When new discoveries are made in the field or on the job, these changes can be implemented and new manuals ordered and distributed more quickly than before.

"In the past, these products were warehoused in four locations across the U.S. and shipped everywhere," Mr. Jacobs explained. "Now they can be produced more locally as needed, which reduces costs."

Gradually, DLA Document Services has been working with customers to build digital libraries of documents with the ability to access them online as well as the conversion of paper documents to a digital format that can be edited.

But where the rubber hits the road for Mr. Jacobs and his team is producing a product that is visually accurate, high quality with high resolution and delivered in a timely manner. The U.S. Army's Handbook

of Ammunitions Used in Afghanistan is an example of a product that requires a certain level of expertise. Produced in 2011 in support of the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., this manual shows pictures and gives descriptions of the different types of ordnance, makeshift bombs and improvised explosive devices that the enemy uses in Afghanistan.

"One of the requirements for this manual was that it be durable and waterproof so we printed it on a polyester stock," Mr. Jacobs explained.

"This particular stock is actually not paper at all -- it's plastic. It's durable and holds the color very well. So you can imagine if you were fighting in Afghanistan and came across something, you'd want the images and colors in this manual to be accurate so that you would know what you were looking at."

"That's what I like most about this business," said Mr. Jacobs. "No two jobs are alike. There's always something new every day."

Whatever your document needs, Mr. Jacobs recommends coming in and setting up an account.

For more information, call 377-2782.

# Keesler prepares for annual Special Olympics

By Staff Sgt. Kimberly Rae Moore

81st Training Wing Public Affairs  
NCOIC/Keesler News co-editor

Keesler prepares to host the Special Olympics Mississippi's Summer Games May 11 and 12. While the events may only last the weekend, it takes several months of preparations to make it all happen.

A team of volunteers from throughout the base began meeting and planning for the event in January.

"In order to make the event possible we have a planning committee that meets and discusses what has been done and what still needs to be done and then the committee heads take those items for action," said Maj. Tracy Snyder, SOMS project officer.

"Many of the committee members have volunteered for several years so their experience and learning lessons are invaluable. Keesler has been hosting the Summer Games for so long that although there are always unforeseen challenges, for the most part the process runs like a well-oiled machine"

Just because things run smoothly doesn't mean that it doesn't take a lot of hard work from both the planning committee and volunteers. Coordination has to happen between the base, the city of Biloxi, the surrounding military units, and several corporate sponsors in order for the event to happen.

Approximately 3,000 volunteers from Keesler and the local community will work in the days leading up to, during, and after the games, Snyder said.

For many of the volunteers, the work is also physically demanding.

"We have two 40-by-80-foot General's tents which take 30 volunteers three hours each

to set up," said Staff Sgt. Cody Spitler, SOMS deputy project officer.

"One of the large tents will be used for food service and the other will house 'Olympic Village' where carnival games and arts and craft activities will be set up," Spitler said. "In addition to the two large tents, several others will be set up throughout the Triangle area to serve as registration and shade tents."

Tent set up began May 7 as well as positioning of barriers.

"Volunteers load up nearly 200 barriers on a flatbed truck and we pre-position them in the area where they will detour traffic throughout the games," said Staff Sgt. Chris Freimann, SOMS deputy project officer.

In addition to the water barriers, 500 metal barriers donated by the City of Biloxi are positioned to serve as personnel control throughout the Triangle, Freimann explained.

"Once the tents and barriers are in place the rest of the week is spent building 15 awards stands, the Olympic Torch display and receiving and preparing the refrigerated trucks and 'water buffalos' loaned from the Gulfport Naval Construction Battalion Center, Camp Shelby and the Gulfport Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center."

"There are 40 volunteers dedicated to water and ice alone," Freimann said. "Those volunteers will drive back and forth all weekend-long refilling 200 water coolers stationed throughout the Triangle."

"It takes a lot of coordination and hard work to make this happen," Snyder said, "but everyone involved takes pride in their involvement and once the athletes arrive and are having a great time every bit of hard work has already paid off."



Thirty volunteers work together to set up a 40-foot-by-80-foot tent adjacent to Bryan Hall Monday, in preparation for the Special Olympics Mississippi Summer Games. This tent takes three hours to set up and will be used for food service during the games.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Rae Moore



Staff Sgts. Kevin Braden, 335th Training Squadron, and Cody Spitler, Special Olympics Mississippi deputy project officer, instruct volunteer Airmen on positioning stakes to secure a 40-foot-by-80-foot tent adjacent to Bryan Hall.



Staff Sgt. Cody Spitler leads volunteers in pre-positioning barriers at the Triangle area Monday prior to the Special Olympics Mississippi Summer Games kick off. Nearly 200 water barriers will serve as traffic control in addition to 500 metal barriers which are positioned to serve as personnel control throughout the SOMS games.



## Special Olympics

### Schedule of events

#### Friday

**9 a.m.-11 p.m.** — Dorm decoration judging, Triangle.

**Noon-1 p.m.** — torch run, Veterans Ave./U.S Highway 90/Larcher Blvd./Meadows Rd./ Triangle/Welch Theatre.

**6:30-7:30 p.m.** — reception, Bay Breeze Events Center.

**8-10 p.m.** — opening ceremonies, Levitow Training Support Facility.

#### Saturday

**9-11 a.m.** — wheelchair events, Triangle Track.

**9:30 a.m. to noon** — power lifting, Triangle Fitness Center.

**9 a.m.-1 p.m.** — track events, Triangle Track.

**9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** — bocce, Triangle Track;

**9 a.m. - 2 p.m.** — golf, Bay

Breeze Golf Course.

**9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.** — aquatics, Biloxi Natatorium; sailing, Biloxi Yacht Club.

**9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.** — volleyball, south of Triangle Track.

**10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** — Olympic Village, Levitow

**1:30-4 p.m.** — running and standing long jump, Triangle Track; shot put, behind softball field; softball throw, softball field; tennis ball throw, softball field.

**7:30-8 p.m.** — closing ceremonies, Levitow.

**8-11 p.m.** — victory dance, Triangle parade field.

**8-9:45 p.m.** — movie, Welch Theater.

#### Sunday

**8 a.m. to noon** — athletes depart.



# KEESLER NOTES

## Special Olympics traffic

Please be advised, for safety reasons, during the Special Olympics games traffic flow in the triangle area will be restricted. Several roads will be blocked off from May 10 through the end of the games on May 13. Please plan accordingly.

## 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.

## Keesler 5/6 fundraiser

The Keesler 5/6 is holding a fundraiser and eating 'mor' chicken tonight at a popular fast food restaurant from 5-8 p.m. The Keesler 5/6 will receive a percentage of the sales during that time. Please come out and buy enough chicken or something to 'fil-a' hungry belly or two. Money collected will go toward funding promotion release parties for E-5 Staff Sergeant and E-6 Technical Sergeant and to purchase gift cards for quarterly NCO award winners. The Keesler

5/6 holds meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Bay Breeze Event Center. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ashley Jackson, (228) 377-0349.

## Master Sergeant Select Release Party

Everyone in Team Keesler is invited to the Bay Breeze Event Center, 4 p.m. May 17 to congratulate our newest Master Sergeant selects. Refreshments will be provided.

## I-81 running track

The I-81 Running Track will be under construction and closed for the next few months in order to remove and replace the asphalt surface. The contractor will begin work May 21 and is scheduled to be com-

pleted mid-July.

## Summer classes

William Carey University is currently enrolling for the Summer trimester which begins May 28. William Carey offers flexible bachelors and masters degrees. Advisors are available to answer questions about degrees, VA benefits, and tuition assistance. For more information, call (228) 376-8440.

## Asian-Pacific Heritage Month

In honor of the Asian-Pacific Heritage Month, the base exchange and the Asian Shop will be hosting a cultural event May 26. The Keesler Asian Pacific Committee will perform dances from the

Philippines and Hawaii, and will have a fashion show. The function will be from 1-2 p.m. in the mall area in front of the exchange. Please come and join the celebration and bring your cameras.

## 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. - 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

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

## Friday

**Noon** — Special Olympics Torch run arrives on base between noon and 1 p.m.

**6 p.m.** — Coctails & Canvas at the arts and crafts center.

**6:30 p.m.** — Special Olympics reception Bay Breeze Event Center.

**8 p.m.** — Special Olympics opening ceremonies

## Saturday

**9 a.m.** — Special Olympics events begin. See page 8 for full schedule of events.

**7:30 p.m.** — Special Olympics closing ceremonies at the Levitow Training Support Facility.

## Sunday

**11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** — Mother's Day brunch at the Bay

Breeze Event Center.

## 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 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.

## Wednesday

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

## May 17

**4 p.m.** — Master Sgt. select release party at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Come out to congratulate our newest senior NCOs.

## May 18

**11 a.m.** — Annual First

Sergeant Golf Tournament at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

## May 19

**8 a.m.** — Sign-in begins for America's Armed Forces Kids Run at the exercise grounds next to the youth center. Run begins at 9 a.m. Ages 5 through adult. First 50 to sign up get a free t-shirt.

**9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** — Community Yard Sale in the Bay Breeze parking lot for more information or to reserve a table call (228) 377-2509

## May 22

**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.

## Military education organization announces 2012 award program

The National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services and MBS Direct LLC are pleased to announce the 2012 NAIMES Student Spotlight Award program. This program offers an opportunity for interested active duty military students to showcase their scholarly competency and skills learned while participating in the Voluntary Education program.

This award is not limited to students attending NAIMES institutions.

The purpose of the Student Spotlight Award is to recognize a student, undergraduate or graduate, who demonstrates excellent academic achievement in pursuit of their civilian postsecondary education. Eligible participants are active duty personnel from all service branches. ROTC students, military academy students and, those who are using special tuition assistance programs

are not eligible to apply. Current students are encouraged to submit an application and project to compete for one of three \$1,200 cash awards.

The award recognizes the top submission in three categories:

- Undergraduate student with less than 60 college credits earned
- Undergraduate student with 60 or more college credits earned
- Graduate student

Applications for the 2012 NAIMES Student Spotlight Award are being accepted April 16 - Aug. 31. Winners will be announced on Oct. 29.

Applications must be completed on the NAIMES Student Spotlight Award form, which can be obtained on their website, [www.naimes.org](http://www.naimes.org).

For more information, contact Cheri Arfsten, chair, Student Spotlight Award Committee at [cheri.arfsten@ppcc.edu](mailto:cheri.arfsten@ppcc.edu).

# 81st MDG celebrates nurses, medical technicians

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group's nurses and medical technicians observe the annual Nurse and Medical Technician Week May 6-12 with a variety of activities.

The Keesler observance officially starts at noon today with an opening ceremony in the hospital's Don Wylie Auditorium. Col. Teresa Ryan, individual mobilization augmentee to the 81st MDG chief nurse, will address nurses, med techs and other guests about the history of nursing.

The "Dragon Medics" actually began the week-long program May 5 with a 7 p.m. pizza party for the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, Family Birthing Center and Medical and Surgical In-

patient Unit staffs. Pizza will be delivered to each department.

The formal opening ceremony on May 7 was followed by a fashion show.

A 5K run started at the Blake Fitness Center at 7 a.m. May 8, then at 2 p.m. event organizers held an ice cream social and passed out special T-shirts. The night shift wasn't left out as another pizza party treated the ER, ICU, FBC, 4A and 5A staffs.

May 9 was "Spa Day" in the hospital's Don Wylie Auditorium, offering 15-minute massages. During the same time, in the 81st MDG Education and Training Flight area a "Virtual Dementia Tour" was conducted. The "tour" was an individual experience through simulated dementia; participants become dementia resi-

dents through simulation.

Keesler's Nurse/Tech Week wraps up at noon today with a closing ceremony, barbecue lunch and cake outside the ER. However, later today, Keesler medics will join staffs from area medical facilities in the annual "Scrub Shirt Scramble" starting at 5 p.m. at the Biloxi Town Green (opposite the Hard Rock Casino) where they will compete for the coveted "Golden Bedpan Trophy."

National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

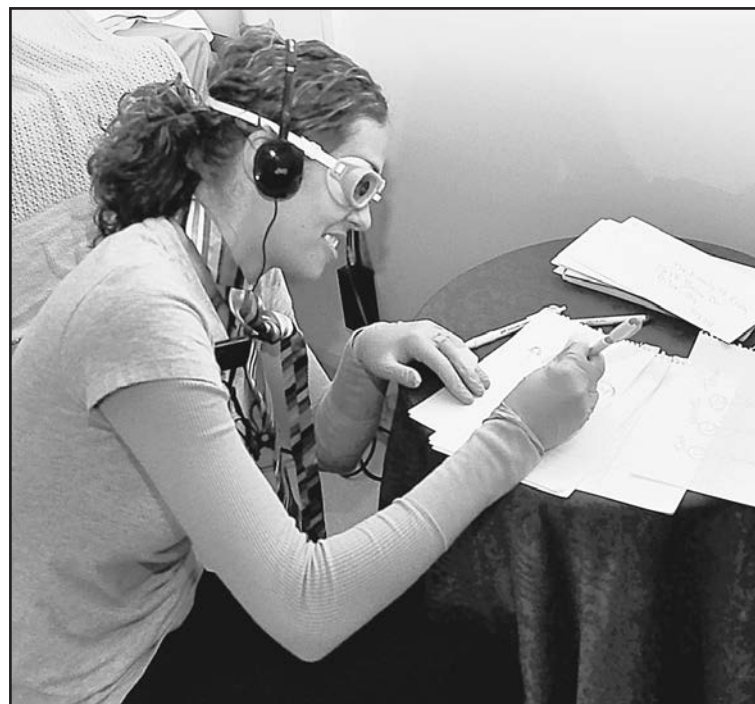


Photo by Steve Pivnick  
Among the tasks Alexandria Hults, left, was told to do during the last year's "Virtual Dementia Tour" was to draw a picture of her family and name them. She is a nurse assigned to the 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

## Exchange hosts Mexican-dancers in celebration of Cinco de Mayo

Members of the Mexican-dance group from Pascagoula, Grupo Magnolia, perform the dance "Machetes" at the base exchange Saturday. The performance was in celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## Team Keesler convenes for Sports Day



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Sports Day participants are welcomed by Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, as they await the start of the 5K run, on the drill pad behind the Levitow Support Facility Friday. Sports Day was held in conjunction with May's National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. The event consisted of a variety of sports with participation from the many squadrons on base. The winner of the small squadron division was 81st Training Support Squadron and the winner of the large squadron division was the 334th Training Squadron.

Second Lt. John Concepcion, Wing Staff Agency team, throws the frisbee to a team mate as Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Bowen runs up from the side in attempt to follow during the Ultimate Frisbee tournament. The 333rd defeated the WSA team, 6-1.



Runners participate in a 5K run to kick off Sports Day. The race began and ended at Levitow.



Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, tips the ball over the net as Chief Master Sgt. Jeffery Bryant, 81st Security Forces Squadron, leaps to defend at a volleyball match between the commanders and the chiefs. The chiefs defeated the commanders.

# Mother's Day Brunch

in the Bay Breeze Event Center Ballroom

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 13

\$17<sup>25</sup> AF Club members \$22<sup>25</sup> Nonmembers

## Menu:

Roasted Cornish Game Hen,  
Maple Glazed Ham, Prime Rib,  
Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Wild Rice with Sausage  
Baby Green Peas with Pearl Onions  
& Citrus Baby Carrots

Waffle Station, Bacon, Sausage,  
Cheesy Grits & Biscuits

Tea, Orange Juice, Mimosas,  
Champagne, Coffee & Assorted Desserts

Each mom will receive a special gift.

Reservations are highly recommended,  
call 377-1690 or 377-2219.

Sponsored by ForestCity and Harris Jewelry.



www.keesler81fss.us  
Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

2012

★ America's Armed Forces ★

# KIDS RUN

2012 ARMED FORCES KIDS RUN IN CELEBRATION OF ARMED FORCES DAY

## MAY 19 FREE TO PARTICIPATE!

**FOR AGES 5 AND OLDER ~ INCLUDING ADULTS!**

Sign in at 8 a.m. at the exercise grounds next to the Youth Center.  
Run starts at 9 a.m. Starting times will be determined by Age/Distance.

- Ages 5-6/half mile
- Ages 7-8/one mile
- Ages 9-18/two miles
- Adults/5K



**FIRST 50 TO SIGN UP GET A FREE T-SHIRT!**

Register now at the Youth Center or at [www.americaskidsrun.org](http://www.americaskidsrun.org).

377-3372



www.keesler81fss.us

Thursday

intramural

bowling

Week 32 of 34

Team	Won	Lost
335th TRS-A	156	100
81st FSS	152	104
81st TRSS-PMEL	151	105
81st CS	145	111
81st LRS-A	143	113
403rd AMXS	143	113
338th TRS	142	114
81st WSA	142	114
ECS Strikers	132	124
334th TRS	130	126
335th TRS-B	125	131
81st LRS-B	119	137
2nd Air Force	116	140
336th TRS	110	146
81st TRSS-A	88	168
Seabees	40	72

## Season high scores

**Team game** — 335th TRS-A, 1043

**Team series** — 335th TRS-A, 2990

**High handicap game (team)** — 81st WSA, 1161

**High handicap series (team)** — 81st CS, 3300

**Game/men** — Keith Jackson, 279

**Series/men** — Jeff Miracle, 734

**High handicap game/men** — Taras Butrej, 300

**High handicap series/men** — Whitney Beverly, 759

**Game/women** — Sabra Miracle, 212

**Series/women** — Sabra Miracle, 567

**High handicap game/women** — Yolanda Jerry, 273

**High handicap series/women** — Sabra Miracle, 678

**Average/men** — Jeff Miracle, 204.28

**Average/women** — Vicki Dickinson, 156.58

**Most improved** — Bernard Moyer Jr., 28.17; Carol Wetzler, 3.82

# Bundles for Babies

9 a.m. to noon May 24 in the Sablich Center, Room 108



Informative workshop includes topics on all things baby.

Eligible participants will receive a gift basket provided by the Air Force Aid Society.

Open to all expecting active duty members assigned to Keesler AFB and their spouses.

Preregistration required, call Airman & Family Readiness at 376-8728.



www.keesler81fss.us

