



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

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KEESLER NEWS

**81st Training Wing
Public Affairs**

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ON THE COVER

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander, returns a salute to the participants of the student parade during a change of command ceremony Friday, on the Levitow Training Support Facility parade field. Spacy assumed command from Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller who will be heading to his new assignment in Geilenkirchen, Germany. Spacy comes to Keesler from the Pentagon where he served as Office of the Secretary of the Air Force Senate Liaison Office chief.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

The Star-Spangled Banner

O say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner, O! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country, should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation.
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!



Photo by Master Sgt. Stan Parker



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

Spacy states beliefs that frame his perspective

By Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy
81st Training Wing commander

Thank you all for making us feel so welcome! Lisa and I are thrilled to be a part of the Keesler Family again, and we look forward to meeting you and spending time getting to know you and your families!

During my career I have seen a lot of commanders come and go, and each time a new commander took the guidon, I wondered what they would be like — what they thought; what made them tick; what to expect — so I thought I'd take this opportunity to outline six basic things I believe — things I've grown up with and put together over my life and career that describe how I look at the world.

First, I believe strongly in Integrity, Service Before Self, and Excellence in all we do! Yes, these are our core values, but I was brought up by my parents on these concepts long before the Air Force captured them so well. It's more than just being honest, going to work, and doing a good job; it's how we live, prioritize our lives, and pursue the highest standards. These fundamental beliefs are the base on which our mutual trust is built, they give us strength and confidence, they enable us to take on any challenge, and defeat any foe!

I believe in hard work! I believe people like to work and they like to work hard; as long as the work is challenging, interesting, and they are recognized for it — we're Americans and this is what we do.

I see the world in absolutes; I do not believe in gray area — I believe in right and wrong, good and bad, win and lose! That doesn't mean I don't acknowledge that gray area exists — it certainly does, but I think gray area is the

weak leader's excuse to avoid accountability. It is up to leaders at all levels to find gray area and clear it up so Airmen have the clear guidance they need to do their mission—this goes back to our core values—no gray there. If you find gray area clear it up and if you can't, come see me and I will make sure it is crystal clear.

I believe in doing, not trying! Each day I set out to do things; if I set out to try and do things I've already accepted that failure is an option (and maybe even subconsciously accepted that failure is OK). Don't get me wrong, I know we may fail from time to time, but we don't set out to fail, we set out to succeed. If we fail we pick ourselves up, learn from it, and we set out to do it again. We're a nation at war and there no place in combat for trying; our way of life is at stake and we must succeed!

I believe in continuous improvement. I believe it is every Airman's responsibility to come up with new ideas and every leader's responsibility to create a climate where new ideas flourish. Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century is a great initiative that helps us eliminate waste and improve processes; however this concept of continuous improvement has been a part of our Air Force culture long before AFSO21 began. Just think about it for a minute; if we didn't believe in continuous improvement our Air Force might still be flying the Wright Flyer, the bi-plane, the P-51, or the F-4; all great capabilities in their time, but all succeeded by even better capabilities — and all developed by smart Airmen!

Lastly, but certainly not the least, I believe in the Air Force family! I have spent my entire life in the Air Force



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, new 81st Training Wing commander, speaks to the audience following the passing of the guidon when he assumed command from Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller during a change of command ceremony Friday on the Levitow Training Support Facility parade field.

between my father's career and my own and as you may already know my brother is an Air Force Colonel. When I say Airmen, I include all Air Force members, military and civilian, and they all hold a special place in my heart. This concept of family is what makes us so great—we work together, we fight together,

we celebrate together, and we mourn together; together we can do anything! As a commander, I have an open door for all Airmen and I will do anything in my power to help you succeed — come see me any time!

Those are some of the things I think are important and I welcome the chance to learn what you all think —

what makes you tick — and how I can help you succeed as we serve this great nation and Air Force together.

Again, Lisa and I are excited and proud to be a part of the Keesler family and we look forward to spending time with all of you.

Spacy assumes command of 81st Training Wing

By Susan Griggs

Keesler Public Affairs

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



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.

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 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.

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Spacy,

from Page 5

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 constitu-

tion 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."

Keesler ALS graduates 16 senior Airmen

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

Sixteen Keesler Senior Airmen graduated airman leadership school May 15.

Of the graduates, four were presented awards including the John Levitow Award, the Commandant Award, the Academic excellence award and distinguished graduate.

Benjamin Byers, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, was presented the John Levitow Award.

Cody Chandler, 81st Security Forces Squadron, was presented the Commandant Award.

Alexander Hand, 85th EIS, was presented the Academic Award.

Erika Hutchinson, 81st Dental Squadron was named the distinguished graduate.

Other graduates include:

Destiny Floyd, 81st DS.
Francisco Jimenez, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Marcel Rivera, 81st Training Wing.

Allen Savedra, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

Emily Zanes, 81st Medical Support Squadron.

Michael Beck, 81st Communications Squadron.

Michael Coblentz, 81st Training Group.

Richard Colon, 81st MDTs.

Robert Ellington, 81st Comptroller Squadron.

Erika Hutchinson, 81st DS.

Michael Romero, 81st MDTs.

Kenneth Thomas, 81st Communications Squadron.

Royal Wright, 81st SFS.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Taylor Doyle, Alexis Higgins, Laura Munro, Jazmyn Maloid and Alayna Acosta are winners of the 2012 Keesler African-American Heritage Committee scholarships, that were presented at a ceremony Monday at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

AAHC awards five scholarships to local high school seniors

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

The Keesler African-American Heritage Committee presented five local students \$1,000 Col. (Ret) Lawrence Roberts scholarships. To be eligible students must be graduating seniors in the class of 2012 from Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Stone, George or Pearl River counties. Students were also required to submit high school transcripts, ATC and SAT scores, federal income tax returns and a 700-1,000 page essay on the theme, "Black women in American culture and history."

Winners include:

Alayna Acosta, daughter of Barbara and retired Army Sgt 1st Class Daniel Acosta. She attends Harrison Cen-

tral High School and plans to major in fine arts and the University of North Carolina School of Arts. Alayna hopes to become a professional ballet dancer and eventually teach later in life.

Taylor Doyle, 17, daughter of Donald and Katherine Doyle. She attends St. Patrick High School and plans to major in architectural engineering at the University of Southern Mississippi. Taylor hopes to pursue a career in architecture.

Alexis Higgins, daughter of Sandra and Kurt Higgins, 81st Training Group. She attends Biloxi High School and plans to major in fashion buying and merchandising at the University of Southern Mississippi. Alexis hopes to become a fashion buyer for a major department store

and eventually start her own clothing line.

Jazmyn Maloid, 17, daughter of Andrea and Master Sgt. Donald R. Maloid Jr., 403rd Wing. She attends Gulfport High School and plans to major in chemistry at Spelman College in Atlanta. Jazmyn hopes to be a pharmacist or a pharmaceutical researcher in the future.

Laura Munro, daughter of Sonny and Donna Munro. She attends Biloxi High School and plans to go on to the University of Southern Mississippi. Laura is interested in becoming a veterinarian or a pharmaceutical representative.

For more information about the scholarships or the African-American Heritage Committee call (228) 377-5250.

66 technical sergeants selected for promotion

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Sixty-six Keesler technical sergeants were selected to advance to the top tier of the enlisted force May 15.

Air Force officials selected only 5,464 of the 19,809 eligible members to advance to the rank of master sergeant, which is a 27.58 selection rate.

Those selected for promotion are:

2nd Air Force — Tanya Boyd.

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron — Alisha Baxter.

81st Dental Squadron — Zackery Leos.

81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron — Nicole Dirickson, Shawn Kraus, Earnest Mann, Shane McDonald and Tammy Pfeifer.

81st Inpatient Operations Squadron — Amanda Fisk.

81st Logistics Readiness Squadron — Darrin Srader and Anthony Wallis.

81st Training Support Squadron — Terrance Boyd, Robert Kesler and Ivan Smith.

81st Training Wing — Allen Leon and Dennis Brigman.

81st Medical Group — Edmon James, William Kiddy and Brandon Williams.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Michael Davis, Leonardo Garza Jr., Hohn Howard, Gregory Jones Jr., Scott Lauricia, William McMillan, Jason Peters and Daniel White.

81st Medical Support Squadron — Stacey Najar, Coleen Marie Sago and Franco Villamor.

81st Security Forces Squadron — Barry Hardy Sr. and Byron Self.



85th Engineering Installation Squadron — Benjamin Barnhardt and Robert Hicks.

333rd Training Squadron — Stephen Ferguson, Scott Fridinger, Roshaun Jones, Zachary Pate, Scott Price, Jeremiah Ramage and Jason Roberts.

334th TRS — Ronald Brown Jr., Jesse Davis, Ja Vaughn Johnson, Betty Love, Roberto Lugaro, James Rolan and Roland Thomas.

335th TRS — Publio Casillas, Brandin Coy, Luke Darche, Christopher Henry, Erin Lasker, Kevin Timmcke and Corey Worster.

336th TRS — Jaclynn Gaddis, Marcus Garriott and Gary Hutchenson.

338th TRS — Jedediah Moss, Jesse Nelson and Jason Earl Taylor.

345th Airlift Squadron — Jonathan Carco.

Mathies NCO Academy — Jennifer Gaines, Trey Horn, Michelle Moss and Becky Paterson.

Memorial Day events

8 a.m.

Memorial Day Medal of Honor Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery, 28th St., Gulfport. Congressman Steven Palazzo is the guest speaker. Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander, Chief Master Sgt. Oscar "Deno" Mackin, 2nd Air Force command chief and Chief Master Sgt. Angie Johnson, 81st TRW command chief, will be attending the ceremony.

8:30 a.m.

Veteran's Tribute ceremony at the Armed Forces Retirement Home presented by the Keesler Airman Leadership School.

9:30 a.m.

Memorial Day Ceremony at Biloxi National Cemetery. Brig. Gen. Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, is the guest speaker and the Keesler Honor Guard, Rifle Team and a Taps player will participate in the event.

11 a.m.

Memorial Day Ceremony at the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor. Col. Glen Downing, 81st Training Wing vice commander, is the guest speaker.

11:30 a.m.

Memorial Day Ceremony at the East Jefferson General Hospital, Metairie, La. The Keesler Honor Guard is participating in the event.



Air Force Reserves brass band quintet on Memorial Day tour May 25-31

The Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve's brass quintet is performing a Memorial Day tour in several locations near Keesler Air Force Base May 25-31. These events are free and open to the public. The musicians are all active duty personnel in the Air Force. Offering a wide range of music, the quintet's performances include jazz, pop, traditional brass quintet repertoire, and patriotic selections.

Friday

2 p.m. — USS ALABAMA. — , 2703 Battleship Parkway, Mobile, AL 36602
<http://www.ussalabama.com/>

Saturday

1:00 p.m. — National WWII Museum — 945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/>

Sunday

Vicksburg National Military Park and Cemetery for the Military Through the Ages Festival. Time TBA

Vicksburg National Military Park, 3201 Clay Street, Vicksburg, MS 39183-3495 — <http://www.nps.gov/vick/planyourvisit/events.htm/index.htm>

Tuesday

6 p.m. — Natchez Bluff Gazebo in Natchez, Mississippi. Bluff Park, 101 S. Broadway, Natchez, MS 39120 - <http://www.nps.gov/natc/index.htm>

May 31

2 p.m. — 35th Annual St. Paul's Seafood Festival in Pass Christian, MS. - <http://www.gulfcoast.org/visitors/events/index.cfm?EventID=2546>

For information go to www.usafreserveband.af.mil.

'The Passenger' reminds us to never forget

By Master Sgt. Jeramie Brown

99th Air Base Wing

Editor's note: This commentary was written in 2004 while Sergeant Brown was assigned to Air Force News Agency Detachment 4 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. He was a staff sergeant at the time. He is now assigned to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Like most Americans, I find that I'm pretty selfish sometimes. I learned just how selfish on a recent trip to Iraq.

I was sitting on a C-130 Hercules waiting to leave a location I can't spell or announce when we got delayed. I was annoyed. I'd been traveling for hours trying to get to my destination and here we were, stuck in some out-of-the-way place and I was hot, tired and ready to get there already. Then it happened. I found out we were waiting on another passenger.

'The Passenger'

I didn't know his name. I say 'his' but I didn't know if he was actually a he or a she. I didn't know what branch of the service he was in or what rank he was. All I knew was that this passenger cost me another hour and a half on that plane.

Little did I know how profound an impact "The Passenger" would have on me. You see, this passenger that we had to wait on, who delayed our trip and annoyed me and the other passengers, was a casualty of war.

The ground crew brought him on board in a body bag. They laid him down between the jump seats and the cargo pallet and covered him with Old Glory. At that moment, I felt the heat of shame in my face. Who was I to worry about a little lost sleep or a few

extra hours on a plane when he had given his life in this war?

Paying respect

By this time, everyone on board had stood up out of respect and, when they had "The Passenger" secure, the sergeant leading the crew called the plane to attention and barked a quick command. Every man and woman on that plane, from private to colonel, immediately snapped a crisp salute in honor of the ultimate sacrifice made by "The Passenger." It was a moment of perfect unity. Every eye on that flag, every arm raised in respect, every breath caught in every throat for just one second.

Unanswered questions

With our respects paid, everyone took his and her seat and prepared for take-off. I don't know about anyone else on that plane, but I found myself contemplating what this passenger's sacrifice meant: to me, to our country, but mostly to his family. I found myself wondering what he gave up for the war on terror. Did he leave a wife behind when he deployed? Did he have children out there who would never see their father again? What about his parents, brothers and sisters? How would his family cope with his death?

Was the sacrifice he made for his country worth it? To his family, perhaps not. To the Iraqi families, maybe.

Lessons learned

You see, I learned something else on this trip. I learned how the Iraqi people are living. They had ramshackle houses, no cars, central air or any kind of air conditioning for that matter, none of the so called "modern

conveniences." I also learned that, thanks to our efforts, some of the kids are now able to go to school for the first time in years. Teachers are allowed to teach in multiple languages and cover subjects that were banned under the old regime.

More unanswered questions

Clinics are opening all over the country, and doctors are no longer afraid that if they misdiagnose someone, it will cost them their lives. That's right — there's no malpractice insurance in Iraq. A doctor at one of the clinics told me that, under the old regime, if a doctor made a mistake, he paid for it with his life.

So was "The Passenger's" sacrifice worth it? I guess it depends on your point of view.

We forget

Then I started thinking about my own family. How would my wife deal with my death if it came on this trip? Would my children be OK? How horrible would it be for my parents to outlive me? I thought of my brother and his family in California. How many times have I meant to call them only to get distracted and forget?

I haven't seen them in almost four years. My sister in Illinois hasn't seen me in a couple of years either. When was the last time I called her? Why haven't I e-mailed her or my niece lately? I used to send her e-mails every week or so, but I seem to have let my oh-so-busy life get in the way of communicating with the ones I love.

Do I write enough? Did I call enough? Definitely not! I think that's what it all comes down to.

We get so wrapped up in our lives

that we forget about the other people in this world. We forget that not everyone lives in a free society. We forget that sometimes you have to stand up for people who can't stand up for themselves. We forget that we have a responsibility to the people of this world, and not because we're a super power or have the best military in the world, but simply because we all share this planet. We forget that, for good or bad, what one person does affects everyone.

Put thoughts into words

What we can't forget is that we never know when the moment of our death will come. Don't forget to tell the people who are most important to you how much you love them and how much you miss them. Don't forget to take time out of your "busy" schedule and call your family and friends.

Don't forget to do something today that will make a difference tomorrow, so that when your time comes, someone can say, "Thank you for the sacrifices you made. You had a profound impact on my life."

Thank you

So to "The Passenger," I say thank you. Thank you for serving your country. Thank you for standing up for people who can't stand up for themselves. Thank you for making the ultimate sacrifice. Most importantly, thank you for making me realize that our time on this earth is never certain, and we'd better do our best to make it worthwhile. May you find peace and happiness wherever you may be.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have to go call my kids, my parents, my brother, my sister ...



New general receives star, command of 81st Training Wing

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, new 81st Training Wing commander, speaks to the audience following the passing of the guidon when he assumed command from Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller during a change of command ceremony Friday on the Levitow Training Support Facility parade field. Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 2nd Air Force commander, was the officiating officer for the event.



Officers from the 81st Training Group come to the center of the parade field to salute the commander of troops.



Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 2nd Air Force commander, presents the Legion of Merit medal to Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller. Mueller was awarded the medal in recognition of his service as Keesler's commander. Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller will be heading to his new assignment in Geilenkirchen, Germany.



Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 2nd Air Force commander, and Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy recites the oath of office during a pinning-on ceremony promoting Spacy to his new rank May 17 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.



Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 2nd Air Force commander; Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, incoming 81st Training Wing commander; and Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, outgoing 81st TRW commander, watch the student parade on the Levitow Training Support Facility parade field.



Chief Master Sgt. Michael Anderson, 81st Medical Group command chief, welcomes Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy and his wife, Lisa, to Keesler during a reception at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Disciplinary control board issues

revised local business off-limits list

The following establishments have been declared “off-limits” to all armed forces personnel by the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board:

Biloxi

Ya-Ya’s at 2751 Pass Rd.

Pascagoula

Bunksmall Apartments at 708 South Pascagoula St.

Gulfport

Herbal Alternatives at 1909 East Pass Rd. and 11530 U.S. Highway 49; BJ’s Bar (Club

228) at 17920 16th St.; Nates Sports Bar and Grill at 11444 Highway 49; Michael’s Night Club at 9475 Highway 49; The Quarter Night Club at 2504 13th St.; Sensations Night Club at 1809 30th Ave.; and Nick’s Place at 12460 Highway 49.

Service members are ordered not to enter or patronize these off-limits establishments or their locations.

This restriction does not apply to Armed Forces police on duty or others on official business.

Violations of this order are punishable under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

KEESLER NOTES

Hurricane town hall meetings

There will be three town hall meetings May 29-31 in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season.

- Tuesday at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

- Wednesday at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

- May 31 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Welch Theater.

Free passes to National Parks

The National Park Service began giving out "America the Beautiful National Parks

and Federal Recreation Lands Annual Passes" free to service members and their dependants May 15. Military personnel can get the passes at any national park or wildlife refuge that charges an entrance fee by showing their military ID. Family members also will be able to obtain their own pass, even if the service member is deployed or if they are traveling separately. The pass will be accepted at National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps sites that charge entrance or standard

amenity fees. For more information go to www.nps.gov.

13L air liaison career

June 1 is the deadline to volunteer for the 13L air liaison career field.

Candidates selected during this cycle attend the Phase II ALO aptitude assessment Aug. 2-6 at the Jacks Valley Training Area at the Air Force Academy, Colo.

ROTC and Air Force Academy cadets who are graduating in 2013, Air Force cross-flow officers, interservice transfer candidates and Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve officers who'd like to be recalled to active duty are

eligible. A limited number of 2014 academy and ROTC graduates may be considered, depending on the number of applications received.

For eligibility requirements and more information, call DSN 574-8384, email acca3fc.jid@langley.af.mil or log on to https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/22138.

MSG's Ultimate Warrior Challenge

The 81st Mission Support Group is holding the "MSG's Ultimate Warrior Challenge" from 8-10 a.m. May 31 at the Triangle Track. Nine teams will compete in a race featuring 10 deployment-related

challenges to promote esprit de corps in support of the deployment mission.

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 Monday and is scheduled to be completed mid-July.

Summer classes

William Carey University is currently enrolling for the summer trimester which begins Monday. 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 Saturday. 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 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

9 a.m. — Commander's Call at Welch Theater

9 a.m. — Bundles for babies at the Sablich Center room 108B. Call (228) 376-8728 for more information.

11 a.m. — Mathies NCO Academy graduation at the Bay Breeze Event Center

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

Friday

AETC family day

8 a.m. — National Bicycle Month 25-mile bike trek with outdoor recreation. Call (228) 377-4409 for more information.

10:30 a.m. — Ceramic mold pouring class at the arts and crafts center.

1 p.m. — Ice cream social at the arts and crafts center.

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

Saturday

10:30 a.m. — Jewelry I class at the arts and crafts center.

1:30 p.m. — Jewelry II class at the arts and crafts center.

Monday

Memorial Day

8 a.m. — Memorial Day Medal of Honor Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery, 28th St., Gulfport. Congressman Steven Palazzo is the guest speaker. Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander, Chief Master Sgt. Oscar "Deno" Mackin, 2nd Air Force command chief and Chief Master Sgt. Angie Johnson, 81st TRW command chief, will be attending the ceremony.

8:30 a.m. — Veteran's Tribute ceremony at the Armed Forces Retirement Home presented by the Keesler Airman Leadership School.

9:30 a.m. — Memorial Day Ceremony at Biloxi National Cemetery. Brig. Gen. Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, is the guest speaker and the Keesler Honor Guard, Rifle Team and a Taps Player will participate in the event.

11 a.m. — Memorial Day Ceremony at the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor. Col. Glen Downing, 81st Training

Wing vice commander, is the guest speaker.

11:30 a.m. — Memorial Day Ceremony at the East Jefferson General Hospital, Metairie, La. The Keesler Honor Guard is participating in the event.

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 in Room 110. Call (228) 376-8728 to register.

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

Wednesday

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

May 31

8 a.m. — Mission Support Group's "Ultimate Warrior Challenge" at the Triangle Track.

1 p.m. — Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the

Sablich Center Room 108.

2 p.m. — Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit Keesler change of command at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

June 1

1 p.m. — Ice cream social at the arts and crafts center.

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

5 p.m. — Coupon basics class at the Bay Breeze community center.

June 5

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 at the Sablich Center Room 110. Call (228) 376-8728 to register.

June 6

6:30 a.m. — Professional Wellness Month 5K run/walk at the Triangle Fitness Center.

Defensive driving course offered on Keesler

By Susan Griggs

Keesler Public Affairs

Just in time for summer traffic, Keesler members can register for the second installment of Keesler's Street Survival School by June 19. The class is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 23 with a classroom portion at Professional Development Building 2902 and a hands-on portion on Ramp 3 of the flight line.

The aim of the school is to reduce deadly car crashes in-

volving teenagers, beginner drivers, as well as experienced drivers by providing them a controlled setting where they can gain valuable hands-on experience in car control in real-world situations, according to Master Sgt. Richie Frias, 81st Medical Support Squadron unit deployment manager, who's spearheading the event.

All students, whether beginner or experienced, will have a knowledgeable coach at their side throughout the

class to help them understand how important experience is rather than guessing when something unexpected happens on the road that could kill them, their passengers or others sharing the road. This training goes beyond the typical driver's education.

Driving is done in the student's own car, but no 4x4 or lifted vehicles are allowed, so drivers can learn about their vehicle's handling limits and how to control them.

Challenging courses are created in a controlled area to allow the student to experience abnormal car behavior and how to handle the new situation. Part of the driving course is wet to let students experience "mistakes" at a very slow speed.

It's not a course for learning how to drive at high speeds — safety and car control are the objectives. Some insurance companies even offer discounts for participants that

take courses like this.

Spaces are limited to the first 30 participants. Those with driver's permits are allowed based on space availability with parental consent.

There is a \$35 fee for participation, and registration must be received and paid for by June 21.

To reserve a spot or for more information, call 228-376-3123, email keeslerautox@gmail.com or visit www.streetsurvival.org.



Two-day motorcycle safety course offered throughout the year



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Motorcycle safety course instructor Staff Sgt. Jarod Lemke, 345th Airlift Squadron, shows attendees a map of the course they'll be following during a demonstration of the motorcycle basic rider course outside of the Dragon Fitness Center. The course is offered twice a month and lasts two days.

Former Keesler medic wins health care award

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

A former member of the 81st Medical Group staff is the recipient of a national award.

Maj. Don Smith, a group health care integrator and director of medical management until his move to Vance Air Force Base, Okla., at the end of 2011, was honored for his work at the Keesler Hospital.

He is a national award winner of the Case-In-Point Platinum Award for case care manager leadership. The pro-

gram recognizes the most successful case management and care coordination programs and individuals working to improve the nationwide health care system.

Announcing his selection, Lt. Col Wendy Lee, chief of clinical medical management for the Air Force Medical Support Agency, said, "As the health-care integrator at Keesler, Don has been instrumental in assisting me to start a new-coding and care plan program for the Air Force Medical Servic case managers which was

also shared Tri-Service. He led an outstanding medical management program at Keesler."

Smith's award nomination stated, "As a CCM, director of medical management and health care integrator at Keesler, Major Smith leads 45 patient care teams in developing population-based health care programs to optimize care for 49,000 beneficiaries and facilitates clinical process improvements across 32 outpatients clinics and civilian network services.

"Major Smith developed a case management program

that utilized a centralized organizational approach with a decentralized patient care delivery. He has significantly improved the identification and CM enrollment process of wounded warriors returning from war, and he improved the communication and person-to-person transfer of care between the facility case managers and the Veterans Administration and Gulfport Naval Station."

The award organizers noted the Case-In-Point Platinum Awards recognize the most

successful and innovative case management programs and individuals working to improve health care across the care continuum, noting, "Today, all eyes are on the practice of case/care management as a process to improve efficiency and effectiveness in today's healthcare system. This Platinum Awards Program, like no other awards program in the industry, provides the opportunity for organizations and professionals to celebrate their successes in a way that elevates the practice."

Lessons learned from a kindergarten graduation

Commentary by Paula Spooner

Family advocacy outreach manager

I recently attended my 6-year-old granddaughter Lily's graduation from kindergarten.

The ceremony represented an accomplishment ("I did it!") as well as a rite of passage ("I'm not one of those little kids anymore!"). The school lunchroom was packed with proud parents, relatives and friends. Cameras flashed and video-cameras recorded. Naturally, the kindergartners were bursting with pride — a little bit embarrassed, but having the time of their lives. After the awards were announced and "diplomas" distributed, kids and audience members met up in the atrium for the requisite kisses, hugs, congratulations and (of course) more picture-taking.

As I admired Lily's various recognitions and certificates, my daughter nudged me. Quietly and unobtrusively she pointed out a classmate of Lily's sitting hunched over on some nearby bleachers. Tiny, and apparently alone, she gazed out on the hubbub — parents scooping up their graduates, grandparents snapping photos — with the saddest yearning I believe I have ever seen on a small child. Her

expression was palpable; it contained a raw mix of longing, fascination and grief. Yet I detected neither envy nor rancor, just a quiet near-adult acceptance of her state of alone-ness.

I was filled with fury and bitter injustice: What kind of parents would essentially abandon their small child on such an important day?

You see, I am familiar with the impact this can have, for the following reason: When Lily's mother was 5, I was unable to attend her kindergarten graduation due to military commitments. Although her father videotaped the ceremony, it just wasn't the same. Not for me, and certainly not for my daughter. Twenty years later, we both still regret my absence. In fact, she mentioned it while watching Lily.

So maybe that is why we herded our small group in this child's direction. And while Lily and her brother "broke the ice," I headed to the school office. There, I inquired about the acceptability of taking a couple of photos that I could forward to the office for the child's parents.

Without being informed of her name, the office staff knew exactly about which child I was asking. As it turns out, a parent had been there briefly, but was unable to stay due to a

medical emergency with another child.

Further, the staff believed that, given the unavoidable circumstances, her parent would deeply appreciate some after-ceremony photographs. I was provided a school email address, and thanked for my concern.

We snapped some photos. We admired and congratulated her on her accomplishments. With lots of encouragement, she finally smiled — just a tiny little smile — but it was an improvement, nonetheless.

Meanwhile, I felt ashamed of my immediate assumption that her parents hadn't cared enough to be there, when in fact, an unavoidable conflict precluded their attendance. Given the dilemma I experienced with my own 5-year-old daughter's graduation, the irony of my too-quick judgment was not lost on me. And it was a powerful lesson.

Our children are born to us, and society expects us to raise and protect our offspring until they are capable of doing it for themselves. We know and accept this, and usually don't hesitate to utilize available support enabling us to accomplish the task acceptably well.

But what about the families — the parents — who really don't enjoy the luxury of a personal support network? The ones who are embarrassed to seek

guidance or who believe no one cares, anyway? The isolated ones who must independently juggle work, kindergarten graduations and unforeseen medical emergencies — trying in vain to prevent something critical from falling through the cracks?

Others may not agree, but here is what I believe. That it does, in fact, take a village to raise a child. That, in a community, every single person matters. That when we judge, opportunities are lost, families feel shunned and children can be hurt. And that, conversely, when we offer no-strings-attached support — compassion and understanding to someone in need — the healing impact causes a ripple effect that has no end.

We all have gifts, talents and skills. It seems to me that we possess a moral responsibility to share them to promote the wellbeing of others. The base Family Advocacy Program requests the following of Team Keesler: Stay aware and identify those around you who may be in a no-win situation, in need of a "favor" or who could use the encouragement of a steadying hand, then reach out and do what needs to be done. In other words, let's figure out a way to enable all parents to participate in their child's kindergarten graduation.

For more news, photos, videos and information, log on to www.keesler.af.mil

or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/keeslerafb

Tips to conserve energy in workplace

Lead by example in the office with smart energy choices.

- Switch off all unnecessary lights.
- Turn off lights when you leave at night.
- Use natural lighting when possible.
- When working late, use task lighting for work areas
- Unplug equipment that uses energy when not in use
- Turn off printers and monitors at the end of the day
- Use efficient Energy Star products
- Reduce cooling needs by closing window blinds
- Photocopy and print only what you need
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator

Each of us can make an impact to reduce Keesler's energy consumption. For more energy saving tips visit http://www.energysavers.gov/your_workplace/



Medic joins 'Hunters' on hurricane awareness tour

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

An 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron flight surgeon recently participated in the annual 403rd Wing Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour.

Maj. (Dr.) Rhodora Beckinger joined the "Hurricane Hunters" of the Air Force Reserve Command's Keesler-based 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron during their travel to six locations in Mexico, Costa Rica, St. Maarten and Puerto Rico to perform hurricane awareness and coordinate with local emergency managers and weather services in the host countries.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Talbot, 53rd WRS chief meteorologist, said, "The Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour allows the public to see the aircraft that collects hurricane data and fly within their airspace. We typically see 10-20,000 people during the visit. This year 13,350 people came out."

The Hurricane Hunters usually don't take a flight surgeon on CHAT missions. Lt. Col. Sean Pierce, 53rd WRS director of operations, enabled the major to join the team.

Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group

commander, wants the group's flight surgeons to support Keesler's flying mission, explained Col. (Dr.) Paul Nelson, 81st Medical Group chief of aerospace medicine.

"Dr. Beckinger is now plugged in as the Hurricane Hunters' active-duty resource to support their flight surgeon operations," Nelson said. "This is another example of our Total Force support — in this case, active-duty and Reserve Command medics working together to support the unique Hurricane Hunter mission."

Beckinger recently returned from a six-month deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, where she cared for wounded warriors being medically evacuated from "down range."

"Throughout our stops a lot of folks stopped me and asked me to sign autographs — many of the people where we traveled to showcase the Hurricane Hunters were curious about my role with the crew," Beckinger said. "They thought I was the only female crew member — actually there was another female who was one of our loadmasters. Many were impressed that I was also a doctor."

"I believe I actually helped the most by being an inspiration to many people, especially wom-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Valerie Smock

The sun tries to break through the thick clouds surrounding the WC-130J aircraft as it penetrates Tropical Storm Lee Sept. 2, 2011. The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron "Hurricane Hunters," were gathering atmospheric data to relay to the National Hurricane Center for their forecast models.

en and school children in these countries," she added. "They not only saw a female crew member, but also a physician."

Col. Craig LaFave, 403rd Wing vice commander, told Nelson, "Our CHAT mission was a complete success, and Major Beckinger was a large part of that

success. She was by far the biggest attraction among the crew and was easily approached by the school kids and grandmas.

"When I explained that 'Tulsa' was 'our' doctor, the folks were just amazed and had even more questions," he said. "We got hugged, kissed

and tugged at like we were the Beatles in '64! Overall, it was a great display of American 'soft' power. Please pass along my congratulations for a job well done to Major Beckinger for spreading her good will throughout much of the Caribbean."

Colonel Miniotis retires after 30 years of service

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group honored Col. (Dr.) Nicholas Miniotis for completing 30 years of Air Force service during a formal retirement ceremony May 10 at the Keesler Marina indoor pavilion. Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Kory Cornum, 81st MDG commander, officiated.

Miniotis has commanded the 81st Dental Squadron since August 2010. As commander, he was responsible for providing dental care to almost 47,000 active-duty military, family members and eligible beneficiaries in the Keesler area and surrounding communities. He was also responsible for a one-year advanced training program for general

dentistry residents, a general practice residency, an advanced specialty training in endodontics and a one-year Advanced Clinical Practice Program in dental implantology. The 81st DS is the second largest Air Force dental service squadron with 24 dental officers, 13 residents, 78 enlisted members and 16 civilians including four contract dentists.

The colonel graduated with a bachelor of science degree in biology from Pennsylvania State University in 1976 and received his doctor of dental surgery degree from Temple University, Philadelphia, Penn., in 1982.

Miniotis entered the Air Force in 1982, completing a dental residency at Chanute Air Force Base, Ill. He has previously served as a staff general den-

tist, assistant base dental surgeon, chief of professional services, training officer for the Advanced Education in General Dentistry two-year program, director of two AEGD one-year programs and deputy squadron commander. He currently serves as a board member for the American Board of General Dentistry and has been a site visitor for the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation.

This was the colonel's second tour at Keesler. He previously served here from June 1999-August 2004. Prior to his final assignment, Miniotis commanded the 3rd DS at Joint Base Elmendorf, Alaska, where he also served on the 3rd MDG staff and commanded the Expeditionary Medical Support+10 field hospital.

Commenting on his three decades of service, the colonel said, "For someone who had never traveled from the East Coast before entering the Air Force, I have now lived and traveled around the world. Throughout my career it has been an honor to be a member of the USAF Dental Service and be part of a team that provides care to the men and women of the armed forces."

He and his wife Karen will relocate to the New Orleans area where the colonel will be an assistant professor at the Louisiana State University School of Dentistry. They have three children: Elizabeth, 32; John, 27; and Kirsten, 25. They live in Chicago, Seattle and Pittsburgh, respectively.

Keesler children participate in America's Kids Run



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Rae Moore

The final group of runners in the America's Kids Run takes off from the start line on I-81 running track Saturday. In the front of the group were children 9 and up completing a 2-mile run and following them were children and adults completing a 5K. The annual event began in 1986 and is held in conjunction with Armed Forces Day activities. Children run different distances based on their age and adults run a 5K.



The final group of runners in the America's Kids Run makes their way down I81 running track. Some of these runners were completing a 2-mile run while others continued on to complete a 5K.



Keesler's 5-to-6-year-olds line up for a half-mile America's Kids Run on I81 running track.