



# KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train. Fight. Win.

JULY 12, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 27



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## ON THE COVER

A.J. Wright, 10; Lauren McLemore, 9; and Maddie Wright, 5, work together to bury A.J. in the sand at the Independence Day Beach Bash in Biloxi, July 4. The event included games, music, food, fireworks, contests and prizes. A.J. and Maddie's parents are Lisa and Lt. Col. Jonathan Wright, 81st Mission Support Group deputy commander. Lauren's parents are Jo and Lt. Col. Jeffrey McLemore, 334th Training Squadron commander.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

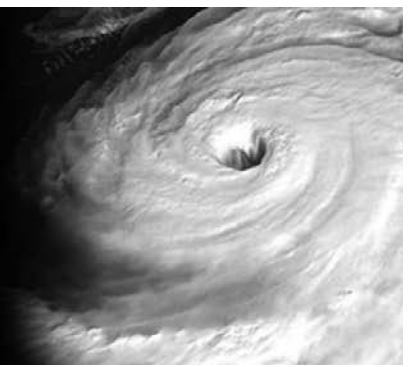


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Dean the Clown, a member of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, welcomes children of deployed troops from Keesler to the Mississippi Coast Coliseum July 5 where the children learned about circus-style exercises and received healthy eating tips that their elephants follow. They also received free tickets to the show.

## HURRICANE SEASON

runs from June 1 - Nov. 30. For more information and preparations tips,  
visit [www.keesler.af.mil/hurricaneinfo.asp](http://www.keesler.af.mil/hurricaneinfo.asp)



# Keesler training builds next generation of Airmen

By Col. Maureen Smith

81st Training Group commander

In January 1941, the city of Biloxi gave the U.S Army Air Corps land to build a base to support World War II training buildup. Seventy-one years later, Keesler Air Force Base is still providing the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps technically-trained Airmen, Sailors, and Marines to support missions around the globe.

Keesler began its mission in 1941 by teaching aircraft mechanics, aerial gunnery and aviation cadets. Over the years, our mission of training has not changed; only the courses we provide. Today, the 81st Training Group is the second largest training group in the Air Force, graduating 30,000 students annually supplying six functional communities, 37 Air Force Specialty Codes and six officer career fields.

The skills sets we provide to the Air Force range from critical command and con-

trol, comptroller, personnel, weather, radar, precision measurement equipment laboratory, and the newest addition, cyber training. We teach our Airmen to support, attack and defend our newest operational domain, cyberspace. While the types of courses provided at Keesler are constantly changing to meet the needs of the Department of Defense, one thing that doesn't change is the professional training experience our students receive from our dedicated cadre of instructors and military training leaders.

Each week I have the honor to brief our nonprior service arrivals from basic military training. I use this time to establish expectations of the Airmen while at Keesler. Students have two goals while assigned to the 81st Training Group — to learn the technical skill the Air Force has assigned to them and to continue the military training they began at BMT.

It takes the teamwork of the instructors and MTLs, my

front-line leaders, to ensure these goals are met. The roles of these leaders are many.

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander, said, "BMT is the equalizer; it takes Airmen from all walks of life, teaches them basic military skills, Air Force core values, and instills a desire to serve."

What we receive is the Airmen with an almost blank slate — it is the front line leader's responsibility to instill enthusiasm for the Air Force mission, continue to reinforce core values and Air Force standards, and provide the core technical skills to build upon as they progress through their careers. The responsibility these leaders have is enormous. They provide a strong foundation that shapes the next generation of Airmen who will lead this Air Force 20 and 30 years from now. The Airmen sitting in these classrooms and marching in the Triangle training area will eventually lead new Airmen in combat situations. It is our

mission to ensure they receive the best foundation to ensure they are successful.

While it is natural to focus on our largest population of students, the NPS airmen, we cannot forget the other populations we serve, including young officers and prior service Airmen here for re-training or supplemental skills training or the many classes we offer worldwide through our mobile training teams.

The technical skills we provide to each of these groups also provide a strong foundation for these Airmen to support home and deployed operations around the globe.

What drives our front-line leaders to dedicate themselves to this important mission? They have a strong desire to make a difference in the lives of young Airmen and provide a positive influence that contributes not only to the individual, but to the strength of the nation's defense. They believe that they can make a difference through upholding Air Force standards, challeng-

ing the Airmen to expand their knowledge and skill sets, and giving them hope for a brighter future where they serve the greater good.

This is what drives the instructors and MTLs to work the long hours we demand, rising before dawn and often working late to ensure the curriculum is current or so they have a chance to mentor an Airman late in the day. Knowing they have made a difference in an Airman's life and are contributing to the great Keesler tradition of developing the next generation of Airmen is a strong motivation for these professionals.

Keesler's tradition of training is much more than the brick and mortar of the buildings or the equipment in the classroom. It requires the men and women who dedicate their time and energy to develop the next generation of airmen and leave the Air Force a better place than when they joined.

## How Jiminy Cricket might have been an Airman

By Senior Master Sgt. Joel Shepherd

338th Training Squadron

After 18 years of active duty service, I have come to the conclusion that Jiminy Cricket must have been an Airman. Not only was he an Airman, he was a damn good Airman saturated in the Air Force core values. I came to this conclusion because he always shows up when I am conflicted with doing the right thing or doing the convenient thing. He personifies our core values because he is either trying to convince me to do the right thing, do the right thing as best as I can or do the right thing when I really don't want to do it (sometimes he even wants me to do all three).

Mr. Cricket doesn't show up with a

bullhorn or flashing neon lights to get my attention, but rather in the form of a whisper or a compelling feeling in my gut. Because he is subtle in his approach, I haven't always listened to him or taken his advice even though it is usually spot-on.

One of the most frequent occasions where I am conflicted between convenience and doing the right thing is when I recognize simple breaches of Air Force standards, including uniform infractions. For example, sometimes I am in a public place and I notice a hat hanging halfway out of a member's airman battle uniform cargo pocket. At first, I play a game of denial and tell myself that I didn't see it. When that doesn't work, I try to downplay it. I tell myself it's not that

big of a deal. Sometimes, I start making excuses for the member including that they are an officer or could be having a bad day.

Then Jiminy slaps me with a whisper. "If you don't enforce standards, how can you expect others to enforce standards?"

Sometimes, I even tell myself that this infraction doesn't personally bother me; it's not that big of a deal.

Mr. Cricket responds, "It's not your job to judge the standards, it's your job to meet and enforce them."

I hesitate because I don't know how the member is going to react and I don't want to deal with the aftermath if the situation escalates to an uncomfortable level.

Jiminy pops in with, "You can't con-

trol the member's reaction and you're probably doing them a favor in the long run. Think about all the other folks who are meeting the standards; you owe it to them to make this correction."

So, I approach the member and say, "Do me a favor, tuck your hat all the way in or pull it out in accordance with AFI 36-2903."

Jiminy was right, as I have survived each of these encounters.

Another conflicting situation is when I am overwhelmed and behind with administrative duties. I will be in my office and someone will knock on my door and ask, "Shirt, do you have a minute?" I am tempted to say, "No

See **Jiminy**, Page 13

Academic ace



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman 1st Class Patrick G. Davis graduated with a perfect score from the avionics fundamentals course in the 335th Training Squadron July 2 at Dolan Hall. Davis, a native of Tucson, Ariz., will go to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, to continue training in the electronic warfare course.

## Airman Leadership School graduates 13 senior airmen

**By Senior Airman Heather Heiney**  
Keesler News co-editor

Thirteen senior airmen graduated from Keesler's Airman Leadership School July 3.

Of the graduates, three were presented awards including the John Levitow Award, the commandant

award and the academic award.

**Tiffany Andrews**, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, was presented the John Levitow Award.

**Richard Perez**, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, was presented the commandant award.

**Matthew Morris**, 81st Security Forces Squadron, was presented the

academic award.

**Other graduates include:**

**Kevin Finstuen**, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron.

**Brooke Gaunsk**, 81st MDTS.

**Joshua Gonzalez**, 81st SFS.

**Kayciann Gordon**, 81st Medical Group.

**Bradley Jenkins**, 81st SFS.

**Tasha Johnson**, 81st Dental Squadron.

**Brian Joseph**, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron.

**Cassandra Schneider**, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

**Stephanie Thomas**, 81st DS.

**Nathan Williams**, 85th EIS.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81<sup>st</sup> Training Wing commander; Staff Sgt. Angelo Banks, 81<sup>st</sup> Security Forces Squadron; Jay McKnight, Orange Grove/Lyman Chamber military affairs coordinator; and Chief Master Sgt. Angelica Johnson, 81 TRW command chief, pose for a photo at Orange Grove/Lyman Chamber of Commerce breakfast eye-opener June 28 in Gulfport. Banks was recognized by the chamber as its military member of the quarter.

## Keesler member wins Outstanding Airman of the Year

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News co-editor

Every year hundreds of Airman at various levels in the Air Force are recognized and win awards for doing something well. Out of those only a handful are selected to compete for the Airman of the Year award. From those, only 12 win the award. And this year, one of them walks the streets of Keesler. His name is Angelo — Staff Sgt. Angelo Banks, 81<sup>st</sup> Security Forces Squadron.

The Outstanding Airmen of the Year award recognizes 12 enlisted personnel for superior leadership, job performance, community involvement and personal achievements. The Chief Mas-

ter Sergeant of the Air Force, a general officer and selected major command chiefs form a selection board whose job it is to pick the best of the best from across the Air Force.

After the Air Force Chief of Staff reviews the selections, winners are awarded the Outstanding Airman ribbon with the bronze service star device and are given the Outstanding Airman badge to wear for one year. The Air Force Association honors the 12 at its annual convention in Washington, D.C.

“If you’re trying to win the award, you’re already going about it the wrong way,” said Banks. “Just do your job. Do it to the best of your abilities and it’s going to pay off for you in a

way that will help you whether you win an award or not.”

Currently, Banks is the acting noncommissioned officer in charge at the visitor center leading a six-member team in daily operations. In 2011, Banks won the Air Force Security Forces support staff Airman of the year award.

While deployed at the transit center at Manas, in Kyrgyzstan, he secured \$451 million in assets, 90 combat sorties and 296 tons of cargo. He led 19 fly-away security missions to 39 hostile forward-operating bases delivering 1,300 passengers and three detainees.

Banks also played an instrumental role during the implementation of the De-

fense Biometric Identification System, processing base access for more than 39,000 base users. Additionally, he positively identified and arrested a suspect with a \$215,000 warrant who was attempting to gain access to a high-profile event on base. Additionally, Banks has volunteered with organizations such as Airmen Against Drunk Driving and Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen.

According to Banks, doing your job well is one thing — being professional and showing respect is another.

“You can do your job and not be professional,” said Banks. “But you can be professional and show respect and not know all there is to know about your job and people will

help you and do things to help you know your job.”

Banks wants to be an officer someday and has set his sights on becoming a mental health doctor. To that end, he has been pursuing a bachelor’s degree in sociology and will graduate next May.

Banks credits his family, friends and leadership for his success in the Air Force.

“I’m just thankful and grateful for leadership taking the time to nurture me, my family for putting up with me and my friends for moral support,” said Banks.

“But no matter how my career progresses or how much responsibility I end of having, I always want to make time for my family.”

# Keesler receives new career assistance advisor

By Senior Airman  
Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

Career assistance advisors are like roadmaps to an Air Force career, they can't make the journey for you, but they can help guide you along the path to your career goals and find the necessary stops along the way.

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Pitts, Keesler's new CAA, has spent much of his career preparing for the job. Pitts said that he has enjoyed giving back to the enlisted force since early in his career and spent 14 years as a military training leader and professional military education instructor.

"Sergeant Pitts has a diverse background that has involved molding and developing Airmen on basic and advanced levels. He has stepped outside his career field and comfort zone seeking challenge, and has helped others do the same for much of his career," Senior Master Sgt. Steven Mullens, Keesler's outgoing CAA said. "He already has firsthand experience on how many of the personnel programs affecting Airmen work — he really has the perfect background and attitude to be an outstanding career assistance advisor."

To be a CAA, one must volunteer for a three-year tour; be recommended by his or her commander; be a master sergeant with at least one year time in grade or a senior master sergeant with a minimum 7 skill-level; have counseling and briefing skills; completed the Senior NCO Academy; pass the fitness test; excel in appearance, military bearing and conduct; complete a Community College of Air Force degree; and have an overall enlisted performance report rating of 5 on last three enlisted performance reports.

Some CAA responsibilities include advising com-



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Pitts, 81<sup>st</sup> Force Support Squadron career assistance advisor, provides career advancement options to Staff Sgt. Jennifer Warren, 81<sup>st</sup> Training Wing, following her promotion selection to technical sergeant July 3 at the Airman Leadership School building, where the CAA's office is located.

manders and supervisors on retention issues; creating learning opportunities including seminars, NCO professional enhancement, senior NCO professional enhancement and First Term Airmen Center programs; overseeing informed decision briefings; helping, determining addressing local factors that might negatively influence career decisions and assisting supervisors in counseling enlisted personnel on their options.

"I would like to continue the Keesler tradition of deliberately developing Airmen by providing current information

on leadership and personnel programs," Pitts said

CAAs can't just provide information — they also must motivate Airmen to take action on that information.

"Airmen must educate themselves to make timely moves in their career. Our Air Force provides an avalanche of opportunities; I want to show Airmen how to successfully navigate available options so they can control their own career," Pitts said.

"Do not be afraid to grow out of your comfort zone. Overcoming challenges can be more rewarding than specific

achievements or awards."

Pitts also said that he's had the opportunity to learn more about career opportunities provided by the Air Force because 2nd Air Force leadership allowed him to shadow shortly after he was selected for the position and that he will be a facilitator for NCOs so they can then in turn share it with their subordinates.

"Sergeant Mullens has done an outstanding job with the 81 TRW program. I am excited to carry the torch a little farther down the road," Pitts said.

"The past few weeks of

turnover has afforded us the opportunity to jointly interact, introduce Sergeant Pitts to those who help us keep this award-winning Team Keesler program running strong and ensure a seamless transition." Mullens said. "He's going to be a great CAA and do a fantastic job for the 81st Training Wing. It truly is the best job in the Air Force and I'm going to miss it, as well all the Team Keesler members who supported me while in the seat."

# Steps to help complete physical limitation form

By Master Sgt. Erica Shepherd

Health Promotion Flight NCOIC

The purpose of Air Force Form 469 duty limiting condition report is to convey physical limitations to the commander when a member's health, safety and well-being, mission safety or abilities to effectively accomplish the mission are at risk (Air Force Instruction 10-203 paragraph 1.1). Form 469 functional limitations that impact unit fitness will be processed in accordance with AFI 10-248, Fitness Program.

The exercise physiologist will use Air Force Form 422. Physical Profile Serial Report, to document exercise program evaluations, fitness prescription instructions, fitness testing exemption recommendations, and clearance for unrestricted fitness participation or fitness testing (AFI 10-203 paragraph 2.9).

Although the Form 469 and Form

422 processes are useful tools, they can be frustrating and confusing because there are many different people involved. To help clarify the process, follow these steps:

1. The member makes an appointment with their provider and the provider initiates the member's electronic 469 via the Aeromedical Services Information Management System website.

2. Within the 81st Medical Group, the 469 will be electronically signed off by a provider, force health manager and profile officer (2-3 day time frame).

3. After all e-signatures are complete, the 469 is then emailed to the duty limiting condition inbox corresponding with the member's squadron. At this point, if there is a problem with the 469 or the member's commander has not seen it, the member needs to contact their provider.

4. The member receives official 469

from DLC inbox recipients (commander, first sergeant, unit health manager or unit deployment manager) in accordance with AFI 10-203 paragraph 2.14. At this point, if the member has not received the 469, the member needs to contact his/her commander.

5. The member takes a hard copy of their 469 to their unit fitness program manager.

6. The UFPM determines if the member needs a 422 generated (physical training test soon or 469 greater than 30 days) in accordance with AFI 10-203 paragraph 2.9.5.4.

7. If a 422 is needed, the UFPM places the member on duty limiting condition roster via the health and wellness center calendar.

8. The health and wellness center's exercise physiologist reviews the member's medical condition and generates a 422 accordingly.

9. A 422 needs to be automatically e-signed by the exercise physiologist, force health manager, and profile officer (2-3 day time frame). At this point if there is a problem with the 422, the member needs to contact the HAWC.

10. After all e-signatures are complete, the 422 is emailed to the DLC inbox corresponding with the member's squadron.

11. The member receives the official 422 from DLC inbox recipients in accordance with AFI 10-203 paragraph 2.14.

12. Member takes hard copy of 422 to the fitness assessment cell when reporting for their physical training test.

The entire 469/422 process can take seven to 10 days. There are a lot of people involved in this process. Most of it happens electronically. However, members should be sure to stay on top of the process. For more information call 228-376-3170.



## Hospital performs sports physicals for kids

Maj. (Dr.) Kermit Helo, a pediatrician with the 81st Medical Operations Squadron examines 10-year-old Johnathan Anderson June 22 as the clinic staff performed sports physicals throughout the day. According to nurse manager Capt. Jennifer Rhoades, pediatric clinic staff completed 36 exams. The clinic will have another sports physical day, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 27, by appointment only. For appointments, call 1-800-700-8603. Johnathan's parents are Katie and Staff Sgt. Travis Speakman, 334th Training Squadron.

Photo by Steve Pivnick

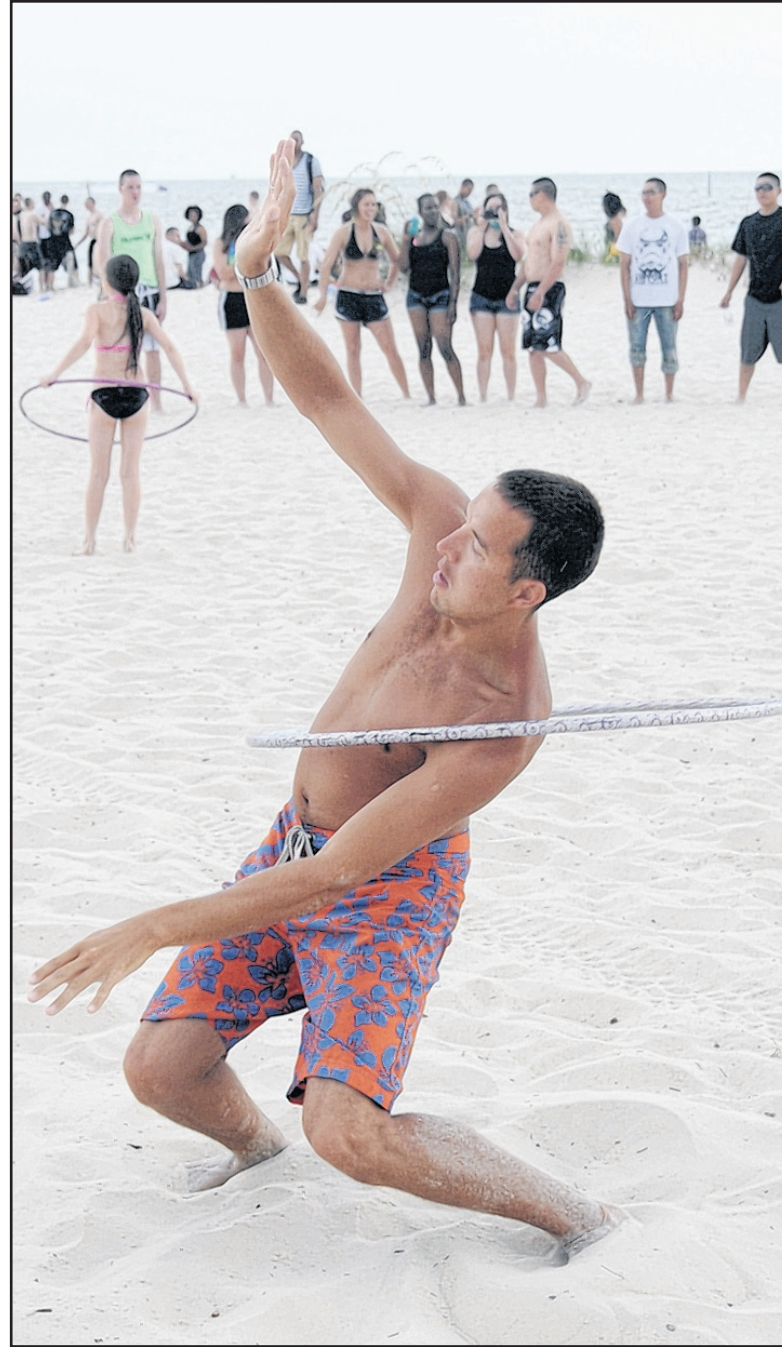
# Keesler celebrates independence with 'Beach Bash', Firecracker Run

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Peter Peterson, 81<sup>st</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Austin Connors, 81<sup>st</sup> Inpatient Operation Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Corwyn Potts, 81<sup>st</sup> IPTS, prepare burgers for guests at the Independence Day Beach Bash July 4 in Biloxi. The event included games, music, food, fireworks, contests and prizes.



Second Lt. Jon Datsko, 335<sup>th</sup> Training Squadron, demonstrates his hula hoop skills.



Capt. Ingus Silins, 81<sup>st</sup> Training Support Squadron, finishes Monday's 5-kilometer Firecracker Run/Walk in first place with a time of 19:25.



Lt. Col. Joe Harre, 81<sup>st</sup> Medical Support Squadron, finishes the run with a time of 23:59.



Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lisa Bugdin and Michael Montgomery, 334<sup>th</sup> Training Squadron, take kayaks out into the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.



Keesler members participated in a 5-kilometer Firecracker Run/Walk Monday at the Blake Fitness Center, in honor of Independence Day.



# Jiminy,

from Page 3

I don't." I start rationalizing that my workload would justify this answer. If I could just get a break from people, I could get some work done.

Mr. Cricket twists my gut and tells me, "Make time — the people are your job. You can't expect your Airmen to be good wingmen if you aren't one yourself."

So I respond with, "Come on in and close the door."

Jiminy was right again, because the

member's issues are customarily more important than any of the administrative duties that I have to do. Sometimes, a life is saved.

One of the most challenging scenarios involves making an unpopular decision or statement. Sometimes, it is in a staff meeting and the players all want to take the easy way out of a difficult task; or I witness a discreet inappropriate joke from a peer that everyone laughs at. I hesitate to engage because I don't want to be disliked in my element.

Jiminy jumps in with, "They say integrity is doing what's right when nobody is looking."

I cut him off and say, "I know, I pick up trash and wear my hat when no one is around."

Jiminy responds, "That's the easy part of integrity. Doing what's right when everyone is looking, and they are wrong — now that's not so easy."

Copy that, Mr. Cricket — time to make a move and engage. He was right again.

Jiminy Cricket has shown up many other times and more frequently than I am comfortable with. However, through these Jiminy Cricket interactions, I have learned that he doesn't show up to make my life more difficult. Despite the challenges, he

presents me, Jiminy is helping me do the right thing. He is not interested in the easy thing.

Mr. Cricket has told me several times, "The Air Force doesn't pay you to do the easy thing, and the Air Force did not promote you to ignore these situations."

The right thing is usually a little more difficult and requires a simple courageous step of engagement. These convictions drive me to strive to do the right thing, and in the long run it makes my life simpler and easier. Yes, I truly believe Jiminy Cricket was a damn good Airman, possibly even a first sergeant.

For more news, photos, videos and information, log on to [www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil)

or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/keeslerafb](http://www.facebook.com/keeslerafb)

## CCAF deadline

The last day to apply for the Community College of the Air Force fall 2012 graduating class is August 31. By that date, all supporting documentation must be on file with the CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base including your nomination action request. For more information contact the education services office in room 224 of the Sablich Center, or call (228) 376-8708.

## Correction

The June 28 weightlifting competition results should have read:

Open Raw Division, Male  
1st place, Austin Sutton's total was 1,537.7 pounds

2nd place, Justin Trott's total was 1,311.7 pounds.

3rd place, Barron Ramiro's total was 1091.3 lbs

Open Raw Division, Female

1st place, Shayna Sutton's total was 617.3 pounds

2nd place, Sunita Brathwaite total was 567.6 pounds.

Equipped Division, Male

1st place, Kasey Crowe total was 1,559.8 pounds

## Immigration assistance

From 8 a.m. to noon July 19, 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 the legal office, 228-376-8601.

## Medical Service Corps Accession Board

Medical Service Corps officers serve as professional health care administrators throughout the world in various positions in hospitals. Members with a health or business related degree may qualify to apply for commission. The

MSC board is held annually, normally in October. Tentative dates for the AY2013 Accession Board are Oct. 15-19. To obtain an application, the applicant must first complete the Air Force MSC application questionnaire. To receive a questionnaire, contact AFPC/DPAMS at DSN 665-4094, opt 2/commercial 210-565-4094, opt 2 or email AFPC.DPAMS1@us.af.mil. Once complete, return by fax (210-565-4240, DSN 665-4240) or e-mail AFPC.DPAMS1@us.af.mil. The questionnaire is used to verify qualifications to meet the board. Applications are due no later than Sept. 17.

## Central selection boards

P0612B (LAF) (NC), P0512C (NC) and P0412B (NC) (LAF-J) boards convene Nov. 5 at Air Force Personnel Center Headquarters.

**Basic eligibility criteria:** To be eligible for the P0612B (LAF/NC), P0512C (NC) and P0412B (NC/LAF-J) CSBs the officer must have an extended active duty (EAD) date of March 9, 2012, or earlier with a date of separation of Feb. 3, 2013, or later. Also, officers on active duty under the Voluntary Recall Program or any other Reserve Recall Program must have at least one year on active duty as of the board convening date, starting from their new EAD date.

For more information call (228) 376-8356.

## 2013 Officer Training School Boards

Non-rated line officer board is scheduled for Oct. 29-Nov. 2. Application cut-off is Sept. 4.

Rated line officer board is scheduled for Jan. 21-25, 2013. Application cut-off is Dec. 7.

## 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.

## Upcoming changes of command

**Today** — 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron, 7:30 a.m. at the 81st Medical Group A Tower.

**Monday** — 336th Training Squadron, 3:30 p.m. at the Welch Theater.

**Tuesday** — 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, 7:30 a.m. at the 81st MDG A Tower.

**Wednesday** — 81st Medical Operations Squadron, 7:30 a.m. at the 81st MDG A Tower.

**Aug. 24** — 345th Airlift Squadron, 3:45 p.m. at the Roberts Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Facility.

# Keesler Events Calendar

## Today

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

**4 p.m.** — Summer reading program, "Exploring the Orient," at the McBride Library.

## Friday

**1 p.m.** — Young adult summer reading program, "Real World," at the McBride Library.

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

## Saturday

**9 a.m.** — Wood shop class for beginners at the arts and crafts center.

**10:30 a.m.** — Kumihimo I (Japanese art of braiding) beginners class at the arts and crafts center.

**1 p.m.** — Kumihimo II beginners class at the arts and crafts center.

## Monday

**10 a.m.** — Summer reading program, "Hambre de Libros (hunger for books)," at the

McBride Library.

## Tuesday

**9 a.m.** — Preseparation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

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

**1 p.m.** — Retirees preseparation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

## July 19

**8 a.m.** — Veterans benefits briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108A.

**1 p.m.** — Retirement benefits briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108A.

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

**4 p.m.** — Summer reading program, "Delectable Delights," at the McBride Library.

**6 p.m.** — Scrapbooking class for beginners at the arts and crafts center.

## July 20

**10 a.m.** — Ceramic mold pouring class at the arts and

crafts center.

## July 21

**9 a.m.** — Wood shop for beginners class at the arts and crafts center.

**10 a.m.** — Intarsia woodworking class at the arts and crafts center.

## July 23

**10 a.m.** — Summer reading program, "Cookies: A Recipe for Fun," at the arts and crafts center.

## July 24

**9 a.m.** — Preseparation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

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

**1 p.m.** — Retirees preseparation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

**6 p.m.** — Introduction to Needlecrafts 101 at the arts and crafts center.

## July 25

**8 a.m.** — Newcomers' orientation at the Sablich Center Room 108B.



## Pianist wanted

**The Keesler Chapel is seeking a pianist for the gospel worship service noon Sundays. Applicants must be able to play the piano for gospel and traditional music styles. Anyone interested in applying for this contract should pick up a statement of work at Larcher Chapel and place a sealed bid. The chapel is taking bids through close of business today. For more information, call (228) 377-4859.**

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.

## 81st CS cleans house



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Airmen Basic Daniel Rodriguez and Robert Alvies, 338<sup>th</sup> Training Squadron, place large computer monitors onto pallets for transporting at the Locker House June 27. The monitor turn-in is part of a program started by the 81<sup>st</sup> Communications Squadron management information technology section to rid the base of excess information technology assets. More than 1,200 monitors were turned in and transferred to other equipment custodians to be used in their squadrons or donated to local schools.



James Blease, 81<sup>st</sup> CS; Tech. Sgt. John Hoefert, 336<sup>th</sup> TRS, and Sam Raleigh, 81<sup>st</sup> CS, verify serial numbers on information technology equipment turned in by Hoefert's squadron

# 81st CS implements telephone operator changes

## 81st Communications Squadron

A key component of Air Education and Training Command's culture of cost consciousness, or C3, is the application of technology to achieve cost savings — also known as information technology efficiencies.

Keesler is changing the way the base conducts base operator and locator services.

The end result will be the complete automation of services previously occupied by the operators.

The most visible change for customers will be the elimination of full-time base operator services. Effective immediately, operator assistance is only available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Deployed Airmen who pre-

viously made morale calls to their home station through the base operators will now be issued a personal identification number from the airman and family readiness center and will complete those calls without operator assistance.

Similarly, callers looking for organizations or people on base who were previously helped by base operators should first

review the frequently-dialed numbers listed on the [www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil) website. If the requested number is not available on the website, the caller can dial 228-377-1110 and the automated system will steer them through a limited call tree to the closest possible location for each organization.

"Providing quality customer service is still our business and

we will do everything possible to minimize the impact to Keesler's mission and personnel," said Rodney McGruder, 81st Communications Squadron infrastructure branch chief. "It is also important for everyone to know emergency calls made using 911 will not be affected. Callers will continue to reach a live emergency dispatcher as they do now."



## 81st WSA/2nd Air Force team wins softball championship



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Rae Moore  
Jason Hutchison, 81st Training Wing Staff Agency/2nd Air Force, pitches to Paul Carlisle 338th Training Squadron, during the intramural championship softball game, June 26. WSA won the game 30-20 and then went on to beat Gulfport's Seabees 31-4, here July 2.

Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander, listens while Sam Miller, intramural sports director addresses Wing Staff Agency/2nd Air Force and 338th Training Squadron players following their intramural championship game.

## Keesler children of deployed see 'Greatest Show' up close



Dean the Clown, a member of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, leads children of deployed troops from Keesler in marching in place at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum July 5. The circus invited the children to learn about circus-style exercises and received healthy eating tips that their elephants follow. They also received free tickets to the show.



Hunter Tipton, 9, and his brother, Tanner, 11, squeeze each other's clown nose during a Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus preshow.

Photos by Kemberly Groue