



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train. Fight. Win.

JULY 19, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 28



Team Focus gives young men positive influence

Photos on page 12.

CCAF turns 40

Page 5

Keesler prepares for UCI

Page 9

Fata Morgana coming to Keesler

Page 24

INSIDE

Commentary, 3 Training and Education, 5-7 News and Features, 9-22 Sports and Recreation, 24

www.keesler.af.mil

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy
81st Training Wing
commander

**81st Training Wing
Public Affairs**

1st Lt. Victoria Porto
Director

Jerry Taranto
Deputy director

**Staff Sgt.
Kimberly Rae Moore**
NCOIC

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

Steve Hoffmann
Keesler News co-editor

Kemberly Groue
Photojournalist

Public affairs staff
**Senior Airman
Eric Summers Jr.
Joel Van Nice
Tim Coleman
Susan Griggs**

The Keesler News office is in Room 201A, Wall Studio, Building 0902. The mailing address: 81TRW/PAIN, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2120. Phone: 377-3837, 3604, 2254 or 9966. Published Thursday. News deadline: noon Monday. Editorial content edited, prepared and provided by the 81st TRW Public Affairs Office is in compliance with Air Force journalistic standards. Photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. The Keesler News is published by Gulf Publishing Co., a private firm in no way connected with the Air Force, under an exclusive written contract with the 81st TRW as an authorized publication for U.S. military service members. Contents aren't necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Air Force. Advertising doesn't constitute endorsement by the U.S. government, DOD, Air Force or Gulf Publishing of products or services advertised. Everything advertised shall be available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor.



Use your smart phone QR code application to view this issue and the online Keesler News archives.

ON THE COVER

Talmadge Burton, 14, and Donald Morgan, 17, is observed by fire fighters, Tech. Sgt. Walter Shutler and Airman 1st Class Chase Dillon, attempt to do 10 push-ups while wearing fire fighter bunker gear during career night Monday at the Sablich Center. During career night, members of various squadrons on base briefed the young men on the details of their jobs in the Air Force. The mission of Team Focus is to provide a year-round program of support, encouragement and values that foster the development of life skills in young men ages 10-18 without a father figure in their lives and supporting the family structure.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

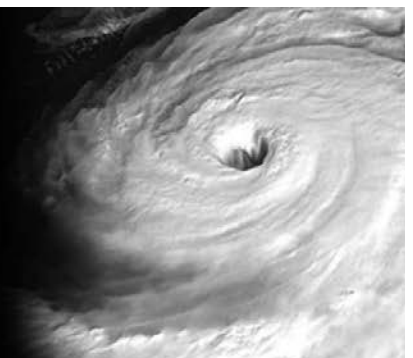


Courtesy photo by Kenneth Flynn

Second Lt. Colton Flynn, center, son of Kenneth and Aree Flynn, 333rd Training Squadron, poses for a photo after his graduation from the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., in May. Before entering the Academy, Lieutenant Flynn worked at the Keesler Commissary and attended Biloxi High School. He is currently assigned to Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. and was recently selected for pilot training. To submit your photo for the Keesler News photo of the week email a copy to keeslernews@us.af.mil.

HURRICANE SEASON

runs from June 1 - Nov. 30. For more information and preparations tips,
visit www.keesler.af.mil/hurricaneinfo.asp



Maintaining analog leadership in digital times

By Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy

The United States Air Force is the world's most advanced air, space and cyberspace force. Most of that can be attributed to you — our outstanding Airmen — but technology also plays a huge role. Advanced tools help us maintain an advantage over our adversaries. Technology has enabled our continuing success.

However, technology also threatens to cripple us.

As electronic communication becomes more widely used, our face-to-face interaction skills are beginning to suffer. We know how to text, Skype, and FaceTime, but some of us seem reluctant to engage in a meaningful face-to-face conversation.

We value technology because it saves us time, pro-

vides conveniences and helps us to be more efficient. But we must also recognize its potential to strip us of critical human connection skills.

This high-tech challenge has a low-tech solution. We need to strike a balance; we must continue to emphasize the importance of technology — a resource we cannot and will not stop exploiting — and at the same time emphasize the importance and value of analog leadership.

Analog leadership means temporarily putting down the iPads and Android tablets, logging out of Facebook and Twitter, and switching phones to airplane mode to stop the stream of texts coming in and out. It means shutting off the technology and talking to each other.

Face-to-face. One-on-one.

Real human interaction — yes, for some of us it

may be awkward at first, but getting to know each other better is an investment that will yield incalculable returns. Stronger connections will create a foundation on which we can grow more meaningful relationships.

And then we can turn the devices back on and use them for their intended purpose: to augment and add value to our real-life relationships.

As Airmen, we have to understand how to use technology, because without it we are not as well-equipped to do our jobs. However, as human beings, we also have to understand how and when not to use technology, because when distracted by it we are not as well-equipped to relate to others.

Thank you for your service and your continued dedication to duty. I look forward to seeing you face-to-face as I travel around our great Air Force.

How to care for Airmen in times of tragedy

By Lt. Col. Jupe Etheridge

733rd Air Mobility Squadron commander

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan — Do you have Airmen who depend on you? If so, are you ready for when unthinkable tragedy strikes? What about an accidental death, a suicide, battlefield casualty, or even murder? Are you prepared to inform families, friends and coworkers?

Prepared or not, the aftermath of that event may be the most emotionally draining thing you will ever do. How will you communicate details of the tragedy as they emerge?

Despite the fact that we live in an information age, most people would prefer not to learn of life and death circumstances via digital means. This is especially true for next of kin.

Once the tragedy is known and the details are understood, what is your role in helping your Airmen heal? As their supervisor, how much of a role will those who are suffering even permit you to have? Finally, what will you do with whatever access into their hurting lives they give you?

In February 2011, tragedy struck the 733rd Air Mobility Squadron when one of our own beloved Airmen was suddenly and brutally taken from us. Over the course of the next year, we slowly learned the details of his death and how to cope with the loss.

In the process, through mistakes and feedback, we also learned a lot about how to care for our Airmen in times of tragedy.

Notification

The first and most difficult step in any tragedy is notification of the next of kin and the unit. This is especially challenging in an overseas location, where some or all next of kin may be thousands of miles away, and on a different time and day. In the first few hours and maybe even days after the tragedy, what will you tell your unit as you await next of kin notification?

In an attempt to prevent a social media outbreak, you may elect to share very few details until next of kin notification is completed in accordance with AFI 36-3002. You can imagine how stressful this will be for your unit as they frantically try to figure out what has happened.

On the other hand, once the commander or first sergeant speaks, it becomes official, so words and timing must be considered very carefully and deliberately.

Once you are able to share with your Airmen the name of the victim, you can expect full counsel and attendance by the base traumatic response team from mental health, who are a group of experts trained to deal with tragedy.

Additionally, the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Military Family Life Consultants and base chapel staff all have counseling experts and should be present. In a protracted and traumatic event, this team, among others, will prove invaluable in helping you care and communicate with your Airmen.

We asked each of them to be pres-

ent every time we had a large forum to discuss the details of our tragedy. This slowly created a comfort level and a relationship between the counselors and our Airmen in need. While few of our Airmen approached them for help in these public forums, it made their services more familiar for one-on-one counseling as the months passed.

Communication

After the initial notifications are complete, many tragedies will have difficult details continue to unfold. How and when you choose to share this information will affect how Airmen around you deal with the details they are provided.

In the first days after our tragedy, we found the most appropriate venue for sharing information was via squadron town hall meetings, where Airmen and families assembled alongside members of mental health, MFLC and the chaplain staff. We found that holding meetings in this format not only paved the way for candid discussion, but also identified those who may have been suffering in silence.

After days turned to months, sharing information became much more personal. As many in our unit rotated out, we found that making the rounds at roll calls, shift changes and break areas was a much more appropriate way to identify those who most needed care, rather than at a larger, less personal forum like a town hall meeting.

Connection

Likely the most important step to

the healing process is getting those who are closest to the tragedy to talk about their feelings. They may not be comfortable at first talking about this with anyone from the crisis team or squadron leadership, but there is more than likely a peer who is suffering along with them who is ready to talk. As you share information, it is important that your Airman hear directly from you that it is okay to talk to each other, and you, about what they are going through.

One of the most successful methods we found in doing this was seeking out those who we felt were most affected by the tragedy and talking to them in very small gatherings, or one on one. We did this in hopes of better understanding their grief, fear and anger, while at the same time expressing our desire to be open and care for their needs. We learned a great deal during these conversations and were often able to dispel rumors and quell frustrations. We later received feedback that these one-on-one discussions truly helped.

We may never be completely prepared for when tragedy strikes; however, in our Profession of Arms, it is seldom a question of if but when. How will you care and communicate to the Airmen around you when that need arises? How will you care for yourself? We are charged to be leaders and wingmen; our military family depends on it.

Are you ready?

Master Sgt. David Najera, 733rd Air Mobility Squadron first sergeant, contributed to this article.

CCAF celebrates 40 years of enlisted learning

By Master Sgt. Michael Voss

Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — Recently the Community College of the Air Force hosted an open house honoring the college's 40th anniversary.

The CCAF concept evolved in the early 1970s as a means of gaining recognition for Air Force training. Led by Lt. Gen. George B. Simler, commander of Air Training Command, Air Force visionaries recognized the need to enhance the skills of noncommissioned officers as technicians, leaders, and citizens. With the approval of General John D. Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff, CCAF was established April 1, 1972 at Randolph AFB, Texas.

Over the years, the college has come a long way, in both enrollments and recognition. Its first official transcript was mailed Nov. 9, 1972, and the school issued its first Career Education Certificate on Aug. 23, 1973. Today, CCAF is the only school of its kind in the Department of Defense. With 316,000 enrolled students, it is the largest community college in the world. The college issues about 140,000 transcripts per year and has awarded more than 393,000 degrees.

The mid-1970s marked significant strides in the school's history, and many civilian consultants reported CCAF standards exceeded the minimum requirements of civilian associate degree programs. In 1975, the Air Force sought degree-granting authority for the college from Congress and Public Law 94-361 was signed on July 14, 1976.

At the CCAF Administrative Center, a staff of 80 manages degree and certification programs, maintains 2.7 million student records, evaluates and awards credit for more than 1,900 Air Force courses taught in 106 affiliated Air Force schools.

"Few people realize that CCAF is located at Gunter Annex," said Tech. Sgt. Daniel Potter, a Degree Program Manager. "When DVs come through they are flabbergasted that such a small staff keeps this going."

At the main CCAF campus, 32 Airmen serve as subject matter experts for



68 associate degree programs supporting more than 200 AFSCs. As a testament to the quality of CCAF programs, the college has been regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since 1980.

The Future

As the CCAF staff reflects on this great heritage, they focus on better serving tomorrow's Airmen.

The college launched the highly successful Air University Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperative program in June 2007 that links CCAF graduates to online bachelor's degree programs at 46 military-friendly colleges and universities. Airmen can continue to pursue their education and work towards their bachelor's degree even as they move to and from locations around the world while continuing to serve the nation.

The school offers more than associate's degree for enlisted Airmen. CCAF also awards certifications, to in-

clude the Professional Managers Certification, the CCAF Instructor Certification, and the Instructional Systems Development Certification.

CCAF benefits those enlisting in the Air Force and it has not gone unnoticed within the Department of Defense.

"Right now the sister services do not have anything like CCAF," explained Chief Master Sgt. James Pepin. "There's an ongoing study to decide the feasibility of starting a Community College of the Armed Forces; however, it is very difficult to do because of the credential requirements needed by the instructors at technical schools."

The Air Force awards credit to Soldiers, Sailor, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who attend or instruct in Air Force schools, and has awarded more than 1,200 degrees to other services' instructors who have taught in CCAF's affiliated schools.

"We try to help the service members who attend or train at our schools. If

we have a Soldier who teaches at one of our schools or who attends a CCAF credit-awarding course, they can get college credit that will apply to civilian degree programs."

A recent change in the CCAF program allows Wounded Warriors to complete degree requirements if they have been medically separated or retired. In compliance with a 2012 NDAA legislative change, combat wounded, ill, and injured Airmen who commenced but did not complete a CCAF degree program may continue participation in their degree program for up to 10 years after separation or retirement.

Changed CCAF experience over the years

From CCAF's start 40 years ago, the academic center has experienced a great deal of change and reductions in personnel and financial resources, yet they still enable the Air Force enlisted force to have the best possible military education in the world.

In the beginning, most technical school instructors did not hold degrees, but today each instructor is better qualified and must hold at least a two-year degree.

"Airmen were getting the same technical training, but today their instructor carries a two-year degree minimum," Pepin said.

The degree is a validation of a career of military training at an institution that anticipates awarding its 400,000th associate degree later this year.

"Our forefathers understood our Airmen were receiving this training anyway, but they wanted to ensure the Airmen were getting credit for doing it," said Pepin. "My transcript of training is of equal or more value to me than the diploma hanging on the wall. You are an educated Airmen and a future employer will value that training. Airmen who do not take advantage of the program are missing an opportunity."

122 graduate from Keesler's NCO academy

By Senior Airman Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

Technical sergeants from bases around the country graduated from the Mathies NCO Academy here July 11. Of the 122 Graduates, 13 were from Keesler.

The Mathies NCO Academy trains and develops technical sergeants to

become leaders as they transition into the senior NCO enlisted tier and is a requirement for promotion to master sergeant.

Britton Hanson, 338th Training Squadron was named a distinguished graduate.

Other graduates include:

George Bonney, 334th TRS.

Christina Booth-Terry, 81st Training Group.

Jihan Brown, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron.

Carter Bryan, 338th TRS.

Rickesia Bryant, 336th TRS.

Jason Fisher, 336th TRS.

Matthew James, 81st Security Forces Squadron.

Wayne King, 81st Dental Squadron.
Ebonique McCray, 336th Training Squadron.

Ervin Mckinzie, 336th Training Squadron.

Scott Mendoza, 81st training wing legal office.

Erika Reynolds, 338th training Squadron.

Registration for local schools coming end of July, early Aug.

By Gerry Cross

Keesler school liaison officer

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year is coming up in the local area.

The requirements for student registration are:

- Mississippi Certificate of Immunization Compliance Form 121

- Certified copy of birth certificate (not a hospital certificate)

- Report cards and any other records of grade placement

- Student's social security number

- Verification of Residency (must provide two forms of proper documentation: utility bills, driver's license listing present address, automobile registration, filed Homestead Exemption application form, mortgage documents or property deed, apartment or home lease, or base housing lease.)

- **Guardianship:** Legal guardians must provide a copy of the most recent court order, signed by a judge, appointing them as legal guardian.

Dates and times of registration are:

- **Biloxi** — 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 23-24.

- **Harrison County** — 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 23 through Aug. 3.

- **Ocean Springs** — 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and noon Fridays all summer.

- **Gulfport High School** — pick up registration packet to schedule registration date and time.

- **Gulfport Elementary School and Middle School** — 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays all summer.

- **Long Beach** — 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. July 23-31.

- Jackson County and St. Martin — 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. July 26.

- **Jackson County and Vancleave** — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 23 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 24.

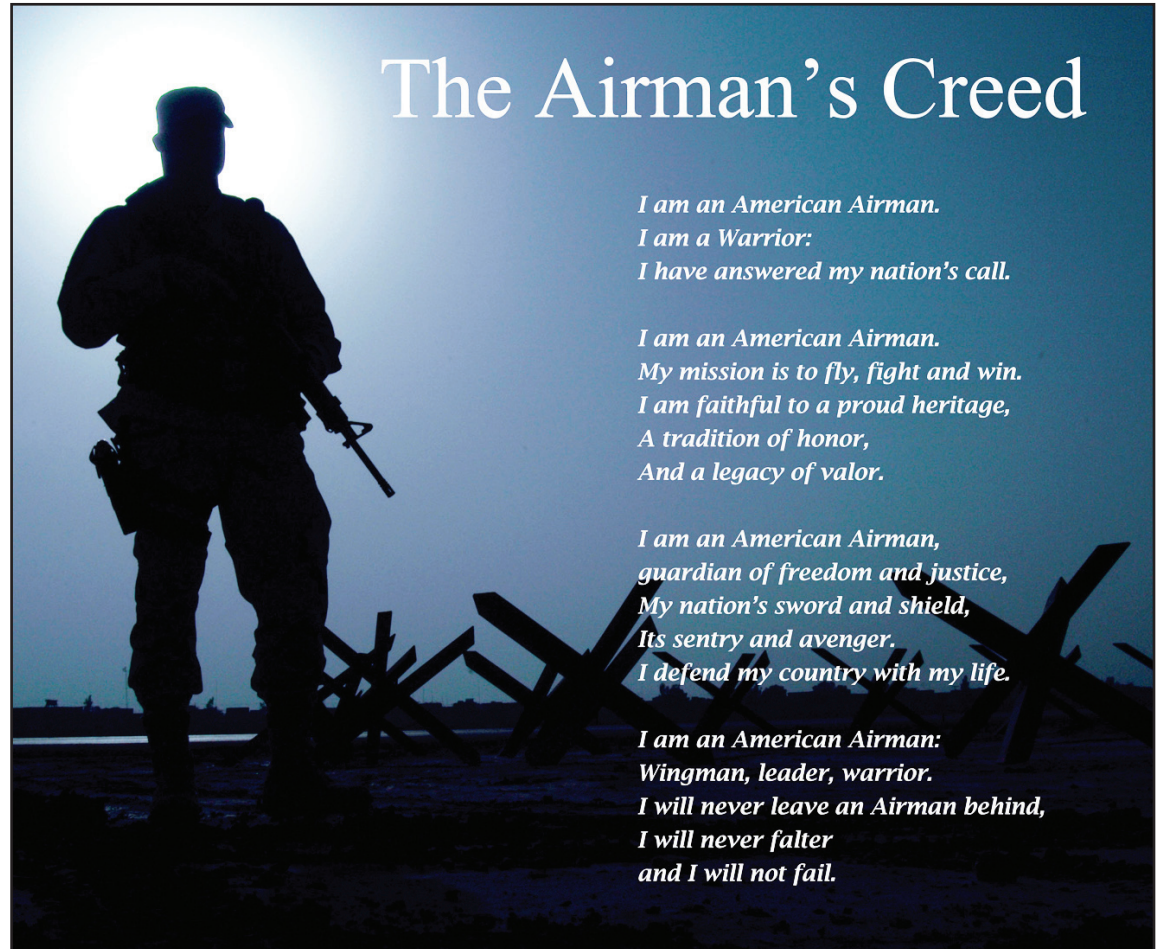
For more information on local schools see the 2012-2013 school guide at <http://www.keesler.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120601-068.pdf>.

School Liaison Officer

Keesler's partner with public, private and home schools to assist school-age children overcome issues related to parental military obligations.

Contact Mr. Cross (228) 376-8505

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.



U.S. AIR FORCE

EagleEyes

WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Keesler leaders welcome Air Education and Training Command's Inspector General Unit Compliance Inspection team to the base Oct. 24, 2010. More than 140 inspectors review how well Team Keesler executes its day-to-day mission and responds to various exercise scenarios. This year's inspection is scheduled for Oct. 29-Nov. 5.

Compliance should happen every day at Keesler

Commentary by Master Sgt. Artie Pate

81st Training Wing unit compliance inspection preparation officer

Compliance is a way of life in the Air Force and is a concept we should practice every day in our work centers. That way, when there is a major inspection, there is no question we are prepared. Keesler's next base-wide inspection, the unit compliance inspection, is scheduled for Oct. 29 through Nov. 5.

When the inspectors get here, do not be shy in presenting your work. The best way to demonstrate your level of performance is to polish your programs and shore up deficiencies. Beyond fixing what is broken, one of the most important things you can do is inventory your programs' strengths and devise a plan to highlight them for inspectors.

Being a program owner myself, I know first-hand the importance of attaining and keeping momentum. In 2010, I was the flight chief for Keesler's largest military training flight. My responsibilities included managing the military training leader program, functioning as building manager and administering on-the-job and ancillary training programs. Early that year, results from staff assisted visits, tiger team visits,



Days left until UCI inspection

and self-inspection efforts revealed deficiencies in my programs that needed attention. So, I started on the long and rocky road to improvement.

My process improvement effort did not happen overnight. Rather, supervisors and other leaders shaped my attitude through many mentoring sessions. From these sessions, I developed an all-in attitude, meaning I vowed to pursue excellence and pour all my effort into every aspect of my programs.

I have been through several inspections in my career. To this day, I cannot say that I have ever had a bad one. During the 2010 UCI, I earned the best rating I could have hoped for — an "outstanding." I was very pleased, but the outcome caused me to wonder how I garnered the top rating while others with

programs like mine received an "excellent."

A few weeks later, I asked the inspector what we did during the inspection to earn an "outstanding" rating. He told me that from the time they walked into my building, my staff and I met them with a smile and a warm welcome. He said that each time inspectors started to delve into a program, the program owner was already there, telling them how the program worked and what practices they had in place to ensure they went beyond compliance. He went on to say that everyone inspected acted as if they were happy to be there and were ready to answer all questions without hesitation. Finally, he said that when it was my turn, I showcased my programs for more than an hour and after I left, everything I had just told them was laid out exactly in my binders.

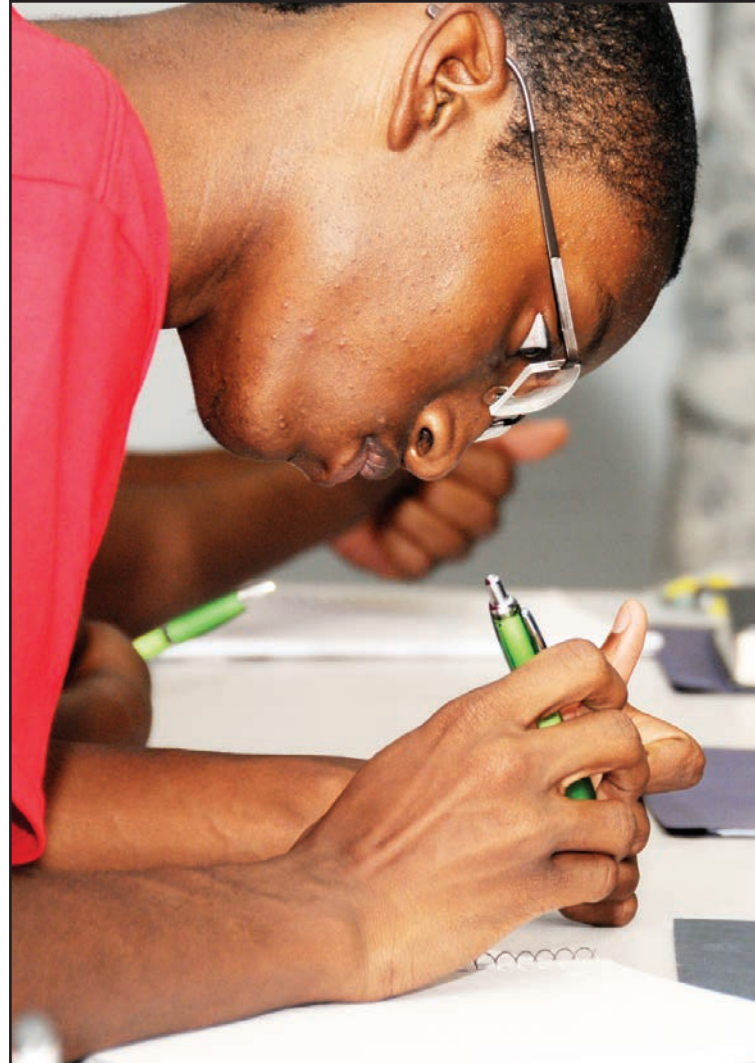
The takeaway from my experience is that it pays to gauge your strengths and promote them with enthusiasm during the inspection. Know your programs intimately and understand what it takes to exceed compliance baselines. Practice compliance every day, whether or not an inspection is in your future. With this outlook, many Keesler programs can earn an "outstanding" rating from the inspection team this fall.

Team Focus gives young men positive influence



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Christopher Jarrell, 81st Security Forces Squadron, and Military Working Dog, Densy, demonstrate how military working dogs can attack on command to the members of Team Focus during career night Monday at the Sablich Center. The mission of Team Focus is to provide a year-round program of support, encouragement and values that foster the development of life skills in young men ages 10-18 without a father figure in their lives and supporting the family structure.



Seventeen-year-old Tydrik McNair, grandson of Tena McNair of Pearl, Miss., takes notes during Team Focus career night. During career night, members of various squadrons on base briefed the young men on the details of their jobs in the Air Force.



Thirteen-year-old Quindarius Gibson, son of Nicole Gibson of Jackson, Miss., secures the tape on his brush bot, a man-made robot that he made with the assistance of members from NASA.



Seventeen-year-old Donald Morgan, son of Laneeka Morgan of Biloxi, holds an M4 Carbine rifle as members of the 81st Security Forces Squadron briefs the members of Team Focus on the various weapons used for deployment missions in the Air Force.

CSAF takes fini flight



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Samuel King Jr.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz flies an MC-130E Combat Talon I during his last flight as an active duty officer near Hurlburt Field, Fla., July 12. The MC-130E Combat Talon I crew conducted a local training sortie during the mission. It also served as Schwartz's "fini flight" in the Air Force.

By Tech. Sgt. Samuel King Jr.
919th Special Operations Wing
Public Affairs

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — When Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz climbed aboard the MC-130E Combat Talon I here July 12, for his last flight as an active duty officer, he immediately began to reminisce on his flying career with special operations and the C-130 Hercules community.

"This is more than a little sentimental for me to be back in this seat again," the general said. "It's a special privilege to complete my flying career on this aircraft."

During a visit to Hurlburt Field to meet with Airmen and Air Force Special Operations Command leadership, Schwartz joined an MC-130E crew on a local training sortie, which served as Schwartz's "fini flight" in the Air Force.

The MC-130E he flew, No. 64-0568, belongs to the 919th Special Operations Wing, an Air Force Reserve wing at Duke Field, Fla. Schwartz, who piloted No. 568 on a memorable but arduous mission in 1982, said the aircraft holds a special place in his heart. Before boarding, he stopped and saluted the aircraft, which along with the general is also scheduled for retirement.

Many of the flight crew for the mission had either flown with him or served under him during his special operations tours. The flight engineer, Chief Master Sgt. Tyler Outten, flew with him when he commanded the 36th Tactical Airlift Squadron at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., in 1987.

"It's very special to have you

here for this final flight, Tyler," Schwartz said over the radio before the takeoff. "It's amazing thinking about those fun times. Who would've thought we'd have ended up the way we did?"

Outten said he was thrilled to engineer one more flight for his former commander.

"It was an honor and a privilege to fly the general's fini flight," Outten said. "I consider him one of the most respected men to wear the uniform. He has been an overarching influence to me and many other Airmen over the years. He's a class act."

Between an airdrop and an aerial refueling of a CV-22 Osprey over the Gulf of Mexico, Schwartz and the crew shared stories and memories over the radio, remembering the "good ol' days." The general said jokingly that it had "been awhile" since he had seen that Combat Talon control panel he knew so well.

Lt. Col. Thomas Miller, the co-pilot for the flight, said Schwartz knocked the rust off quickly and got down to the mission at hand.

"In his early years, General Schwartz was highly regarded as an outstanding Combat Talon pilot, and he was able to regain those same flying skills within a matter of minutes," Miller said. "I was very impressed with his ability to adapt to mission changes. It was a true honor for all of us to share that last flight with him."

The training flight ended with three touch-and-goes before returning to the Hurlburt Field runway where Schwartz's wife Suzie and a group of well-wishers waited. Upon exiting the Combat Talon, Schwartz received the ceremonial "hose



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Salantri

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz gets "hosed down" by his wife Suzie.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Christopher Williams
Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz is embraced by his wife Suzie.

down" before greeting his old friends and colleagues, many of whom still live in the local area.

Even though he had just completed the last flight hours of his 39-year Air Force career, afterward the general was all smiles.

"To have the opportunity to join this outstanding crew on their training sortie, for one last flight while in the Air Force, was truly special," Schwartz said. "They are true professionals dedicated to their country, and like all our Airmen, I will always be proud to have served alongside them."

Schwartz's retirement ceremony will be held Aug. 10 at Joint Base Andrews, Md.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Christopher Williams

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz shakes hands with Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy, following his last flight.

Keesler to receive enhanced DBIDS system Aug. 15

By 81st Security Forces Squadron

Air Education and Training Command recently initiated a command-wide upgrade to the Defense Biometric Identification System and Keesler is next on the list to receive the improved system. This enhanced version of both the software and hardware will come online on Aug. 15th.

Keesler currently has over 49,000 active-duty military, reserve, guard, retiree, DOD civilian and family members' cards registered into DBIDS and averages 3,200 scans per day. This upgrade is expected to eventually streamline the process of registering and scanning all cards.

When the new version of DBIDS comes online, it will eliminate the need for Department of Defense-issued card holders to go to the visitor's center. Instead, cardholders will be automatically registered into the DBIDS database when the ID is initially scanned at the gate.

Registered ID cards will also be recognized across the continental United States, as opposed to the current system which breaks the country into four separate regions. This

new link will help identify individuals attempting to access Keesler who have been barred from other installations, giving the base an additional layer of security.

The new system will identify only your most current Department of Defense identification card issued by the Military Personnel Flight. For those who are eligible for more than one type of DOD ID Card, both can be successfully scanned and registered when entering the base. For example someone may be issued both a retiree card and a DOD contractor common access card.

The new DBIDS version 4.0 will also identify ID cards that the DOD has deemed to be in need of replacement. In this case, the entry controller will inform the cardholders that they need to replace their current ID at the military personnel flight.

The 81st Security Forces Squadron and 81st Force Support Squadron are working diligently to meet the requirements of the new DBIDS 4.0 program and ask for the cooperation and patience of the Keesler public during this transition.

Four from Keesler on promotion list

By Senior Airman
Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

Three Keesler technical sergeants and one Keesler staff sergeant were on the supplemental promotion list released July 12.

Promoted to master sergeant are:

Antrinia Alexander, 81st

Logistics Readiness Squadron.

John Hoefert, 336th Training Squadron.

David Jennings, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron.

Promoted to technical sergeant is:

Sean Bowes, 81st Security Forces Squadron.

Become a Keesler fan on Facebook

www.facebook.com/keeslerafb

AFA upcoming events

The Air Force Association works for all members of the military, with a focus on the Air Force. The local chapter, the John C. Stennis Chapter, works here on base to increase community support of Keesler and its military members. AFA holds monthly meetings at local community locations or the Bay Breeze Event Center lounge. The next meeting is 6 p.m. Aug. 7 at Pleasants BBQ in Ocean Springs. The Chapter also hosts events on base throughout the year, including the annual Air Force Ball to celebrate the Air Force birthday.

AFA is looking for vol-

unteers to help with the Air Force Ball Sept. 22, at the Bay Breeze. There are regular planning meetings at the Bay Breeze lounge July 25; August 15 and 29; and Sept. 5 and 12.

Finally, the Chapter will host a military appreciation picnic at the marina on July 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring yourself and your families out to enjoy free hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks and fellowship.

Keesler Airman's Attic

The Keesler Airman's Attic provides free donated items to enlisted members of any branch, E-5 and below with the expectation that when the person is done, they will return the item for another's use. The

facility is located at the corner of Meadows Drive and First Street and is open Mondays, Wednesdays and every non-training Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The last Saturday of the month is an "all ranks" day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call (228) 377-3814.

Immigration assistance

From 8 a.m. to noon today, 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.

Senior NCO induction ceremony

Team Keesler is invited to the Senior NCO induction ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center, Aug. 10, to celebrate our newest master sergeant selects.

Social hour is 6 p.m. and dinner starts at 7 p.m.. Please contact your unit representative for tickets; the cost is \$25.

Unsupervised youth on base

Keesler offers a great variety of entertainment and activities for all ages. However, it is strongly encouraged that youth dependants be accompanied by a parent or guardian when visiting base facilities.

The summertime increase in unsupervised youth occasionally results in disruptive behavior that impacts the operations within our facilities. When this happens, parents will be notified to immediately come and pick up their children and, when necessary, se-

curity forces will be contacted.

CCAF deadline

The last day to apply for the Community College of the Air Force fall 2012 graduating class is Aug. 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.

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

8 a.m. — Veteran's 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.

Friday

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

Saturday

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

10 a.m. — Intarsia wood-working class at the arts and crafts center.

Monday

10 a.m. — Summer reading program, "Cookies: A

Recipe for Fun," at the arts and crafts center.

Tuesday

9 a.m. — Pre-separation 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 pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

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

Wednesday

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

July 26

11 a.m. — 81st Training Wing quarterly awards luncheon at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

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

July 27

4 p.m. — Summer reading program finale, "Pasta

Frenzy," at the McBride Library.

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

July 28

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

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

— Pottery wheel for beginners class at the arts and crafts center.

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

July 31

9 a.m. — Pre-separation 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 pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

August 1

3:30 p.m. — 81st Training Wing enlisted promotion ceremony.

AFCEA to hold luncheon July 25

The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association is scheduled to hold a luncheon July 25 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom. The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kendall, director of warfighter systems integration at the Office of the war fighting integration and chief information officer.

The luncheon is being hosted by the Gulf Coast Chapter of AFCEA (<http://gulfoast.afceachapter.org/>). The AFCEA president, Maj. Jeffrey Gomes, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, will be accepting the model chapter of the year award for the third consecutive year from Tom

Gwaltney, regional vice president of AFCEA (<https://www.afcea.org/>).

The Model Chapter Award (<http://www.afcea.org/awards/modelchapter.html>) recognizes the top overall chapter structure and program of activities for the year. To apply, chapters must first establish a set of goals for the coming calendar year, which are attainable yet challenging. The chapter then incorporated these goals into their plan and submits the items to AFCEA. The following year, all chapters enrolled in the program submit the results of their efforts for review by their regional vice president and AFCEA.

Combat controller posthumously awarded Silver Star

By Rachel Arroyo

Air Force Special Operations
Command Public Affairs

Editor's Note, combat controllers complete four months of their initial training at Keesler.

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — Senior Airman Mark Forester had an American flag wrapped around his chest plate inside his body armor when he was fatally wounded by an enemy sniper's fire Sept. 29, 2010.

This simple act is a testament to how Forester lived his life, a life respected by all who knew him.

Forester, a combat controller assigned to the 21st Special Tactics Squadron at Pope Field, N.C., was posthumously awarded the Silver Star on June 15 in a ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

The Silver Star, the third highest combat medal, is awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the U.S. while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force.

The medal was presented to his parents, Ray and Pat Forester of Haleyville, Ala.

Forester, 29, was killed in action while moving to the aid of a fallen teammate during an assault of an insurgent safe haven in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

His courage on this mission led to the elimination of 12 insurgents and capture of a significant weapons cache.

Air Force Special Operations Command Commander Lt. Gen. Eric Fiel said Forester embodied the Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.

"Though he cannot be here to accept this recognition and probably would have shunned the attention if he were, we honor and document his heroic actions in the presence of his family, his teammates and his friends," Fiel said. "We commit his actions forever to memory as is due a true hero and brother-in-arms. He will



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

Senior Airman Mark Forester was posthumously awarded the Silver Star in a ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Fla., on June 15. Forester, 29, was killed in action Sept. 29, 2010, while moving to the aid of a fallen teammate during an assault of an insurgent safe haven in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

be remembered, as we remember all heroes, who have the greatest valor driven from deep dedication to our nation and our way of life."

Members of the special tactics community came from across the country by the hundreds to witness the presentation and to pay respects to their brother, their role model and beloved friend.

Forester had a monumental impact on Staff Sgt. Johnnie Yellock, a close friend and fellow combat controller assigned to the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

So much so that Yellock maintains frequent contact with the Forester family and travels to Alabama each year to spend Thanksgiving with them, a practice he started with Mark Forester before he died.

Yellock, who was injured in

an IED explosion in Afghanistan last year, respected Forester for walking the walk.

"Mark always stuck to his morals. Mark was one of those people who would keep everybody in line," Yellock said. "You always looked up to him. He had unwavering character, charisma and morals that his parents obviously instilled in him from a young age."

Thad Forester also credited his little brother for being a standout. He said he was both humbled and honored to see he served as a role model to so many.

"Mark really was unique, and he had such high character and consistency in values that this is what should happen," he said. "We should honor people who are good examples."

Thad Forester said his family has been trying to learn everything they can about the time his brother spent in the

military. He said he finds himself imagining what happened in his brother's last battle.

The Mark Forester he goes back to, however, is not wearing a scarlet beret or a special tactics kit.

"Most everyone sees pictures of Mark in uniform, but I picture him more as my little brother," he said. "He was my best friend and my roommate in college."

After accepting the award on behalf of his son, Ray Forester acknowledged the outpouring of love and support from his son's second family, the special tactics brotherhood.

"It has been a tough almost two years, but I want to thank each of you for being there, for supporting us," he said. "And I especially want to thank the special tactics community. What a family it is."

Thad Forester also thanked

special tactics for remaining steadfast alongside their family.

"From the very beginning, from the very first notification and visit, they told us 'we will be with you every step of the way,'" he said. "Honestly, it sounded like something anybody would say, but it's true. The special tactics community has been right by our side."

Students at the Special Tactics Training Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla., walk by Forester's picture each morning as they enter the building, and they work out each afternoon beneath a portrait of him drawn by a teammate that hangs in their gym.

His presence is a constant, reminding old and new generations of combat controllers of the ultimate price of freedom.

Keesler exchange celebrates 117 Years with savings

AAFES Public Affairs

In 1895, the War Department issued General Order 46 directing commanders to establish an Exchange at every post. Since then, Exchange associates have faithfully served alongside service members wherever they are called to serve. Today, whether at Bagram or Barksdale, troops and their families know the Exchange is there.

On July 25, Keesler Exchange facilities will mark the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's 117th birthday with a host of savings and specials.

Shoppers using their Military Star® Card to fill up at the Express from July 25-27 will see a discount of 17-cents per gallon. The Military Star® Card will also pay dividends at the food court on July 25 as diners can take 20 percent off

orders at Exchange-operated restaurants such as Charley's, Taco Bell, Subway. Also on the 25th, Express patrons can enjoy free 20 and 30-ounce fountain drinks and 20-ounce Fresh Java until 1:17 p.m.

The birthday savings even extend online where www.shopmyexchange.com will offer a one-day sale on hundreds of products including a 40" Sharp AQUOS 1080 LCD TV for \$717, up to 25 percent off name-brand watches and 66 percent off select fine jewelry.

"To say that this benefit has been around for 117 years is a testament to the loyalty of generations of military shoppers," said the Exchange's GM Penny Madison. "July 25th is our annual opportunity to celebrate and thank them for making the Exchange their first choice."

Exchange shoppers invited to 'Sound Off' next month

AAFES Public Affairs

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is constantly seeking opportunities to improve on the Exchange benefit. As part of this effort, the Department of Defense's oldest and largest Exchange service relies on an ongoing Customer Satisfaction Index to provide localized, real time snapshots of the job Exchange facilities are doing to improve the value of the support provided to Keesler and their families.

The survey, which addresses customer service, pricing, sales associate availability, merchandise assortment and many more key issues, is administered at one-fourth of Exchange main stores twice a year.

Keesler Exchange shoppers' opportunity to partici-

pate in the 2012 Customer Satisfaction Index is coming to the Exchange Aug. 4-25. During this time, troops and their families are encouraged to visit the Exchange to provide feedback on locally available services. Beyond improving the Exchange benefit, shoppers who participate will also receive a coupon worth \$5 off their next purchase at the Exchange.

"We want to hear from as many Keesler shoppers as possible," said the Exchange's GM Penny Madison. "Efforts like the CSI are critical to not only improving the shopping experience, but also bolstering the dividend the Exchange annually delivers to the community as healthy exchange operations produce greater returns for Keesler AFB quality of life programs."



**CLICK IT
OR
TICKET**



**Get up. Get out. Get Fit.
Together.**

Keesler children perform during theater camp



Courtesy photo

Children from the Keesler youth center perform "The Secret Garden" Friday. Around 50 Keesler children participated in production after a week-long Missoula Children's Theater Camp.

Fata Morgana is coming to Keesler!

Presented by the Beau Rivage and 81st Force Support Squadron

Join us for a FREE viewing of the brand-new Cirque-style extravaganza!

July 21 at the Bay Breeze Event Center
Doors open at 9 a.m., show begins at 10 a.m.

Space is limited - get there early!

Talented performers include acrobats, dancers, a tight wire act, balance act, juggler and ever-so-playful comedian Bello Nock.

The show is family friendly and guaranteed to amaze you!



81st
FSS
 377-1690
 www.keesler81fss.us

MOVIES
 AT
 KEESLER

For a recorded

listing

of movies

at Welch

Auditorium, call

377-6627

Spots open for 'Golf 4 Kids'

Tama Manu, Bay Breeze Golf Course director, gives swing instructions during the June Golf 4 Kids summer camp. Although summer is drawing to a close there are still spots remaining in the final session of the Bay Breeze Golf Course's Golf 4 Kids summer camp, Tuesday through July 26. The camp, which is offered to youth ages 6-13, offers basic instruction on putting and swings as well as rules and etiquette of the game. The last session will be held from 8-10 a.m. for ages 6-9 and 10 a.m. to noon for ages 10-13. The \$40 per child fee includes instruction, unlimited play for the rest of 2012 (greens, cart & rental clubs at no charge) and refreshments. For more information or to register, call (228) 377-3832.

Courtesy photo

