



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train. Fight. Win.

AUG. 16, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 32



Keesler Community Center celebrates opening

Photos on 14-15

Welsh becomes CSAF
Page 8

Air Force reaches
IT milestone
Page 13

Command chiefs
visit Keesler
Page 17

INSIDE

Commentary, 3 Training and Education, 5 News and Features, 8-20 Sports and Recreation, 22

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commander

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ON THE COVER

John Hoyt, vice president of Forest City Military Communities and the project executive for the Air Force's Southern Group privatized housing program, Yesiann Morales, 7, and her sister, Angelee, 11, and Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander, participate in the Keesler Community Center ribbon-cutting ceremony August 7 at the Bay Ridge Housing area. Yesiann was one of three winners in an art contest for the center and Angelee was the winner of the essay contest. They are the daughters of Yoseline and Staff Sgt. Pedro Morales, 338th Training Squadron. The facility features an event room, business center, fitness room with a children's play area, an outdoor swimming pool and a splash pad.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

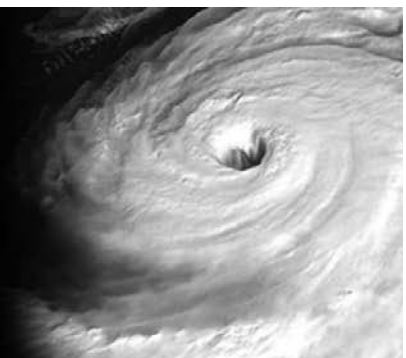


Courtesy photo by Kemberly Groue

Chief Master Sgt. (retired) Damien Orslene, a veteran who was wounded in Iraq, enforces the importance of a positive attitude in all situations to the senior football players of St. Martin High School during a leadership seminar Saturday at the Mississippi Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ocean Springs. The seminar was a collaboration of the St. Martin Gridiron Club and members of team Keesler, who also briefed the seniors on good attitudes, values, beliefs and teamwork.

HURRICANE SEASON

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



How to be 'Outstanding' during inspection

By Lt. Col. Jonathan Wright

81st Mission Support Group
deputy commander

Several assignments ago, I was an inspector on a major command inspector general team. On my first inspection, I volunteered to be the narrator at the wing's inspection out-brief.

As soon as I stepped on stage, I saw pandemonium. The base theater was sizzling with electricity as 500 people were anxiously awaiting my announcement of their Excellent and Outstanding results.

The attendees of this out-brief couldn't wait for me to deliver great news for their wing, groups, squadrons, teams and individuals.

As the briefing started, the audience cheered and applauded when I announced an "Excellent" rating. But when I announced an "Outstanding" rating, the theater actually shook since people were literally jumping out of their chairs with exuberance. I'm looking forward to that kind of experience this October.

I can still see six people who were specifically called up on stage to receive personal recognition as professional performers from the actual inspector general.

Since this was my first inspection, I was very curious to find out what kind of things these people, out of an entire wing, did to warrant such recognition. I was also inquisitive to find out how can a unit excel to an "Excellent" or "Outstanding" level when compliance really equates to a "Satisfactory" rating. I mean, what extra miles do units run in order to warrant the above and beyond recognition?

Throughout the next two years on that assignment, I learned what it takes to get to that level and how the inspection team really thinks.

The first aspect toward success is attitude leading up to the inspection. While we have the "We're inspection

ready every day" motto, a reality quickly approaches: we're having an inspection. The difference between WIRED and an inspection is that an inspection is an opportunity to showcase your awesomeness, receive validation feedback, and if it's worthy, capture recognition for individuals and units at all levels. With a proactive attitude toward the inspection, now is the time to accentuate the strengths and best practices.

For starters, merely compliance with checklists is only half way to the goal. Strengths and best practices demonstrate to the IG that the unit is unlike other units among the command.

As I inspected units, I came across "satisfactory" units that proudly complied with policies. I also came across "excellent" units that complied with policies and had strengths to boast and even requested that I validate certain strengths as "best practices."

And then I came across a unit that complied with policies, had strengths in every section of the unit, obviously read previous IG reports to take care of deficiencies that were found elsewhere, and submitted initiatives months before the inspection to receive "best practice" distinctions. In fact, I knew some other units had benefitted from this unit's "best practice" initiatives.

Cautiously, I always knew that as soon as I labeled one unit as "outstanding," other units at other wings will look to this unit as the lead role model. However, it was easy for me to conclude that this role model unit was by far the best unit I have come across out of the entire major command. In short, they deserved the "outstanding" rating.

Another factor in separating the great from the average is quality within the process. As an inspector, of course I looked for compliance. However, as I evaluated beyond the checklist, I was looking for sustained, repeatable processes.

In other words, was the compliance the result of one or two experts, or, was compliance the result of a solid process that yielded excellence no matter who performed the task?

To look beyond satisfactory compliance, I wanted to recognize units that had a solid training program and implemented effective tools so that their processes consistently delivered results.

For example, when I first arrived at Keesler, one of the finance specialists at the 81st Comptroller Squadron assisted me with my travel voucher. When I finished completing the form, the specialist pulled out a checklist and went over approximately 20 questions with me to ensure that we captured everything. Not only did he give me the impression that he cared about my voucher, but he demonstrated to me that I was going to receive every entitlement that was in accordance with the Joint Federal Travel Regulation for my travel. I can tell that they have a sustained, repeatable process and the result is compliance no matter who completes the task.

After combining the factors of strengths and "best practices" with sustained, repeatable processes, I looked at attitude to further draw the line. As an inspector, I received several attitudes ranging from intimidation, arrogance, shock and even appreciation for my feedback.

The first attitude I wanted to see is how excited the unit was about their mission. Over time, I saw a subtle difference between those units who cared about their mission and those who were excited about it. Caring about the mission was basically doing the mission. Being excited about the mission vibrantly reflected the excellence in all we do core value: How much did the unit invest to make things better? What did they try to improve? Where are the next innovations that the unit is going to explore?

Next, I noted the unit's attitude toward the inspection itself. I'll admit that my Christmas card list was short for my two years on an inspection team, but I wasn't trying to win friends anyway. As an inspector, I wore the same Air Force uniform as the units I inspected. For the good of the Air Force, I wanted their mission to succeed. I also wanted the units to succeed in the inspection. When I found a non-compliance issue, I earnestly brought it to the attention of the unit's leadership.

Interestingly, I received several reactions. Arguments in response to "clean kill" deficiencies weren't helpful and were actually disrespecting my job. On the contrary, some other units would say thank you for the feedback or, "we discovered that deficiency through self-inspection and had implemented effective correction action. Please let me show you how we prevented the non-compliance from recurring."

Sometimes I ran across areas of disagreement—for example, two ways to interpret the same policy. On one hand, a unit had professionally and courteously raised their points. On the other hand, the "argumentative unit" lost credibility on the issues that could be debated. In the end, there was a difference between a healthy rebuttal and a disrespectful one.

Finally, I looked at the attitude among individuals and probably enjoyed this aspect the most. People showed their attitude in a variety of ways, such as sense of urgency, aggressiveness, initiative, and ownership.

On an individual level, I saw people who dreaded me visiting with them. It made me think there was something to hide, and sure enough, I wanted to see what it was. On the flip side, I saw people who eagerly wanted me to visit. They had everything laid out, tabbed, annotated, document-

ed—you name it, it was there.

So I came up with the phrase, "the five-minute test." In five minutes, these kinds of people made it very easy for me to determine that their program was on-point. If it's taking me more than 5 minutes to conclude "greatness" then it's probably not a conclusion that I'll make.

Put it this way, put everything together for the IG, have the checklists answered, and annotate where he can find the documentation instead of making the IG pull teeth to get it. Remember, if it's not documented, it doesn't exist.

Inspectors pay attention to the littlest details; that's why even customs and courtesies are important. It's not that they are egomaniacs and require pomp and circumstance. They actually pay attention to the customs and courtesies as an evaluation of that Airman's pride. For example, when they ask a question, some may think of it as a knowledge drill. Others see it as an opportunity to shine—to be an expert and impress the IG.

This coming fall, we will have an inspection. As they say in the business, "It's the IG's way to stop us from what we were doing just to validate that we can do what we were just doing." Yet believe it or not, they are on the same team.

They want us to succeed. They look forward to hearing how excited you are about your mission and your strengths and "best practices" that you eagerly showcase to demonstrate how you make the mission better. They won't just take the checklist and run, they'll look for consistency from a sustained, repeatable process.

Above all, your attitude toward the inspection, over the next two months and during the big week, will result in positive feedback, validation, and recognition. Let's gear up to make "outstanding" pandemonium!



MTL of the Month

Staff Sgt. Brandon Barrette, 335th Training Squadron, won the Dragon Award for outstanding military training leader for July. One MTL is nominated from the four squadrons that train nonprior service students. Nominees take a knowledge test of the Air Force Instruction that governs the job and perform control of flight marching and open ranks. The award is intended to raise the level of adherence to military training standards and military excellence set for technical training students. The 335th TRS also won the Military Training Flight of the Month.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Airman of the Month

Airman Basic Ian Rose, 336th Training Squadron, is the 81st Training Group's Airman of the Month for July. His award was presented during a ceremony August 8 on the drill pad. Rose, from Sault Saint Marie, Mich., is here for client systems training. The four squadrons that train nonprior service students each select one Airman to compete at a monthly group board. Airmen are graded on personal appearance, communication skills and military bearing. They also respond to questions about customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, dormitory common areas and current events from that week's issue of the Keesler News.

Welsh 'humbled' to serve as Air Force chief of staff

By Tech. Sgt. Shawn Jones

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. — The Air Force chief of staff flag passed to the service's 20th chief in a ceremony Friday at Andrews AFB, Md.

Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, a 36-year Airman, stepped into the position, taking over for Gen. Norton Schwartz, who also retired from the Air Force during the ceremony.

"Mark is respected throughout the Air Force for his exceptional leadership and ability to connect with Airmen," Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley said.

Raised in an Air Force family, Welsh said he found a role model in his father, a decorated combat pilot.

"Today, I think he'd be proud of me," Welsh said. "And any day a kid can make his dad proud is a great day."

Welsh emphasized the need for Airmen to understand the importance of the other services in joint operations, but also said Airmen shouldn't underestimate the combat capabilities of their own service in winning today's fight.

"No one else can bring what we bring to the fight, and any real warfighter knows that," he said. "Don't ever doubt yourself or this service."

Welsh also addressed his stance on issues affecting the well-being of Airmen.

"When it comes to Airman resiliency, suicide prevention, and sexual assault prevention and response, I believe you're either part of the solution or you're part of the problem," he said. "There is no middle ground."

Welsh also said the Air Force must shape the future and that will require innovative thinking and different approaches to problems, along with modernization.

Welsh was nominated by the president May 10 and confirmed by the Senate on Aug. 2.

In his previous position as



Photo by Michael Pausic

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley passes the chief of staff flag to Gen. Mark A. Welsh III during a ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Friday. Prior to his new position, Welsh was the commander of U. S. Air Forces in Europe.

the commander of U. S. Air Forces in Europe, he was in charge of Air Force activities in an area of operations covering nearly one-fifth of the globe.

Welsh, a 1976 graduate of the Air Force Academy, has served in numerous operational, command and staff positions, such as commandant of cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy, vice commander of Air Education and Training Command and associate director for military affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency.

"When I became a squadron commander, I felt excited. When I became a wing commander, I felt proud. When I became a

major command commander, I felt privileged and a little bit old," he said. "Today when I was sworn in as chief of staff of the Air Force, I felt humbled to be given the honor of leading its incredible Airmen."

His experience includes nearly 3,300 flying hours, most of which came in the A-10 Thunderbolt II and F-16 Fighting Falcon.

As the ceremony ushered in a new chapter in Air Force history, it also served as the final chapter for Schwartz's four years as the service's senior uniformed leader and his more than 39 years of military service.

Schwartz's career began

in 1973 after graduating from the Air Force Academy. He has logged more than 4,400 flying hours and participated in military operations in Vietnam, Iraq and Cambodia.

"Anyone looking for an example of Air Force core values need look no further than Gen. Norton Schwartz," Donley said. "Thank you for your lasting contribution to our Air Force and the character and quality of your service."

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta presented Schwartz with the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, which is awarded to service members who perform exceptionally

meritorious service in a position of great responsibility.

The award citation highlighted his success in restoring excellence in the Air Force nuclear mission, his efforts to partner with joint and coalition teammates in support of operations worldwide, modernizing the Air Force's air and space inventories, and care for Airmen and families. Schwartz's wife Suzie was also recognized for her devotion to Airmen and family support programs.

"The Air Force has afforded us an honorable and rewarding journey for the entirety of our adult lives," Schwartz said.

Four 'readinesses' to utilize for enlisted success

Commentary by Master Sgt. Traci Devereaux

81st Force Support Squadron

During my career I have had the opportunity to discuss the enlisted force structure with my classmates in professional military education, co-workers and peers. Now, I have the privilege of teaching it at our NCO professional education courses. I call it a privilege because the enlisted force structure is, in my opinion, the single most important instruction that we can utilize during our careers in the Air Force, whether that career is four years or more than 20. There is so much valuable information, training and opportunities that our leadership provides us to reach our Air Force goals. There are four "readinesses" in the enlisted force structure that are our responsibility to control including being technically, physically, mentally and spiritually ready. Each readiness makes us more confident, resilient and, most of all, mission-ready.

Being technically ready means knowing your job. Usually, the first step after technical school is completing those darn career development courses. Whether your career field has two or 10 CDC volumes, it is your responsibility to accomplish them. Supervisors give each of us the parameters and tools to accomplish CDCs. However, it is up to each of us to use effective time management and get off our butts to study instead of expecting to receive time to complete CDCs during duty hours. Your supervisor

should not have to stand over your shoulder to get you to finish your career development course. They have already had the privilege of going through that brutal task themselves.

Being physically ready is imperative for the success of the mission. You need to ask yourself if you can successfully be part of that four-man team to carry a litter which could potentially save someone's life. Each squadron has a fitness program that provides the tools to pass the fitness assessment.

However, it is not exclusively those tools that create a fit Airman. Being fit also requires additional effort from the member to take the responsibility of living a healthy and fit lifestyle. Your supervisor can't pass the test for you and if you feel you are struggling, don't wait until it's too late to ask for help. If, for some reason, you didn't pass your test, hold yourself accountable. Don't be "that guy" and force your wingmen to exert more effort to help you pass the fitness assessment.

Now, are you mentally ready? Do you have your affairs in order? How worried would you be when you deploy if you have not set up a plan to get money to your caregiver? The family care plan is very important to mental readiness. It is not just getting a local person to sign the Air Force Form 357, it takes planning. How is the transfer from short-term caregiver to long-term caregiver going to happen? Do you have the funds to pay for a plane ticket? Do your caregivers actually know what

they're getting themselves into? When you have doubts about whether your family is being properly cared for, you will not be mentally in the game while deployed. That lack of mental awareness causes a breakdown in the team and the mission.

Are you spiritually ready? How do you handle stress? This may or may not include religious beliefs and activities. It may just be a simple task of some breathing exercises to reduce stress and allows you to focus. Whatever path you choose for your spiritual readiness have a plan of activities that can help you handle life's tough situations. Remember to always seek help or guidance if you feel you are not able to handle the stressors going on around you. Knowing that you have the three previous parts of readiness in order helps to push us towards being spiritually ready.

It is tough to be in today's Air Force. The cliché is true — we are doing more with less. With today's economy and reduced recruitment goals, the line outside Lackland's front gate is long and stacked with people more than willing to come in and replace you. They are willing to work harder, take the off-duty time to improve and put those plans in place to make sure they are mission ready. Each of us must take control of our careers, set goals and most of all accomplish those goals. As one of my commanders said "The sad truth is that we are all replaceable and the mission will keep going." Make goals, have the personal responsibility to reach those goals and be the outstanding leader that trains the next generation of leaders.



Tuskegee Airman visits Keesler

Col. Dwayne Wilhite, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, Deacon Mervin Harmon, original Tuskegee Airman, and Christopher Handy, Retired Navy, listen and share stories about Harmon's time as a Tuskegee Airman while they eat lunch at the Bay Breeze Event Center Friday. Harmon is visiting the local area from Lafayette, La. Wilhite and Handy are members of the Tuskegee Airman local chapter.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Civilian assumes leadership of 81st TRSS

By Marla Holbert

81st Training Support Squadron

For the first time in the Air Education and Training Command's technical training history, the 81st Training Support Squadron is now led by a civilian.

Deborah Sterling, formerly the chief of the 81st Operations and Resources flight, recently accepted the 81st Training Support Squadron guidon from Col. Maureen Smith, 81st Training Group commander. Col. Smith also presided over the ceremony.

The change in leadership was the result of organizational restructuring that began in 2008 and 2009. In 2010, Keesler leaders had a better understanding of the impact of those cuts, identifying the 81st TRSS commander's post as one billet that had to be used to fill criti-



Photo by Adam Bond

Col. Maureen Smith, 81st Training Group commander, passes the guidon to Debbie Sterling as she assumes command of the 81st Training Support Squadron during an assumption of leadership ceremony Aug. 9 at the Roberts Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance facility.

cal officer shortages in another squadron. Subsequently, the decision was made to transfer leadership of the 81st TRSS to

a civilian director.

"The unit's transition to a civilian director recognizes the importance of all civilian con-

tributions to ensuring the mission of the 81st TRG is successful," Smith said during the transition Aug. 9. "The civilian force has a rich history at this base and Mrs. Sterling has added to it, by assuming leadership of this squadron — providing the backbone to our training efforts at Keesler."

"As the military continues to make difficult decisions regarding manpower, civilians become more integral," Sterling said in an interview prior to the ceremony. "This is a huge responsibility, but also a fabulous opportunity and a step in the right direction for our civilians."

"I think it gives hope to our civilians," Sterling continued. "This is a chance for us to make a difference in a big way — we all have opportunities to contribute but now there is an official seat at the table."

Sterling began her 32-year career as a GS-2 at Keesler, while finishing her bachelor's degree at Mississippi State University. She was later hired on permanently as an instructor in the 3400 Technical Training Group. In all, she has held eight positions within the organization and was a member of the 81st TRSS when it originally stood up.

The 81st TRSS develops and supports the faculty and students of the 81st TRG and the Air Force through faculty development courses, training system development and maintenance, student and faculty resource management, training technology insertion and curriculum development for the cyber and postal career fields.

Program to improve IT services reaches milestone

By Patty Walsh

66th Air Base Group Public Affairs

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. — An Air Force program that will save money, save energy and improve core information technology services, such as email, has recently met a significant milestone.

Hardware to consolidate four regional data processing centers into one area processing center has been delivered, installed and tested at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

More than half of the Air Force Materiel Command information technology equipment housed at Wright-Patterson AFB as well as at Tinker AFB, Okla., Hill AFB, Utah, Robins AFB, Ga., and other remote processing centers is past end of life, according to Laura Ervin-Cook, program manager.

"This increases the risk of catastrophic failure for critical mission support infrastructure and has resulted in an increase in the frequency and duration of service outages, which directly affect the Air Force mission," Ervin-Cook said. "In 2011, the Air Force chief information officer said his number one cyber priority was the AFNet migration, and he wanted it completed by the end of 2012."

Another issue is that routed information would often have multiple routings, for example from Hanscom

AFB to Robins AFB to Wright-Patterson AFB. Now the route is only one in and one out, which will help solve the latency and failure rates.

In addition to technical challenges, the cost of maintaining services hosted at multiple locations is considerable. Wright-Patterson AFB was chosen as the site of the area processing center because its current regional data center was already processing data for 37,000 Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router Network, or NIPRNet, users locally. The change will consolidate the servers at Wright-Patterson AFB, increase potential users to 190,000, and allow the regional processing centers at Robins AFB, Tinker AFB and Hill AFB to be decommissioned.

"It also will allow a better success rate if information needs to be recovered," said Ervin-Cook.

The financial savings from the consolidation is in direct compliance with the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative and also connects to the need of the Department of Defense to find information technology efficiencies endorsed by the DOD chief information officer.

A small select team from the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center Cyber Infrastructure Division here at Hanscom AFB put out three requests for information beginning in September 2011 and had multiple interactions

with industry experts to pursue the latest technology and leverage data center design best practices. The market research ensured the team could develop a solid technical requirements document.

In February 2012, the team put out a request for quotation and had a strong response from multiple vendors. The vendors said they were impressed with the clarity of the RFQ.

The team narrowed the responses down to ensure they could get the best solution and, when they looked at the technical responses, they realized they could acquire what was considered the "Cadillac" data center solution, said Ervin-Cook.

By April, a contract was in place. The installation, training and testing was completed in July.

The 83rd Network Operations Squadron Detachment 3 at Wright-Patterson AFB was able to assist and, working with the team and the contractor, they received training on the new hardware and are now ready to assume "touch maintenance" when the equipment is fully operational.

"The teams all worked together great, and we had strong leadership support, which allowed this to rapidly progress," said Ervin-Cook.

The new area processing center will be state-of-the-art and leverage virtualization.

"It will reduce the number of servers,

providing a smaller footprint, and also improve storage and the speed of transferring data," said Ervin-Cook. "We are looking at a 50 percent energy and power use reduction."

Having the team from the Cyber Integration Division become the "owner" of the center allows for standard configuration control, asset management and data management.

"Now all the data, the licensing, the hardware and software will be controlled and managed for the Wright Patterson APC," she said.

From here, the team is waiting for the Air Force Network Integration Center to do core service migration into the AFNet, and then operational and acceptance testing will be conducted. Once that is complete, the system will be at full operational capability which should occur within the next year.

"This is a true success story," said Ervin-Cook. "For the standard user, hopefully all the changes will be seamless and the only difference they will see is an improvement in their core services."

For the future, the team is looking to migrate Secret Internet Protocol Router Network, or SIPRNet, users and establish a GIG Entry Point to support disadvantaged mobile and airborne users.



The Keesler Community Center, which is located in the Bay Ridge housing area, celebrated its opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a tour of the facility August 7. The facility features an event room, business center, fitness room with a children's play area, an outdoor swimming pool and a splash pad.

Keesler Community Center opens with a splash

Photos by Kemberly Groue

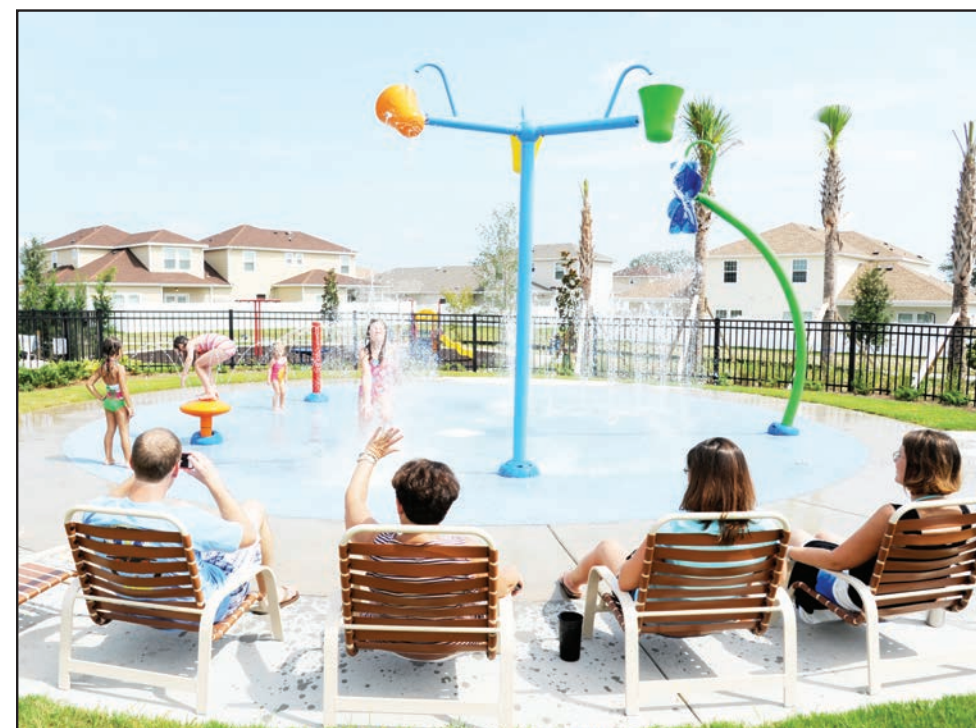
Eleven-year-old Angelee Morales, daughter of Yoseline and Staff Sgt. Pedro Morales, 338th Training Squadron, admires her winning essay on display at the Keesler Community Center. Children were asked to write an essay about why they are proud their parent is in the military. The essay winner along with three drawing winners were invited to cut the ribbon during the ceremony. Angelee's essay hangs along with three other children's winning art work.



Two-year-old Layne Iverson, daughter of Angela and Capt. Kyle Iverson, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, is mesmerized by one of the many water-squirting gadgets at the new splash pad.



Katie Lewis, 7, and her sister, Emma, 8, play together on the splash pad at the Keesler Community Center in the Bay Ridge housing. Katie and Emma are the daughters of Kimberly and Brad Lewis, who are here visiting family.



While trying to stay cool in the August heat, parents watch their children take a test drive of the splash pad located at the new Keesler Community Center. All Keesler housing residents have access to the new facility.



Along with an event room, business center, fitness room and outdoor swimming area, the new Keesler Community Center includes an indoor children's play area.



Command chiefs visit Keesler

Staff Sgt. Joseph Perry, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, left, briefs Chief Master Sgts. Alfred Herring, 24th Air Force command chief, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; William Jones, 688th Information Operations Wing command chief, Lackland AFB, Texas; and Linus Jordan, Air Force Space Command command chief, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., on the progress of a communications project August 9, at Keesler. The chiefs visited the 85th EIS for a one-day visit of its facilities and current projects and conducted enlisted calls.

The purpose of this project is to install approximately 5,000 feet of 12-strand fiber optic cable to provide communications between the Keesler air traffic control tower and the Ground to Air Transmit and Receive facility.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Chief Master Sgt. Alfred Herring, 24th Air Force command chief, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, speaks to enlisted airmen in the 85th EIS, during an Enlisted Call at Maltby Hall.



Airman 1st Class Joshua Bogenrief, 85th EIS, drills holes in a plastic barrel to be used in an underground trench.

81st MSGS change of command

The 81st Surgical Operations Squadron is scheduled to hold a change of command ceremony 7:30 a.m. today in front of the 81st Medical Group.

2012 Heart Walk

Team captains are needed for the 2012 Heart Walk "Walkin' on Sunshine" 7:30 a.m. Sept. 29 at Jones Park in Gulfport. To join the Keesler team at the 3-mile walk call (228) 376-3501.

Hangar demolition

Hangar three is scheduled for an approximate 100-day demolition beginning today. As a result, a temporary fence will be installed along Phantom St. and Hangar Rd. which may block parking in the area.

Air Force Academy briefing

A briefing about the United States Air Force Academy is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Aug. 16 in the education services office at the Sablich Center, Room 224.

Keesler Airman's Attic

The Keesler Airman's Attic provides free donated items to enlisted members of any branch, E-5 and below. 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.

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. Quarterly Supply classes are held in Room 121B, Taylor Logistics Building.

Central selection board

The CY12C colonel (BSC/MSC/CHAP), lieutenant colonel (BSC/CHAP) and major (LAF/BSC/CHAP) central selection board will convene Dec. 3 at HQ AFPC. To be eligible the officer must have an extended active duty date of June 6, 2012 or earlier with a date of separation of March 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.

Ashford representative

A representative from Ashford University will be available Aug. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Sablich Center, Room 224.

New childcare provider orientation

Family Child Care will host New Provider Orientation from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. August 21-23 at the Child Development Center. Participants completing the orientation will receive a license to care for children in their home.

Training will cover topics such as CPR, pediatric first aid, nutrition, safety, parent relations and more. Sign up for the orientation by calling (228) 377-3189. To learn more about Family Child Care visit www.keesler81fss.us.

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, security forces will be contacted.

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 for Keesler and support our military members. There is a monthly meeting at a location in the local community or the Bay Breeze Event Center lounge.

The Chapter also hosts events on base throughout the year, including the annual Air Force Ball to celebrate the Air Force birthday.

AFA is currently looking for volunteers to help with the Air Force Ball, Sept. 22 at the Bay Breeze. Regular planning meetings are at the Bay Breeze lounge Wednesday and Aug. 29, and Sept. 12 and 19.

Keesler Events Calendar

Today

8 a.m. — Veteran's benefit briefing in the Sablich Center Room 108A.

1 p.m. — Retirement benefits briefing in Sablich Center Room 108.

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

Friday:

7 a.m. — Fisher house 5K run/walk at the Blake Fitness Center.

Saturday:

8 a.m. — Summer Slam

golf tournament at the Bay Breeze Golf Course.

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.

Wednesday:

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

Aug. 23:

9 a.m. — Bundles for ba-

bies at the Sablich Center Room 108B.

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

Aug. 28:

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.

Did You Know ?

Keesler Public Affairs

The 81st Training Wing's mission is symbolized by the fabled fiery dragon, a creature adopted in medieval times with the thought of intimidating enemies. The dragon's breath of fire renders all opposition useless, while the stylized boll weevil clutched in the dragon's claw is suggestive of the enemy.



Air Force initiates travel card transition

By Tech. Sgt. Shawn Jones

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON — The terms and conditions for the Air Force's travel charge card are changing, but Airmen can hang on to their blue cards.

From Aug. 7 through the end of September, the Air Force Banking Office will e-mail some 300,000 Airmen, informing them that their controlled spend account card will convert back to a government travel card, which will operate like a standard charge card.

For Airmen who received a CSA card and previously had a GTC or traveled using the CSA without going delinquent, the transition will be automatic. They must complete a training course found at www.defensetravel.dod.mil/ passport and sign a statement of understanding.

However, some Airmen are being notified by their agency program coordinator that they must apply for the GTC be-

cause they never had a GTC in the past, but were issued a CSA card and either went delinquent or never used it. The application process involves a credit check that will only be performed with applicant's consent.

The current blue CSA card will now operate just like the GTC that was used for many years prior to the CSA. GTCs have fixed credit limits like a regular charge card, and cardholders no longer need to request temporary spend limit increases. If a cardholder's official travel estimate exceeds their credit limit, they need to discuss their options with their APC.

This CSA to GTC transition will bring about a few new features. New to the GTC program is the option for cardholders to request electronic balance refunds, receive automated e-mail reminders when an account is close to becoming delinquent, and a future enhancement to automatically split-disburse most non-mileage expenses such as

hotel taxes, excess baggage and rental fuel to the travel card when completing a Defense Travel System voucher.

These new features aren't the only differences between the new GTC and the CSA card.

Requests for credit limit increases on the new card must be coordinated with the cardholder's supervisor and APC who is responsible for managing the travel card program. Also, the terms of the GTC include a cash advance fee of 2.2 percent, which is considered a reimbursable travel expense when used for official purposes.

"It is critical for all Air Force travelers to know their travel card status - open or closed, restricted or standard - and their APC before departing for a temporary duty or a permanent change of station," said Jim Sisson, Director, Air Force Banking Office.

For more information call the Keesler finance office, 228-376-8225.



Eight on supplemental promotion list

By Senior Airman Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

Eight Keesler enlisted members are on the supplemental promotion list released Aug. 9.

Being promoted to staff sergeant are:

Neil Barrett, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron.

Cory Martin, 85th EIS.

Brian Phan, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

Matthew Wagner, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Nathan Williams, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron.

Being promoted to technical sergeant are:

Matthew McBride, 333rd Training Squadron.

Michael Trotter, 345th Airlift Squadron.

Robert Walker, 81st Training Support Squadron.

Keesler descendant visits base

Tate Mueller, 11, along with her sister, Lee, 16, her mother, Sally, and Susan Dawson, 81st Training Wing base historian, view old school books and yearbooks belonging to 2nd Lt. Samuel Keesler August 9, at the 81st Training Wing Headquarters. Sally is the great-niece of Keesler.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Intramural soccer gets kicking



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Quang Tran, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, holds his place as Steve Bordelon, 334th Training Squadron, leaps into the air for a header with the Gator's goalie standing by during an intramural soccer match August 7, at Keesler. The Gators defeated the 85th EIS 6-2.



Rajab Kigembe, 85th EIS, and Rodrigo Paes, 334th TRS, battle for the ball during the soccer match.



William Boxx, 85th EIS, kicks the soccer ball into play.

Intramural soccer schedule

Today

6 p.m. — 338th Training Squadron vs. the 335th TRS.

7 p.m. — 81st Medical Group vs. 81st Logistic Readiness Squadron.

8 p.m. — Marine Detachment vs. 81st Force Support Squadron.

Tuesday

6 p.m. — 85th Engineering Installation

Squadron vs. 333rd TRS.

7 p.m. — 334th TRS vs. 338th TRS.

8 p.m. — 81st LRS vs. 81 FSS.

Aug. 23

6 p.m. — 81LRS vs. 333rd TRS.

7 p.m. — 335th TRS vs. 334th TRS.

8 p.m. — 338th TRS vs. 81FSS.

*** note all games take place on the multi-purpose field**