



NOV. 8, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 43

# Keesler EXCELLENT in CUI!

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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.



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Keesler receives an EXCELLENT rating during Air Education and Training Command's Consolidated Unit Inspection. The CUI was held from Oct. 29-Nov. 2, and evaluated the base's level of compliance with Air Force and Department of Defense guidelines..



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

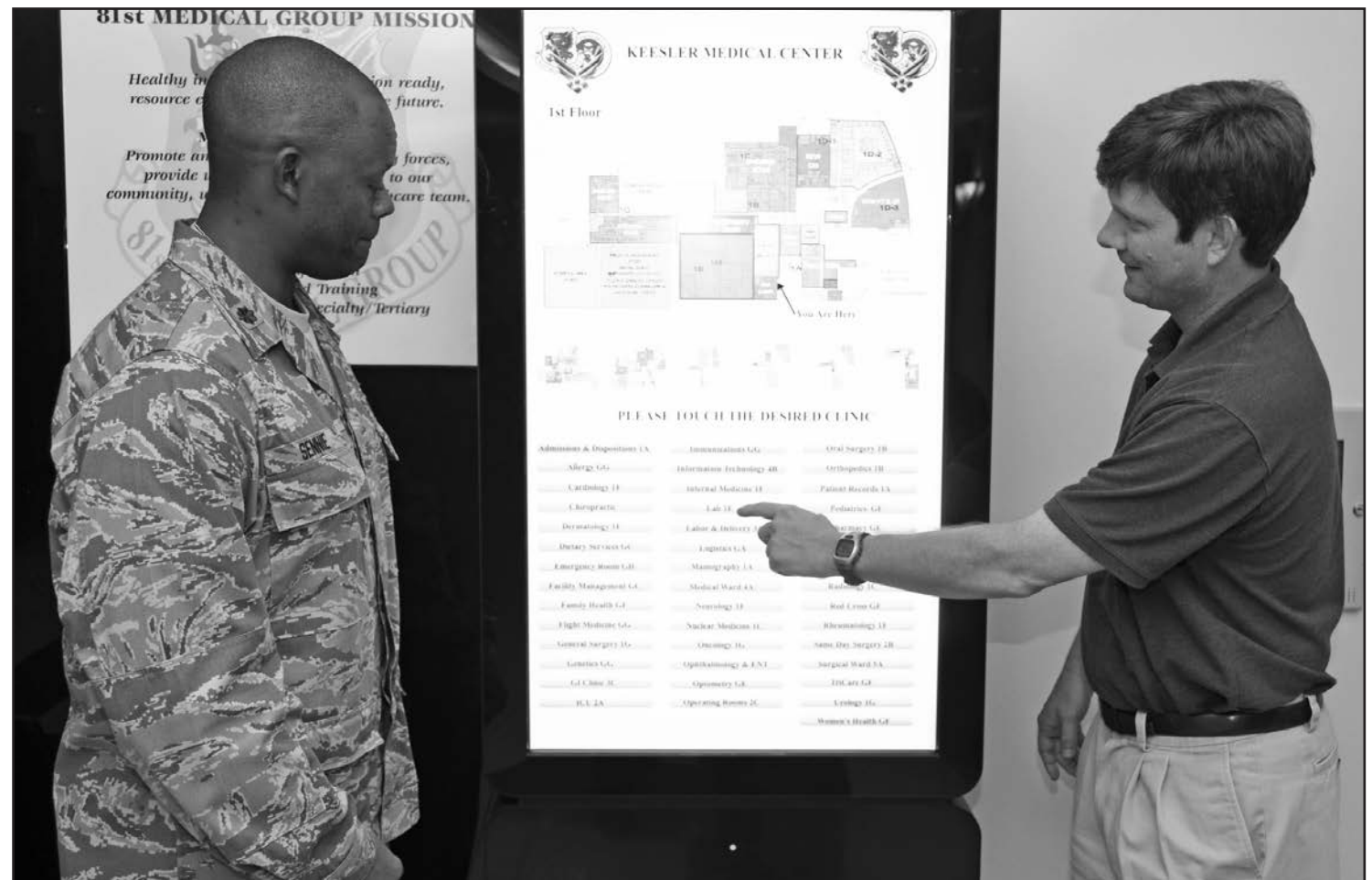
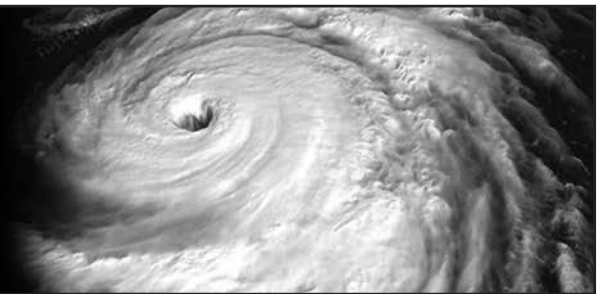


Photo by Steve Pivnick

Brice Mitchell, 81st Medical Support Squadron Medical Information Management Flight web developer, demonstrates the operation of one of the Keesler Hospital's new "way-finding" units for flight commander Maj. Reginald Sennie Oct. 24 in the hospital's A tower lobby. Mitchell explained, "Our way-finding solution is designed to help patients find their way throughout the hospital. There are currently six way-finders deployed in the hospital with plans for more in the future. They are located at the A tower and (outpatient) clinic entrances and near the ground- and first-floor elevators. Patients and visitors wanting to locate a clinic or other area simply touch the respective button. The way-finder then provides a line showing the route." Mitchell created the program for the device.

## 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)



# A toast to our veterans

By Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy

81st Training Wing commander

“To those who have fought, to those who have fallen, to those who continue the fight!”

This is an old warfighter’s toast I first heard when I was a young Lieutenant. I heard it from my Flight Sergeant who said he’d heard it in Vietnam. I am not sure where it comes from originally, but I think it’s important and here is what it means to me:

To those who have fought: There are millions of them and they’ve come from all walks of life to serve their country. Some fought for freedom when our country was formed over 200 years ago. Some fought against each other when our nation was young, confused, and divided. We call some “The Greatest Generation” because they saved the world when it was being taken over by an axis of evil. We treated another great generation badly even though they fought with honor in Vietnam. Still more fought in the

Cold War, perhaps the most terrifying war of all, where each day seemed to be our last. Some served just a year or two and some an entire lifetime. Some went on to be successful in business or politics while others became artists and actors. Some spent years in captivity and redefined heroism as they endured the un-endurable. Some had wonderful lives, and some spent the rest of their lives haunted by the horror of war and the ghosts of lost friends. Many have gaps in their lives that can’t be filled. They’ve all missed holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations. Whether fighting in war, or keeping the peace, they lived lives of service so we could all be free.

To those who have fallen: These are our friends who never came back and we miss them. When talking about WWII, President Reagan said “most of those who died in defense of our country were boys when they died, and they gave up two lives — the one they were living and the one they would have lived. They gave up their chance

to be husbands and fathers and grandfathers...they gave up everything for their country, for us. All we can do is remember.” Today we add sisters, mothers, and grandmothers to the list. Some were my friends; Randy, my best friend from High School, Tim, another friend from college, and Dan, one of my troops. We don’t know what they might have done, what their sons or daughters might have done. We owe them our lives but we can never repay them — or their families for their sacrifice. We can only remember.

To those who continue the fight: They are fighting for our freedom right now, and they’re fighting so that others can know freedom for the first time. They fight so our children can grow and live in peace, so they can speak their minds, and worship freely. They’re fighting against terror. They’re fighting to make the world a safer place; a better place. They fight so when people see our flag, they know it means they will be safe and free. They don’t ask for much, but they need you. They need to

know you are behind them, they need your prayers, and they need you there when they return. They need to know you believe in them, to keep the faith, to remember why they fight. They need to know that you will mourn with them, celebrate with them, hold them when they’re hurt, and that you will understand when they have trouble adjusting. They are brave and they know fear. They have friends and families. They’re all heroes but won’t let you call them that. They are proud Americans. They will not falter, and they will not fail!

These are our Veterans, my brothers and sisters and I’ll fight beside them, and for them.

I would like to add a few words to this toast so that it can be complete to me.

“To our Veterans—to those who have fought, to those who have fallen, to those who continue the fight—thank you and God Bless you.”

Happy Veteran’s Day!

# I ask myself this: Did I do enough?

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Jenifer Menger

Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute

**Editor’s note:** Sgt. 1st Class Menger was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division, where she worked as a public affairs NCOIC before her assignment at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. She knew and supervised this soldier for approximately four years.

PATRICK AFB, Fla. — It was a typical Saturday morning for my family. As typical as it can be when you are a dual-military blended family and your better half is deployed overseas.

We had gotten up, done our household chores, attended guitar lessons, and were on the road to Orlando when I got a call that I’ll never forget - one that impacted me in a way I never thought it could. I’ve begun to doubt who I am, my faith, my core values, and all of my beliefs.

One phone call - six words - has changed my life. Those words have made me take a different look at who I am and what is important to me.

She shot herself in the face. One of my former soldiers had killed herself.

What led up to that mo-

ment is something that has haunted me for the past two weeks, everyday. When I close my eyes at night, I see her as I so often did. Sitting in front of her laptop, or tossing her gear on and heading out on a mission overseas.

I don’t sleep. I’ve lost weight. And I carry survivor’s guilt. What could I have done to change the outcome?

She drifted between Savannah and Lakeland, Fla., for the better part of a year. She finally settled down in the Atlanta area, where she’d lived and worked prior to entering the Army.

Over the past six months, she got mixed up with, and addicted to, cocaine.

She already had an addiction to alcohol, and according to other friends of ours who tried reaching out to her, she was drinking and partying more, and becoming more and more despondent. She drifted in and out of rehab with the VA, and was unsuccessful with treatment.

She was apparently suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, something that none of us were aware of. She did not confide in any of us that she was in pain - physical or emotional. My boss and I had

both taken her to see counselors several times prior to, during, and after our deployment.

She’d allegedly attempted to overdose on cocaine Friday night, but was unsuccessful; supposedly her roommate revived her. She deactivated her Facebook account Friday night, and in front of her roommate Saturday morning, put a shotgun in her mouth and killed herself.

According to a Facebook posting by her roommate, this is what transpired, “It was exactly one week ago today that my dear friend and roommate took her own life in our home as I stood on the other side of the closet door that she had barricaded herself in. I had been on the phone with 911 for only a few minutes, but enough time to give them our names, address, situation, etc., and I think she must have heard what I was doing and made up her mind that she would not be stopped. As the operator was assuring me that help was on the way, I heard a few clicking noises and then the gunshot.”

I’ll tell you this - I’ve never pulled any punches when it comes to talking as a senior leader about this. I feel respon-

sible for what happened to her. I was hard on her - and wanted her to be better than she was.

She was older than my other soldiers, and I chewed her out for stunts she pulled and knew better about. I was tough on her because I knew she could be better than I was. I was tough on her because I knew she could be a great troop if she set her mind to it. She had the potential to go far in the military if she wanted to, and if she would just get off her duff and do the things my boss, me, and others were trying to help her with.

I feel as though if I’d taken more time to escort her to mental health, taken more time to find out what made her tick, she wouldn’t have gotten mixed up in drugs and maybe had a more positive outlook when she got out of the Army.

My logical brain knows I couldn’t have done anything to stop her, that she would still have done what she did. It is the pain in my heart that won’t go away.

The pain in my heart, knowing that we’ve lost a human life, a daughter, a sister, an aunt, a friend ... all to a senseless act when there were resources that could have prevented it.

Yes, I’m beating myself up

over this; I feel like I failed her and her family. I feel as though I didn’t do something to protect her; as though I let her and them down.

In the Army, we live by a set of ethics that go like this -

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I understand that in time I will heal, and that the pain will go away; that this was not my fault. I understand I can take my soldiers to counselors but not force them to talk about what hurts them on the inside. But I feel like it is my inherent duty to always protect them - no matter where they are - in and out of uniform, whether we are still stationed together or not. It is what makes us a family.

I’ve written this article in the hopes that it will help others who are hurting. I’ve written this in the hopes of connecting with others out there like me, who have lost someone close to them.

I’ve written this article in the hopes that no leader, in whatever branch of service he or she serves, ever gets a phone and has to listen to those six words.

# ALS graduates 21 Senior Airmen, 4 win awards

Twenty-one Keesler Senior Airmen graduated Airman Leadership School Nov. 1.

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

**Richard Dale**, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, was presented the John Levitow Award.

**Corey Woerner**, 81st Operations Support Flight, was presented the Commandant Award.

**Ryan Wallace**, 81st Medical Support Squadron, was presented the Academic Excellence Award.

**Lluvia Cabonilas**, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, was named distinguished graduate.

Other graduates include:

**Cynthia Allen**, 81st Security Forces Squadron.

**Ashley Barker**, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron.

**Amber Bell**, 81st Comptroller Squadron.

**Veronica Cortes**, Mathies NCO Academy.

**Logan Crandall**, 85th EIS.

**Jared Crown**, 81st Training Support Squadron.

**Gilbert Harkins**, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

**Jonathan Housewright**, 81st MDOS.

**Crystal Howard**, 81st Dental Squadron.

**Tomas Kuhn**, 81st CPTS.

**Donald Mast**, 81st MDSS.

**Kelly Metcalf**, 81st LRS.

**Matthew Stewart**, 81st SFS.

**William Thomas**, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron.

**Charlene Vance**, 81st MDTs.

**Andrew Welch**, 81st LRS.

**Delicia Wilson**, 81st MDTs.

## Education professional learn how to engage military children



Photo by Kevin Byrd, Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport school liaison officer

The Military Child Education program trained 26 teachers, administrators, and counselors on "Living In The New Normal-Helping Military Connected Children Thrive through Good and Challenging Times." The training took place October 24-25 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum. Training topics included supporting children who are dealing with issues such as a sick or injured parent, trauma and loss, cycles of deployment and developing resilience skills during good times. This was a two-day graduate-level institute which allowed participants a chance to create a unique plan for implementing resilience skills and local resources. The program was organized by Keesler and Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport school liaison officers Gerry Cross and Kevin Byrd.

## Child care in housing areas requires proper licensing

### 81st Force Support Squadron

People living in base housing who care for children in their homes without a license are breaking the rules. Air Force Instruction 34-276, which governs day care in on-base quarters, states "any individuals caring for children more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis must get approval."

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

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

Licenses are granted by

the 81st Mission Support Group commander, usually within 30 days upon completion of the initial FCC provider training, background screenings and home inspections.

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

"FCC providers are professionals trained to give the best possible care to the children left in their charge," said Pleasant.

Once licensed, providers may care for children 2 weeks through 12 years old, attain assistance from FCC staff in setting up their home and have access to an extensive library of toys, equipment and materials that will help minimize personal costs. Each care provider may set up their own hours of operation and fee structure.

For more information, call 228-377-3189, 5934 or 5935, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander; Col. Rene Romero, 81st TRW vice commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Angelica Johnson, 81st TRW command chief, applaud the Excellent rating the base received during the consolidated unit inspection out brief Monday, at the Welch Theater. The CUI was held from Oct. 29-Nov. 2, and evaluated the base's level of compliance with Air Force and Department of Defense guidelines.

## Keesler celebrates 'EXCELLENT' CUI results

By Senior Airman  
Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

After months of diligent preparation, hundreds of Keesler Airmen cheered and one blue dragon danced, when they heard the 81st Training wing was deemed "EXCELLENT" after the Oct. 29 to Nov. 2 Air Education and Training Command Consolidated Unit Inspection.

"Congratulations to all the great Airmen here on Keesler who worked so hard getting ready for the 2012 CUI — and thank-you for your EXCELLENT performance! I have always believed people like to work and they like to work hard as long as that work is challenging, interesting and

you recognize them for it. The men and women at Keesler have been proving this to me every single day since I arrived and this EXCELLENT rating only further demonstrates their dedication," said Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing Commander. "I also believe in continuous improvement which means that even though we're already EXCELLENT, we can't stop here — I know you all are really OUTSTANDING!"

Each unit had the potential to be rated either "unsatisfactory," "marginal," "satisfactory," "excellent," or "outstanding,"

Every group in the 81st TRW including the commanders items, 81st Training Group, 81st Mission Support Group and 81st Medical Group re-

ceived an "EXCELLENT."

According to the IG definition, an "EXCELLENT" rating indicates that a performance or operation exceeds mission requirements, procedures and activities are carried out in a superior manner and resources and programs are very efficiently managed and relatively free of deficiencies.

Keesler also received an "EXCELLENT" on its response to an Oct. 31 major accident response exercise in which base members came together to respond to a simulated hazardous material scenario.

Before reviewing the group results at the outbrief, one team and several individuals were recognized for their contribution to the inspection and the wing.

The team chosen for recognition by the inspector general was the 2012 CUI readiness team.

Lt. Col. Jonathon Wright, Senior Master Sgt. Jason Hanley, 1st Lt. Johnny Smith, 2nd Lt. Curan Clonch and Mr. Charles Spase, were each presented with an Air Force Achievement Medal by Spacy for helping prepare Keesler for the CUI.

"I have been at Keesler for more than two years now, and I can see that Keesler is awesome. It's my favorite assignment of the 10 that I've had. People here go above and beyond in so many areas all the time," Wright said. "Therefore, it was an honor to lead the CUI readiness team. Our role was to help bring to light the

exceptional things that every unit across the base has been doing. We are thrilled to see units get the recognition that they deserve."

The IG team chose what they believe to be the top five percent of Keesler members and named them "Professional performers," they also chose five individuals to receive the AETC Inspector General coin.

They are: Airman 1st Class Blakeny Pittman, 81st Contracting Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Caroline Bunce, 81st Dental Squadron, 1st Lt. Kenneth Hawkins, 81st CONS; Robert Tash, 81st Medical Support Squadron; and Thane Halsey, installation exercise evaluation team chief.

# Tabor retires after 41 years of federal service

By Susan Griggs

Keesler Public Affairs

Larry Tabor has penciled out a landscaping plan for his Biloxi home, revved up his motorcycle, sorted through his fishing gear and made plans to be a full-time grandpa. But heading for work at Keesler is going to be a hard habit to break. After all, he's spent all but two of his 41 years of federal service at Keesler.

"I've seen a lot of changes over the years," said Tabor, who celebrates his retirement at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Bay Breeze Event Center. "I've worked with 15 wing commanders in my civilian career and another eight during my military career. I witnessed the devastation and rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina and experienced first-hand the rapid growth of technology."

Since 2008, Tabor has been the chief of the 81st Training Wing Plans and Programs Office. In this capacity, he's managed three of the wing's most critical and complex work centers — the exercise evaluation team, operations plans and wing resources. For the past year, he's also served as the installation antiterrorism officer.

Tabor, a native of Thibodaux, La., did two year-long remote tours and came right back to Keesler, retiring from active duty in February 1991 as a master sergeant.

One of Tabor's most vivid memories came in 1974, when his wife, Denise, took him to the airport to leave for Thailand. His only son, Benjamin, was 18 months old and was in the back seat of the car with his hands on the window, crying.

"It broke my heart," he recalled. "Staying at Keesler may have limited my career progression, but it stabilized our family life. Remaining here also enabled my wife to complete 25 years as a teacher in the Biloxi School System."

Later in 1991, he began his civilian career as a GS-05



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Don Young, Kristina Keeton, Thane Halsey, Scott Lucas and Master Sgt. Bill Mays, 81st Training Wing, take notes and listen as Larry Tabor, 81st TRW Plans and Programs Office chief and installation antiterrorism officer, reviews the wing antiterrorism plan Monday, in his office at the 81st TRW Headquarters building. Tabor will retire after 41 years of federal service Nov. 16 during a ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center.**

officer performance report clerk, but within three years he moved to his specialty, personnel readiness, as a GS-07. In 1995, he became the wing's operations plans officer, a GS-09 position.

As the operations plans shop grew in mission and personnel, he was promoted to a GS-11 position in 1998. Nearly 10 years ago, he was promoted to a GS-12 slot as chief of operations plans.

Along the way, he completed a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1996. Two years later, he earned a master's degree in business administration from William Carey University.

"I was fortunate to be able to continue Air Force em-

ployment," said Tabor, who was recognized in 2007 as the wing's civilian supervisor of the year. "I've always enjoyed helping people and being a part of Team Keesler. I enjoyed mentoring our troops and staffs. I think that's how I'll be remembered — as someone willing to help.

"I've heard people refer to me as the Answer Man, Grandpa Plans or Plans Whiz," he added.

Earlier this year, Tabor received the Air Force's Volunteer Excellence Award, which acknowledges outstanding community service over an extended period of time. He served three terms as his church's parish council president, is the former president and member of the board of

directors of the D'Iberville-St. Martin Chamber of Commerce and is secretary-elect of the Special Olympics of Mississippi Board of Directors.

Tabor is proud of his involvement with the Mississippi Knights of Columbus, a Catholic men's fraternal organization. He's held local, district and state leadership positions, including his 2009 election as state deputy responsible for oversight of 59 local councils and more than 6,300 members. He currently serves as the executive director of the KC's non-profit foundation that provides major funding to state-level agencies supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities.

His secretary, Kristina Keeton, said, "Mr. Tabor is one

of the finest supervisors I have ever worked for, both on active duty and as a civilian. He's a faith-filled, 'people first' individual — that's his leadership style. He truly cares about his subordinates and will do everything in his power to promote their best interests. He has taught me so much in the past three years that I've worked for him. I'm really going to miss him!"

"There'll be no 'filling the footprints' left by Mr. Tabor," remarked Don Young, the wing's operational/contingency plans and programs analyst. "While he mentored his replacements, one can't replace his years of corporate knowledge. He's an incredible Airman."

# Exercise during CUI inspection tests response to chemical explosion



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Airman 1st Class Sarah Kenny, 336th Training Squadron, portrays a "victim" receiving medical treatment by members of the 81st Medical Group during a hazardous material and major accident response exercise Oct. 31, at Hangar 4. The exercise scenario consisted of a group of Airmen cleaning inside the hangar in preparation for demolition when a shelf holding old munitions fell to the ground causing one to break open, explode and splash an "oily substance" on several of the "victims." The exercise helped prepare first responders in the event of a real-world incident.



Tech. Sgts. Thomas Hefty and Christopher Bowens, 81st Aerospace and Medicine Squadron, collect chemical samples for laboratory confirmation and identification



Airman Basic Brandon Johnson, Airman 1st Class Nathaniel Lanaghan and Airman Joshua Rounph, 336th Training Squadron, portray "victims" and assist each other in walking away from the contaminated area



Jim Horton, Air Education and Training Command deputy inspector general, and Lt. Col. David Trout, AETC IG member, discuss the accident scenario. The exercise was being held while Keesler was undergoing a base-wide inspection.



Airman 1st Class Kiel Boutelle, 336th Training Squadron, portrays a "victim" inside hangar 4 who has been injured by an explosion while evaluators observe personnel's response



Jim Horton, AETC deputy inspector general, evaluates as members of the 81st Medical Group administers medical treatment on an injured "victim"

## Great American Smokeout

Keesler will participate in the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout Nov. 15 by encouraging everyone to walk away from tobacco for 24 hours. GASO is the American Cancer Society's nationally recognized day that rallies thousands of smokers to become smoke-free for a day, ultimately the rest of their lives.

To help smokers walk away, and stay away from tobacco, the Health and Wellness Center offers the American Cancer Society's Freshstart program every Wednesday at noon or 5 p.m. The HAWC also offers access to the American Lung Association Quitline at 1-877-695-QUIT(7848). For those who prefer online support, the DOD offers help at ucanquit2.org

In recognition of GASO the HAWC will have a 5k

run starting at noon from the HAWC with registration at 11:30 a.m. Free t-shirts and information to help quit tobacco will be available for anyone who participates.

## NPS spouse dinner

There is a non-prior service student spouse Thanksgiving Dinner scheduled from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Levitow Training Support Facility fishbowl. For more information call 228-377-0155.

## Central selection board

The CY113A Col (LAF-J), and Lt. Col. (LAF/LAF-J) central selection board will convene March 18, 2013 at Air Force Personnel Command headquarters. To be eligible for the P0613A (LAF-J) and P0513A (LAF/LAF-J) CSBs the officer must have an extended active duty date of Sept. 19 or earlier with a date of separation of June 16, 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. Listed below are the Junior and senior eligible officer in each category.

For more information call 228-376-8356.

## Tuition assistance

Active duty members requesting tuition assistance may do so no earlier than 30 days prior to their class start date.

## Gospel worship move

The gospel worship service is moving from the Triangle Chapel to the Larcher Chapel beginning Nov. 18 and the service will now be held at 11 a.m.

## Immigration assistance

From 8 a.m. to noon Nov. 15, a representative from the U. S. Citizenship and Immi-

gration Services will be 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 at 228-376-8601.

## Impact Aid Survey

Impact Aid funding is a reimbursement for revenue lost because Federal property is not taxed.

Parents or guardians who are Active Duty military, DOD/Federal employees and contractors, and residents who live and/or work on Federal property should turn in an Impact Aid Survey. Personal data is kept confidential. Gulf Coast School Districts have different release dates for forms. Biloxi School District will be sending forms home in November. If you have questions, contact the Keesler school liaison officer at 228-376-8505.

## USM counselor

A University of Southern Mississippi admissions counselor and MBA academic advisor will be in the Blake Fitness Center 2-4:30 p.m. Nov. 14. Stop by and check out

what USM has to offer for spring 2013.

## William Carey

William Carey University is currently accepting applications and registering for the winter trimester, which begins Monday. If you are interested in finishing your GS 1750 requirements as you work toward your degree, consider Career and Technical Education at WCU. Online and live courses on base are offered supporting your career goals in military training at the graduate and undergraduate level. William Carey offers many flexible degrees. The university has academic advisors and staff available to assist you with tuition assistance and GI Bill benefits. Stop by the WCU office in the Sablich Center, Room 219 or call 228-376-8480 for more information.

## 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.

# Keesler Events Calendar

## Today

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

**5 p.m.** — Auto maintenance 101 at the auto hobby shop.

**5:15 p.m.** — Adoption options class at the Sablich Center Room 108A.

**6 p.m.** — Ceramic painting at the arts and crafts center.

— Karaoke at the Bay Breeze Collocated Lounge.

## Friday

**10:30 a.m.** — Ceramic Mold Pouring at the arts and crafts center.

**11:30 a.m.** — AIDS Awareness Month 5K run/walk at the Triangle Fitness Center.

**5 p.m.** — Texas Hold'em at the Bay breeze Event Center.

**6 p.m.** — Family bingo

night at the Bay Breeze Community Center.

## Saturday

**11 a.m.** — Gulf Coast Veterans Day Parade in Gulfport.

**1 p.m.** — Art for Wee at the arts and crafts center for ages 2-5.

**1 p.m.** — Kids and canvas for ages 8 and older 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.

## Wednesday

**8 a.m.** — Newcomers ori-

entation at the Sablich Center Room 108B.

**5:30 p.m.** — Student spouse Thanksgiving dinner at the Levitow Training Support Facility fishbowl.

## Nov. 15

**9 a.m.** — Bundles for babies at the Sablich Center Room 108B.

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

## Nov. 20

**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.

## Clinics closed for warrior training

### By Steve Pivnick

#### 81st MDG Public Affairs

Keesler Hospital clinics are closed for warrior training from 1-5 p.m. today.

Family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics and general surgery clinics will each have one doctor available for urgent appointments. For urgent situations, contact central appointments at 1-800-700-8603 or report to the emergency room.

Although pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services are open, they will have reduced staffing. Patients are

asked to delay visits to these services during Warrior Training.

For emergency situations such as shortness of breath, chest or abdominal pain or bleeding with pregnancy, please go to the nearest emergency room. If there is an emergency, contact 911 for an ambulance.

The 81st Medical Group staff is committed to maintaining the highest level of war and peacetime readiness. It does this through monthly training sessions. They apologize for any inconvenience.



# Keesler, local area gears up for Veteran's Day

By Susan Griggs

## Keesler Public Affairs

Keesler representatives are actively involved in many Veterans Day observances along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The biggest of these events, the 12th annual Gulf Coast Veterans Parade, takes place at 11 a.m. Saturday in downtown Gulfport. Tech. Sgt. Shaun Wilke, 81st Training Group, is Keesler's representative on the parade planning committee.

"Keesler will be well represented with 81st Training Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, and vice commander Col. Rene Romero," Wilke said. "Other marching units include our honor guard, the 50 state flags carried by the 334th Training Squadron, student marching groups from the 335th and 336th Training Squadrons and the training group's drum and bugle corps. Staff Sgt. Karen Moore from the 403rd Wing is the National Anthem singer.

"We hope many Keesler people will bring their families and line the parade route," Wilke added.

The parade starts at the intersection of 29th Avenue and 13th Street and moves east on 13th Street, south on 24th Avenue, east on U.S. Highway 90 frontage road, north on 23rd Avenue, west on 15th Street, south on 24th Avenue, west on 14th Street, ending at Hancock Bank Plaza at the train depot. The reviewing stand is at Gulf-



Members from the United States Armed Forces make up the color Guard to lead the parade and present the colors for the National Anthem during the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf Coast Veterans Day Parade in D'Iberville, Miss., Nov. 12, 2011.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

port City Hall on 15th Street.

### Other observances:

#### Today

**1 p.m.** — Lt. Col. Brad McAlpine, 335th TRS commander, speaks at the Biloxi High School Veterans Day program.

#### Friday

**10:45 a.m.** — Spacy speaks and the honor guard participates in a Veterans Day event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus at the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

**6 p.m.** Friday, honor guard and National Anthem singer perform at the Mississippi Surge Hockey Veterans Day event.

#### Saturday

**3 p.m.** — Honor guard marches in the Louisiana Bicentennial Military Parade in New Orleans.

#### Sunday

**11 a.m.** — Honor guard participates in the 2nd annual Salute to the Military at First

Missionary Baptist Church, Gulfport, 2nd annual Salute to the Military.

**Noon** — Chaplain (Capt.) John Schuetze participates in a ceremony honoring military veterans at a quarterly general membership meeting at Congregation Beth Israel, Gulfport.

**1 p.m.** — Long Beach Veterans Day Parade; honor guard.

**4 p.m.** — One honor guard member participates in a joint service color guard for the Iberville Parish (La.) Veterans Day ceremony.

**11 a.m.** — Col. Paul Nelson, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, speaks at the Biloxi American Legion Post 33 Veterans Day ceremony at the Purple Heart Memorial at the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor.

#### Monday

**10 a.m.** — 336th TRS drill team performs during the opening ceremony during a Veterans Day open house at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport.

**11 a.m.** — Honor guard performs a 21-gun salute at the American Legion Post 119 Veterans Day ceremony in Gulfport.

**5:30 p.m.** — Honor guard participates in the Veterans Day ceremony at Greenbriar Nursing Home, Biloxi.

## STOMP program provides special needs training

Did you know that 1 in 10 military children have special educational or healthcare needs? Many of these children may need an individualized education program, or if younger, and in birth to three programs, and individual family service plan? Others may need a 504 or accommodations plan.

The Specialized Training of Military Parents, is an organization dedicated solely to address the needs of military families who have family members with special medical or educational needs. STOMP will be in your area for a two day workshop in the areas of

parent rights and responsibilities with regard to the Individuals with Disabilities Act, IEPs, 504, TRICARE and ECHO, DODEA System (both in the continental United States and overseas) and more. Special emphasis is placed on collaboration and communication between families and the professionals who support them.

"We have a special understanding of the challenges families face when they have a family member with disabilities or special needs and they have to (permanently change station) from place to place or face deployments,"

stated Heather Hebdon, the Director for STOMP. "Our staff members have family members with disabilities and we have all dealt with the challenges and joys that come with military life."

STOMP is a parent-directed program that exists to empower military parents, individuals with disabilities and service providers with knowledge, skills and resources so that they might access services to create a collaborative environment for family and professional partnerships without regard to geographic location. Established in 1985, STOMP has been recognized

as the premiere resource for families within the military who have children, youth and adult family members who have disabilities and other special education or medical issues. For more information about STOMP or to talk with one of their staff members, call 1-800-5-PARENT or visit [www.stompproject.org](http://www.stompproject.org).

STOMP will be at Keesler Dec. 3-4 for a two-day workshop. The workshop will take place in the Bay Breeze Event Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To register for the workshop or for more information, call 228-376-8728.

# 81st MDG response center receives upgrades

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group's command, control, communications nerve-center for responding to emergencies or disasters – the Medical Control Center – has received several upgrades.

Used for the first time during the medical group's Oct. 26 medical exercise and again on the Oct. 31, 81st Training Wing's Combined Unit Inspection major accident response exercise, the Medical Control Center's new equipment enhanced its capabilities.

Robert Tash, 81st Medical Support Squadron medical emergency manager, remarked, "The enhancements help the MCC staff meet their and the medical group's mission requirements. The MCC is essential to the success of our contingency response operations."

Among the equipment the MCC has re-

ceived and is now using are a new base station radio with 25 watts of communication power, video surveillance, global positioning system software tracking capability of all group vehicles plus accident and cordon plotting capability, automated tools allowing real-time recall reporting and obtaining contact details for the entire group staff.

Wireless laptops available to the MCC staff offer a Web-based system that can be used by the MDG's disaster teams as well as for patient care.

Maj. Reginald Sennie, 81st Medical Support Squadron Medical Information Flight commander, explained, "The laptops are mobile and have an internal chip set that provides access to cellular networks. They also have CAC readers. The MCC staff has them in their 'bug-out bags' used if they have to relocate to another site. The laptops allow them to do what they need to do."



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Staff Sgt. Cassandra Key and Master Sgt. Thelmo Frias, 81st Medical Support Squadron, provide information to MDG response teams during the Oct. 26 major accident response exercise. Frias noted, "We are the communication hub for the entire medical group for both exercises and real-world contingencies. We are able to monitor all radios on the medical, fire and security forces nets. We also check the new GPS system to track all MDG vehicles, locating their real-time location. About a dozen vehicles, including ambulances, are fitted with transponders allowing the MCC to know when they leave the ER and return and the route they are taking to the emergency location."

# 41st APS dedicates state-of-the-art facility

By Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens

403rd Wing Public Affairs

The 403rd Wing's 41st Aerial Port Squadron held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate their new, state-of-the-art facility here Oct. 20.

Several honored guests were in attendance for ceremony, including Congressman Steven Palazzo, fourth congressional district of Mississippi, who helped cut the ribbon to dedicate the new two-story facility. The congressman thanked the 41st APS members and Citizen Airmen of the 403rd for all they do in service of their country.

According to Lt. Col. Michael Grubb, 41st APS commander, this new building is a "purpose-built facility" designed to meet 41st APS and 403rd mission requirements.

"The primary mission of the 41st APS is to safely coordinate the actions of anything going on or off the aircraft, whether it be passengers, equipment or vehicles," said Colonel Grubb. "We also perform joint inspections to



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens

Congressman Steven M. Palazzo, U.S. Representative, fourth congressional district of Mississippi, prepares to cut the ribbon dedicating the newly-completed 41st Aerial Port Squadron building here Oct. 20 along with other members of the 41st APS. The \$8.5 million, 30,000 square foot facility provides the 41st APS Air Force Reserve members with a purpose-built environment designed to train and work in supporting the mission of the 41st and the 403rd Wing here at Keesler.

ensure that items match up with packing lists, weights are correct, and pallets are built properly."

Construction on the facility began Feb. 11, 2011, and the 41st Citizen Airmen began moving into the new facil-

ity during the September unit training assembly.

The 41st APS has been located in Hangars 3, 4 and 5 at various times since its activation in 1987, but none of these were customized for the 41st APS mission, said Master

Sgt. Steve Martin, 41st APS noncommissioned office-in-charge of passenger services.

The new building cost about \$8.5 million to build and allots approximately 30,000 square feet for workspace, classrooms and administration environment, said Martin. The layout was designed to accommodate the current mission of the aerial port, as well as provide enough flexibility to handle mission changes that may occur in the future.

The facility accommodates space for rigging parachutes used for airdrop missions by the 815th and 345th Airlift Squadrons and for assembling loads in a controlled environment, said Martin. As such, the facility allows 41st members to continue working and training inside during inclement weather. The building also has a tower dedicated for hanging and drying up to 12 parachutes or other items at a time, as well as a load configuration area with rollers built into the floor for assembling, weighing and moving heavy cargo.

The site for the new facility sits between the 815th/345th AS building and the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, where the "old Biloxy Hangar" used to be. This location gives the Citizen Airmen of the 41st APS direct flight-line access to all aircraft on the flight line, said Martin, allowing them to drive their K-loaders and forklifts right up to the dock to load pallets and then pull straight out onto the flight line.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Grubb said the new facility will help increase the overall efficiency of the 41st APS members in helping accomplish the mission of the 403rd.

"Our new-found pride of ownership and the increased efficiencies associated with training and working in a purpose built facility will not only benefit the 41st APS, but will be a direct benefit to the 403rd Wing through our continued support of the 815th air drop and 53rd weather reconnaissance missions," said Grubb.

## Women's varsity basketball



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Tameka Foley, Keesler, works her way to the goal as players from Bishop State Community College, Mobile, Ala., play defense during a women's varsity basketball game Nov. 1, at the Blake Fitness Center.



Jason Washington, Keesler head coach, calls out a play to his team from the sidelines. Keesler lost the game 67-56.



## Intramural flag football

Matt Fisher, 335th Training Squadron, reaches for the flag of Collin Benton, 338th TRS quarterback, as he looks for a teammate to make a pass to during an intramural flag football game against the 335th Training Squadron Nov. 1. The Bulls defeated the Dark Knights, 26-20.

Photo by Kemberly Groue