



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train. Fight. Win.

FEB. 14, 2013 VOL. 74 NO. 6



Keesler lets good times roll in Mardi Gras parades

Pages 14-15

Recycling center presented
environmental 'hero' award
Page 5

Resiliency training
under way at Keesler
Page 9

81st MDG undergoes
inspection wrap-up
Page 22

INSIDE

Commentary, 2 Dragon Achievement, 5 News and Features, 7-22 Recreation, 24

www.keesler.af.mil

By Chief Master Sgt.
Brian Bischoff

Air Force Reserve Command

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — I was recently picking up a few items at a local retail chain at lunchtime. Everywhere I walked, someone wanted to shake my hand or say, “Thank you for your service.” It made me proud to be wearing the uniform of the U.S. Air Force.

While waiting in the checkout lane, I noticed a little boy shopping with his mom was staring at me from his perch in the cart. I smiled and said “Hello,” but he just kept staring.

His mom apologized and explained he was crazy about people in uniform, and his hero was Captain America. She said he watches the movie over and over and puts on a little uniform to defend the house.

“I think that’s a good hero to have,” I said. As I answered, it got me thinking we need to act more like superheroes.

OK, stick with me here. That doesn’t mean that we should put on capes and masks and climb to the top of the roof to see what dastardly deeds need to be thwarted. Your spouse would most likely tell you to “Get down before you hurt yourself,” and “Take off that getup before the neighbors see you.”

What it does mean is we need be worthy of kids’ admiration — like a superhero. So, here are a few things about superheroes we need to know:

1. Superheroes never believe their own write-up. They are humble (except when fighting a bad guy) and neither flashy nor boastful. They save the day and retreat to their secret lair (office or flightline in our case).

2. Superheroes help people. Whether it’s a neighbor needing help painting a fence or the lady in the grocery store that can’t quite reach that box of cereal, we need to

lend a hand.

3. Superheroes are respectful toward the public. They use manners, say “Yes sir,” or “Yes ma’am,” and open doors for people at restaurants.

4. Superheroes live lives kids can look up to. They don’t lie, cheat or misuse government credit cards. They set examples for other to follow, and they do the right thing even when no one is looking (sounds like “integrity” to me).

5. Superheroes are always there. They always have their friends’ backs no matter what else is going on, even in the dark of night (sounds like “service before self”).

6. Superheroes are in shape. Have you ever seen a chubby superhero? The bad guys would kick his butt! The public wouldn’t have much confidence in an out-of-shape superhero, would they?

7. Superheroes always do their best. You’ll never see a superhero slacking or saving only enough people to make it look good. They give it their all every time and people take notice (sounds like “excellence in all we do”).

If you have ever seen the movie “Hancock,” you have seen what a superhero is not. The protagonist, at first, is all about himself — he’s a drunk

with a bad attitude, thinking he is above the law. The public has no faith in him, and he quickly loses faith in himself.

With the help of people who care about him, he becomes the superhero that, deep down, he knew he was capable of becoming. Maybe you know someone who, with a little help and direction, can live up to their potential (sounds like “leadership” to me). Sometimes he or she is the person in the mirror. Realizing it, facing it, accepting it and working on it are often the most heroic actions of all.

The point is that when you’re off base and in uniform

you are easily recognized as a member of the U.S. Air Force. Kids look at your uniform and are in awe, parents look at you and hope that their son or daughter will follow in your footsteps, and seniors thank you and appreciate that you’re continuing to carry the torch to keep our country safe.

We should all act as though we’re in uniform even when we’re not and display the same hero-like qualities we’re capable of, no matter what we’re wearing. Let’s all act like superheroes and truly earn the respect and admiration we’re given every day. Think about it.



BE A SUPER HERO

Seven things you need to know

Illustration by Robin Meredith/photo by Staff Sgt. Russ Scalp

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy
81st Training Wing
commander

**81st Training Wing
Public Affairs**

1st Lt. Victoria Porto
Chief

Jerry Taranto
Deputy chief

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

Steve Hoffmann
Keesler News co-editor

Kemberly Groue
Photojournalist

Public affairs staff
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

Bill Johnson and his wife, Chief Master Sgt. Angie Johnson, 81st Training Wing command chief, and Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st TRW commander, throw beads to the crowd from a float during the North Bay Area Mardi Gras Parade in D'Iberville Sunday. The Keesler Honor Guard and Airmen carrying the 50 state flags followed by the 81st Training Group drum and bugle corps also participated in the festivities.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Keesler children get lesson in dental hygiene

Maj. (Dr.) Janice Timothee, left, 81st Dental Squadron orthodontist, demonstrates proper flossing techniques on puppet "Dougie Duncan," held by registered dental hygienist Tech. Sgt. Caroline Bunce, for children from the child development center Feb. 6. The 3-5-year-olds from the part-day preschool class were among several groups of CDC youngsters to visit the dental clinic, which hosted them as part of National Children's Dental Health Month.

Photo by Steve Pivnick



THE WORLD'S BEST AIRMEN — TRAINING, FIGHTING, WINNING



Recycling center wins environmental 'hero' award

Sarah Kountouris, executive director of "Keep Mississippi Beautiful" and president of the Mississippi Recycling Coalition, presents a plaque to Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander, and local recycling representatives from Keesler and the Mississippi Recycling Coalition for the "state and federal government recycler of the year" environmental hero award. It was awarded to Keesler Jan. 7 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.



World's Best Airmen





Photo by Kemberly Groue

Retired Lt. Col. John "Jack" Yuill, a former prisoner of war in North Vietnam, speaks to Airmen from the Airmen Leadership School and the Mathies NCO Academy Feb. 5 at the Mathies NCO Academy. Yuill was interned as a POW after he was shot down Dec. 22, 1972, and was held until his release on March 29, 1973.

Vietnam War pilot, POW visits Keesler

By **Senior Airman Heather Heiney**
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

"How many people remember what they were doing and where they were at 40 years ago today?" asked retired Lt. Col. John Yuill, a B-52 Stratofortress pilot during the Vietnam War.

Only one hand went up out of all the Airmen packed into the Roberts Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Facility Feb. 5.

Yuill explained that 40 years ago, he was about halfway through his 98-day internment as a prisoner of war at "The Zoo" in Hanoi, Vietnam.

In late 1972, Yuill became part of Operation Linebacker II, also known as the "11-Day War," which took place between Dec. 18, 1972, and Dec. 29,

1972. During that time, more than 700 sorties were flown and 15,000 tons of ordnances were dropped on targets in North Vietnam. Thirty-three B-52 crewmembers were killed or missing in action and many of those deaths were credited to SA-2 surface-to-air missiles launched by the North Vietnamese.

Yuill said his own plane was shot down Dec. 22, 1972, by one of those SAMs and he and his crew bailed out just before the Stratofortress was engulfed in flames.

"I can tell it was about 75 seconds from when the first SAM hit until I decided to bail the crew out and it takes me about 25 minutes to explain in detail what all was going on," Yuill said.

"That was my one and only jump. From 35,000 feet at 2 o'clock in the

morning in an area we were bombing for four days...not something I was really looking forward to."

Yuill and his crew were separated upon landing, but were picked up by local villagers and transported to the same POW camp in Hanoi. Yuill and his crew were POWs until March 29, 1973, when they were released as part of Operation Homecoming.

Yuill's wife found out his plane had been shot down three days before Christmas and had seven children to take care of, not knowing whether her husband was even alive.

"I really do believe that during my time in jail, it was probably more difficult for her with those seven kids than it was for me and what I was subjected to," Yuill said. "But having said that, she is

still a very fortunate woman because she is married to the world's greatest pilot."

At the end of his story, Yuill asked if there were any questions.

Senior Master Sgt. Phuoc Phan, who was recently selected for promotion chief master sergeant and is the 335th Training Squadron career field training manager and squadron superintendent, stood up and said he didn't so much have a question as a comment.

"I'm a refugee from Vietnam. I came over when I was 8 years old in 1975," Phan said. "The sacrifices that you and your family made directly resulted in my freedom and my family's freedom over here in America. I appreciate that, Sir, and I thank you"

Phan then snapped to attention and rendered a salute.

Program emphasises comprehensive resilience

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

The dictionary defines resiliency as, “the power or ability to return to the original form, position, etc., after being bent, compressed, or stretched; elasticity” and, “ability to recover readily from illness, depression, adversity, or the like; buoyancy.”

But how do you become resilient? Most people probably think that it’s just something you either become or don’t become through a series of hard tests or trials. Those who are fit, win. Those who aren’t, litter the road to survival.

But the Air Force is taking a different approach these days. It’s called Comprehensive Airman Fitness. No longer is fitness defined simply by what can be done in the gym or on a track but has been expanded to include not only physical fitness but mental, social and spiritual fitness as well. The Air Force is also taking the position that resiliency can be taught and learned and even grown. Enter Staff Sgt. Heather Smith, Keesler’s first master resiliency trainer.

Smith spent two weeks at Joint Base McGuire-Dix, Lakehurst, N.J., to learn the tenets of CAF and be able to teach them to others. It will be her job to teach a mandatory eight-hour course at the First Term Airman Center, but then also train resiliency training assistants. Once she is joined by the other MRTs currently in training, her goal is to have one RTA for every squadron on base by June.

“When you teach this stuff, it really does help change the way you think,” noted Smith. “You think more positively. I had a pretty negative mindset before this training, and it’s really helped me to stay positive and think about what good can come out of stuff that happens versus ‘this is awful and I hate my life.’”

Smith says that one of



“They’re meant to be preventative measures. They’re designed to teach you how to cope with events before they happen so when something that would otherwise blow up to be a huge mountain, you can keep it as an anthill.”

— Smith

the chief skills she teaches is how to ABC events that happen in your life. It starts with defining the ‘activating’ event, something that happens to you that cause you to ‘behave’ a certain way which precipitates a set of consequences. To ABC an event is to slow down and study your reactions to everyday stressors that come your way. If you can find a way to stay positive, you

can control your behavior and steer yourself toward more positive consequences.

“Let’s say you’ve had a really bad day and so you decide to go drink and then drive home,” added Smith. “If you had these skills, you could stop yourself and say ‘maybe that’s not the best way to react; maybe I’ll take a bubble bath instead.’ They’re meant to be preventative measures.

They’re designed to teach you how to cope with events before they happen so when something that would otherwise blow up to be a huge mountain, you can keep it as an anthill.”

Other coping skills that Smith teaches include how to count your blessings, learning how to have gratitude, goal setting, interpersonal problem solving, social resiliency,

spiritual resiliency, listening skills and active, constructive response, to mention a few.

Smith says the biggest challenge to the program is making believers out of people. Unless people know about the program, learn the skills and implement them into their lives, they won’t help anyone. To that end, she is briefing base leadership, commanders and senior enlisted leadership to help get the word out. She also plans to employ a bottom-up strategy by giving briefings to Key Spouses.

Little by little, though, Smith is gathering a following, one RTA at a time.

“This course benefited me by allowing me to see other sides of resiliency,” said Capt. Brittany Chase, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron public health operations chief and new RTA. “Before I thought it was just about how you deal with stress, but it’s so much more than that. This course gave me insight into conflict resolution, balanced thinking, and faith, and all play a part in a person being resilient. I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to learn about this and be able to spread the knowledge I gained to others.”

“The lessons within the training will not only help folks with their professional lives, but at home as well,” said Tech. Sgt. William McMillan, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron medical inpatient flight chief and new RTA. “It introduced many different tools to help deal with everyday situations that when practiced would ensure a more positive outcome and help people be better equipped to face day-to-day challenges.”

For more information on the CAF program or to learn how to become an RTA, call 228-376-8707.



Keesler cuts ribbon on new SAPR office

Barry Newman, 81st Training Wing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office; Chief Master Sgt. Angelica Johnson, 81st TRW command chief; Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st TRW commander; Sandra Browne, 81st TRW SAPR coordinator; Col. Maureen Smith, 81st Training Group commander, and 1st Lt. Tina Tissot, 81st TRW SAPR, prepare to cut the ribbon during a ribbon-cutting ceremony signifying the opening of the SAPR office Feb. 7 at Dolan Hall. The mission of the SAPR office is to promote a culture of sexual assault prevention, intervention and response while ensuring the safety, dignity and well-being of the Keesler community.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Keesler treated to sampling of soul



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Sue Burnett, 338th Training Squadron, serves corn bread to Beatrice Pargo, 335th TRS, at the African American Heritage Committee soul food sampling event Feb. 7 at the youth center. The event was held in observance of Black History Month.



Retired Chief Master Sgt. Charles Bowers, Tuskegee Airman Chapter president and member of the African-American Heritage Committee, moves fried fish to a pan held by Master Sgt. Yolanda Jerry, 338th Training Squadron and AAHC member.

Readiness expo helps service members with deployment-related issues



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Barry Newman, 81st Training Wing sexual assault prevention and response office, provides information about the SAPR office to Carlton Harrison and Capt. Katie Ragan, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, during the military preparedness exposition Feb. 7 at the Roberts Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Facility. Information displays and booths were set up from various agencies to assist those who have recently returned from a deployment or will soon be deploying.



Tech. Sgt. Triscia Garcia, 334th Training Squadron, watches as her son Christian, 4, is shown a piece of art by Debra Pearson, arts and crafts center director, during the exposition.

Dental urges use of sports guards

By Capt. (Dr.)
Kirsten Valeri

81st Dental Squadron

It is estimated that 13-29 percent of the five million teeth injured or knocked out each year are caused during a sports-related incident. Considering these numbers, it is surprising that sports guards are still underutilized.

Sports guards can drastically decrease the risk of injury to the teeth. There are two basic types of guards available today: stock and custom. Each type has its advantages and disadvantages to consider.

Stock guards are cheaper and readily available. However, they are only sold in a limited number of sizes which compromise the fit. This lack of fit is a contributing factor to the discom-

fort often associated with wearing sports guards.

A custom sports guard has the advantage of being less bulky and more form-fitted. The better fit offered by a custom sports guard provides a superior level of protection over stock sports guards. A well-made custom sports guard may protect against concussions and may also decrease intracranial pressure sustained during injuries. The biggest disadvantage of a custom sports guard is they cost much more in the community.

Although custom sports guards offer superior protection, wearing a stock sports guard is still a better option than wearing no guard at all.

Active-duty personnel are encouraged to visit the dental clinic for fabrication of a custom sportsguard.

Caution recommended using dietary supplements

By Kim Krapcha

Keesler Health and Wellness Center

With the growing influx of dietary supplements claiming to help people get bigger, stronger and faster, it's important to stay informed of the effects and consequences these products could have on physical and mental health, or how they may cause positive drug test results.

A dietary supplement is a product containing one or more ingredients intended to supplement the diet. These could include vitamins, minerals, herbs, amino acids and "other" ingredients and are intended to be taken by mouth via pill, powder or liquid.

Regulation of dietary supplements becomes a problem when they have no pre-market approval process, formulation standards or approval of claims that must be made before the product can be sold. If the supplement is not banned or recalled by the Federal Drug Administration, Federal Trade Commission or Drug Enforcement Administration, in most cases it isn't banned by the Department of Defense. With dietary supplements, there may be some risk that they contain undeclared ingredients, and so it is not possible to predict the effects of any

particular dietary supplement.

Recommendations:

1) Most importantly, avoid dietary supplements — they are expensive and only provide a temporary enhancement, if they provide any at all, and once people stop taking them most return to where they started.

2) If supplements are necessary, make sure only to buy ones that have seals from third-party verification programs.

3) For more information on supplements and drug testing, visit the Human Performance and Resource Center at <http://hprc-online.org/dietary-supplements/blog/dietary-supplements-and-drug-testing>.

Products to avoid:

1) Any products containing dimethylamylamine also referred to as methylhexanamine, geranamine, and geranium oil, extract or stems and leaves. DMAA is increasingly being associated with serious adverse events.

2) Any products containing "andro", and androstenedione precursors — these are illegal to purchase or use. They are also classified as controlled substances and use is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

For more information, call 228-376-3173.

For more news, photos, videos and information, log on to www.keesler.af.mil
or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/keeslerafb

The 403rd Wing's C-130J aircraft prototype from Keesler rolls through the crowded streets during the North Bay Area Mardi Gras Parade in D'Iberville Sunday.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Col. Mark Vivians, 81st Mission Support Group commander, and his wife, Lt. Col. Jileene Vivians, 2nd Air Force director of staff, serve as grand marshals during the Jeff Davis Elementary School Mardi Gras Parade.



Gerry Cross, 81st Force Support Squadron school liaison officer, throws beads into the crowd during the Jeff Davis Elementary School Mardi Gras Parade in Biloxi.

Keesler lets good times roll in local parades



Trisha Meagher, her daughter Felicity, 5, and son Luke, 9, stand along the parade route to catch throws during the Jeff Davis Elementary School Mardi Gras Parade in Biloxi Friday. Meagher's husband, Tech. Sgt. Frank Meagher, is currently deployed to Africa.



The Keesler Honor Guard and Airmen carrying the 50 state flags lead the North Bay Area Mardi Gras Parade in D'Iberville Sunday. Leaders from the 81st Training Wing and the 81st Training Group drum and bugle corps also participated in the festivities.



Staff Sgt. Nicholas Fasola and Airman 1st Class Aric Schneeberger, Keesler firefighters, throw beads during the Jeff Davis Elementary School Mardi Gras Parade.



Maj. Amber Barker, 81st Medical Group, and her son, Jordan, 10, enjoy the Jeff Davis Elementary School Mardi Gras Parade.

KEESLER NOTES

AFSA meeting

The next Keesler Air Force Sergeants Association meeting is noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 21 in the Sablich Auditorium. The group will be discussing current legislature that affects benefits and upcoming fundraising and community volunteer opportunities. Members and non-members are welcome to attend.

Exchange committee

Anyone interested in participating in the new Exchange Advisory Committee can call 228-377-2510 to sign up. The intent of the committee is to seek feedback and advice from the various

demographics of shoppers at the Keesler Exchange.

High intensity fitness

Keesler is now offering high-intensity fitness classes.

TurboCore is 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Blake Fitness Center and is a core conditioning class to build muscle, specifically targeting small supportive muscles throughout the entire body. The class helps gain strength equivalent to a weight-oriented workout while developing common areas of physical weakness.

WarFighter Fitness is

11 a.m. to noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Dragon Fitness Center and is a new alternative to traditional fitness training. It is customizable for any experience level and designed to enhance strength and conditioning.

Prayer luncheon

The Keesler Chapel is hosting its annual National Prayer Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom. This year's theme is "Pray for America." The speaker is retired Col. Richard Toliver, a 26-year Air Force veteran who was trained and mentored by the Tuskegee Airmen.

For more information call 228-377-4859.

Gas line repairs

CSC, in conjunction with the Green-Simmons Company, is currently repairing the natural gas lines throughout Keesler. The project began Jan. 14 and is scheduled to conclude Dec. 10.

During the course of the project, each building with gas will experience an interruption in its service. The interruption should not last more than two hours. As the project progresses, CSC will be contacting each building manager to schedule the gas interruptions and work as best they can around the building occupants' schedules.

There will be contractors on the base either trenching along the roads to install the new gas lines or boring along and under the roads. The follow-

ing are the dates and areas the contractors will be working:

Today through Tuesday — Vicinity of Triangle in Buildings 6901, 6902, 6903, 6918 and 6905.

IT expo

The 18th annual Training Technology Information Systems Expo is 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 21 at the IP Casino Resort. Attendance is free to all Department of Defense, federal, state and local government personnel.

USM applications

A University of Southern Mississippi admissions counselor will be in the Keesler Medical Center 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 19.

KEESLER EVENTS CALENDAR

Today

9 a.m. — Key spouse training at the airman and family readiness center.

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

6 p.m. — Introduction to machine sewing class at the arts and crafts center.

Friday

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

Noon — Heart 5K at the Blake Fitness Center.

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

6:30 p.m. — Bingo at the Bay Breeze Collocated Club.

Saturday

10:30 a.m. — Pottery wheel at the arts and crafts center.

Monday

Presidents Day holiday.

Tuesday

9 a.m. — Job skills workshop at the airman and family readiness center.

Wednesday

9 a.m. — Survivor benefits briefing at the airman and family readiness center.

5:30 p.m. — Nonprior service Airmen family dinner at the airman and family readiness center annex.

Feb. 21

9 a.m. — Bundles for babies at the airman and family readiness center.

2 p.m. — Civilian resume writing class at the airman and family readiness center.

6 p.m. — Wreath and bow making class at the arts and crafts center.

Feb. 22

4 p.m. — Family fun day at the Bay Breeze Community Center.

5 p.m. — Mongolian barbecue at the Bay Breeze Collocated Club.

— Boss and buddy night

at the Bay Breeze Collocated Club.

6 p.m. — Chiefs' recognition ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

— Texas Hold'em tournament at the Bay Breeze Collocated Club

Feb. 23

9 a.m. — Keesler Kids "Rock the Run" at the youth center.

Feb. 25

2 p.m. — 10 steps to federal job resume writing class at the airman and family readiness center.

Feb. 27

3 p.m. — Beginner jewelry classes at the arts and crafts center.

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

5:30 p.m. — Monthly birthday dinner at the Azalea Dining Facility.

KIDS ROCK™ New Orleans



The youth center is putting together a Keesler kids' team for the New Orleans Rock-n-Roll Marathon, "Kids Rock" Run 9 a.m. Feb. 23 at City Park in New Orleans.

This team will meet for weekly runs leading up to the event. All participants will receive a t-shirt, medal, race bib, pace packet and access to the Rock-n-Roll expo.

Keesler Kids between Kindergarten and 7th grade can register at Youth Center or kidsrock@competitorgroup.com.

Team name "Keesler Kids Rock the Run."

\$25 per runner (sponsors available if needed).

Sign-ups for the weekly runs will continue through the middle of Jan. at the Youth Center.

377-4116
www.keeslerafib.com



For more news, photos, videos and information, log on to www.keesler.af.mil or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/keeslerafb

Court martial held as example to new Airmen

By Senior Airman
Heather Heiney

81st Training Wing Public Affairs

There was standing room only in the fishbowl at the Levitow Training Support Facility during a mobile summary court martial Feb. 8.

Making summary courts martial mobile and accessible to a large audience of new Airmen, is a way to teach them early in their careers that committing crimes is not tolerated by the Air Force.

“Airmen need to understand the impact of the decisions they make on their careers and future,” Col. Maureen Smith, 81st Training Group commander said. “By having the courts martial here they understand and can make better decisions.”

Tech. Sgt. Tina Hall, 81st Training Wing legal office, said that the legal office holds mobile summary courts martial either when there is a scheduling conflict with the courtroom at the Sablich Center, or when there is a negative trend in behavior that needs to be changed.

The idea is that students who attend the court martial will see one of their peers being held accountable for breaking lawful orders and will keep themselves and each other from making the same mistakes.

An Airman 1st Class in the 334th Training Squadron was on trial for using excessive amounts of cough medicine to get high, underage drinking and punching another Airman in the face. He pled guilty to all charges and the trial moved immediately into sentencing. He was charged with 25 days confinement, forfeiture of \$1,010 and reduction in rank to airman basic, which is nearly the maximum sentence for those offenses in a summary court martial.

Capt. Craig Dunham, 81st Training Wing assistant judge advocate, was the trial pro-



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Capt. Craig Dunham, 81st Training Wing assistant staff judge advocate and trial prosecutor, and Airman 1st Class Alayna Carboni, 81st TRW paralegal, review documents during a summary court martial Friday at the Levitow Training Support Facility. Mobile summary courts martial set an example for new Airmen about consequences of their actions by quickly imposing good order and discipline.

secutor. During his closing arguments, he said, “Good order and discipline are the lifeblood of military readiness, and sentencing is the lifeblood of discipline. The sentence is a message the Air Force sends to its members and the public about how seriously we take these particular offenses.”

“The Air Force puts walls around its bases. We have armed guards checking each of the gates and only people with the proper identification can enter the base because it wants its Airmen to know they are safe within these gates,” Dunham said. “So it is especially aggravating when our own troops, those trusted with access to the base, are the ones bringing harm onto the base.

“It is not enough that a military member refrains from doing bad things. Our suc-

cess, our very existence, depends on military members affirmatively doing the right things, like following rules,” Dunham said. “We need to send a very strong message to the troops that willful, knowing, serious failures to uphold this bedrock military requirement are intolerable and will be treated severely. We need to send a strong, clear message today that we will not tolerate conduct like this from an Air Force member. We need to deter other Air Force members from making the same terrible choices this accused made.”

The Uniform Code of Military Justice is something all members of the Air Force or any other branch of the armed forces are required to follow at all times whether they are on or off duty, in or out of uniform.



Staff Sgt. Christopher Vroman, 334th Training Squadron combat controller, stands ready with a pair of shackles in hand to place on the defendant following sentencing.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Joint Commission team leader Dr. Larry Kachik, third from right, reviews the team's report during its Feb. 8 briefing to the 81st Training Wing commander and command chief and 81st Medical Group senior leadership. The team visited the 81st Medical Group and inspected every facet of its medical care to determine accreditation.

Joint Commission closes inspection with briefing

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The week-long survey by the Joint Commission of every facet of the 81st Medical Group's patient care ended with a Feb. 8 briefing to the 81st MDG senior staff and 81st Training Wing leadership.

Official results are expected soon.

The three-member Joint Commission team was led by Dr. Larry Kachik. Other members were nurse surveyor Nina Smith and life safety surveyor William Johnson.

As he went through the team's report, Dr. Kachik observed, "We were in every clinic. There was no place in the hospital we didn't touch."

Smith added, "It was a

pleasure meeting all your people and seeing the hard work they do."

Kachik noted six findings that involved patient care and safety standards, but the vast majority of things in the report have already been fixed.

He continued, "From the Airmen and volunteers on up, the staff here is highly integrated."

"You have a very firm commitment to teaching," Kachik commented. "It's obvious people come here because they know they will receive excellent training."

"There has been tremendous work with patient flow in the emergency room, cataract surgery and the (gastrointestinal) lab."

Kachik also commented

favorably about labor and delivery's practice of providing a CD, "You and Your Baby," to new parents as well as their "First-Time Baby" program.

He mentioned Keesler Medical Center's patient-satisfaction scores are exceptionally high, which tells him this is a hospital to which he'd want to go. The medical center's new touch-screen way-finding system also caught his attention, but in many instances hospital staff would personally take patients to their desired location.

Other areas Kachik mentioned include the pharmacy's new system that ensures the right medication gets to the correct patient as well as the pharmacy staff's ingenuity to resolve an issue with placing plastic bottles on shelves (by

simply turning them into bins to prevent them from sliding off). He also said he found the genetics center very impressive. The radiology flight's recent "Mammoth" caught his attention as well.

"I've never heard of that before," he said. "Women were encouraged to make appointments. Out of 77 patients seen, eight cancers were found."

Summing up the team's impression of Keesler Medical Center and its staff, Kachik said, there is a lot of great work being done.

At the conclusion of the report, Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Kory Cornum thanked the team for coming to Keesler and teaching him and his staff.

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing com-

mander added, "Great job! Keesler is a happy recipient of this great care!"

In a message to the entire 81st MDG staff, Cornum said, "Many congrats to all of you! We did great on the Joint Commission and will be re-accredited. The few findings they had are almost all fixed already. On top of that, for those who haven't heard, we are a medical center again! That is because of all the great work you all do every day for our country. It became obvious to our senior leaders that you all should be working in a medical center again. Thanks for all you do every day for our patients and for our great country. It is an honor to serve with every one of you."



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Rusty Noonan, instructor from the Gulf Coast Region of the Sports Car Club of America, escorts Kirby Gentry, driver, through the course set up for the two-day street survival and defensive driving class on the flight line June 23, 2012. Another class is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. to 4p.m. Feb. 23.

Street Survival School comes to Keesler again

Commentary by
Master Sgt. Samuel Fronteraocasio
 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Do you have a young teenager who recently got his driver's license or just bought his first car? Are you a supervisor of a young Airman who now can afford that new fancy car?

Our next Tire Rack Street Survival School is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 23 and includes a classroom portion at the Airman Leadership School, followed by a hands-on portion on Ramp 3 of the flight line. Spaces are limited to the first 25 registered participants. Those with driver's permits or under the age of 18 are allowed to take the course with parental consent.

Let's face it, driver's education only teaches young drivers the rules of the road or just enough to pass the driver's license test. Often we send our young drivers off on the roads and we constantly worry about how they will handle their first experience in an emergency situation. If you need more

assurance of teens and driving statistics, read the stats below from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in 2010, the latest year for which data is available:

- In 2010, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of death among 13 to 19-year-old males and females in the United States.

- In 2010, 58 percent of deaths among passenger vehicle occupants ages 16-19 were drivers.

- In 2009, 11 percent of the people who died in distracted driving crashes were teens 15 to 19 years old.

What is the Tire Rack Street Survival School?

The BMW Car Club Association with sponsorship from Tire Rack, created the Tire Rack Street Survival School to serve as a national non-profit teen driving program in 2002. The program was piloted in 2003 with several successful schools held around the country. The Sports Car Club of America joined forces with the BMW CCA in order to offer the training to more schools nationwide. Every year

the program grew extending to more states and locations nationwide. Since its creation 10 years ago, they have held over 500 schools.

Tire Rack Street Survival School's motto is,

"It's about more than **driving**. It's about **living!**"

The school's aim is to reduce deadly car crashes involving teenagers by providing them a controlled setting where they can gain valuable experience in car control with a knowledgeable coach always at their side helping them to understand how important experience is compared to guessing when the unexpected happens on the road.

In a safe environment, students are put into challenging situations so they learn to control their own vehicle and understand the consequences of being on the verge of "out of control." Students will hear the sounds going on around them, including squealing tires, the engine and the brakes, to build an awareness of how hard their vehicle is working. Finally, wet traction is replicated by wetting part of the course and

allowing students to feel the difference between dry and wet conditions, all while assisting and teaching them how to maintain control of their vehicle. It's not a course for learning how to drive at high speeds — safety and car control are the objectives.

Keesler partnered with the 81st Training Wing Safety Office and the Gulf Coast Region SCCA to host the Tire Rack Street Survival School to our base. With a team of 30-40 volunteers, we sustain a program that allows the students to make educated decisions when driving, rather than guessing what to do.

Our program started in November 2011 and we are proud to say that Keesler is the only Air Force base to host this life-saving course. By the end of 2012, we conducted five classes for more than 100 students who are now more experienced and have the knowledge to prevent potential accidents in the future.

To reserve a spot or for more information, call 228-376-3202 or email keeslerautox@gmail.com.