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**Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT) Unit Keesler
recognized for community service**

KEESLER AFB, Miss. – The Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT) Unit Keesler was recognized by the Chief of Naval Operations for excellence in community service March 4 in a message to the fleet.

CNATTU Keesler was selected as the winner of the 2014 Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship award for medium-sized shore commands (200-499 personnel). The award recognizes commands that excel in the project's goal of improving scholastic achievements, social and life skills and providing vocational guidance.

Keesler Sailors performed nearly 4,400 volunteer hours in the community through various projects including the Keesler AFB Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, Humane Society of South Mississippi and the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Non-Violence.

Aerographer's Mate 1st Class (IDW/SW) Nicholas Gaddy, Advanced Forecasting instructor, is also the command volunteer coordinator for CNATTU and said the award is a reflection of the command's emphasis on community service.

"I think it's important to give Sailors an alternative to high-risk off-duty activities with time well-spent," said Gaddy. "By offering volunteer

opportunities across the spectrum, anyone can find an interest and get involved. It also gives our students an opportunity to experience a unique side of Sailorization by giving back to the community.”

Kay Carter, downtown services manager for the City of Biloxi coordinates involvement for many of the area’s volunteer programs. The city has also recognized CNATTU Keesler with a Volunteer of the Year Award.

“The Navy is involved in a significant number of our volunteer programs and has proven to be an invaluable asset,” said Carter. “With the number of volunteers that they bring to our events, we can accomplish a great deal of service in a short period of time.”

CNATTU Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Ken Wallace believes that volunteering and service not only demonstrate the Navy core values of honor, courage and commitment to Biloxi and the surrounding area, but also instills in his Sailors a sense of pride and selflessness that they will carry to the fleet and beyond.

“Our command has truly taken volunteering and community service to heart as evidenced by more than half of our personnel participating,” said Wallace. “It’s vital for us to become good neighbors and ambassadors for the Navy; it’s how we become an integral part of the community and leave a positive and lasting impression.”

For more information about CNATTU Keesler and the Naval Education and Training Command, visit the NETC website: <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

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Story by Ed Barker, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs