

# **Keesler Air Force Base earns recycling award**

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BILOXI -- Keesler Air Force Base has been named an environmental hero in Mississippi for its comprehensive recycling efforts.

The Mississippi Recycling Coalition chose KAFB as the recipient of its 2012 Environmental Hero Award as the state or federal government recycler of the year.

KAFB recycled nearly 2,700 tons of waste in the 2012 fiscal year. The base recycles the usual waste products as well as concrete, electronics and toner cartridges. Also, vegetable debris is ground into mulch and donated.

Base officials began a food recycling project in 2011 for Keesler's three dining halls, hospital and commissary. The base recycled 323 tons of food waste last year.

In related work with two contractors, Zero Waste Solutions and Mark Dunning Industries, the base has other projects that include the recycling of usable furniture and other items deemed as scrap. The contractors buy the items and donate them to churches, food banks and other charitable groups.

KAFB's program includes educational efforts that emphasize waste reduction, reuse and recycling, the MRC said. Other awards went to Brookhaven and Crystal Springs, co-winners, local government recyclers; Watkins Elementary, Jackson, education institution recycler; Nucor Steel Jackson Inc., Flowood, corporate recycler; and Lamar County, best new recycling program.