

## **Keesler Celebrates Earth Day April 22**

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4/11/2013 - **KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** -- Every year, Earth Day opens our eyes to the destructive effects waste has on the planet. Keesler's recycling program and its affiliates, Mark Dunning Industries and Zero Waste Solutions, are responsible for keeping waste out of landfills by recycling food waste, cooking oil, cardboard, metal, plastic and paper throughout the base.

In fiscal year 2012 alone, the recycling center brought in more than \$180,000 to the base through its efforts. The goal is to make recycling an everyday thing for those who bring their recycling awareness from the workplace to their homes.

"Keesler has made a name for itself, becoming the leader in food and waste recycling for the state of Mississippi," said Susan Chamberlain, CSC community planner.

"I have taken recycling home with me," said Douglas Smith, the project manager of the Recycling Center. "My son is responsible for taking out the trash and has come to realize that if he helps recycle, then he doesn't have to take out the trash as much."

A little goes a long way when it comes to recycling and making an impact. Getting the younger generations excited about recycling can make a lifelong habit.

April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., a booth at the base exchange will celebrate Earth Day and encourage conservation and waste reduction. Keesler's recycling team will demonstrate composting, the CSC environmental staff will provide information on pollution prevention and other associations will give gardening advice and provide seeds.

"At our booth, we plan on having a small backyard compost setup to give people an idea of how it works and how easy it is, with the hope that along the way we encourage some lifestyle changes," said Smith.

The goal is to show people how they can create a cycle with waste, going from waste to recycle to garden, creating produce that starts the whole process over again.

Keesler is working to increase waste diversion through measures such as composting, Smith said. Almost anything organic that was once alive can be used because of its simplest form can naturally break down over time into rich soil.

"Teamwork is the key," said Smith. "Change your life style and you will help save the planet."

For more information, call the recycling center, 228-377-4546.