

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER  
HEADQUARTERS 81ST TRAINING  
WING (AETC)**

**KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE  
INSTRUCTION 36-2601**

**11 OCTOBER 2023**



**Personnel**

**NON-PRIOR SERVICE (NPS) AIRMEN  
PERFORMING ORGANIZATIONS**

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(Col Laura A. King)

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This instruction implements DAFPD 36-26, *Total Force Development and Management*, and establishes the Keesler Blue Knight Drum and Bugle Corps, Training Squadron drill teams, and the Keesler Dragon Choir and provides for their management, selection, supervision, training and logistical support. This instruction applies to all assigned, attached and/or associate units supported by the 81st Training Wing at Keesler AFB MS; this instruction does not apply to Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard units. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the OPR using DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route DAF Form 847s from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. Ensure all records generated as a result of processes prescribed in this publication adhere to AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and are disposed in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule, which is located in the Air Force Records Information Management System, IAW DAFMAN 90-161, para 4.5.5.7., page 48. **Attachment 1** is a glossary of references and supporting information.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

This instruction has multiple changes; please review in its entirety. The control number changed to match DAFPD 36-26. Added Guardians and Space Force where appropriate throughout the instruction. Paragraph 2.3. replaced “when possible” with “with approval from MTL Flight Chief and MTO.”; 3.1. deleted NCOIC, Drill and Ceremonies; 3.1.1. renumbered as 3.2.; 3.1.1.1. combined with new 3.2. and renumbered as necessary; 3.2.2. deleted redundant second sentence;

3.3.2.2. added one regulation drill Commander per TRS. 3.3.2.3. added one freestyle drill Commander per TRS.; 3.4.3.2.1. changed maximum achievable points from 60 to 44 and teams will lose .333 to 1.0 points per discrepancy.; 3.4.3.3.5. added requirement for minimum number of rifles for freestyle drill.; 3.4.3.5. added requirement to request props NLT three (3) duty days prior to competition.; 3.4.3.6. added requirement to submit music NLT three (3) duty days prior to completion.; 3.4.3.6.1. added consequence if music is not submitted on time.; 3.4.3.6.2. added requirement to resubmit music if competition is cancelled or postponed.; 3.5.1.6. added consequence for not having minimum number of rifles for completion.; 3.8.3.1. added that members wearing a beret must adhere to DAFI 36-2903; 4. added Keesler Dragon Choir (KDC).

## 1. General.

1.1. **Scope.** The 81st Training Wing, has three Non-Prior Service (NPS) Airmen and Guardian Performing Organizations: the Keesler Blue Knight Drum and Bugle Corps (BKDBC), the Training Squadron (TRS) drill teams, and the Keesler Dragon Choir (KDC). The BKDBC represents the 81st Training Wing, the United States Air Force, and the United States Space Force at social and civic functions, on base and in the surrounding civilian community, providing support for official ceremonies. The TRS Drill Teams represent the TRS in which they are assigned and include Drill Down Performances, TRG retreat events, and aiding Airman Leaders for flight commanders when marching during the duty day. The KDC represents the 81st Training Wing, the United States Air Force, and the United States Space Force at social and civic functions, on base and in the surrounding civilian community, providing support for official ceremonies. BKDBC, TRS Drill Teams, and KDC promote leadership and teambuilding opportunities, develop esprit de corps, and provide an outlet from the academic environment for NPS Airmen and Guardians.

1.2. **Performance Limitations.** Performances are conducted during non-duty hours only (81 TRG/CC may grant exceptions).

1.3. **Performance Requests.** Coordinate on-base and off-base performances through the Public Affairs Office (81 TRW/PA).

1.4. **Transportation.** Coordinate all on-base and off-base performance transportation requests through 81 TRW/PA.

1.5. **Recruiting.** Squadron Military Training Leaders (MTL) recruit Airmen and Guardians for BKDBC, TRS drill teams, and KDC.

### 1.6. Membership.

1.6.1. Airmen and Guardian volunteers must demonstrate a high degree of self-discipline and pride while meeting the following requirements to achieve and maintain membership in BKDBC, TRS drill teams, and KDC:

1.6.1.1. Maintain outstanding military standards (dormitory room standards, physical fitness standards and maintain standards in accordance with DAFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*).

1.6.1.2. Maintain an 80 percent average academic standard.

1.6.2. Members not meeting requirements will be suspended or eliminated from the performing organization. Suspensions and eliminations from BKDBC, TRS Drill Team, and KDC are coordinated with the appropriate NCOIC.

## 2. Keesler Blue Knight Drum and Bugle Corps (BKDBC).

2.1. **General.** The BKDBC is comprised of NPS Airmen and Guardians assigned to the 81 TRG and are supervised by NCOIC, BKDBC.

2.2. **NCOIC, BKDBC.** 81 TRG/MTO appoints an NCOIC, BKDBC to manage participation of the BKDBC in civic events and military functions.

2.2.1. The NCOIC, BKDBC will:

2.2.1.1. Maintain sufficient organizational manpower to provide quality performances.

2.2.1.2. Ensure the safety of the organization's members during performances.

2.2.1.3. Assist 81 TRG/CC in formulating the BKDBC budgetary requirements.

2.2.1.4. Publish performance and rehearsal schedules and membership rosters.

2.3. **Training Squadrons.** Use reasonable efforts to ensure BKDBC members are available for each rehearsal and performance by assisting members with rescheduling, routine details, appointments, briefings, and meetings that conflict with these times. If member requires approval to miss a mandatory appointment, such as formation PT, the MTF Flight Chief will grant approval and forward to 81 TRG/ MTO Superintendent.

2.4. **Leadership Positions.** Leadership positions are authorized as follows:

2.4.1. One corps commander.

2.4.2. One deputy corps commander.

2.4.3. One quartermaster.

2.5. **Uniforms.** Performance uniforms are outlined in Section 3.8. and shall be worn as directed by NCOIC, BKDBC and in all cases, in a manner consistent with DAFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of United States Air Force and United States Space Force Personnel* or other applicable guidance.

## 3. Drill and Ceremonies.

3.1. **81 TRG/MTO.** Will manage participation of TRS drill teams in civic events, military functions, and drill competitions.

3.2. **81 TRG/MTO.** Will arrange for reviewing officer, inspectors, and a team of judges to be present at each drill down competition and brief personnel on their responsibilities.

### 3.3. TRS Drill Teams.

3.3.1. Each participating TRS will appoint an MTL as TRS Drill Team NCOIC to manage open ranks, regulation, and freestyle drill teams and establish training and practice procedures.

3.3.2. Drill Team Leadership Positions:

3.3.2.1. One drill master (DM) or representative per TRS.

3.3.2.2. One regulations drill Commander per TRS.

3.3.2.3. One freestyle drill Commander per TRS.

### 3.4. Competition.

3.4.1. Conduct competition in accordance with the annual drill down schedule approved by 81 TRW/CC.

3.4.2. Each military training flight (MTF) will compete in the open ranks, regulation drill, and freestyle drill competitions.

3.4.3. Scoring and Judging.

3.4.3.1. Open ranks will be judged in accordance with DAFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of United States Air Force and Space Force Personnel*.

3.4.3.1.1. Maximum score achievable is 30 points. Each team will start with the maximum 30 points. Demerits will be deducted in accordance with paragraphs [3.4.3.1.4.1](#) – [3.4.3.1.4.4](#).

3.4.3.1.2. Scores from each judge will be averaged to determine overall scores.

3.4.3.1.3. Two judges will inspect each team. The head judge will be determined in accordance with [paragraph 3.7.2](#).

3.4.3.1.4. 81 TRG/MTO will announce the UOD for the open ranks inspection.

3.4.3.1.4.1. A seven-member team will lose .2857 points per uniform discrepancy.

3.4.3.1.4.2. An eight-member team will lose .25 points per uniform discrepancy.

3.4.3.1.4.3. A nine-member team will lose .222 points per uniform discrepancy.

3.4.3.1.4.4. A ten-member team will lose .2 points per uniform discrepancy.

3.4.3.1.5. Ties.

3.4.3.1.5.1. In the event of a tie, the head judge's score will be used to determine the winner in accordance with the guidance below.

3.4.3.1.5.2. Using the head judge's score sheet, the scorekeeper will compare score sheets of the tied teams starting with each team's DM or representative.

3.4.3.1.5.2.1. If a team's DM or representative has a demerit, this will eliminate his/her team from the tiebreaker unless all DMs or representatives have the same number of demerits.

3.4.3.1.5.2.2. If all the DMs or representatives from each tied team have the same number of demerits, the scorekeeper will move to the next person in the formation comparing their demerits.

3.4.3.1.5.2.3. The first member to receive a demerit will eliminate his/her team from the tiebreaker.

3.4.3.1.5.2.4. If this process does not break the tie, i.e., tied teams have a perfect score, the judges will make the final decision.

3.4.3.2. Regulation drill will be judged in accordance with DAFFAM 34-1203, *Drill and Ceremonies*.

3.4.3.2.1. Maximum score achievable is 44 points. Teams will lose 1.0 points per discrepancy.

3.4.3.2.2. Each MTF must complete both regulation drill and freestyle drill in less than ten (10) minutes. The time clock will start when the reviewing officer returns the salute of the individual reporting in for regulation drill and stops when the individual has completed the reporting out statement for freestyle drill.

3.4.3.2.3. Four judges will grade each team.

3.4.3.2.4. Ties.

3.4.3.2.4.1. If two or more teams tie, the head judge's score will be the determining factor.

3.4.3.2.4.2. If the head judge has the teams in question as a tie, the next ranking judge will decide the tiebreaker.

3.4.3.2.4.3. If necessary, this will continue until all four judges have been exhausted.

3.4.3.2.4.4. If all judges have the teams in question as a tie, the tie-breaking decision will revert back to the ranking judge who will consider overall performance as the tiebreaker.

3.4.3.3. Freestyle drill will be judged for professionalism, accuracy, difficulty, and originality.

3.4.3.3.1. Each area will be rated on a scale of one through five. The maximum score achievable is 20 points from each judge.

3.4.3.3.2. Freestyle drill must last a minimum of three minutes. For each second under the time requirement, the team will lose .125 points. The time clock is started when the reviewing officer returns the reporting in salute. The time stops when the reporting out statement is completed.

3.4.3.3.3. For each second over the combined regulation and freestyle drill time of ten (10) minutes, the team will lose .125 points.

3.4.3.3.4. Four judges will grade each team.

3.4.3.3.5. Freestyle drill teams must have the following minimum number of rifles to perform: half of the team members must carry a rifle, rounded up for odd numbers. (i.e., seven member teams must have four rifles, nine member teams must have five rifles).

3.4.3.4. 81 TRG/MTO will provide participating squadrons a copy of their scoring analysis to the TRS Drill Team NCOIC within three duty days following the competition.

3.4.3.5. All props being used during freestyle, excluding rifles, must be requested through MTO, for approval, no later than three duty days prior to drill down competition.

3.4.3.6. All music being used for entry or during freestyle competition must be submitted to MTO, for approval, no later than three duty days prior to drill down competition.

3.4.3.6.1. If a team has not submitted music before the three (3) duty day deadline, the team will not be allowed to use music.

3.4.3.6.2. If the drill down competition is cancelled or postponed, each team must resubmit music requests no later than three duty days prior to the new drill competition date. If a team does not resubmit a music request following the cancellation or postponement of a drill down competition, the team will be prohibited from using music (including the music which may have been requested in the originally scheduled drill down competition).

### 3.5. Disqualification.

3.5.1. The following infractions will result in a team's disqualification from a particular event:

3.5.1.1. Fielding a team with fewer than seven or more than ten members for regulation drill, open ranks, and freestyle drill to include Airmen/Guardians on the field of competition.

3.5.1.2. Using permanent party or prior-service Airmen or Guardians as members of MTF drill teams.

3.5.1.3. Deviations from authorized uniform/accessories as defined in [paragraphs 3.8](#).

3.5.1.4. Fielding more than one team. A team consists of one entry per category (open ranks, regulation drill and freestyle drill). The same individuals do not have to participate in each category.

3.5.1.5. Failure to comply with show times for drill down events.

3.5.1.5.1. Teams that are not in place and prepared for inspection when the open ranks judge steps in front of the first team being inspected.

3.5.1.5.2. Teams that are not in place and prepared to take the drill pad when announced.

3.5.1.6. Failure to have the minimum number of rifles.

3.5.1.7. Squadron Commanders, first sergeants, MTLs, instructors, NPS/prior-service Airmen/Guardians, or any permanent party personnel within the inspection area once the competition has begun. **EXCEPTION:** 81 TRG/CC/CD/SEL and 81 TRG/MTO staff.

3.5.1.8. Teams exhibiting poor taste, integrity violations or severe disregard for the spirit of competition (Senior TRG representative discretion).

3.5.2. When a disqualifying factor is noted by any of the judges, the head judge will discuss the infraction with 81 TRG/MTO who will determine if disqualification is justified.

3.5.3. Before a team is disqualified, 81 TRG/MTO will receive final approval from the senior TRG representative prior to briefing the drill team's senior squadron representative of the infraction. A team will receive zero points for each event that results in disqualification.

3.5.4. A team may be eliminated from winning in the overall competition if the Senior TRG representative determines a team has violated good order and discipline to include acts in poor taste, integrity violations, or disregard for the spirit of competition.

### **3.6. Determining Team Placement.**

3.6.1. Grading. Points are awarded based on how teams place in each of the three categories.

3.6.1.1. Open Ranks. First place receives 35 points; second place receives 33 points; third place receives 31 points, etc.

3.6.1.2. Regulation Drill. First place receives 35 points; second place receives 33 points; third place receives 31 points, etc.

3.6.1.3. Freestyle Drill. First place receives 30 points; second place receives 28 points; third place receives 26 points, etc.

3.6.2. Points received in all categories will be totaled to determine the overall first, second and third place winners. If two or more teams have the same point total, regulation drill scoring will serve as the tiebreaker.

3.6.3. Teams disqualified in any category receive zero points in that category.

### **3.7. Competition Judges.**

3.7.1. Judges are selected by 81 TRG/MTO.

3.7.2. The highest-ranking individual will act as the head judge.

3.7.3. Judges for the competition will normally be Chief Master Sergeants, flight chiefs, first sergeants, academic instructors, and NCO Academy/Airman Leadership School instructors.

### **3.8. Uniforms.**

3.8.1. Drill teams select accessory colors that are in good taste and do not clash with the uniform. Any color accessory not sold at military clothing (AAFES) must receive prior approval from the 81 TRG/MTO at least one (1) week prior to the event (e.g., extreme color berets or ascots).

3.8.2. Accessories, with the exception of aiguilletes, are only authorized during non-duty hours while performing drill competition or participation in official base or civic activities.

3.8.3. Accessories may consist of berets, metal heel and toe plates, ascots, white or black gloves, and black aiguilletes.

3.8.3.1. If wearing a beret, members will adhere to proper wear IAW DAFI 36-2903.

3.8.3.2. Berets will not conflict with AFSC-specific colors (e.g., dark blue berets for security forces, red berets for combat controllers, maroon berets for Pararescue, etc.)

3.8.3.3. Conservative color ascots are authorized for wear with the utility uniform. White ascots may be worn with the service uniform.

3.8.3.4. Airmen and Guardians assigned to drill teams will wear solid black color utility aiguillette when performing drill team duties or activities. Aiguillettes are authorized for wear during and after duty hours on and off base.

3.9. **Annual Award.** Team placement throughout the year will determine the Drill Team of the Year. Placement will be determined by the following point system:

3.9.1. First Place = 10 points

3.9.2. Second Place = 9 points

3.9.3. Third Place = 8 points

3.9.4. Fourth Place = 7 points

3.9.5. Fifth Place = 6 points

3.9.6. If there is a tie for Drill Team of the Year using the above system, the team with the most first place finishes throughout the year wins the award. If two or more teams have the same number of first place finishes, the team with the most second place finishes throughout the year wins the award. This process will continue to third and fourth place, if necessary, to break the tie.

#### 4. **Keesler Dragon Choir (KDC).**

4.1. **General.** The KDC is comprised of NPS Airmen and Guardians assigned to the 81 TRG and are supervised by NCOIC, KDC.

4.2. **NCOIC, KDC.** 81 TRG/MTO appoints an NCOIC, KDC to manage participation of the KDC in civic events and military functions.

4.2.1. The NCOIC, KDC will:

4.2.1.1. Maintain sufficient organizational manpower to provide quality performances.

4.2.1.2. Ensure the safety of the organization's members during performances.

4.2.1.3. Assist 81 TRG/CC in formulating the KDC budgetary requirements.

4.2.1.4. Publish performance and rehearsal schedules and membership rosters.

4.3. **Training Squadrons.** Use reasonable efforts to ensure KDC members are available for each rehearsal and performance by assisting members with rescheduling, routine details, appointments, briefings, and meetings that conflict with these times. If member requires approval to miss a mandatory appointment, such as formation PT, the MTF Flight Chief will grant approval and forward to 81 TRG/MTO Superintendent.

4.4. **Leadership Positions.** Leadership positions are authorized as follows:

4.4.1. One Choir Director (CD).

4.4.2. Four Choir Section Leaders (CSL).

4.4.3. One quartermaster.

4.5. **Uniforms.** Performance uniforms are outlined and shall be worn as directed by the NCOIC, KDC and in all cases, in a manner consistent with DAFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of United States Air Force and United States Space Force Personnel* or other applicable guidance.

BILLY E. POPE, JR., Colonel, USAF  
Commander, 81st Training Wing

**Attachment 1****GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 27 July 2021

DAFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of United States Air Force and United States Space Force Personnel*, 6 February 2020

DAFMAN 90-161, *Publishing Processes and Procedures*, 14 April 2022

DAFPAM 34-1203, *Drill and Ceremonies*, 12 September 2022

DAFPD 36-26, *Total Force Development and Management*, 14 April 2022

***Prescribed Forms***

No prescribed forms.

***Adopted Forms***

DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

AF Form 868, *Request for Ground Transportation Support*

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AAFES**—Army and Air Force Exchange Service

**BKDBC**—Blue Knight Drum and Bugle Corps

**CD**—Choir Director

**CSL**—Choir Section Leader

**DM**—Drill Master

**KDC**—Keesler Dragon Choir

**MTF**—Military Training Flight

**MTL**—Military Training Leader

**NPS**—Non-Prior Service

**TRS**—Training Squadron

***Office Symbols***

**81 TRW/CC**—81st Training Wing Commander

**81 TRW/PA**—81st Training Wing Public Affairs

**81 TRG/CC**—81st Training Group Commander

**81 TRG/CD**—81st Training Group Deputy Commander

**81 TRG/SEL**—81st Training Group Senior Enlisted Leader

**81 LRS/LGRDDO—81st Logistics Squadron Vehicle Section**

Attachment 2

OPEN RANKS GRADING AREA.

Figure A2.1. Open ranks grading area.

