

Serving the men and women of the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, Ind.

## AEF deployment takes unit to Turkey

By SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner  
*Public Affairs staff*

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, TURKEY — More than 100 members of the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing arrived here recently as part of an air expeditionary deployment that will last a couple of months.

Aircrews, maintainers and support staff departed Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind, at the end of April to begin performing aerial refueling missions.

Leading the way on the first rotation is Lt. Col. Mark Sigler, deployment commander and Senior Master Sgt. Sandra Dye, first sergeant.

The first part of the rotation was no cake walk according to the colonel, who said there were a lot of things that needed to be smoothed over.

“The first several days we were here, during the change over, were very challenging, but as time went on, we settled in, adapted to the process, and smoothed everything out,” he said.

All told, the unit moved several aircraft and personnel from Indiana to Turkey and adapted to the operation in about five days.

“Sometimes we take what we do for granted,” Colonel Sigler said. “We have done this several times before, but that doesn’t change the importance of that accomplishment.”

According to both the colonel and the first sergeant, making things work was no easy task because of the uniqueness of the unit’s mission here.

Not only is the mission unique, but Airmen work on a daily basis with active-duty Air



*Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner*

Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski, 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing command chief master sergeant, shares a laugh on the flightline at Incirlik AB, Turkey with deployed members of the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing. The 434<sup>th</sup> ARW members are participating in aerial refueling operations as part of an Air Expeditionary Force.

# Embrace your warrior heritage

## Ancient fable puts modern spin on Air Force spirit

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine  
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO — A lot of people today are talking about us, as Airmen, being warriors.

I have family in other services and whenever we get together they always seem to tease me about being an Airman, and not being a “war fighter.”

This always makes me smile, because I know the truth.

We are not supporting this war, we are *in* this war.

The truth is I am an Airman.

I am the best in the world at what I do and I make my job look easier than it really is. This means, as an Airman, that I am a brilliant warrior.

You don’t believe me? Let me tell you a little story.

There is an old Eastern fable about a wandering mercenary who apparently had a few too many and bumped into a tea master in the market.

The mercenary became enraged and argued with the tea master, eventually challenging him to a duel to the death to recover his lost honor. They would battle at dawn.

The tea master was afraid and didn’t know what to do. He couldn’t run away but he didn’t know how to fight.

So, he invited the local samurai to his home to ask for help.

When the samurai arrived, the tea master made him a “proper” tea. The proper making of tea involves an incredibly precise ceremony. In fact, to be a tea master takes years of diligent practice to perform the proper making of tea in this ceremony.

The samurai sat and watched the tea master work with surgical precision. He saw his focus, his determination. He watched the tea master perform perfectly. He made it look easy.

After serving the tea, the tea master asked the samurai for help with the mercenary, maybe to intervene on his behalf.

Without hesitating, the samurai told the tea master there was only one thing he needed to do. At dawn, he must face the mercenary. He must face him and fight him with the same focus and purpose that he had used in making the tea. If he did that, he would be victorious.

As the sun rose the next morning, the mercenary walked into the market to see the tea master already waiting. The tea master drew his sword and stood firm to fight.

Seeing his focus and determination, the mercenary trembled. He dropped to one knee and apologized to the tea master and begged for his forgiveness.

What does that mean? How does it apply to you?

We are Airmen.

Every one of us is literally the best in

the world at what we do.

In fact, we are so good at what we do that we make it look easy. And, the truth is that the media doesn’t like running stories about things that look easy.

But remember, Airmen, while you are making it look easy, that Sun Tzu once wrote:

*A warrior wins his battles by making no mistakes. Making no mistakes is what establishes the certainty of victory, for it means conquering an enemy that is already defeated.*

Hence, the skillful warrior puts himself into a position which makes defeat impossible, and does not miss the moment for defeating the enemy.

What the ancients called a brilliant warrior is one who not only wins, but excels in winning with ease.

This is what it means to be a warrior; an Airman. This is who we are and we must embrace our warrior heritage.

So when you hear someone say that you aren’t a warrior or your Air Force job isn’t a warrior’s role, smile.

Laugh even. Because now you too know the truth.

Every one of us makes up the greatest Air Force this Earth has every seen.

We are all an integral part of our warrior caste and mission success.

Feel free to educate those who doubt we are warriors, because our enemies have already learned this truth the hard way. (AFNEWS)

Heartland

## Warrior

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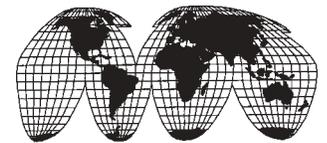
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Any questions regarding stories or photos should be directed to the editor at (765) 688-3348.

### Staff

Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy.....commander  
Lt. Col. Gary Lockard.....chief, public affairs  
Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays.....editor  
SrA. Chris Bolen.....staff writer  
SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner.....staff writer  
SrA. Ben Mota.....staff writer  
SrA. Omar DelaCruz.....staff writer  
Penny Pearson.....administration



World Wide Web

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# New Top 3 logo selected

By SrA. Chris Bolen  
Public Affairs staff

The winning entry in the Top 3 logo design contest mailed in his winning entry from long distance.

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Moore's winning entry was the unanimous pick. Sergeant Moore, who is currently serving in Iraq, hand sketched the design and forwarded a picture of it to Grissom.

"Sergeant Moore's design combines elements of the wing and the pride of Top 3 insignias, along with the image of the State of Indiana," said Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski, command chief. "His design really gets the look we were striving for," she continued.

The open call for designs was put out in January with the competition ending in early March.

Among other uses the logo will be used for the new Wing Top 3 coin, and Top 3 T-shirts.

For his efforts in creating the logo, Sergeant Moore will receive a complimentary gift card.

"The Wing Top 3 organization is finalizing the final touches on its bylaws and constitution," Chief Rogowski noted. "The plan is to kick off a membership drive this summer, so there will be more details to follow," she added.

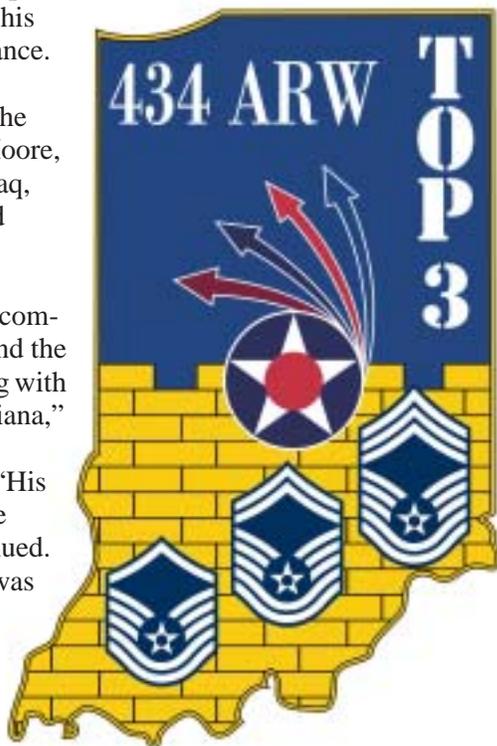
## Incirlik, from page 1

Force members as well as Turkish Air Force members. This total force concept impressed both Colonel Sigler and Sergeant Dye.

"We've had a very wonderful interaction with the Turkish Air Force," said the colonel.

Looking back at the first rotation, they were able to fly over 30 sorties and offload more than 2.3 million pounds of fuel, he said. After all is done, the first rotation's mission was a success, he added.

Sergeant Dye stated one of the reasons she felt that unit Airmen have been successful is due to



their positive outlook and focus.

"Everyone has taken care of each other, which is what we have really focused on," she said. That is the reason we haven't had a lot of problems and why we have been so successful."

"It's good to be on a winning team; and it's nice to be in a unit that is organized, committed and functions so well," Colonel Sigler said.

As their rotation winds down, Colonel Sigler added that it is important for Airmen to volunteer for deployments like this one, so they can gain experience now and be leaders for tomorrow.

# Diversity

## Special fair lets base celebrate differences

By Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason  
And Master Sgt. James Carter  
Grissom first sergeants

When it comes to diversity, Grissom and the human resources development council take things seriously...how serious? Well serious enough that when our diversity and opportunity fair kicks off during the June unit training assembly we'll have not, one or two, but three guest speakers!

The combination of the three speakers will bring more than 80 years of knowledge and experience in both military and civilian arenas.

Who are they? Well, you'll have to join us to find out.

Diversity means many things to each of us. At Grissom, we're not just speaking of large ethnic, religious or geographical groups. Here our membership reflects our diversity because we recruit and draw members from such a wide travel area.

We have members from as far north as Wisconsin; as far south as Texas; as far east as Ohio; and as far west as California.

We are formed from many ethnic and religious groups.

We have a large cross section of varying career fields, such as farmers, teachers, and maintainers.

It's our blending of ideas, values and spirit that we must and will celebrate this month.

Our activities will begin at 4:45 Saturday in the auditorium of Bldg. 663.

The fair will spill over into the pavilion behind the services complex.

Many organizations will be on hand to share and educate participants on clubs and organizations on base.

Of course we'll have door prizes and everyone is encouraged to attend.

This is a fabulous opportunity to celebrate those things that make us strong. We hope you'll join us.



Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen

Ellen Waters, new director of Grissom's Airman and Family Readiness Center, confers with Master Sgt. Mark Green the NCO in charge of the center.

# Grissom gets new family support director

By SrA. Chris Bolen  
Public Affairs staff

Being a good Wingman is as important as ever in today's Air Force. When it comes to families, the Air Force Reserve takes that role seriously too, as does Ellen Waters the new Airman and Family Readiness Support Center director.

Ms. Waters comes to Grissom from Randolph AFB, Texas, where she was in charge of the of the Airman and Family Readiness Flight relocation section.

She spent most of her career serving active-duty personnel at Randolph and in Turkey.

"This is my first time in the Reserve world, and it is really different," she notes. "I emphasized to my staff during our first staff meeting that I

need them to advise me if something I bring from the active duty world will fit or not."

One of her main items of focus is

service and I am real glad to see that," she said adding she is also impressed with the positive motivation of the staff. "Everyone jumps in and gets the job done," she said, adding their motivation helps her in her new responsibilities.

She also has praise for the local community

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*I expect the highest standards  
because it gets my attention real quick.*

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mandated pre-deployment training, which is required every two years.

"I plan to find a way that's as painless as possible to get this training done base wide," she emphasized.

Her second major focus is customer service.

"I ping on customer service," she stated. "And, I expect the highest standards because it gets my attention real quick."

So far Ms. Waters is impressed by what she has seen at Grissom.

"The staff is on top of customer

support.

"We received 367 cases of Girl Scout cookies to provide to the deploying personnel and base support services," she said.

"A pharmacy in Kokomo ran a donation program where customers purchased sunscreen, tissues, and hand wipes for those deploying which they supplied to the base," she added

She looks forward to the future here.

"I love this job and like getting up every morning and coming into work," she added.

# TRANSAM program projects compassion

By SrA. Ben Mota  
Public Affairs staff

The U.S military projects power and might. It also projects compassion through humanitarian missions that often go unnoticed.

One such program is Operation TRANSAM, a civilian military cooperative action program between the Indian Health Service and the Department of Defense concerning distribution of medical equipment and supplies obtained from closure of military bases and installations.

“The program began in 1995 in Fort Worth, Texas and moved to Grissom in 2001,” said Master Sgt. Gary Hochenberger, project chief of TRANSAM.

The program gives Air Force traffic management office personnel, supply personnel and aerial porters an opportunity to gain hands-on experience and advance to the next skill level.

TRANSAM’s latest mission consisted of loading a C-130 Hercules with two pallets of medical supplies and a forklift, he said.

The disaster response equipment was then flown to Eglin AFB Fla. From Eglin it was delivered to the Creek Indians in Atmore, Ala.

“I enjoy what I do because I am able to deal with the military and the customers who are in need of our services,” said Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Thompson, the assistant project chief of TRANSAM.

Sergeant Thompson responds to the emails they receive from reservations that are in need of their services.

She also manages the inventory list and helps to locate items that are need if the organization does not have that particular item in their inventory.

“Not only do we give the equipment to the Indian reservations, but we also are able to provide it without any shipping charges,” she added.

In doing so the Air Force Reserve Command receives training crucial to skill level advancement.

“The training is done in 45-day



Photo by SrA. Omar DelaCruz

**Tech. Sgt. William Archer, 49<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Flight, instructs Senior Airman Hannah Gill, from the 939<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron at Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., on hand signals used in loading cargo onto an aircraft.**

rotations,” added Sergeant Hochenberger. “We currently have nine individuals training with us but that number can fluctuate depending on the amount of funding we receive from headquarters.”

Another recent mission involved loading a C-17 Globemaster with ambulances. One of the vehicles was delivered to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska and the other was sent to Fairchild AFB, Wash.

Upon arrival to Elmendorf, Sergeant Hochenberger and his crew flew with the Alaska Air National Guard to the remote Alaskan village of Iliamna to deliver the first ambulance.

The village doesn’t have any roads to medical facilities and relies on aircraft to transport residents in need of emergency medical attention said the sergeant.

“In the past they relied on pickup trucks to transport the sick and injured to the runway,” he said. “This is their first time to have an ambulance to serve the village.”

Since 2002 their ambulance program has donated over 30 refurbished ambulances to a variety of American Indian and Alaskan native tribes. Since TRANSAM’s creation in 1995 it has donated over \$30 million in medical supplies and equipment.

## Feature

### UTA items

**Lodging** is open 24 hours a day during the primary unit training assembly and from 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. on alternate unit training assemblies.

**The fitness center** is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**The dining facility** troop feeding

hours on Saturday are 6-7:15 a.m. for breakfast; 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for lunch (12:30 p.m. on the alternate); and 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. for dinner.

On Sunday the hours are 5:45-6:45 a.m. for breakfast, and 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for lunch (12:30 p.m. on alternate).

Box dinners for the Sunday evening meal must be ordered by the Sunday breakfast, and must be picked up by 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

**The 434th Aerospace Medical Squadron's immunization clinic** is open on Saturday from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m.

**434th Security Forces Squadron Pass and ID** is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday of the primary UTAs.

**Upcoming UTAs:** Primary UTAs June 2-3; and July 7-8.

Alternate UTAs are June 23-24; and July 21-22.

**Worship services** are held in Bldg. 596, Room 116.

During primary unit training assemblies, Protestant services are Sunday at 11 a.m. with Catholic worship services at 12:15 p.m.

**Exchange:** The base exchange is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays of the main and alternate UTAs and from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Sundays of the main and alternate UTAs.

### Combat dining in

Grissom will be holding a "Combat Dining-In," during the July unit training assembly. Grissom's dining in will be from 6 to 10 p.m., July 7, at Dock 6.

Guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Mark Pillar, from the Pentagon.

Uniform will be BDUs, DCUs or flight suits.

Food will be provided, however a troop feeding will be held from 4:30-5:30 p.m. for personnel not planning to attend.

Planning for the Grissom dining-in is in its final stages, but there are still opportunities for organizations, people and teams to participate and take the lead in selected events.

Members can contact unit first sergeants for details and tickets.

### Web page

Anyone can keep up to date on the latest happenings at Grissom by visiting the public web site.

**Heartland Warrior**



Photo by SrA. Omar DelaCruz

### State of the base

Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, addresses the crowd during the first 'State of the Base' address. The event held May 4, brought both military and civilian members together for a special evening of entertainment and an address by the general on current and upcoming activities at Grissom — as well as the base's future.

## In the limelight

### Medals

**Meritorious Service Medal**—Major Mirko Rastovic, 74<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron; Lt. Col. Richard Phillips, 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing; Master Sgt. Timothy Newell, 434<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Flight; Tech. Sgt. Tina Hoover, 434<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medical Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Diana Rogers, 434<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group; Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW; Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Mattox, 434<sup>th</sup> AMDS; Master Sgt. Jennifer Meadors, 434<sup>th</sup> AMDS; Senior Master Sgt. Brenda Krause, 434<sup>th</sup> AMDS; Chief Master Sgt. Susan Rakow, 434<sup>th</sup> AMDS; Master Sgt. Jeffrey Castleberry, 434<sup>th</sup> AMDS; and Maj. Stephen Koenig, 434<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron.

**Air Force Commendation Medal**—Tech. Sgt. Maria Theresa Walters, 434<sup>th</sup> CES; Senior Master Sgt. William Megnin, 434<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron; Master Sgt. Kandace Evers, 434<sup>th</sup> LRS; Tech. Sgt. Shawn Sandridge, 434<sup>th</sup> AMDS; Staff Sgt. Damon Spradlin, 434<sup>th</sup> AMDS; Master Sgt. Carol Till, 434<sup>th</sup> AMDS; and Tech. Sgt. Sharon Leadford, 434<sup>th</sup> CES.

**Air Force Achievement Medal**—Staff Sgt. Venetia Williams, 434<sup>th</sup> Services Flight; Senior Airman Nicholas Mouser, 434<sup>th</sup> SF; and Staff Sgt. Jennifer Emmett, 434<sup>th</sup> SVF.

### Promotions

**To senior master sergeant**—Joseph Baer, 434<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

**To master sergeant**—Kurt Klemme, 434<sup>th</sup> MXA; and Paul McComas, 434<sup>th</sup> LRS.

**To technical sergeant**—Arthur O'Hair, 49<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Flight; and David Stanley, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW.

**To staff sergeant**—Danny Perez, 434<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron; Rebecca Aldrich, 434<sup>th</sup> CES; Randall Calmese, 434<sup>th</sup> MXS; Stacie Crama, 434<sup>th</sup> CES; Jeffrey Figaro, 434<sup>th</sup> MXS; William Forrest, 434<sup>th</sup> LRS; Krishma Patel, 434<sup>th</sup> CES; Nadine Ward, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW; and Anthony Kahl, 434<sup>th</sup> SFS.



Photo by SrA. Omar DelaCruz

### Laugh and learn

Second Lt. Chad Tice, a pilot assigned to the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, shares a laugh and his knowledge of the KC-135R Stratotanker with a visiting group of Air Force Junior ROTC cadets visiting Grissom. Many of the members of the JROTC are considering a career in aviation with the U.S. Air Force, and Grissom Airmen can provide students with valuable insight into career opportunities.

The address is:

<http://www.grissom.afrc.af.mil/>

For more information, contact the Public Affairs office at Ext. 3348.

### Free handbook

The Federal Citizen Information Center has released the free 2007  
June 2007

Consumer Action Handbook.

This free guide provides information about consumer issues, such as payday loans, identity theft, home buying, credit reports, car buying tips, and more.

Members can pick up a free copy at the Airmen and Family Readiness Office located in Bldg. 431.

# Incirlik deployers find a friend in KC

By SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner  
Public Affairs staff

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, TURKEY— It has been said that a dog is man’s best friend, and the deployed Airmen of the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing know exactly what that means.

They know because they have a best friend in “KC,” an Anatolian Shepherd, who has become a welcome sign to the tanker crews and their maintainers who are deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

According to a written history kept and provided by the maintainers assigned to the 385<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group, KC first showed up near the maintenance area alone, scrappy and in need of someone to love her.

Anatolian Shepherds originated in the Anatolian Plateau of Turkey, and were bred more than 6,000 years ago. They are often good watchdogs and are appreciated from their loyalty.

She first approached the maintenance crew of the 126<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing of the Illinois Air National Guard who were deployed there. They quickly adopted her, but soon had to leave their new friend behind.

When they left, a lasting friendship that has spanned continents and years began, as the maintainers from the 434<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron came into the picture, said Senior Master Sgt. Charles Hoover, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS flight chief.

“When we first came here in 2003, KC was already here,” said Sergeant Hoover. “She had just been adopted and she was very young, thin and energetic.”

The maintainers quickly warmed up to the pup, but it took KC a while to warm up to them, he said. KC was very skittish and the only way she would come close was to give her food, he added.

“She used to steal our hats, chew them up and throw them around,” said Sergeant Hoover, remembering his first experiences with KC. “Some of



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

**Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Hoover, 434<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, reaches down to pet KC. KC is an Anatolian Shepherd and has been the mascot of the KC-135R Stratotankers and the members that fly and maintain them at Incirlik since 2003.**

the other guys and I went through a couple hats that deployment.”

When the Grissom maintainers left, KC was handed off to another group of refueling Airmen, and she became the mascot of all the tankers and their crews, he said.

But, the story doesn’t end with the return of the 434<sup>th</sup> ARW Airmen. As they geared up for a second trip to Turkey, many of the ones who were there in 2003 began to think of KC and wonder how she was doing.

“When you think of Turkey, you think of KC,” said Sergeant Hoover. “She’s our mascot and friend; she’s like family to us.”

Sure enough, just as she had done in 2003, KC was waiting for the Grissom aircrews and maintainers. And, even though their friendship didn’t end, some things were a little different.

KC wasn’t so scrappy as then, and she wasn’t nearly as energetic, said Sergeant Hoover.

“She used to be more playful than what she is now,” he said. “But, she will still get excited and chase after those cats.”

Sergeant Hoover also said that KC is well groomed and maintained. She is current on all of her shots and is fed a steady diet.

When asked who has the job of taking care of KC, Sergeant Hoover said that responsibility falls on the maintenance officer or superintendent.

“We take care of her through the snack bar fund,” he said. “Through that program, we have saved over \$600 for her.”

Several of the other units have also chipped in to help take care of KC. One tanker unit even built a dog house for her that sits right behind the Maintenance Operations Center.

“She’s our mascot, the mascot of all the tankers, but she’s not just our dog,” said Sergeant Hoover. “She belongs to all of us here.”