

Heartland

# Warrior

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



Photo by SrA. Omar Delacruz

Street signs and physical addresses at Grissom were updated to fall in line with traditional addresses used on military installations and in the civilian community.

## New addresses Grissom roadways get historic names

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays  
Public Affairs staff

Motorists making their way around Grissom may have noticed a change recently.

Roads on base got a makeover with new street names and building addresses.

The project brings Grissom inline with other military bases having physical street addresses for buildings.

While the traditional building numbers will remain for in-house and civil engineering use, mailing addresses for future correspondence and deliveries have changed to coincide with the new addresses -- as well as 911 purposes.

For example, in the past, the Public Affairs office address was Bldg. 596, Room 200A. With the new addresses the address would be 7207 Grissom Ave., Room 200A.

Many of the streets themselves have new names.

The flavor of the names reflect military and aviation for the most part.

New street names include Warrior Avenue; Tanker, Skytrain, and Boxcar Streets; as well as Chocks, Dragonfly, Bakalar and Sextant Lanes. Other new streets are Leatherneck and Munitions Drives; as well as Atterbury Way and Boom Place.

A complete listing of streets and addresses is available on the Grissom intranet site at <https://wwwmil.434arw.afrc.af.mil>

# Opportunity, diversity fair a huge success

By Col. Kerry Keithcart,  
434<sup>th</sup> ARW vice commander

The success of the Human Resources Development Council is good hands as co-chairs Col. Tim Cox, my replacement as the vice commander, and Master Sgt. Tina Youker, 434<sup>th</sup> Operations Group are poised to take the council to the next level.

We're always looking to get the entire wing involved in finding ways to take care of people and live up to the mantra of 'Opportunity, Mentoring and Diversity.'

On the opportunity front, the opportunity fair we held in June was a huge success and we hope that it will continue to grow in the years to come. More than 13 organizations and groups were represented ranging from the wing enlisted advisory council to the chief's group to the honor guard and civilian personnel.

Combine that with good food and entertainment, mix in door prizes and give aways and you have a great formula for the success we had.

Other upcoming opportunities include attendance of the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the Tuskegee Airman conference in Dallas.

During the fair, Colonel Cox and Sergeant Youker worked the mentorship booth which sets the foundation for our Mentoring 101 session now slated for August.

Grissom can take the lead in the mentoring program in the Air Force Reserve Command through classes and both formal and informal discussions.

Our diversity event held in conjunction with the opportunity fair was very well received.

Diversity is about reaching out to a diverse population to help obtain that 'diversity of thought' while maintaining the highest standards.

Senior Master Sgt. Sandy Dye gave a dissertation on Women in Leadership. She explained that at one time only two percent of the military was comprised of women, but now the Air Force is leading the way with more than 25 percent of the force comprised of females in nearly all career fields. That change has improved the overall effectiveness of the military.

Master Sgt. James Carter, a member of the Chicago Police Department, shared stories and spoke of how diversity has



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

Tech. Sgt. Nora Jones, 434th ARW, performs an interpretive dance.

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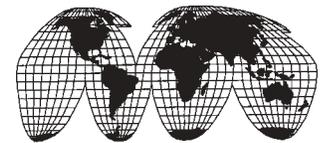
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# Wing sets sights on Combat Dining In

By SrA. Ben Mota  
Public Affairs staff

Leave your blues behind and grab your rain gear—Grissom's 2007 Combat Dining In is quickly approaching.

This is Grissom's first year to conduct a Combat Dining In. Approximately 300 Airmen from all areas of the base will come together for fellowship, esprit de corps, and social rapport in an event that is sure to bring laughter and joy.

The combat dining in is a newer tradition that is built around the traditional dining in but with far less of a formal atmosphere, said Master Sgt. Scott Shives, a communications specialist with the 434<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron.

Although less formal than a traditional dining in, Airmen are still required to comply with Air Force standards regarding uniform. The uniform for the event is BDU, DCU or flight suits.

A range of events including dinner chimes, posting of the colors, national anthem, POW/MIA ceremony, toasting and a guest speaker Maj. Gen. Mark Pillar will occur before special maneuvers begin.

"The entrance to the event will be setup just like a processing line for a deployment," said Sergeant Shives.

Guests will be issued water guns, sponge balls and dog tags at the processing line. All personal weapons including super soakers, water balloons and hoses that lead to fire hydrants are prohibited.

"The water guns are not big but they have some range to them," said Master Sgt. Christy Bartel, a logistics management specialist with the 434<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Operations Flight.

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improved the way that the police department there operates.

Entertainment consisted of Tech. Sgt. Nora Jones performing an interpretive dance and Tech. Sgt. Paul

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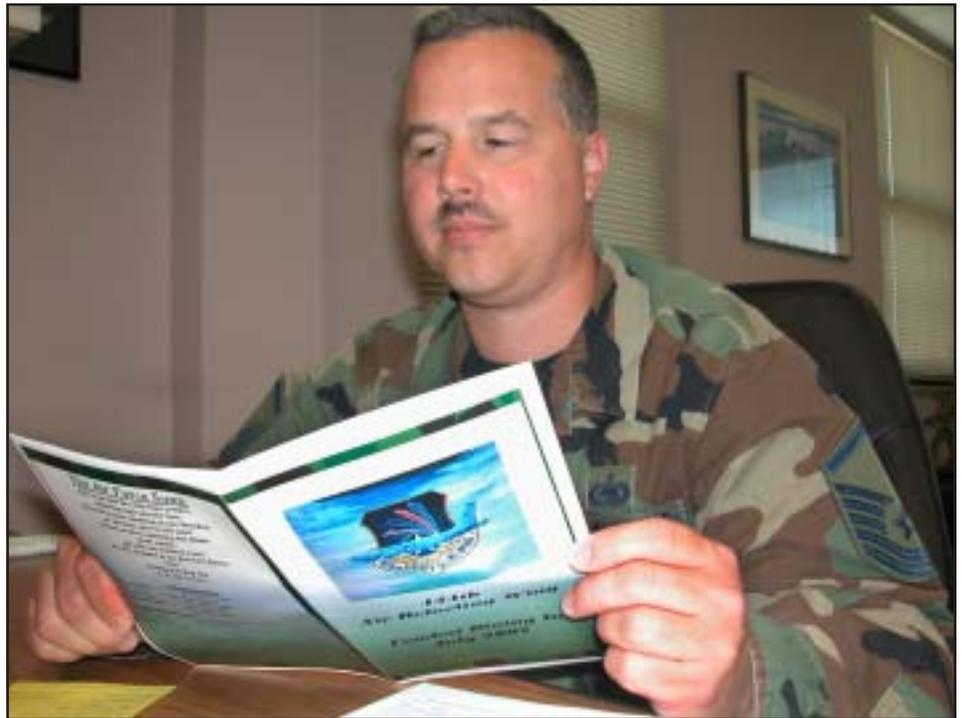


Photo by SrA. Ben Mota

**Master Sgt. Scott Shives reviews the program for the Combat Dining In.**

"There will be an amnesty box at the processing line for any banned items, and security forces will be there to enforce these rules," Sergeant Shives said with a grin on his face.

The rules of engagement for the event specify that legitimate targets are only those who are in the combat zone. Violators of the ROEs will suffer the wrath of the president and might find themselves in the combat zone.

Medics will be present during the entire ceremony. In an event that someone is injured or the festivities need to come to a temporary halt, designated individuals will have air horns that signify a cease fire.

Each guest will have an Air Force form 341.

These are the forms given to new Airman while in basic training. Air-

men are to carry the forms around with them at all times as a way to keep track of infractions during training.

Throughout the event members are asked to keep track of others infractions that violate the rules of the mess until The Grog Bowl begins.

All of those who have violated the "rules of the mess" will enter the combat zone and pass thru a "confusion course" to get to the grog bowl. While in the confusion course, they will be subjected to a barrage of water from the variety of weapons used. Here the offender's fate will be determined as guilty or innocent.

Tickets to the event will be sold throughout June on a first come first serve basis.

Those not attending the event will eat at dock 6 from 1630-1730 instead of at the dining facility.

Sherrod, 74<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron playing the bagpipes.

We certainly had a great time and if you couldn't join us this year, we hope that next year you will. There's power

in our differences and diversity. Together we can harness that and use it to our advantage to continue making the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing the unit of choice.

# Maintainers deploy, keep birds flying

By SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner  
Public Affairs staff

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, TURKEY—Deploying is something that every Airmen must deal with, and a group of maintainers from Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., have done that and more.

More than 120 of Grissom's finest deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"Our main job over here is to keep those planes flying," said Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah Rushmore, 434<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron communications and navigation systems technician. "It can be a big job, but it's what we are trained to do."

Shortly after they deployed, the maintenance crews found out their job was no easy task, said Sergeant Rushmore.

"When we first got here, we were in transition, so we didn't have all the people we needed," he said. "At times it got a little heavy, but we all pulled together and were able to get through it."

With the first 21 days of the deployment complete and over 2.3 million pounds of fuel offloaded, the maintainers have contributed a lot to the war effort, he added.

"I think our biggest contributions over here have been some of the simplest," said Senior Airman Brandon Strickland, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS communica-



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

**Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah Rushmore, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron communications and navigation systems specialist, works to make sure a KC-135R Stratotanker is ready to go while deployed to Incirlik AB, Turkey.**

tions and navigation systems technician. "Making sure that all the systems work and giving a helping hand; there is not always enough people out there to cover the job, so going out and helping other people has been key to our success."

The deployment may have had its pressures, but Airman Strickland said he was excited about that because it gave him valuable experience.

"It's really exciting being out there,

seeing new things and getting to assist other career fields I have had nothing to do with before," he said. "Being able to do the simple things like hooking a tow bar to an aircraft is really awesome."

When asked if they felt prepared for this deployment, both maintenance Airmen said they felt more than ready.

"We've all been trained really well for this job," said Sergeant Rushmore. "Sometimes there is a memory lapse, but you start back from what you learned in (technical) school and what you got taught at Grissom; then, you let it shine."

Airman Strickland also added that this deployment is a very unique and interesting experience, especially for reservists.

"Back home, we help planes fly for training, but here it's real world; who knows what they could be doing," he said. "They could be taking troops home or getting them off the battlefield; we

get the chance to be a part of it instead of sitting on the sidelines."

Both Airmen also said they felt like this deployment gave them valuable experiences outside of their Air Force career.

"It's really neat, not just being part of the mission but being able to also come over here and experience the (Turkish) culture and meet the people," said Airman Strickland.

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# Advisors help Airmen make career choices

By SrA. Chris Bolen  
Public Affairs staff

Managing an Air Force career can be a daunting task, however there is help.

At Grissom that help comes from the 21 career advisors led by Master Sgt. Juanita Withrow, chief of career enhancement.

While retention is a major goal of the Grissom advisors, a large part of this effort involves educating Airmen on their career options, as well as other opportunities.

“We have three group advisors and every squadron has an advisor,” explains Sergeant. Withrow. “Grissom personnel are barely more than a few feet away from a career advisor,” she continued.

“One of our main objectives is to provide individuals with information so they can make smart choices,” she emphasized. “We maintain a dynamic career program, so we can retain the best,” she continued.

The advisors are available to clarify and provide advice to Airmen of every level.

As one part of this process, she and her staff are developing career plan-

ning books or binders to be distributed to the squadrons. The book covers a wide range of subjects aimed at reservists and covers advancements, promotions, education programs, and even entitlements for retirees, she said.

“Our advisors are also on watch for career opportunities that people do not know about,” she noted. “We can educate people on other career fields, and how to achieve their goals.”

The chaplain field and even the Air Force Reserve band are opportunities few people are aware of, she continued.

One recent example Sergeant Withrow notes is a Grissom Airman, who was selected to attend the Air Force Academy. “When the opportunity arose, my office contacted the commanders with a list of those individuals who met the requirements,” she explained.

“Our career advisors have a wide breadth of experience, and we have a good pool of knowledge,” she notes. A career advisor has to be a minimum



Master Sgt. Juanita Withrow

of a technical sergeant, and possess a 7-level.

“Our advisors have been around for a while,” she adds. “We can provide a wide range of support. However, ultimately it is up to the service member to take the information we provide and run with it,” stated Sergeant Withrow.

# Backpacks help deployers stay connected

By SrA. Ben Mota  
Public Affairs staff

A reservist in the Air Force is required to be ready for a deployment with only a moments notice. Airmen often deploy to remote locations that make it difficult to stay connected with family members at home.

A new program makes the communication process easier for the children at home that miss their loved ones by allowing them to receive a “Keep Connected Backpack”.

The backpack is for the children of deploying personnel who have orders to be away from home for a period of time longer than 120 days, said Mike

Sampson, the services director and individual in charge of the program.

The Air Force purchased nearly 7000 of the backpacks and made them available for guard and reserve locations with high rates of deployments.

The backpack has a variety of items designed to help family members keep in touch with deployed personnel, said Mr. Sampson.

The idea of the program is for children of the Airman being deployed to have one backpack each.

The items inside the packs are designed for children of all ages. Some of these items include: a bear, hat, camera, pin, note cards, child’s

drawstring bag, insert bag, journals, recorder pens, carabineer key rings, two mouse pads, bracelets and book-marks.

The first of the backpacks were given to members leaving on the recent deployment to Iraq.

The first two backpacks went to the children of Master Sgt. Chris Heston, a utilities journeyman with the 434<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron.

“I really like the voice recording pens”, he said. “It will be comforting to be able to hear my children’s voice while I am away.”

If you are deploying and are interested in receiving a backpack please contact Mr. Sampson at Ext. 2414.



Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen

## Sight to fight

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Ricardo Salvat, an optometrist, performs a slit-lamp exam on Staff Sgt. Jason Geiger, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron. The exam is performed on the cornea to detect the presence of foreign objects and abrasions. He warns that everyone must stay cognizant of the need for eye protection and that eye safety is no accident.

## 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 July 7-8; and 4-5 August.

Alternate UTAs are July 21-22; and 25-26 August.

**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.

## Celebration of faith

Grissom will hold its annual Celebration of Faith during the September unit training assembly.

The event will coincide with the family appreciation day Sept. 8.

This year, the production "And He Came Knocking," will be featured.

The event is open to all faiths.

In addition, if anyone is interested in participating in the program, they can get signed up by contacting Senior

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Master Sgt. Linda Mason at linda.mason@grissom.af.mil, or Master Sgt. Trudy Burnett at trudy.burnett@grissom.af.mil

### **Golf for tots**

Grissom Marines are gearing up for their annual Toys for Tots drive and are teeing it up to get the project started.

The Albert E. Shockey Detachment of the Marine Corps League, in conjunction with Detachment 1 Communications Company at Grissom, will sponsor the fifth annual John W. Ladd Memorial Toys for Tots Charity Golf Outing Aug. 11.

The shot-gun start event tees off at 8 a.m. at the Chippendale Golf Course in Kokomo.

Four-person teams will compete in a best ball format. The cost is \$50 per person or \$200 per team.

All the proceeds benefit the Toys for Tots program.

For more information, call Woody Luecke at 765-455-0212 or Staff Sgt. Ryan Seibert at 765-688-4426, or email at golf@kokomomarines.com

### **Retiree appreciation**

The Grissom Retiree Information Office will host a special Military Retiree Appreciation Day from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 24 at Grissom.

The event will be held at the new pavilion adjacent to the 434th Services Complex at Grissom Air Reserve Base and is open to all military retirees, regardless of branch of service, and their families.

Lunch is free and will be catered by the 434th Services Flight.

An information fair will include representatives from TRICARE, Veterans Administration, Delta Dental, 434th Military Personnel Flight, Grissom Community Council, Miami and Cass County Veterans Service Offices, American Legion, Navy League, Air Force Association, Marine Corps League, Disabled American Veterans, and the Grissom Air Museum.

For more information, call the office at Ext. 3002.

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*Photo by SrA. Omar Delacruz*

### **Water wagon**

Marvin Plunkett, a grounds maintainer with Satellite Services Inc., waters one of the roadside trees at Grissom. Along with receiving many Department of Defense awards for environmental excellence, Grissom has been designated a "Tree City" by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

# Command post controller headed to Academy

By SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner  
Public Affairs staff

Going above and beyond, one Grissom Airmen is making his dreams of greatness come true as he prepares to enter the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School.

Senior Airman Christopher Danielson, 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing command post controller, was recently selected to attend the school on his path the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Airman Danielson said he never dreamed he would one day be readying for the academy.

"Initially I joined the Air Force Reserve to get help with college and serve," he said. "I've always wanted to be in the military."

Airman Danielson was selected by Lt. Col. Stephen Mather, command post operations officer, to be put in for an academy appointment based off the Airman's military service thus far.

"Colonel Mather brought up the idea of me going to the academy through the Leaders Encouraging Airman Development program," stated Airman Danielson.

LEAD allows commanders to seek outstanding and deserving qualified Airmen for appointments to the U.S. Air Force Academy and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship programs.

"The thing I love about Chris is I can identify a need and 6 months down the road, he will bring me a completed product," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Withrow, command post superintendent. "He requires no supervision and he does everything to the best of his ability."

Before attending the academy, Airman Danielson must attend the preparatory school.

The prep school mission is to motivate, prepare, and evaluate selected candidates in an academic, military, moral, and physical environment, to perform successfully and enhance diversity.

"When you are put in prep school, you are typically enrolled in the Air



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

**Senior Airman Christopher Danielson, command post controller, is headed to the Air Force Academy.**

Force Reserve and put on active duty status, but since I am already in the Reserve, I get to keep my rank," said the Airman.

Academy cadets complete four years of studies leading to a bachelor of science degree. Emphasis is given to academics, military training, athletic conditioning, and spiritual and ethical development.

Academics include classes in the basic sciences, engineering, humanities, social sciences, and military art and science. Within this framework, all cadets complete a core curriculum consisting of 112 semester hours. They can specialize in any of 30 academic majors and 4 minors.

When Airman Danielson told his family about his acceptance, they were really excited, he said.

"When I told my mom she started crying out of happiness," he recounted. "No one from my family has ever done anything like this."

Those who work with him in the command post are also excited, but are finding it hard to let one of their best go.

"I have mixed emotions because I know that this means Chris is going to be gone from our command post forever and he is nothing short of being

a super trooper and we will feel the loss, but it will be for the greater good," said Sergeant Withrow. "The Air Force, overall, will gain a tremendous asset."

Sergeant Withrow added he plans to keep track of Airman Danielson throughout his Air Force career.

"Having the academy feather in his cap will help him rise through the ranks," he said. "I honestly could see him as a wing commander some day."

And Airman Danielson is very excited, not only about his Air Force career, but what this opportunity will lead to beyond the military.

"Since I found out I was going, my head has been swimming with the possibilities I have in front of me," he said. "There are so many things that I want to do, and the Air Force Academy is the way to get there; there's no doubt about that."

Looking back on his past, Airman Danielson attributes his opportunity to the Air Force Reserve.

"I definitely would not have had the opportunity to go into the academy if I didn't join the Reserve," he said. "And now, with this as a stepping stone, I want to reach out beyond the Air Force; I want to become bigger because of this."