

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



Photo by Senior Airman Carl Berry

Mission complete

Firefighters from the Grissom Fire Department performed a confined space exercise Nov. 7. The exercise took place in one of the fuel tanks on base. The purpose of the exercise was to see how efficient the fire department was at rescuing a person in a confined space that may be toxic.

Decals eliminated

Focus on people, not vehicles

The Air Force form 2220 is no longer needed to get a vehicle onto Grissom.

“A recent look at base access procedures indicates the need for common standards to help manage expectations and use guard forces effectively,” said Gen. Duncan McNabb, Air Force vice chief of staff. “The process must focus on people, not vehicles.”

This means only one valid Department of Defense or other federal government credential is needed for entry on an Air Force installation.

All privately owned vehicles must be properly licensed, inspected and insured in accordance with state and local laws. Rental vehicles are considered POV’s for the purposes of base entry control.

All vehicle operators need to have the proper endorsements to operate special purpose vehicles such as motorcycles, semi-trucks, buses and certain recreational vehicles, said Maj. Randall Stivers, 434th Security Forces Squadron commander, in a policy letter distributed on base.

Commercial, delivery or contract vehicles entering Air Force installations will be searched for explosives.

If a visitor is not being properly escorted onto the installation the visitor will be required to obtain an AF Form 75 (visitors pass).

The sponsor or vouchers are responsible for maintaining positive control over their visitor’s.

Commanders retain authority to implement additional measures.

Such measures should be based on threat information or increased force protection conditions.

Those requiring a DD Form 2220 for entry onto other installations, may want to inform them to maintain their current form and when it expires they will need to go to another installation that issues 2220’s to obtain another.

Heroes of today

Be proud of your accomplishments

By Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy
434th Air Refueling Wing

This has been yet another year of high operations tempo for the 434th Air Refueling Wing as well as for all members of the military.

We all should be proud of our fantastic accomplishments.

Our Nation has always had a proud history of citizens who wear the uniform, making the commitment and sometimes the ultimate sacrifice, to protect freedom.

History records these people as heroes.

I proudly observe your courage and sacrifice on a daily basis.

I know that each of you are extremely patriotic and are compassionate about the freedoms and security we all enjoy.

You prove to the Nation again and again that you are the heroes of today.

During this holiday season come together with your families and reflect on the selfless sacrifices that you and others have made.

Without these sacrifices our entire way of life would be in jeopardy.

Celebrate in the fact that for all our enemy's attempts to change our way of life, to make us cower in our homes in fear and to loose faith in our government, we continue to prevail and continue to live our lives with freedom



General Despinoy

as Americans.

I also ask that sometime during the holiday season you take a moment to think about those with whom we share a special bond.

Think about those service members who are on duty around the world and cannot share the time with their families. Think about the comrades in arms who have given their lives so that we may enjoy this holiday season.

I am very proud of all of you.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season.

AFRC commander sends greetings, holiday wishes

By Lt. Gen. John Bradley
Commander of AFRC

WASHINGTON — As we look forward to this holiday season and the New Year, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to each of you, your families and employers for the sacrifices you've made for our country each and every day.

Our Airmen have answered the call to service during a critical time in our nation's history. Many of you are preparing to deploy overseas, perhaps for the first time in your military careers, while others are deploying for another tour. This courage and willingness to defend our freedom is a beacon for all Americans.

The New Year promises challenges and changes as we continue our mission to defend our nation and the cause of freedom around the world.

Please know that our contributions as "Unrivaled Wingmen" make us valued and respected members of the Total Force.

Jan and I salute you, and wish you and yours Happy Holidays and a safe and joyous New Year.

We are proud of your patriotism and loyalty to our great nation. (AFRCNS)

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content should be directed to the editor (765) 688-3348.

Staff

- Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy.....commander
- Lt. Col. Gary Lockard.....chief, public affairs
- Capt. Kelly Howard.....public affairs officer
- Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays.....editor
- Master Sgt. Rob Hoffman.....graphics
- Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz.....photographer
- Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner.....staff writer
- SrA. Chris Bolen.....staff writer
- SrA. Ben Mota.....staff writer
- SrA. Omar Delacruz.....staff writer
- SrA. Carl Berry.....staff writer
- Penny Pearson.....administration



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Shining diamond

Grissom maintainer recognized as base first sergeant of the year

By SrA. Ben Mota
Public Affairs staff

Each year one of Grissom's first sergeants is recognized for going above and beyond their job expectations.

Senior Master Sgt. Janet Wescott, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, was that individual, earning her the title of 434th Air Refueling Wing First Sergeant of the Year.

First sergeants are responsible for the morale, welfare, and conduct of all the enlisted members in a squadron and play an important role as the chief adviser's to the squadron commander concerning the enlisted force.

However, the responsibilities of a first sergeant can easily be overlooked.

It is not until someone looks into the duties of a first sergeant that they realize the huge responsibilities carried on their shoulders.

"At the rank of staff sergeant I began to observe the role of my squadron's first sergeant," said Sergeant Westcott. "I began to look at the role of a first sergeant in a different way because I saw how they took care of their people, and looked out for those individuals' best interests."

Lt. Col. Stephen Whicker, 434th AMXS commander, says that he nominated Sergeant Westcott as a candidate for the award because she not only looks out for the welfare of the Airman in her squadron, but everyone else on the base.

"We are the largest squadron on the base, and the first sergeant still takes the time to be involved in several other activities at Grissom," said Colonel Whicker.

"I absolutely love my job," said the sergeant with a smile on her face. "It



Senior Master Sgt. Wescott

gives me the opportunity to make a difference in an Airman's life."

There is no such thing as a typical day for a first sergeant, she explained. At any given time she can be listening to five different sides of a story, and it is her job to give everyone the benefit of the doubt until she gets to the truth.

Sergeant Wescott has been a first sergeant for nine years of her 18-year military career.

Out of those nine years, she has received the 434th First Sergeant of the Year award three other times at different locations.

The sergeant stated her main goal is to get to know everyone in the squadron and to get them recognized for the good things that they do at Grissom.

"She is what a shirt should be," said Staff Sgt. Randall Calmese, 434th AMXS information management specialist. "She keeps military tradition and professionalism in mind while at the same time staying fair and open minded to those she serves."



FY 08 change means command to operate with fewer reservists

WASHINGTON — The Air Force Reserve Command will operate with a smaller force in 2008.

The fiscal 2008 Defense Appropriations Act signed by President George Bush Nov. 13, funds an end-strength of 67,500 reservists.

Last year the projected end-strength was 74,900.

The new legislation also approves 9,999 full-time air reserve technicians and 2,721 full-time Active Guard and Reserve reservists.

The defense bill provides the Department of Defense with nearly \$460 billion in discretionary funding and funds a 3.5-percent, across-the-board military pay raise for active and reserve forces.

From this act, AFRC receives about \$1.36 billion for its reserve personnel appropriation and about \$2.83 billion in operations and maintenance funds to run the command.

The amount for military construction funding will be finalized when the Military Construction/Veterans Affairs bill is passed. (AFRCNS)

Year 3rd Review

By Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

As the year draws to an end, Grissom's members can look back at the achievements they have accomplished.

This year, members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing were involved with everything from air refueling firsts to water survival training.

Starting off the year,

Grissom aircrew members were able to participate in the first refueling missions done by the Pakistani Air Force.

While the aircrews were aiding the Pakistanis, the 434th Security Forces Squadron members were helping train Iraqis during their deployment, which ended in February.

March brought a season long basketball tournament to an end, with the 434th Communications Squadron

taking top prize.

Keeping cool, the base was hit by a snow storm in April as the unit geared up for a deployment to Incirlik, AB, Turkey in May.

Many of the deployers returned in June, just in time for the annual multi-cultural banquet followed by the first-ever wing Combat Dinning-In in July.

Also in July, a team from the 434th Security Forces Squadron represented the wing at Air Mobility Rodeo 2007, McCord AFB, Wash.

In August, the base held a retiree information fair. The wing also held a Community Council Day.

It was back to business in September, with the 434th Operations Group participating in a joint water survival exercise with the U.S. Coast Guard and local law enforcement members.

The base also held its

annual Family Day Picnic in September, where Airmen and their families participated in events, games and more.

October saw an up shift in operational exercises as the base staged two exercises focused on responding to attacks, setting the stage for the upcoming expeditionary operational readiness inspection in 2010.

In November the base hosted another first, with the first annual Jovanovich Cup softball game being held between the two flying squadrons in remembrance of Lt. Col. George Jovanovich.

And though that all might sound like a lot, the men and women of the 434th ARW have been involved in so much more. Deploying, training and serving around the world, Grissom's finest have continued the tradition of being the "Unit of Choice" in 2007.



January: Grissom air crew members performed the very first aerial refueling mission with the Pakistan air force during Exercise Iron Falcon 0701.



March 4: Dan Percival, a member of the 434th Communication's Squadron team, drives to the hoop during a championship game. The communicators shot down the flyers 53-42 to win the tournament title.



May 16: Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah Rushmore, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, makes sure a KC-135R Stratotanker is ready to go while deployed with other base members to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

January

February

March

April

May

June

February 28: Staff Sgt. Foye Cox, 434th Security Forces Squadron, gets a big hug from his wife Jane upon his return from a six-month deployment to Iraq. Thirteen members of the 434th SFS were deployed with the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.



April 15: Senior Airman Ann Marie Schwartze races towards the end of her run. During April, Grissom was hit by a snow storm that, making it conditions slippery for the UTA.



June 2: Tech. Sgt. Nora Jones, 434th Air Refueling Wing military equal opportunity office, performs an interpretive dance during an opportunity and diversity fair.



What will you remember most about 2007?



"It's been an awesome year. One of my most memorable moments was meeting the base servicemembers during my first UTA in July."

Maj. Rebecca Fox
434th Communications Squadron



"This is my first year here, and I can really see that Grissom is family oriented. My family and I really enjoyed family day."

Airman 1st Class Michael McClintock
434th Security Forces Squadron



"My favorite memory was beating the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron in this years Jovonovich Cup, in honor of Lt. Col. Jovonovich."

Capt. Brian Thompson
74th Air Refueling Squadron



"My best memory was when I came up here on man days to help out with the laser-etching program with the maintenance group."

Senior Airman Tammie Washington
434th Maintenance Operations Flight



"I really love the people I have worked with this year. This has been a great experience and I really enjoy coming to work everyday."

Senior Airman Erica Suchovsky
434th Aeromedical Squadron



"My most memorable time this year was working my first UTA and meeting all the great people that work in the Logistic Readiness Squadron"

Airman Daniel Mota
434th Logistic Readiness Squadron



July 7: Grissom holds its first combat dining in and Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski, 434th Air Refueling Wing command chief, arrived with her game face on.



September 9: Lt. Col. Miles Heaslip, 434th Operations Support Squadron mission development officer, is hoisted out of the water by the U.S. Coast Guard during a joint water survival training exercise.



November 3: Dan Keeney, 74th Air Refueling Squadron, prepares to smash a ball during the first Jovanovich Cup softball game that pitted the 72nd ARS against the 74th ARS.

July

August

September

October

November

December

August 24: Master Sgt. Ronald Wright, 434th Mission Support Flight, shares a laugh with a military retiree during a military retiree appreciation day event.



October 23: A 'smoldering tanker truck' sits at the main gate. The simulation of an exploding truck kicked off an exercise on the base Oct. 23, and Grissom personnel took actions to deal with the situation and simulated 'injuries' that occurred.





Photo by SrA. Carl Berry

Posting the colors

Members of the Grissom Honor Guard stand at mid-field of the RCA Dome in Indianapolis Nov. 18 as they post the colors for the Colts game versus the Kansas City Chiefs. The Colts won the game 13-10 on a field goal with four seconds left on the clock. Also during the game, Colts coach Tony Dungy accepted an Air Force Recruiting Service American Spirit Award on behalf of the Colts. The Award was presented to Coach Dungy by Gen. William Looney III, the commander of Air Education and Training Command.

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 are Dec 1-2; and Jan. 5-6.

Alternate UTAs are Dec. 8-9; and Jan. 26-27.

Worship services are held in building 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.

Military ball

Grissom will host a military ball April 5, 2008 to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force Reserve Command



Dress will be service dress, semi-formal, or Mess Dress for military

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members and suit and tie and cocktail/T-length dress for civilians.

Married military members can opt for one member to be in civilian clothes.

More information on cost will be provided as soon as it is announced.

Honor Guard

The Grissom Honor Guard is currently recruiting highly motivated individuals to join their ranks.

The primary mission of the Honor Guard is to provide military funeral honors for active duty members, retirees and veterans who have served our country honorably.

The Honor Guard also participates in various community and base events.



Anyone interested in learning more about the Honor Guard, or possibly becoming a member, should contact Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason at Linda.mason@Grissom.af.mil or Master Sgt. Cinthia Webb at Cinthia.webb@grissom.af.mil

Grissom will hold a training class for new members Jan. 28-Feb. 1 at Grissom.

Top 3 elections

The 434 Air Refueling Wing Top 3 will be holding elections for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary at its first ever General Meeting during the January UTA.

Nominations are currently being accepted and need to be directed to SMS Douglas Greenbank at (Douglas.greenbank@grissom.af.mil).

Members can self-nominate or nominate a fellow wing member, however, all nominated members must

be willing to serve, so please ask before nominating.

People must indicate which office the nominees are running for.

Nominations need to be forwarded to Sergeant Greenbank by noon, Dec. 2.

Only current paid members are eligible for voting or nominating.

This does not mean that if you are not currently a member that you cannot become a member.

Those interested in becoming a member, or have any messages about the Wing Top 3, please email Senior Master Sgt. William Megnin at William.Megnin@grissom.af.mil.

Membership dues of \$30 (which includes an embroidered polo shirt, Charter Membership Certificate and Charter Membership card) payable to 434 ARW Top 3 to:

434 ARW/CCC
7207 Grissom Avenue
Grissom ARB IN 46971-5000

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal—Master Sgt. Michael Hileman, 434th Maintenance Group; Master Sgt. Charles Pemberton, 434th Maintenance Squadron; and Master Sgt. Allen Bridgeman, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron.

Air Force Commendation Medal—Lt. Col. Charles Good, 434th Air Refueling Wing; Master Sgt. David Shaffer, 434th Communications Squadron; Master Sgt. Darin Daugherty, 434th MXS; Senior Master Sgt. Kirk Bireley, 434th Security Forces Squadron; Senior Master Sgt. David Burton, 434th SFS; Senior Master Sgt. Bradley Klepinger, 434th SFS; Tech. Sgt. Steven Scott, 434th SFS; Technical Sgt. John Rapp, 434th SFS; Master Sgt. Michael Walker, 434th SFS; and Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays, 434th ARW.

Air Force Achievement Medal—Capt. Thomas Richard, 434th SFS; 1st Lt. Paul Hayes, 434th SFS; Lt. Col. Edward Dieringer, 72nd

ARS; Master Sgt. Rickie King, 434th SFS; Tech. Sgt. David Rooke, 434th SFS; Staff Sgt. Ty Jones, 434th SFS; Staff Sgt. Benjamin Schenkel, 434th SFS; Staff Sgt. Terry Truex, 434th SFS; Staff Sgt. Timothy Augustyn, 434th SFS; Senior Airman Charles Marrillia, 434th SFS; Staff Sgt. Sean Miller, 434th SFS; Tech. Sgt. Steven Scott, 434th SFS; Master Sgt. William Miller, 434th SFS; Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Baker, 434th SFS; Tech. Sgt. Thomas Sawyer, 434th SFS; Tech. Sgt. Dustin Schimp, 434th SFS; Tech. Sgt. James Dulin, 434th SFS; Master Sgt. Christopher Miller, 434th SFS; Master Sgt. Scott Yaden, 434th SFS; Senior Airman Kristina Williams, 434th SFS; Staff Sgt. Philip Fogleman, 434th SFS; Tech. Sgt. James Coil, 434th SFS; Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Baker, 434th SFS; Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Buffon, 434th SFS; Senior Airman Aaron Klene, 434th SFS; Senior Airman Dustin Lindley, 434th SFS; Master Sgt. Michael Walker, 434th SFS; Senior Master Sgt. William Hamilton, 434th SFS; Senior Airman Phong Huyhn,

434th MXS; Staff Sgt. Benjiman Durr, 434th SFS; and Senior Airman Timothy Boggs, 434th SFS.

Air Force Combat Action Medal—Maj. Patrick Brien, 72nd ARS.

Promotions

To senior master sergeant—Michael Miller, 434th AMXS; and Douglas Greenbank, 434th Services Flight.

To master sergeant—Rachelle Hill, 434th ARW; James Fier, 434th ARW; Kevin Ballentine, 434th AMXS; and Janet Rector, 72nd ARS.

To technical sergeant—Rose Werner, 434th SFS; Soyica Hinkle, 434th CES; John Pedro, 434th AMXS; Michael Darnell, 434th LRS; and Ronald Mahoy, 434th SFS.

To staff sergeant—Donovan Platte, 434th SFS; and Keith Tennant, 434th CES.



74th ARS wins inaugural Jovanovich Cup

By SrA. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs staff

A new tradition to remember an old friend started in November when Grissom's two air refueling squadrons kicked off the inaugural Jovanovich Cup competition to remember Lt. Col. George Jovanovich.

Colonel Jovanovich died in an auto accident in March of 2006. He was a plans officer with the 434th Operation Support Squadron.

This year, the competition involved a softball game...in which the 'Fighting Red Tags' from the 74th Air Refueling Squadron rallied from seven runs down in the third inning to shoot down their 72nd ARS rivals 18-9.

To the winner go the spoils, or in this case a trophy and bragging rights for a year.

"Once a year the men and women of the 72nd and 74th Air Refueling

Squadrons will come together on a field of battle for the honor of taking ownership of the Jovanovich Cup. A cup forged from the strength of Air Force Silver and filled with the spirit of camaraderie, laughter and friendship and the warrior spirit which highlighted George as 'everyone's best friend.'" So reads the decree from the Jovanovich Cup.

The idea for the Cup and the competition to award it was the brain child of Lt. Col. Paul Wietbrock, 74th ARS commander.

"It was all Colonel Wietbrock's idea," explained Lt. Colonel Laen August, 72nd ARS commander. "He was inspired to come up with a way to honor the memory of George, by promoting friendly competition and esprit de corps within the flying squadrons," the colonel continued.

As the game began all Colonel Wietbrock could do is watch from a distance – a great distance as the sortie he was flying was in a pattern overhead, but he did land in time to participate.

"This is a way to keep George's memory alive among his fellow flyers through a friendly means which reflected his personality," Colonel August concluded. Per rules of the competition, the 72nd ARS will be the home team in next years competition and responsible for hosting every aspect of the Jovanovich Cup.



Dan Keeney, a shortstop for the 74th ARS, makes a back handed stab at a ball laced up the middle.



Lt. Col. Kenneth Hatcher, 74th ARS, winds up to take his cut at a pitch during inaugural Jovanovich Cup action in November.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Lt. Col. Doug Gullion, second basemen for the 74th ARS, guns down a would-be 72nd ARS base runner as he helped the Fighting Red Tags win 18-9.