



# Heartland WARRIOR

Volume 16, Issue 5

11

AFRC commander visits...2  
Traffic patterns changing...3  
Airmen manipulate metal...5

# Heartland WARRIOR

Vol. 16, No. 5  
May 2011

This funded Air Force Reserve Command newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the Heartland Warrior are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, and prepared by the Public Affairs Office of the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, IN, 46971-5000.

Any questions regarding any content should be directed to the editor at (765) 688-3348.

## Staff

Col. William T. "Tim" Cahoon.....commander  
Lt. Col. Gary Lockard.....chief, public affairs  
Capt. Kelly Howard.....public affairs officer  
Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays.....editor  
Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner.....assistant editor  
Staff Sgt. Carl Berry.....staff writer  
SrA. Andrew McLaughlin.....staff writer  
SrA. Damon Kasberg.....staff writer

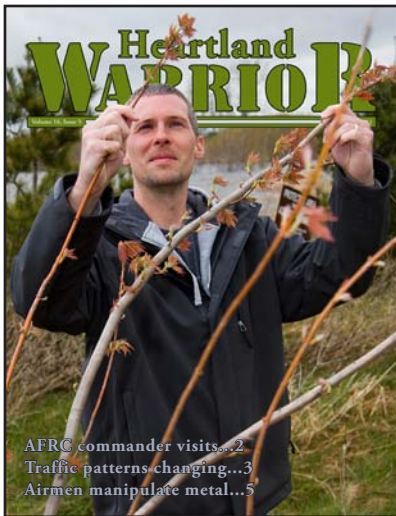
## World Wide Web

Air Force Reserve Home Page

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

Grissom Home Page

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



## On the cover...

Cory Walters, a biological scientist with the 434<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron, checks on red maples sapplings in a designated wetlands area on the west side of the base. Grissom balances environmental protection with mission accomplishment daily. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)



Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, Jr., Chief of Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve Command commander, speaks to 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing personnel at a town hall meeting here during a recent visit. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays)

# AFRC commander visits

By Tech. Sgt. Mark  
Orders-Woempner  
*Public Affairs staff*

Home is where the heart is, and for the Chief of the Air Force Reserve, a quick stop a Grissom was, in a way, a homecoming.

"It's been really heartwarming coming back here to Grissom," said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, Jr., Air Force Reserve Command commander, who was on a tour of AFRC installations in the Midwest. "You're the heartland of America, and I truly believe that."

General Stenner served at Grissom twice before, once as an operations officer for the 45<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron and then again as the 930<sup>th</sup> Operations Group commander. In total, the general spent over seven and a half years of his over 38 year career at the base.

During his visit, General Stenner met with those he had served with in the 930<sup>th</sup> OG at Grissom, local civic leaders and Col. William T. "Tim" Cahoon, 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing commander, before holding a town hall meeting with base personnel.

During his town hall meeting, he addressed the state of the Air Force

Reserve, key objectives and focus areas, force management changes, and future leadership possibilities before opening the event up for questions.

When discussing the state of the reserve, General Stenner said the Air Force Reserve is a full partner in a three component Air Force, offering assured, predictable and sustainable combat power while expanding contributions to the total force enterprise.

"The guard and reserve are not just a strategic reserve where they'll say we'll call you when 'the big one' comes," he said. "We're part of the operation, and that comes with a lot [of responsibility]."

Furthering that point, General Stenner laid out his four main focus points for the Air Force Reserve, which include maintaining a strategic reserve while providing an operational, combat ready force; preserving the viability of the reserve triad; broadening total force integration opportunities; and championing equipment and facility modernization.

Please see 'Visit' page 6

Heartland Warrior

# Traffic flow patterns changing at Grissom

**By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner**  
*Public Affairs staff*

Watch out! Grissom's roads are changing as new stop signs and crosswalk markings are being installed and speed limits are being changed across the base.

"Last summer, the wing commander

expressed concern about pedestrian safety on the installation, so my staff and I got together and did an installation traffic safety analysis," said Maj. Christopher Witter, 434th Security Forces commander. "It took about two months to get the whole thing done, and we noticed a number of issues, such as people not stopping for crosswalks and people exceeding the speed limit."

Crosswalks were initially the biggest concern, explained Major Witter, who added that some people weren't even aware crosswalks were there.

"We had some complaints from people who work here and walk from building to building in the summer for (physical exercise)," the major continued. "They'd be in the crosswalk and someone would shoot by, and that's a legitimate safety concern."

Crosswalks will now be marked with highly visible signs, solar-powered flashing lights and rumble strips, according to Bill Perkins, a  
**May 2011**

real property maintenance manager with a base contractor here. Motor vehicle operators are required to yield to pedestrian traffic in crosswalks.

Another concern the safety analysis brought to light was speeding on base, where speed limits range from 10 to 30 mph.

"People weren't blowing by at

doing that, so our recommendation was for most yield signs to be replaced by stop signs," said Major Witter. "People weren't doing it to be malicious; people have just been here for 15 to 20 years and had gotten very comfortable."

One of the biggest concerns noted by the installation traffic safety analysis was the yield sign at

the flight line gate closest to the base exchange.

"The new drop arm flight line gate by the BX, now that it's automated, people can use it," explained the major. "People aren't used to driving up there and having an (aerospace ground equipment) tug coming the other way."

With all of the changes either already



**Staff Sgt. Patrick Barringer, 434th Security Forces fire team member, watches a vehicle come to a complete stop at a new stop sign recently installed on base. Sergeant Barringer and his police car parked near the new stop sign help alert motorists to the changes. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)**

50 mph, they were only 4 or 5 mph over, but when there's someone in a crosswalk, those 4 or 5 mph can make a huge difference," explained Major Witter.

The 30 mph zone on Hoosier Boulevard will now be reduced to 25 mph. Parking lots on base will have signs posted indicating a 10 mph limit.

Perhaps one of the biggest changes occurring on Grissom's roads is the replacement of several yield signs with stop signs across base. In total, five yields will be replaced with stop signs, and an additional 27 stop signs will be placed in parking lots around base.

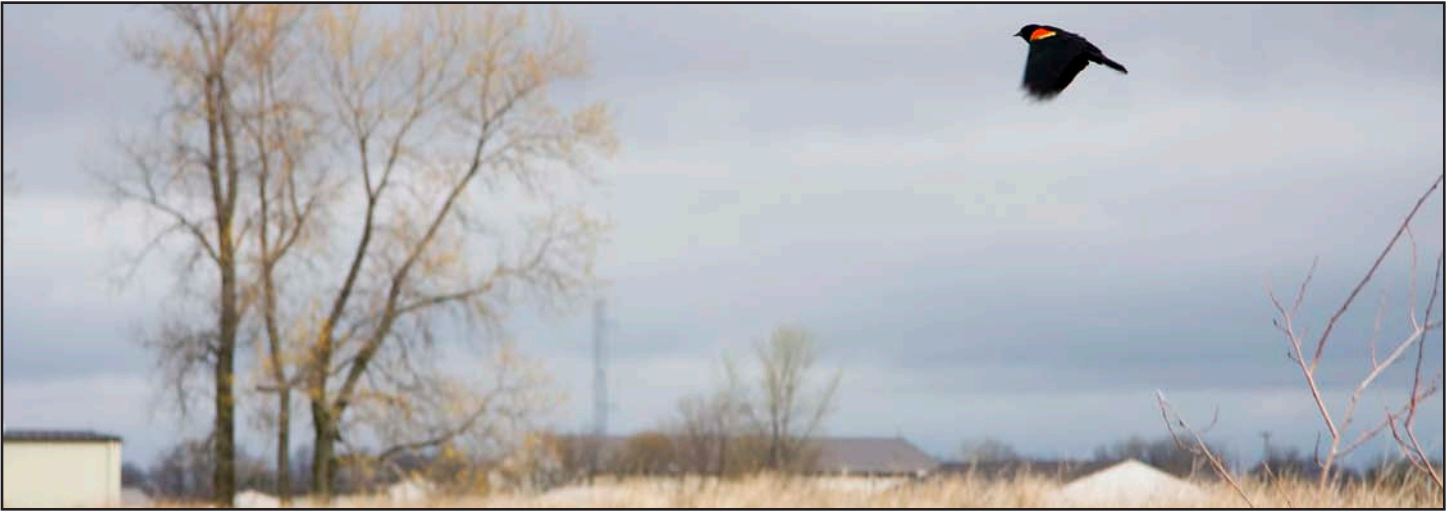
"You're supposed to slow down and look both ways where there's a yield and most people weren't

in place or taking place, Major Witter said he wants to make sure people understand the nature and purpose behind them.

"We didn't do this to up our citations; really, we did all this for 'the other guy,'" he explained. "We're trying to take care of the other guy; trying to take care of our wingman."

"The idea is that people will become more conscious of their actions when they're approaching these intersections," Major Witter added. "I would ask that people be patient, open-minded and remember there are other people who use these roads."

According to Mr. Perkins, all of the signs, lights and rumble strips should be installed by the end of May, weather permitting.



A red-winged blackbird flies through a wetlands area on base. Grissom strives to maintain a healthy environment where Airmen can train. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woemner)

# Grissom protects Airmen, environment

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woemner  
Public Affairs staff

Planting a tree may not seem as patriotic as raising the flag each day, nor does recycling a soda can seem as important to the nation's defense as a new fighter jet, but appearances can be deceiving.

One group of Grissom men and women are patriotically defending the nation one tree and soda can at a time as they take care of the environment Grissom reservists train on each day.

Cory Walters, biological scientist, along with other members of the 434th Civil Engineer Squadron, monitor and protect the base's environment through a variety of programs including air, water, cultural and natural resources, restoration, recycling, and pollution prevention.

"Our job is to make sure the troops can train effectively, because you can't train in a harmful environment," said Mr. Walters. "If we don't take care of this place, it won't be around for us to use to train our troops."

Perhaps the biggest program the environmental office here supports is the recycling program. In 2010, the base recycled over 174 tons of material including 91 tons of scrap metal, 48 tons of cardboard, 29 tons of paper and 2 tons of used tires.

"We also recycled alkaline bat-

teries, lead-acid batteries, toner cartridges and electronic storage media such as CDs and DVDs," stated Mr. Walters, who added part of what has made the recycling program so successful is that base personnel not only recycle waste from on base, but are encouraged to bring in items from their homes to recycle.

It's definitely an added benefit," said Mr. Walters. "A lot of people don't have a place to recycle or don't have recycling pickup where they live, so it gives them a place to recycle and in return it helps the base recycling program."

The recycling program alone netted almost \$23,000 last year, which is used to support the recycling program by buying new equipment, supplies and promotional items, he explained.

The second biggest set of environmental programs the civil engineers manage concern air and water.

The majority of these programs are monitoring based as environmental engineers examine various shops around base and determine the impact the base has on the environment. They work with various federal and state regulatory agencies to keep the base operating in compliance with their regulations, explained Mr. Walters.

He added the base is always looking for innovative ways to help

protect the environment and limit the bases' impact.

"We're always looking to protect the environment either through developing new processes, buying recycled material, or using less harmful chemicals," he said.

Perhaps the most visible aspect of the environmental office can be seen in the numerous trees that have been planted around base. In fact, it's so significant that the base has been named as a "Tree City" by the National Arbor Day Foundation ten years in a row.

But, it's not just trees and wildlife the engineers are concerned with as exhibited in the base's cultural and natural resources program. Currently, the civil engineers monitor over 2.8 acres of wetlands located on Grissom. This area is a protected habitat for many native animal and plant species.

And while all these programs are good for the environment and allow Grissom to be a good neighbor to the communities surrounding the base, the main focus is always on national defense and mission success, explained Mr. Walters.

"I'm proud when our [troops] get to go out and do their training in a safe environment," he said when asked what he thought was the most important part of his job. "You're helping them protect our country and protecting the environment so future Airmen can train successfully."

## DOD changes ID cards, remove SSN numbers to thwart identity theft

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Beginning June 1, Social Security numbers on military identification cards will begin to disappear, said Maj. Monica Matoush, a Pentagon spokeswoman.

The effort is part of a larger plan to protect service members and other Department of Defense identification card holders from identity theft, officials said.

Criminals use Social Security numbers to steal identities, allowing them to pillage resources, establish credit or to hijack credit cards, bank accounts or debit cards.

Currently, the Social Security number is printed on the back of common access cards, and on the front of cards issued to dependents and retirees.

Beginning in June, when current cards expire, they will be replaced with new cards having a DOD identification number replacing the Social Security number, officials said.

The DOD identification number is a unique 10-digit number that is assigned to every person with a direct relationship with the department.

The new number also will be the service member's Geneva Convention identification number.

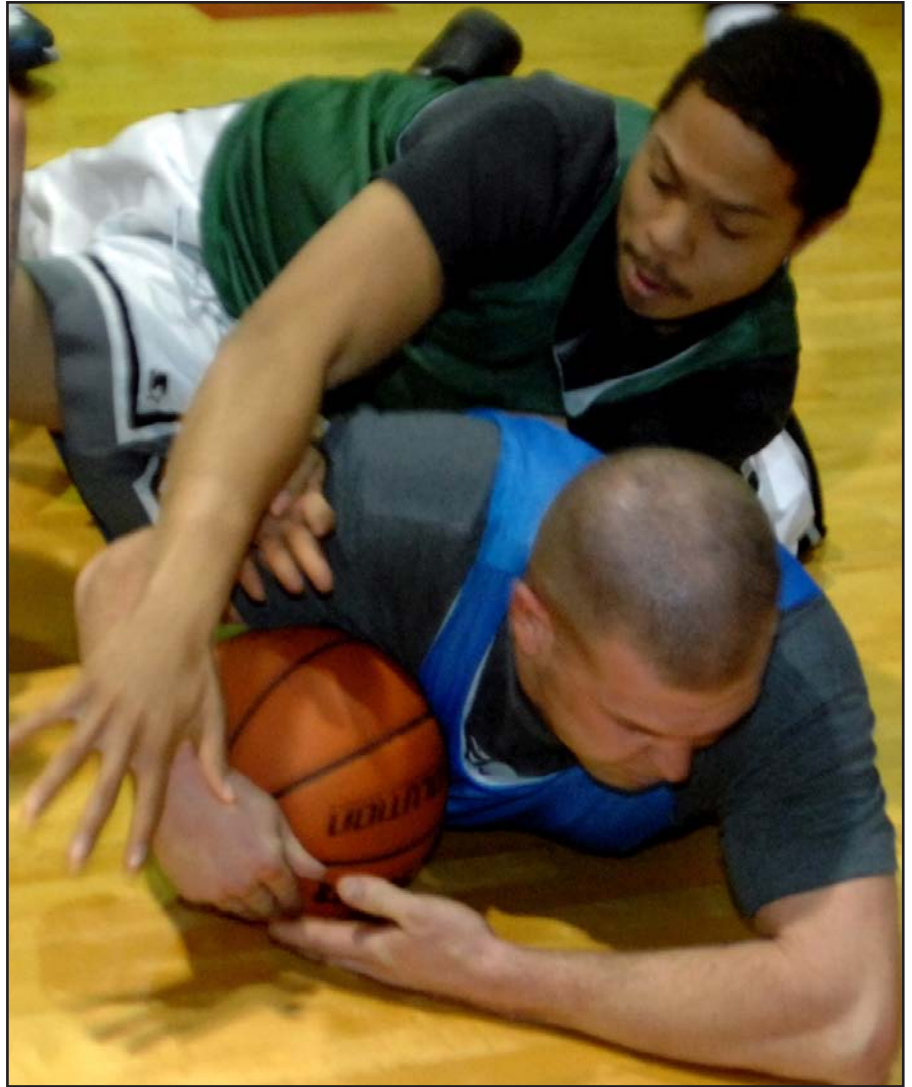
An 11-digit DOD benefits number also will appear on the cards of those people eligible for DOD benefits.

The first nine digits are common to a sponsor, the official said, and the last two digits will identify a specific person within the sponsor's family.

Social Security numbers embedded in the bar codes on the back of identification cards will remain there for the time being, and will be phased out beginning in 2012.

Cards will be replaced as they expire. (AFNS)

May 2011



The 434th Seasoning Training Flight's Jeremy Ellert, bottom, fights to secure the ball from Justin Williams of the Marines. The scrum ended in a jump ball, and the Airmen rose from the loser's bracket to win the double-elimination tournament 46-40 on April 2. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays)

## Seasoning Airmen blitz Marines, claim Grissom's basketball crown

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Public Affairs staff

Grissom's intramural basketball championship finale was so big it took two games to crown the kings of the hard court.

The 434th Seasoning Training Flight emerged from the loser's bracket of the double-elimination tournament to shoot down the Marines 46-40 in the deciding game.

Travis Helton led the way for seasoning training with 12 points

in the finale, including two three-point daggers. Derek Barteer chipped in 11 points.

The Marines were led by Jamie Eads who went for 18 points in a losing effort.

In the first game of the evening, the Airmen handed the Marine's their first tourney loss by a decisive score of 52-43.

Barteer led the Airmen in scoring with 14 points while Eads again led the Marines with 16.

The loss set up the final do-or-die game between the two teams.



Thanking the men and women of the 434th Air Refueling Wing Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner, Jr., wraps up a town hall meeting held at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., April 18. General Stenner, who is the Chief of Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve Command commander, called said the 434th ARW and aerial refueling were invaluable to the Air Force mission. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

## Visit, from page 2

Summarizing the state of the Reserve, the general said that reservists are involved in operations throughout the world and in the thick of the fight, but the main mission of the Air Force Reserve has not changed.

“We are first and foremost a strategic reserve; that’s what the nation has called us to be, but we leverage that every day,” said General Stenner. “Reserve capability is a very efficient way to keep the capacity to go to war.”

Speaking to that point, the general said he watches deployment times and the dwell between those times closely to prevent the overuse of any one area, including in-flight refueling operations, of which the 434th ARW is responsible.

“The tanker force out there is invaluable; going east, going west you can’t get there without tankers,” General Stenner stated. “And, I don’t want to overuse anyone.”

He also stated the key to preventing that is force management. The first part of that is keeping those who have needed skill sets still serving, he said. That includes

retaining current reservists, allowing regular Air Force Airmen to easily transition to the reserve, and continuing to train and grow today’s Airmen into the leaders of tomorrow.

General Stenner also made note of how the Air Force Reserve structure has changed, especially in regards to simplifying force management and deployment opera-

---

*“You can get any process to work once. You just get a big enough hammer, but that doesn’t work day-in and day-out.”*

---

tions. Four management resources in AFRC, including the Mobilization Cell, Air Expeditionary Force Cell and Current Operations, were recently merged into the Force Generation Center.

This merger streamlines the processes and communications between the reserve resources and the agencies wishing to utilize those resources, stated the general, who added the system was originally designed for a strategic reserve only and isn’t conducive to the day-to-day operations of today’s mission.

“You can get any process to work once, he said. “You just get a big

enough hammer, but that doesn’t work day-in and day-out.”

Before opening up for questions and catching a flight to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., General Stenner addressed those in the audience who might be considering becoming a leader in AFRC.

In that, he encouraged them to finish their professional military and civilian education, get supervisory experience

in their units, take joint assignments and those at higher headquarters, and most importantly

let their leadership know they want to be in a leadership career track.

“If you tell me you want to do just what the Air Force needs of you, that’s putting your career in my hands,” he said. “Now if you tell me where you want to be, we can right out that path for you.”

In closing, the general said he wants Airmen to go out and share their stories with their local communities and take pride in their service.

“Be proud that your part of a three component Air Force that does your nation’s bidding around the world,” he concluded.

**Heartland Warrior**

# Airmen manipulate metal at molecular level

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner  
Public Affair staff

In a dark room, a helmeted man uses his unique skills to alter hardened steel at the molecular level. Illuminated only by a dim light flickering from the ceiling and a showering of molten metal sparks, he bends, morphs and fuses the metal to his will.

While this might sound like a scene from a science fiction movie about superpower-wielding mutants, it's actually a snapshot image of everyday happenings in the metals technology section of the 434th Maintenance Squadron here at Grissom.

Recently, the metals technology Airmen put their metal-manipulation skills to use, fabricating and installing fill-gap steps on B-5 aircraft maintenance platforms here.

"A B-5 stand is primarily used to reach higher areas of the plane like the horizontal stabilizer," said Master Sgt. James Massie, 434th MXS metals technology noncommissioned officer in charge. "This step is supposed to be used to fill gap between ladder and the actual platform."

And while the metals technology Airmen were able to quickly implement this safety improvement to each of the stands on base, there was a slight snag in their original plan, which was overcome by their tenacity and ability to adapt.

"We had ten stands to modify, so we used the blueprints supplied and built a template to weld all ten steps," explained Sergeant Massie. "We later learned that each stand had entirely different measurements than our original blueprints, so for each stand that came to our shop we had to modify, cut, and re-weld each of the ten steps we originally fabricated so that they would fit."

But being able to adapt, overcome and see the product of hard work is exactly what Sergeant Massie said he and his team love most about their job.

"The best part about my job is

being able to take a piece of raw metal and then shape it into something cool," he elaborated. "Our job is always evolving and there is always something new to learn."

And, it's not just aircraft parts or equipment they have their hands in creating.

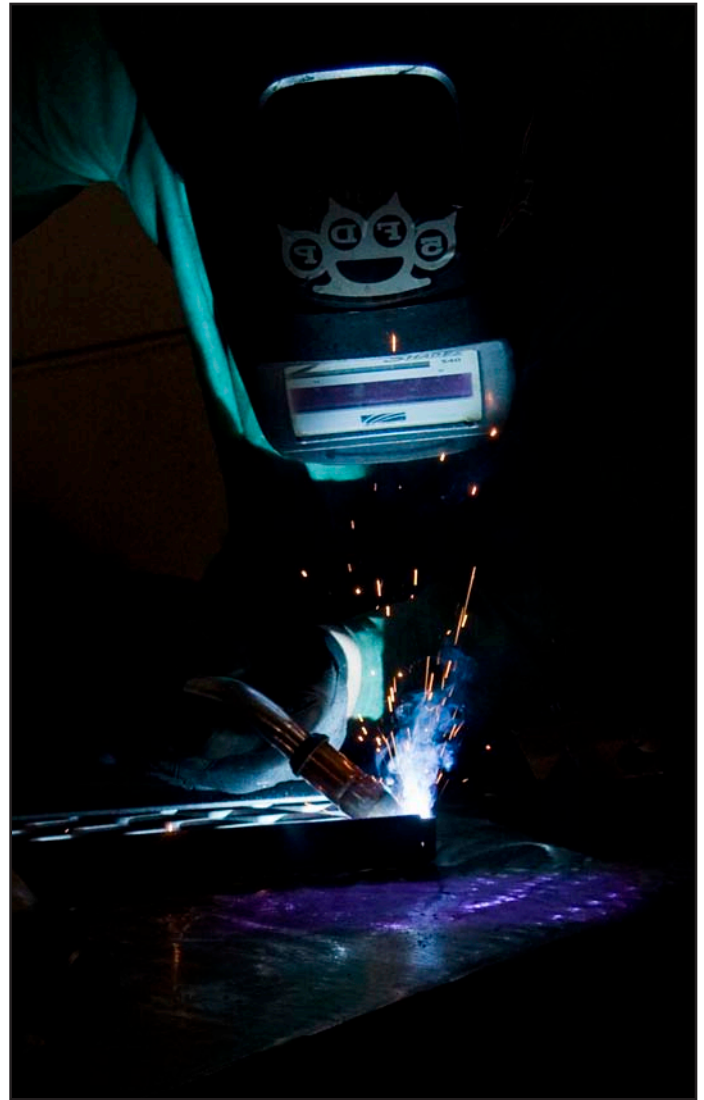
"All over this base are items we design, fabricated, machined and welded," explained Sergeant Massie. "Items made in metals technology will still be here for many years to come."

And their creations, such as the B-5 stand safety improvement, will not only be around for a long time, but could potentially save some one from serious injury, or even death.

"Safety improvements are very important," continue the sergeant. "The step we made is supposed to prevent a person from stepping through the gap between ladder and platform."

But it's not just the safety of others with which these Airmen are concerned. Every day, they go to work in an environment filled with razor edged cutters, molten-metal spewing welders, and bone crushing machines. For them, safety isn't just a buzz word; it's quite literally a way of life.

"We have weekly safety briefings ensuring shop safety is the top priority," explained Sergeant Massie. "There's always the possibility of



Senior Airman Shawn Cherty, 434th Maintenance Squadron metals technology apprentice, welds a step for a B-5 aircraft maintenance platform here recently. The step was installed on the platforms for safety reasons and filled in a gap between the actual platform and its ladder. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

cuts, burns, eye injuries or even the loss of a limb."

Despite these dangers, the Airmen continue to operate safely, providing an invaluable service to the base, and love what they do.

"It's great being able to work with our hands," said Sergeant Massie. "Machining and welding is something that not everyone's able to do; you must be able think outside the box or be able to make changes at a moment's notice."

"At the end of the day we can look at a product what it may be and say 'I made that,'" he concluded.