

Heartland WARRIOR

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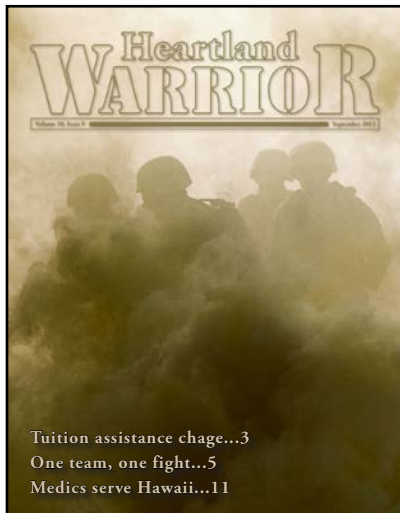
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U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

On the cover...

U.S. Marines from Detachment One, Communication Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group, make their way through smoke as they secure a building at a simulated overseas location during a joint, mass-casualty exercise held at Grissom Aug. 4. The Marines teamed up with 434th Air Refueling Wing Airmen during the exercise.

AFRC Command chief: Combating sexual assault takes team effort

By Chief Master Sgt. Matt Proietti
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

Eight weeks into his new job, the Air Force Reserve Command's top enlisted leader said combating sexual assault is his top priority and challenged Airmen to serve with integrity.

"I am asking you to be a wingman," Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey told 240 enlisted Airmen during a meeting Aug. 22 at the Museum Of Aviation adjacent to Robins Air Force Base.

"Can we prevent it? Stop it? It affects good order and discipline."

The AFRC command chief echoed recent statements from leaders in Washington, D.C., indicating a united front to combat sexual assault in the military.

In June, the Air Force appointed Maj. Gen. Margaret Woodward as director of its reorganized Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, which develops policies and programs that address the service's sexual assault prevention, education, accountability, victim assistance and assessment efforts.

Kirksey said diminishing sexual assault is a top priority for Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Lt. Gen. James Jackson, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

"How do we stamp it out? Wait for a message from headquarters?" Kirksey asked. "The magic happens in this room, with the enlisted force, the NCO. Where do we start? Respect. We'll get the job done because we're people with pride, loyalty, honor and respect."

Kirksey, formerly command chief of reserve wings in Florida and Alabama, said he doesn't have all of the answers and stressed that movements "start with the actions of one person (and) it doesn't have to be me."

Leaders agree that diminishing sexual assault in the military



Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey

requires united action.

"This isn't an issue that just affects the very small percentage of perpetrators or victims within our ranks," said Woodward, the sexual assault program director. "It affects us all, and we are all part of the solution. We all must help the Air Force reinforce a culture of dignity and respect, and create an environment that isolates perpetrators and removes them from our ranks."

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced Aug. 15 seven new initiatives to strengthen and standardize the department's sexual assault prevention and response effort.

Welsh, the Air Force chief of staff, said preventing sexual assault is every Airman's responsibility.

"Every Airman is either part of the solution or part of the problem," he said. "There is no middle ground."

Kirksey, who became the command's top chief in mid-June, thanked Airmen for attending his first enlisted call and for serving in the military, encouraging them to be optimistic as they don the Air Force uniform.

"Less than 1 percent of the population (does) what we do," he said. "When I suit from the boot up, it's game time. Every day."

Grissom welcomes new face to legal team

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

There was Mason, Matlock and now McKissack.

While the first two are famous small-screen lawyers, there is nothing fictional about Maj. Jeremy McKissack, who recently took over as the 951st Reserve Support Squadron staff judge advocate here.

McKissack took over for Lt. Col. Frank Hollifield, who took an assignment with Air Force Special Operations Command. In his new role, the major will work closely with Lt. Col. Stephen McManus, 434th Air Refueling Wing SJA, to provide legal service to the base.

Grissom's legal office is two-fold with the 434th ARW legal team primarily handling military justice issues during unit training assemblies and the 951st RSS providing the base with a full-time JAG through the week. The major will also support Minneapolis-St Paul Air Reserve Station, Minn., with legal services.

In his previous assignment, McKissack served as a senior defense counsel for the Nellis



U. S. Air Force photo

Maj. Jeremy McKissack

Air Force Base region, which included providing legal defense services for accused Airmen at Nellis AFB, Nev.; Edwards AFB, Calif.; Los Angeles AFB, Calif.; Vandenberg AFB, Calif.; March ARB, Calif., and the Presidio of Monterey, Calif.

One of the things McKissack said he is most excited about is diving into multiple facets of at the stand-alone reserve

base.

"Here, it's not just focused on one subject matter like military justice; it looks like it's going to be everything from labor law, contracts, environmental, along with legal assistance," he continued. "My goal is to provide prompt, correct and candid legal advice to the commanders and to anyone else who comes to see me, while offer-

ing a full range of legal services to the base community."

Throughout his 9-year career, McKissack said he has enjoyed working with Air Force reservists, a relationship that started back in 2005 as Lt. Col. Stephen McManus, 434th ARW SJA, mentored a then Captain McKissack.

"I remember Colonel McManus from when I was a young JAG," he recalled. "One of his additional duties is to head the (Training by Reservists in Advocacy and Litigation Skills, or TRIALS,) program, which helps young attorneys improve their courtroom skills, and I remember his team coming to help us at Lackland AFB, (Texas)."

Bringing that relationship back full-circle, McKissack said he's looking forward to working hand-in-hand with someone who helped start his JAG career.

"It's really going to be a great relationship because of all his experience and because we really share the same mission, which is to provide the best legal services to the community and to the commanders," he concluded. "It shows how small the JAG Corps really is."

Tuition assistance changes begin in October

WASHINGTON -- Airmen applying for tuition assistance in fiscal 2014 will see several changes in both eligibility for and administration of the program.

Due to these changes, the application window for classes beginning on or after Oct. 1 will not open until Sept. 9 to allow for

system updates.

This program is applicable to Guard and Reserve only when they are activated.

The cornerstone of the Air Force's FY14 program will be supervisor involvement. Airmen who apply for TA will be required to obtain supervisor approval for

all requests. Supervisors may deny requests for Airmen in any level of upgrade training, if the Airman will be TDY or will be PCSing during the academic term, if the Airman is enrolled in PME or for any other factors the supervisor determines

Please see 'TA' page 12



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

Maj. Matthew O'Neill, 74th Air Refueling Squadron pilot, douses Col. Chris Amend, 434th Operations Group commander, after the colonel's final flight here Aug. 7

434th OG commander takes GARB fini-flight

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
Public Affairs staff

Col. Chris Amend, 434th Operations Group commander, completed his final flight at Grissom Aug. 7, and was met with smiles, laughter, hugs -- and lots of water.

After touching down and climbing down the crew ladder of a KC-135R Stratotanker, Amend was hosed down with water, which is tradition of Air Force aviators completing their final flight with a unit.

The colonel is moving to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., where he will serve as the reserve advisor to the commander of Air Mobility Command.

Amend took command of the 434th OG in November 2011 and was responsible for the day-to-day operational training and overall management of two KC-135R squadrons, operating 16 aircraft and an operations support squadron.

The 434th OG also has a unique role supporting both the Single Integrated Operational Plan and conventional tanker missions.

While his replacement has not yet been identified, Lt. Col. Todd Moody, 74th Air Refueling Squadron operations officer, is currently operating as the temporary commander.

Air Force reminds Airmen to avoid hemp seed products

WASHINGTON -- Recent news reports on the Air Force's prohibition of a popular yogurt brand spotlighted a regulation, in effect since the late 1990s, aimed at ensuring military readiness.

Recently, military members were told to avoid a Chobani yogurt called "Blueberry Power Chobani Flip" because it contains hemp seeds and walnuts that can be mixed into the yogurt.

Chobani since stated they will remove the ingredient from this product, according to the Air Force Surgeon General's office.

"The Air Force has a long-standing policy in place that prohibits military members from ingesting any product, regardless of manufacturer, that contains or is derived from hemp seed or hemp seed oil," said Capt. Adam Koudelka, legal advisor for the Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory, Air Force Medical Operations Agency, Lackland Air Force Base,

Texas. "Military members are not prohibited from ingesting other products not containing or derived from hemp seed or hemp seed oil."

The prohibition is explained in Air Force Instruction 44-120, paragraph 1.1.5, as well as AFI 44-121, paragraph 3.2.2, which states, "Studies have shown that products made with hemp seed and hemp seed oil may contain varying levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), an active ingredient of marijuana which is detectable under the Air Force Drug Testing Program. In order to ensure military readiness, the ingestion of products containing or products derived from hemp seed or hemp seed oil is prohibited."

Koudelka emphasized each military member is individually responsible for ensuring he or she is compliant with this policy, and failure to do so is a violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

If an Airman is found to have consumed hemp seeds or oil, they can be punished for disobeying the regulation, according to Gregory Girard, deputy director of administrative law, Office of the Judge Advocate General.

Reading labels is the best practice, because the ingredient can be contained in myriad products available in health food stores and throughout consumer markets.

"Air Force military members should be mindful that products containing hemp seeds can be found at health food stores, including health food stores and commissaries located on military bases, and therefore the best policy for Airmen to follow is to be vigilant about what they put into their body," Koudelka said.

A good practice is to read product labels prior to consumption to see whether the product contains hemp seed or hemp seed oil, he added. (AFNS)



ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT

GRISSOM HOSTS JOINT, MASS-CASUALTY EXERCISE

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

A picturesque scene of Hoosier corn waving in a warm summer breeze was shattered with explosions of gunfire and shrill screams of pain as Grissom transformed into a battlefield where freedom and life hung in the balance.

While the small-arms reports were just blanks, and the screams were just actors, that didn't take away from the realism as more than 150 U.S. Airmen, Marines and Soldiers came together during the base's second annual joint, mass-casualty exercise here Aug. 4.

During the exercise, named Operation Rudy Strong, 434th Air Refueling Wing medical, security forces and explosive ordnance disposal Airmen teamed up with Grissom's Marine reservists to support a democratic voting process in a simulated Middle Eastern country.

"This was built around an actual scenario I had to do on my last tour in Afghanistan," said U.S. Marine Capt. Mark Trouerbach, Grissom's Detachment One, Communication Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th

U. S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

Marine Logistics Group inspector instructor. “Voter registration is a big deal, but it’s also a very big deal for the enemy; because, any way they can delegitimize the government, the better it is for them to build the propaganda.

“You want to be able to establish a safe environment for people to vote,” added Trouerbach.

Helping create that safe haven for democracy, a Marine CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter, flown by Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774 at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., as well as a handful of Grissom Army reservists, Indiana Army National guardsmen, and Marines from other units around the country also participated in the exercise.

The cooperative endeavor further added to the percussions and performances to bring about a realistic environment as many real-world military operations are conducted jointly, said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Peter G. Weber III, the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron optometrist who spearheaded the exercise planning.

“The realism of it is extremely important, and with the joint forces aspect, we are really able to build in that realism,” continued Weber. “Having air support, the thunder and boom, smoke going off, (improvised explosive devices) going off around you, it all builds a sense of urgency.”

Though authenticity was a big portion of the exercise, getting good, solid training was paramount to the training’s success, which meant some actors had to break role and instruct from time to time.

“You obviously want realism here and a sense of urgency with the chaos; but, if you continue to do something wrong, it’s negative learning,” explained U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Charles Good, a 434th ARW combat readiness officer. “So, at one point, the inspectors or the evaluation team step in and say, ‘ok, this is how it really needs to be,’ so you can turn that negative in the positive.”

Having Airmen and Marines work hand-in-hand also provided for an expanded scenario that offered unique training opportunities, said Trouerbach.

“Collectively, the joint operations with the Air Force were great, because we got to utilize their security forces as well as their medical staff to deal with multiple scenarios at the same time,” Trouerbach explained. “The training environment was phenomenal for the



U.S. Marines pull Lance Cpl. Bryan Corder, a fellow Marine from Detachment One, Communication Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group, to safety after he received simulated gunshot wounds during a joint, mass-casualty exercise held here at Grissom Aug. 4.



U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron transport a simulated injured civilian to a U.S. Marine CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter during an exercise here Aug. 4.

Marines and Airmen.”

Working together also furnished the servicemembers with an exercise in communication.

“We speak different languages and don’t always use the same acronyms, so it’s very important to learn how to communicate with each other, not just over radio, but person to person,” said Trouerbach. “We need to learn how to build relationships with each other, trust each other and have a one-team, one-fight mentality.”

And, come together as one team for one fight they did as Operation Rudy Strong kicked off early Sunday morning with a Marine assault force swooping in via ground convoy and helicopter to secure a voting facility at Grissom’s old fire station.

In a matter of seconds, yellow smoke and gunfire abounded as the assault force quickly dispatched the enemy, who had staged an ambush. Embedded with the Marines were 434th Security Forces Airmen and two 434th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD technicians, who used their expertise to clear IEDs.

“The chaos was very accurate,” said Trouerbach, a purple heart recipient who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. “There are a lot of things going on -- you have enemy shooters from different directions, or you try to clear a room you thought was clear, but you missed one little closet, so it’s very accurate.”

Despite their overwhelming initial victory, the Marines weren’t spared losses as several received simulated wounds during the attack, so Air

Force medics raced in via helicopter and immediately began to triage and perform combat lifesaving treatment to the wounded.

After the wounded were treated and evacuated by air, 434th SFS personnel assisted Marines in setting up a security perimeter and screening civilian voter registrants for potential threats.

Shortly before registration began, an insurgent was able to sneak a simulated IED into the screening area and deploy it with devastating results. More than twenty people were wounded in the attack that stretched the capabilities of both the Air Force medics and Marines providing combat lifesaving care.

After the wounded were treated, insurgents were secured and the civilian populace reassured, the voting registration process took place without a hitch, and the exercise was called to an end. However, when a military exercise ends, the learning still isn’t complete.

Participants, planners and evaluators gathered



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Justin Krautkremer, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technician, disables a simulated improvised explosive device during a joint, mass-casualty exercise held here Aug. 4.

together to conduct a hot wash, an event that takes place immediately following an event to discuss success and failures as well as future goals.

“Everyone did well, but with any exercise or practice, you’re going to find things that can be improved,” Good explained about the entire process.

“We are always the harshest critics of our own, so the medics in my view have a lot we can learn and a lot we can improve on; and, the Marines, in my opinion, are the best thing since

sliced bread, and I’m glad we’re on their team,” said Weber. “If you talk to any of the Marines, (their opinion) was the exact opposite.

“The unique thing of these exercises is the appreciation you get for what your brothers and sisters in arms do,” Weber concluded. “Both of us think our own teams have a lot to learn and improve on, but the other guys do a phenomenal job, which builds that teamwork, appreciation and a gladness that we’re all fighting the same fight.”



U.S. Marines from Detachment One, Communication Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group, secure a building during a joint exercise here Aug. 4.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays

Hands on demo

Staff Sgt. Lamar Woods, 434th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment specialist, demonstrates a mask test with a student from Anderson Preparatory Academy, Anderson, Ind., during a tour of Grissom Aug. 14. Grissom holds tours from June 1 to September 30 with tours being provided on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. All tours must be arranged 30 days in advance and are conducted during normal business hours. Available tour dates are filled on a first come, first served basis and are arranged through the public affairs office.

CES troops do vehicle safety checks



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jami Lancette

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Ray, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron electrical systems apprentice, checks the pressure on an Airmen's tire here at Grissom Aug. 3

By Senior Airman Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

When getting from point A to point B, a driver may feel at ease when they know that their vehicle has been serviced and is in good working order.

The 434th Civil Engineer Squadron conducted their 2nd annual tire pressure and safety checks here Aug. 3.

To promote safe maintenance habits these Airmen conducted free systems checks and alerted any car owner if there were any vehicle issues.

“Maintenance on a vehicle is imperative for longevity,” said Senior Airman Josh Watford 434th CES, power production specialist. “We check tire pressure, corrosion around battery, fluid levels and belts.”

A study conducted by Carnegie Mellon University showed that an average person that drives 12,000 miles yearly on under-inflated tires uses about 144 extra gallons of gas, costing them about \$576 a year based on \$4 gallon calculation.

Training benefits civil engineers, base

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
Public Affairs staff

Some might say there aren't many true win-win scenarios in life, but for one group of Grissom Airman, that's exactly the type of situation in which they found themselves.

Airmen from the 434th Civil Engineer Squadron received vital training and improved the base as they expanded a patio and corrected a stagnant water situation during training here Aug 5.

The 12-day project, took place on the south side of Bldg. 595, between the entrances of the 434th Maintenance Group command section and the Base Exchange.

Affectionately referred to as 'the Dirt Boys,' the 434th CES Airmen formed and poured 21 cubic yards of concrete during the project and installed about 120 linear feet of storm sewer pipe with the assistance of a 434th CES utilities craftsman.

The five-man crew ranged in experience from six months in the career field to 16 years.

Senior Master Sgt. Nate Colborn, 434th CES structural superintendent, outlined a plan to train the young troops.

With three concrete pours needed to complete the project, he guided them through the first two, teaching and instructing, and for the final pour he remained off-site for them to do it themselves.

"It was pretty gratifying," Colborn said of the job they did on the final pour. "To top it off, a water valve broke on the truck and the last load of concrete delivered was very wet. But they adapted and overcame that."

While all concrete is delivered with a specific water ratio, there are different levels of slump depending upon the application, explained Senior Airman Alex Barone, 434th CES pavements and construction equipment apprentice.

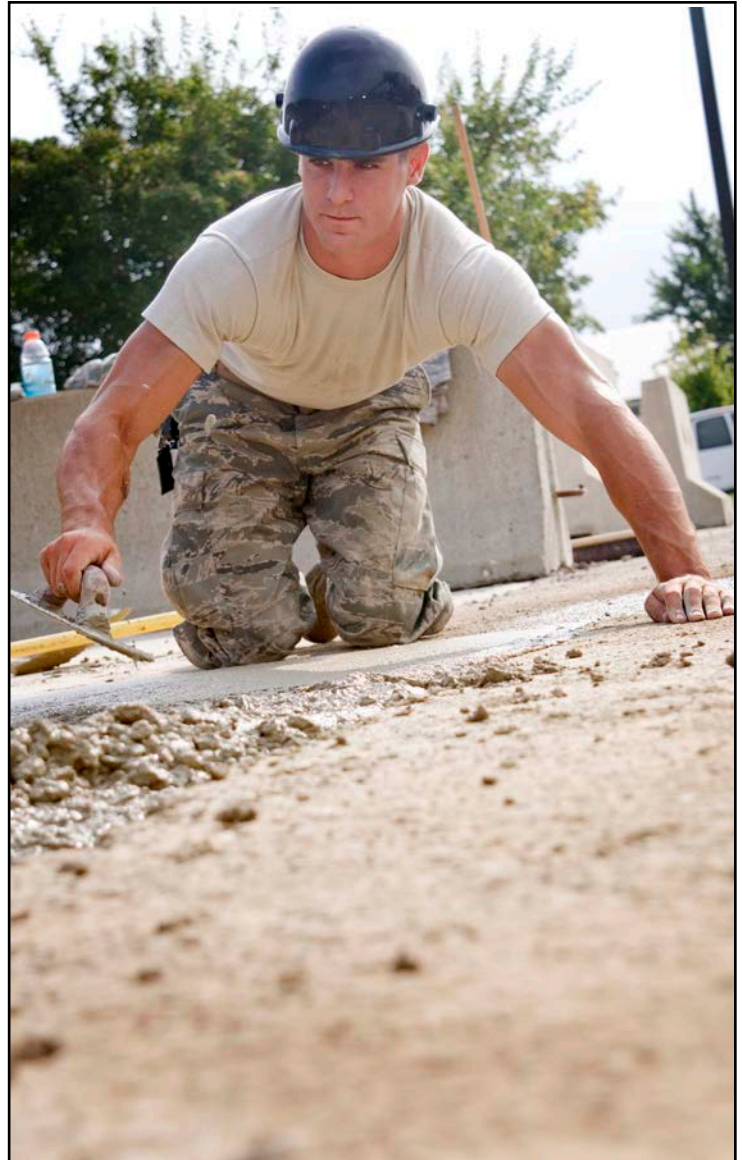
"This was extremely wet, and you have to work that differently," Barone said. "You can't keep working it or you will make it worse. You have to show patience, let it harden and then work it."

Basically, you have to stay cool, calm and collected, he added.

For Colborn seeing the transition the Airmen made during the project was satisfying.

"It was a win-win," he said. "The base benefited, but so did we."

Right: Senior Master Sgt. Nate Colborn, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron structural superintendent, right, provides training to members of his construction crew at Grissom Aug. 8. Senior Airman Alex Barone, pavements and construction equipment apprentice, left, and Tech. Sgt. Ron Maxwell, structural repair journeyman, were part of a team that expanded the patio between the 434th Maintenance Group command section and the Base Exchange at Bldg. 595.



U. S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays

Above: Senior Airman Alex Barone, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron pavements and construction equipment apprentice, uses a trowel to smooth cement while expanding a patio area between the 434th Maintenance Group command section and the Base Exchange at Grissom's Bldg. 595 Aug. 8.





U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

Andrew Lattanner, a congressional legislative director, and David Park, a legislative correspondent, talk with Col. Don Buckley, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, in the cockpit of a KC-135R Stratotanker during their visit to Grissom Aug. 8.

Congressional staffers visit, learn about Grissom

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs

Two congressional staffers from Sen. Joe Donnelly's office visited Grissom Aug. 8.

Andrew Lattanner, a legislative director, and David Park, a legislative

correspondent, were accompanied on their visit by Maj. Patrick McDonnell, a defense legislative fellow.

During their visit, the staffers were given a mission briefing and tour of the north-central Indiana base that included visits to a KC-135R Stratotanker static display, Grissom's Radar Approach Control facility,

Grissom's air traffic control tower, a KC-135 simulator and Grissom's new boom operator weapon system trainer.

They were also able to interact directly with Col. Don Buckley, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, and Col. Kathryn Russel, 434th ARW inspector general.

Grissom Airmen recognized, receive medals

Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

For their meritorious service in the U.S. Air Force, nine Grissom Airmen were recently awarded medals.

Meritorious Service Medal

President Lyndon Johnson established the MSM by Executive Order 11448 on Jan. 16, 1969, as the counterpart of the Bronze Star Medal for the recognition of meritorious noncombatant service.

Those receiving the MSM are:

- Lt. Col. Erik Aufderheide, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; Lt. Col. William Bray, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Lt. Col. Rodney Logan, 434th AMDS; and Maj. Robert Barber, 434th AMDS.

Air Force Commendation Medal

This medal was authorized by the Secretary of the

Air Force on March 28, 1958, for award to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement and service.

Those receiving commendation medals are:

- Maj. Ronald Jackson, 434th Security Forces Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Michael Cochran, 434th SFS; and Tech. Sgt. Anthony Ayres, 434th SFS.

Air Force Achievement Medal

This medal was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on Oct. 20, 1980, and is awarded to Air Force personnel for outstanding achievement or meritorious service rendered specifically on behalf of the Air Force.

Those receiving achievement medals are:

Staff Sgt. Michael McClintock, 434th SFS; and Senior Airmen Torey Lyons, 434th SFS

Grissom medics serve Aloha State

By Senior Airman Jami Lancette
434th ARW Public Affairs

When many Hoosiers head to the Aloha state, they are going for rest and relaxation, but not one team of Grissom reservists who made their trip about work and service.

Seven 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron medics recently went on a two-week training and outreach mission to Hawaii as they took part in a joint-services humanitarian aid mission, serving people in medically deprived areas with basic medical attention.

The medics hit the ground running in two locations on the Hawaiian Islands of Maui and Lana'i, said Maj. John Kutcka, 434th AMDS administrative officer.

"(Lana'i and other areas) are actually some

of the most medically underserved areas in the country because of their remoteness," Kutcka explained. "There was no optical care and only one dentist."

The team served a wide-range of people from all walks of life that came to see medical staff and receive treatment. Some even traveled great distances just to receive care, which had an emotional impact on the 434th AMDS team.

Staff Sgt. Anna Macleod, 434th AMDS medical technician, recalled an elderly person that walked three-and-a-half hours just to get checked out.

"The best part of the

trip for me would be seeing people come get their first vision exam and then two days later having a brand new pair of glasses made by the military," said Staff Sgt. Kandi Delee, 434th AMDS aerospace medical technician. "They actually sent the prescriptions to our

unit in Maui who then made them and shipped them right back to us."

Not only did the medics provide medical care, they also focused on prevention through knowledge as they offered educational sessions for those with concerns, said Tech. Sgt. Shannon Fuller, 434th AMDS health services management technician.

And, their service wasn't just limited to a clinic as the team branched out and volunteered their spare time with various community projects.

"We assisted with erosion control and cleared an area so the local kids could use it as a camp," recalled Macleod. "We even had people that were fixing vehicles and a veterinarian that was helping the animal population."

While appreciate for their services wasn't required or even expected, the 434th AMDS team said it was felt in great abundance, making the trip even more memorable.

"I can't say enough of the reaction and unbelievable appreciation that the local people showed us," said Kutcka. "You can't put into words their gratitude towards us."



Wing announces semi-annual award winners

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

Twice a year Grissom recognizes the best of the best with its semiannual award program.

This year was no different as the 434th Air Refueling Wing leadership recently announced its semiannual award winners for the January through June 2013 timeframe.

Listed below are the first half of 2013 winners.

Airman category

Senior Airman Farrell Bowers, 434th Security Forces Squadron fire team member

NCO category

Tech. Sgt. Zachary Felten,

434th Communications Squadron infrastructure NCO in charge

Senior NCO category

Senior Master Sgt. Darin Daugherty, 434th Maintenance Squadron maintenance section superintendent

Officer category

1st Lt. Dustin Schimp, 434th CS director of operations

Civilian category

Juli Bailey, 434th Force Support Squadron exercise physiologist

Chief Master Sgt. Karen Perkins, 434th ARW command chief, said Grissom's awards program is important because it recognizes and rewards 434th ARW Airmen for their contributions to both the Air

Force and their communities.

Nominees are evaluated on a host of items based on their level of responsibility, but common to all is how they impact Grissom, the Air Force and their communities.

"All of the senior leadership in this wing is extremely proud of what are folks do," said Perkins. "The award winners show-case the outstanding things our airmen are doing to support our mission."

The semiannual award winners for January through June will compete against with those chosen for the July through December timeframe in the 434th ARW annual awards program.

Winners chosen at the annual award will move onto the numbered Air Force level as part of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airman of the Year program.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays

Airmen from Grissom pose for a class photo prior to graduating from the NCO Leadership Development Course Aug. 16.

Seventeen graduate from NCOLDC

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Seventeen Grissom Airmen recently completed training designed to foster leadership skills to become more effective noncommissioned officers.

An Air Force Reserve NCO Leadership Development Course was held here Aug. 5-16.

“The course is designed to bridge the gap between Airman Leadership School and the Noncommissioned Officer’s Academy,” said

Tech. Sgt. Debra Wilson-Strong, 434th Air Refueling Wing education and training assistant chief.

The 10-day course combined college level management and leadership instruction with a military practical, experimental and hands-on application. The classes are taught by both college and military instructors, who covered various topics such as the roles of leadership and management, communication, stress management, and team building.

“It’s an exciting course,” Wilson-

Strong added, “And, we hope students retain and apply what they learn.”

During the graduation ceremony Aug. 16, Col. Don Buckley, 434th ARW commander, spoke to the graduates and presented them with their certificates of completion.

Fifteen of the 17 students were from Grissom. Two were from the 932nd Airlift Wing, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Currently two courses are scheduled for fiscal year 2014.

434th ARW Airmen receive promotions

More than 20 Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing here recently earned their next stripe. Their names are as follows:

To master sergeant: Scott Apple, 434th Maintenance Squadron; Laura Brandt, 434th Force Support Squadron; and Catherine Devine, 434th FSS

To technical sergeant: Brent Mosier, 434th MXS; and Timothy Vogel, 434th MXS

To staff sergeant: Travis Helton, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Anna Macleod, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; and Kenneth Ray, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron.

To senior airman: Chad Barton, 434th Communications Squadron; Mark Collofello, 434th AMXS; Levi Hunter, 434th MXS; David Kreutzer, 434th AMXS; Herman Vasquez, 434th CS; Adam Webb, 434th MXS; Jessica Wilkins, 434th MXS; and Justin Williams, 434th FSS.

To airman 1st class: Pierce Abbot, 434th CES; Monika Dilworth, 434th AMDS; Kaitlyn Garton, 434th AMXS; Det Rek Suggs, 434th FSS;

To airman: James Miller, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron; and Pamela Milton, 434th Security Forces Squadron.

Grissom recognizes civilian service

Staff Sgt. Carl Berry
Public Affairs staff

Grissom civilians were recognized for their service during a special civilian commander's call held recently.

More than 30 Grissom civilians and air reserve technicians received time in service awards.

The winners are:

Forty years: Joy Cripe 434th Mission Support Group; and Becky King, 434th MSG.

Thirty years: Jeffery Carnagua, 434th Communications Squadron; Lt. Col. Gerry Conway; 434th Operations Support Squadron; Master Sgt. Gary Sautter, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Tony Hoffman – 434th

Maintenance Group; Master Sgt. Brian Price, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Lt. Col. Todd Moddy – 74th Air Refueling Squadron; Master Sgt. Valerie Nelson; 434th Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Brian Reinhardt; 434th Maintenance Operation Flight; Daniel Miller; 434th Mission Support Group -; and Chief Master Sgt. Jeffery Henry, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron.

Twenty years: John Bitzel, 434th CS; - Master Sgt. Angelique Carpenter, 434th LRS; Byron Kelley, 434th MSG; Master Sgt. Jeffery Larkin – 434th AMXS; Master Sgt. Kenneth Pinaire, 434th MSS; Master Sgt. Michael Young;



U.S. Air Force graphic by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

434th MXG; Master Sgt. Douglas Preece – 434th OSS; Tech. Sgt. Brian Stillwell; 434th MXS; Robert Wydock, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron; Master Sgt. Rebecca Mattox, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; and David Youker – 434th CES.

Ten years: Michael Beckstrom, 434th LRS; Maj. Jeffery Benware, 434th Operations Group; Tech. Sgt. Jason Darland

– 434th MXS; Kari Ellis, 434th OSS; Master Sgt. Roy Goins – 434th MXS; Paul Hamilton, 434th CS; Master Sgt. Tina Hoover – 434th CS; Maj. Daniel Keeney, 434th OSS; Master Sgt. Everett Liggett, 434th MXS; Robert Moore, 434th OSS; William Ralstin, 434th CES; Bradford Redding, 434th LRS; Darren Trott, 434th CS; and Tech. Sgt. Mark Wilson – 434th MXG.

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would impede the Airman's ability to complete the course.

Requests for TA for foreign language courses will only be approved if they are part of a degree or are on the approved language shortage list.

TA will not be approved for Airmen seeking a degree at the same level as they currently hold, with a few exceptions in support of certain graduate foreign language/affairs programs, cyber law master's degrees and multiple Community College of the Air Force degrees for Airmen who hold multiple enlisted Air Force specialty codes.

"Air Force leaders worked very hard to develop a TA program that provides the best opportunities for Airmen and meets Air Force needs. Higher education continues to be a cornerstone of Airmen's development at all levels," said Kimberly Yates, the Air Force Voluntary Education chief.

The Air Force instruction for voluntary education will be rewritten to reflect these changes.

Failing to meet Air Force standards will impact an Airman's eligibility.

TA requests from Airmen who have unfavorable information files, failed/overdue physical fitness testing, received referral performance reports or are on a control roster will automatically be denied.

The fundamental financial benefits of TA are unchanged. Airmen who are approved to receive TA may receive up to \$4,500 per fiscal year and a maximum of \$250 per semester hour including tuition and allowable fees.

"The changes to TA in FY14 require Airmen and their supervisors to more actively engage in managing academic pursuits and goals," said Russell Frasz, the director of Force Development. "This will help leaders ensure Airmen take

advantage of academic opportunities while balancing their goals with mission requirements."

The Air Force Virtual Education Center will undergo significant modifications to accommodate these changes, which has driven a delay in the opening of the application window for FY14 courses from Aug. 1 until Sept. 9.

"The delay will help us test the system and ensure it is user friendly and will work smoothly for Airmen," Yates said. For the first time, Airmen in the field are involved in testing the updated system and providing feedback to make it as user friendly as possible.

"We're learning more and more about the process each day, and as we get information we'll work to share that information with Airmen and their supervisors," said Tech. Sgt. Debra Wilson-Strong, 434th Air Refueling Wing education and training assistant chief. (AFNS)