

Heartland WARRIOR

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Heartland **WARRIOR**

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This Air Force Reserve online magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services, family, and friends of Grissom Air Reserve Base.

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

On the cover...

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Greening, 49th Aerial Port Squadron aerial port specialist, secures a fire truck inside a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at Grissom April 25 during a Patriot Warrior exercise. Patriot Warrior is a joint, field-training exercise for theater aeromedical evacuation systems and ground medical components designed to replicate all aspects of combat medical service support.

4th AF commander visits

General spends 4 days getting indepth look at Grissom

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
Public Affairs staff

Making his way to the crossroads of America, one numbered air force commander got a dose of Hoosier hospitality along with a taste of Midwestern work ethic.

Brig. Gen. John C. Flournoy, Jr., 4th Air Force commander, along with Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wong, 4th AF command chief, visited Grissom Airmen during the April unit training assembly with the objective of meeting people, hearing their issues and identifying opportunities and challenges affecting wing mission readiness.

“Most generals come in and spend a few hours at a base and move on,” said Col. Bryan Reinhart, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander. “General Flournoy was here for four full days giving him an in-depth look into our unit.”

Both the general and chief said they were impressed by those they met and by Grissom’s facilities.

“This unit is amazing,” said Wong. “I can feel the camaraderie, and that you make things happen here.”

The chief also said he and the general were here to help in any way they could.

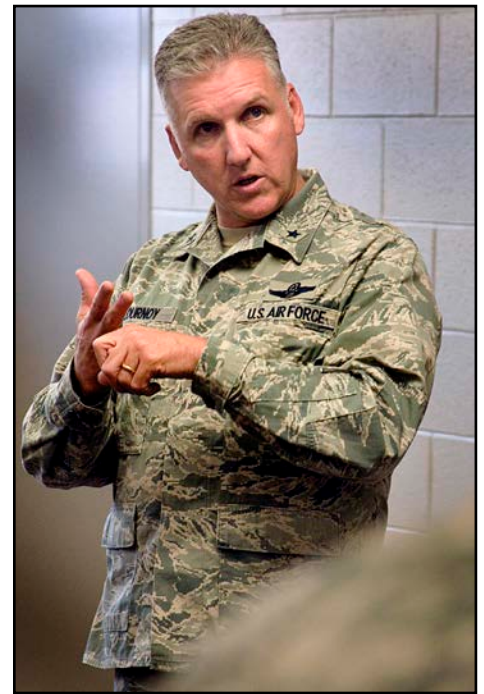
“There are important missions here at Grissom, and we want to do what we can to help you,” he elaborated. “We can lobby for resources that you need, and identify areas that we can assist – and to pat you on the back.”

Flournoy echoed that sentiment of wanting to help.

“What are your pressure points,” he routinely asked. “What are the burrs under your saddle?”

For every stop he made on his tour of the base, whether he was talking to aerial porters, maintainers, cops or administrators, Flournoy reiterated that he’s there for them and even invited them to email him if they had an issue that needed his attention.

“My staff doesn’t answer my



Brig. Gen. John C. Flournoy, Jr., 4th Air Force commander, makes a point as he addresses members of the 49th Aerial Port Flight during a visit here April 12.

emails,” he said. “If you email me, I owe you an answer; it may not be the answer you want, but you’ll have an answer.”

Flournoy also provided 9 points he expects from Airmen under his command as a sort of road map on good Airmanship. Those points included:

- Live the Air Force core values 24/7 both on and off base and in or out of uniform
- Treat others how you want to be treated (or how you’d like your family members treated)
- Hold yourself and others accountable
- Be fit to fight year round for military members
- Be mission ready year round
- Use your chain of command
- Be a good wingman
- Maintain a culture of compliance
- Have fun

“These points aren’t rocket science,” he said. “They are simple and achievable goals.”

See ‘Flournoy’ page 8

Heartland Warrior

Schulte takes command of maintenance group

By Staff Sgt. Andrew McLaughlin
Public Affairs staff

A new commander has landed at Grissom to lead the maintainers responsible for keeping the Air Force Reserve's largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit up and flying.

Col. Anna Schulte, took command of the 434th Maintenance Group during a ceremony held in Dock 1 here April 12.

Brig. Gen. John Flournoy Jr., 4th Air Force commander, who presided over the ceremony, passed the 434th MXG guidon to the new commander.

"I consider it an honor to be your maintenance group commander," said Schulte. "My job is to ensure the environment and resources are there to do the job."

She also said it was important that all Airmen look out for one another in various ways.

"We each have a responsibility of being a wingman and the opportunity to be a teacher, mentor and leader," she continued.

Schulte replaced Col. Paul Weimer, who has moved on to command the 919th Maintenance Group at Duke Field, Fla.

Weimer said he enjoyed his time at Grissom where he oversaw the maintenance of Grissom's 16 KC-135R Stratotankers.

"I'll miss working with the tankers," said Weimer.

Schulte's husband and granddaughter attended the ceremony, and she expressed appreciation for her family's love and support.

She also took a moment to share some words of wisdom from her father who retired a chief master sergeant in the Air Force.

"Take care of your Airmen and they will take care of you," she said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew McLaughlin

Brig. Gen. John C. Flournoy Jr., 4th Air Force commander, presents Col. Anna Schulte with the 434th Maintenance Group guidon as she takes command of the unit April 12.

Air Force Secretary reports on total force balance

By Amaani Lyle
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James outlined April 30 the service's progress in leveraging the talent and capabilities of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve within the total force concept.

James, along with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, testified at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

A tiger team of three generals from each reserve component conducted a comprehensive review of

mission requirements, recommended ideas for improving collaboration and sought avenues to balance total force capabilities, James told the senators.

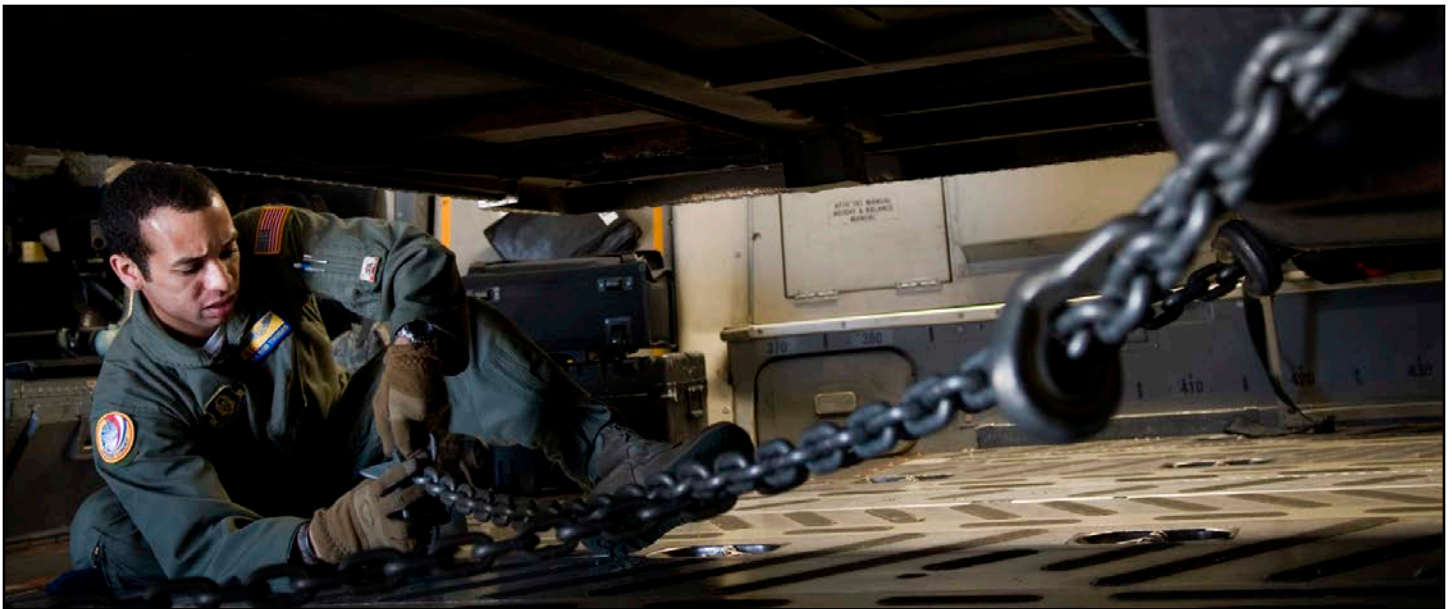
"We laid in force structure changes to take advantage of the Guard and Reserve's strength," James said. "For example, in the area of (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance), we've increased reserve components' presence in the MQ-1 (Predator) and (MQ-9 Reaper) fleets of remotely piloted aircraft, so we're going from 17 percent to 24 percent representation in that arena."

In the cyber arena, James said, three new Air Force Reserve units will reflect an increase in that capability in fiscal year 2016.

Meanwhile, James said the Air Force will decrease its active component end-strength by 17 percent while decreasing the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard end-strength by 3 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively, by fiscal 2015.

"In the future, we hope to garner enough savings by moving capability and capacity to the reserve com-

See 'Balance' page 13



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

Senior Airman Robert Thomas, 729th Airlift Squadron loadmaster from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., guides a fire truck into a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at Grissom April 25 during a Patriot Warrior exercise. Patriot Warrior is a joint, field-training exercise for aeromedical evacuation systems and ground medical components designed to replicate combat medical service.

AFRC begins Patriot Warrior at Grissom

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

While most maps place Grissom in the heart of the Hoosier state, to more than 500 Air Force reservists from around the United States, it is now located in a foreign nation and has become the tip of the spear for ongoing wartime operations.

While scenario may be fictitious, the work being accomplished at the staging base for Operation Patriot Warrior here is all too real.

Patriot Warrior, which kicked off at Grissom April 25 and will last until May 17, is a joint, field training exercise for theater aeromedical evacuation systems and ground medical components designed to replicate all aspects of combat medical service support.

"This is our 16th year doing this exercise," said Kevin Shadden, Air

Force Reserve Command contingency specialist. "This started as a small aeromedical evacuation exercise and has grown to incorporate more than 17 different functional areas within AFRC."

"The Air Force Reserve has a great many people in the aeromedical field, and they get tasked every day to go fly different types of airplanes for contingency operations worldwide," said Lt. Col. Donald Richey, 910th Operations Group deputy commander from Youngstown who was running the exercise operations at Grissom. "This is a great opportunity for them to spend their annual tour stateside, get the experience of operating in field conditions, and flying aeromedical evacuation missions out of a barebones base,"

For that reason, Patriot Warrior is not just about Air Force reservists participating in a sanitized

exercise on an Air Force base.

"There are approximately 4,000 Army reservists and 400 Navy reservists involved in combat and medical evacuation operations at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin," explained Shadden. "The intention is to provide a training platform for our Air Force reservists to get realistic, wartime training with Army and Navy forces."

While Air Force reservists from 28 different bases are involved with transporting equipment and aeromedical evacuation operations, with 14 of those operating out of Grissom, Army reservists are handling security and combat operations while Navy reservists have set up a medical facility to handle the simulated wounded.

AFRC units participating in the exercise at Grissom hail from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia; Charleston

Air Force Base, South Carolina; Travis Air Force Base, California; Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pennsylvania; Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, New York; Scott Air Force Base, Illinois; Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado; Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi; Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland; Hill Air Force Base, Utah; Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio; Luke Air Force Base, Arizona; and Grissom.

In the Patriot Warrior 14 scenario, an allied country was invaded by the likewise fictitious one to secure an oil pipeline. The allied nation requested support of the United States, which formed a coalition and pushed the majority of enemy forces out of the invaded nation. Still, pockets of enemy special forces remain, which is what the exercise

participants are encountering.

For this scenario, all equipment headed into the invaded country is being routed through Grissom.

“We’re moving the cargo downrange for the warfighters of this exercise,” said Senior Master Sgt. Brian Armstrong, 67th Aerial Port Squadron superintendent from Hill.

“We’re basically the FedEx of the Air Force,” elaborated Tech. Sgt. Timothy Lyvers, 49th Aerial Port Squadron aerial port specialist from Grissom. “We’ve moved over 800,000 pounds of cargo in just the first three days, including over 44 pieces of rolling stock and 82 pallets, with the majority of those pallets weighing more than 8,000 pounds.”

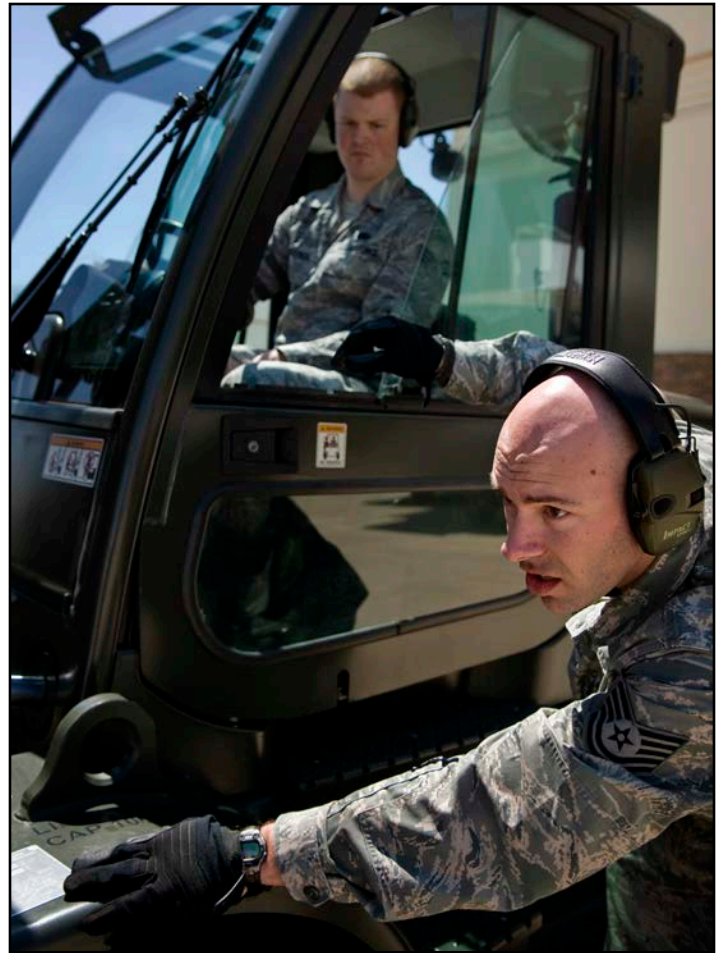
Various aircraft, including C-5 Galaxies, C-17 Globemaster IIIs, C-130 Hercules and KC-135R Stratotankers have all been flying in and out

of Grissom to move that cargo and personnel from point A to B, which takes a lot of work and attention to detail.

“You have to first get the cargo from wherever it’s coming from, build it up, determine if it’s hazardous or not, compile the paperwork, have it inspected to make sure it’s airworthy and then draw up load plans,” explained Lyvers. “Then, we get to use our muscles and load it onto an aircraft.”

To do all of that for so much equipment in such a short time has pushed the aerial porters to their limits.

“So far it’s been rough, and the reason I say that is because it’s been very high tempo, and high tempo is good; we like to work,” said Lyvers. “We’ve been working 12-hour days, night and day, for 24-hour operations trying to get these guys their equipment so they



Tech. Sgt. Timothy Lyvers, right, 49th Aerial Port Squadron aerial port specialist from Grissom, directs Senior Airman Zachery Frederick, 67th Aerial Port Squadron aerial port specialist from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, as they load a cargo pallet onto a Halvorsen loader here April 25.



Senior Master Sgt. Bill Lamela, 729th Airlift Squadron loadmaster from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., guides a fire truck into a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at Grissom April 25 during a Patriot Warrior exercise. While Air Force reservists from 28 different bases are involved with transporting equipment and aeromedical evacuation operations, with 14 of those operating out of Grissom, Army reservists are handling security and combat operations while Navy reservists have set up a medical facility to handle the simulated wounded for the exercise.

Grissom intel named best in AFRC

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

As a former Commandant of the Marine Corps once said, “to lack intelligence is to be in the ring blindfolded,” and with the 434th Operations Support Squadron’s intelligence office in their corner, Grissom’s Airmen can rest assured when they step into the ring of battle, they won’t have that problem.

For their efforts in keeping U.S. troops informed about threats at both home and abroad, the 434th OSS intelligence office was recently named the Air Force Reserve’s Outstanding OSS Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Unit of the Year for 2013.

“This is huge,” said Lt. Col. Gregory Schultz, 434th OSS senior intelligence officer. “The fact that we were number one among all the OSS-level intelligence shops is truly awesome.”

When asked what the intelligence office’s biggest achievement was for 2013, Schultz said it was a combination of everyone’s efforts throughout the year.

“I don’t really know what our golden bb was,” he explained. “There were 15 bullet statements in our package, and I think it’s a compilation of all 15.”

Several of those statements, which helped garner the prestigious honor, dealt with the intelligence office’s support to troops down-range.

“They mobilized to a U.S. Central Command location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where they supported more than 40 KC-135 [Stratotanker aircraft] and 140 crews that refueled approximately 3,000 receivers,” said Lt. Col. Douglas Gullion, 434th OSS commander. “They also conducted 560 intelligence briefings, which supported the offload of 110 million pounds of fuel to aircraft supporting more than 120 troops in contact with enemy forces, 100



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

Senior Airman Jared Easton, left, and Senior Master Sgt. Rafael Leyva, both 434th Operations Support Squadron intelligence specialists, practice intelligence analysis skills in the intelligence vault at Grissom March 26. The 434th OSS intelligence office was recently named the Air Force Reserve’s Outstanding OSS Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Unit of the Year for 2013.

special operations forces and 200 strikes.”

According to their nomination package, the deployed intelligence Airmen also authored more than mission reports, which dispersed critical threats in their area to their squadron, wing and the U.S. Air Forces Central’s Combined Air Operations Center as they directly supported approximately 100 special operations refueling missions.

In addition, they analyzed vital intelligence for combined joint special operations aircraft, briefing more than 200 special operations air refueling missions, which resulted in nearly 90 insurgents detained and 20 enemy forces killed in action.

“Our biggest impact is our support to the deployers as we provide threat analysis,” said Schultz. “No matter what you do out there, there’s always a risk, and we try to keep them informed of those risks.”

“Our job is to make the mission successful,” added Senior Airman

Jared Easton, 434th OSS intelligence apprentice. “Our goal is fulfilled when crews return home with no force protection issues.”

To make that goal a reality, Grissom’s intelligence Airmen must stay informed on what is happening around the world.

“We take a lot of different data, analyze it and make assessments and say ‘here’s the stuff that can really hurt you, here’s the stuff that’s least likely,’” explained Schultz. “We look at ten to fifteen sources a day as we keep our ear to the rail.”

“We don’t just use one product and one product only -- we fuse things together,” elaborated Senior Airman Waleed Kishta, 434th OSS intelligence apprentice. “You try to give the troops a situational awareness, keeping their guard up because the threat is worldwide; it’s not just in areas that we’re at war with.”

“Before Airmen deploy, they come to us, and we are their eyes, their ears, their classified Google

and their Wikipedia to that area they're going to," Kishta continued. "When you have this Airman who never left America and he's going into a combat zone, you want to make sure you give him accurate information so that he can come home safe to his country, family and loved ones."

In their world, Grissom's intelligence Airmen may never know how successful they have been or how many threats never metastasized into tragedy thanks to their efforts. However, they occasionally do get indicators of a job well done.

"A few years ago our civil engineer unit was slated to support a humanitarian mission in South America, and we did our analysis, and as it turned out we determined it wasn't a good idea, and so the mission did not go," recalled Senior Master Sgt. Rafael Leyva Jr., 434th OSS intelligence technician. "Events that occurred after the fact validated what we stated as two or three months later bad things did happen in the area they were headed."

Schultz also said they know they've done their job from individual experiences.

"We know that when we brief people going overseas, we're not going to be their only source of intelligence, but we are the first source, and when you see their eyes open as we show them what's really going on and happening every day you know you're making a difference," he explained. "You also know that when they come home and say, 'that one little thing you said really helped me,' and maybe some little nugget that we said did make them a little more aware and a little bit safer."

While much of their focus was abroad, Grissom's intelligence shop also earned the award for their work stateside.

"This award represents a good cross section of everything we do well," said Schultz. "We had deployments last year, so they brought a lot of meat and potatoes to the award package, but we also had the stuff we do for nuclear mis-

sion support and local force protection support.

"I think one of the things that really helped us a lot was that we are a host base, so we are the only organic intelligence here," he added. "It gives us opportunities to do a lot of things."

"They are nuclear enterprise experts," said Gullion about their work stateside. "They managed more than 1,100 pieces of message traffic for Global Thunder."

Global Thunder is a U.S. Strategic Command exercise that once focused solely on nuclear readiness and command and control, but now encompasses all its mission areas and crossing into every combatant command.

The intelligence Airmen also helped mitigate threats to the Hoozier base, said Gullion.

"They developed an inclusive list of threat sources including the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Federal Bureau of Investigation and local law enforcement, which was recently commended by a joint services vulnerability assessment team," the commander elaborated. "They also increased intelligence partnering with the FBI by holding bi-annual military working groups to improve analysis and threat mitigation."

While their breadth of work may seem impressive, perhaps making it

more so is the rate of turnover the office recently endured while still accomplishing the mission.

"They met all taskings and requirements despite the turnover of 40 percent of their officers and 43 percent of their 7-level intelligence technicians," said Gullion.

"We have the majority of our positions filled now, but I'd say 2013 was definitely a rebuilding year for us," said Schultz, who added that their office has a good reputation, not just because of their work, but because of their people.

As one of those people, Easton said he enjoys his job because of the variety.

"It doesn't matter how long you've been here or how long you've been doing this job, you learn something new every day," he explained. "There are so many resources available to us, so the access to information is unparalleled."

"There's always something new popping up," echoed Kishta.

From his perspective, Schultz said what he likes most about the intelligence world is seeing his work make a relevant difference.

"When you're seeing all of the pieces and parts put together in supporting a common mission, when we're actually doing our mission, that's really neat," he concluded.



Senior Airman Jared Easton, 434th Operations Support Squadron intelligence apprentice, practices giving an intelligence briefing at Grissom March 26.

Kern takes command as top medic

By Senior Airman
Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

Grissom's medics watched as their squadron guidon passed from one set of leadership hands to the next.

Lt. Col. Therese Kern took command of the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron from Col. Thomas Collins during a special ceremony here April 13.

"I am honored to take command of such a wonderful and professional medical squadron," said Kern.

Collins who commanded AMDS for three years, retired soon after the ceremony with 38 years of military service.

"I've known Therese for well over twenty years and I'm excited she is here," Collins said. "She is going to bring in a tremendous amount of energy and a great vision."

Presiding over the ceremony was Brig. Gen. John Flournoy Jr., 4th Air Force commander, who had nothing but positive feedback of both com-

manders.

"She has a desire to lead Airmen," said Flournoy. "She's very experienced and has a great track record"

"Colonel Collins, for your sense of humor and dedication to your Airmen thank you on behalf of the 4th AF and the Air Force Reserve Command," Flournoy added.

Kern, a Wisconsin native and board certified nurse practitioner, began her Air Force career as an enlisted medical technician at 440th Medical Squadron, General Mitchell Air Reserve Station, Wisconsin.

After graduating in 1987 with her Bachelor of Science in nursing, Kern went on to commission in the medical corps.

Kern has used her medical expertise across the globe in support of Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Kern came to Grissom and began her journey here in July 2013, where she served as chief nurse.

"Colonel Collins you've taken this AMDS to great heights, it has become



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew McLaughlin

Brig. Gen. John C. Flournoy Jr., 4th Air Force commander, presents the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Therese Kern as she took command April 13. Kern previously served as the 434th AMDS chief nurse.

an exemplarily unit with outstanding numbers," she said. "You've molded a great squadron and

have left me with very big shoes to fill but your influence will continue after you are gone."

Flournoy, from page 3

During the whirlwind visit, one person spent more time with the general than anyone. 2nd Lt. John Pedro, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels flight commander, was the general's escort over the weekend and said he came away impressed.

"I've learned a lot just watching how he interacts with people," continued Pedro. "You can tell he cares about people."

As an example of that, Flournoy helped lift the spirits of Tech. Sgt.

Tramona Huxley, 434th Force Support Squadron services specialist, as he described her as an infection person.

"Your smile is just what this unit needs," he said. "You make people feel better by your attitude and your service here."

Flournoy said that good attitude and the desire to put service before self were evident at Grissom.

"People vote with their feet," he said. "If they aren't happy they aren't going to continue to choose

to serve."

And, it was the general who also served in several capacities during his visit. Flournoy presided over the 434th Maintenance Group and 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron change of commands as well as participated in the annual awards banquet and pin-on ceremony for Col. Stephen McManus, 434th ARW staff judge advocate.

"We kept him busy," Reinhart said. "He wanted a good look at Grissom, and we gave him one."



Grissom celebrates Arbor Day

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

Three blossoms on a Japanese flowering Yoshino cherry tree hang on tight during a rainy day at Grissom April 25. The three flowers were the trees only blossoms, and one of the few sources of natural color on what was a gloomy day during which Grissom, recognized as a Tree City by the National Arbor Day Foundation, celebrated Arbor Day.

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

Grissom didn't let a gloomy day stop it from celebrating its on-going commitment to the environment.

As part of its annual Arbor Day celebration, nearly 30 Airmen, civilians and contractors gathered around the 434th Civil Engineer Squadron's pond to plant a Japanese flowering Yoshino cherry tree here April 25.

"Trees are an easy way to beautify and improve our environment," explained Cory Walters, 434th Mission Support Group biological scientist. "Trees provide a little something for everyone, and it's an easy way for us to give back to the environment and our community."

Leading the ceremony was David Hughes, 434th MSG base civil engineer, who spoke about the benefits trees provide.

"Trees provide shade to keep us and our homes cool on hot summer days, give off vital oxygen through photosynthesis which you and I and animals need to breathe, and absorb harmful pollutants and small particles from the air which could damage our lungs," said Hughes. "Trees also provide protection from the wind, reduce noise pollution, and provide a home and food for wildlife."

The Yoshino cherry tree planted this year is known for fragrant, white-pink flowers and features an oriental branching pattern with glossy bark and dark-green leaves.

"It has really pretty spring blossoms," remarked

Walters when asked why the Yoshino Cherry was chosen. "It's a beautiful way to welcome in spring."

While the tree may be beautiful, the gloomy day was not, but Walters said that wasn't a bad thing at all.

"With it raining, it makes it easier on the tree to adjust to its new home because the ground is wet and you have an immediate source of water for it to draw from to take root," he explained.

And, it's not just a single cherry tree Grissom's civil engineers care about. The base has more than 3,700 trees throughout its more than 1,200 acres, which is one of the reasons Grissom is one of 67 communities has been selected as a Tree City by the Arbor Day Foundation for the last 13 years.

To be named as a Tree City, four requirements as outlined by the Arbor Day Foundation must be met to include a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance.

"With the emphasis on money for the foreseeable future, trees are a win-win for the base," stated Walters. "We can beautify the base while minimizing our environmental impact."

With the number of trees on Grissom, the emphasis has shifted from planting new trees to managing and maintaining existing resources.

"With an active tree management program, we can continually maintain our tree population, added Walters. "This allows us to maximize the look and benefit we receive from our trees."

Grissom JAG pins on 'full bird' colonel



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

Moira McManus, wife of newly promoted Col. Stephen McManus, 434th Air Refueling Wing staff judge advocate, pins colonel rank on her husband during a ceremony here April 12.

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

For generations, colonels have commanded both armies and respect.

Stephen McManus, 434th Air Refueling Wing staff judge advocate, was promoted to the rank of colonel in front of family, friends, colleagues and peers during a special ceremony held here at Gus Grissom Hall Aug. 25.

Presiding over the special ceremony was Brig. Gen. John C. Flournoy Jr., 4th Air Force commander.

The newly promoted colonel had his wife, Moira, and Flournoy pin on eagle rank insignias on his service dress coat, while his eight children put his new rank on his hat and shoulder boards on his shirt.

The history of the prestigious rank dates back to around 1505, when the Spanish King Ferdinand reorganized part of his army into twenty units called colonelas. These consisted of about 1,000 to 1,250 men further

organized into companies with their commander being named a coronel. The French, and later the British, adopted the title, and although initially retaining the original Spanish pronunciation, the British soon used the pronunciation of 'kernel' we're familiar with today. U.S. military colonels rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a brigadier general. The modern day insignia for a colonel is a silver eagle with a U.S. shield on its chest and holding an olive branch in one talon and a bundle of arrows in the other. The eagle insignia led to the informal term 'full bird colonel.'

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Five of the eight children of newly promoted Col. Stephen McManus, 434th Air Refueling Wing staff judge advocate, pin eagle rank insignia on their dad with the help of Brig. Gen. John C. Flournoy Jr., 4th Air Force commander, during a special ceremony at Grissom April 12, 2014. Picture from left to right are Aisling, Niamh, Tressa, Brenna and Kaileigh McManus.

Twenty-three members earn next stripe

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

From their first to their last, America's Airmen earn each stripe of rank.

Twenty-three Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing here recently earned their next stripe. Their names are as follows:

To master sergeant:

- Jarred Gentile, 434th Security Forces Squadron
- Nicholas Ward, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron

To technical sergeant:

- Robert Rzasa, 434th CES;
Gregory Spradlin, 434th Operations Support Squadron; Derwin Wilson, 434th ARW; Ronald York, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and Anna Zaremba, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

To staff sergeant:

William Bailey, 434th Maintenance Squadron; Davis Gilliland, 434th MXS; Alexander Gin, 434th Maintenance Group; Cameren Hinton, 434th MXS; Waleed Kishta, 434th OSS; Effiong Okebugwu, 434th AMXS; and

Gabriel Rienks, 434th AMXS.

To senior airman:

Monika Dilworth, 434th AMDS; Geana Kristina, 434th MXS; Charles Reed, 434th SFS; and Thomas Swieciak, 434th AMXS.

To airman 1st class:

Jessica Murr, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

To airman:

Michael Dampier, 434th SFS; Jazma Falconer, 434th AMXS; John Harlow, 49th Aerial Port Flight; and Jalen Kelley, 434th SFS.

Ten Airmen awarded medals at Grissom

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

For their meritorious service in the Air Force, 10 Grissom Airmen were recently awarded medals.

Meritorious Service Medal

Three 434th Air Refueling Wing Airmen were recently presented with Meritorious Service Medals. President Lyndon Johnson established the MSM by Executive Order 11448 on Jan. 16, 1969. Those who received MSMs are listed below:

Senior Master Sgt. George Dibattiste, 434th Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Kevin Ballentine, 434th Maintenance Group; and Master Sgt. Mark J. Goar Sr., 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Air Medal

Three aviators were presented with Air Medals. The Air Medal was established by May 11, 1942 and is awarded to

May 2014



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

U.S. military and civilian personnel for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievements while participating in aerial flight. Below are those who received Air Medals:

Lt. Col. John Pannell, 74th Air Refueling Squadron; Capt. Chayce Baldwin, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; and Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Obusek, 74th ARS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Mota, 434th Air Refuel-

ing Wing, received an 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. Below are those who received commendation medals:

Air Force Achievement Medal

Three Grissom Airmen were awarded the 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. Below are those who received achievement medals:

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Mortier, 434th MXS; Senior Airman Kody Herbst, 434th MXS; and Senior Airman Kelsey St Clair, 434th MXS.

Cadets tour KC-135, Grissom Marines



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

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Cory Korey Wright, instructs as Marine Lance Cpls. Austin Bontrager, top, and Andrew Hall, grapple during a self-defense demonstration at Grissom April 23. The Marines from Detachment One, Communication Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group, put on the display for Navy Junior ROTC students from Anderson High School, Anderson, Ind.

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
Public Affairs staff

Potential recruits got a glimpse of military life during a visit to Grissom April 23.

Twenty-eight students from Anderson High School's Navy junior ROTC detachment visited the base, the Air Force and Marine Corps.

First stop for the group was Leatherneck Drive and Detachment One, Communication Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group.

The Marines rolled out the proverbial camouflage carpet to show off their portable satellite systems, firearms training simulator, weapons and even a self-defense demonstration with two Marines grappling.

The tour wrapped up in Dock 1, with the students visiting a static display of a KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft.

After dividing into three groups, the cadets toured the aircraft's cockpit, boom pod and exterior while being briefed by aircrew members and crew chiefs.

"Our tour program is designed to give maximum exposure in minimal time," said Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner, deputy chief of public affairs. "We enjoy sharing our mission with groups and educating them on what we do here."

Other groups interested in arranging a tour should contact the Public Affairs office at (765) 688-3348 for more information.

Westover ARB to lose aircraft, personnel

WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE, Mass -- Air Force officials announced Monday that half of the 439th Airlift Wing's C-5 fleet - and more than 300 jobs here - will be cut as a result of Pentagon budget cuts and sequestration.

While the host unit 439th AW flies 16 C-5B models, eight C-5s will transfer from Westover to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, beginning in 2015.

The C-5 fleet is scheduled to be upgraded to the re-engined M-models.

In the plan, Westover will retain eight of the refurbished C-5Ms.

Personnel losses include 59 full-time enlisted and 275 drilling reservists.

This number has not been finalized nor has a timeline been released yet.

Drilling reservists are those Airmen who perform unit training assemblies at the base monthly, while the full-time air reserve technicians are civil service employees during the week. ARTs also report for the

monthly UTAs.

"These changes affect the core of our mission here - our dedicated men and women. These reductions will incur hardships on our people," said Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, 439th AW commander. "We will take care of our people; we will place as many as possible in other positions within the wing and programs will be available to assist those displaced by this change in force structure. We will continue to fulfill our global mobility mission before, during and after these changes."

ARTs should consult with the military personnel flight and civilian personnel offices on base, while drilling reservists should work through the MPF.

Faced with austere budgets, the Air Force is refocusing and reducing the size of its forces to comply with the president's new defense strategy and the Budget Control Act's requirements to cut \$487 billion from the defense budget over the next eight years. (AFRCNS)



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy

Max Thunder

C-130H Hercules from Yokota Air Base, Japan, drop heavy equipment payloads over South Korea during exercise Max Thunder April 18. Max Thunder is a bilateral air exercise designed to improve interoperability between regional air assets.

Balance, from page 3

ponent so that future end-strength cuts may not be necessary," she said.

The secretary also reported better projection and budgeting of Guard and Reserve man-day use, with a 70-percent increase in planned man-years over the next two years.

James told the senators that Air Force leaders agree with 86 percent of the suggestions put forth by the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force, established by Congress as part of the fiscal 2013 defense spending bill. However, she added, they differ with the commission's recommendation that Air Force Reserve Command be disestablished.

"We're all for integration, and of course, that is the basis of that recommendation," James said. "But we feel ... in fiscal year 2015, we don't have a good alternative way to manage and provide for ... 70,000 members of the Air Force Reserve, so we would disagree with that proposition, at least for (fiscal 2015)."

James reported that the Total Force Continuum, another group of generals, will lead the charge for myriad initiatives, one being facilitating an Airman's ability to serve in the active force, the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve in the course of a career.

To facilitate a new total force personnel and pay system in support of the continuum of service, the secretary said, the Air Force has integrated force support squadrons at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; and Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H.

"One unit is essentially serving all of the three different components in the geographic area with respect to personnel systems," she explained.

James noted an uptick in shared active and reserve-component squadrons, or Air Force associations, from 102 to 124, a 22 percent increase in recent years.

"It's a form of integration, and

we're kicking it up a notch and doing more of these in the future," she said.

To retain talent across the total force, the secretary said, the Air Force has reduced the active-duty service commitment payback in the Palace Chase Service Commitment Waiver Program from three reserve years for every year of active commitment down to one.

Palace Chase is the name of the Air Force program in which an active-duty Airman transfers to the reserve component. The program also expanded to include rated officers.

"Bottom line there is we're making it easier and more attractive to people to enter the Guard and Reserve," she added.

James also reported seeking authority from the Defense Department to implement aviator retention pay to traditional reservists.

"As an aviator leaves active duty (for) the Guard and Reserve, I want to be able to (offer) that incentive pay," she said. (AFPS)



Easter egg run cracks open fun

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
Public Affairs staff



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

Margie Gallegos gets a boost from teammates Jeff Castleberry and Debra Wilson-Strong as she does a pull up during an Easter Egg fun run held at Grissom April 17. Teams of runners ran along a variable course stopping to perform a variety of unity-building exercises in the name of fun and fitness.

Nearly 30 people hit the ‘bunny trail’ April 17 for Grissom’s second annual Easter Egg Run.

Participants paired up in teams and began the run by pulling an egg out of bucket. Inside the eggs were tasks that had to be performed until the next station.

“We had to run through the base exchange giving ‘high-fives’ to people said Debra Wilson-Strong, 434th Force Support Squadron education and training office noncommissioned officer in charge.

“There were a lot of people in there,” added teammate William Gonzalez, 434th Maintenance Squadron ordnance equipment mechanic.

After the quick detour it was back on the track where others were seen doing burpees and lunges, or circling back to the next station.

Upon arriving to one station, participants were greeted by Scott Fleek, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal flight superintendent, with some friendly trash talk. He had drawn the ‘taunting egg’ and been directed to taunt the next team that arrived.

“It was all about unity,” said Zac Holmes, 434th FSS fitness instructor and the run’s coordinator. “It is part of our team unity series and not with just people you know as you could be teamed up with folks you may not know well.”

The feedback we have received from these events is positive, Holmes added.

“Oh my gosh, we had so much fun,” said Erin Strickland, 434th Air Refueling Wing accounting liaison officer.

Her team drew an egg that required them to drink a root beer past the midpoint section.

“It was delicious,” said Strickland. “I don’t usually drink pop, but it was quite a treat - not to mention the burst of energy from sugar.”

For information on other events, call the fitness center at 688-2000.

Patriot, from page 5

can build their base from the ground up.”

While they may be both the brain and the brawn of supplying the warfighter, many of the aerial porters made references to working behind the scenes.

“This isn’t a glamorous job; if you want to have a football analogy, you’re on the offensive line down in the mud,” said Lyvers. “You get no glory for it, but we love it; the satisfaction comes from knowing that we’re helping get cargo downrange to the warfighter.”

While only a few days into the exercise, Richey said things are well underway with only a few hiccups.

“Things are going fairly smooth here getting started, but down range they’ve had challenges getting communications equipment up and working,” he explained. “They’re in tents in field conditions, and with all

the rain they’ve had, the dirt landing zone we were going to be operating off of is now a mud landing zone, so we’ve had to relocate the airfield a couple different times already.

“That’s the way this exercise works,” Richey continued. “If thunderstorms come in, they have to adapt to it and deal with it just like they would for real-world operations.”

Despite those challenges, the lieutenant colonel said everyone was pulling together to get the mission accomplished.

“It’s like when you’re in the (U.S. Central Command area of operations), where you have a bunch of units come together to support a mission,” echoed Lyvers. “We’ve got a lot of intelligent people here, and we’ve all meshed together immediately to hit the ground running.”

While Grissom is the



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

Staff Sgt. Steven Bourff, right, and Senior Airman Jason Ader, both 49th Aerial Port Squadron aerial port specialists from Grissom, push cargo for Patriot Warrior here April 25.

staging base for this year’s exercise, it may not be in the future.

“The location changes every year because it adds to the scenario,” said Richey. “If you have an exercise at the same place every year, things get a little bit stale because you see the same things.”

To emphasize how big the exercise has become over the years, Shadden pointed to 13 dis-

tinguished visitors who are scheduled to witness operations at Fort McCoy. Those include Maj. Gen. Richard Haddad, AFRC vice commander, and three DVs from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

“This is very high visibility and a great way to show off what the reserve components can do,” concluded Shadden.



Tech. Sgt. Timothy Lyvers, right, 49th Aerial Port Squadron aerial port specialist from Grissom, directs Senior Airman Zachery Frederick, 67th Aerial Port Squadron aerial port specialist from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, as Frederick uses a 10K standard forklift to load a cargo pallet onto a Halvorsen loader Here April 25 during a Patriot Warrior exercise. Patriot Warrior is a joint, field-training exercise for theater aeromedical evacuation systems and ground medical components designed to replicate all aspects of combat medical service support.