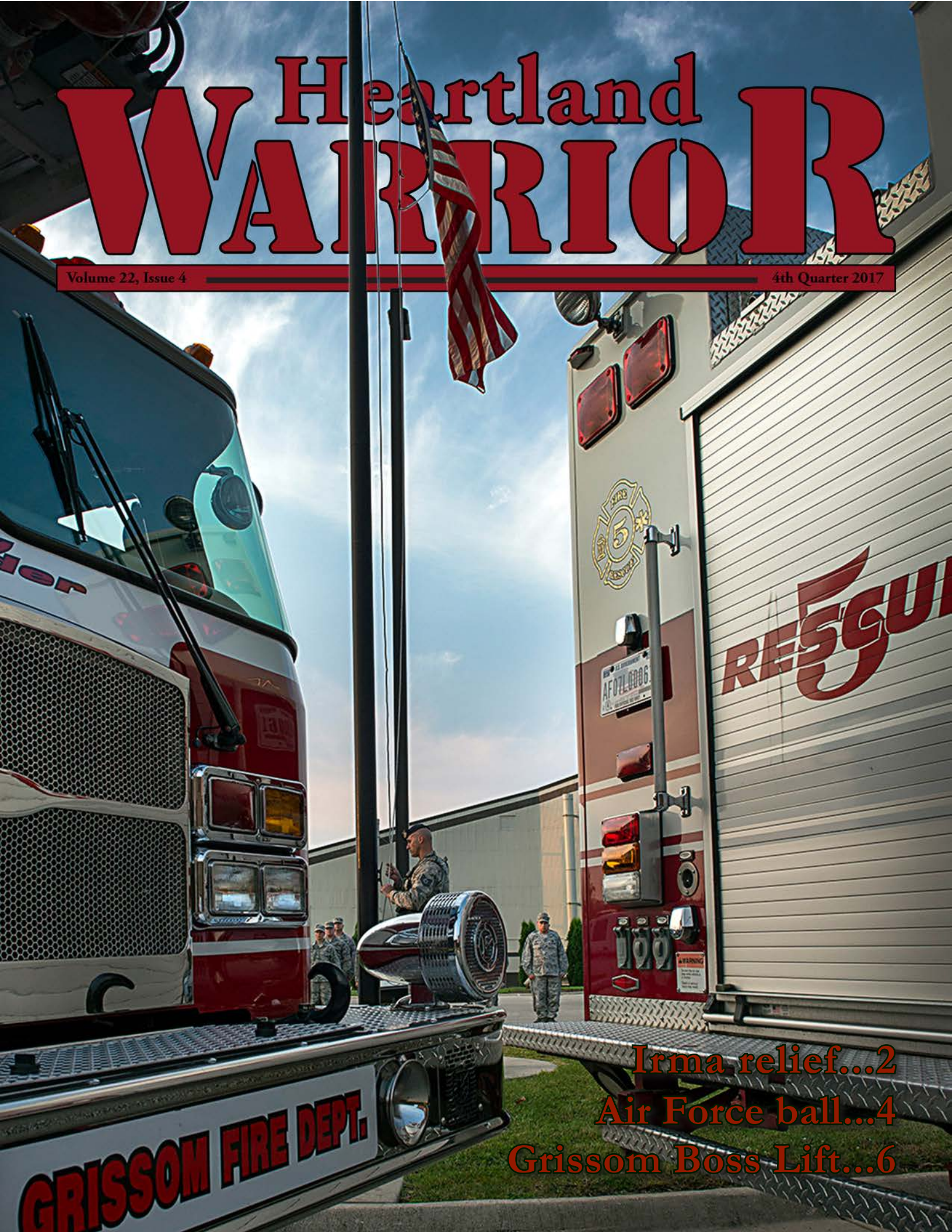


Heartland WARRIOR

Volume 22, Issue 4

4th Quarter 2017



Irma relief...2

Air Force ball...4

Grissom Boss Lift...6

Heartland **WARRIOR**

Vol. 22, No. 4
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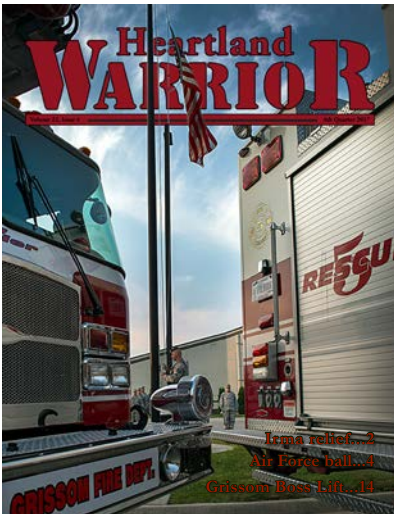
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U.S. Air Force photo by Doug Hays

On the cover...

Tech. Sgt. Joshua Richman, 434th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, lowers the flag to half staff at Grissom Sept. 11, during a 9/11 memorial ceremony. Grissom fire fighters, Airmen, civilians and contractors gathered at the flag to remember those lost in the terrorist attacks in 2001.

Grissom Airmen deploy to assist with Irma recovery

By Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Fifty-two Citizen Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing deployed to Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, Sept. 11 and 12 to assist with Hurricane Irma recovery.

Those deploying included electricians, carpenters, pavement specialists, pest management, water and waste water treatment technicians, firefighters and a force support team including personnelists and services members.

“The Hoosier Wing continues to step up when called upon,” said Col. Larry Shaw, 434th ARW commander. “Time and time again when called we answer in great fashion.”

This is the second deployment in two days of personnel and cargo to the South Florida base being used by multiple federal agencies as a staging area to support areas the hardest by the category 4 hurricane.

As a primary staging area the base is scheduled to receive additional

relief aid daily, but was unable to receive that aid due to a shortage of support staff on the ground.

“Within minutes of landing, Homestead’s fire department was requesting Grissom firefighters so they could start landing large aircraft,” said Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota, 434th ARW public affairs noncommissioned officer in charge. “We opened up a flood gate of support by providing the fire protection required.”

In addition to Airmen, 17,000 pounds of cargo including meals ready to eat, cots, and water were also among tools and equipment taken to help speed recovery of the disaster torn area.

Two KC-135R Stratotankers loaded with personnel and gear departed Grissom late Tuesday morning and were scheduled to return to Grissom that same evening.

“Homestead currently has no power or utilities,” said Mota. “Any aircraft bringing in personnel and

See ‘Irma’ page 5



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota

Senior Master Sgt. Tim Woods, left, and Maj. Matt O’Neil, citizen Airmen from Grissom unload plywood at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., Sept. 12.

Nearly 100 Airmen, 7 tankers return from deployments

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota
Public Affairs staff

The 434th Air Refueling Wing's mission is to provide air refueling and combat-ready forces, and a recent return of Airmen proved the wing was able to do just that at a higher than normal operations tempo.

Nearly 100 Airmen and seven KC-135R Stratotankers returned home Aug. 22-27, following deployments supporting two separate contingencies more than 6,500 miles apart.

While six tankers and aircrew were supporting Operation Inherent Resolve in the Middle East, the other aircraft and support staff from the 434th ARW were supporting a theater security package in Guam.

"I'm so proud of the Airmen returning," said Col. Larry Shaw, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander who greeted each group as they arrived. "Time and time again our Airmen answer the call without hesitation, and every time they deploy they prove the 434th ARW gets the job done!"

In the Middle East alone four tankers and aircrew flew 931 missions refueling just under 4,000 receiver aircraft while transferring more than 53 million pounds of fuel.

Also proud of the returning Air-



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota

Col. Larry Shaw, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, greets Maj. Scott Street, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron pilot and flight commander, as he and other returning deployers step off a KC-135R Stratotanker at Grissom Aug. 22.

men were the family members waiting as each tanker returned.

"We were really excited to see him come home," said Katy Holmes as she and her two children Calvin and Abigail waited for her husband, Staff Sgt. Zachary Holmes, 74th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, to return.

One group of Airmen was welcomed home by U.S. Rep. Jackie

Walorski.

The congresswoman said she came to the base specifically to thank returning Airmen for their service and commitment to the mission.

While the primary mission of both deployments was to provide aerial refueling to long-range bomber, fighter and cargo aircraft several other professionals including medical, administration, and maintenance also deployed.

"This deployment has been one of the largest and most diverse deployments we have seen in a long time," said Shaw. "Everyone did a great job, but now that our Airmen have returned its time to get them reunited with their families."

Helping do just that were volunteers from Grissom's Key Support Team who provided information and resources to military spouses and their families.

"We try to reach out to the family at least three times while their Airman are deployed," said Kris Shaw, Key Support Team member.

"It's all about helping take care of the Airman and doing what is needed to be done to ensure a smooth transition."



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota

First Lt. Steven Bretcher, 74th Air Refueling Squadron pilot, holds his daughter Kathryn at Grissom Aug. 22 after arriving from a deployment.

Grissom celebrates past, present with AF Ball



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Cali Wetli

Maj. Gen. Randall Ogden, 4th Air Force commander, Senior Master Sgt. Darin Schenher, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron production supervisor and Airman 1st Class Simone Hairston, 434th Maintenance Group knowledge operations management apprentice, cut the cake with a ceremonial sword during Grissom's Air Force Ball in Kokomo, Ind., Sept. 23.

By Senior Airman Cali Wetli *Public Affairs staff*

The Air Force has a rich heritage and members and guests of the 434th Air Refueling Wing gathered to celebrate that heritage and reflect on those serving past and present at the Air Force Ball.

The event was held in Kokomo Sept 23 with more than 600 guests attending.

"The 2017 Air Force Ball was a night to remember," said Col. Larry Shaw, 434th ARW commander. "It was great to see all of Grissom's men and women, distinguished guests and civic leaders enjoy a memorable evening celebrating the rich heritage and the 70th birthday of the Air Force."

The event center was trans-

formed into a night under the lights by volunteers to make the event special.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Sharpy, Air Mobility Command deputy commander, was the guest speaker. Sharpy had previously served as a captain when Shaw was a second lieutenant.

"It's always a memorable time when I have the opportunity to visit Grissom," Sharpy said.

Other guests included Maj. Gen. Randall Ogden, 4th Air Force commander and Chief Master Sgt. Timothy White, 4th AF command chief.

"I've been to a number of birthday celebrations, but this would absolutely be the best one," said Ogden. "It was beautifully decorated, the food was wonderful and it was great to come back and see

Airmen I served with years ago."

Attendees observed ceremonial traditions including the national anthem sung by Grissom Airmen, the presentation of colors ceremony and Prisoner Of War/Missing In Action ceremony and a cake cutting ceremony--a military tradition where the most senior ranking individual and the lowest ranking individual cut a decorated cake using a ceremonial sword.

During the ball, specially prepared meals were plated and served to guests followed by a night of camaraderie and dancing.

"Events like these remind us that our great Citizen Airmen are making their own history each and every day while remembering the sacrifices of those veterans who served before them," Shaw concluded.

Airman's Attic takes care of the Grissom family

By Staff Sgt.
Katrina Heikkinen

Taking care of the Air Force family is at the core of Airman and Family Readiness, and for one member, she was inspired to strengthen the Grissom family after visiting active-duty bases.

Jill Marconi-Pyclik, 434th Force Support Squadron Airman and Family Readiness director, recently spear-headed Grissom's first Airman's Attic.

"Seeing other Airman's Attics at active-duty bases made me realize we get a lot of Airmen who can benefit from a place that offers military uniforms and household goods to the Airmen at absolutely no cost," Marconi-Pyclik said.

A staple at active-duty bases, Airman's Attics are no-cost thrift stores run by volunteers that offer household items and Air Force uniforms for Airmen in need.

"We try to supplement some of those items for the Airmen because living in two households can get expensive," she said.

Marconi-Pyclik said the Airman and Family Readiness Center is currently only accepting kitchen and Air Force uniform items. Anyone interested in donating can do so Monday through Friday during normal duty-day hours and during unit training assemblies.

"Most Reserve bases don't have an Airman's Attic due to the size of the base or lack of a facility," Marconi-Pyclik added. "But it's important for Airmen to have household items they need and to feel comfortable in their home away from home."

Airmen and/or their families interested in donating or volunteering can do so by calling the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 688-4812.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Katrina Heikkinen

Jill Marconi-Pyclik, 434th Force Support Squadron Airman and Family Readiness director, folds Air Force blues uniforms at the Airman's Attic at Grissom July 8.

Irma, from page 2

cargo had to depart before it got dark for safety reasons."

Mota was among those making the trip, and provided escort to local news media invited to travel with unit members to witness and report on local recovery assistance efforts.

"It's important that people know that many of these deployers are taking time off – and are given time off – from their civilian employers," Shaw said. "I tell people time and time again, we can't do what we do without the support of family and employers."

No timeline is set for the return of those assisting with recovery efforts. Their stay depends on the progress and resiliency of Homestead and their infrastructure.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota

Men and women from the 434th Air Refueling Wing offload hurricane relief aid upon arrival to Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., Sept. 12.

Employers experience life of their Airmen

By Senior Airman
Cali Wetli
Public Affairs staff

Reservists get a taste of both the military and civilian worlds, but one group of civilian employers recently had an opportunity to experience first-hand the mission their citizen Airman live out.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and Grissom Air Reserve Base collaborated to provide a boss-lift for employers, to encourage the civilian-military relationship, at Grissom July 17-18.

Joining the 434th Air Refueling Wing on the boss lift were the 122nd Fighter Wing, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the 181st Intelligence Wing, Terre Haute, Indiana.

With both Guard and Reserve units present, the ESGR's focus is to strengthen the relationships between service members and their civilian employers, giving the employer a chance to experience first-hand everything that goes into supporting the mission and its importance.

"When there's a good relationship between a service member and an employer, you're going to get a better employee and a better employer," said David Hohiemer, ESGR boss-lift coordinator. "When a young Airman has to be deployed, that employer now understands what they go through, so I am 100 percent dedicated to improving this relationship."

The visit kicked off by learning about the duties and capabilities of the 434th Security Forces Squadron, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal team and Grissom's Fire Department. A static display was set up where employers could see and experience the sheer manpower used to deter the enemy and keep Grissom's Airmen safe.

"It was interesting to see the capabilities, some I didn't know existed, and I really learned how they support local law enforcement and work hand in hand with them," said Capt. David Kirkham, Indiana State Police.

"I was surprised to know Grissom's EOD can lend their technology and their expertise

manpower to law enforcement," said John Boyd, La Porte County Sheriff. "It's nice to know they are available to us if we need them. They have state of the art technology, are a full-time unit, so they're well trained at what they do, and are extremely reliable. I wouldn't hesitate reaching out to them knowing now they can support us."

Later that evening, a special dinner was catered by the dining facility.

After an eventful evening and rest at the Grissom Inn, a whole new day full of reaching new heights awaited as employers took off in three KC-135R Stratotankers to view the mission from above.

"It is a privilege to

give employers the opportunity to see the mission from a birds-eye view," said Col. Larry Shaw, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander. "Anything we can do to strengthen the relationship between our Airman and their civilian employers is essential for mission success."

Not only does it strengthen the relationship, but also gives hard working employers a chance to do something they may never have the chance to do elsewhere.

"It was a great experience to go up and see the mission from inside a KC-135," said Matt McCullough, Riley Fire Department. "This was an opportunity like no other getting to learn about Grissom and experiencing it first-hand."



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Cali Wetli

Donald Peek Jr., Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve volunteer, lays on a ladder while a Grissom firefighter lifts him above the flight ramp at Grissom Aug. 18.

Grissom ARB welcomes Green Knights

By Senior Airman Cali Wetli
Public Affairs staff

Grissom Air Reserve Base is now home to the Green Knights Military Motorcycle club.

The Green Knights is an organization founded in 1999 and is spread across the country for military motorcycle riders, currently with over 130 chapters.

It is open to active, Reserve, Guard as well as Department of Defense civilians. The main focus for the riders is safety, with a secondary focus on awareness and charity for veterans of all types.

“You get to bring your love of riding with your military career and come together for good causes,” said Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Eichenfels, 434th Force Support Squadron superintendent and Green Knights president. “Everyone is welcome.”

“The color green represents the military,” said Eichenfels. “There are also the Blue Knights, for police,



U.S. Air Force graphic by Senior Airman Cali Wetli

and the Red Knights, for fire fighters.”

The Knights are currently searching for members to fill the positions of sergeant of arms, Green Knight’s first sergeant, secretary, treasurer and many other positions. Elections will be taken in October to fill these spots.

There will be dues of \$50 for the first year and \$30 for subsequent years. A majority of the money will

go to fees for the member’s colors, a patch to wear on the back of a jacket or vest.

The club is not only available for Air Force members on base, but also for Army and Marine units.

For more information about the Green Knights, contact Eichenfels at 765-688-3907 or Senior Airman Matthew Kaim, vice president, at 765-688-3933.

GARB remembers the fallen during 9/11 ceremony

By Tech. Sgt.
Benjamin Mota
Public Affairs staff

While most people can’t remember where they were at any given time in their lives, 16 years later most can remember where they were during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

To help ensure those memories were not forgotten Grissom Airmen, firefighters and civilians joined Americans around the world Sept. 11, to pay their respects to the victims.

Kicking off the ceremony, Col. Larry Shaw, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, shared his thoughts and thanked participants for joining.

“We remember the images, the sights, the

sounds the emotions of 16 years ago, just like it was last week,” said Shaw.

“We should also remember the resilience and the pride we took as a nation, standing up, not cowering, and fighting back.

Following Shaw’s message to Airmen, Chaplain (Maj.) Alex Jack, 434th ARW chaplain, provided words of encouragement followed by a prayer and moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11.

“On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four planes on the way to Los Angeles and San Francisco after they took off from Washington and Boston. And our world and our Air Force hasn’t been the same since...,” said Jack. “And so today, with heavy



U.S. Air Force photo by Doug Hays

Members from the 434th Air Refueling Wing gathered at Grissom Sept. 11, to remember those fallen heroes who perished in the terror attacks in 2001.

hearts and sober resolve, we remember those who lost their lives and those who gave their lives to save others. Let us pause for a minute of silence and then I invite you to join me in a word of prayer.”

Ending a moment of

silence was the somber sound of Taps played by Senior Airman Ryan Ware, 49th Aerial Flight apprentice and Honor Guard member, as a final tribute to the fallen before base personnel went back quietly to their work area.

IFD trains Grissom Reserve firefighters



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Cali Wetli

Capt. Trevor Hanshew, Indianapolis Fire Department firefighter, trains 434th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter's at Grissom July 8.

By Senior Airman Cali Wetli
Public Affairs staff

When it comes to fighting fires, using the proper technique can be the difference between life and death, and one department recently loaned their own time to teach Grissom those proper techniques.

The Indianapolis Fire Department led 434th Civil Engineer Squadron fire fighters in technique training Aug. 4 at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana.

Airmen from the 434th CES are traditional reservists not associated with Grissom's Fire Department, but are required to maintain the same qualifications and training as regular fire fighters, said Master Sgt. Christopher Bauchle, 434th CES assistant fire chief.

Lt. Lance Long and Capt. Trevor Hanshew, IFD firefighters, volunteered to help Grissom firefighters train and improve their skill set.

"Both men are passionate about

training and were more than willing to volunteer their time to come to Grissom in the name of giving back to the troops," said Bauchle. "I've had the privilege of working with Long and Hanshew on the job with the IFD."

The training consisted of learning the importance of having physical ability, coupled with good technique and body mechanics in order to operate a handline while advancing in a structure fire.

"Our handlines flow 150-180 gallons per minute," said Bauchle. "Ultimately, our end goal is to flow water while efficiently advancing to the seat of the fire."

The entire fire flight of over 30 traditional reserve firefighters participated in the training as an annual requirement.

The flight got acquainted with techniques taught from part of a nozzle forward course, a course that focuses on hose line management and fire attack.

"Chief Aaron Dehner and the rest of the fire flight leadership believe the nozzle forward mindset and techniques are a best practice when it comes to engine company operations," Bauchle added.

The troops not only learned new techniques, but also had the opportunity to practice many repetitions of the techniques.

"Opportunities like this give us the repetitions that are necessary to begin establishing the muscle memory required in high-stress situations," said Bauchle.

Not only do Long and Hanshew work alongside the troops, but they have worked as firefighters in the Indianapolis area for the last 20 years.

"We are extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from Long and Hanshew," said Bauchle. "Both men are true patriots and set an excellent example as students of the fire service profession."

Grissom's command post 'bugs-out' during training exercise

By Staff Sgt.
Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

Often seen as the nucleus of a base, command post Airmen have a mission that must run 24/7, and when a situation occurs that puts that in jeopardy those Airmen make big moves to keep that mission going.

In order to ensure readiness, the 434th Air Refueling Wing command post conducted its semi-annual bug-out exercise here July 8 to keep the mission moving.

"Those of us who have been around for a while have had to bug-out at times and go to our provisional command post or a site where we have nothing," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Withrow, 434th ARW command and control superintendent. "So the purpose of what we're trying to do here is train our Airmen for a bug-out scenario; you show up at your alternate location and have nothing.

"Our communications squadron is there to help us set up a provisional command post," said Withrow. "Airmen need to know what kinds of [equipment] they need to carry from their primary post; a lot of the younger Airmen don't realize what they need until they are missing it."

Typically, the secondary location would be the go-to for a bug-out situation, however in this scenario command post had a mobile alternative.

"What they are used to is bugging out from our primary location and going to our secondary lo-

cation across base which is a mirror image of the primary," said Withrow. "However the purpose of this particular exercise is to build one from scratch."

Real world or exercise, when bug-outs occur the command post cannot waste much time and cannot lose their communication efforts as the transition takes place.

"We can never stop command and control; we have to have our radios, talk to the pilots in the air and have all of our phones and computers set up," said Tech Sgt. Milita

controllers are setting up communication towers, satellites and wiring the mobile command post getting the most out of their temporary home.

Once set up, their command post trailer is as fully functioning as their primary, only leg room might be an issue, explained Withrow.

"It gets them used to working in a different environment too; our primary location is pretty spacious so working in this trailer is pretty tight and small," said Withrow. "One of the issues that they will see is paper

working with something different," said Senior Airman Andrew Zinola, 434th ARW command post controller. "I really got familiar with how this whole process works just in case a real world scenario happens."

These exercises recently paid off when their skills were put to the test during a real-world disaster and were forced to go on the move.

"What we're doing is recreating what happened a couple of years ago," said Hopkins. "We had a pipe bust in our primary location in the middle of winter and had to evacuate."

Withrow also recalled the real world evacuation and what it took to handle the scenario.

"It was in the dead of winter and we were out digging holes in the snow to set up our communication towers," said Withrow.

With the continued exercises and proper handling of a real-world situation, Grissom's command post has grabbed the attention of others.

"The last time Air Force Reserve Command visited us they said that they considered Grissom to be the crown jewel of AFRC command posts," said Withrow. "One of the reasons we do so well in everything that we do is Sergeant Hopkins and myself continually push these Airmen and challenge them.

"I think that we raise better command post controllers than other organizations do because we do realistic hands on training," Withrow added.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jami Lancette

Senior Airman Craig Hulseley and Senior Airman Jesse Crow, both 434th Air Refueling Wing command post controllers, adjust a satellite during a bug-out exercise here July 8.

Hopkins, 434th ARW command post craftsman. "Everything we have in the main command post we have in our trailer; that is a true bug-out."

Hopkins also added that even during a transition to their trailer, depending on the situation, someone will be utilizing a secure room or vehicle to communicate.

During the transition

management, keeping up with all of their checklists and notes and keeping it organized.

"It's going to be different for them; it's supposed to challenge them," Withrow added.

Experiencing the challenge first-hand, one Airman went into his first bug-out with open eyes.

"It's been a good experience, seeing and

The Grissom Community Council tours EOD Flight

By Senior Airman
Harrison Withrow
Public Affairs staff

The Grissom Community Council is well known for supporting and giving to the base, but recently the tables were turned as the base gave council members an experience they would not forget.

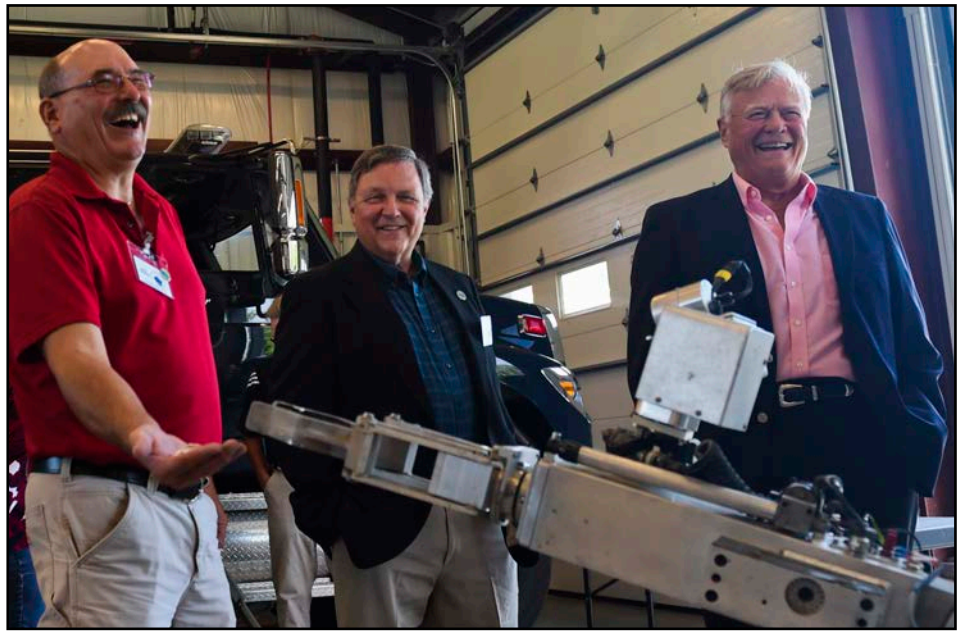
Grissom Community council members got an up close look at the 434th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight mission following a dinner and base history brief during a visit at Grissom July 7.

“The tour of the EOD building was excellent and really showed us one of the many capabilities of the Air Force,” said Frank Faulkner, GCC president. “It opened our eyes to what goes on at Grissom and what we support.”

During the tour, members got the chance to see different types of explosives and protective equipment, tour the EOD truck and see a demonstration of the F6 Alpha robot.

“It is always a pleasure to see the troops that operate the tours,” said Hal Job, GCC member. “You can see it in their eyes that they are proud to do what they do. It’s a neat experience.”

While that experience taught GCC



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Harrison Withrow

From left to right, Dane Orbaugh, Russel Dick and Tom Weatherwax, Grissom Community Council members, observe the Explosive Ordnance Disposal robot in action during a base tour at Grissom July 7.

members about the current mission, another history lesson presented by Tech. Sgt. Mike Ziadeh, 434th ARW historian, demonstrated the unit’s rich heritage and history.

“It was awesome to listen to Sergeant Ziadeh share our history with the GCC, and to have my vice commander, Col. Paul Gates, expound on that for our guests,” said Col. Larry Shaw, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander. “It really helps establish our identity throughout

key historic events.”

Not only through historical events is the unit’s identity established, but working alongside members of the community council also provides them an opportunity to spread the word in the community.

“The community council does so much for us,” said Shaw. “We are grateful for the opportunity to have them visit and learn more about the wonderful capabilities our Airmen bring to the fight.”

Congressman Banks visits Grissom and meets Airmen

By Tech. Sgt.
Benjamin Mota
Public Affairs staff

U.S. Rep. Jim Banks got a view of Grissom as he toured the base and met Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing Aug. 23.

“We are very excited to host the Congressman and his team,” said Col. Larry Shaw, 434th Air Refueling Wing Commander. “Any time I have the opportunity to speak about our people and showcase our mission, it’s an honor.”

Banks, a U.S. Navy Reserve veteran who served in Afghanistan during Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom’s Sentinel, was recently elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The congressman, who serves on the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Science, Space, and Technology Committees, said he visited the base to learn more about Grissom’s key strategic value and meet the people who make the mission happen.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota

U.S. Rep. Jim Banks listens as Col. Larry Shaw, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, shows how lights on a KC-135R Stratotanker guide refueling aircraft into position to connect for fuel during a tour of Grissom Aug. 23.