

# Heartland WARRIOR



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3rd Quarter 2016

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# Heartland **WARRIOR**

Vol. 21, No. 3  
3rd Quarter 2016

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 graphic by Senior Airman Erin Babis

## On the cover...

A U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress leads a formation of aircraft including two Polish air force F-16 Fighting Falcons, four U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons, two German Eurofighter Typhoons and four Swedish Gripen below a KC-135R Stratotanker from Grissom over the Baltic Sea June 9, as part of exercise BALTOPS 2016.

# Colonel Schwartz retires

By Douglas Hays  
*Public Affairs staff*

Laying in the yard of his parents' house in Fort Wayne, Indiana, nine-year-old Doug Schwartz stared up at the sky and watched F-100s and F-4s fly overhead; pondering their destination, and planning his own.

Fast forward nearly 50 years and Col. Doug Schwartz is standing on a stage, facing his peers, his unit, his Airmen, his family and extended family pondering his next destination and planning for his future.

Schwartz retired from the Air Force Reserve May 14 after 35 years of service.

He had been the commander of the 434th Air Refueling Wing since June 2014, leading the largest aerial refueling unit in the Air Force Reserve Command.

"Coming to Grissom truly was coming home," Schwartz said. "I've been fortunate enough to serve in many locations with many outstanding people around the world, but this is home, and I'm happy that I could complete my journey here."

Schwartz began his career after graduating from Purdue University

with a bachelor's degree in management.

Following officer training school, he attended undergraduate pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, Arizona, and bomber pilot training at Castle Air Force Base, California, before being stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington in 1983.

He flew B52s until 1989 when he entered the inactive ready reserve.

Fast forward to 1992, Schwartz joined the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron and began flying the KC-135R Stratotanker.

He held multiple positions in the flying squadron, as pilot, flight commander, assistant chief pilot, chief of standardization evaluation before becoming the deputy 434th Operations Group commander in 2004.

That same year he became the 74th Air Refueling Squadron's operations officer. He held that position until March 2007 when he took a leadership path to MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, as the commander of Det. 1, 4th Air Force.

In May 2008 he became the 927th

*See 'Retirement' page 6*



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

Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, poses for a photo with his wife Ann during a retirement ceremony at Grissom May 14.

# 316th Psyop Co. Soldiers deploy to Africa



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dakota Bergl

Members of the U.S. Army Reserve 316th Psychological Operations Company salute the flag during the playing of the national anthem at their deployment ceremony on May 7, at Grissom.

**By Senior Airman  
Dakota Bergl**  
*Public Affairs staff*

Members of the 316th Psychological Operations Company said goodbye to family members May 7 as they prepared to leave Grissom for a deployment to Africa.

The soldiers will be relieving other members of their company who have been in Africa for several months.

Army Maj. Gary Wil-

liams, 316th Psyop Co. commander, addressed the families to ease any concerns that they might have about seeing their loved ones leave.

"These men and women are without a doubt ready for their deployment," said Williams. "They are all very capable and well trained."

Col. Doug Schwartz mirrored Williams' confidence in the soldier's abilities.

"I want to assure the family members gathered

here that these soldiers are ready for their mission," said Schwartz. "These men and women are the next greatest generation and they will make us all proud."

Schwartz also urged family members to take advantage of Grissom's Airman and Family Readiness Center if they run into any difficulty while their loved ones are away.

"Our Family Readiness staff is always willing to help," said Schwartz.

"No matter what you need you can give us a call and we will do everything we can for you."

Army Sgt. Darrin Ferguson Jr., 316th Psyop Co., said that he is very excited for the deployment.

"I'm looking forward to a good tour," said Ferguson. "This is my third deployment and it's a different mission than my last two deployments. I'm very excited to work with the other branches again."

# Hoosier historians tell past, present

By Staff Sgt. Katrina Heikkinen  
Public Affairs staff

Tasked with maintaining Grissom's 70-year history, for two Grissom reservists, reading and analyzing consumes the majority of their unit training assembly. In solitude, they can spend hours filtering through hundreds of emails only

to use a single sentence to use in a periodic analytical document.

Filling in the shoes of a three-year vacant position, Tech. Sgt. Andrew Carr and Staff Sgt. Mike Ziadeh are the new historians of the 434th Air Refueling Wing. Though both are new to the career field, Carr and Ziadeh bring with them more than two decades of Air Force experi-

ence.

"I came into this career field not knowing what it entailed, but now I know that what we really do is more analytical; we capture relevant statistics to present to our Reserve Command so that leadership can make decisions and look at trends to see where we should go in the future," Carr said. "We make a difference by giving meaningful data to our Air Force leaders."

Carr recently separated from active duty serving as a cyber security technician. His civilian occupation, and, to an extent his new role as a historian, requires analytical skills – as a computer systems security analyst.

"In the new digital format, at least for historians, we capture data and create bibliographies for additional research and analysis," Carr said. "Base budgetary data, awards, derogatory data, sorties, promotions, command structures – all of that has to be included in our consolidated historical reports," Carr said.

According to Carr, the average annual historical periodical is 100 pages long and, after the final wing commander's approval, is sent to the Air Force Reserve Command Historian at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

Although the task of maintaining an ongoing repository may be a daunting position, Ziadeh said he looks forward to documenting, learning and spreading the lineage of the 434th ARW.

"If we don't capture data, then it's lost," Carr said. "No one will ever be able to go back and determine history unless it's documented by hands-on eyes-on experience.

"Someone was there; someone lived that story, and that's what we're doing here," he added.

"Through statistics and documentation, we're capturing relevant data so Grissom's history is never lost. Decision makers in the present and 50 years from now will be able to look back at our history and will always know where and who our lineage came from."



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

Tech. Sgt. Andrew Carr, 434th Air Refueling Wing historian, reviews clippings from a Kokomo Tribune featuring the 434th ARW at Grissom April 9.

# Airmen teach future leaders during BALTOPS

**By Senior Airman  
Erin Babis**  
*48th Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs staff*

**POWIDZ, POLAND**  
-- A group of high school students chatted excitedly as they stepped off a bus at Powidz Air Base, Poland, June 9, to tour a U.S. Air Force KC-135R Stratotanker.

Members from the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., and the 100th ARW, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, took a brief break during Baltic Operations 2016 to teach the students from a military class at Adam Mickiewicz High School Complex, Kleczew, Poland, about the Stratotanker and its

capabilities.

"Working with students and citizens from the local area on events like this is very important because it allows us to show them what we do, and it gives the country a better idea of our mission in Poland," explained Tech. Sgt. Shawna Bittler, 52nd Operations Group Detachment 1 NCO in charge of client systems, who helped facilitate the event. "It shows them not only what we do, but how much we care."

The pilots, boom operators and maintainers took the students around, teaching them about the different aspect of their jobs. Though some students spoke more English than others, everyone

helped each other to understand one another. The students took turns sitting in the cockpit, climbing down into the boom pod, and exploring the inside and the outside of the aircraft.

"I really liked it because I've always been interested in aircraft and flying," said Olak Rogowski, a student from Adam Mickiewicz High School Complex. "I was really excited. My favorite part was going into the cockpit of the aircraft and sitting where the first pilot sits."

Rogowski was grateful for the experience and the opportunity, not only to sit in the cockpit, but also for the chance to ask questions of the Airmen who showed his class

around.

This event allowed a younger generation from Poland to interact with U.S. Airmen and see firsthand how the U.S. Air Force operates.

"The younger generations are the future," Bittler explained of the reason for the event. "Showing the younger kids what we do every day and getting them excited about it helps us. It helps them understand, and they are the future leaders."

While BALTOPS 2016 brought together multiple nations to train as one military, connecting with a younger generation helped to secure relationships the U.S. Air Force has cultivated with Poland for years to come.



*U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Erin Babis*

Students from Adam Mickiewicz High School Complex, Kleczew, Poland, and U.S. Air Force Airmen pose for a group photo after at Powidz Air Base, Poland, June 9 where the 434th and 100th Air Refueling Wings are based during BALTOPS 2016.



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

**Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, gets a champagne shower upon landing at Grissom May 13.**

Operations Group commander at MacDill before departing in 2010 for the 932nd Airlift Wing at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, as the vice commander. He served there for over a year before becoming the director of staff at 4th Air Force, March ARB, California.

The command pilot with more than 4,200 hours returned to MacDill in 2013 as the 927th ARW commander before returning to Grissom in June 2014.

"I have known Colonel Doug Schwartz since my first assignment in the Air Force over 28 years ago," said Maj. Gen. John Flournoy, 4th Air Force commander. "He was

then, and is now, one of the finest officers, gentlemen, and family men that I've ever had the pleasure of working with."

It was Flournoy who asked Schwartz to come to Grissom in 2014 as the commander.

"When faced with making the decision of who to put in command of the mighty 434th Air Refueling Wing, I knew right away that Doug and Ann Schwartz were the perfect team to take this organization to the next level," he said.

"With your help he and Ann have done a phenomenal job and we in 4th Air Force wish them the best as they transition to a new walk in

life."

It wasn't just his superiors that Schwartz made an impact upon, it was also on local civic leaders as well.

"His love for and commitment to Grissom was always very evident," said Hal Job, 434th ARW honorary commander and local civic leader.

"He brought many high ranking Air Force and Air Force Reserve leaders to visit Grissom with the purpose of making sure they, the leadership, are made fully aware of the capabilities of the men and women stationed at Grissom and to further promote GARB well into the future," Job said. "He is very proud of Grissom, its personnel, its mission, its history of getting the job done not just right, but in an excellent manner.

"He is one of my everyday heroes, and I have such great respect for him and Mrs. Schwartz."

As for the next phase of his life, Schwartz is working on that as well.

"Like everyone else, I have a long honey-do list that my wife Ann has been working on," he laughed. "I can barely fit two cars in the garage so I'll be working on that, catching up on sleep and generally seeing what opportunities are out there for us."

"We've made great friends in several locations so it will be nice to visit and explore the opportunities available."

As was his tradition, in departing Schwartz simply said "Take care of yourself, your family and each other. Be safe and be smart."

**Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, poses with family and friends in front of a KC-135R Stratotanker at Grissom May 13, following a finflight.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dakota Bergl

# Grissom Airmen volunteer to be a 'Big'



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

Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, shakes hands with Dawson Miller, a Cass County Big Brother Big Sister participant during a BBBS event held at Grissom March 5.

**By Staff Sgt. Jami Lancette**  
*Public Affairs staff*

As one of the core values, excellence in all we do is achieved when members of an organization can work together to successfully reach a common goal and preserve individual self-worth.

Keeping those core values and traditions alive, Grissom Airmen took part in a Big Brothers Big Sisters event that was held in the dining facility here March 5 as part of a community outreach initiative sponsored by the Grissom Rising Six

committee.

“We will be volunteering with the children each month,” said Tech. Sgt. Rachel Nichols, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron dental assistant craftsman. “We will have plenty of activities that Airmen and their littles can do together as a group.”

BBBS helps provide children with adult matches as mentors, helping them develop confidence, higher aspirations and steering them on the right path to a better future.

According to BBBS, before becoming a match, a volunteering adult must pass a

background check and a careful interview process. They then match the “big” and “little” based on location, personalities and interests.

“The Airmen have been amazing volunteering with the kids; our kids have some tough shells,” Stacia Peters, BBBS executive director of the Cass County branch. “The Airmen have been awesome with breaking through to them.”

“The group setting has been amazing,” Peters added. “It really makes the kids feel like they’re special and that they are worth something.”

For many of the chil-

dren, it was their first time visiting a military base, but Airmen here opened up the door and their hearts to reach out to the “littles.”

“It was great, it was really fun to see the kids open up,” said Staff Sgt. Lauren Werner, 434th AMDS dental assistant apprentice. “For a lot of them, it was their first time being on a military base so they were kind of scared at first.

“I think they started to have a lot of fun and really enjoy themselves,” Werner added.

If interested in becoming a “Big” contact Tech. Sgt. Shannon Fuller at 688-2043.

# EOD cuts ribbon in EOD fashion



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dakota Bergl

Christy Householder, Cass County economic development agency and 434th Operations Support Squadron honorary commander, assists a robot operated by Senior Master Sgt. Scott Fleek, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal flight chief, to cut the ribbon on a new EOD facility at Grissom May 9.

**By Senior Airman  
Dakota Bergl**  
*Public Affairs staff*

With a flip of a switch, the powerful jaws cut a cable and officially opened up Grissom's latest facility.

The 434th Civil Engineer Squadron's explosive ordnance disposal flight cut a ribbon in EOD fashion to christen their new facility here May 9.

"This is a good news story," said Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander. "From the

ground up the EOD team designed and fashioned a facility to meet their specific needs and we see the fruit of their efforts today."

The facility will provide a permanent home for the unit that first started arriving at Grissom in 2011 before becoming fully operational in 2014.

The \$360,000 remodel of the facility gives the unit 15,000 square feet for office, training and storage area in addition to their 3,120 square-foot vehicle bay.

The unit, assigned to

the 434th CES, has three missions. First and foremost is the protection of the base and base assets against any explosive devices or devices of terrorism. Secondly, they provide EOD response for military munitions in Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, and finally they are responsible for organizing training, and equipping deployable EOD technicians.

Grissom's EOD supports tri-state law enforcement agencies for their explosive needs. In fact, they were the first Air Force Reserve Com-

mand unit to respond and render safe an improvised explosive device off base.

In 2012, they made their first official run in support of off-base requests. In 2013, that number jumped to six events. In 2014 they took action 11 times. In 2015 they were requested and responded to 18 events.

Thus far in 2016 they have made seven runs with the most recent being May 2.

They complete their mission with six full-time members and eight traditional reservists.

# Loggies get hot, ride wave to basketball title

By Senior Airman Dakota Bergl  
Public Affairs staff

In a flurry of hoops action, the 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron rode a wave of success to claim the 2016 basketball crown here April 9.

The Loggies beat the 434th Security Forces 'A' team 36-32 for the second time that night in the decisive game of the annual tournament.

Earlier in the evening the Cops fell to that same Loggie team 48-42 ensuring both teams had one-loss in the double elimination tournament.

The Loggies caught a break as the 49th Aerial Port Flight failed to answer the horn and forfeited their match setting up the final show down.

With 20 seconds left and the game knotted at 32, coaches from both sides plotted their moves.

In the waning seconds, the LRS pulled away at the free throw line.

"It was a big team effort because

we were all exhausted by the end," said Martin Bragg, an inspections planner with the 434th Air Refueling Wing and LRS team member. "It was rewarding to come together with people I didn't know that well and win as a team."

Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th ARW commander, presented plaques and trophies to the winners.

"The competitive spirit was fun to watch," Schwartz said. "The tenacity and grit both teams showed is reflective of the work-hard, play-hard mentality of our Hoosier Wing, and it was great to see."

In addition to the players, Schwartz also presented a coin to Bruce Cannady, 434th Force Support Squadron sports specialist, who officiated the games.

"Bruce does a great job in what is often a thankless role," Schwartz said. "So I wanted to thank him for his efforts in supporting our morale, welfare and recreation endeavors."



U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Dakota Bergl

Dustin Pervine, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron team, moves in to steal the ball from Cory Walters, 434th Security Forces Squadron 'A' team, during the final game of Grissom's annual basketball tournament April 9.



Mario Cruz, 434th Security Forces Squadron 'A' team, darts between players from the 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron team during the final game of the annual basketball tournament April 9, at Grissom.

# Weber takes command of the 434th AMDS

By Staff Sgt. Jami Lancette  
Public Affairs staff

Deeply rooted in military tradition, change of command ceremonies give Airmen the chance to witness firsthand the passing of the guidon as they go from one leader to another.

In that tradition, Lt. Col. Peter Weber, III, took command of the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron during a change of command ceremony at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., May 15.

“He is absolutely the right guy to take AMDS on to the next level,” said Col. Douglas Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander who presided over the ceremony before his retirement.

Starting his career as a United States Air Force Academy graduate with a degree in biology, Weber later went on to receive his doctorate in optometry.

“I know that Colonel Weber is the right leader for the unit going forward, and I am very proud that he was selected,” said Col. Therese Kern, 434th AMDS outgoing commander. “He has the best intentions and is committed to our strategic



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

**Lt. Col. Peter Weber, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander, receives the 434th AMDS guidon from Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, during a change of command ceremony at Grissom May 15.**

mission and goals. He not only has the knowledge of the past but a vision for the future.”

Weber has served alongside the men and women of the 434th ARW for eight years and continues to serve as a senior leader.

“It’s an honor to serve with you,” said Weber during the ceremony.

“It’s about the change, going from working with you to working for you.

“As commander, my job is to work for you,” he said. “To remove obstacles, knock down barriers, to get you the tools you need to continue the success that we’ve all shared under the leadership of Colonel Kern.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dakota Bergl

**Tech. Sgt. Chris Fancher, 434th Security Forces Squadron fire team leader, and Staff Sgt. Julie Hazelett, 434th SFS fire team member, move from one point of cover to the next during a shoot, move, communicate exercise May 15, at Grissom. The exercise was part of the SFS members’ mandatory annual firearms qualification.**

# Noel takes command of the 72nd ARS

By Staff Sgt.  
**Katrina Heikkinen**  
*Public Affairs staff*

Deeply rooted in military tradition since the middle ages, change of command ceremonies afford service members the opportunity to witness the symbolic passing of the torch in the presence of friends, family members and fellow Airmen.

Keeping up with military tradition, Col. Mark Sigler, 434th Operations Group commander and officiating officer, passed the guidon from Lt. Col. Erik Aufderheid, relinquishing commander, to Lt. Col. Anne Noel, as she accepted command of the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron during a change of command ceremony here June 4.

“I am so honored and blessed to be back here at Grissom,” Noel said. “It’s a privilege to serve with all of you – I feel like I’ve come back home.”

A native of Wood River, Nebraska, west of Offutt Air Force Base [Nebraska], Noel was inspired at a young age to join the U.S. Air Force.

“Growing up on a farm in the middle of Nebraska, at an early age, [I] had a deep sense of patriotism instilled in me,” she said. “I always knew I wanted to serve my country because I was so thankful for all the freedoms I had been blessed with. I heard about the Air National Guard and told [my parents] I was joining. Unfortunately, I was 17 years old and needed a permission slip signed. They said no, but I persisted. Finally, after eight months, the permission slip was signed.”

Noel began her Air Force career as an enlisted administrative assistant – a choice she decided upon in order to keep a scholarship. Four years later, she graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1997 and received a direct commission to 2nd lieutenant as a clinical nurse.



*U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Katrina Heikkinen*

**Lt. Col. Anne Noel, right, accepts the guidon and command of the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron from Col. Mark Sigler, 434th Operations Group Commander and officiating officer, during a change of command ceremony at Grissom June 4.**

cal nurse.

After the 155th Air Refueling Wing transitioned to KC-135R Stratotankers in 1997, Noel entered pilot training as a 1st lieutenant, where she went on to fly in the Nebraska Air National Guard.

Prior to Noel’s return to Grissom, she served at Scott AFB, Illinois, as a United States European Command war planner. Preceding that, she served at Grissom as a KC-135R Stratotanker instructor pilot, evaluator pilot and operations officer from 2005 to 2015 before coming full circle as a squadron commander.

As the 72nd ARS commander, Noel will ensure rapid global mobility for a full spectrum of operations by educating, training, equipping and deploying aircrew and support personnel.

“Being a squadron commander, in my opinion, is the best job in the Air Force because it’s the maximum intersection of being involved with the mission and being involved with the people,” Sigler said.



**Lt. Col. Anne Noel, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron commander, stands with her niece, Madeline, as she discusses her representation of the importance of putting family first during a change of command ceremony at Grissom June 4.**

# Harris visits Grissom, meets Airmen

By Senior Airman  
Dakota Bergl  
Public Affairs staff

Maj. Gen. Stayce Harris, commander of the 22nd Air Force, spoke with Grissom Airmen and leadership during a tour of the base April 12.

During the visit, Harris learned about the wing's capabilities, overall mission and some of Grissom's current initiatives.

Harris's visit began with an overview of Grissom's mission objectives over breakfast. Following the briefing she had an opportunity to experience the 434th Air Refueling Wing's state of the art KC-135 flight simulator and boom operator weapon system trainer.

The general also had the opportunity to visit the Contingency Equipment

Management Facility and see how Grissom utilizes the Bar Code Inventory Tracking System to track AFRC equipment with 100 percent accuracy. Harris met with Karen Lank, 622 Civil Engineering Group CEMF supervisor, to see the improvements that have been made to the central storage building as well as the changes that are currently underway.

"General Harris seemed very impressed with what we have accomplished," said Lank. "The CEMF/AFRC team has worked hard and overcame challenges due to a mission realignment last year and great credit goes to the hard-working and dedicated employees that strive to support the AFRC CE units and maintain this cost-savings

program."

Lank said that it was nice to have her employees recognized for all of their hard work. The general took time after the base tour had concluded to return to Lank's office and officially coin her. Lank commented that taking the extra time to recognize a single employee spoke volumes about the general's attitude toward her subordinates.

"She was very personable, I could tell that she genuinely cares about the people who work for her," said Lank.

The tour ended at Dock 1 with a static display of one of Grissom's KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft. Harris was impressed with the quality of care that the 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron puts into their

aircraft. After showing her some of the aesthetic improvements Grissom has made to the aircraft, Master Sgt. Eric Saddle-mire, 434th AMXS crew chief, told her how 434th ARW pilots rarely had the opportunity to fly aircraft during his last deployment.

"Pilots from all over love flying in Grissom aircraft," said Saddle-mire. "People will get excited when they hear that they will be on a plane from Grissom. Our pilots almost never fly our jets because everyone else is trying to take them up."

After seeing the hard work that Grissom's maintainers put into keeping their aircraft in top condition Harris commented she viewed the 434th's aircraft as the gold standard for the Air Force.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dakota Bergl

Maj. Gen. Stayce Harris, 22nd Air Force commander, tours the boom pod of a KC-135R Stratotankers at Grissom April 12.

# Gen. Goldfein swears in as 21st CSAF

By U.S. Air Force  
Public Affairs Staff

WASHINGTON D.C.--Gen. David L. Goldfein was sworn in as the Air Force's 21st chief of staff by Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James during a ceremony at the Pentagon on July 1.

As the Air Force's most senior uniformed leader, Goldfein is responsible for ensuring the 660,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen under his command are fully trained and equipped. He also joins the Joint Chiefs of Staff as an adviser to the secretary of defense, National Security Council and the president of the United States.

"The Air Force is going to be relying on your determination, General Goldfein, to improve readiness, to improve our modernization, and most importantly -- always at the top of the list -- taking care of our Airmen," James said. "It is a huge responsibility, it's also an honor, and it's also a great privilege, and I have every confidence that you are going to take our Air Force to new heights."

One of Goldfein's first acts as chief of staff was to make a pledge



*U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Dan DeCook*

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein takes the oath of office during a swearing-in ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., July 1.

to his Airmen.

"(This is) my commitment to you; to work every day to give you everything I've got, to leave nothing on the table, to remain laser-focused on warfighting excellence, to find the opportunity in every challenge, to treat team building as a contact sport, and to be worthy of this

honor," he said. "And I can't wait to get started. Fight's on!"

In his previous position as the Air Force's vice chief of staff, Goldfein presided over the Air Staff, and served as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Requirements Oversight Council and Deputy Advisory Working Group.(AFNS)



Touchstones made by Grissom personnel during a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator art circle April 20, 2016 at Grissom are on display. Each participant was asked to make two touchstones with inspiring messages, one to keep and one to be donated to a local women's shelter.

*U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dakota Bergl*

# NCO induction ceremony marked by rare event

By Senior Airman Dakota Bergl

Public Affairs staff

Sixty-Six Airmen were inducted into the ranks of noncommissioned officers and senior noncommissioned officers during a ceremony at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., April 10, 2016.

The Airmen not only received a new stripe on their uniforms but also a new set of responsibilities. As leaders and senior leaders they will be held to a higher standard of excellence and are expected to motivate and inspire the Airmen beneath them succeed.

“Congratulations on your promotion,” said Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander. “We’re very excited for you and we look forward to great things in the future.”

Each quarter, the 434th Air Refueling Wing holds a special ceremony to recognize those promoted to NCO and SNCO. The ceremony gives friends and coworkers the opportunity to witness the honorees swearing the oath of induction.

The ceremony also included a rare event, the induction of a senior master sergeant to chief master sergeant, the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force.

Inducted were:

Chief Master Sgt. Carl Hubbell, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron  
Master Sgt. Evan Heintz, 434th Maintenance Squadron  
Master Sgt. Leslie Heron, 434th Operations Support Squadron  
Master Sgt. Bobby Horton, 434th MXS  
Master Sgt. Gregory Moolenaar, 434th Security Forces Squadron  
Master Sgt. Peter Rogers, 434th LRS  
Master Sgt. Michael Rush, 434th SFS  
Master Sgt. Kris Schleinkofer, 434th OSS  
Master Sgt. Mark Selby, 434th LRS  
Master Sgt. Deborah Sweet, 434th Maintenance Group  
Master Sgt. Timothy Vogel, 434th MXS  
Staff Sgt. Cole Anglemyer, 434th MXS  
Staff Sgt. Cory Beck, 74th Air Refueling Squadron  
Staff Sgt. Frederick Beck, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
Staff Sgt. Mark Beveridge, 434th MXS  
Staff Sgt. Anthony Bitner, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Tiffani Brown, 49th Aerial Port Flight  
Staff Sgt. John Bullock, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Patterson Burk, 434th OSS

Staff Sgt. Jared Burton, 434th LRS  
Staff Sgt. Brendan Carney, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron  
Staff Sgt. Lance Chase, 434th CES  
Staff Sgt. Anthony Chico, 434th CES  
Staff Sgt. Arieon Clayton, 434th Force Support Squadron  
Staff Sgt. Joshua Dickson, 434th LRS  
Staff Sgt. Brian Foley, 434th OSS  
Staff Sgt. Samuel George, 434th MXS  
Staff Sgt. Takiyah Hall, 434th MXG  
Staff Sgt. Cameron Harney, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Paul Harrington, 434th Communications Squadron  
Staff Sgt. Sean Hart, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Katrina Heikkinen, 434th ARW  
Staff Sgt. Caleb Holman, 434th SFS  
Staff Sgt. Zachery Holmes, 74th ARS  
Staff Sgt. Christina Howland, 434th OSS  
Staff Sgt. Alexander Hubbard, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Angela Jones, 434th CES  
Staff Sgt. Christopher Karlson, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Jami Lancette, 434th PA  
Staff Sgt. Colin Latham, 434th SFS  
Staff Sgt. David Long, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Andrew Mercer, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Zacheriah Merkle, 434th CES  
Staff Sgt. Dimitar Mihaylov, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Christopher Miller, 434th OSS  
Staff Sgt. Bobby Moore, 434th CS  
Staff Sgt. Kevin Peters, 434th MXS  
Staff Sgt. Aaron Phelps, 434th SFS  
Staff Sgt. Ryan Reese, 434th MXS  
Staff Sgt. Amy Richmond, 434th AMDS  
Staff Sgt. Brandon Roberts, 434th CES  
Staff Sgt. Bradley Rodriguez, 434th CES  
Staff Sgt. Eric Rosson, 434th SFS  
Staff Sgt. Deborah Ryan, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron  
Staff Sgt. Albert Sarroca, 434th MXS  
Staff Sgt. Paul Schoentrup, 434th OSS  
Staff Sgt. Joshua Schumacher, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Darren Sims, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Douglas Sloss, 434th MXS  
Staff Sgt. Darrin Stephens, 434th FSS  
Staff Sgt. Caroline Taylor, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Jazmine Ware, 434th OSS  
Staff Sgt. Brittany Wildman, 434th AMDS  
Staff Sgt. Aaron Wilson, 434th AMDS  
Staff Sgt. Jordan Wisler, 434th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Brett Zaruba, 434th MXS

# Grissom Airman participate in Women Veterans' conference

By Tech. Sgt.  
**Benjamin Mota**  
*Public Affairs staff*

INDIANAPOLIS, -- Indiana's women's veteran population is over 35,000 and women from Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana, make up part of that number.

To show their support, women from the Hoosier Wing attended the 2016 Indiana Women Veterans' Conference in Indianapolis, April 15 to learn about VA benefits available and to network with other veterans.

"Having so many [Indiana women veterans] in one place, and having the ability to speak to so many of them from different services was one of the best parts for me," said Col. Anna Schulte, 434th Maintenance Group commander and key-note speaker. "It was amazing

to see how many women from Grissom participated in the event adding to the rich heritage of Indiana female veterans."

That history and heritage was echoed as Schulte gave her speech to a diverse crowd of veterans from all branches of military services.

"Today we celebrate Indiana's Women Veterans; these women embody the core values of our armed services and their legacy is a treasure to behold and share," said Schulte during her speech. "Women have been in our service since George Washington's troops fought for independence. Some were so determined to fight for what they believed that they even masqueraded as men and took up arms."

Throughout the speech Schulte provided example after example of the women who helped shape

the armed forces into what it is today.

"The cheering and all the camaraderie that came from women in the crowd after Colonel Schulte delivered her speech informing us of all the achievements made from women service members was inspirational," said 2nd Lt. Erica Morgan, 434th MXG executive officer who attended the event with her daughter. "I'm glad my daughter had the opportunity to see the impact women make in our military and the chance to see some of our military traditions."

During the conference attendees also had opportunities to visit a variety of workshops that focused on topics such as VA benefits, positive discipline parenting, art therapy, self-defense and a resume workshop provided by Grissom's Airmen and

Family Readiness.

"We had a lot of participation from the women veterans during the conference," said Jill Marconi, Grissom AFRC director. "Our primary goal was to provide federal and civilian resume writing skills and ensure applicants were aware of the impact their credit score and finances have on them throughout the Federal hiring process."

"Several woman have tried submitting federal applications and have simply given up hope because they didn't know how to navigate the system; our class renewed hope and also provided other woman whom these vets could relate to," she said.

Despite being there to provide resume writing skills, Marconi said that the event was more about unity, and female veterans

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

Women from Grissom pose for a photo during the 2016 Indiana Woman Veterans' Conference in Indianapolis, April 15.

# Russel retires after 28 years of service

By Staff Sgt.  
**Jami Lancette**  
Public Affairs staff

Following a ceremonial closing of one chapter of her life, Col. Kathryn Russel, prepares to begin writing new chapters as she moves forward from Grissom and the Air Force.

Amid family, friends and fellow Airmen, Russel, 434th Air Refueling Wing inspector general, stood front and center to say farewell to the Air Force after 28 years of service during her retirement ceremony here June 5, 2016.

Presiding over the ceremony, Col. Ann Schulte, 434th Maintenance Group commander, thanked Russel for her leadership and dedication to Airmen.

“Thank you for your service here, I wish you and your family Godspeed and good luck,” said Schulte.

Russel reflected on her career and when she arrived at Grissom three years ago.

“I have been blessed to have some really good support here and I am very grateful for that,” she said.

“This is my unit, I have been coming here for over three years, it’s just a wonderful unit and the Airmen here are great.”

Russel embarked on her Air Force journey in 1984 when she left her home to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado where she met her husband, now retired Col. Mike



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

**Col. Ann Schulte, 434th Maintenance Group commander, presents Col. Kathryn Russel, 434th Air Refueling Wing inspector general, her certificate of retirement during a retirement ceremony at Grissom June 5.**

Russel.

After graduating with a bachelor of science degree in industrial psychology, Russel hit the ground running and over the years held a number of positions that have included military personnel flight chief, personnel presentations chief, military equal opportunity officer, media relations officer, mission support squadron commander, resources deputy chief, squadron commander and finally an inspector general.

“When I look back on my Air Force career I am so grateful for the opportunities that it gave my family

and I,” said Russel. “My husband and I like to take walks in the evening in our neighborhood, and we can’t stop saying how grateful we are.”

As for the next chapter for Russel, she will continue working as a civilian as the United States Transportation Command as an inspector general.

“(Retiring) was one of the hardest decisions I’ve had to make,” said Russel. “Deciding to leave the Air Force and retire was a big decision, but in retrospect the timing was perfect.”

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speaking with people who can relate to their specific needs.

“This function really pulled in all the team players and was all about unity and growth for these folks,” Marconi added.

That unity was also displayed as volunteers from Grissom sat up and operated Grissom’s interactive flight deck and boom pod displays so visitors could learn more about the 434th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker mission.

“Our team of volunteers did an outstanding job showcasing the

tanker mission during the event,” said Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Stogsdill, 434th Maintenance Squadron fabrications flight chief and static display supervisor.

“There were several other events [at the same location] and even if people didn’t come and visit our tent, they saw the uniforms and the Air Force logo; there were a lot of eyes on Grissom.”

Grissom’s presence and support of women veterans was also displayed by the amount of people from the base who at-

tended. In all, over 40 people from the Hoosier Wing arrived to show their support and learn from the experience.

“Almost all the women from our office attended to show our support and learn about the benefits available to us,” said Tech. Sgt. Erica Sherwood, 434th Force Support Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge. “It was good hearing everyone’s story and having the opportunity to come together as military veterans that share similar experiences.”