

Heartland WARRIOR

Volume 22, Issue 3

3rd Quarter 2017



Base 75th Anniversary...2
Civic leaders fly with 434th...4
Grissom hosts police day...14

Heartland **WARRIOR**

Vol. 22, No. 3
3rd Quarter 2017

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.

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

The editorial content is edited, and prepared by the Public Affairs Office of the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, IN, 46971-1609.

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

Staff

Col. Larry Shaw.....commander
Douglas Hays.....operations chief
Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota.....editor
Staff Sgt. Jami Lancette.....staff writer
Staff Sgt. Katrina Heikkinen.....staff writer
Staff Sgt. Dakota Bergl.....staff writer
Senior Airman Harrison Withrow.....staff writer
Senior Airman Cali Wetli.....staff writer

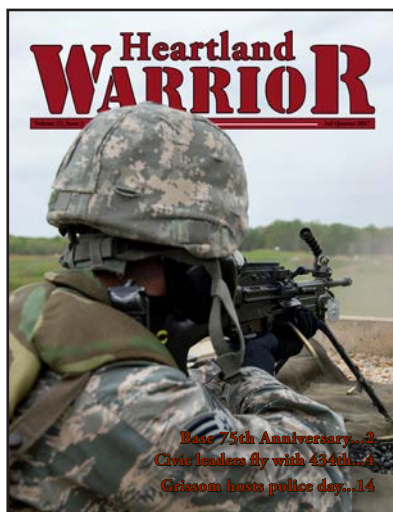
World Wide Web

Air Force Reserve Home Page

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

Grissom Home Page

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



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

On the cover...

Senior Airman Roy Goodman, 434th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, fires an M249 squad automatic weapon at Camp Atterbury-Muskatuk, Ind., April 21. Grissom Airmen met at the Southern Indiana Army camp to complete their pre-deployment qualifications on multiple weapons systems during a week-long training operation.

Indiana base celebrates 75th Anniversary, unique history!

By Senior Airman Cali Wetli
Public Affairs staff

July 1 may just be a date on a calendar, but for historians it marks a significant event – the 75th Anniversary of Bunker Hill Naval Air Station.

The Navy opened up the base on July 1, 1942 as a training base for Naval, Marine and Coast Guard aviators.

“I remember hearing stories of Sailors lined up and down 31 hitch hiking to Kokomo and Indianapolis on their days off,” said Douglas Hays, 434th Air Refueling Wing public affairs operations chief.

The Navy trained hundreds of fighter pilots in a short amount of time, including Ted Williams, a hall of fame baseball player with the Boston Red Sox.

Because the base was used to train naval aviators for carrier landings, large octagon pads are still visible from the air in a few communities. The octagon landing pads allowed the students to land no matter the wind direction.

“In talking with people through-

out the years it was common for the students to crash land in farm fields and even trees,” Hays said. “Sadly many of those folks and their treasured stories are gone.”

As the anniversary approaches, Col. Larry Shaw, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander spoke about the historical significance of the base.

“Think about all the men and women that stood on this ground,” Shaw said. “Hundreds of thousands of Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Airmen worked and trained here to meet whatever mission awaited them.”

While the base began with World War II, and closed following the war, it was reopened as Bunker Hill Air Force Base by the Air Force in June, 1954.

“The Air Force saw value in this area then, just as it does now,” Shaw said.

The base was renamed on May 12, 1968 in honor of Lt. Col. Virgil I. “Gus” Grissom, a native of Mitchell, Indiana. Grissom was

See ‘Anniversary’ page 10



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

Petty Officer 2nd Class Phillip Nielson, Detachment 1 Communications Company corpsman, prepares to raise the American flag with Airman 1st Class Jose Martinez, 434th Security Forces Squadron patrolman, at Grissom June 30.

434th ARW scheduled to host AF ball

By Staff Sgt.
Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

4th ARW is scheduled to commemorate the occasion with a military ball Sept. 23 at the Kokomo Event Conference Center, Kokomo, Indiana.

“We decided to host this year’s ball off base in a larger facility due to the demands and limited space from the last ball,” said Maj. Cassandra Nelson, 434th Air Refueling Wing executive officer. “We sent out invites all over the state including congressmen and other branches of the military.

“We anticipate a big turnout this year,” Nelson added.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Sharpy, Air Mobility Command vice commander, will be the guest speaker.

This year’s ball, like many in the past, have deeply rooted traditions that take place.

One such tradition is the ceremonial cake cutting where the most senior ranking individual and the lowest ranking individual cut a decorated cake using ceremonial swords.

Attendees will also witness other ceremonial actions by the Grissom Honor Guard including the presentation of colors ceremony and prisoner of war/missing in action ceremony.

“I had a great time at the last Air Force ball,” said Tech. Sgt. Daniel



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

Col. Larry Shaw, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, and his wife Chris pose for a photo holding their recently purchased AF Ball tickets at Grissom July 5.

Huff, 434th ARW Airman and Family Readiness technician. “It was great to see everyone dressed up and looking sharp.

“It’s a fun and exciting atmosphere; there’s a feeling that we’re all taking part in something special,” Huff added.

The event will kick off with cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m. A specially prepared meal will be plated for guests.

“It’s really nice seeing your

fellow Airmen enjoying themselves during the event and mingling with others,” said Nelson. “It’s a good time to be had, it’s a ball so it’s meant to be fun for everyone!”

Tickets are available for purchase through unit representatives.

The uniform of the day includes; mess dress for officers, mess dress or semi-formal for enlisted and formal for civilians.

For additional information contact your unit AF Ball representative.

Col. Schulte retires after 34 years of service

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

“No daughter of mine is going into the Air Force enlisted; you’re going in as an officer,” she recalled her father saying.

In 1975 Ann Schulte was 18 years old. Preparing to graduate from high school, she wanted to be an Air Force crew chief. She had no problem getting dirty; in fact, she wanted



Maj. Gen. Patricia Rose, U.S. Air Force Headquarters mobilization assistant to the deputy chief of staff for logistics, engineering and force protection, presents a certificate of retirement to Col. Anna Schulte, 434th Maintenance Group commander, during her retirement ceremony at Grissom April 1.

See ‘Retirement’ page 13

Civic leaders fly with the 434th ARW



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

Civic leaders pose with Col. Larry Shaw, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, and air crew after a flight at Grissom June 6.

by Senior Airman Cali Wetli
Public Affairs staff

When it comes to learning, seeing is believing, and for 19 area civic leaders, they saw and learned a lot recently.

The 434th Air Refueling Wing hosted a civic leader flight offering local leaders an opportunity to view an aerial refueling mission over the Midwest, June 6, 2017.

The members that attended the flight were selected by leadership to experience, what is for most, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"Flights like these are a great way to showcase the 434th ARW," said Douglas Hays, public affairs operations chief. "We can tell our story, but by sharing the

experience with others who can then share their experience the word gets out much further."

The flight also allows members to see first-hand Grissom's mission.

"Currently we're able to fly civic leaders, media members and employers through the PA process," Hays said. "Each flight has a purpose to share with taxpayers what capabilities Hoosier Wing Airmen bring to the fight. We love showcasing our people and our aircraft."

The members aboard got a chance to get a feel for the aircraft, see the pilot's cockpit during flight and witness close up the refueling of a B-52 Stratofortress.

"I loved it," said Zach Schible, Chic-fil-A hospitality coordinator

from Westfield, Indiana. "It was an experience of a lifetime and I'm extremely thankful for what our military is doing."

The flight helped better explain the force behind the fight and also allowed community leaders to gain a new perspective for the military.

"The experience was very beneficial," said Patrick Flannelly, Lafayette, Indiana police chief. "Many of us have employees that work in all branches of the armed forces, so I think having an opportunity to come out and see what some of them do on a daily basis and the vital roles they play for us, whether they're in our communities or in the military, I think it is super beneficial to all of us."

Grissom Fire Department responds, saves life

By Senior Airman
Cali Wetli
Public Affairs staff

It's not often first responders get to see the benefits of their work, but that was not the case for a group of firefighters from Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana.

Waylon Shupperd, 2, had an opportunity to visit the Grissom Fire Department recently and thank the firefighters who helped save his life during a medical emergency in late spring.

About a week after the incident, Waylon's father called and said that if it weren't for John Ireland, fire chief, and his team, things would be a lot different.

"They were absolutely

amazing," said Brandon Shupperd, father. "I want to thank them so much for saving my son's life. If it hadn't been for them, Waylon wouldn't be here today."

Grissom's fire department's professionalism and expertise really stood out to the Shupperd family.

"If every fire department had the professionalism that they did, America would be 10 times safer," said Shupperd. "They were happy, and you could tell they love and enjoy their job."

The crew that responded were so thankful and felt rewarded to see the little boy smiling and playing like there was nothing wrong during the visit.

"It's always an honor

and a privilege to be able to help in an emergency situation," said David Perryman, Grissom Fire Department crew chief. "What we do and what we train for really pays off. We are always ready to put our skills to the test and represent the department in a good light."

Pediatric calls really hit home, because the majority of Grissom firefighters have kids of their own.

"As soon as I told them about my son's condition, they were fast, attentive and never left my son's side," said Shupperd.

Waylon suffers from Adrenal Hypoplasia, making his adrenal glands non-functional, which affects ability to produce a variety of hor-

mones that regulate many essential functions in his body.

All units in the area were at level zero, meaning no ambulances were in the area, so Grissom Fire Department was dispatched.

"Our guys got on scene first and administered life-saving emergency care and stabilized him until paramedics could respond," said John Ireland, Grissom Fire Department fire chief.

By the time paramedics arrived, it was determined Waylon would need helicopter transportation due to his critical condition.

"He was in critical condition and needed a helicopter," said Ireland. "Engine eight helped set up a landing zone for the chopper to come out of Fort Wayne, Indiana and transport him."

Teamwork was a major key to the success of Waylon's health.

"The paramedics cannot go unnoticed and need the recognition they deserve," said Perryman. "Upon arrival they began aggressive treatment, called for an airlift and got him the help he needed after we responded."

Despite the long hours put into being a part of the fire department, calls such as these make the job all worthwhile, said Perryman.

"It really made me proud of the guys to know they are here and able to get the job done when the tones drop," said Ireland. "When things like this happen, it really makes them proud of their job, gets morale up and drives home that we're here for a purpose and we fulfilled that purpose by saving that child's life."



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

The Shupperd family visited the Grissom fire station to thank the team for saving their son's life, May 23. Listed from left to right: Jay Salmons, Tom Carey, Airman 1st Class Andrew Smith, Robert Jacobs holding Waylon Shupperd, Brandon Shupperd, Megan Shupperd and David Perryman holding their youngest son Maverick Shupperd.

Grissom's past and present intersect in England

By Tech. Sgt.
Benjamin Mota
Public Affairs staff

A first-hand history lesson allowed Airmen to get back to their roots and pay homage to those that paved the way to liberty.

Members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing participated in a Memorial Day ceremony and other activities designed to teach about the unit's history and heritage during a trip to RAF Mildenhall, England May 24-31.

"This trip and trips like these are extremely important because they give Airmen a first-hand look at the impact veterans before us have made to ensure our inalienable rights are protected," said Col. Paul Gates, 434th ARW vice

commander and project manager for the event. "As Americans each one of us have the right to life, liberty and happiness but those rights came with a price.

"Each member who participated in this event has a part in protecting those rights; regardless of the job they perform," said Gates. "It's critical that we know our history and heritage and more importantly that we continue to pass that down to future generations of Airmen so they know what they are fighting for."

That history and heritage was demonstrated first hand during a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England. The cemetery is the final resting place

of 3,812 men and women who died in and around Great Britain during World War II. Another 5,127 Americans, whose bodies were never recovered, are commemorated on the Wall of the Missing.

"Being part of the ceremony was one of the best parts of the trip for me," said Tech. Sgt. Brandie Bucinski, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief. "It was an honor to represent those who wore our patch and shared our unit's name before making the ultimate sacrifice of losing their life so we could enjoy the freedoms we have today."

At the cemetery Airmen were able to see headstones belonging to nine members of the 434th when the unit

was a troop carrier group during World War II.

"The stories of the Airmen who are buried here really struck a chord with me," said Bucinski. "We learn about history during tech school, but being able to see and touch a tombstone where that history took place really touched home."

That history was also highlighted by Staff Sgt. Michael Ziadeah, 434th Air Refueling Wing historian, who provided a historical overview of the U.S. Air Force's involvement in the region during World War II during a special briefing at a historic site on RAF Mildenhall.

"The purpose of the briefing was to inform the



Silence and solitude fill the air prior to a Memorial Day ceremony at the Cambridge American Cemetery in England May 29.

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



Ceremony, from page 6

group of our unit's role building up to the invasion of Normandy also known as D-Day," said Ziadeah. "During that time the 434th was a troop carrier group with the mission of transporting troops via glider across the English Channel to France and the Netherlands who were heavily occupied by the Nazi's at the time.

"We were seeing monuments and historical items from the history of our unit, and the presentation tied everything together," he added. "It's an amazing heritage we share; we carry the same insignia and despite having a different mission our overall mission still remains the same."

While that proud heritage is taught and shared throughout an Airman's career many fear it is in jeopardy of being lost, and trips such as this one ensure history is not forgotten.

"I think our history is being lost, and the significance of what we did here is too extraordinary to just be forgotten," said Maj. Amanda Owens, 434th Maintenance Operations Group commander. "Being here is our way of keeping our history alive.

"I hope those who participated will go back and share the history they have learned; share the story of our contributions and what it means to bear the name of the 434th," she said. "By building pride in our unit

and echoing what we learned we can ensure our sacrifices here will not be forgotten."

In addition to educating Airmen back home, participants were able to share their stories and the unit's involvement with local residents.

"I was able to meet several British veterans and talking to them I recognize they were appreciative for the Americans who sacrificed

for their freedom; that was very humbling," said Ziadeah. "They were very appreciative of what we did here during that time period."

"Our allies here know not only were we fighting for our freedom but theirs as well; they know we stood together," said Owens. "Being here for this event fortified that unity and showed we still stand together today."



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

Senior Airman Stephanie Briones, Grissom base honor guard manager, salutes a British veteran after passing a wreath symbolizing the continued unity between the two nations during a Memorial Day ceremony at the Cambridge American Cemetery in Cambridge, England May 29.

King retires after 27 years of service

By Senior Airman
Cali Wetli
Public Affairs staff

Amid family, friends and fellow Airmen, Chief Master Sgt. Rickie King, said goodbye to the Air Force after 27 years of service during his retirement ceremony at Grissom June 3.

King, 434th Security Forces Squadron manager, joined the Air Force December of 1984 as a security forces member serving for 10 years at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas and Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

After a five-year break, he joined the 434th SFS in 2001.

King achieved great

heights through his service, but did not stand alone in his success.

“I would have to thank all the leadership I had coming up through the ranks, senior NCO’s and officers that pointed me in the right direction,” said King.

Along with his achievements, he was able to lead his unit to unprecedented success.

“Our unit has won Air Force Reserve Command Security Forces Squadron of the year for two years in a row, which never happens, and that’s probably one of the things I am most proud of; my guys doing that,” said King. “Our Security Forces troops stand head and

shoulders above everybody else and it speaks volumes about them.”

The leadership and dedication King brought to the table was one of a kind.

“There are definitely big shoes to fill with the leadership both here at Grissom and at deployed locations,” said Maj. Matthew Garvelink, 434th SFS commander.

King continues to lead and guide his troops, especially young Airmen.

“If I had to give advice to any new Airmen, I would give the same advice that was given to me at basic training. Always do more than your supervisor expects of you,” said King.

Although the transition

into retirement is challenging, King is looking forward to spending time with his family and his four-year old granddaughter, Karma, helping veteran units out and supporting the 434th SFS.

“The Air Force taught me leadership and responsibility. It gave me opportunities like no place else ever could,” said King. “I feel very blessed to have gotten this far.”

“It’s been an honor to be in the U.S. Air Force. It’s been an honor to be a security policeman and a security forces defender,” said King. It’s been the greatest honor and privilege of my entire life to have been your chief.”



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

Maj. Matthew Garvelink, 434th Security Forces Squadron commander, presents a certificate of retirement to Chief Master Sgt. Rickie King, 434th SFS manager, at a retirement ceremony at Grissom June 3.

Grissom medic takes aim at range safety



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

Senior Airman Jayci Cloutier, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron medic, poses for a photo at a firing range while members of the 434th Security Forces Squadron train at Camp Atterbury-Muscatatuck, Indiana, April 20.

By Senior Airman Cali Wetli
Public Affairs staff

While cops from the 434th Security Forces Squadron focused on down range targets, one Grissom medic kept her focus on them.

Senior Airman Jayci Cloutier, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron medic, partnered with the 434th SFS to provide emergency medical care during weapons qualifications training at Camp Atterbury-Muscatatuck, Indiana, April 19-20.

“Preventive care is extremely important because it decreases the chances of a more intense health issue,” said Cloutier. “Many people will get so involved in their duties that they neglect to take care of themselves.”

“Without a medic, we wouldn’t be able to train the way we do, using the equipment we have,” said Master Sgt. Tim Holmgren, 434th SFS shift supervisor. “This training can be dangerous, so having a

medic on standby is crucial.”

Cloutier stresses that minimal maintenance can go a long way in keeping Airmen mission ready and healthy during training.

“Simple things like not staying hydrated, wearing sunblock or even applying bug spray can become detrimental and prevent them from performing at their highest potential,” said Cloutier. “This could have a huge impact on their mission, so I try to ensure that everyone is taking the proper precautions.”

In addition to meeting Air Force medic standards, Cloutier is certified in emergency medical technician basic, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, basic life support and automated external defibrillator courses. She continues to build her skills by volunteering her time to come to events like these while finishing up her education.

“I try to take advantage of all extra training opportunities

offered,” said Cloutier. “I felt volunteering my time would provide experiences different from my day job in the office. I like the challenges of the change of setting.”

In addition to the change of pace, Cloutier also hopes to improve her skills as a medic and get as much hands-on training as possible.

“This not only widens my range of skills, but it also allows me to think about different situations that will better prepare me for any future deployments. I enjoy being able to help out my team,” said Cloutier.

Cloutier wasn’t the only one who was happy she was there, so was the team that she was there to train with.

“Senior Airman Cloutier is a great addition. She is extremely prepared for the field conditions, professional and very well trained,” said Holmgren. “She was vital to mission success. I was thoroughly impressed.”

Runners soar through clouds of color

By Senior Airman
Cali Wetli
Public Affairs staff

Sunlight glimmered off sweaty skin as runners made their way around a 3.1 mile trail, then POOF! A gust of fluorescent color filled the air, bathing them in a colorful mess.

This is what the runners experienced during a 5K color fun run held June 3 at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind. The run kicked off the start of Grissom's family weekend filled with several fun-filled events.

An abundance of volunteers were stationed along the 5K trail and were prepared to coat the runners in a colorful array of corn starch.

"I enjoyed the color fun run," said Michael Judson, 434th Logistics



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

Louis Poggerburg, 434th Security Forces Squadron administrator, gets dusted by a cloud of color during a 5K color fun run held at Grissom June 3.

Readiness Squadron. "It is nice to see people having fun being active."

Not only had the runners enjoyed it, but also

the coordinators of the run.

"Everybody had a good time," said Bruce Cannady, sports special-

ist. "It's a great way to get everyone active and having fun and we really enjoy putting on events such as these."

Anniversary, from page 2

one of America's original seven astronauts and was killed during a fire in his Apollo capsule at Cape Kennedy, Florida.

"Throughout the years we've been a big deal," Shaw said. "We've been part of both the former Tactical Air Command, and famed Strategic Air Command."

The Air Force Reserve became part of the Grissom community in 1971 when the 434th Special Operations Wing and its A-37 Dragonfly aircraft relocated to the base. For the next 23 years Grissom was home to both active and reserve personnel.

In 1978, a second Air Force Reserve unit—the 931st Air Refueling Group -- joined the scene. At the height of its operations, the base was home

to one active duty and two Air Force Reserve wings, 60 KC-135 Stratotankers and 18 A-10 Thunderbolt II fighter aircraft.

Due to changes in the Air Force mission, two units (one reserve, one active duty) were deactivated in 1994. In October of that year, Grissom was realigned as an Air Force Reserve Command facility. Today, the host-unit is the 434th Air Refueling Wing. While the Air Force has the largest contingent of personnel at Grissom, it is also home to Army and Marine Corps Reserve personnel.

"One thing remains consistent," Shaw said "No matter the name, whether it be Bunker Hill or Grissom, this base is a valuable asset to the community, and we are proud to be the latest in a long line of warriors to serve our nation here."



Courtesy photo

The first flag is hoisted over Bunker Hill Naval Air Station in July 1942. The base, now known as Grissom Air Reserve Base opened on July 1, 1942 as a training base for aviators.

Grissom trains Airman bound for Niagara AFRS

By Senior Airman
Harrison Withrow
Public Affairs staff

After tech school most Airmen begin their training at their unit, but for one Niagara Falls command post controller, that was not the case.

Grissom welcomed the 914th Airlift Wing's newest command post controller to train in preparation for the KC-135R Stratotanker mission May 23.

"I graduated from tech school and then two weeks later I arrived at Grissom," said Senior Airman Micah Greidanus, 914th AW command post controller. "I've only been here a short time, but I feel like I've learned a lot already."

The 914th AW has sent several controllers to Grissom for training in the past, but Greidanus is the first to arrive straight out of tech school, said Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Withrow, 434th Air Refueling Wing command post superintendent.

"Greidanus was sent to us as part of our ongoing cooperation with the 914th AW," said Withrow. "Our

command post operations are more similar to what he can expect in the future, so the decision was made to have him train here before returning to his duty station."

Greidanus wasn't the only new face at the command post. Senior Airman Andrew Zinola, 434th ARW command post controller, graduated from tech school with Greidanus and the two met once again when Greidanus arrived at Grissom.

"Most of the other Airmen from the 914th came here in groups, but I was sent to Grissom by myself," said Greidanus. "It was nice to see a familiar face when I got here."

Though Greidanus has only been a controller for a short time, he spent two years in emergency management, so his level of experience was far greater than that of an Airman fresh out of basic training.

"I was concerned that there wouldn't be much of an overlap between the two skillsets, but the first few blocks of tech school were very in line with what I had done before," he said. "It was things like going over checklists, coordinating differ-

ent groups and assessing situations.

"It's a different application, but the core concepts had many similarities," added Greidanus.

The tech school for command post controllers was only a brief six weeks, he said. The school is designed to only cover the basics which are consistent throughout all command posts.

"Each command post is so varied based on their mission that most training has to be done on the job," said Greidanus. "The tech school gives you a very narrow set of skills, and then you learn your actual job at your duty station."

Though his stay was brief, Greidanus was highly satisfied with his time at Grissom, and felt that he learned a great deal.

"It was busy, but the training was phenomenal," said Greidanus. "Everyone was very fun to work with, but also professional."

"This is an amazing command post," he added. "The quality of their work is outstanding, and everyone has been incredibly welcoming to me."



Tech. Sgt. Will Hamilton, 434th Air Refueling Wing command post controller, instructs Senior Airman Micah Greidanus, 914th Airlift Wing command post controller, on use of the command post weather alert system at Grissom May 24.

434th CES receives high-level awards



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

Members of the 434th Civil Engineer Squadron stand in formation wearing their dress blue uniforms at Grissom Dec. 3.

By Staff Sgt. Dakota Bergl
Public Affairs staff

The 434th Civil Engineer Squadron recently received two awards recognizing their hard work and dedication to excellence.

The first award is the 2016 Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Unit Award in the Air Reserve Component category.

The award is based on six categories covering installation support, engineering excellence, expeditionary and emergency services support, unit and community relations, commander programs and achievements and awards.

The second award is the Society of American Military Engineers Curtin Award and it is presented to the most outstanding Air Force Civil Engineering unit during each calendar year.

Lt. Col. James Ballas, 434th CES commander, said he is very excited that his unit won these awards. He stressed that winning was a team effort and could not have been achieved without each member's help.

"I'm extremely proud of the unit," said Ballas. "Our Airmen are motivated and dedicated to being the unit of choice. That's our motto, unit of choice, we are always ready

when called upon. Winning the Outstanding Unit Award shows that everyone in the unit is dedicated to making that claim the truth. I want to emphasize that this is a combined team effort between both our civilian and military employees."

Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Brill, 434th CES senior air reserve technician, agreed and said he was pleasantly surprised the unit won the Air Force award since they didn't have any deployments during the year.

"This is definitely a team award," he said. "I attribute our success to our great team and the work they do. I don't

know if it's unheard of, but it is definitely rare to win this award without including any deployments in the package."

Senior Airman Benjamin Stout, 434th CES water and fuels system maintenance, said the awards are good for the unit because it makes the Airmen feel like their work has an impact.

"This is a really good payoff of the work we do," said Stout. "Last year some of us went up to New York and spent eight to ten hours a day pulling wires and winning an award is a nice recognition of the work we do. Our work gets noticed, even if it doesn't seem like it. It's cool to see that."

Retirement, from page 3

to.

"I've always loved the Air Force," she said. "I love the bases, I love the aircraft and I've always wanted to be a maintainer because my dad did it."

Col. Anna Schulte wore her Air Force uniform for the last time on April 1, after serving 34 years in the U.S. Air Force.

Schulte, who had been the commander of the 434th Maintenance Group for more than three years, was responsible for the largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve Command.

Born in Frankfurt West Germany, Schulte spent the entirety of her childhood surrounded by aircraft and the stories from her father, a career-crew chief, in the U.S. Air Force.

"My father worked in aircraft maintenance his entire career," she said. "I remember him working during Vietnam on the rescue bird for pilots when they ejected into the ocean.

"Because of my parents' experiences, I have always known about war and the pain it causes people," Schulte said. "When my dad joined the military, it was very inspirational. I saw how hard he worked and the long days he put in during the Vietnam War."

Propelled by her father's desire for her to become an officer, Schulte went on to graduate from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in physical education. When plans to become a teacher coincided with the 1979 San Francisco teachers' strike, her father suggested she apply for Officer Training School and become a pilot.

"I was ready to graduate but I washed out before solo phase," Schulte admitted.

Because Schulte had entered the Air Force via OTS, she had no Air Force obligation after washing out of pilot training school.



Capt. Brad Palm, 434th Maintenance Squadron accessories flight commander, presents Col. Anna Schulte, 434th Maintenance Group commander, with a shadow box he built during her retirement ceremony at Grissom April 1.

Just when Schulte had assumed her chances of following in her father's footsteps had disappeared, it turned out it was just getting started.

"Major Fudge, who was a squadron commander at the 349th Airlift Wing at Travis Air Force Base and worked with my father, told him that he was looking for maintenance officers," she added. "So my dad asked me if I was interested and I said 'Dad, this is what I wanted to do in the first place.'"

The life of an Air Force maintainer and a mother were the only two jobs she would know for the next 34 years. She has served in numerous command and leadership positions to include job control officer, executive officer and chief of logistics maintenance, senior maintenance offi-

cer, squadron commander, deputy group commander and group commander. She has deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm and Enduring Freedom and served as the maintenance commander since 2000 at five units including Write-

aircrew to do any mission they get called upon to do.

"I've been very lucky because every unit I've gone to has always had the potential to be great, and then they've become great," Schulte said. "The only thing I can hope is that I had something to do with that; that I helped them realize or gave them the resources to be successful."

An icon of the Air Force maintenance world, Schulte's retirement brought hundreds of people in attendance.

"Anna, you are going to be so very missed," said Maj. Gen. Patricia Rose, U.S. Air Force Headquarters mobilization assistant to the deputy chief of staff for logistics, engineering and force protection. "I asked colleagues to share some words about you and these are the words I heard: icon, legend, leader. But I think your greatest strength has always been and will most likely continue to be the fact that you care. You've been that rare breed of officer who cares equally about the mission and the people."

Schulte is retiring in Dayton, Ohio, with her husband, (Ret.) Lt. Col. John Schulte, where she looks forward to coaching her granddaughter's soccer team.

"The Air Force Reserve is a force unto its own," Schulte added. "We may be a small percentage but our successes speak volumes. I expect and hope this continues in the years to come. I thank my family and you – my reserve family – for the adventure, support and your friendship."

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

Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, and Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, before becoming the 434th Maintenance Group commander in 2014.

"I knew I wanted to work in maintenance because my dad did it," she said. "Everybody in maintenance knows exactly what they have to do; there is a certain way to do maintenance. I liked that. I liked that people knew what was expected of them and they knew they were part of something very important. Every position in the maintenance group is an important position."

Schulte said she believes that every person in the maintenance group is vital for ensuring aircraft are reliable and safe for the

Grissom hosts 22nd annual Police Day



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

Staff Sgt. Ian Charles, 434th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, teaches students about the security forces mission and the equipment used during the 22nd annual Police Day at Grissom May 15.

**By Senior Airman
Harrison Withrow**
Public Affairs staff

You only get one chance to make a first impression, and for hundreds of students, Police Day was just that.

Local and federal law enforcement agencies joined with the 434th Security Forces Squadron to host Grissom's 22nd annual Police Day, where students from the local area participated in a day of activity at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., May 15, 2017.

Kari Catanzaro, a sixth grade social studies teacher from Maconaquah Middle School, Bunker Hill, Ind., brought her class to the event along with nearly 200 students from MMS.

"I've been to Police Day about five or six times now, and it's always a great experience," said Catanzaro. "It's always great to watch the kids get engaged and

learn new things."

One of Catanzaro's students, Brady Wetson, was particularly excited to see the inside of the KC-135R Stratotanker which visitors were invited to tour.

"It was really cool," said Wetson. "I liked getting to walk around the airplane and lay down in the boom pod.

"The flight simulator was also a lot of fun," he added.

For most of the students, Police Day was their first up-close encounter with the Air Force, so making a good impression was key, said Staff Sgt. Ian Charles, 434th SFS fire team member.

"It's good for these kids to get a better appreciation for law enforcement and the military," said Charles. "They can get more 'under the hood' and see what it's all about instead of just what you see on television.

"We get to interact with them, show our organizations in a posi-

tive light and answer any questions they might have," he added. "It's a really great program."

In addition to creating a better relationship between the community and law enforcement, Police Day also serves to inspire young children who may one day want to become police officers themselves.

"Some of them might even decide this is what they want to do, and they didn't even know about it before," said Charles. "This could be a positive experience that enriches their life even further down the road."

Even for those without an interest in law enforcement, the event offered a chance to try something new and step outside the classroom.

"We love this," said Catanzaro. "The weather is great, the students are active and learning, and it's a great day to get away from the school and have fun."

Past, present meet for British Airman

By Doug Hays

Public Affairs staff

While most of Grissom's ambassadors were heading 'across the pond' away from family and friends, one aerial porter, was simply heading home.

Senior Airman Jordi Saunders, a cargo services specialist with the 49th Aerial Port flight, was among a group of 20 that deployed to RAF Mildenhall to help commemorate Memorial Day at the American Cemetery in Cambridge May 25-31. Saunders also happens to hail from Milton Keynes, England a town about 70 miles west of Mildenhall, so the trip was a homecoming of sorts.

"I was able to take a train and surprise my grandparents, aunts and uncles," Saunders said. "I didn't even tell my parents I was coming so they couldn't spoil the surprise."

Saunders and those representing Grissom were chosen by their commanders to help foster a greater knowledge the 434th Air Refueling Wing history.

One of the highlights for him and others was the Memorial Day ceremony itself at the American Cemetery in Cambridge.

"The ceremony was both somber and amazing," Saunders said. "Seeing and saluting the handmade wreaths, knowing what they represented and the effort that went into it all, it sent chills down your spine."

Saunders came to the United States when he was nine years old when his father, who worked in sales, was transferred to LaPorte.

As his graduation drew near in 2014, Saunders had a decision to make — go to school in the U.S. or head back to the U.K. to attend university. He decided to go to school at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, but needed a way to pay for it, so he enlisted in the Air Force Reserve and joined the 49th APF.

As a native son, he became an unofficial tour guide for many, even though he himself had never been to Mildenhall or Cambridge.

Where he was able to help out was



U.S. Air Force photo by Doug Hays

Senior Airman Jordi Saunders, a cargo services specialist with the 49th Aerial Port Flight, was among a group of 20 that deployed to RAF Mildenhall, England to participate in a Memorial Day celebration in Cambridge, England May 29.

with the food choices.

"When it comes to food, I'm your man," he said with a laugh. "The British have specialties that we're known for — especially pies and sweets."

For the future, Saunders plans on completing his degree in human rights law and Central Eurasian studies, and hopes to later earn a commission and continue to serve but

now with a greater connection.

"To see the poppy drop representing the blood of those who bled for us -- with the poppies floating against the background of the American flag, Wall of the Unknowns, survivors, and descendants of those who had perished really put things into a perspective that you tend to lose with the one-weekend a month duty," he added.

Weapon safety manager keeps range accident-free

By Senior Airman
Harrison Withrow
Public Affairs staff

As Grissom Airmen send a wall of lead down-range, one man stands out from the camouflage-clad crowd, silently observing from behind, distinguished by his neon-yellow vest emblazoned with the word "SAFETY".

Jerry Skiles, 434th Air Refueling Wing weapons safety manager, joined Airmen from the 434th Security Forces Squadron at Camp Atterbury, Indiana to complete annual weapons qualifications, April 21, 2017.

As with any activity involving weapons and live ammunition, the potential for danger is real and a constant concern.

"We had 180,000 rounds of ammunition on our truck," said Master Sgt. Chet Nance, 434th SFS non-commissioned officer in charge of Combat Arms. "In my mind, that's 180,000 opportunities for a mishap."

Combat Arms has established strict safety procedures which minimize the risk of death or injury, and help to create a more productive training environment. Skiles oversees those procedures and ensures they are followed at all times.

"I'm not required to be on site every single time bullets or bombs come out but this was a very large operation so I felt an inspection was appropriate," said Skiles. "Before they made the trip to Camp Atterbury, I had Nance create a risk assessment, which we reviewed once I arrived on site."

"It's similar to when the Inspector General comes and visits during a real-world operation," said Nance. "This gives him the capability to ensure we're doing what we're supposed to, and gives him oversight of our training."

"He has the authority to make contact with me at any point, identify deficiencies and recommend corrective action that must be taken on the spot," he added.

Though Skiles's role is that of a



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

Jerry Skiles, 434th Air Refueling Wing weapon safety manager, and Master Sgt. Chet Nance, 434th Security Forces Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge of Combat Arms, inspect an M240 machine gun at Camp Atterbury, Ind., April 21.

regulation enforcer, he and Nance view working together in a very positive way, and Nance looked forward to having Skiles on the range.

"Skiles and I have an outstanding relationship and have had for almost 20 years," said Nance. "I don't see his presence as a burden, but rather as something that enables me to run my operation more effectively, and keep my people safe."

Despite the bond they've developed from years of working together, Skiles is not afraid to intervene when he doesn't feel things are being done as safely as possible.

"We both view it not as a punishment, but as a learning tool so I can make it as clear as possible, 'here's what you're doing wrong and here's how we'll fix it,'" explained Skiles. "Nobody gets upset or has their feelings hurt."

"This is a dangerous environment where you have to take every risk seriously, and Nance fully understands that," he added.

While the goal is to not have to resort to it, Skiles can choose to cease all weapon-related operations if he feels it is necessary to do so.

"Anything to do with firearms or explosives, I receive my certifica-

tion and authority from Skiles," said Nance. "If he walks in and says to shut it all down, then that's what we do."

Safety is the first priority for all Air Force training environments, and while everyone must play a part in ensuring that safety, the responsibility ultimately falls on Skiles.

"I'm not here to get in the way or slow them down if I don't have to," said Skiles. "However, if I see something that creates an unnecessary risk, I won't hesitate to put a stop to it."

"It might be training, but these are real bullets and real munitions," added Skiles. "People can get hurt, so we have to stay alert and follow our procedures so that doesn't happen."

Skiles commended Nance and his Airmen for outstanding performance during their week of training.

"They went through several tens of thousands of rounds and didn't have a single injury," he said. "Typically you can at least expect a few burns from people getting hit with brass, but safety for this operation was on point."