

Serving the men and women of the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, Ind.

Maintainers win effectiveness award



Photo by SrA. Mark Roberto Modelo

Tech. Sgt. Chris Rust, left, inserts a pin into a strut as Tech. Michael Gold, center, and Tech. Sgt. Dan Lecroy maneuver the strut into position. The maintainers were working in frigid temperatures to repair the strut. Having the KC-135R up on jacks, prevented them from being able to close the hangar doors while they worked.

By SrA Jonathan Jones
Public Affairs staff

“It was truly a group and wing effort.”

That’s what Lt. Col. Eric Brandes said about the 434th Maintenance Squadron receiving the Air Force Reserve Command’s Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award.

Although the plaques will say “maintenance squadron” on them, the culmination of all of the different shops performing at the highest of standards made this award possible, said Colonel Brandes, the commander of the 434th MXS.

The award period dated from Oct. 01, 2004 through Sept. 30, 2005. During that period, the MXS achieved an overall maintenance effectiveness rate of 97.7 percent while meeting multiple worldwide missions to include accomplishing an Air Mobility Command Operational Readiness Inspection.

Other accomplishments included having the lowest KC-135 Stratotanker minor breaks in the AFRC with a rate of 4.7 percent and having the highest KC-135R fully mission capable and flight mission capable rates of 78 percent and 76.8 percent in the AFRC respectively.

These results were a reflection of the quality of work completed by the individuals in the 434th MXS and other contributing persons. Everyone from young airmen and non-commissioned officers to commissioned officers played a significant role in the success

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This new year make goals, not resolutions

By Col. Kerry Keithcart
434th ARW vice commander

It's resolution time again!
If you're like me, most of my resolutions only last a few weeks before being broken.

I've found that if I set goals, I have a better chance at succeeding. They allow me to focus on what it is that I want to accomplish.

For the Human Resources Development Council 2006 is back to the basics!

We want to create a healthy work environment. We got off to a good start with the Air Force Climate Survey. Your inputs, along with communication avenues like the wing advisory council, first sergeant and other similar committees offer you a

way to voice concerns and make us all better.

We also want to embrace diversity. Each month, I tell newcomers that I'm from California and come from the C-5 world. I definitely bring diversity to the 434th Air Refueling Wing, and appreciate what a great wing we have. We're hoping to take advantage of the diverse conferences held during the year and get members of different ranks, genders and ethnic backgrounds involved.

Conferences such as the Women in Aviation, The League of United Latin American Citizens or LULAC, The Tuskegee Airman, Airlift Tanker Association – all these meetings are ones we hope to send 434th ARW representation.

Get with your HRDC member, or

better yet, come to a meeting to learn more about these opportunities and others.

We want equal opportunity for all. Our promotions for exceptional performers' board meets this month and hopefully everyone was aware of and given the opportunity to compete. In addition the Group's HRDC members' are looking for possible career broadening opportunities. We'll also look at awards and decorations, professional military education, and additional duties.

Those are our goals...be sure to make goals for yourself...whether it be that next promotion, more job satisfaction, improving your physical fitness, or that worthwhile retirement. We in the HRDC wish you the very best!

Programs in place to make sexual assaults history

By Don Goodin
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

Sexual assault has had a long history in the military.

Over the past 15 years, scandalous episodes at the Navy's Tailhook convention in Las Vegas, where female sailors were groped by their cohorts, and at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, where Army drill instructors raped trainees, drew widespread attention to the problem.

The latest scandal broke in January 2003, at the Air Force Academy, when an anonymous email was sent to the Secretary of the Air Force and others alleging that there was a significant sexual assault problem at the Acad-

emy which had been ignored by the Academy's leadership.

Subsequently, after several investigations, a new Department of Defense-wide sexual assault policy was implemented.

Victims of sexual assault, who are in an active duty status, now have the option of a *Restricted Report* or an *Unrestricted Report*.

In the *Unrestricted Report*, the case will be handled in the usual manner with the commander being notified and office of special investigations and/or the security forces investigating the assault.

A *Restricted Report* must be made to the sexual assault response coordinator, a victim advocate, medical staff,

or the chaplain only. The commander will not be notified, the assault will not be investigated, nor will the perpetrator be punished.

With the victim's permission, evidence will be collected and held for one year in case the victim changes his/her mind and decides to seek prosecution of the perpetrator.

I'm Grissom's new sexual assault response coordinator, and I can be reached at Ext. 2040.

My goal is to have at least six victim advocates selected and trained by this spring.

Together, and through education, we hope to make sexual assaults in the military a thing of the past. We can't let history repeat itself.

Heartland

Warrior

Vol. 11, No.1
January 2006

This funded Air Force Reserve Command newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

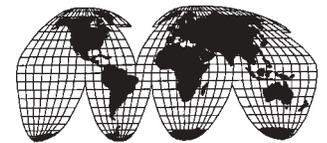
Contents of the Heartland Warrior are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, and prepared by the Public Affairs Office of the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, IN, 46971-5000.

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Air Force releases new mission statement

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and they continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

“Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges,” Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. “Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise.”

The mission statement defines the “where and what” the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new concepts, “sovereign options” and “cyberspace,” which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

“Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy’s defenses,” they said. “With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world.”

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission

and the sharing of information.

“We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can’t be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures,” Secretary Wynne said. “The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent.”

Our adversaries will use any method or venue to contest us, and it is an Airman’s calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

“If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts,” they said. “If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them.”

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, “The Air Force’s mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do.”

Leadership starts with the man in the mirror

By Maj. Gen. Scott Gray
Air Mobility Warfare Center

MCGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, N.J. — As a general officer, I am frequently in front of audiences talking about leadership.

One of my favorite groups to address is an Airman Leadership School class.

In my discussions with them — and every group I face — I always ask two questions: First, has anyone ever worked for a bad boss or leader?

Unfortunately, 75 percent or more of the hands reach for the sky.

I then ask for examples of what made these leaders bad.

The answers are normally the same: Not involved with his or her subordinates; not concerned about me or my training; is concerned only with his or her advancement, at any cost; lacks integrity; doesn’t support the boss or the mission; is a tyrant to work for —

frequently screams and yells at folks; harasses people or condones it on and off duty; doesn’t know the mission and doesn’t trust those who do; sets low standards for himself or herself, allowing the shop to skate by.

You get my drift, and you may have met some of these leaders yourself.

The second leadership question is: Have any of you worked for great leaders, and what made them great?

Sadly, fewer than 25 percent of the hands go up, but those that do are raised with enthusiasm.

Their examples are exactly what you would expect and hope for in our Air Force leaders:

Integrity; concerned about me, my development and my family; sets the example on and off duty; lives and breathes the Air Force’s core values of “integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do”; sets high standards for themselves and our shop; takes none of the credit for the good

stuff we do, but takes all of the blame for the bad; praises in public, kicks tail in private; loves his job, his life and his family; and makes work fun.

If the Air Force is going to excel and get the most out of our people, we must reverse the negative leadership examples.

Our people are our most important asset, and we need to treat them as such.

I’m challenging all leaders and supervisors to look in the mirror and reflect on our own strengths and weaknesses, then set out to improve ourselves, so our people can realize their full potential.

When we do that, we can take the Air Force to even greater levels.

It is the best investment we can make for our greatest asset — our Airmen and their families. Your Airmen need you to be great.

As for me, I’m heading to the mirror. (AFP)

Chief earns AFRC civilian manager award

By SrA Jonathan Jones
Public Affairs staff

He has a personal drive to do the best he can for the unit and the mission.

Through his leadership and dedication, his work produces nothing but the best. Acting as a facilitator, his goal is to train and prepare others to continue the tradition of excellence at Grissom Air Reserve Base.

Characteristics such as these contributed to Chief Master Sgt. David Sward receiving The Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award from the Air Force Reserve Command in the category of civilian manager.

Chief Sward is the superintendent of the 434th Maintenance Squadron. With 27 years of his 32 years spent here, he received the award for numerous accomplishments and contributions to the success of the 434th MXS during the period of Oct. 01, 2004 through Sept. 30, 2005.

"The feedback I got back about the chief from everybody is he deserves it because his reputation is well known throughout the command by a lot of the senior people all the way up to the

AFRC," said Lt. Col. Eric Brandes, the commander of the 434th MXS.

According to Chief Sward, after receiving the award he felt it affirmed the confidence his supervisor has in him on a daily basis. In addition, he realized his contributions had a positive impact on the unit's daily operations.

"None of us hopefully do this for any particular recognition, but because of a personal drive and dedication to do the best we can for the unit," he said. "So, you don't think about those kinds of things until you're recognized and then it means so much because you have a chance to step back and appreciate the fact that somebody does notice and takes time to recognize your efforts."

While Sward may sound modest about receiving the award, his accomplishments parallel the type of leader and dedication he brings to the table.

His accomplishments include: direction of aircraft refurbishment, resulting in setting the standard throughout the KC-135R fleet; ensured compliance with personnel, maintenance, security and safety requirements through extensive research; exceptional direction over the 434th MXS and its efforts to refurbish an

interactive KC-135R flight deck and boom pod display used for recruiting; and his aggressive direction in contributing to a 97.8% maintenance rate, which resulted in the 434th MXS receiving the AFRC Maintenance Effective Award, the colonel said.

Through proper training of all personnel and increased responsibilities, Chief Sward believes he is preparing airmen and non-commissioned officers to fill his position someday.

"The greatest tribute of all is to walk away with minimal disruption in the operation of the organization and that's only possible if those folks have been given the opportunity and have learned what they need to know to do the job when the time comes," he added.

It is his vision through dedication and leadership which results in a finished product that sets the standard at a level of success and why he received the award, Colonel Brandes said.

"It's a natural thing that he should be the best civilian maintenance manager in the entire command. It's like 'that's David Sward' he's that well known for being that good," Colonel Brandes concluded.

VI can support base's photography needs

By SrA. Roberto Modelo
Public Affairs staff

Do you have an official ceremony or retirement coming up next unit training assembly? Do you need for the moment to be captured so that you can document the occasion?

The visual information shop here at Grissom can assist you with that request and many like it.

"Let us know as far as you can in advance, preferably before your next UTA, that you have an event," said Master Sgt. Rob Hoffman a visual information specialist.

"We can only do the photography requests during the UTA, Sergeant Hoffman said." "Any exceptions will have to be looked at."



Photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Those interested should fill out an Air Force Form 833 in order to get the request processed.

Since the VI shop's staff is limited, requests can only be handled in the order in which they come.

They are now taking requests for official photos with updated equipment and for other audio visual requests like a public address system and wireless microphones.

Those eligible for support are all service members and Department of Defense civilians.

Those wanting an official photograph should wear the appropriate medals, badges and accouterments.

For photos in the workplace, people should be mindful of their surroundings. The picture's

setting can not contain classified areas or documents.

For information or to get a request started, contact Master Sgt. Hoffman at Ext. 3135 or 2540, or Master Sgt. Ethan Minor at Ext. 3176.

Heartland Warrior

Award, from page 1



Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen

The interactive flight deck display, above, and the boom pod display, created by the maintainers is used as a recruiting and information tool.

of the 434th MXS and its mission, explained Chief Master Sgt. David Sward, the superintendent for the 434th MXS.

“We’re known far and wide for the quality of work that we perform and the condition of our airplanes. When our aircraft go elsewhere across country on a tour of duty people are delighted to see a Grissom jet arrive and the pilots, no matter where they came from, prefer to fly a Grissom tanker over any other airplane and that again is a reflection of the pride and caliber of the work that our people put forth,” the chief stated.

“We’ve got the best people preparing the best product,” Colonel Brandes added.

The dedication of the people to provide a quality product and the ability to provide the best wartime support possible impacted the entire KC-135R fleet, the colonel said.

With great responsibility, the 434th MXS renovated an interactive KC-135R boom pod and flight display, which was used as a recruiting and educational tool at air shows, schools, ROTC, VIP visits and other venues. These renovations included structural repair, fabrication and survival equipment.

In addition, the 434th MXS has faced

several challenges during the year.

In one case, an aircraft refueling boom was repaired following an in-flight emergency when the boom was during an emergency landing. Acting with a sense of urgency, members from the 434th MXS replaced the boom and hoist components in less than 24 hours.

In receiving the maintenance effective award, the MXS has been recognized for its outstanding accomplishments and ability to face challenges successfully. However, no one organization or individual is solely responsible for success, but the consistent efforts by all personnel involved, said Chief Sward.

“If it were not for what the 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron does, and what the 434th Mission Operations Flight does; and the quality assurance folks on the 434th Maintenance Group side and the support we get from supply, be it parts or gas; and everybody else from the civil engineers in the 434th Mission Support Group helping us get ice off of the ramp which helps the 434th AMXS guys launch the planes that perform our refueling mission, this culmination of effort is what is responsible for the data in the award,” Colonel Brandes said.

Kiosk offers access to myPay website

By SrA. Roberto Modelo
Public Affairs staff

Have you ever found yourself away from a computer and in need of a printed leave and earning statement? Or maybe you have a question regarding pay.

The Air Force is introducing a new OneStop Kiosk that will allow you to get the information you need - on the go.

The kiosk is scheduled to make its appearance at Grissom this month.

The new OneStop Kiosk, which resembles an automated teller machine, will be located in the lobby of the services complex on base and will be of no charge to the user.

“The kiosk will make things easier and more accessible to users,” said Michael Ayers, 434th Air Refueling Wing comptroller. “The biggest benefit is for those personnel TDY to Grissom. For example, if they need to access their myPay account, the capability will be available.”

The centrally located kiosk is available to all Department of Defense civilians and military personnel. The kiosk is much like using the internet. However, its internet capability is limited to only a few official government related sites for pay questions, MWR related activities, etc.

“If you do not have access to a computer, the kiosk will be available,” said Mr. Ayers. “Also, the same kiosks will be available at most active-duty, guard and reserve Air Force locations.”

The kiosks utilize a keyboard and modified mouse or a touch screen.

Service members or DoD civilians with questions about the new kiosks should send their questions via email to the finance office at:
grissom.finance@grissom.af.mil.



Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen

Santa's helper

Staff Sgt. Tanielle Phillips, 434th Mission Support Flight, holds a presents a gift to a toddler during the family support center Christmas party held during the December unit training assembly.

UTA items

Lodging is open 24 hours a day during the primary unit training assembly and from 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. on alternate UTAs.

The fitness center is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The dining facility troop feeding hours on Saturday are 6-7:15 a.m. for breakfast; 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for lunch (12:30 p.m. on the alternate); and 4:30 -5:30 p.m. for dinner.

On Sunday the hours are 5:45-6:45 a.m. for breakfast, and 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for lunch (12:30 p.m. on alternate).

Box dinners for the Sunday evening meal must be ordered by the Sunday

breakfast, and must be picked up by 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The 434th Aerospace Medical Squadron's immunization clinic is open on Saturday from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m.

434th Security Forces Squadron Pass and ID is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday of the primary UTA.

Upcoming UTAs: Primary UTAs include Jan. 7-8; and Feb. 4-5.

Alternate UTAs are Jan. 21-22; and Feb. 11-12.

Worship services are held in Bldg. 596, Room 116.

During primary unit training assemblies, Protestant services are Sunday at 11 a.m. with Catholic worship services at 12:15 p.m.

ESGR awards

ARLINGTON, Va. – The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, announced that nominations will be accepted at the ESGR website beginning January 9th for the 2006 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards.

The nomination process will conclude on February 28, 2006.

Over 1,500 nominations were submitted in 2005 on the ESGR website. In 2006 the goal is 5,000 nominations, a relatively small number, as ESGR estimates that over 125,000 employers in America employ National Guardsmen and Reservists.

Heartland Warrior



U.S. Air Force photo by Thomas Dennis

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, Va. — U.S. Air Force Honor Guardsmen lead the caisson carrying the remains of Col. Wilfred B. Crutchfield and Lt. Col. Ivan E. O'Dell to their gravesite in Arlington National Cemetery. The remains were laid to rest with full military honors here, Dec. 7. The Airmen were flying home to McChord Air Force Base, Wash., in their T-33 Shooting Star when they crashed into Mount Rainier April 15, 1968, some 10,800 feet above sea level. The wreckage and remains were embedded in a glacier, preventing a recovery team from reaching them. (AFP)

To nominate their employers, National Guardsmen, Reservists, or their family members need only to visit the ESGR website at www.esgr.mil, and complete the 2006 Freedom Award nomination form online.

Injury protection

Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance provides financial assistance to servicemembers during their recovery period from a serious traumatic injury.

All members eligible for SGLI are now insured for traumatic injury protection unless they decline SGLI coverage.

The coverage is a tax-free lump sum payment ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000, depending on the extent of the injury.

A flat monthly premium of \$1 was added to the monthly SGLI deduction Dec. 1, regardless of the amount of SGLI coverage.

TSGLI is not disability compensation and has no effect on entitlement for compensation and pension benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or disability benefits provided by the Department of Defense.

It is an insurance product similar to other commercial dismemberment policies.

January 2006

For more information, contact Thomas Perry at (210) 565-3310 or 2410

TSP changes

Effective in 2006, civilian and military employees are no longer subject to a percentage limit on the amount they may contribute to a regular Thrift Savings Plan account.

They may contribute the full amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service annual elective deferral limit, which is \$15,000 for 2006.

Open seasons were eliminated July 1, 2005, so employees may start, change, stop or resume their TSP contributions at any time (except those in the 6-month non-contribution period following a financial hardship in-service withdrawal).

CFC wrapup

Grissom's Combined Federal Campaign has come to a close with Grissom exceeding its goal.

Grissom raised \$28,225 during the drive.

"This is great, and well above the \$25,000 goal," said Jeff Woodring, CFC drive coordinator.

Tuition cap increase

The graduate degree tuition assis-

tance fiscal year cap for Air Force Reserve personnel has increased \$1,000.

In a letter signed by Lt. Gen. John Bradley, Air Force Reserve Command commander, he announces that effective immediately the cap is raised from \$3,500 to \$4,500.

For more information, contact the education office at Ext. 3910.

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Serve Medal—Master Sgt. Wesley Simmons, 434th Mission Support Group; Maj. Brian Nance, 434th Security Forces Squadron; Maj. Thomas Riedel, 434th Operations Squadron; Maj. Victor Verboncoeur, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; and Tech Sgt. James House, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Air Force Commendation Medal—Tech Sgt. Lloyd Padgett, 434th SFS; Tech Sgt. Anthony Dickerson, 434th Air Refueling Wing; Maj. Patrick O'Neil, 434th MSG

Air Force Achievement Medal - Tech Sgt. Rickie Dean King, 434th SFS.

Promotions

To technical sergeant -- Mariea Walters, 434th LRS.

Air Force declares F-22A operational

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. - The Air Force's most advanced weapon system is ready for combat, Air Force officials Dec. 15.

In reaching initial operational capability, the F-22A Raptor has been certified ready for employment.

Declaring the transformational fighter IOC means the Raptor's proven capabilities are now available for use in combat around the globe and are supported by a properly trained and equipped force.

It also means the aircraft is qualified to perform homeland defense missions when required.

In the words of Gen. Ronald Keys, Air Combat Command commander, "If we go to war tomorrow, the Raptor will go with us."

"F-22A IOC means our warfighters now have an unprecedented lethal mix of air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities at their disposal," General Keys said. "The Raptor's cutting-edge technology brings us continued joint air dominance despite advancing enemy



Air Force photo

An F-22A Raptor is refueled by a Grissom KC-135 during the Raptor's flight and maneuverability testing.

threats."

Reaching the IOC milestone culminates a collaborative effort between Air Force organizations and the service's industry partners over the past 25 years.

"The F-22A fulfills a long quest to bring fifth-generation capabilities of stealth, supercruise and precision to the warfighter today and 30 years from today," General Keys said. "Now that we have met our first promised milestone of a fully capable,

multi-mission platform ready for combat, we are already focused on furthering our integrated tactics development, refining our deployability, and growing and training our force. To add to what we learned on our successful first operational deployment to the Utah Test and Training Range to drop (joint direct attack munitions), fly against double-digit (surface-to-air missiles) at Nellis, and work (close air support) with F-16 FAC-As, we will conduct our first routine peacetime exercise deployment by

taking 12 Raptors to Alaska in June for Northern Edge."

Designed to ensure America's air dominance for years to come, the F-22A will ensure U.S. joint forces' freedom from attack and freedom to attack, even as adversaries continue to advance their weapons and technologies.

The first combat-ready Raptors are assigned to the 27th Fighter Squadron, one of three squadrons assigned to the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley.

**434th Air Refueling Wing
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