

Heartland

Warrior

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December 2005

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



Photo by SrA. Jonathan Jones

Wingman

An F-16 from the 122nd Tactical Fighter Wing, Fort Wayne, Ind., waits for its turn to be refueled during a recent training mission. Media members from across the state had an opportunity to fly with the 434th Air Refueling Wing and learned about its mission and its people.

Operations, 72nd ARS gain new commanders

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Grissom fliers saw changes in leadership for the 434th Operations Group and the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron during the November unit training assembly.

Col. Stephen (Fritz) Linsenmeyer assumed command of the 434th OG from Col. Gary Beebe.

As the operations commander, Colonel Linsenmeyer leads two flying

squadrons and one support squadron.

His job is to train and provide KC-135R Stratotanker aircrew members in support of the aerial refueling mission.



Colonel Linsenmeyer

Colonel Linsenmeyer is a command pilot with more than 3,800 flying hours.

Lt. Col. Laen August assumed command of the 72nd ARS during the UTA.

Colonel August has been a member of the 434th Air Refueling Wing as a traditional Reservist since 1992.

He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 military flying hours.

He replaces Col. Doug McHugh, who is now the 434th Mission Support Group commander.

Impressive legacy continues at Grissom

By Col. Kerry Keithcart
434th ARW vice commander

Inspectors come and go, and almost always they leave Grissom having been impressed by you.

Fourth Air Force sent a team in for a staff assistance visit over the November unit training assembly.

As usual, your positive attitude and ability to make it happen impressed the team.

Everywhere the inspectors went, you extended a hand, opened up your books and wanted to learn how to

improve.

Along with being friendly the inspectors noticed how YOU make things happen. From the maintainers, the operators and the support agencies we are in the business of moving the mission and taking care of people – safely. You don't miss a beat.

Our inspectors did just what we wanted them to do...they pointed out areas we can improve upon for our upcoming unit compliance inspection scheduled in July 2006.

Documentation was one of the elements that we can improve upon as a whole.

If you don't document, it doesn't happen.

Document those self inspections.

Document those vehicle inspections.

Document those mentoring sessions.

We're doing those things, so we need to make sure others can see we are.

A side benefit from documenting is communication.

Documentation helps to

ensure we're all on the same sheet of music – in tune with each other and hitting each not on time – every time.

One of the team members said he never worries about Grissom. He said we do things right. I couldn't agree more with him.

We're the unit of choice and we constantly demonstrate that to those visitors that come and go. Let's continue that trait. Document, communicate and we'll continue that impressive legacy.

Wingman's Day focuses on suicide prevention

By G.W. Pomeroy
Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — At the end of October 2004 Air Force leadership was intensely focused on addressing a rising suicide rate among its active duty Airmen.

The 46 Airmen who had taken their own lives since Jan. 1, 2004, represented a rate of 15 per 100,000 for the year. The rate was about a third lower than the comparative civilian 17 to 55 years-of-age population in the United States.

But for the seven years before 2004, the suicide rate among active duty Airmen averaged 9.2 per 100,000 people.

This was born Wingman Day, a day

set aside to ensure that every staff, wing, unit and team stopped the daily routine and openly discuss not just suicide prevention, but also substance misuse and vehicle safety.

Air Force leaders also asked commanders to conduct full reviews of suicide prevention efforts and to ensure all Airmen are aware of resources such as life skills and other support agencies to address the service's highest suicide rate in nine years.

The review included the 2004 Air Force Suicide Prevention Program 11 Initiatives Assessment from the Air Force Integrated Delivery System.

This group of base-level organizations — chaplains and professionals from life skills, family support, child and youth services, health and

wellness centers, and family advocacy — works together and takes responsibility for prevention.

The surveys will help commanders evaluate how the 11 key initiatives of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program are being implemented at the base level.

The surveys also served as a critical component of the service-wide re-evaluation of the program.

In particular, it was realized that the 11 Initiatives were being implemented inconsistently across the Air Force. Almost every base demonstrated some exceptional suicide prevention initiatives, but all 11 Initiatives were not implemented uniformly at every base.

One area of particular interest to program managers was the quality of

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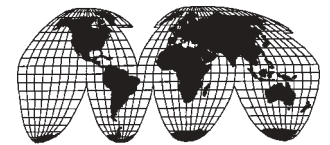
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suicide prevention briefers. It was recognized that for many people, their suicide prevention briefing is a prime intervention opportunity.

To capitalize on this opportunity, the Air Force recognizes the importance of delivering a high quality suicide prevention message by well-prepared, well-trained instructors.

Local integrated delivery system committees are now responsible for training briefers and, in August 2005, the latest program briefings were released. They incorporated powerful 60- to 90-second suicide prevention videos.

To be sure, for each area of concern indicated in the review, detailed strategies were recommended. In fact, Air Force leadership directed the findings and strategies to be used as tools to reevaluate local implementation of the suicide prevention program.

Did it work?

As the second Air Force Wingman

Day approaches, in terms of numbers, it would appear so. In fiscal 2005, there were 29 active duty suicides — a rate of 7.8 per 100,000 Airmen. That represented a 49 percent decrease from fiscal 2004. Similarly, through Nov. 4, calendar year 2005 suicides were down 44 percent compared to the same date last year (27 suicides), an annual rate of 9.2 per 100,000.

But suicide prevention experts within the Air Force — and elsewhere — would be the first to tell you that the existence of a suicide prevention program doesn't mean we can avoid every suicide.

The goal is to prevent as many suicides as possible through careful attention to risk factors and effective intervention with personnel in distress.

There's no question the Air Force's community based program is widely considered the best and most effective of its kind in the world.

Additionally, a landmark University

of Rochester study of suicide in the Air Force concluded that the service's suicide-prevention program reduced the risk of suicide by 33 percent from 1997 to 2003.

Maj. (Dr.) Steven F. Pflanz, chief of the Air Force suicide prevention program, recently provided his view of suicide prevention in the Air Force.

"Suicide prevention begins with addressing quality of life issues for Airmen on a daily basis," Dr. Pflanz said. "Leaders of all ranks are actively engaged in preventing suicide. The Air Force cultivates a culture that encourages and supports early help-seeking behavior for personnel suffering from distress.

"We want Airmen to recognize when personnel are at risk. Engage those personnel in supportive dialogue. And refer them to the appropriate agencies for assistance. Bottom line: Suicide prevention is everyone's responsibility!"

Your take: What are your plans for the holiday season?



Captain Anna Ruiz, 434th Maintenance Squadron

"I'm going back to sunny California to visit friends and family."



Master Sgt. Steven Douglas, 434th Mission Support Flight

"Currently, what our [family] plans are is just to keep it as simple as possible, have some family members over for dinner, have a gift exchange and hopefully we might be able to extend our hospitality to someone who is less fortunate than we are."



Tech. Sgt. Drennen Gaffney, 74th Air Refueling Squadron

"I've got four girls and usually the holidays are about the kids, so I plan to have a nice time with family."



Senior Airman Jake Koch, 434th Security Forces Squadron

"I plan on going to Iowa. We go every year to have family Christmas."

Wynne sworn in as 21st secretary

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Michael Wynne was sworn in today in front of 4,200 U.S. Air Force Academy cadets, during their noontime meal, as the 21st secretary of the Air Force.

In this role, he is responsible for the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, including organizing, training, equipping and providing for the welfare of its nearly 370,000 men and women on active duty, 180,000 members of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve, 160,000 civilians and their families.

As head of the Department of the Air Force, Secretary Wynne is responsible for its functioning and efficiency, the formulation of its policies and programs, and the timely implementation of decisions and instructions of the president of the United States and the secretary of defense.

Mr. Wynne replaces Pete Geren, who has served as the acting secretary of the Air Force since July 29.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside America’s Airmen and their joint service partners to keep our nation safe,” Secretary Wynne said. “With their dedication, skill and sacrifice, they offer an incredible array of options to the president and the nation — from taking the fight to the enemy, providing strategic intelligence to the joint force, or providing humanitarian assistance at home and internationally in the wake of natural disasters.”

Prior to appointment, Secretary Wynne served in the Department of Defense as the principal deputy under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics.

Mr. Wynne served in the Air Force



Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

Newly confirmed Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne talks during an interview in his Pentagon office.

for seven years, ending his service as a captain and assistant professor of astronautics at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Mr. Wynne graduated from the United States Military Academy and also holds a masters’ in electrical engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology and a masters’ in business from the University of Colorado. (AFPN)

Reservist service rights work both ways

By SrA. Roberto Modelo
Public Affairs staff

Airman John Doe is a reservist with the 434th Air Refueling Wing and is scheduled to deploy soon.

Airman Doe works as a consultant at XYZ Consulting Inc. in his civilian job. He also has a general understanding of his rights as a reservist but has not notified his employer of his situation because he assumes that he is covered.

He finally deploys and when he returns learns that he has been fired from his job. He points out to his employer that he is protected by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)...or is he?

Airman Doe is a fictitious individual. However, service members should

have a good understanding of their rights and responsibilities under USERRA so that they do not find themselves in the same predicament as Airman Doe.

Just as much as the employer should support employees, it is the employees responsibility to work together with their employers to ensure a smooth transition to and from any military obligations that will take them away from their civilian work.

Under USERRA, employees must provide advanced notice of their military obligations to their employers, within a reasonable time frame. Notice can be provided to the employer in the form of verbal or written notice. Service members that fail to provide notice within these limits could possibly lose their protection under USERRA.

Had Airman Doe given notice,

verbally or in writing, when he received word of his upcoming deployment, he would have been under the protection of USERRA.

However, service members must also understand that an employer has the right to request documentation of military service if it extends beyond 30 days.

Service members are encouraged to give a copy of their upcoming orders, drill schedules, or any other type of documentation to their employers as soon as it becomes available.

Airman Doe should have checked what his responsibilities were before deploying. Service members are encouraged to find out all their rights and responsibilities under USERRA by either visiting their website at www.esgr.com, or by calling at their toll-free number, 1-800-336-4590.

Grissom names new command chief

SrA. Jonathan Jones
Public Affairs staff

“The most important duty is taking care of the people.”

That’s what the 434th Air Refueling Wing’s newly selected command chief master sergeant said.

Senior Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski succeeds Chief Master Sgt. Randy Van Loton, in the top enlisted position. Chief Van Loton retired after more than 36 years of military service.

Sergeant Rogowski is slated for promotion to chief master sergeant in January.

Her initial reaction to being selected for this position was extreme excitement and a sense of anxiousness, she said.

“This is such an honor and privilege, she added.”

“It is indeed going to be a challenge, Grissom is moving into a lot of different directions and it is one that I look forward to tremendously with a lot of enthusiasm to do the best job I can for the men and women of Grissom,” she said.

Sergeant Rogowski is no stranger, she has served all 24 years of her military service here.

Prior to becoming the command chief master sergeant of the 434th ARW, she was the first sergeant to the 434th Maintenance Operations Flight.

Her first assignment in 1981 was with the 930th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron as an administrative specialist.

Other past assignments include maintenance trainer for the 930th CAMS, working in the education and training office in the 434th ARW and first sergeant to the 434th Mission Support Squadron.

Since Sergeant Rogowski is familiar with the challenges that she believes Grissom is currently facing, she is prepared to get to work right away.

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Senior Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski

She believes there are four key areas of concentration, to include readiness to deploy, recognition of service members, balance between ancillary and work center training, and one of the most important factors retention.

With outstanding leadership, positive attitudes and a willingness to get the job done, the younger airmen will be able to realize success in these challenging areas, she said.

In addition, she believes that there are two types of infectious behavior that affect those challenges. These behaviors include enthusiasm and apathy.

“When you have young airmen come in that have no sense of perception of what is going on, on the base, what some of the inside track is and you have some folks that might not be very enthusiastic and have an apa-

thetic type of attitude,” she explained.

This affects other people in the office or shop and the individual himself, she added.

“I challenge every person on this base to stand up to apathy and not be afraid to stand up and try to encourage folks to be enthusiastic and positive about our work,” the command chief said.

Assisting airmen in having positive attitudes is done when officers, senior non-commissioned officers and junior NCOs have a flexible and professional leadership style. Sergeant Rogowski identifies with this type of style as she continues to create trust through her friendly demeanor, compassion for one another, while encouraging her counterparts to come to her as problems arise.

Also, she maintains discipline effectively by solving conflicts when airmen cross the line by quickly imposing the discipline necessary to the given situation.

From her leadership style to her disciplinary style, she is ultimately concerned with representing the people and acting as a voice for all civilian and military personnel, which goes back to retention and working for the people, while working together to get the job done, Sergeant Rogowski added.

“Personnel assigned at Grissom are our greatest resource and if we don’t take care of them we might as well shut down,” she added.

“I challenge everyone to stand up in the face of adversity and apathy, and try to instill an enthusiastic positive light on our great wing. I challenge them too get their affairs in order, to be ready to deploy. It basically honors their family by doing that and personally I think that is number one; we need to take care of our family, we need to take care of ourselves, we need to take care of our children.”



Photo by SrA. Jonathan Jones

Wing coverage

Inge Hart-North, a photographer with Bright House Media of Marion, Ind., finds an interesting angle to shoot from prior to taking off on a media orientation flight. Master Sgt. Al Riendeau, crew chief, ensures she doesn't take too many steps back.

UTA items

Lodging is open 24 hours a day during the primary UTA 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 immunization clinic is open on Saturday from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m.

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

Upcoming UTAs: Primary UTAs include Dec. 3-4; and Jan. 7-8.

Alternate UTAs are Dec. 10-11 and Jan. 21-22.

Worship services are held during primary unit training assemblies, Protestant services are Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in Bldg. 471, rm. 226.

Catholic worship services at 12:15 p.m. in Bldg. 596, rm. 116.

Honor guard

The Grissom Honor Guard is currently recruiting new highly motivated, dependable military members to this elite team.

The mission is to provide military funeral honors for active duty, retirees, and veterans who served honorably in the Air Force. In addition, they are active throughout the community and at Grissom performing ceremonies and posting the colors, parades, change of command, retirements, etc...

Those physically fit members who exceed current dress and appearance standards, currently holding a five-skill level in their current Air Force Specialty Code and are able to get the support of their supervisor and com-

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mander should contact Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason at Linda.mason@grissom.af.mil for more information.

Basketball tourney

The 434th Services Flight is sponsoring the 11th Annual Basketball tournament beginning in January.

Teams will compete during the main unit training assemblies in January-April.

To sign up a team contact the fitness center staff at Ext. 2000. The deadline to enter is 1 p.m. Dec. 3.

Virtual commissary

Commissary shoppers looking for a different kind of gift for friends or family at home or abroad can now shop online at the "Virtual Commissary."

Located under the "Shopping" link at www.commissaries.com, Virtual Commissary opens up a whole new world of Internet shopping for authorized users of the commissary benefit, Defense Commissary Agency officials said.

Shoppers can log on and order a variety of items tailored to the military.



U.S. Air Force photo

Halt! Or else!

Capt. Drew Goettler, from Kirtland AFB, N.M., demonstrates the Personnel Halting and Stimulation Response, or PHaSR, a non-lethal illumination technology developed by the laboratory's ScorpWorks team. The technology is the first man-portable, non-lethal deterrent weapon intended for protecting troops and controlling hostile crowds. The laser light used in the weapon temporarily impairs aggressors by illuminating or "dazzling" individuals, removing their ability to see the laser source.

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal—Chief Master Sgt. Melvin Wiemer, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; Lieutenant Col. Philip Piggot, 74th Air Refueling Squadron; Col. Gary Beebe, 434th Operations Group; Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Luhning, 434th Civil Engineering Squadron; and Master Sgt. Robert Moore, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Air Force Achievement Medal—Senior Master Sgt. Sarah Barnes, 434 CES.

Promotions

To senior master sergeant—Brian Griebenow, 434th CES; and Bradley Klepinger, 434th Security Forces Squadron.

To master sergeant—Gerold Peacock, 434th SFS; Douglas Greenbank, 434th Services Flight; Suzanne Bussiere, 434th LRS; Duane Border, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Jack Buckley, 434th CES; Forrest Ludwick, 434th CES; and Christopher Heston, 434th CES.

To technical sergeant—Alicia Bartel, 434th Aerospace Medical Squadron; James Frier, 434th Mission Support Group; Rachele Hill, 434th Air Refueling Wing; Chad Colglazier, 434th LRS; Eddie Stapp, 434th AMXS; Michael Harlow, 434th AMXS; William Huggins, 434th SFS; Daniel Huff, 434th CES; and Jeremie Cutter, 434th CES; and Christopher Evans, 49th Aerial Port Flight.

To staff sergeant—Dennis Ball, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight;

Bryan Feherenbach, 49th APF; Jason Jastrzemski, 434th Mission Support Squadron; James Smith, 434th MSF; Maria Walters, 434th MSS; Dustin Floyd, 434th Maintenance Squadron; and Joseph Madjecki, AMXS.

Kudos

To Senior Airman Elizabeth Kowalski, 434th Operations Support Squadron for her selection as the wing's Airman of the Quarter for fourth quarter.

To Tech. Sgt. Brett Lewis, 434th MXS, on his selection as the wing's NCO of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.

To Master Sgt. Ray Boylan, 434th OSS for his selection as the wing's Senior NCO of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.



Photo by SrA. Jonathan Jones

Hold still

Staff Sgt. Steven Kulik, an aerospace medical technician with the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, administers a flu shot to Tech Sgt. Rodney Honeycutt, a boom operator with the 74th Air Refueling Squadron, during the November unit training assembly. The UTA was the first opportunity Grissom Airmen had to receive the flu shot.

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