

Heartland Warrior

Vol. 10, No. 9

September 2005

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

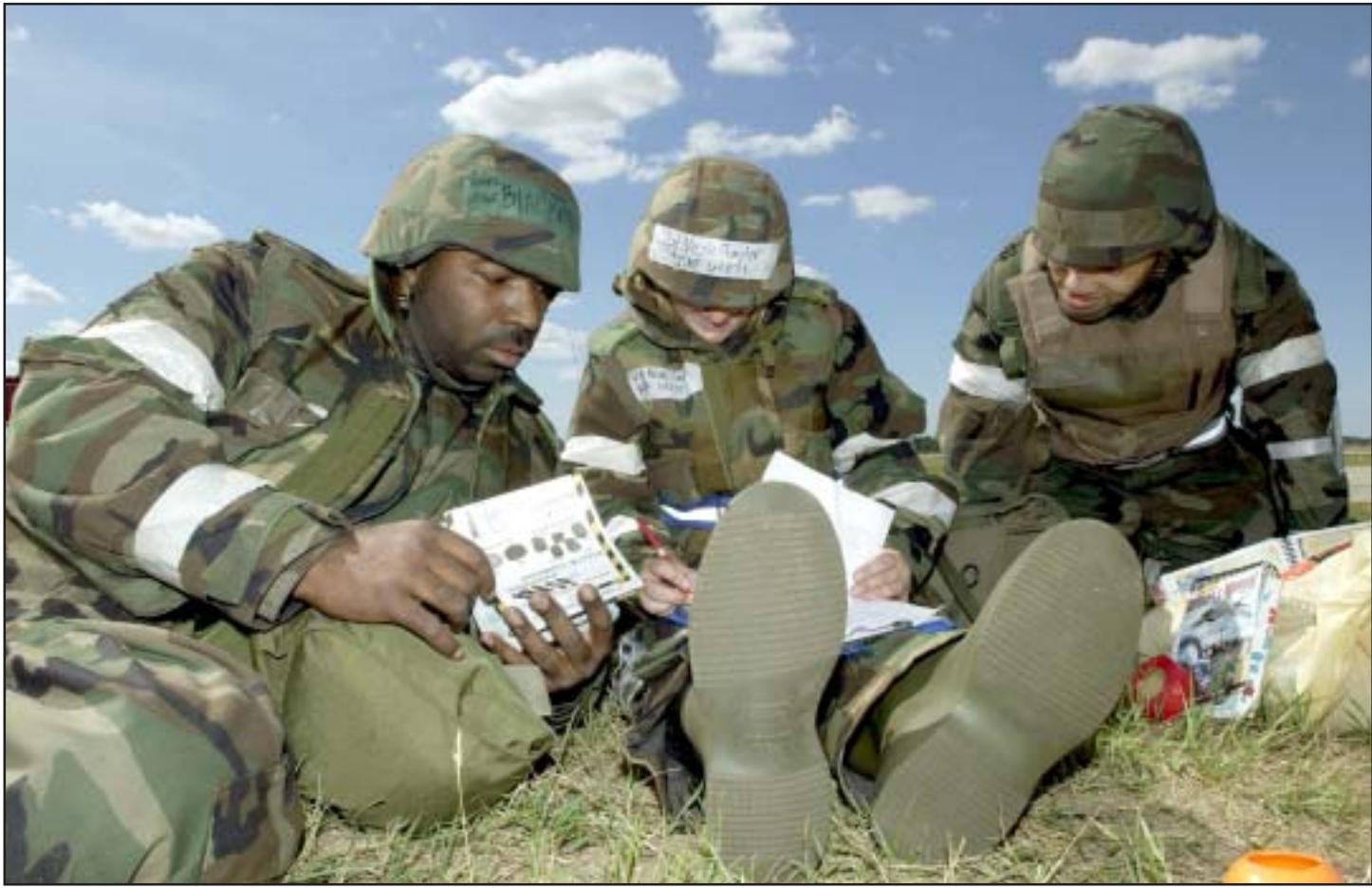


Photo by Staff Sgt. Dennis Henry, Jr.

Staff Sgt. David Stanley, far right, a financial management specialist with the 434th Air Refueling Wing, works with Tech. Sgt. Dennis Blackmon, financial management technician from Willow Grove ARS, Pa., and Staff Sgt. Nicole Taylor, contracting specialist from Andrews AFB, Md., during their relocation to a bunker after a simulated attack on their building.

Grissom completes challenging ORI

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

After a year of hard work, sweat and preparation, the 434th Air Refueling Wing successfully completed an Air Mobility Command Operational Readiness Inspection.

"Hoo-ahh to you!," said Col. Stan Dougherty, Inspector General team

chief that evaluated the 434th ARW and other units that combined to make the 504th Air Expeditionary Wing.

"I'm very proud of you," he said. "You did a bang up job at Volk. This was a tough inspection. The scenarios were non-stop and you handled them all with a great attitude."

Air Force regulations prohibit the release of exact inspection results.

Grades were given in four major areas: initial response, employment, mission support, and ability to survive and operate. Those grades were then rolled into an overall grade.

"This unit, more than any other, has stepped up," said Brig. Gen. James Melin, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander. "This serves as a good

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Grissom leads the way as 'The Greatest Wing'

By Col. Kerry Keithcart

*434th ARW vice commander and
504th AEW commander*

It's been said that the World War II generation was the greatest generation because the entire nation pulled together, made sacrifices and did what was necessary to win the war.

Those same things can be said about those who pulled together to form the 504th Air Expeditionary Wing for our Operational Readiness Inspection.

Ten wings came together and put forth tremendous time, energy and training in preparation for the inspection.

Countless emails, phone calls and video-conferences were responsible

for planting the seeds of success.

Active-duty, Guard and Reserve members pulled together to form a cohesive, and united wing, that spanned from coast to coast and converged on Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Wisc.

As I look back at the big picture I'm so impressed with what we accomplished.

The amount of effort to plan, coordinate, supply, move and take care of all those deployers is amazing. But take it one step further, to accomplish the mission in austere conditions – and do so safely is a true testament to those that are defending this nation.

Life in chemical protective suits and battle rattle only added to obstacles we

not only faced, but conquered.

As the 'war' went on, we got better and better. Our communication got better, our reactions got better. You got better.

Col. Gary Beebe, the 434th Operations Group commander, served as the vice commander of the 504th AEW. He said that in the 31 years of Air Force inspections this was by far the most challenging.

But through it all you worked hard and overcame all the challenges.

Now that its over your responsibility is to recognize, accept and appreciate you were a key ingredient in the 'Greatest Wing.' I'd be honored, humbled and pleased to deploy with each and every one of you.

Retaining quality people vital to AFRC success

By Lt. Gen. John Bradley

AFRC commander

WASHINGTON – Retaining quality service people is a top priority for the Air Force Reserve, and officer and enlisted retention has remained strong.

So far this fiscal year, officer retention is 92.3 percent and overall enlisted retention is 88.4 percent.

These rates are in line with averages over the last five years.

As the Air Force Reserve continues to surge to meet operational requirements necessary for the successful prosecution of the Global War on Terrorism, we continue to examine existing laws and policies that govern enlisted incentives and related com-

pensation issues.

The reserve enlisted bonus program is a major contributor to attract and retain unit reservists and individual mobilization augmentees in those critical unit type code-tasked career fields.

To enhance retention, we are working within existing statutes and allocated resources to ensure reservists receive relevant and equitable compensation considering the growing reliance on the reserve components to accomplish active-duty missions.

In addition, Aviation Continuation Pay, Career Enlisted Flyers Incentive Pay and Aircrew Incentive Pay continue to be offered to retain rated officers and enlisted people.

The Air Force Reserve has made many strides in increasing education benefits for our members.

We offer 100 percent tuition assistance to people pursuing an undergraduate degree and 75 percent for graduate degrees.

Through DANTES Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support, we also employ CLEP College Level Examination Program testing service for all of our reservists and their spouses.

We will continue to seek innovative ways to enhance retention. (**AFRCNS from testimony General Bradley made before the U.S. House of Representative Committee on Armed Services July 19**)

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ORI, from page 1

focal point for us. We're a maturing force and it's our obligation to take what we learned through the years and pass it on to the next generation of citizen soldiers."

"All ten wings put forward tremendous time, energy and training," said Col. Kerry Keithcart, 434th ARW vice commander and deployed 504th AEW commander. "I'd be honored, humbled and pleased to deploy with each and every one."

Following the formal out brief, General Melin said the results mean three things.

First, it means we're ready to go do our mission.

Second, the unit doesn't have to worry about an ORI for five more years, and finally this acted as a mid-term exam for any future 'real world' actions.

"You transform our air power into something no other country possesses," Colonel Dougherty said. "Hoo-ahh to you!"



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dennis Henry, Jr.

ORI participants wait their turn for a hot breakfast during the ORI.

Your take: What's your favorite thing about family day?



Lt. Col. James Corcoran, 434th Mission Support Flight

"My favorite thing about family day is getting to meet everybody's family and getting to enjoy some good weather and good food." —Lt. Col. James Corcoran, Mission Support Flight commander.



Master Sgt. Doug Hensley, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

"I think they have done a very good job with the family picnics in keeping the children occupied with all the activities they've had. My kids never seem to be board from the time they got to the picnic to the time that they left."



Tech. Sgt. Cory Harrington, 434th Services Squadron

"Well everything is pretty good, except I think the best is the way they support the children with all the activities. They really think of the kids first."



Tech. Sgt. Larita Williamson, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

"My favorite thing about the family day picnic is the opportunity to bring my children down so that they can see what we do in the Air Force and the opportunity to meet some of the service members on base and their family members."

Annual picnic shows support to families

By SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

Family, friends, fellowship, food and fun; if you like these you'll want to come to the annual family day picnic.

This year's picnic will be held Sept. 10 and will kick off with a squadron commander's tricycle race, said Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason, a first sergeant with the 74th Air Refueling Squadron.

The picnic is held annually to show support to the families who support the reservists stationed here, said Sergeant Mason, who admits that planning this year's picnic has been no easy task.

"With the [Operational Readiness Inspection] it has been a challenge planning this picnic because we have been focused on mission requirements," she said, but the picnic is very important because of what it means to reservists and their families.

To give families an idea of what military members go through as they head into a deployment, a mock family deployment line will be set up in Bldg. 1 of the Grissom Aeroplex. The processing line will run from 9-10:30 a.m.

The picnic will have a variety of food to include grilled chicken, hot dogs, baked beans and chips. The food will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This year's picnic was initially going to have an Olympics theme to it, but that did not happen, she said, however there is a strong focus to this year's picnic.

"We are trying to focus on fitness," stated Sergeant Mason. "We hope to have a fun day and focus on fitness and life style changes for the family."

"If the family is together and doing it together, they can motivate each

other," she said.

Competition games, based on physical activity, for all ages will be held.

"We have a lot of competition events for children," said the first sergeant.

Competition races for the children include egg-on-spoon races, water sponge/pitcher races and sack races.

Other competition games to be just for the children will be hula hoop contests, plastic softball throws, basketball dribbling competitions and balloon tosses.

in competition in wheel barrel races and sack races.

Non-competitive activities will also be available for both children and adults.

For children there will be an artistic tent with face painting and visor decorating, and a piñata breaking will be held for children 3-17 years old.

Senior Airman Michael Darnell, a supply management journeyman with the 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron, will be performing as a magician for the children.

The picnic planners are looking to have pony rides, a water slide and a bouncing castle, the first sergeant said, but stated there would not be a Commissary case lot sale like last year.

"I tried to get it, but I couldn't because they are

having another sale," she said.

Adults and children will be able to view a car show and participate in soaking base leaders in a dunk tank.

The Grissom Fire Department will also have two fire trucks on display.

Parents who want their children to participate in any of the activities need to get a wrist band for each of their children from their first sergeant.

Volunteers are still needed for the adult competition games and non-competitive children's events, stated Sergeant Mason.

Those who want to volunteer for the adult games can contact Sergeant Mason. Those who want to help with the children's events can contact Evelyn Knight, director of the family support center here.

Sergeant Mason, along with the other first sergeants, wants this picnic to be a fun and safe event. Everyone should stay hydrated and seek medical attention if feeling faint or ill, she said.

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Children's Games

Event	Age 3-5	Age 6-8	Age 9-12	Age 13-17
Egg-On-Spoon Race	1 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:45 p.m.
Wheel Barrel Race	1:15 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:45 p.m.	2 p.m.
Hula Hoop Contest	1:30 p.m.	1:45 p.m.	2 p.m.	2:15 p.m.
Water Sponge/Pitcher Race	1:45 p.m.	2 p.m.	2:15 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
Hurry and Get Dressed Race	2 p.m.	2:15 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:45 p.m.
Sack Race		2:15 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3 p.m.
Plastic Softball Throw		2:30 p.m.	2:45 p.m.	3 p.m.
Basketball Dribbling Contest	2:45 p.m.	3 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
Balloon Toss		3 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	3:45 p.m.

All of the competitions for the children will be broken down into age groups.

"We try to break it down into age groups or the bigger kids will just cream the little kids," she said. The first sergeants will administer all of the children's competitions.

There will also be competitions for the adults to include, a horse shoe throw, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, a 4-on-4 volleyball tournament, a push up competition, a free throw contest, an obstacle course, a three-legged race and a tug-of-war.

Other contests for the adults will be a mile and a half run and a golf tournament.

The run will be monitored and can be used towards annual fitness test requirements, Sergeant Mason said, but added that because it will be monitored, only servicemembers will be allowed to participate.

Adults and children can join together

Dentists deploy for humanitarian mission

By SrA. Roberto Modelo
Public Affairs Staff

Scorching temperatures, unforgiving mosquitoes, and a different culture all put meaning into the Air Force core value, *service before self*, for two Grissom medics.

Maj. (Dr.) Craig Wisler, a dentist, and Senior Airman John Dietz, a dental technician, both with the 434th Aerospace Medical Squadron recently completed a tour with Joint Task Force Grenada.

Altogether the exercise was composed of 30 service members. The Airmen linked up with their Army counterparts in the two-week exercise that took them to Grenada, and the islands of Petit Martinique and Carriacou.

"When we got there we were met by the Army commander that was in charge of the whole mission," Dr. Wisler said. He personally took us to our base camp and was very helpful."

After arriving at the base camp, the Airmen started setting up shop for what would be a daunting task of taking care of more than 2,000 patients.

The task proved even more demanding when they found out that they would not be working with all the dental equipment

they used at their home station.

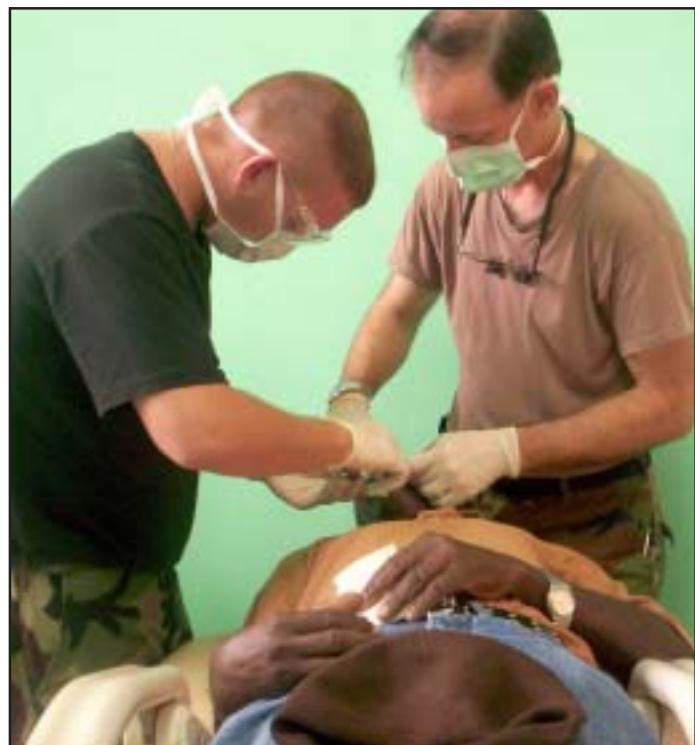
"There wasn't the usual dental equipment you'd find in the dental clinic," Airman Dietz said. "the Dental procedures had to be conducted with the dental instruments."

Tasked with the challenge of overcoming their environment and working with few dental tools, the Airmen pressed-on with the treatment.

"Our mission there was to extract teeth, if needed and to make sure that the people of the region received some dental education," the major said.

The task force sent out flyers and broadcasted information about the assistance to the local community, so everyone was ready to be seen.

The Airmen assisted many different parishes while they were there. The



Maj. (Dr.) Craig Wisler, right, and Senior Airman John Dietz, both from the 434th AMDS, provide dental care to a patient in Grenada.

parishes on the island are like counties here in the U.S.

To get out to the islands of Petit Martinique and Carriacou, the Airman relied on the assistance of the Army's landing craft utility, or LCU. These freight-like boats ferried the Airmen from island to island.

"After making the trip to the different parishes we noticed that everyone there had severe gum disease and tooth decay because of their diet," Dr. Wisler said.

The diet was an issue in the region due to the over consumption of fruits and candy.

After making their rounds, the Airmen's mission was accomplished.

"We had a great time there. We were able to learn from each other during the mission," Dr. Wisler added.

Doctor Wisler and Airman Dietz worked in steamy conditions to provide humanitarian dental care during their deployment with Joint Task Force Grenada.



Courtesy photos



Photo by Master Sgt. Les McConnell

Extended reach

Members of Grissom's Fire Department train on a new ladder truck. The ladder reaches 75 feet and allows the firemen to provide better protection to residents of the new billeting complex.

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.

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

Upcoming UTAs: Primary UTAs include Sept. 10-11; and Oct. 1-2.

Alternate UTAs are and Sept. 17-18; and 22-23.

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.

Jumper retires

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper will retire after 39 years of

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal—Master Sgt. Linda Kirkpatrick, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight; Master Sgt. Kathleen Stiers, 434th Security Forces Squadron; Master Sgt. Scott Shives, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. William Russell, 434th AMXS; Master Sgt. Wayne Svantner, 434th SFS; and Master Sgt. Dennis Day, 434th AMXS.

Air Force Commendation Medal—Chief Master Sgt. David Sward, 434th AMXS; and Senior

Master Sgt. Randy Sutton, 434th Air Refueling Wing.

Air Force Achievement Medal—Senior Airman Candace Neal, 434th AMXS; and Tech Sgt. Duane Border, 434th AMXS.

Promotions

To staff sergeant—Staff Sgt. Daniel Page, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron.

Kudos

To Senior Master Sgt. Melvin

Story, 434th Maintenance Squadron for his selection as the Senior NCO of the Quarter for the third quarter. He was also selected for the Indiana Military Achievement Award.

To Tech. Sgt. Chris Crosier, 434th Mission Support Flight, for his selection as the NCO of the Quarter for the third quarter.

To Senior Airman Nathaniel Greathouse, 434th Maintenance Squadron, for his selection as Airman of the Quarter for the third quarter. He was also selected for the Indiana Military Achievement Award.



Photo by SrA. Robert Modelo

Big load

Members of the 49th Aerial Port Flight, and Satellite Services, Inc., work to load a C-5 Galaxy on the ramp at Grissom. The C-5 came to Grissom to transport cargo and passengers from Grissom to Volk Field CRTC, Wisc, for an Operational Readiness Inspection.

service at a Sept. 2 ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

His effective date of retirement will be Nov. 1.

Acting Secretary of the Air Force Pete Geren will preside over the ceremony, and Gen. T. Michael Moseley, currently serving as Air Force vice chief of staff, will be sworn in as the 18th Air Force chief of staff.

The ceremony will air live on the Pentagon Channel and through streaming video online at www.af.mil.

Celebration of Faith

The 434th Air Refueling Wing's Chaplain's Office is hosting an evening of praise beginning at 6 p.m. Sept. 10, in Bldg. 663.

A variety of performances by the Kokomo Praise Singers, Mt. Pisgah Praise Dancers and more will highlight the evening.

There is still time for those inter-

ested in participating in the event. Rehearsals will be held at 7 p.m. Sept. 9, and again at 4 p.m. Sept. 10 in Bldg. 663.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Trudy Burnett at trudy.burnett@grissom.af.mil, or call (317) 223-8164.

Employer flight

The 434th Air Refueling Wing looks to host an employer flight this Fall.

Reservists are encouraged to nominate their civilian supervisor for participation.

The flight gives supervisors an opportunity to see what the Airman that works for them contributes to the defense of the nation.

Due to space limitations, members may nominate only one person for the flight. Reservists may not fly with their employer.

For more information, or a nomina-

tion form, visit the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 596, Room 200A.

C-17 arrives

The 452nd Air Mobility Wing at March AFB, Calif., recently received Air Force Reserve Command's first C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft.

Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan, 4th Air Force commander, and an aircrew from the 452nd AMW made the flight from the Boeing's Long Beach, Calif., facility to the base.

This delivery marks the first time an AFRC unit will actually "own" a C-17. Associate units at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., and Charleston AFB, S.C., share C-17s, as well as flying and maintenance responsibilities with active-duty Air Force crews.

Eight more C-17s will be delivered to the unit by January 2006 to replace the wing's fleet of C-141s, the last of which was retired earlier this year.



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

Survey says....

Senior Airman Chris Dowty, an engineering assistant with the 434th Civil Engineers Squadron, takes land surveys as an ongoing process to maintain base geographical records.

**434th Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs Office
Grissom ARB, IN 46971-5000**

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