

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

Retirements cost base 115 years experience

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Col. Larry Alexander, 434th Mission Support Group commander, moves gravel around with a Bobcat during a visit to a 434th Civil Engineers Squadron construction site.

In a flurry of medal pinning, salutes, hand shakes and hugs, Grissom lost more than 115 years of experience during the July unit training assembly – with the loss of just three members.

Col. Larry Alexander, 434th Mission Support Group commander; Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Eller, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and Chief Master Sgt. Oakah Hays, 434th Civil Engineers Squadron, each retired during the UTA.

Colonel Alexander began his career as in 1965 and is the last member of the 434th Air Refueling Wing to have served at Bakalar Air Reserve Base in Indiana before the unit moved to Grissom in 1973.

He served in the 434th Civil Engineers Squadron for more than 14 years, working his way up to commander before moving to the Support Group in 1999.

Chief Eller, has nearly 40 years of service. He began his career in 1965. He joined the Air Force Reserve in 1970. He has served in a variety of maintenance positions including maintenance manager of the 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He founded the Grissom ARB honor guard.

Eller has been a chief master sergeant since 1982.

Chief Hays culminated a 37 year career that began in 1968. After five years on active duty, he came to Grissom in 1973 in the 930th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. During the years here he has been the NCOIC of munitions, production superintendent of aircraft maintenance with the 45th Fighter Squadron, a first sergeant with the 434th Mission Support Squadron and NCOIC of Readiness in CE.

Airmen, spiritual strength and core values

By Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

Our lives changed when we took the oath to defend our nation and put on the uniform of an Airman.

But what was that change? Was it merely symbols – uniform, rank, and badges? No, it was a transformation from whoever we were before to someone vested in higher order values, a transformation into a part of something bigger than ourselves.

We come from all walks of life, from every part of our Nation. We are different people from diverse backgrounds and with our diversity we bring different sets of values.

We have different hopes and aspirations, different goals and different beliefs. It is perhaps our Nation's greatest strength that, since its founding, we can stand shoulder to shoulder with people of different origins and beliefs for a single purpose – to serve.

As part of our service in the United States Air Force we are expected to embrace its Core Values: Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do.

These Values are a guide that binds us together, even as we fight for the right to be different in so many other ways.

We use the word "Core" because we expect these values to be fundamental to our service, to guide our commitment to our country and our mission, and to serve as a test for the decisions we make in both our personal and professional lives.

Our commitment to these Core Values means that they are more than just words posted on a wall or recited

by rote.

They reside in the front row of our daily lives to help us wrestle with our toughest decisions and to guide us on our path of service as Airmen.

At our Air Force Academy, we have experienced issues with expressions of religious beliefs and with perceptions that one set of beliefs is favored over others.

Remember Service Before Self. Religion is intensely personal and disagreements can detract from the teamwork necessary for Air Force units.

In particular, sharing personal beliefs in a professional setting, one where leaders are performing their duties in a chain of command or in a superior-subordinate relationship, can easily become improper influence about personal matters. Furthermore, it can be resented.

A friend of mine recently expressed it this way: "The core task of every leader in the profession of arms is uniting his or her people into a strong team, with levels of trust and commitment so high the unit keeps working well even under extreme pressure. Everyone in a unit contributes to that task."

Anything that detracts from that teamwork ultimately detracts from the mission.

What does this mean about how leaders should approach spiritual strength? Spiritual strength is an integral part of leadership. Our greatest leaders are able to elevate the human spirit and inspire extraordinary performance.

Spiritual strength is what drives us to make sacrifices for others, for our

Nation, and for the greater good.

For some, a commitment to a specific religious faith is a source for that spiritual strength, but not for all.

For some, it is their heritage and the experience of a community of people within our human family. For others, it is the way they were touched as individuals by a family member, teacher, or leader's work of faith or charity.

As we stress our Core Value of Service Before Self, we see spiritual strength as its foundation, whether or not an individual sees himself or herself as religious.

Faith and religious freedom were fundamental to the founding of this Nation.

Chaplains are part of our profession of arms and have a unique charter: to minister to those who share their specific faith, to facilitate ministry to those of other faiths, and to care for all – including those whose spiritual strength does not come from religious belief.

Our chaplains should set the example for mutual respect among different faiths and beliefs. Service Before Self.

There will be more specific guidance about expressions of personal religious beliefs.

This guidance will emphasize mutual respect and the wingman culture fundamental to all Airmen.

The expression of personal preferences to subordinates, especially in a professional setting or at mandatory events, is inappropriate. More importantly, we should always be guided by our Core Values. That's what makes us the superb Airmen that we are.

Heartland

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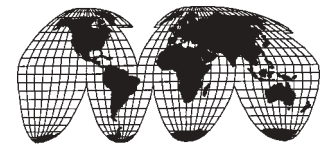
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World Wide Web

Air Force Reserve Home Page

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

Grissom Home Page

<http://www.afrc.af.mil/434arw/>

Security Forces help units help themselves

By SrA. Roberto Modelo

Public Affairs staff

Deployed environments present many unique force protection requirements – flexibility being one of them.

Airmen in these environments must be ready to be the first line of defense, if needed. They must also be able to carry out their own individual unit's mission.

To help, the 434th Security Forces Squadron is offering owner/user training program to all wing personnel.

"The training is for wing members, no matter the Air Force specialty code, to secure a safe working environment in a forward deployed location," said Master Sgt. Chet Nance, a combat arms specialist with the 434th Security Forces Squadron

"In a deployed environment, security forces can not be everywhere, all the time on an Air Force installation," the sergeant said.

Owner/user is different from an augmentee program because the augmentee fills in an open spot.

The owner/user is a created position for a unit's area of responsibility, he said.

"By offering a short-course in owner user defense, different units will be better able to safeguard their own people and resources," he added.

Generally, the course is a culmination of both classroom and field training that will teach Airmen several different skills sets for their owner/user area. The training provides entry control point procedures, area patrols, close boundary sentry duties and responsibilities, and how to operate an armory in a forward deployed environment.

Airmen are taught how to safeguard their areas by setting up an entry control point(s) to their area. Those tasked, work to ensure no unauthorized personnel are let through their area. They identify authorized personnel and manage the flow through entry control points.

Those posting close boundary sentry duties ensure their AOR is safe from intruders. These duties are usually

manned by SFS but in some forward deployed bases the responsibility falls on the Airmen in that AOR.

Making sure that the AOR's outer perimeter is safe, falls on the Airman conducting patrols. Any reported breaches of are reported to SF.

However, all the security involved within an AOR is not possible without an armory. Airmen are taught how to safely operate, safeguard weapon systems, including the proper loading and unloading of a weapon, and how to deny unauthorized personnel access to the weapons.

This "onion" layered approach allows for Airmen to maintain a safe working environment and allowing SF to focus on maintaining the security of the air base, sergeant said.

Allowing Airmen to conduct their mission in an austere expeditionary environment requires Airmen to be flexible enough to conduct their mission and safeguard their fellow Airmen. SF's owner/user training will gives Airmen some of the flexibility to do just that.

Your take: What is your key to a successful EORI?



Capt. Anne Bredthauer, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron

"My key to a successful ORI is to know what the plan is, know what all the participants are doing, and work as a team to make the ORI successful."



Master Sgt. Jerry Brown, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

"My key to a successful ORI is preparation. Making sure all personal records and mobility records are all up to date, and having a good attitude. You have to have a positive attitude. That is what you need."



Tech. Sgt. Richard Aruldoss, 434th Air Refueling Wing

"Teamwork. The key to a successful ORI, or any military operation is teamwork."



Senior Airman Martin Valadez, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"My key to a successful ORI is preparation by studying the Airman's manual, having situational awareness, and watching out for my fellow Airmen."

For some EORI will be a family affair

By SrA. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs staff

In the trenches at Camp Whiskey familiar faces are most often friends and co-workers, but for two members that face is a child,—— their child.

For Master Sgt. Martina Cocklin, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and her son Airman 1st Class Matthew Kelsey, 434th Services Flight, it will be a new experience as they work together in his first Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection since joining the unit in September of 2004.

Cocklin, who has been a straight reservist since 1984, is assigned as a shelter manager for the exercise. She gives her son the benefit of her many years of experience, especially with EORIs.

“You have to have an open mind on an EORI,” she emphasized, “it is a different environment when you get out there.”

Airman Kelsey grew up around the base, and the Air Force way of life. I respected what my mother accomplished, and I wanted to go to different places, he said with a broad smile.

For Senior Master Sgt. Brian



Photos by SrA. Chris Bolen

Master Sgt. Martina Cocklin, and son Airman 1st Class Matthew Kelsey

Brehm, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and his son Tech Sgt. Andrew Brehm, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron, the desire to pursue educational and hands on electronics skills was a common desire.

“When I joined in 1971 I went active duty because I wanted to get the educational opportunities and also build a career,” Sergeant Brehm said. He has been in the Air Force Reserve since 1975.

And although Tech Sgt Brehm followed the same general path as his dad serving on active duty before transferring to the reserves, he insists there was no pressure from his father.

“I saw this as a big opportunity,” he said. “I joined for the education and to go overseas. I worked on and completed my Bachelors of Science from Indiana University,” he added.

The EORI will provide this father/son team an opportunity to serve together on the exercise. The elder sergeant Brehm is assigned to serve as flight chief for the exercise directing a staff of up to 48 people. The younger Sergeant Brehm is assigned as the NCOIC of the Wing Armory. Both men have already served together on the EORI preparation, and on the sight survey team that traveled to Base Whiskey.

Dad has also imparted his wisdom to his son concerning his vast experience with EORIs. “We have discussed what to expect, but I have advised him to expect the unexpected,” he emphasized. And although this will be his first EORI, from his experience Sergeant Brehm added that a key to success is for everyone to remember their attitude, and the airman’s manual.



Senior Master Sgt. Brian Brehm, right, and son Tech. Sgt. Andrew Brehm



New logo

Air Force Reserve Command unveiled its new advertising logo recently. The logo will be used for a variety of products from ads to recruiting items. Lt. Gen. John Bradley, AFRC commander, said the new logo will help brand the Air Force Reserve as a proud part of the world's greatest Air Force.

Air Force changes fitness test criteria

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials are making a few changes to the physical fitness test used to assess the fitness of Airmen.

In January 2004, the Air Force underwent a major change in the way it looked at fitness.

As part of the Fit to Fight program, the service adopted a more stringent physical fitness assessment that measures aerobic fitness, physical strength/endurance and body composition.

Now, 18 months into the program, senior leaders are ready to tweak the assessment to make it even better, said Lt. Gen. (Dr.) George Peach Taylor Jr., Air Force surgeon general.

“We have gotten together a group of scientists and done surveys asking folks if they like the assessment and are there issues with it,” Dr. Taylor said. “This last year we brought an update to Corona and are now in the middle of updating a few changes to the Air Force instruction that defines the fitness evaluation.”

Updates to AFI 10-248 will include a change in how body composition is measured, a new table for the running portion of the test that takes into account the runner’s elevation, and a change in the number of days an Airman must wait before retesting after having scored in the marginal category.

Under the original fitness evaluation, body composition scores were based on abdominal circumference only.

The updated AFI will now direct that body composition also be measured using body mass index.

BMI is calculated by dividing weight in pounds by height in inches squared, and multiplying the result by 703.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, those with a BMI between 18.5 and 24.9 are considered to be normal.

Those with a BMI of 25 or above are considered overweight.

Under the updated AFI, Airmen with a BMI of less than 25 will earn the full 30 points for body composition. For Airmen who score a BMI 25 and above, Dr. Taylor said the results of the waist measurement would be used to calculate their test score.

“That will still be an important measure of their health,” he said. “Waist measure is closely related to increased risk for metabolic syndrome, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. Fat distribution is the critical indicator, as opposed to weight.”

For those who score marginal, between 70 and 74.9 points, the Air Force plans to correct the time to retest at 90 days; currently, retest for marginal category is 180 days.

This will be consistent with the retest time for poor scores, those less than 70.

Changes to the AFI will also include adjustment for those at high-altitude

installations.

This applies to those at installations with an elevation of 5,000 feet or greater, Dr. Taylor said.

“We’ll use the formula for altitude calculations recommended by the National Collegiate Athletic Association,” he said.

The Air Force continues to look at ways to improve the fitness evaluation and remains committed to the Fit to Fight program, Dr. Taylor said, because the program has proven successful.

“Participation at fitness centers is up 30 percent now,” he said. “And if you go to the field, like in Iraq or Afghanistan, you will find a continued focus on health.”

The assessment is not the focus of the fitness program, but a tool to assess the commander’s fitness training program.

“I want to make very clear that my focus is not on passing a fitness test once a year,” said Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, in his Oct. 17, 2003, Chief’s Sight Picture. “More important, we are changing the culture of the Air Force. This is about our preparedness to deploy and fight. It’s about warriors. It is about instilling an expectation that makes fitness a daily standard — an essential part of your service.”

Dr. Taylor said he hopes the changes to the AFI will be made by late August or early September.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Taking command

Col. Doug McHugh, right, accepts command of the 434th Mission Support Group from Brig. Gen. James Melin, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, during ceremonies July 10. Colonel McHugh replaces Col. Larry Alexander, who retired.

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 August 6-7; and Sept. 10-11.

Alternate UTAs are August 20-21; and Sept. 17-18.

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.

Mentoring class

The 434th Air Refueling will host a

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Serve Medal—Lt. Col. Dawn Benson, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Master Sgt. Paul Meadors, 434th AMDS; Lt. Col. Clayton Atkins, 434th AMDS; Tech Sgt. William King, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Tech Sgt. Christopher Rhodes, 434th Maintenance Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Buffum, 434th Security Forces Squadron; and Master Sgt. David Wampler, 434th Air Refueling Wing.

Air Force Commendation

Medal—Master Sgt. John Jones, 434th SFS; Tech Sgt. Alan Niedziejko, 434th MXS; Master Sgt. Nelson Hernandez, 434th SFS; Senior Master Sgt. Rodney Gunter, 434th MXS; Staff Sgt. Maria Theresa Walters, 434th Mission Support Squadron; and Staff Sgt. John Metz, 434th SFS.

Air Force Achievement Medal—Master Sgt. Richard Miller, 434th MXS.

Promotions

To master sergeant—Charles

Hamilton, 434th AMXS; James Maxwell, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; Michael Kamp, 434th SFS; Mary Brooks, 434th MXS; Caleb Good; 434th MXS; and Stephen Grant; 434th MXS.

To technical sergeant—Gerald Mount, 434th AMXS; Cinthia Webb, 434th Services Flight; and Kyron Young, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight.

To staff sergeant—Tanielle Phillips, 434th MSS; Kyana Smith, 434th SVF; Ryan Hogue, 49th Aerial Port Flight; and Douglas Adams, 49th APF.

News Briefs

mentoring class from 9-11 a.m. Sept. 11 in the executive conference room in Bldg. 596.

The class is open to technical sergeants through chief master sergeants, and 12 slots are available.

For more information, or to register,

contact Senior Master Sgt. Melvin Story at Ext. 2536, or Master Sgt. Dwayne Hudson at Ext. 2961.

New uniforms

The Air Force has adopted a digitized tiger stripe pattern that is a

blend of green/tan with a slight shade of blue/gray for its latest utility uniform.

The new uniform has a permanent press treatment and comes in actual men's and women's size. Patches will not be worn on the new uniform. Airmen should expect to have uniforms available for purchase beginning in Fiscal Year 2007. Uniforms will be phased in over a four-five year period based on production rates and availability.

More information and photos will be provided when it becomes available.

CEI program

Time is running out for about 15,000 Air Force reservists in the Selected Reserve to comply with a Department of Defense directive.

Oct. 31 is the deadline for reservists who are paid for training to register information about their civilian place of employment. About 60,000 of these Airmen, roughly 80 percent of the force, provided that information as of May.

The civilian employment information program is the first mandatory disclosure by reservists of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve of their civilian employers into a common database. The program began in March 2004.

Reservists may register online by going to www.afrc.af.mil/reserveInfo.htm and clicking on "Civilian Employment Info Program."

After clicking on the Web site, reservists enter their employment status, employer's name, mailing address, civilian job title and total number of years in their current civilian occupation.

New medal

Military members serving on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible to wear the recently approved Global War on Terrorism Service medal.

In addition, some eligible members may also receive the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal if they meet the requirements.

For more information, contact customer service at Ext. 3909.



Photo by SrA. Roberto Modelo

Training only

Tech Sgt. Fred Patton, an aerospace ground equipment specialist with the 434th Maintenance Squadron, sprays in a stencil on a battle dress over garment. Over garments used specifically for training are being stenciled with the label "TRNG ONLY" to distinguish them from real world over garments.



Photo by SrA. Roberto Modelo

Low profile

Senior Airman John Serban, a fire team member with the 434th Security Forces Squadron, takes aim during a tactical training movement. Tactical movement training is just one of the many ways the 434th Security Forces Squadron keeps mission ready.

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