

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



Photo by A1C Mark Orders-Woempner

It's a cinch

Tech. Sgt. Wesley Marion, a supply management craftsman, tightens up a cargo net as part of an exercise held during the February unit training assembly. For a closer look into the exercise, turn to pages 4-5.

AFAF campaign

Annual drive lets Airmen help Airmen

The 31st annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicks off with a luncheon at 11:30 March 5 at the Dining Facility. The drive runs through May 7.

The charities that will benefit from the contributions assist active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Air Force people, surviving spouses, and families. Also, all funds will go directly to the charities.

The Family Support center here is spearheading the local campaign.

Requests for assistance have continued to record levels since Sept. 11, 2001. Last year the Air Force Aid Society helped 30,000 Airman with more than \$22.6 million in assistance—that's a lot of help!" said retired Lt. Gen Mike McGinty, Air Force Aid Society chief executive officer. "Contributions are vital for the society to sustain this kind of help—it is truly an Airmen-helping-Airmen program."

"Our goal for Grissom is to take in \$2,500," said Evelyn Knight, family support center director. It is going to be a hurdle to reach this goal because the amounts aren't automatically deducted like the active-duty. However, last year Reserve and Guard surprised the Air Force Assistance Fund with the total amount they donated," she said.

People can contribute through cash, check, or money order by dropping their payments off at the family support center, or to Rokena Patton in the wing command section in Bldg. 596.

The Air Force Aid Society, the official charitable organization of the Air Force which provides Airman and their families with worldwide emergency financial assistance, education assistance and an array of base level community-enhancement programs. Information is also available online at <http://www.afas.org>.

Airman can also drop off their payments at the Family Support Center or with Rokena Patton in Bldg. 596

Donations made to AFAF are tax deductible.

For more information, visit <http://afassistancefund.org> or the Air Force Personnel Center's Voting and Fundraising web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund>.

Banquet spotlights Grissom's progress in cultural diversity

By Col. Kerry Keithcart
434th ARW vice commander

It's great when things work out. You know, when you plant a seed, foster it through its fledgling beginnings and see it take root and flourish. We got a glimpse of that during our Multi-Cultural Banquet on the February unit training assembly. Grissom puts a lot of effort into diversity. We use all the resources we have to make the unit better for you, me and the Air Force. We strive to create a diverse workforce that is reflective of our community. The reflection we saw from this annual event tells me we're on the right path. Entertainment for the evening was from the Mt. Pisgah Praise Dancers. Their performance was captivating. Throughout the evening we sprinkled in key messages from Dr. Martin Luther King to remind us we still must continue to dream and to work at cultivating the diverse atmosphere we currently enjoy. We were able to share our celebration of diversity with Airman of all ranks, Grissom Community Council members and members of the Mt. Pisgah church. Of course nothing like this event happens without the planning and preparation of dedicated members. The efforts of folks like Senior Master Sgt. Dan DeAngulo, from the 434th Military Personnel Flight, and Capt. Terry Thomas, our military equal opportunity officer, were pivotal to the evening success. I'd also like to salute Mr. Mike Sampson and the other 434th Services Squadron folks for the fantastic food they prepared to help us celebrate our diversity. The rest of the year will be full of challenges. Evenings like this one where we celebrate our differences will make us stronger. I see it happening every day I'm at Grissom. While our celebrations started out small, each year we've grown and strengthened our bonds through diversity. So you can see, it's great when things work out.



Photo by SrA. Roberto Modelo

Members of the Mt. Pisgah Praise Dancers perform during Grissom's Multi-Cultural Banquet. The annual event brings the base together to celebrate the various ethnic backgrounds and differences that make up the 434th Air Refueling Wing, and the local community.

Heartland Warrior

Vol. 10, No.3
March 2005

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

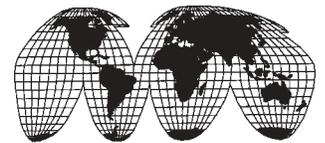
Contents of the Heartland Warrior are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

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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World Wide Web

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

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

IG staff offers options for resolving issues

By A1C Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

There is no end in sight to the problem. You have gone through your chain of command and exhausted every option of trying to resolve the conflict. The only place left to turn is the Inspector General.

The IG can be used to deal with conflicts when the chain of command of an Airman is unable to effectively deal with the situation or is involved in the situation itself, said Col. John Salmon, the IG for the 434th Air Refueling Wing.

The IG can also be used to report allegations of injustice, violations of laws or directives, mismanagement, waste of funds, abuse of authority, reprisal, inappropriate mental health examinations, and substantial dangers to public health and safety.

The best way to file a formal complaint with the IG is to fill out Air Force Form 102, Colonel Salmon said. An Airman who believes that he is unable to resolve a conflict by using his chain of command or wants to report a

violation should review AFI 90-301.

Before going to report a matter to the IG, an Airman should first try to work out a conflict or situation through his chain of command.

"They should try to handle it at the lowest level that they can," he stated.

The next step in the process would be to fill out the form by entering personal information, and list the complaint on the form. According to the AFI, the Airman making the complaint should also list who committed the violation, what violation was committed, what law, regulation, procedure, or policy was violated, and when the violation occurred.

After the form is properly filled out, the Airman can take the form and submit it to the IG's Office and should schedule a follow-up meeting. Colonel Salmon explained that complaints can be anonymous and informal complaints filed.

"You can just come in and talk to us," he said. Most of the problems that the IG deals with are ones that do not merit a full investigation and are reported informally by Airmen going into the IG office and expressing their

concerns.

"We can resolve misunderstandings," stated the colonel. "It does not have to get to a serious point before you come to the IG."

If a matter does get to a serious enough point, confidentiality is a high priority for the IG for as long as it can be maintained since some people may be concerned about confidentiality.

"We will try to maintain confidentiality, but if the nature of the complaint makes it impossible to not divulge who made the complaint, then it will be revealed, but we will never give names," he said.

"We have anonymous complaints too," stated the colonel for those Airmen who may still be concerned about their names being known after making a complaint.

"Nobody can restrict your right to go to the IG." Complaints can be taken to any level of the IG."

The 434th IG Office is staffed to take questions or complaints on UTA weekends. However, anyone can call the 434th IG Office at Ext. 2271 at any time and their call will be returned as soon as possible.

Your take: *How are you becoming fit to fight?*



Maj. Tony Green, 434th Air Refueling Wing

"I am trying to live a well balanced life. Physically I am eating well and exercising. Emotionally I am spending time with my family, and spiritually I am going to church."



Senior Airman Dale McKinney, 49th Aerial Port Squadron

"I actually started a daily fitness routine. I broke some bad fitness habits by giving up alcohol and trying to consume more water instead of sodas."



Master Sgt. Everett Liggett, 434th Operation Support Squadron first sergeant

"I watch what I eat and try to ride my bicycle three times a week, and in the winter I ride my stationary bike."



Senior Airman Michael Darnell, supply management specialist with the 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron

"I do Tae Kwon Do to keep in shape three times a week."

Cargo exercise tests unit's ability to pack



Photos by A1C Mark Order

Senior Airman Andrew Grist, 434th Security Forces Squadron, pulls out a packing slip from a pallet during the February cargo exercise.

Tech. Sgt. James Coil, a fire team member with the 434th Security Forces Squadron, places a piece of tape with dimensions onto a pallet.



Senior Airman Michael Gray, a boom operator with the 434th Security Forces Squadron, guides Enrique Godoy, an employee with Satellite Communications, into position to transfer cargo to the KC-135.

...k, load, move equipment for deployment



Tech. Sgt. Scotty Eskridge, a heavy equipment operator with the 434th Civil Engineers Squadron, leans to get a good look at the person directing him as he moves a pallet into position in Hangar 592. The unit tested its cargo deployment skills as part of preparation for an upcoming operational readiness inspection in August.



Master Sgt. James Seidle, a boom operator with the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, keeps an eye on the side of the aircraft as he guides the K-loader into place.



Dimensions on duct tape make for easy labels on cargo boxes.



...h the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, ... Services Inc., as he maneuvers a ... 135R Stratotanker.



Master Sgt. Jeff Lewis, a logistics management specialist with the 434th Mission Operations Flight, checks cargo before it is moved into the staging area.

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 March 5-6; and April 2-3.

Alternate UTAs are March 19-20; and April 16-17.

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.



ORI website

The 434th Air Refueling Wing has activated a website dedicated to the unit's 2005 Operational Readiness Inspection.

The site is linked from the 434th ARW Intranet homepage.

The address is: <https://www.mil.afrc.af.mil/434arw/IGX/IGX.htm>

Information released by Headquarters Air Mobility Command's Inspector General team will be posted to the website.

Instant messaging

Airmen at home station or a deployed location can now send instant messages to their friends or loved ones whenever they have access to the Internet.

The Air Force recently implemented the "Friends and Family Instant Messenger" program, available through the Air Force Portal.

The Air Force has offered instant messaging through the portal for more than two years though the chat was limited to Airmen and civilian employees only.

Under the new program, Airmen "sponsor" friends or family onto the portal by entering their e-mail addresses into the system.

The portal then generates e-mails inviting them to log on and get their own specially configured account. Airmen can have up to five people added to the system.

To use the online chat, Airmen first

need to get an Air Force Portal account. To sign up, visit <https://www.my.af.mil>. For more information, go to the story on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123009448>.

New vice commander

Maj. Gen. David Tanzi returned to Robins Air Force Base, Ga., recently to serve as vice commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

He replaces Maj. Gen. John Batbie Jr., who retired

General Tanzi has commanded 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, since March 2002.

From February 1999 to March 2002, he was director of plans and programs at Headquarters AFRC



Paperless LES

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Airmen may find it difficult to find out how much they are getting paid unless they've signed up for a myPay account.

February's leave and earning statement is the last paper copy reservists will receive through the mail.

The change for Air Force Reserve Command civilian employees depends on local bargaining obligations at their

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal – Master Sgt. James Bowers, 434th Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Christy Bartel, 434th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Air Force Commendation Medal – Capt. Maureen McAllen, 434th Air Refueling Wing.

Air Force Achievement Medal – Master Sgt. Thomas Wickersham,

434th MXS, Senior Airman Arin Thompson, 434th Civil Engineers Squadron; Senior Airman Scott Luke, 434th CES, Tech Sgt. Thomas Tinsley, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and Master Sgt. Timothy Bognar, 434th AMS.

Kudos

To Senior Airman Candace Neal, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

for her selection as the 434th ARW Airman of the Quarter for the first quarter.

To Tech. Sgt. Steven Keller, 434th AMXS, for his selection as the 434th ARW NCO of the Quarter for the first quarter.

To Senior Master Sgt. Steven Douglas, 434th Military Personnel Flight, for his selection as the 434th ARW Senior NCO of the Quarter for the first quarter.

units, but eventually they too are to use myPay.

Under the myPay program, people view their LES online.

If they don't have access to the Web at home or at work, they should contact their respective reserve or civilian pay offices.

If reservists don't have a PIN or need a new one, they can obtain a temporary PIN through their reserve pay office or the local Air Force finance office, said Mike Bilbrey, chief of the management and finance branch at Headquarters AFRC.

"These offices have 'trusted agent' access and can assign a PIN," he said.

Another way to obtain a temporary PIN is by going to the myPay Website at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> and selecting the "new pin" button on the homepage. It may take 10 business days from the date of the request for mail delivery of the new PIN.

In addition, reservists can ask for a new PIN by fax or mail.

They need to sign their request and give their full name, social security account number, a copy of their military photo identification and a daytime telephone number.

The fax number is (216) 522-5800 or DSN 580-5800. The mailing address is:

DFAS-Cleveland/Code PMMCCA,
Attn: myPay, 1240 East 9th Street,
Cleveland OH 44199-2055.

The new temporary PIN will contain the last five digits of the person's social security account number.

People should wait at least two business days before using their PIN if they got it by fax and four days if by mail. They will not receive confirmation that their PIN has changed.
(AFRCNS)

FSC activities

Grissom's Family Support Center is hosting a game night from 7-9 p.m. March 5 at the center. The game night is a first for the FSC and everyone is invited to attend.

The FSC will also sponsor a spouses coffee at 2 p.m. March 6 at the center. All spouses are invited to attend.

March 2005



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Now serving you....

Dondrieus Kirk, 434th Services Flight, reaches for a piece of cheese to put on a pulled pork sandwich at the Grissom Club. The facility began serving soup, salad and sandwiches during lunch on base recently. They serve lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily in Bldg. 470.



Courtesy photo

Refueling first

Master Sgt. Robert Moore, a fuels technician with the 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron, stands next to an Iraqi helicopter at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq. Sergeant Moore was part of a team that recently refueled the first two helicopters assigned to the Iraqi Air Force.

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Grissom ARB, IN 46971-5000

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