

Heartland

Warrior

Vol. 11, No. 3

March 2006

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

Tankers support Icelandic NATO operations

By Capt. Anne Noel

72nd Air Refueling Squadron

Members of the 72nd and 74th Air Refueling Squadrons are currently filling a five-month rotation to Keflavik Iceland in support of the Iceland Defense Force.

The crew and their KC-135R Stratotankers are rotating to Keflavik in two-week rotations to meet Iceland's defense needs.

"We're about one-third of the way through our Iceland AEF deployment," said Col. Fritz Linsenmeyer, 434th Operations Group commander. "Since beginning our rotation in January, we've flown about two dozen sorties and off-loaded more than 600,000 pounds of fuel to the F-15s."

The Iceland Defense Force is composed of approximately 2,200 members of all four branches of the U.S. Armed Services, and commanded by a U.S. rear admiral.

The 85th Group is the lead Air Force component. The 85th Group reports to Eighth Air Force, a component of Air Combat Command.

Aircraft assigned include the KC-135R, F-15 Eagle, F-16 Falcon, and HC-130 Hercules.

The 85th Group is responsible for deterring aggression in the North Atlantic and protects Iceland's airspace.

They also support contingency operations through surveillance, air superiority and search and rescue.

Grissom members fly daily missions supporting F-15s and remain on alert at all times.

"The mission has some challenges, most of which are due to unpredictable



Photo by Staff Sgt. Deborah Melton

An F-15 assigned to the 85th Group at Keflavic, Iceland pulls up to the boom of a Grissom KC-135R Stratotanker during operations over the Atlantic. Grissom crews are in the midst of a five-month rotation supporting North Atlantic Operations.

and rapidly changing weather conditions, however, the 85th Group has a great support staff and they have plans for almost every contingency," Colonel Linsenmeyer said. "The operators and maintainers have done a great job of

promoting the 434th Air Refueling Wing as 'The Unit of Choice' and we sincerely appreciate the assistance and help we've received from the 434th ARW support agencies in making this deployment successful."

Service, Honor, Diversity make us great

By **Col. Kerry Keithcart**
434th ARW vice commander

Service. No, really Services. I'm talking about the 434th Services Squadron.

You know they do a great job day in and day out.

They get up at 'oh-dark-thirty' to get our meals ready for us. Then they man the fitness center late at night for those who want to work out or participate in sporting activities they set up.

They even find the time, money and resources to support our events from retirements, promotions and even special events like the Super Bowl -- in which they did a phenomenal job.

For teh Super Bowl, they set up large television sets, had a variety of snacks and beverages, and door prizes.

It definitely pays to be a club member!

Honor. In this case I'm referring to the Honor Guard. We should all honor the Honor Guard.

Our active-duty counterparts have repeatedly said we couldn't man an Honor Guard at Grissom.

We've proved them wrong! As World War II veterans leave us, it's the Grissom Honor Guard that is able to make sure that our nation once again acknowledges the sacrifices they made for all of us.

The flag folding ceremony is also a highlight for our retirees as they bid farewell to military service.

Just as touching as the flag folding ceremony is the POW/MIA ceremony that serves as a reminder that we have not forgotten those who remain unaccounted.

Diversity. Without the diversity each of us bring to the table in the form of history, background, gender, rank, and

experiences, we wouldn't be the unit that we are.

Everyone brings something unique to the fight. That special synergy helps make us a better wing.

In a recent newcomer's orientation, we had four new Airmen, a new lieutenant colonel, a former Marine and former Soldier there joining us. Their backgrounds and diversity will help us maintain our status as the 'unit of choice.'

We'll be celebrating that diversity in May during our annual multicultural banquet.

The theme is 'The Soldier' and how the diversity we bring to the fight -- time and time again -- creates the force necessary to win.

In the 434th Air Refueling Wing, *Service, Honor, and Diversity* are each a large part of what makes our wing, and our nation great.

Football's qualities make it more than just a game

By **Lt. Col. Peter Zuppas**
35th Operations Group

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — On a recent Sunday, my 6-year-old son said to me, "Dad, you spend too much time watching football on TV."

I was caught off-guard and busy (watching the game) but managed to mutter something like, "Son, someday you will understand" — but I quickly realized I'd have to drum up a better response ... or possibly be shamed into watching less football.

So, from an Air Force and career

military perspective — and to justify my football addiction — here goes...

American-style football is about as distinctly American as you can get. Maybe more than any other sport, it emphasizes qualities especially important in military life, including courage, teamwork and a fighting spirit.

When you think about it, football is a lot like a military operation. It has elements of strategy, offense, defense, collisions, speed, agility, power, grace and results on every play. Also there are blitzes, trenches and bombs. How could we not love it?

It is no coincidence that one of the longest rivalries in college football is the annual Army-Navy game which dates back more than 100 years. We have even named some of our tactics after football, such as the "Hail Mary Maneuver" in the Gulf War and "Operation Linebacker" in Vietnam.

Football is based on tactics of maneuver and concentration of forces in order to penetrate the enemy's lines and cut off their lines of communication.

Football has specialty positions and

Please see 'Football,' page 3

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March 2006

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

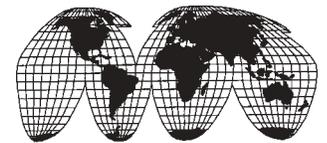
Contents of the Heartland Warrior are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

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

Any questions regarding stories or photos should be directed to the editor at (765) 688-3348.

Staff

Brig. Gen. James Melin.....commander
Lt. Col. Gary Lockard.....chief, public affairs
Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays.....editor
SrA. Chris Bolen.....staff writer
SrA. Roberto Modelo.....staff writer
SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner.....staff writer
SrA. Jonathan Jones.....staff writer
SrA. Ben Mota.....staff writer
Penny Pearson.....administration



World Wide Web

Air Force Reserve Home Page

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

Grissom Home Page

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



Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen

One stop

Senior Airman Vicki Cummings, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, accesses her information at the new Air Force OneStop Kiosk located in the lobby of lodging. The kiosk resembles an automated teller machine and will give members access to a variety of accounts, including myPay. All Department of Defense military and civilians are authorized to use the machine, and can print items such as leave and earnings statements.

Football, from page 2

strategies that combine speed, power, surprise and science all coming together for a successful game plan. Football is a game of intensity — but also one with strict rules of engagement.

But most of all football — like our military — emphasizes team work and a fighting spirit.

“Winning isn’t everything; it’s the only thing” is the most famous quote attributed to the legendary Green Bay Packer coach Vince Lombardi. Consider some of his other quotes and imagine what a military mentor he would make:

“Winning is not a sometime thing: it’s an all-the-time thing. You don’t win once in a while; you don’t do the right thing once in a while; you do them right all the time...”

“Football is a great deal like life in that it teaches that work, sacrifice, perseverance, competitive drive, selflessness and respect for authority is the price each and every one of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile.”

“It is essential to understand that battles are primarily won in the hearts of men.”

And finally...

“The spirit, the will to win, and the will to excel are the things that endure. These qualities are so much more important than the events that occur.”

Other things may come and go but what must endure (in addition to football), what we must cultivate and what elevates us is a fighting team spirit that can never wane. I imagine Coach Lombardi would have surely been a “Fly, Fight and Win” Air Force fan!

Well, that’s justification enough for me. Back to watching football — and teaching my son that it’s more than just a game. (AFNS)

Base Closure and Realignment

Those affected may have to move to find jobs

By 2nd Lt. Dustin Doyle
AFRC Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — While many Air Force Reservists and civilians know their jobs will change under base realignment and closure, or BRAC, one of the most difficult things to grasp is how those shifts will happen.

To date, none of the BRAC actions affecting Air Force Reserve Command units will move entire units from one location to another, and no one will automatically get a job at new locations. If affected by BRAC, old jobs will go away and people will have to compete for new positions wherever available.

“Keeping our highly trained, highly experienced people is vital to our command’s success,” said Steve Mann, director of personnel at Headquarters AFRC here.

To ease the transition, gaining units will give first priority to those moving under BRAC.

“Our goal is to take care of our people,” Mr. Mann said.

To do that, the command is providing full-time civilians and Reservists new Web-based job placement services. Called clearinghouses, these virtual job fairs take personal career and location

preferences into account and work to match BRAC-displaced people with new opportunities.

“The clearinghouses will allow military personnel flights to work with commanders and individuals to give BRAC-impacted people priority over new hiring or internal placement,” Mr. Mann said.

According to “A BRAC Guide for Civilian and Military Personnel Issues” — released by the command in January — gaining units must give first priority for placement in vacant positions to displaced people who register in one of the clearinghouses.

The technical reason why BRAC-displaced workers must find new jobs at new locations is because of the “transfer of function” rules. None of the command’s BRAC actions qualify as a transfer of function. In cases where a job move is not a transfer of function, employees do not have a right to move with their job to the new unit. While employees may be given a chance to apply, they may have to compete with other candidates for the job.

Command people displaced by BRAC can learn more by accessing the guide from a military computer at www.mil.afrc.af.mil/hq/dp/brac. (AFRCNS)

Construction begins on Air Force memorial

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
Air Force Print News

ARLINGTON, Va. — Construction crews raised the first piece of the Air Force Memorial here on top of a hill overlooking Arlington National Cemetery.

The 40-foot long piece of stainless steel, which weighs more than 2,000 tons, is the first of 15 pieces to be placed. When completed, the memorial will be 270 feet tall.

“The design is a take-off on the Air Force (jet aircraft) doing the bomb burst maneuver ... also, that graceful arc of a missile launch and there are

three spires,” said retired Maj. Gen. Ed Grillo, Air Force Memorial Foundation president.

The three upward spires represent the Air Force’s core values — integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do.

The memorial is scheduled to open Oct. 13 in conjunction with the Air Force’s 60th anniversary.

The memorial will also include a bronze honor guard, inscription walls and a glass chamber of contemplation to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

To find out more, visit their web site at www.airforcememorial.org/.

Katrina moves up fighter base closure

2nd Lt. Dustin Doyle
AFRC Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Air Force Reserve Command’s 926th Fighter Wing at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans will be the command’s first wing affected by the most recent Base Realignment and Closure.

Moved up a year, resources from the 926th will begin realigning to four bases — Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.; Nellis AFB, Nev.; Whiteman AFB, Mo.; and Barksdale AFB, La. — with the first A-10s moving to Whiteman and Barksdale March 15.

While the timeline for realigning the 926th is earlier than many expected, the officials stress that an early move is necessary because Hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage to the New Orleans base.

“The timeline for moving aircraft and closing the 926th Fighter Wing is based on two key factors — the need to transform the military and the way we do business, and taking care of our personnel,” said Maj. Gen. Charles Stenner, director of plans and programs at Headquarters AFRC.

“In order to promote the readiness of our flying wings, resources from the 926th must shift to other bases,” said General Stenner. “Mission demands dictate that timeline.”

“It is never the easy or desirable course of action to displace men and women who have devoted their lives to defending our nation,” said General Stenner. “People are our most valuable asset, and we’ll do everything possible to assist every member of the unit — traditional reservists, technicians and civilians — in finding new jobs.” (AFRCNS)

Council works to improve life at Grissom

By SrA. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs staff

If you have noticed changes at Grissom you may be able to thank the Wing Advisory Council.

The council is made up of volunteers from nearly every organization on base with a focus on improving things at Grissom.

Although the council is not a mandatory activity, it has received a special emphasis at Grissom since starting under previous wing commanders and continuing today.

“We try to handle things that are of universal concern to wing personnel” said Col. John Salmon, 434th Air Refueling Wing, inspector general. “The council works to address a range of what might be described as irritants of all types affecting Grissom. We work on the logical things that improve morale.”

The council is considered a tool developed for commanders to address morale type issues at all levels. Air Force instructions provide commanders a flexible tool for addressing base wide issues at all levels of base command structure. This includes suggested methods, objectives, and guidelines for base advisory councils,

membership, and committees.

The Grissom Wing Advisory Council gives personnel an added way to exchange ideas and resolve issues at the lowest level.

“The Wing Advisory Council provides an excellent tool for resolving problems,” the colonel emphasized.

“The council has given people a forum to bring forward issues that might not otherwise be addressed,” added Master Sgt. Tina Youker, council recorder.

Colonel Salmon points with a measure of satisfaction to the large number and variety of items the council has addressed in the past few years.

“Several years ago our list of issues was nineteen pages long,” he continued, “now we are down to three pages. The council has proven very useful, and for the most part action to address developing issues is very timely.”

Changes resulting from council activities include: policies to address the growth of base wide emails, billeting issues, finance processes, checklists, an official flag retreat, food selections and other dining hall concerns.

The colonel points with special pride to revisions that improved the new-

comer orientation program. In addition to expanding the program by adding initial training, tours were set up and sponsors appointed for the new personnel.

“We actually put mechanisms in place to address issues or concerns,” he emphasized.

However, a key for continued success is to have potential issues presented to the council in a timely manner, he added. This urgency and need for individual participation is something he believes needs to be re-emphasized in light of the recent growth at Grissom.

“The council gives anyone at any level a forum to talk directly to group staff,” he said. “It is up to the individual to make the effort. You can bring it to the meeting or staff yourself and explain why it is important.”

“Anyone can attend the meetings to see what is going on, or bring forth a concern,” Sergeant Youker added.

Given all the changes that have occurred at Grissom, there are bound to be questions or issues to be addressed, Colonel Salmon said.

“The name of the game is change,” he continued, “it’s an ongoing thing.” “And as long as you have change there is a need for the Wing Advisory Council.”

Guidelines outline wear of new PT uniform

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — With Oct. 1 being the mandatory wear date of the new physical training uniform, word of proper wear is now coming out.

Airmen may wear the PT uniform during personal workouts given the following conditions:

- T-shirts may be worn out or tucked in.
- Jackets may be zipped, unzipped and worn with civilian clothes.
- Black or navy blue leggings or stretch shorts may be worn under the uniform shorts.
- White socks of any length and small conservative trademarks are authorized.

March 2006

- Any athletic shoes may be worn;
- Safety items such as reflective belts, camelbacks and fanny packs are authorized;
- Hats or knit caps are authorized provided they meet military image requirements;
- Headphones are still authorized;
- Bandanas and other similar head scarves are not authorized unless Airmen have a medical waiver; and
- Saluting is not required.

All Airmen must comply with tattoo and jewelry standards as stated in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

Female Airmen exercising in the

PTU may wear their hair free of pins or other accessories normally required to meet uniform standards.

Also, there is no mandated maternity uniform while participating in formations or unit activities.

The Air Force created the PTU to support unit cohesion and present a professional, standardized image.

Commanders will determine what uniform items — which consist of a jacket, pants, shorts and T-shirt — Airmen will wear during unit fitness events.

The uniform board is working on optional items including a long-sleeve shirt, sweatshirt and another style of running shorts. (AFP)

Feature

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 March 4-5; and April 1-2.

Alternate UTAs are March 18-19; and April 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.

Diversity banquet

The Annual Multi-Cultural Banquet is scheduled for May 6 at the Grissom Club.

The theme for this year's event is: Soldier.

Both military and civilian members are invited to attend, and volunteers are needed to help plan the event.

For more information, or to volunteer for one of many positions, contact Military Equal Opportunity office at Ext. 2408.

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal— Master Sgt. Ronald Myers, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and Senior Master Sgt. Gary Butts, 434th Mission Support Flight.

Kudos

To Senior Airman Kelly Davis, 434th Mission Support Flight, for being selected as the Airman of the Quarter for the second quarter.

To Tech. Sgt. Drennen Gaffney, 74th Air Refueling Squadron, for being selected as the NCO of the Quarter for the second quarter.

To Master Sgt. David Simpson, 49th Aerial Port Flight, for being selected as the Senior NCO of the Quarter for the second quarter.



Photo by SrA. Jonathan Jones

Tanker maintenance

Tech. Sgt. Darin Daugherty, a repair and reclamation specialist with the 434th Maintenance Squadron at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., installs a strut door crank on a KC-135R Stratotanker.

Scholarship opportunity

The Military Officers Association of America has announced the opening of its 2006 scholarship application season.

The Base/Post Scholarship program will be giving scholarship grants of \$1,000 to 25 dependent children of military personnel.

Reservists do not need to be a member, and there aren't any fees, or minimum GPA required to apply for the scholarship.

Those interested in the program need to apply by completing an on-line application located on their website, www.moaa.org.

Twenty-five dependent children will be selected at random to receive the \$1,000 grant for the 2006-2007 school year.

Saluting veterans

The Department of Veteran's Affairs is paying special tribute to hospitalized veterans now through Nov. 11.

The National Salute is designed to get visitors into the hospitals to pay tribute and express appreciation to American veterans during times that are convenient for the visitors and the veterans.

The VA also hopes this longer tribute will increase their awareness in the community and encourage people to become more involved in volunteering.

Those members wanting to visit veterans are encouraged to do so Mondays through Fridays anytime from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Weather update

Grissom members can get a look at the base's five-day forecast with just a few clicks of the mouse.

A link to Grissom's five-day forecast is now on the base's intranet site.

The link is located on the bottom of the page next to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's weather button.

The website can be visited on base computers by visiting the site at <https://www.mil.afrc.af.mil/434arw/>
March 2006



Photo by SrA. Jonathan Jones

That's a foul!

Brad Klepinger, 434th Security Forces Squadron, front, is fouled by Rocky Ash, 434th Communications Squadron, during tournament action Feb. 4. The Cops shot down the Communicators 68-49 to advance in the annual tourney.

www.mil.afrc.af.mil/434arw/

Hometown news

The 434th Public Affairs office has an active hometown news release program.

The program can help members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing share accomplishments with friends and families no matter where they are located.

Promotions, medals, assignments and

special accomplishments can all be announced through the program.

In addition to helping inform families, the program also has an added side benefit in that it affords the Air Force free advertising in newspapers across the country.

For more information, or to fill out a hometown news release form, contact your unit public affairs representative or the 434th ARW PA staff at Ext. 3348.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Matthews

Heading home

Prototype Global Hawk Air Vehicle No. 3 sits ready in its hangar before a voyage halfway around the world to Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. During its four years with the 12th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron the prototype flew nearly 4,250 combat hours in support of the global war on terrorism.

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

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