

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

Maintainers tops in 4th AF, named best non-flying unit

By SrA. Jonathan Jones
Public Affairs staff

He had always heard good things about Grissom's maintainers, but Col. Stan Sheley is seeing first hand the team that is racking up awards.

The 434th Maintenance Group received the 4th Air Force's Reserve Officers' Association Outstanding Reserve Non-flying Unit Award for 2005, and Colonel Sheley, the incoming commander of the 434th MXG, is impressed with the accomplishments and track record of the group.

"Frankly, the first impression here has been stronger than anyone I've ever been around," the colonel said.

To receive this award, the 434th MXG had to meet several criteria as outlined by 4th AF to include unit accomplishments, training effectiveness for all personnel, community involvement, safety records, and supporting deployments, said Lt. Col. Steve Whicker, the commander of the 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"It's also a culmination of what other people have been recognized for as individuals in the organization. If there were individual awards for crew chief of the year or Leo Marquez award winner; all of those help contribute to the overall package," said Lt. Col. Eric Brandes, the commander of the 434th Maintenance Squadron.

The award period dated from Oct. 1, 2004 through Sept. 30, 2005. During that period, the 434th MXS received the Air Force Reserve Command's Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award, personnel from the 434th MXG

raised money for local community events, and two members of the 434th AMXS received Humanitarian Medals for volunteering their time to Habitat for Humanity.

Other accomplishments included serving as lead unit for the 434th Air Refueling Wing's Operational Readiness inspection, redeploying an entire fleet of KC-135R Stratotankers back after operating out of Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio during Grissom's runway closure, and managing presidential support for Air Force One with less than 24 hours notice.

According to Lt. Col. Art Van Houten, the commander of the 434th Maintenance Operations Flight, these types of accomplishments are made possible by other units on base.

"We couldn't do those [accomplishments] in maintenance if it wasn't for the rest of the base. Supply's got to be there for us, civil engineering's got to be there for us with the facilities, base care and maintenance and the cops have to be there to take care of criminal elements. Our numbers are a reflection of the base's effort to support us," Colonel Van Houten said.

Colonel Whicker summed up the meaning of the ROA Non-flying Award for the 434th MXG and what they do day in and day out.

"We live in a life or death business and an inherently dangerous business being in maintenance; we don't slip the surly bonds of Earth and go into the great beyond everyday, but we do fly with the crews when they go off station ...no matter where the airplane goes it needs maintenance."



New look

The new Airman Battle Uniform will begin production in 2007. For more information on the Air Force's latest utility uniform, turn to page 5.

Conference inspires dream to take off

By Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski
434th ARW command chief

It's happened to all of us...a dream unfulfilled because of lack of time, money or even fear of failure.

Well sometimes fate steps in when you least expect it. At least it did for me a few weeks ago, when I went to the Women in Aviation International Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

While I kept my expectations on the formal conference portion fairly low, what happened was truly a life-changing experience.

From astronauts to famous female World War II aviators to a commercial airline pilot who flew drunk, was sentenced to jail and came to tell us about his story, this year's conference was packed with excitement, fascination, education but most of all, the power of "the dream."

The keynote speakers brought motivation and enthusiasm for aviation to new heights. When Maj. Gen. Betty Mullis took the stage, she received two standing ovations and then two more when she was inducted into the Pioneer Hall of Fame.

General Mullis was the director of reserve readiness, joint reserve forces and mobilization assistant to the deputy director of the Defense Logistics Agency. Her motivational speech regarding women in aviation and the pride she feels representing her country and Air Force Reserve brought tears to conference attendees' eyes – she was remarkable.



Chief Rogowski

The WIA conference wasn't just about American women in aviation. When the non-profit organization states "International," that's just what they mean – there were chapters from Canada and Nigeria represented among the predominate USA organizations. Best of all, there is a respect amount of male members who were proud of their association with the organization and very outspoken of their support.

I got to hear World War II female pilots, known as WASPs, talk about their grueling training experiences, the discrimination they faced when trying to gain "veteran" status for their military service, along with how they were literally left abandoned to fund

and find their way back home after the war was over for they were told their service was "no longer needed."

Their words, and the words of the other outstanding participants, truly inspired me.

I started out by stating this was a "life-changing" experience.

Let me explain...this conference made me realize an unfulfilled dream – my dream to fly. A dream that I had the very first time I flew in a plane, but a dream that I never thought I could attain for one reason or another.

Well... recently, my dream came true as I flew my very first .5 hours in a Cessna single-engine airplane 1800 feet around Indianapolis!

The feeling was incredible and I am currently working to obtain my private pilot's license. If not for this conference, and the profound impact the participants made on me, I might never gotten the motivation to actively work on turning my dream into a goal.

To turn the tables some, what dreams do you have that has gone unfulfilled?

Ever wonder if you had the chance to fulfill your dream, would you do it or would you just let it pass you by?

I encourage you to open your mind to those dreams and make them goals – set milestones and keep track of your progress.

You might just surprise yourself. So the next time someone asks you to volunteer to attend a conference – GO...and pay close attention...it could be the answer to a dream.

Heartland

Warrior

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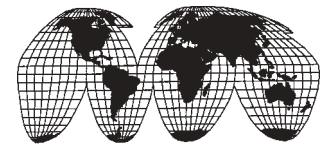
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Rumors cleared up about gold chip on CAC

By Mr. Raymond Brant

Air Force Communications Agency

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill – Rumors and urban legends are circulating that the “gold chip” on the Common Access Card (CAC) contains people’s DNA, family member information or even a complete copy of a worker’s official government records.

“This simply is not the case,” said Maj. Martin Solis, Chief, Identity Management Branch at the Air Force Communications Agency. The gold computer chip is where the CAC gets its “Smart Card” nickname.

The chip contains personal information which is essentially the same information that was contained on previous ID cards such as name, rank, date of birth, along with gender, meal entitlement code and organ donor election (military only).

Additionally, the chip contains computer programs or applications, which protect the information on the chip, yet allow the information to be read by appropriately configured government computers and websites.

Besides those basic functions, the gold chip contains three electronic “certificates”, which are unique identifiers registered by DoD and assigned to each CAC owner. These certificates provide official electronic verification of your identity and also allow you to digitally sign and encrypt e-mails.

IDENTITY: The identity certificate is used to grant access to the network and protected websites such as the Air Force Portal and Defense Travel System. By using this identity certificate on the chip instead of the less secure user name and password, we’ve made it more difficult for our adversaries to gain unauthorized access to our networks.

For example, a hacker would first have to get their hands on a CAC and then guess the Personal Identification Number (PIN).

As a safeguard, the chip’s self-protecting application only allows three guesses before the chip becomes locked (at which point a user would have to personally visit the Military Personnel Flight or find a specialized CAC Pin Reset workstation).

This mechanism prevents unauthorized use of the card – a security precaution that effectively renders a lost card

worthless to an adversary who might stumble upon one.

DIGITAL SIGNATURE: The digital signature certificate is used to “digitally sign” documents and e-mail. A digital signature is more difficult to “forge” since your unique identifier is used to create the digital signature.

Likewise, a digitally signed e-mail will give you assurances that every letter, comma, period, space, etc., is exactly what the author put in the document.

ENCRYPTION: As the name implies, the encryption certificate protects your data by “scrambling” your e-mail into something incomprehensible by means of a key or code, so that it can be reconverted only by an authorized recipient holding the matching key or code. As such, electronic encryption protects email from being intercepted and read by unauthorized individuals.

When using the unclassified network, referred to as the NIPRNET, this encryption

is especially useful for Privacy Act Information, Official Use Only and other sensitive but unclassified data.

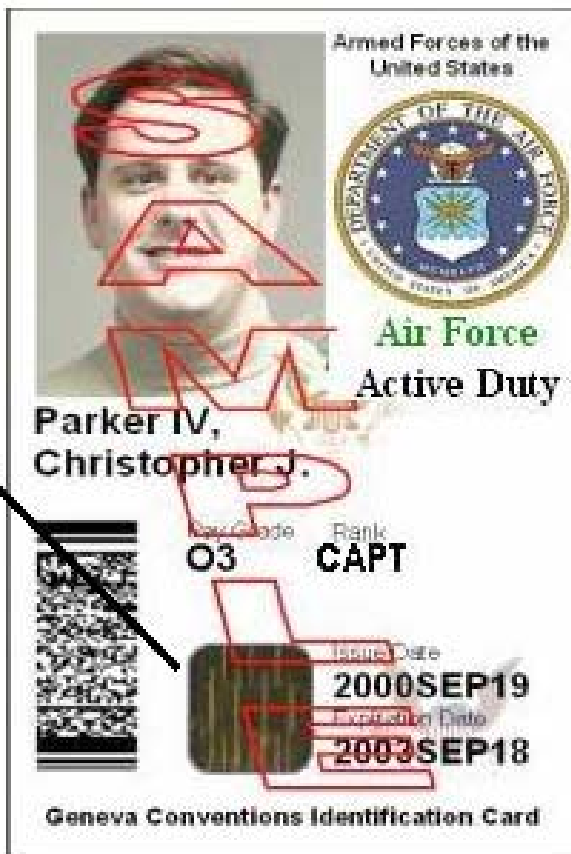
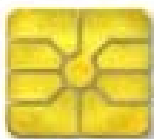
However, one very important note is that even with digital encryption, classified information is still NOT authorized on the NIPRNET.

“As we progress within the Information Warfare battlefield, the Department of Defense will continue to increase security and protect personal information both on the card, and on the network,” said Major Solis. We all have a role to play in protecting our networks.

The information that travels across our network is far too valuable for us to become complacent. The Air Force must, and will, continue to bolster its network security to protect operationally sensitive and personal identity information.

Using the “Smart Card” with its gold chip to log on to our networks is one key step in that direction, so make sure you are ready!

For more information on the CAC, visit the AF Public Key Infrastructure website at <https://afpki.lackland.af.mil>.





Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol

Potential Ravens low-crawl under a barbed wire barrier during training at Fort Dix, N.J. Two members of the 434th Security Forces Squadron recently completed the intense specialized training.

Grissom cops receive Raven training

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol
421st Combat Training Squadron

FORT DIX, N.J. – Two 434th Security Forces members were among four Air Force Reservists and three Air National Guardsmen, that recently graduated from one of the toughest training courses for their career field – the Air Force Phoenix Raven Course.

Grissom's Tech. Sgt. David Douglass and Senior Airman Ryan Monahan were part of the 24-person class that also included Air Force active duty members as well as active-duty Navy personnel.

In the Raven course, the students receive extensive training in unarmed defense tactics, application of the force continuum, less-than-lethal force weapons, anti-hijacking, and firearms training.

“Ravens need to be able to think and communicate in stressful situations in order to accomplish the mission,” said

Tech. Sgt. Bruce McPherson, Phoenix Raven course director from the Air Mobility Warfare Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron. “This makes the course challenging and dynamic for a Raven candidate.”

The definition of a “Raven,” according to Sergeant McPherson, is someone who is a “specially trained security forces person dedicated to providing force protection to aircrews and resources which transit potential threat areas.” The Raven course, Sergeant McPherson added, provides training to detect, deter, and counter threats to aircraft in austere locations.

“It benefits the unit because everyone plays a role in protecting military assets and the course enhances the troops' training and skill sets that could someday save their life and the resources they are guarding in some type of contingency environment,” Sergeant McPherson said.

Airman Monahan said he believes

being selected for the training has helped him and his home unit.

“It's very important for me to be qualified in another area at my unit,” Airman Monahan said. “I know I'll have plenty of opportunities to fly on Raven missions all over the world from there.”

Sergeant Douglass said the training he received in defense tactics is one he'll always remember. This is the block of training where students put on what is termed the “red man” suit – a head-to-toe padded red suit used for protection during training.

“This was a good experience and one I would do again if asked,” Sergeant Douglass said. “As a student, there's nobody, I'm sure, who will forget wearing the red man suit during defensive tactics training. However, it was fun trading stories about the experience every night at dinner because we all knew this was the training we needed to do the job.”

Heartland Warrior

Production to begin on new uniform

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The new Airman Battle Uniform is ready for production and will be available in fiscal 2007, said the Air Force deputy chief of staff of personnel.

Many factors were considered in developing the final uniform selection, with the concern for Airmen being at the top of the list, said Brig. Gen Robert Allardice.

“We were looking for a uniform that would be easier to maintain,” he said. “We wanted to provide a uniform that the Airman wouldn’t need to spend a lot of out-of-pocket expenses to maintain.”

Also, Airmen’s feedback throughout the process was beneficial in adding new pockets on the uniform.

“We listened to the Airmen’s request where they wanted pockets to hold small tools and when they wear body armor the existing shirt pockets are not accessible or usable,” General Allardice said. “It will have the four pockets on the front of the shirt, and also a small pencil pocket on the left forearm and two pockets on the lower legs.

“In addition, inside the side pockets and inside of the breast pockets there will be smaller sewn-in pockets to hold small tools, flashlights or cell phones.”



The new uniform design is a pixilated tiger stripe with four soft earth tones consisting of tan, grey, green and blue.

The ABU will have a permanent crease and will be offered in 50-50 nylon-cotton blend permanent press fabric eliminating the need for winter and summer weight uniforms.

Will the new ABU need to be starched and pressed? “Absolutely not,” he said. “Our uniform requirement is we want a uniform that you wash, pull it out of the dryer, and wear it. This requirement meets the ease and cost effectiveness needs in maintaining a uniform.”

He speaks from personal experience and added that in the long run it will save Airmen money on dry cleaning costs.

“I tested this uniform. I wash it, take it right out of the dryer and wear it,” General Allardice said. “We don’t want people putting an iron to it.”

The fit of the uniform was also a concern for Airmen. “Were making them available in more sizes to fit the

body better,” he said. “We’ve taken the time to produce more sizes and tailored them for men and women.”

Some other ABU accessory items:

— A tan T-shirt will be worn; Airmen will be required to maintain one tan T-shirt with an Air Force logo on the front and Air Force written on the back. — Suede cowhide boots in matching green-gray color; like the desert boot these will be polish-free and available in men’s and women’s sizes.

— The word color for the name, U.S. Air Force, and rank is midnight blue; nametapes and rank insignia background will be tan and will be sewn on using a matching tan color thread.

— The ABU adopts the battle dress uniform hat style for primary use and the floppy hat design will be used in some deployed areas.

“This is the uniform of the future,” General Allardice said. “Eventually when enough of these uniforms are manufactured, we will phase out the BDU and desert combat uniforms.”

The current projected mandatory wear date for the new ABU is fiscal 2011.

The only thing that needs to be determined is if patches will be worn and the Air Force chief of staff will make that determination soon, General Allardice said.

Dropping flares

An AC-130 gunship drops flares in a dramatic display. Recently, crews from Grissom supported AC-130 and MC-130s from the 16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla., during an operational readiness inspection. The entire refueling support provided during the ORI was done at night, to comply with the times most special operation missions are performed.



Air Force photo

Financial manager recognized for Katrina efforts

By SrA. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs Staff

When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, Senior Master Sgt. Randy Sutton was among those who answered the call to assist.

The decision made by the Grissom financial manager is now paying dividends as he received the Air Force's Financial Management Special Acts and Services Award.

Sergeant Sutton is assigned to the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Comptroller office.

He was one of 14 people from five different financial management offices that came together to support the 403rd Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss. following the disaster.

The team formed up at Dobbins ARB, Ga, where many of the hurricane victims took refuge until Keesler could restore permanent operations.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Michael Ward, superintendent in the AFRC/FM's plans and programs branch, "They made the very best things happen in the very worst of circumstances."



Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen

Sergeant Sutton

Air Force expects to choose tanker contractor by mid-2007

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

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Air Force hopes to have a contractor selected for a KC-135 Stratotanker replacement by mid-2007.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne told members of the aerospace industry recently the service is hoping to make a source selection for the KC-135 aircraft by the middle of 2007.

The Air Force would then embark on an estimated 31-year purchasing program to replace its tanker fleet.

The Air Force hopes to release a request for proposal — an invitation for aircraft manufacturers to offer to build the tanker — by September.

Following that, the Air Force would choose an aircraft contractor from those who expressed interest, and

would then award a contract.

"I hope we are buying into platforms that are already largely designed," the secretary said. "And there should be fairly minimal turn to get us a (qualified) airplane, which I am convinced can be done within 36 to 48 months. So that is when I expect to actually get a new tanker under way."

The secretary said he expects the service to buy about 15 to 20 replacement tankers a year.

He said that at that rate, by the time the last KC-135 was replaced, it could be as old as 80 years.

The Air Force is also trying to reduce the number of aircraft in the fleet through retirement.

At a time when the service is stressed because of the war on terror, it might seem appropriate to keep those aircraft.

But the secretary said reducing the

amount of airframes that need to be maintained, thus freeing up resources, is the right move.

"In industry, when you know your equipment is not being replaced on the schedule that you accepted and you are using it at a higher rate than you anticipated, there is only one thing to do and that is kind of what we are doing," he said. "It is the outcome that I think is absolutely mandatory. And with increasing the capability of each of our acquisitions...it makes a lot of sense."

Some of that increase in capability and technology of Air Force aircraft involves their interface with air traffic control systems. In the United States, the secretary said, air traffic control systems on the ground need to be upgraded and modernized to take advantage of the capabilities available on newer aircraft.

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 May 6-7; and June 3-4.

Alternate UTAs are May 20-21; and June 24-25.

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 4:30 p.m. 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.

The guest speaker for the banquet is retired Maj. Gen. Joseph McNeil, a graduate of North Carolina A&T University and 37-year Air Force veteran.

General McNeil was a member of the 'Greensboro Four' who sat at a white-only counter at a Woolworth **May 2006**



Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen

In remembrance

Photos, medals, trinkets, and awards adorn a table during a memorial service for Staff Sgt. Brian Mendenhall, a special purpose mechanic assigned to the 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron. Sergeant Mendenhall died March 27 following injuries sustained in a car accident.

Store in 1960. They went on to be recognized as heroes of the civil rights movement.

The cost is \$3.55 for officers and guests, and free for enlisted members in UTA status.

The price includes dinner, in the form of an international buffet, and entertainment.

Fit to fight run

The 434th Services Flight is sponsoring a Fit to Fight mile and a half run at 8:30 a.m. May 6 at the Fuel Farm (POL).

The top five fastest finishing times and top five slowest times will be forwarded to AFRC to compete against other AFRC units.

Contact the fitness center at Ext. 2000 to confirm the time as it may change to coincide with other unit fitness testing.

Sports council

The 434th Services Flight is hosting a sports council meeting at 10:30 a.m. in the 434th SVS conference room in Bldg. 471.

The topics for the meeting including sporting events for the annual family day picnic as well as other activities and programs offered at the fitness center.

The meeting is also an opportunity for unit members to have input on equipment the center will be ordering in the upcoming months.

In the limelight

Kudos

To Senior Airman Alexander Bacca, 74th Air Refueling Squadron, for his selection as the 434th Air Refueling Wing the Airman of the Quarter.

To Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Thomp-

son, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight, for her selection as the 434th ARW's NCO of the Quarter.

To Master Sgt. Robert Moore, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron, for his selection as the 434th ARW's Senior NCO of the Quarter.

Klein selected as top logician in ARC

By SrA. Jonathan Jones
Public Affairs staff

“There was no rest.”

That’s how Maj. Jim Klein summed up 2005, a year that kept him busy and helped him be named the Air Reserve Component Logistics Readiness Field Grade Officer of the Year.

This Air Force level award encompasses the entire air reserve component to include all officers in the Air Force Reserve Command and the Air National Guard.

The award is named after Maj. Gen. Alice Astafan, who is the first female to make the rank of major general in



Major Klein

the Air Force Reserve.

After receiving the award, Klein, the operations officer of the 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron thanked all the staff in the 434th LRS.

“It was a great to be acknowledged in a difficult year of challenges,”

Major Klein said.

“There is no way I would have been competitive for this award without their efforts,” he said.

He has had a busy year. The culmination of all of his accomplishments throughout the past year is responsible for him receiving this award, he added.

He earned the Bronze Star in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, while assigned to the Green Zone in Baghdad, Iraq from December 2004 to April 2005.

“To wrap the whole year up in a nutshell there were no lulls. As soon as I got home from Baghdad there was Operational Readiness Inspection, as soon as I was done with ORI it was straight into a Guam deployment, then

the 4th Air Force Logistics Compliance Inspection,” he added.

Even without rest, he has numerous achievements which include ensuring the tactical development of Iraqi forces while he was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq during the national election in January 2005; successful planning as the lead wing planner for the ORI in August 2005; and directed deployment operations of three hurricane Katrina support missions, moving 15 personnel to three different relief effort locations.

Major Klein said his achievements and awards received throughout his military career were made possible by working alongside dedicated senior non-commissioned officers and commanders.

In addition, he believes the four men who left the greatest impression on him are his dad, who was a Purple Heart recipient for his service in World War II, his uncle, who served in WW II, his great grandfather, who served in World War I, and another uncle who served in the Korean War.

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