

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

Recognition

Special ceremony celebrates promotions

By SrAMark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

There has long been a tradition of recognizing those entering the ranks of NCOs and senior NCOs, but at Grissom, a new ceremony has pushed that tradition even further.

Now everyone earning a stripe will be noted in an event called a promotion recognition and induction ceremony, said Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski, 434th Air Refueling Wing command chief master sergeant.

“We are still going to do an induction ceremony, but we have so many new Airmen coming in, we want to recognize everyone,” stated Chief Rogowski. “We don’t intend to water down the induction portion at all; we’re trying to expand an already wonderful program to recognize all our people for the good work they do.”

Looking to the past by remembering where Airmen start out and how each promotion affects them is the main idea of the new, all-encompassing ceremony, said the chief.

“I remember when I came to Grissom; I had no stripes on my sleeve and every stripe earned has been tremendously important to me,” she said. “I will never forget where I came from.”

Looking to the future, the chief said she is extremely excited about the new



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

Wishin' for a finish

Dressed as a genie, Lt. Col. Tim Cox, 74th Air Refueling Squadron commander, struggles in vain to keep his tricycle from falling apart as he nears the finish line of the commander's tricycle race held during the joint family picnic. For more photos of the picnic, turn to pages 4-5.

Please see 'Ceremony,' page 3

New commander impressed by base, people

By Brig. Gen. Dean J. Despinoy
434th ARW Commander

As part of my first action as your new commander I wanted to make sure that I visited every group, squadron, and shop on base.

By the time you read this article, I will have been to most locations on base and had an opportunity to visit with the people and assess the adequacy of the facilities. I must say, I am impressed.

It is indeed a pleasure to see that the wing is still made up of extremely dedicated professionals. I am also taken back by the quality of the facilities.

The amount of new construction, condition of the older structures, and the general appearance of the base, is something of which we can all be proud.

There is no question that each and every one of you deserve a nice place to work with an atmosphere that is conducive with your personal and professional growth.

In the near future, renovations of additional buildings as well as new construction will take place. It is important for everyone to understand how lucky we are to have nice facilities and even more scheduled for future construction. Other locations have not been as fortunate.

It is up to each and every one of us to continue to be good stewards of the resources the tax payers have given us.

It is natural for the members of a wing to be curious and maybe even a

little apprehensive when a new commander arrives on station. Although each commander's goals are much the same, we each have different backgrounds, experiences and personalities. This means that we may have different information needs or ways of doing business.

I wanted to have the opportunity to go through a few weeks of meetings and activities before I made any changes. I am very pleased that only minor tweaks were necessary.

I wish to thank those people who were responsible for making my requested changes.

I am very comfortable with the wing's operations and pledge to you all that I will continually be looking for ways to make your job easier and more efficient, while at the same time, making it more effective.

I have an open door policy and encourage you to use me or my staff as needed. Please understand however, that the first question you will be asked is whether you gave your chain of command an opportunity to solve your problem.

The wing has many talented people and I would be very much surprised if there is anything that could not be corrected by them. But, if not, I consider it one of my primary responsi-



General Despinoy

bilities to insure everyone is treated fairly and given equal opportunities to excel.

Expect me to show up in your work area just to say hi. I am very interested in you and the way you do your job. Don't be concerned if I ask questions, it's not a test; I truly want to better understand what you do and how I can help.

The 434th has always had a wonderful reputation. I look forward to building on that reputation and together raising the wing to new heights. I indeed am honored to be your wing commander.

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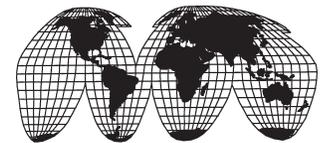
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Any questions regarding stories or photos should be directed to the editor at (765) 688-3348.

Staff

Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy.....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



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Grissom medic responds to aircraft victim

By SrA. Ben Mota
Public Affairs staff

Seeing a parachute in the sky with an aircraft dangling from it isn't a common site anywhere, but that's exactly what Master Sgt. Robert Summers saw from his Indianapolis residence recently.

Sergeant Summers, the assistant NCOIC of occupational physicals, watched as the aircraft crashed into a retention pond behind his house.

As soon as he saw the single engine Cirrus SR22 hit the water his medical training immediately went into effect. There were other people in the area who had already begun to rescue the four passengers in the water, so Sergeant Summers waited on shore to assist with cardio pulmonary resuscitation.

The first person pulled out of the aircraft was in desperate need of CPR, he said. He began assisting a nurse by giving chest compressions.

After about two cycles of CPR the pilot began to breathe, he said.

"I could see his chest rising and falling, and I felt a pulse," the registered emergency medical technician said. "I never thought I'd use my military medical training in a situation

outside of work."

Despite his life saving measures, the pilot succumbed to injuries about four hours later at a local hospital.

The three other passengers in the aircraft were treated at local hospitals for non-life threatening injuries.

"I wished that he would have survived," the medic said. "Hopefully his family members were able to see him alive one last time due to [our] efforts."



Master Sgt. Robert Summers

Ceremony, from page 1

promotion ceremony. She added that she believes many of the unit's members will begin looking forward to the event.

After coming up with the idea, Chief Rogowski took it to the First Sergeant Council.

"They loved it," she said. "I then took it to the Chief's Group who also gave it the thumbs up."

The chief asked for assistance with developing a new ceremony and ideas came from the deployment experiences of Chief Master Sgt. Chad Weisend, 434th Maintenance Group technical advisor, and Senior Master Sgt. Janet Wescott, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant.

"This is based off of something that I saw when I was deployed," stated Sergeant Wescott. "We took the skeleton of the model and applied it to something that would work here."

The event will happen three times a



year in the months of January, May and September, said Chief Rogowski, who added that this scheduling allows for family members to come to the ceremony during the annual joint

family day picnic.

Family members are also encouraged to come the other two months the ceremony is held, she said.

"We want to encourage families to be part of the recognition," the chief said. "It's a way for the families to experience our appreciation for their loved ones."

With the first ceremony under the belt, the tradition of recognizing the men and women who sacrifice their time and efforts has started.

"Whenever we recognize someone, it's always about promoting esprit de corps and improving morale. But this ceremony is really more about the wing showing our appreciation

for members giving part of their lives to the Air Force Reserve, as well as emphasizing the expectations and Creeds of Airmen, NCOs and SNCOs," she said.

Working hard leads to play



A child, assisted by a Grissom fire fighter, uses a hose to blast water towards set up targets. When the water hits the target, a sign pops up.



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

Michelle Stillwell bounces past her older sister, Rachel, in a bounce house set up here during the Joint Family Day picnic. The girls are daughters of Tech. Sgt. Brian Stillwell, 434th Maintenance Squadron aircraft pneumatic systems mechanic.



Photo by SrA. Jonathan Jones

Trae Humphrey removes ducks from the "duck pond" during this year's joint family picnic. He is the son of Tech. Sgt. Jerry Humphrey, who is a member of the 434th Air Refueling Wing.



Senior Master Sergeant celebration of fall



Working hard...Grissom style!



...up letting the kids know they hit it dead on. The fire department set up the interactive display at the joint family picnic. *Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner*



Photo by SrA. Omar Delacruz
Sgt. Linda Mason leads the choir during the concert held during the September UTA.



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner
Above, Aaron (left) and Greg Mahoy, sons of Staff Sergeant Ron Mahoy, pretend to fire with a machine gun display provided by the Marine Corps Reserve Center here. Sergeant Mahoy is a fire team member with the 434th Security Forces Squadron.



Left, six year-old Maren Fitschen, daughter of Maj. David Fitschen, 74th ARS, focuses her attention on the ancient skill of carrot feeding to her trusty ride during the annual Wing picnic. *Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Page

Tornado fuel

A KC-135R Stratotanker from the 434th Air Refueling Wing refuels a German Tornado enroute to Holloman AFB, N.M. from Bangor, Maine.

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 Oct. 14-15; and Nov. 4-5.

Alternate UTAs are Oct. 21-22; and Nov. 18-19.

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.

Exchange

The base exchange is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays of the main and alternate UTAs and from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sundays of the main and alternate UTA.

Retirement procedures

A recent change marks the way Reserve and Guard members now initiate their retirement actions.

The application process was moved from the Virtual Military Personnel Flight to the Air Reserve Personnel Center website at <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/default.asp>

Members wanting to initiate retirement actions should go to the website,

Heartland Warrior



Photo by SrA. Ben Mota

Spotlight on safety

Jason Tresse, an air traffic controller at Grissom Air Reserve Base, demonstrates how a control tower light gun is used to communicate with aircraft and vehicles on the runway when radio contact is not available. Mr. Tresse served six years of active duty in the Air Force before coming to Grissom.

create and account and follow the instructions.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Kenneth Ferron at Ext. 2489.

Bundles for babies

The Airman and Family Readiness Center is hosing quarterly bundles for babies classes beginning Nov. 4.

The class is scheduled for 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the center located in Bldg. 431.

The class will be directed by Maj. Katherine Whitaker of the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

The program offers families a chance to learn about parenting skills, meet other expectant parents and planning a family budget.

Topics include responding to a crying baby, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and what you really need for a new baby and more.

Reserve members or their spouses with a newborn up to three months old,
October 2006

or those members expecting babies are eligible to attend and receive a free gift bundle for attending the class.

To register, contact the center at Ext. 4812 or 1-800-234-6911.

Civilian fly-in

Grissom will host a civilian fly-in for private pilots on Oct. 14.

The fly-in is in partnership with the annual Festival of Flight at the Grissom Heritage Museum.

Pilots coming to Grissom will spend a day getting tours, safety briefings, lunch, and an opportunity to visit the museum for the festival.

Pilots must register ahead of time to bring civilian aircraft to the base, including signing hold harmless agreements.

For more information, go to www.tankeraircrew.com; or email Capt. Gloria Hatcher at gloria.hatcher@grissom.af.mil

In the limelight

Kudos

To Senior Airman. Kellin McCamey, 434th Maintenance Squadron for being selected the 434th Air Refueling Wing's Airman of the Quarter for the third quarter.

To Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Rippy, 49th Aerial Port Flight for being selected as the 434th ARW's NCO of the Quarter for the third quarter.

To Master Sgt. Kevin Smith, 434th Maintenance Operations Squadron, for being selected as the 434th ARW's Senior NCO of the Quarter for the third quarter.

Promotions

To master sergeant – James Partin, 434th Air Refueling Wing.

Maintainer part of Air Force cycling team

By SrA. Benjamin Mota
Public Affairs staff

Exhausted and out of breath he reached the top of the first hill just to find four more hills ahead. The strong crosswinds added to the mental stress of knowing that there were 60 more miles of rolling hills before the second day of the event was over and six more days left before he would reach the finish line.

Richard Scully, a quality insurance inspector for the 434th Maintenance Group, is an avid cyclist and part of the Air Force cycling team.

His most recent accomplishment, the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, is a 461-mile bicycle ride from the western border of Iowa and ended on the eastern border of Iowa all in seven days.

"I have always enjoyed cycling," Scully said, "and decided to enter after reading about it (the RAGBRAI) in an article."

Scully says he rode in the past but quit for a period of time until he injured his knee, and then began cycling again to help strengthen it. He also uses the sport as a means of stress relief.

Even though he's been cycling for more than three years, two months of preparation and more than 600 miles of riding time were needed in order to be prepared for this event.

During the ride you must keep hydrated and eat properly, he added. There were times when he was not hungry due to the heat and the humidity but still ate in order to keep up his endurance.

All in all, the Air Force allows 100 members to ride in the event each year. Air Force nominees were selected on a first-come-first-served basis. Twelve thousand other cyclists from around the country, including the seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong rode in the event.

He says that the diversity in the large group of people participating in the event gave him the opportunity to build Air Force public relations and help with recruitment by talking with civilians about the Air Force on his down time.

"It is amazing the amount of people who support us and what we do," said Scully.

The fact that they all share the common interest of cycling helps set a foundation for building friendships, he added.

The general public views the Air Force as a single unit and by meeting people and riding with them it shows them the human aspect of who we really are and that we are

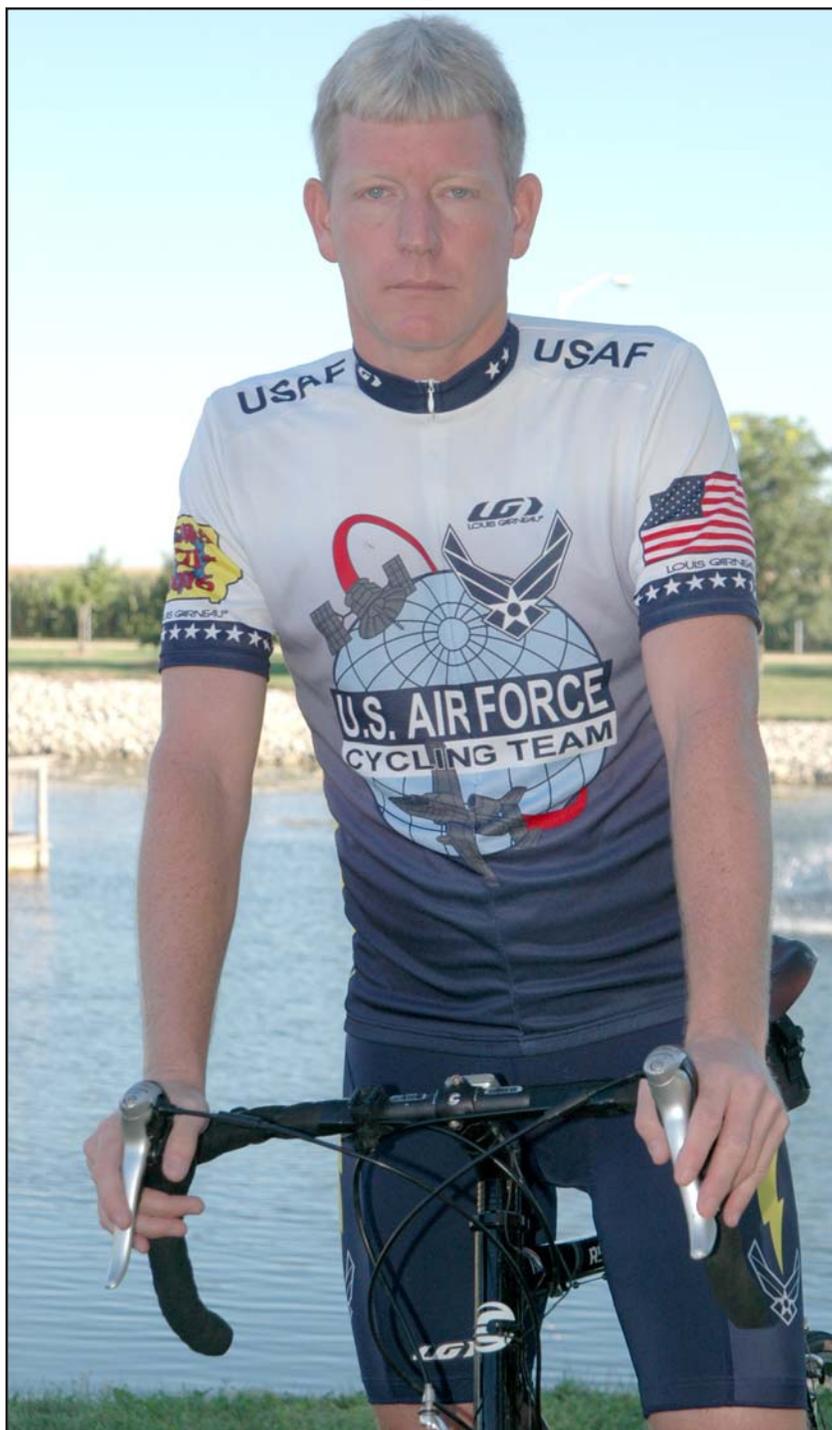


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Richard Scully is an avid cyclist and a part of the Air Force cycling team. He participated in a 461 mile ride across Iowa recently.

people like everyone else, he said.

Scully said that he plans on participating next year as well.

Finishing the tour gave him a sense of accomplishment, he said, but the best part of finishing the bicycle ride was having his wife and two children at the finish line with him to celebrate.