

Heartland

Warrior

Vol. 11, No. 12

December 2006

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



Photo by Keith Parker

What looks like a web of safety is actually Dan Wolf, a first responder with the Grissom Fire Department, lowering an 'unconscious victim' from an old weather tower during a recent exercise held at the base. Grissom played host for a state-wide exercise for area fire departments to test their skills.

Mass response

First responders tested with multiple exercises

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

More than 120 firefighters from nine different departments in north-central Indiana and southern Michigan converged on Grissom recently for a joint domestic terrorism exercise.

The firefighters had no idea what scenarios they'd be facing, only that they were scheduled to participate in an exercise, said Chief William Barton, Grissom's fire chief.

As the initial weapons of mass destruction incident unfolded, the pre-staged agencies had to respond as they normally would do under existing mutual aid agreements. For some that meant an hour and a half travel time, he said.

Based on inputs given to the departments, nine different scenarios were being played out at the same time giving training opportunities for everyone.

Grissom fire fighters took the lead with Pat Bernotas, assistant fire chief, serving as the joint incident commander for the overall scenario.

In addition to heading the recovery operations, Grissom responders had two scenarios they reacted to as well.

A high angle rescue operation and a confined space rescue put responders high above the ground and as well as below it.

The high angle rescue response scenario had a worker injured by an explosion and blown off a work platform on a tower near the old fire station. The worker was unconscious and dangling about 75 feet above ground by his safety line. Dan Wolf, a firefighter from

Please see 'Responders,' page 3

Holidays are time for anticipation, reflection

By Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy
434th ARW commander

The holiday season is a joyful time of year, full of family gatherings and a renewal of faith. It is also a time of anticipation and reflection.

In this time of reflection, we recognize that our country, and indeed the world, continues to count on the men and women in uniform. The missions are critical and the stakes are high.

In reviewing this wing's activities over this last year, I could not be more proud of your accomplishments.

Whether you were performing your duty at an austere deployed location or right here at Grissom, you flawlessly met the challenges presented to you. Sacrifices by members, families, and employers were numerous and deeply appreciated.

Over the course of our nation's history much has been written about our military heroes - those who made a commitment and sometimes the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedom we cherish.

A number of us are lucky this year

and are home for Christmas. However, not all of our 434th family will be with us.

We have numerous members of the 434th Security Forces Squadron as well as other Airmen who will spend their holidays deployed. As you enjoy the holidays, remember all of our fellow servicemen and women who are unable to be home with their families and friends as they continue in the fight to keep America free and to encourage the spread of democracy throughout the world.

As you take your well deserved break, allow your thoughts to shift from tactics, mission, and war to family, friends, and charity. Refresh your spirit and take pride in the fact that each of you are heroes who continue to fight on the front lines in the war on terrorism.

Enjoy the freedoms and the holiday spirit that exist today only because you are among the professionals who wear the uniform and guarantee the American way of life to the rest of our citizens.

I am very proud of you all - it is an



General Despinoy

honor to be your commander. You continue to prove to the nation, on a daily basis, that you are the American heroes of today.

May the finest blessings of the holiday season be received by you and your families.

Mentoring becomes focal HRDC focal point in 2007

By Col. Kerry Keithcart
434th ARW vice commander

As 2006 closes out, the Human Resource Development Council is getting an early start on changes for 2007.

Beginning this month we'll begin emphasizing key concepts.

The first of these concepts is mentoring. Formal and informal mentoring already takes place throughout the wing whether it's recognized as such or not.

Some units have strong programs using forms dedicated to the program.

While forms may vary, the gist of their content doesn't.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

How do you plan to get there?

How can your mentor be of help?

How will you incorporate opportunity, a healthy work environment and diversity?

Many people recognize that highly effective people tend

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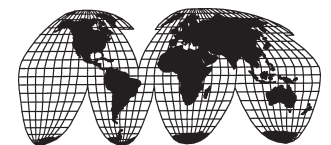
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World Wide Web

Air Force Reserve Home Page

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

Grissom Home Page

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

Air Force creates cyberspace command

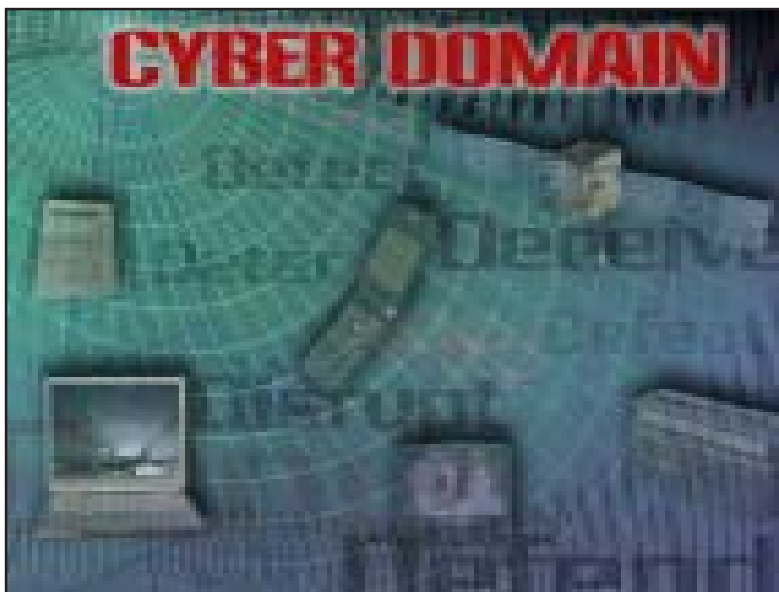
By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

During a recent media conference Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne said the 8th Air Force would become the new Air Force Cyberspace Command.

"I am announcing the steps the Air Force is taking towards establishing an Air Force Cyberspace Command," the secretary said. "The new Cyberspace Command is designated as the 8th Air Force... under the

leadership of Lt. Gen. Robert "Bob" Elder Jr. He will develop the force by reaching across all Air Force commands to draw appropriate leaders and appropriate personnel."

Secretary Wynne said the 67th Network Warfare Wing, now under 8th Air Force, and other elements already within the 8th, would provide



"the center of mass" for the budding Cyberspace Command.

The secretary also said Air Combat Command, Air Force Space Command and Air Force Materiel Command are working to develop the new Cyberspace Command.

In addition, Air Force personnel specialists are working to develop

educational plans and career paths for those Airmen that will work within the new command.

"The aim is to develop a major command that stands alongside Air Force Space Command and Air Combat Command as the provider of forces that the President, combatant commanders and the American people can rely on for preserving the freedom of access and commerce, in air, space and now cyberspace,"

Secretary Wynne said.

Air Force leaders began detailed planning for the new Cyberspace Command at a Cyber Summit held recently.

During the summit, Air Force leaders planned to chart a way ahead for the Air Force's role in cyberspace, also called the cyber domain. (AFNS)

Mentoring, from page 2

to have certain habits. Mentors can add one more habit to that list by helping others *'find their own voice, and inspire others to find their voices.'*

When you inspire others you're mentoring!

Mentoring isn't just for supervisors either. Although a supervisor may be involved in the mentoring process, many times the relationship between the mentor and protégé is outside the chain of command.

Parts of the HRDC's goals are to make you a better mentor – and a better protégé. To help along those lines we'll sponsor mentoring sessions and bring in experts to

help us out.

We're also going to bring back something that worked well during our last operational readiness inspection.

A morale coin will be introduced this month. The coin is given to a member doing an outstanding job. The coin isn't theirs to keep, but their task is to locate another member doing an outstanding job and pass it on.

When presenting the coin to a new person just tell them: *'Mentoring, Opportunity and Diversity – pass it on!'*

The ultimate goal is to have everyone in the wing have possession of the coin at some point.

Responders, from page 1

Grissom, had to climb to the victim and secure him with a rescue line and then release and lower the individual to the ground for medical treatment.

The confined space scenario involved a victim who lost consciousness while working on lines in a small mechanical room about eight feet underground.

Aaron Dehner and David Perryman

were lowered into the room using a mechanical tripod system.

Using lock out/tag out procedures to make the area safe from electrical, gas and mechanical hazards, the two fire fighters were able to load the victim into a basket and bring him to the surface for treatment, said Matthew Ellis, fire captain.

"The state evaluators said we had

one of the best and quickest operations they have seen," Mr. Ellis said of the confined space rescue operation scenario.

All the scenarios were designed and evaluated by state fire officials.

Grissom was chosen as the host for the scenarios based on its central location and the training areas the base had to offer, Chief Barton added.

UTA commute cut short for two aviators

By SrA. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs staff

Most drilling reservists are familiar with the roadways that crisscross the mid-west leading to Grissom. However, for two Airmen, knowledge of the “airways” leading to Grissom is more important.

Lt. Col. Kevin Hayes and Maj. (Dr.) Greg Pinnell both commute to the base in their own private aircraft.

Colonel Hayes is a KC-135R pilot and Major Pinnell is a flight surgeon. Both are assigned to the 74th Air Refueling Squadron.

Major Pinnell flies in from Saginaw, Mich. in his 1973 Piper Cherokee IV, while Colonel Hayes flies in from Kempton, Ill. in his 1951 Piper Pacer.

Major Pinnell says reduced commuting time was a major factor in his decision to fly in on unit training assemblies.

After he moved from Fort Wayne to Saginaw, the commute became a serious challenge.

“I couldn’t do half the stuff I do at



Lt. Col. Kevin Hayes inspects his 1951 Piper Pacer. The colonel purchased the aircraft in Alaska and now flies it from his home in Illinois.



Photos by SrA. Chris Bolen

Maj. (Dr.) Greg Pinnell, performs a pre-flight inspection on his 1973 Piper Cherokee IV. Major Pinnell commutes to Grissom from Michigan.

Grissom,” he explained, and “I sure couldn’t do Reserve duty here. By flying in, I reduce a four hour commute to an hour and a half.”

Although it is more convenient, don’t think it’s cheap. “The savings is in the time...not money,” he emphasized.

For Colonel Hayes, the Pacer reduces a two and a half hour drive down to an hour from his home in Illinois. “It makes commuting to Grissom much easier for me and it greatly increases my availability to the unit,” he continued. “I also find it a much more enjoyable means of travel to the base rather than driving my car on US 24, usually stuck behind lots of semi’s and slow-moving farm equipment,” the colonel noted. “Plus I never have to worry about getting a speeding ticket,” he said with a laugh.

Colonel Hayes acquired his Pacer fifteen years ago, while on active duty at Eielson AFB, Alaska.

As an active duty lieutenant he made good use of the aircraft for pleasure.

“I still have both floats and skis for the plane, but they haven’t gotten much use since I left Alaska,” he said.

There are strict security guidelines for flying into Grissom and the wing commander must gain permission from the Pentagon before landing is authorized and a permit issued.

Although you might think a “flying commute” is rare, it is actually becoming more common. There are now over 100 “air park communities” around the U.S., like Cameron Park California, where autos and planes share the same roads and garages are hangars. There are an estimated 100 families who have an airplane in their garage along with their cars and vans. For these people a three hour commute is cut down to 40 minutes by air.

Major Pinnell has nothing but praise for the Grissom line people. “They have been fantastic to work with and help out when problems develop,” he said. As an organization, “they have been really great,” he emphasized.



Photo by SrA. Ben Mota

Construction crews work on a vehicle inspection station as part of a larger main gate project currently underway.

Construction crews turning dirt at Grissom

By SrA. Ben Mota
Public Affairs staff

The face of Grissom is changing dramatically.

Each month when reservists return to Grissom they see more changes to some areas and completely new construction in others.

Even before entering the base, construction equipment, large holes in the ground, building supplies, and the new faces of construction workers mark the changes being made.

Some of the construction projects that are underway include: a new radar approach control facility, new main gate, base operations renovation/life support addition, mass parking apron, taxiway/threshold lights, the readiness storage area, runway improvements and fire suppression for the nose docks.

These projects and future projects are important because they help to meet the needs and mission of the base, said Oliver Woodd, an engineering technician here.

One of the largest projects, the new radar approach control facility, began

construction in October and is expected to be completed March 2008. It will contain new generation radar technology to replace the current outdated equipment.

The new 9,900-square foot RAPCON will include 20 rooms and provide work areas for 26 air traffic controllers and staff. The facility will continue to provide air traffic control services to both military and civilian aircraft.

The new main gate, a \$3.2 million project, is being built to help with traffic congestion, and improve security.

“The new main gate will give security forces a modern way to protect the assets on the base while at the same time making it possible to adjust check-point security levels as needed,” said Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander.

The gate project will include a new visitor center, a truck inspection facility, and a new parking area. The main gate project is expected to be completed August 2007.

“New construction and the renova-

tion of old construction is a never-ending process,” said Mr. Woodd. “We must continue to make the necessary changes to the base to keep up with new technology and secure the safety of all personnel on base.”

One of Grissom’s future goals is to place all of its facilities located outside the cantonement area inside the perimeter.

Such buildings include the control tower, base supply and the radar tower. This will improve security by allowing these structures to be protected by the perimeter fence and by security forces on base.

Grissom expects to spend more than \$23 million on these construction projects.

The money being spent on the renovation and new construction on the base has a large impact on the local economy since the main contractors will be sub-contracting to many contractors in and around the local area.

“The amount of money and current projects indicate to me that the command plans for this base to be here for a long time,” General Despinoy added.



Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen

Holiday shopping

Senior Airman Ryan Montgomery, 434th Maintenance Squadron, browses through the wide selection of items at the Base Exchange Christmas Store. The store will be open again during the December unit training assembly.

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 Dec. 2-3; and Jan. 6-7.

Alternate UTAs are Dec. 16-17; and Jan. 20-21.

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 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Sundays of the main and alternate UTAs.

Basketball tournament

The eleventh annual basketball tournament tips off in January.

Teams must register at the fitness center by 4:30 p.m. Dec. 3 to enter.

In addition, a coaches meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. Dec. 2 at the fitness center to discuss the rules and

tournament format.

For more information, call Ext. 2000.

Biggest loser

The fitness center will host a 'Biggest Loser' contest starting Jan. 6.

Two-person teams will have weigh-ins for four months. The team losing the most combined weight will be the winner. Teams are required to lose weight each month, or they will be penalized \$10 for each month they do not lose weight.

For more information, call Ext. 2000.

Circuit training

The fitness center will host circuit training classes beginning at 4 p.m. Jan. 6.

The class will consist of a combination of aerobic and anaerobic activities to prepare for the mile and half fitness tests.

Classes will also be held Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays at 2 p.m. beginning Jan. 8.

For more information, call Ext. 2000.

Heartland Warrior

Captivating work

Rob Edwards, a photographer with the Peru Tribune, watches as Staff Sgt. Anthony Krisher, a boom operator with the 74th Air Refueling Squadron; refuels an RC-135 based out of Offutt AFB, Neb., during a recent media orientation flight.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal— Master Sgt. Jackson Barnett, 434th Security Forces Squadron; Master Sgt. Juanita Withrow, 434th Mission Support Flight; Tech. Sgt. Scotty Eskridge, 434th Civil Engineering Squadron; Master Sgt. Arnold Hollins, 434th Air Refueling Wing; Lt. Col. Eric Brandes, 434th Maintenance Squadron; Maj. Cecilie Bredehoeft, 434th CES; Master Sgt. Jeffrey Hughes, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and Master Sgt. Ronda Reemer, 434th ARW.

Air Force Commendation Medal—Master Sgt. Clifford Watson, 434th CES.

Air Force Achievement Medal—Senior Airman Christopher Danielson, 434th ARW.

Promotions

To senior master sergeant— Mark Campbell, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; and David Simpson, 49th Aerial Port Flight;
December 2006

To master sergeant— Gary Nifong, 434th AMXS; Eric Saddle mire, 434th AMXS; and Donald Cooper, 434th AMXS.

To technical sergeant— Scott Bardonner, 434th AMXS; Kenneth Ferron, 434th MSF; Brian Hunt; 434th MXS; Rebecka Kimble, 434th Services Flight; Matthew McDaniel, 434th MXS; Mark Vogel; 434th CES; and Scott Allen, 434th MXS.

To staff sergeant— Jason Barnett, 434th AMXS; Jeremy McMillan, 434th AMXS; Christopher Branum, 434th CES; Jason Buchanan, 434th AMXS; Ashlee Crow, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Rita Gaskew, 434th MXS; Zachary Gaumer, 434th LRS; David Gorski, 434th AMXS; Valerie Hancock, 434th LRS; Darrell Johnson, 434th AMXS; Eric Stalker, 434th AMXS; Jeffrey Thornton, 434th ARW; and Marvin Wagan, 434th Operations Support Squadron.

Kudos

To Senior Airman Mark Orders-

Woempner, 434th ARW, selected as the 434th ARW Airman of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.

To Tech. Sgt. Mark Brewer, 434th MXS, selected as the 434th ARW NCO of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.

To Master Sgt. Chet Nance, 434th SFS, selected as the 434th ARW Senior NCO of the Quarter for the fourth quarter

To Senior Airman David Gorski, 434th Maintenance Group's Airman of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.

To Tech. Sgt. Mark Brewer, 434th MXG's NCO of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.

To Senior Master Sgt. Pat Devine, 434th MXG's Senior NCO of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.

To Senior Airman Brandon Toth, 434th MXG's Airman of the Year.

To Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Thompson, 434th MSG's NCO of the Year.

To Master Sgt. Gary Scheiter, 434th MXG's Senior NCO of the Year.

Journey brings family double happiness

There is an ancient Chinese idea of a double happiness, and one boom operator became a believer of this idea with a trip there recently.

Tech. Sgt. Rodney Honeycutt, an inflight refueling craftsman with the 74th Air Refueling Squadron, found out what double happiness really meant as he and his wife embarked on the journey of adopting a child.

Sergeant Honeycutt and his wife, RaeLynne, were married in 1998 and a couple years later decided to have children. After several failed attempts, the couple went to see a doctor.

“We were finally told that we would not be able to have children,” Sergeant Honeycutt said. “Disappointed, we half heartedly accepted all the facts and decided to put our desire for a family behind us.”

Despite their loss of hope in having a biological child, the Honeycutts pressed on with their goal to become parents. With continued determination, the couple decided to adopt, he said, but the couple had no clue where to begin.

“We started to research the many types and processes involved with adoption, and we finally decided upon international adoption, but could not determine which country to adopt from,” he said, but the decision was made easy after attending an international adoption seminar.

“It was at an informational seminar by an international adoption agency where we could meet several families who had adopted children from various countries such as Russia, Guatemala and China,” stated Sergeant Honeycutt. “It was a family who adopted a little girl from China that caught our hearts, and on our way home we decided to adopt from China.”

The next part of the Honeycutts’ journey was even more difficult and time intensive as they started what Sergeant Honeycutt referred to as the paper chase.

The paper chase is the part of the adoption where all documents required for an international adoption are gathered and when the adopting family starts home study with a social worker, he said. Upon completion of the paperwork, it is mailed to China and officially logged into the China Center for Adoption Affairs. That process took a year to complete.

“The adoption process continued on in China where the



Tech. Sgt. Rodney Honeycutt, daughter Madalynne, wife RaeLynne and son Morgan spending time together at home.

Courtesy photo of Angela Turnpaugh

paperwork went to the screening room to check for any mistakes,” said Sergeant Honeycutt. “After a minor correction in my height, our paperwork made it into the placement room.”

The placement room is where the orphaned children are matched with their adoptive parents on paper. The placement process took an additional year to complete.

It was not until over two years later from the point the Honeycutts first started the process to when

they found out their daughter’s name, he said.

Upon return from temporary duty in South Korea, he got the news.

“I got home, gave my wife a hug and she told me very excitedly that I needed to check my e-mail for a message from our adoption coordinator,” he said. “I opened my e-mail account and scanned for the message, and I found an e-mail with the subject line ‘CONGRATULATIONS DAD.’”

The Honeycutts’ hard work had paid off and they were going to be parents of a Chinese girl, but that was only one half of their double happiness.

“I finished reading the e-mail and I looked back at my wife, who said to me, ‘I have more to tell you,’” he added. “The next thing I would hear from her was ‘the doctor says I’m pregnant.’”

The Honeycutts went to the doctor to determine how far along RaeLynne was in her pregnancy, and they learned she was five months pregnant, meaning the baby would be born around the same time their Chinese daughter was due to arrive.

On September 29, Madalynne Mei Gui went to live with her new parents, and just 17 days later, Morgan Gailen was born at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Indianapolis.

It was at this point that the Honeycutts first realized their double happiness, he said, but the double happiness continues.

“Another journey of double happiness is beginning,” said Sergeant Honeycutt. “Our family is starting a new journey, the journey of two children born on separate continents and a year apart becoming brother and sister to parents who were told they would never be able to have children.”