

Heartland

Warrior

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

How suite it is...

Carl Wade, 434th Services Flight, installs a placard on the 'Bunker Hill Suite' at the Grissom Inn. A total of eight distinguished visitor suites were given distinctive names that reflect the base, the state, and the local communities. The names are Tanker, Peru, Kokomo, Logansport, Bunker Hill, Hoosier, Grissom and Chief suites.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Top enlisted members selected for 2006

By SrA. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs staff

It's the military version of the Grammy's – the Airman, NCO, and Senior NCO of the Year awards.

And the winners are....

While there is no drumroll, Grissom's top Airmen were announced recently with Senior Airman Mark Orders-Woempner, 434th Air Refueling Wing being selected as the Airman of the Year. Tech. Sgt. Drennen Gaffney, 74th Air Refueling Squadron, was selected as the NCO of the Year; and Senior Master Sgt. David Simpson, 49th Aerial Port Flight was chosen as the Senior NCO of the Year.

Each member will advance in the

Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airman of the Year competition in their category.

Airman Orders-Woempner, is a public affairs specialist with the 434th Air Refueling Wing.

Among his notable achievements is a five-month deployment to Southwest Asia. During that time he edited a 16 page full color magazine for the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, maintained contacts with over 100 news media organizations, and provided escort to a variety of distinguished visitors.

He flew on combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan providing news coverage of military operations.

"I was so surprised when Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski, 434th ARW command chief told me to stand

and be recognized, I sprang from my chair, snagging my BDUs on the desk, and ripping them," he said with a chuckle. "I was completely floored when I found out I won."

Away from Grissom, Airman Orders-Woempner is a junior at Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis studying business management and marketing.

Sergeant Gaffney is a boom operator with the 74th ARS. The Portage, Ind., resident has more than 16 years of military service.

His achievements include the development of a computer program that streamlined critical training for aircrews and allowed them to study

Please see 'Winners,' page 3

A new year is a new opportunity to improve

By Col. Kerry Keithcart,
434th ARW vice commander

The New Year is here!
With the holiday's past, now is the time to lower our shoulders and get to work on taking care of business in '07. Opportunities abound as we enter the New Year. Opportunities often come identified as changes, or challenges, but the truth is they are opportunities for each of us to excel in different or exciting areas – or adapt to a changing environment. Part of that changing environment is Reservenet. It will revolutionize the way we schedule and do ancillary training. The best part? It gives us choices. Scheduling will be less of a hassle. It will offer better tracking and an

opportunity to plan ahead. The first goal is to get on board and start using the scheduling features of the program. Each unit has personnel who have had some training and should be able to assist you. If you have trouble logging on at home, try it during the unit training assembly and just work ahead. I began using the program two months ago and it has helped both me, those in my office and the lodging folks as well. In addition, ancillary training opportunities are also being loaded into the Reservenet. Many of our training requirements can be done from the convenience of home, or wherever you have computer access. The idea is to help streamline things to make it easier for you.


Speaking of making things easier, the Human Resource Development Council will continue to work to improve all aspects of Grissom. Our goal is to take care of people. The new morale coin is play. The coin began its journey into the Grissom community when Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, gave it to Master Sgt. Tina Youker, one of the tri-chairmen of the HRDC. The coin is meant to be passed along, and not kept. Through mentoring, opportunity and diversity, our leadership hopes the coin will impress the values of the HRDC as it makes its way around the base. The next HRDC meeting is 10 a.m. Feb. 11 in the wing conference room, Bldg. 596. We hope you can join us.

Are you ready for your New Year's resolution?

By Jeffrey Paddock
Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio
— Every year millions of people begin penning their New Year's resolutions, planning behavioral changes they want to make during the coming year. Typically, resolutions include high-payback targets such as tobacco cessation and weight loss, as well as increased fitness activity, stress management and financial planning. As the New Year dawns, we believe we'll be able to tackle our goals effortlessly. But after the rush of New Year's celebration fades and reality sets in, ambitions often seem insurmountable. Soon after, we rationalize that "it's just not a good time of year," due to the weather and numerous obligations. We justify, that when spring comes, "I'll really get into shape." In freeing ourselves of the guilt, we can justify putting off habit change for another few months. However, when

spring arrives, chances are we will have another temporary surge of motivation, only to abandon it within a few weeks. To help meet those goals create a support system of friends, family and coworkers. The focus of resolution support is on how to make and attain resolutions and goals using the four dimensions of wellness — physical, social, emotional and spiritual — as a framework. Why do people abandon their resolutions? One reason is they become discouraged when results don't come quickly enough, or when they encounter obstacles they hadn't anticipated. In the words of psychologist Karl Weick, "We are more likely to act our way into a new way of thinking than to think our way into a new way of acting." Behavioral change requires sustained effort and commitment, but this can be achieved only with good preparation and action planning. (AFNS)

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Winners, from page 1

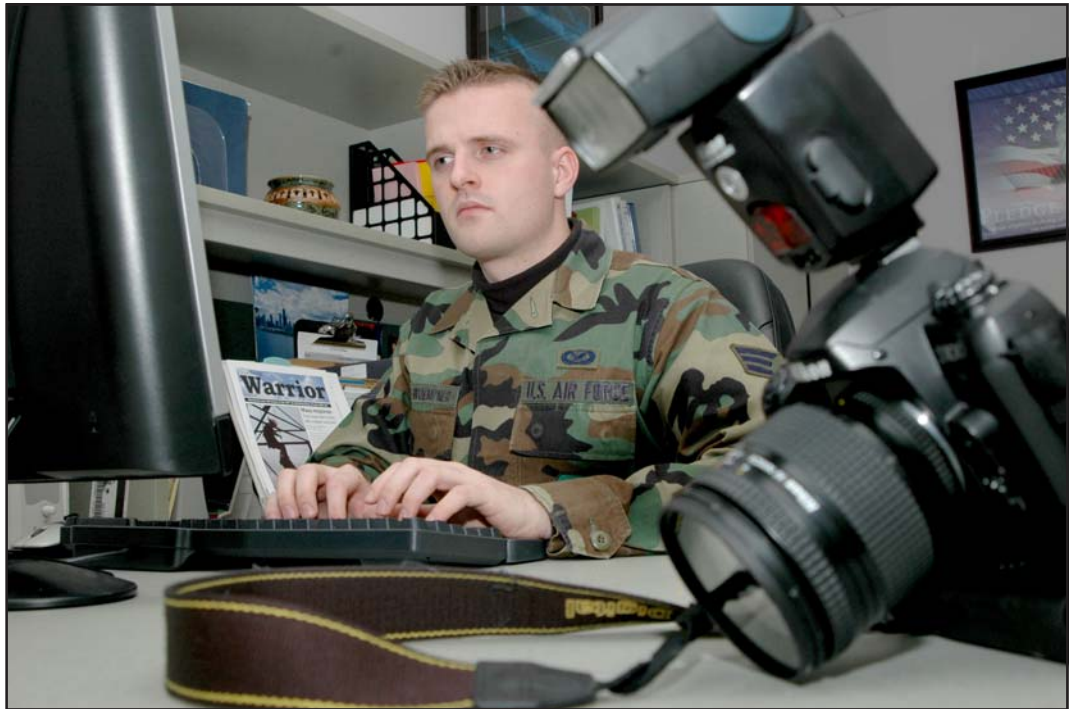
on-line via the internet.

"I wrote a program that is utilized by Grissom pilots and boomers to prepare for recurring test requirements," Sergeant Gaffney explained. The program condenses a large quantity of data from a number of databases allowing quicker, more effective review.

After he loaded the program on the web he discovered it's not only a hit with Grissom aircrews, but also has found a much wider audience. After reviewing the program's on-line usage, he discovered that not only were aircrews from other parts of the United States and Alaska using it, but aircrews around the globe as well.

In his civilian occupation, Sergeant Gaffney is a senior consultant at Aetna Insurance in Chicago.

Sergeant Simpson is the newly appointed first sergeant of the 49th Aerial Port Flight, supervising 26 personnel. He has more than 17 years



Airman Orders-Woempner

Photos by SrA. Chris Bolen

of combined military service.

He was one of a handful of Grissom personnel on the initial ADVON team that landed at the deployed location during the latest operational readiness inspection to set up for the main body.

Under his leadership the unit was able to complete thirty-nine missions, transport more than 1,600 passengers, and 421 tons of cargo during the exercise.

In his civilian occupation, Sergeant Simpson is a machine operator with AK Tube, LLC of Walesboro, Ind.

These annual awards are given to service members who demonstrate exceptional expertise, professionalism, and advanced skills in their jobs, while supporting the mission of the Air Force Reserve



Sergeant Simpson



Sergeant Gaffney

Command.

Finalists are previous winners of the quarterly awards program, who undergo further screening, and appear before a senior panel.

Two members selected for state awards

By SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

Two members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing were selected to receive the Indiana Military Achievement Award for 2006.

Senior Master Sgt. Dan DeAngulo, 434th Military Personnel Flight superintendent, and Tech. Sgt. Michael Johnting, an aerospace ground equipment technician with the 434th Maintenance Squadron were chosen for the award.

The Military Achievement Award is awarded to enlisted Indiana Reserve and National Guard servicemembers selected as being outstanding by their respective units.

The award is based on the servicemembers' military performance during the past year, attendance of mandatory functions, judgment,

reliability, leadership, appearance, attitude and preparation for advancement. The IMAA is presented annually at the Veterans Day Banquet hosted by the Veterans Day Council of Indianapolis.

Sergeant DeAngulo stated that winning this award gives him an even more humble perspective because of those around him that have helped him achieve this recognition.

"I was both very humble and honored to represent the 434th ARW," said Sergeant DeAngulo. "I'm proud that I can represent Grissom and my local community."

Sergeant DeAngulo began his career in the Air Force in 1979 and served as a jet engine mechanic on active duty until 1985. In that same year, he transferred into the Air Force Reserve, remaining a jet engine mechanic until 1994, later becoming a logistics planner.

In 2004 Sergeant DeAngulo cross-trained into the personnel career field, where he now serves, giving him more than 27 years of service to his country.

Not seeing this award as a culmination of good work, but rather a stepping stone for self improvement, Sergeant DeAngulo said he looks towards the future.

"I just hope I was a good ambassador for the wing and the MPF," he



Sergeant DeAngulo

said. "They make me a better person and encourage me to do my best."

According to his supervisors, Sergeant Johnting is "extremely dedicated" and "displayed outstanding professional skills, knowledge and leadership."

Sergeant Johnting's self improvements and base and community involvement show his "vigorous leadership" and "superb personnel skills," his superiors said.

Sergeant Johnting deployed to various locations world-wide in 2001, 2002 and 2003 in support of Operations Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring freedom.

"I've been gone about every year except this last one," he said, adding he felt honored by this award.

The sergeant also stated he would not have one the award had it not been for the support he had from his fellow Airmen in his shop.

"Everyone helped me," he said. "You can't do it by yourself."

Sergeant Johnting joined the Air Force in 1988 and served a four-year stint on active duty. He joined the Air Force Reserve in 1995 after a two-and-a-half year time away from service and became an ART with the 434th AGE shop in 2002.

Referring to the future, Sergeant Johnting said he has many more years left in the Air Force Reserve and winning the award helped him remember why he joined in the first place.

Heartland Warrior



Sergeant Johnting

Tanker pilot pushes the limits of aviation

By SrA. Jonathan Jones
Public Affairs staff

Imagine an aircraft spinning over 50 times consecutively during a flight, while plummeting towards the ground in a downward-spiral motion. Then the aircraft begins to perform cartwheels; would this invoke fear into the average person?

It is safe to conclude the average person might experience an emotional state of fear regardless if he was a passenger or spectator. However, for Capt. Billy Werth, a KC-135R Stratotanker pilot with the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, strong confidence and an indescribable feeling of excitement prevail, whether he is viewing, flying, or riding in an aircraft that is performing these types of stunts — known as aerobatics.

Captain Werth, an aerobatics instructor with Grayout Aerosports in Indianapolis, said he has been flying on planes since he was born.

Growing up in an Air Force family, the captain's dad, retired Col. Gerry Werth, was a pilot at Grissom when the base flew A-10s.

According to Captain Werth, his dad's experience influenced him in a positive way and assisted him in realizing that he wanted to become a pilot.

He piloted his first aircraft, a Cessna 152, in November 1988, while attending Indiana State University and majoring in Professional Aviation Technology, in which he holds a bachelors degree.

It was not until 1991 while taking an emergency maneuver class that he became interested in aerobatics, he

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Photo provided

Capt. Billy Werth pilots his Pitts SC2 aircraft.

added.

"I took that class and I was hooked," he said.

In 1992, he became certified to begin performing aerobatics, which changed the dynamics of his flying career, the pilot said.

It's an adrenaline rush getting an airplane to do things that some people think an airplane shouldn't do.

Captain Billy Werth

"It's an adrenaline rush getting an airplane to do things that some people think an airplane shouldn't do; going fast, going slow, flying straight up, flying straight down and flying upside down is a satisfying feeling," explained the captain.

Although aerobatics is fun and exciting, he believes there are certain factors and characteristics a person must possess prior to becoming an aerobatic performer. He believes the person should enjoy performing, be

responsible to include practicing good operational risk management, possess a strong confidence, and continually increase his knowledge of aircraft, surroundings, and environment.

In addition, having these qualities and becoming knowledgeable about

aerobatics will help an individual during all of the training aspects of aerobatics. Some of this training includes basic

aerobatic training, advanced aerobatic training, and emergency maneuver training.

Since his first flight in 1988, he continues to feel that adrenaline rush every time he takes his Pitts SC2 aircraft into the sky, he said.

"It's a more [aerobatics] extreme level of sports, and it's that part of your brain that gets triggered by doing stuff that's a little more dangerous than your average walk across the street," he added.



Photo by SrA. Ben Mota

Pipe fitting

From the left, Staff Sgt. Chris Branum, Senior Airman Shawn Minnich, and Senior Airman Daniel Harshman, 434th Civil Engineering Squadron members, work on the plumbing for a new kitchen and restroom area located in the 434th Air Refueling Wing command section on the second floor of Bldg. 596.

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 6

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 Jan. 6-7; and Feb. 10-11.

Alternate UTAs are Jan. 20-21; and Feb. 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.

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.

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 **Heartland Warrior**

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.

Travel vouchers

The finance office now only requires one legible copy of the travel voucher (DD form 1351-2) to be submitted when filing a travel claim.

For more information, contact the travel section at Ext. 3686.

New battle uniform

The Airman Battle Uniform is on track for distribution this spring to Airmen deploying as part of Air Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8.

The new ABU began production Dec. 7 and uniforms are being warehoused.

The uniform will be ready for distribution to Airmen deploying as part of AEFs 7/8. Most Airmen will get two ABU sets and two Desert Combat Uniform sets for their deployment.

Battlefield Airmen with Air Force specialty codes for combat rescue, special tactics, pararescue jumper, combat control, tactical air control Airmen, members of the special operations weather team, battlefield weather Airmen and explosive ordnance members will each receive four ABU sets.

By October 2007, the Air Force will begin issuing the ABU to Airmen in basic military training, and in June 2008, the uniform will be available for purchase by the rest of the Air Force in Army Air Force Exchange Service outlets.

The ABU boasts 236 different size options in both male and female sizes. Additionally, its permanent press finish means the uniform cannot be starched, pressed or dry-cleaned. Airmen will be able to pull the ABU from the clothes dryer and wear it without further treatment. Any ironing could degrade the effectiveness of the uniform.

The expected mandatory wear date for the new ABU is October 2011.

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Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen

Carvin' it up

Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, displays his culinary skills while serving lunch to Reservists during the December unit training assembly. Reservists ate the holiday meal served by senior officers and first sergeants.

Local banker gets big picture look at military

By SrA. Ben Mota
Public Affairs staff

“The entire trip was so humbling for me.”

That’s how Hal Job, the Chairman and CEO of Frances Slocum Bank in Wabash, Ind., described his reaction to participating in a Joint Civilian Orientation Conference sponsored by the Secretary of Defense.

“Spending time with the troops overseas made me recognize the quality of people who serve our country; it gave me a new perspective and a better appreciation for the troops who volunteer their services.”

The program is for America’s leaders interested in expanding their knowledge of the military and national defense. It is the oldest existing Pentagon outreach program and has been held more than 70 times since its creation in 1948.

This year participants traveled to a variety of countries in the Middle East and Africa.

The program is financially self-supporting. All travelers pay for their meals, lodging, receptions and any other expenses incurred.

Mr. Job was one of the 45 civic leaders chosen to attend the fall event for 2006.

The bank CEO is a member of the Grissom Community Council and was told about JCOC from one of the officers at the base, he said.

His involvement with numerous community, civic, and non-profit organizations made him a good candidate for the trip, he added.

One of JCOC’s main functions is to increase the public’s understanding of national defense by giving civic leaders



Photo provided

Hal Job, a resident of Wabash, Ind., on the deck of one of the ships he visited during the recent Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. Mr. Job was one of only 45 civic leaders from throughout the United States to participate in this special program.

hands on experience of how the military operates. In return, civic leaders such as Mr. Job share their experiences with the community and people they are involved with.

“This experience gave me the utmost respect for our military”, said Mr. Job. “It was such an honor to see all the branches of the military working together to accomplish the same goal”.

The conference began at the Pentagon with briefings by DOD representatives. After meeting with several top military officials, members of the 72nd JCOC began their trip over seas to see how the troops operate in a combat environment.

Upon arrival at their overseas location, members were able to fire a variety of weapons, participate in convoy safety trainings and interact with troops from all branches of the military.

Mr. Job and the others ate the same meals, performed the same training, wore the same protective gear, and lived in the same 100+ degree weather just as the rest of the military troops.

“Our schedule kept us busy the

entire week of the trip” said Mr. Job. “A typical day might start at five in the morning and end at eleven at night, but I wouldn’t have changed anything.”

Mr. Job said the best part of the trip for him was interacting with the troops. He was amazed with the professionalism of the military and the respect each member he came in contact with gave him.

They were amazed that ordinary citizens would travel such a distance to experience what they were doing and to share the truth with the rest of America, he said.

Mr. Job said that he hopes to share his experiences with others. He has already begun to tell his story to the people he works with and hopes to share his experiences with anyone who will listen.

One of his future goals is to speak at some of the local schools in his hometown of Wabash, Ind. so that a wider variety of people can hear his story. He added that it is important for everyone to know the sacrifices that troops make in order to ensure our freedom and safety.