

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

Grissom receives first Block 40 aircraft

By SrA. Ben Mota
Public Affairs staff

Bringing the future to Grissom, a group of seven members from the 434th Air Refueling Wing, recently returned from Kelly Field Annex in San Antonio, Texas with Grissom's latest equipped KC-135R Stratotanker.

The aircraft received an upgrade known as Block 40. The project adds new technology to the 50-year old aircraft, upgrading its communication, navigation, and surveillance systems.

"All of these modifications allow the KC-135 to continue into the future with the rapidly changing air space requirements around the world," said Capt. Doug Perry, a pilot with the 434th ARW.

Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy led the contingent that delivered the second tanker scheduled for the upgrade and took acceptance of the first new and improved aircraft.

Before receiving the upgraded aircraft, Grissom members were given an extensive tour that demonstrated the entire upgrade process from beginning to end.

"The upgrade process begins before the aircraft even arrive," said Trent Martin the production support manager.

Technicians begin the assembly of wires and circuit boards that will be used for communications, navigation and surveillance systems on the tanker well ahead of the aircrafts arrival.

After the wiring harnesses are assembled, they go through a rigorous inspection by quality control specialists to ensure functionality before installation.

The next step of the process begins when the aircraft arrives at the facility. A team of



Photo by SrA. Ben Mota

Capt. Chris Lytle, left, a flight test pilot with the 313th Flight Test Squadron, demonstrates the Block 40 upgraded cockpit of a KC-135R Stratotanker to Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, during a visit by the general to pick up the first upgraded aircraft.

Medical readiness – help the clinic help you!

By Lt. Col. (Dr.) Scott Phillips
434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Your 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron stands ready to help you in maintaining your medical readiness.

In fact, every month the physical exam section of the clinic provides an average of 100 exams, and the “shot clinic” may give as many as 500 immunizations.

But we can’t do this alone.

The Air Force requires that we maintain certain physical standards to be considered fit for duty. However, medical conditions arise that might affect your ability to deploy or to do your job.

If this occurs, commanders need to know about this and plan for your absence. That’s where the clinic stands ready to help.

One of the biggest impediments, though, is lack of notification.

Any time there is a change in your health status, the clinic needs to know. Examples of this might include an injury, a surgery, or perhaps being started on a new medication by your private physician. Basically, any time your doctor finds a new condition or changes a treatment, the AMDS needs to know.

Please request that any reports, studies, operative notes, etc. be forwarded. Again, this is not optional; Air Force Instructions require it.

The second biggest impediment to the efficient processing through the clinic is timeliness of physical exams.



Did you know that you can start the physical exam process six months in advance?

You should get notification in the form of a letter at that time, directing you to a website, where you’ll complete an online questionnaire.

This starts your physical exam — but it does not complete it!

You then will work with your unit health monitor to schedule your physical examination. Don’t wait until your birth month to accomplish this. If a problem is found, that leaves very little time to work with you to resolve it... and make no mistake... your medical readiness is a high priority for our wing commander.

If your physical exam expires, you will not be able to participate for pay or points until it is completed.

A frequent concern of military members is that they will have a “profile.” In fact, *everyone* has a profile designation.

Someone without any issues is considered “P-1.”

The profile system is not punitive, but rather is merely a tracking tool used by the medical world to track issues.

In most cases, a change in your profile status is nothing to fear. It can even protect you, for example, from being asked to deploy if your condition warrants. This is especially true if the condition occurs in the “line of duty.” If so, the clinic needs to start the LOD process as soon as possible, so that when appropriate, you can be maintained “on orders” or have the military take responsibility for your care.

Another concern is that the use of medications will disqualify you from duty. This is rarely the case. The special exception to this rule is for those on flying status, as there are specific guidelines on which medications aircrew may use.

The clinic strongly advises anyone on flying status to have their physician call when starting a new medication so that our flight surgeons can help them choose an “approved medication.”

This will greatly diminish the impact that a medication might have on an aircrew member’s flying status.

By working together, we can all help to shape a force that is healthy and prepared to meet the mission head on.

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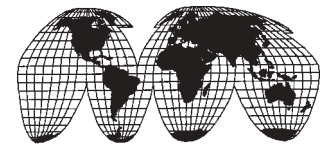
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General to give 'state of the base' address

By SrA. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs staff

In what is considered the start of a new tradition at Grissom, Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy, 434th Air Refueling Wing Commander, will present a special "state of the base" address at 6 p.m. May 4 at the dining facility.

The address is the first of its kind at Grissom and will be given to the members of the Grissom Community Council, 434th ARW personnel, and selected guests.

Gen. Despinoy's presentation will cover the current state of affairs at the base as well as upcoming activities.

"The address will also highlight the personal accomplishments of Grissom personnel," according to Lt. Col. Gary Lockard with the 434th ARW, Public Affairs Office. "For example, Grissom security forces personnel who were deployed to Iraq, and participants

of Operation Iron Falcon," he continued.

"The idea for the "state of the base" address grew out of a joint effort between the Grissom Community Council and Gen. Despinoy, to develop a more formal activity involving the Council, which would have greater educational value," the colonel explained. "Even though the address will largely involve the Council, we anticipate other leaders from the local civilian community will also attend," he added.

The address is also open to all military ranks and members of the local media.



The address will include a multi media presentation utilizing the media system at the new Grissom dining facility, Bldg. 471.

The event will include a dinner prior to the address.

The 434th ARW is the largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve Command.

In addition to being a self-contained combat ready unit, the 434th ARW also has the responsibility to operate and maintain the base.

Further details are available on the Grissom ARB website, <http://www.grissom.afrc.af.mil/> and questions regarding the "state of the base" address should be directed to the PA office at Ext. 3348.

Block 40, from page 1



Photo by SrA. Ben Mota

120 support staff and technicians begin the transformation of the aircraft.

Aircraft are lined up in a fashion resembling an automotive assembly line and stripped to expose all of the old components.

The Block 40 process began as a 160 day procedure four years ago and has been perfected to only 35 days of labor, said Mr. Martin.

After all of the old components are removed from the aircraft, the wiring harnesses, circuit boards, antennas and other equipment needed for the upgrade are installed.

"On the exterior of the plane everything remains the same except for the additional antennas," Mr. Martin explained. "The real differences are noticed when you enter the new cockpit."

"The first thing I noticed when entering the cockpit was the integrated hand controllers on the pilot seats," Captain Perry said.

"I was impressed by the entire process," he added. "You see all of that hard work and attention to detail and know you are going to get a great product when they are done."

The entire upgrade for Grissom fleet is expected to continue through September 2008.

Col. Fritz Linsenmeyer, 434th Operations Group commander, watches as Linda Martinez, a Boeing electrical technician at Kelly Field Annex, Texas, demonstrates how the wiring harness for the KC-135 Block 40 upgrade are assembled. Colonel Linsenmeyer was among the seven-member contingent that traveled to Kelly recently to see first hand how the upgrade process works, and to accept the first upgraded KC-135R Stratotanker from Grissom.

434th SFS readies for rodeo roundup

By SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

The word rodeo may conger up ideas of tough-as-nails cowboys being tossed around by wild bulls and raging stallions, but the word has a whole other meaning for Grissom's personnel.

A group of six determined Airmen from the 434th Security Forces Squadron will compete in the military version of the western tradition during this year's Air Mobility Expeditionary Rodeo.

Instead of cows and cowboys, this rodeo will feature the feats of 45 U.S. Air Force Teams, three U.S. Marine Corps teams, a U.S. Coast Guard team, along with 12 international teams all trained in the various aspects and specialties of airlift operations.

This year's rodeo takes place July 22-28 at McCord Air Force Base, Wash.

Each team will battle it out against other units in their specific career field in a heated competition to see who is the best at what they do, said 1st Lt. Paul Hayes, 434th SFS officer and Grissom's team leader.

"It's like an Olympics for the Air Forces," explained Lieutenant Hayes. "There will be over 55 aircraft involved from all over the world."

The 434th SFS will be the only unit from Grissom to participate in the international event, showcasing their talents, teamwork and skill in three different events, said Tech. Sgt. David Douglass, 434th SFS fireteam member.

Grissom's team consists of six members, three of whom will be chosen to compete in the competition. Those three will be challenged in the areas of combat weapons, endurance and combat tactics, said Lieutenant Hayes.

"It's a well-rounded event," he said. "You can't just have the most physically fit; you have to have people that

are well-rounded to meet the competitions needs."

The combat weapons test will have competitors display their shooting skills in a combat environment as they work their way through a series of stationary and popup targets, Sergeant Douglas said. During the rapid test of accuracy



Lieutenant Hayes

and judgment the team will use a variety of weapons including the M-9 semi-automatic pistol, the M-4 assault rifle and the M-870 shotgun.

"It's a lot more than just a qualifying shoot; if they wanted that they'd just have us send in our 522s," he said, referring to the Air Force Form 522, which logs troops weapon qualification scores.

For the combat tactics portion, the team will be placed in an environment that will force them to use all of their skills, knowledge, training and intuition, said Lieutenant Hayes.

"We will be given an aircraft to protect in an austere location," he explained. "Our biggest challenge will be to continue the mission down to the last man; if a player is removed it will

be up to the next in line to step up and take his place."

Harkening back to his comment about having a well-rounded team, the lieutenant stated that having Sergeant Douglass on their side will be a huge advantage because he is a Raven. Ravens are AMC unique security force members who are specially trained in aircraft protection.

When it comes to the endurance test, the Grissom team is not sure what to expect due to a suspension on all obstacle courses by the Air Force.

"The obstacle course is under suspense for revisions in policy due to safety concerns," said Sergeant Douglass, who added that no matter what the test is, the Grissom team will be ready to meet the challenge.

Preparing for every possibility is no easy task, said Lieutenant Hayes. Teams are not allowed to practice until May to allow for equal training time amongst the teams.

The Grissom team will focus on the basic skills as well as build strong unit cohesion that will enable them to overcome

any obstacle, he added.

"By the time we finish training, everyone in our group will be on the same page," said Sergeant Douglass. "Nothing will be impossible."

Following in the attitude of the sergeant, Lieutenant Hayes stated that he and his entire team are extremely excited, not only to compete but to showcase Grissom's best.

"This is a great opportunity," said Sergeant Douglass. "This event develops great morale, and it's a great opportunity to learn from each other."

Lieutenant Hayes agreed. "You are experiencing new cultures and making new friends that span the globe," he said. "You learn other ways to do things, and you always bring something new back."

Combat dining in

Grissom to host special event

By SrA. Chris Bolen

Public Affairs staff

In keeping with a tradition passed down from ancient times, Grissom will be holding a "Combat Dining In," during the July Unit Training Activity. Grissom's dining in will be from 6 to 10 p.m., July 7, at Dock 6.

Guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Mark Pillar, from the Pentagon.

Uniform will be BDUs, DCUs or flight suits.

Food will be provided, however a troop feeding will be held from 4:30-5:30 p.m. for personnel not planning to attend.

Planning for the Grissom dining in is in its final stages, but there are still opportunities for organizations, people and teams to participate and take the lead in selected events.

Members can contact unit first sergeants for details and tickets.

The history of the dining in ceremony is believed to date from the time of the Roman Legions, when military commanders frequently held banquets to honor individuals and units.

These were victory celebrations to commemorate past feats with a parade of the treasure from their conquests.

The custom is believed to have been adopted in the British Isles, with King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table holding similar celebrations. Over time, the dining in became a custom of the British military and with the settling of America, was carried over to the American military. Today the dining in is a tradition still observed not only by the militaries of Britain, the U.S. but also all the British Commonwealth nations.



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

Home stretch

Master Sgt. Tom Lennon and Senior Airman Zachary Chapin blaze towards the finish during their annual fitness run. Both Airmen are aerospace ground equipment specialists with the 434th Maintenance Squadron.

Diversity dinner scheduled for June UTA

Grissom will host a diversity dinner during the June unit training assembly.

The dinner will kick off at 4 p.m. June 2 in the auditorium in Bldg. 663 with a presentation by Maj. Gen. James Graves.

Following the presentation, dinner will be served in the pavilions behind lodging.

Cost for the dinner has not been finalized, but should be less than \$10.

Our services folks will prepare a variety of food items.

In addition to the presentation and

dinner, we'll be having an 'opportunity fair' with several organizations on base manning booths and having representatives on hand to speak about their group, said Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason, 74th Air Refueling Squadron first sergeant.

Some of the organizations included the wing advisory council, human resources development council, family readiness, critical incident stress management, The Grissom Honor Guard, first sergeants and representatives from this year's family apprecia-

tion day...information will even be available on the upcoming combat dining in, she added.

Civilian personnel members will be available to explain how to apply for air reserve technician and civil service positions.

This will be a great evening for us to really expand our knowledge about ourselves, or coworkers and events that shape our unit, she said.

For more information, please contact Sergeant Mason at Ext. 2791 or email her at Linda.mason@grissom.af.mil.



Photo by Senior Airman Omar Delacruz

Cooking up a treat

Senior Airman Joshua Norvotny Sr., a food service journeyman and baker for the 434th Services Flight prepares a dessert for the April unit training assembly. Airman Norvotny's duties usually begin a day or two prior to a UTA so he can help get things prepared.

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 May 5-6; and June 2-3

Alternate UTAs are May 19-20 and June 23-24.

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. to 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.

Bundles for babies

Grissom's Airman and Family Readiness Center will host a bundles for babies class from 1:30-3:30 p.m. May 5 at the center in Bldg. 431.

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

Participants will learn about what to expect with the arrival of new babies, child passenger safety and suggestions

Heartland Warrior



Photo by SrA. Omar Delacruz

Storm clouds

Dark storm clouds loom over the Grissom mass parking ramp. With Spring's arrival to Indiana, severe weather is a possibility. In addition to the hazards of the weather, May also contains the beginning of the 101 Critical Days of summer which traditionally start on Memorial Day weekend.

for budgeting for a new baby.

Reservists or their spouses who are expecting a baby, or who have had a baby within the last three months are eligible to receive a free bundle of gifts just by attending the class.

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

Future classes are currently being scheduled for August and November.

Deserving Airman

The 434th Operations Support Squadron is looking to fill an intelligence analyst officer position through the deserving Airman program.

Interested Airmen should bring a resume and at least three copies of

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their enlisted performance reports to the 434th OSS conference room located in Bldg. 668 at 9 a.m. June 3.

For more information about the position, contact Lt. Col. Greg Schultz at Ext. 3727.

Outdoor recreation

The 434th Services Flight is having an outdoor recreation open house from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. May 4 and 5.

All valid club members will receive 10 percent discount on all outdoor recreation activities.

For more information, call Ext. 2416.

Museum discount

The Grissom Air Museum is offering

a free five-year membership for recent Reserve retirees.

The membership entitles members to free admission for themselves and immediate family, newsletters and invitations to special events and observances.

For more information, contact the museum at 689-8011.

Web page

Anyone can keep up to date on the latest happenings at Grissom by visiting the public web site.

The address is:

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

For more information, contact the Public Affairs office at Ext. 3348.

NCO pieces together the UTA puzzle

By SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

A puzzler is a master at evaluating, configuring, deciding and deciphering which pieces fit together to make one final picture.

Senior Master Sgt. Dan DeAngulo is the puzzler put in charge of putting together Grissom's unit training assembly.

"I start out by doing a lot of research into events such as the Super Bowl, Brickyard 400 and other holidays," said Sergeant DeAngulo, 434th Military Personnel Flight superintendent. "We have to schedule around events, such as the Brickyard (400), because we run into a huge problem with billeting with so many people in town for the race."

According to the sergeant, logistic reasons such as billeting are not the only reason to schedule around a major event.

"We schedule around the Super Bowl because it's so widely watched," he added. "It's a morale booster for the base."

Barring holidays and major events that would interfere, Grissom's main UTAs are held during the first full weekend of the month. The base's alternate UTAs, which are used as primary drill weekends for the Army and Marine Corps personnel on base,



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Senior Master Sgt. Dan DeAngulo, 434th Mission Support Flight superintendent, is charged with piecing Grissom's annual unit training assembly puzzle together.

fall on the third full weekend of the month.

The final stage in creating a first draft is a crosschecking of the schedule with 4th Air Force's schedule.

"I have to make sure that we have UTAs when 4th Air Force is conducting training or evaluations," said the sergeant. "No matter what, we have to follow their lead."

After Sergeant DeAngulo makes a preliminary schedule, he sends it to the 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, group commanders and to select chief master sergeants. These individuals take that initial layout and provide

feedback, which is used to tweak it to meet Grissom's needs, he added.

After the revisions are made, the new schedule is redistributed to the group commanders and then finally sent to the 434th ARW commander.

This process may seem confusing to some, but for Sergeant DeAngulo, putting this complicated puzzle together is just another day at the office.

"It's complicated because we can't make everyone happy," he said. Grissom personnel who have questions about the UTA schedule should contact their immediate supervisor or first sergeant.

Fiscal year 2008 UTA schedule

Primary UTA

13-14 October 2007
03-04 November 2007
01-02 December 2007
05-06 January 2008
09-10 February 2008
01-02 March 2008
05-06 April 2008
03-04 May 2008
07-08 June 2008
12-13 July 2008
02-03 August 2008
06-07 September 2008

Alternate UTA

20-21 October 2007
17-18 November 2007
08-09 December 2007
26-27 January 2008
23-24 February 2008
15-16 March 2008
19-20 April 2008
17-18 May 2008
21-22 June 2008
19-20 July 2008
23-24 August 2008
13-14 September 2008

