

Heartland

# Warrior

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



Photo by SrA. Carl Berry

## Tanker in the mist

Col. Brian Dobbert, deputy commander of the 434<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, taxi's through a wall of water on his final KC-135 flight. Colonel Dobbert's family and friends gathered with him to celebrate his final flight.

## Grissom home to new tenant organization

*New Emergency Management Reconfiguration Agency operates in Hangar 592*

By SrA. Carl Berry  
Public Affairs staff

Having the right equipment available following an emergency is vital to recovering from it.

A new agency at Grissom will help units do just that.

The Emergency Management Reconfiguration Agency is setting up shop in Hangar 592.

"The Emergency Management Reconfiguration is a project where we will be restructuring unit type codes, which are wartime packages, and sending them to deployed and overseas stations," said Glen Johnson, lead logistics specialist.

The unit will also prepare pallets for state side bases for natural disasters and homeland security purposes.

The purpose of EMR is to replace existing wartime packages with updated equipment, add new requirements and calibrate some of the old equipment.

"All of the equipment will have a barcode. This will make replacing items in the UTC's much faster and will save the government money," said Rex Becker, logistics specialist.

"The idea behind the operation is that no deployed, overseas or homeland unit will be without the necessary equipment to complete their mission," said Mr. Johnson.

Grissom was chosen for this project because of its centralized location, large landing-strip and the command central storage that is

**Please see 'EMR,' page 3**

# The answer to 'why?' in a reservist's life

By Col. Michael Higginson  
940th Mission Support Group

It's 4:45 a.m. Saturday morning of a unit training assembly weekend and you're the only one awake in your house.

You hit the start button on the coffee maker, shower and put on your uniform. You give your spouse or significant other a peck on their still-asleep face, fill up your to-go cup with coffee and hit the road.

Your friends are all still in bed.

You're going to drive an hour and a half, sign in, run a mile and a half, get a typhoid shot, take a career development course test, go to a commander's call, attend a training session or two, work at your duty station for several hours, sign out and drive back home.

The answer to the "why?" in a reservist's life is a little complex.

We do what we do for a combination of reasons that usually adds up to an answer that is larger than the sum of its parts.

We usually enjoy the field we serve in; Security Forces folks usually like law enforcement, pilots like flying, etc... We usually like the people we work with in our reserve assignments. They are a separate set of friends from our civilian friends and, hey, the more friends the better.

We are generally proud of the work we do and it makes us feel good. We can see the results of our labor and it gives us a feeling of worth.

Our civilian friends often admire us for our dedication and we all like admiration. And, yeah, they do pay us



Photo by SrA. Carl Berry

something and don't forget the typhoid shots are free.

But I think the real answer to the "why?" is often very private and much more noteworthy.

I can sum it up for myself with this quick anecdote about my dad.

Dad was a Kentucky boy and former coal miner who joined the Army Air Corp during World War II.

He worked in aircraft maintenance

his entire 30-year career and retired as a Chief Warrant officer.

After he retired he began to suffer terribly from Alzheimer's or dementia.

When I took him golfing for the last time, he had reached the point in his disease where he didn't even recognize me, his oldest child.

At the pro shop on this last golf outing, I paid both of our green fees. As I walked away from the counter, my dad opened his old wallet and took out the twenty dollar bill my mom always made sure he had with him. He gave it to the clerk who had just taken my money.

The clerk told my dad, "Your friend has already paid for your golf."

My dad looked at the clerk as he handed him his twenty and said, "I want you to take this and buy a new American flag.

The one you're flying out front is faded and ragged and when you fly that flag, you should fly it right."

Well, I retrieved Dad's twenty from the clerk on the way out, but we fumbled our way through three holes before we called it quits.

But that morning my beautiful old man, who didn't even recognize his own son or the game he had loved for 50 years, did remember the wonderful pride he felt for the flag that represented his country.

This story makes it a little easier for me to hit the button on that coffee maker on a UTA morning. I also think it helps explain why many of us continue to serve. My dad would be proud of all of our Citizen Warriors and he would thank you as I am.

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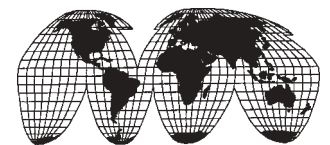
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Grissom Home Page

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## Grissom continues use of decals

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays  
Public Affairs staff

Decal, or no decal...it's a sticky question for Reserve members at Grissom and throughout the command.

While the Air Force has given the approval for installations to no longer require the famous DD Form 2220's on base vehicles, that final decision is up to the installations themselves, according to Master Sgt. J.P. Jones, 434<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron.

At Grissom that means the decals stay – at least for now.

“There's a whole host of problems when you get rid of the decals,” Sergeant Jones said. “For one, other services still require them,” he said. “If you go to another installation you either have to have that decal or get a

temporary visitor pass.”

While Air Force Chief of Staff T. Michael Mosely made the decision, the policy and guidance portion of that decision has not made its way down the chain of command to Grissom.

There are thousands of vehicles on the road that have current and outdated decals on them – and not all still belong to military members or retirees.

Grissom security personnel conduct 100-percent identification checks even with the decals.

“We don't know when the word will come down from headquarters,” Sergeant Jones said, “until then we're going to continue issuing and requiring the 2220's.”

The decal was developed in the 1970s as part of a vehicle registration and traffic management system.



Photo by SrA Carl Berry

**Maj. Shane Toomay, Combined Federal Campaign chairman, holds a t-shirt with this year's theme.**

## CFC underway

By SrA. Carl Berry  
Public Affairs staff

The annual Combined Federal Campaign for federal, military and civilian employees is underway and runs through Dec. 15.

This year's theme for CFC is “Be a Star in Someone's Life.”

“This symbolizes the impact each and every contributor makes on those served by the charitable organizations throughout our giving area, and also nationally and internationally,” said Steve Bonta, Indiana federal coordinating committee chairperson.

Contributions can be made in the form of cash, check, payroll deduction and by going to the local website at [www.cfcindiana.org](http://www.cfcindiana.org).

This year's CFC coordinator for Grissom is Maj. Shane Toomay, 434<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group maintenance officer.

In 2006 Grissom was able to raise more than \$25,000.

“The goal has not been established this year, however we are expecting similar support this year,” said Major Toomay.

Currently volunteers from every organization on base are busy contacting each member of their individual units to afford them the opportunity to participate.



Photo by SrA. Carl Berry

**Rex Becker, left and Troy Phillips, logistic specialists for the Emergency Management Reconfiguration Agency, make room for incoming supplies and equipment as they begin operations in Hangar 592.**

## EMR, from page 1

already located here.

Shipments will continue to come in throughout the year, however, refurbished packages will not be sent out until January 2008.

The office will be made up of contractors -- many of whom are traditional reservists.

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The 49<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Flight will help in the unloading and loading of the equipment on the aircraft.

The project will not affect the everyday operations at Grissom, however, there will be heightened security around the perimeter of the building.



# Grissom to observe flag ceremonies

By Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-  
Woempner

Public Affairs staff

As the sun breaks the morning sky and as the light glistens off the dew on those amber waves of grain, you can hear the familiar sound of reveille. The national anthem plays, and a crisp salute is delivered as Old Glory flies majestically over Grissom.

This was the scene many Airmen were accustomed to when Grissom was an active-duty base, but that image has been gone since 1992; that is until now, said Chief Master Sergeant Peri Rogowski, 434th Air Refueling Wing command chief.

Starting with the November unit training assembly, Grissom will once again honor the flag through reveille, retreat and taps ceremonies.

“We know it’s been a while since Grissom was able to properly recognize our flag and our military traditions,” Chief Rogowski stated in an e-mail to base personnel, which prompted them to take a moment to refresh their memory with the proper protocol procedures for each event.

“When active duty left Grissom back in 1992, they took away our music,” she said. “They had the giant voice system that was capable of playing for the ceremonies.”

The idea to reinstate the military traditions came to Chief Rogowski shortly after she became a command chief, when she herself had a bad experience during a retreat ceremony.

“I was driving on Robins AFB, Ga., right after I got my stripe, everyone was pulling off the road, and I was looking for the ambulance,” the chief explained. “I felt humiliated, and I don’t want anyone else to be embarrassed.”

She explained it was at that moment she realized the value and importance of honoring our flag and our heritage.

“We want to get back to the basics, and getting back to the basics means bringing back some of the things we lost, like our military traditions and protocol,” stated the chief. “(Brig.

Gen. Dean Despinoy) and I both have the same passion about military tradition and honor, and this is one way we can bring those back to Grissom.”

General Despinoy is the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing commander.

However, it isn’t just the general and command chief who likes the idea.

“Our Rising Six is leading the way, because they are reminding the senior NCOs the pride we had when we had just graduated basic training and (technical training) school,” said Chief Rogowski.

The Rising Six is a base organization made up of Airman from the ranks of airman basic to technical sergeant.

Adding to the reasons behind bringing the ceremonies back she explained, “When we deploy with our active-duty and Guard brothers and sisters, we will be able to show them we know what to do and we have the same amount of pride.”

Grissom’s reveille will be a little different than on active-duty bases; at least in relation to time. Unlike most activity-duty bases, where reveille and To the Colors will be played at 7 a.m. and retreat is played at 5 p.m., Grissom has taken a reserve approach to the times, said the command chief. Like other Reserve bases, reveille will be played at 7:30 a.m. and retreat will be played at 4:30 p.m. at Grissom.

Taps, signifying the end of the day, will be played at 10 p.m.

With the new ceremonies in place, Chief Rogowski wants people to feel comfort and pride in honoring the flag.

“Don’t be fearful; we know there’s going to be a learning curve, and there’s nothing to be ashamed of,” she said. “Just keep these basics in mind: when you hear the reveille or retreat music, if you are driving in your car, stop. If your outside and you can see the flag or hear the national anthem, salute the flag until the music ends.”

But it’s not just the actions the chief wants people to follow that are important; it’s the mindset she wants them to have while doing the actions.

## Tribute tips:

**When reveille or retreat is played:** Whether in uniform or not in uniform, at the first sounds of reveille or retreat, stop where you are and turn to face the flag.

In a case where the flag is not visible, turn in the general direction of the flag and, if in uniform, stand at parade rest.

After reveille is sounded, To the Colors is played. Hold the salute until the last note is played.

## Saluting the flag:

**In uniform:** When the reveille or retreat music concludes, come to attention and render a salute when you see the flag being raised or you hear the first note of The National Anthem or To the Colors.

**Not in uniform:** Come to attention and either place your right hand over your heart or salute. Men should remove their hats with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder while their right hand is over their heart.

## Holding the salute:

Remain at attention saluting the flag until the National Anthem has finished playing, or until the flag has been completely raised or lowered, as appropriate.

## Physical training gear:

You do not have to salute when wearing your PT gear.

Use the same procedures as if you weren’t in uniform.

## Driving during reveille or retreat:

At the first note of The National Anthem bring your moving vehicle to a complete stop and put the car in park. Everyone inside the vehicle, including the driver, should remain seated at attention.

## The playing of Taps:

For the purpose of signifying beginning quiet hours, there are no formal protocol procedures.

# CCAF gives Airman credit for service

By SrA. Ben Mota  
Public Affairs staff

Twelve years of hard work paid off for Tech. Sgt. Rachelle Hill, who acquired several college credits throughout her military career and recently transferred them to the Community College of the Air Force.

The result -- an associate's degree in applied science for financial management.

Sergeant Hill, the noncommissioned officer in charge of financial management was one of 16 CCAF graduates from Grissom Air Reserve Base.

As with many Airmen, the sergeant's 11 years on active duty took her to several locations and a variety of colleges around the United States.

Sergeant Hill says that she would take courses at the nearest college, and often had to change colleges when she was reassigned to a different location.

"The Community College of The Air Force allowed me to transfer all of my credits from the different schools I attended, and they also accepted all of my credits," she said.

The CCAF is the only 2-year institution exclusively serving enlisted personnel, said Tech. Sgt. Lisa Fitzgerald, assistant chief of education and training.

The college awards the associate in applied science degrees after a student successfully completes a degree



Photo by SrA Omar Delacruz

**Master Sgt. Tim Hill, 434th Maintenance Squadron, celebrates with his daughter, Tech. Sgt. Rachelle Hill, a financial management technician, following commencement ceremonies for the Community College of the Air Force graduation.**

program designed specifically for an Air Force specialty, she said.

In addition to the college courses Sergeant Hill had taken during her military career, the university also gave her several credits from knowledge attained during text school and other military training, she said.

"Receiving my associate's degree from the CCAF has motivated me to continue my education even further," she said.

Sergeant Hill is currently enrolled at Indiana Wesleyan University, where she is working to complete her bachelor's degree.

## Sixteen Grissom Airmen receive CCAF degrees in October

Sixteen members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing earned received their associates degrees during a Community College of the Air Force graduation commencement held during the October unit training assembly.

The graduates are:

**434th Maintenance Squadron** – Tech. Sgt. Mary Brooks, aviation maintenance technology; and Staff Sgt. Nathan Greathouse, human resource management.

**434th Civil Engineers Squadron** – Staff Sgt. Joseph Cougan Jr., fire  
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science; and Staff Sgt. James Ferrall, fire science.

**434th Air Refueling Wing** – Tech. Sgt. Rachelle Hill, financial management; and Tech. Sgt. Ruth Jensen, financial management personnel.

**72nd Air Refueling Squadron** – Master Sgt. Dean Keller, allied health sciences; and Tech. Sgt. Ken Knight, aircraft operations.

**434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron** – Master Sgt. Lisa Keller, allied health sciences; and Tech. Sgt. Steven Kulick, allied health services.

**434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron** – Tech. Sgt. Scott Kirisits, aviation maintenance technology; and Staff Sgt. John Pedro, aviation maintenance technology.

**49th Aerial Port Flight** – Staff Sgt. Timothy Lyons, transportation; and Staff Sgt. David Mayer, transportation.

**434th Security Forces Squadron** – Staff Sgt. John Serban, criminal justice.

**434th Maintenance Operations Flight** – Staff Sgt. Cynthia Stepp, information management.



## 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 unit training assemblies.

**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 UTAs.

**Upcoming UTAs:** Primary UTAs are Nov. 3-4; and Dec. 1-2.

Alternate UTAs are Nov. 17-18; and Dec. 8-9.

**Worship services** are held in building 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.

## Holiday Dinner

Grissom will hold a special holiday dinner for military retirees at 6 p.m. Nov. 16. at The Club.

The event is co-hosted by the Military Reintree Information Office and is designed exclusively for military retirees, their families, and guests.

The cost is \$12 per person.

Reservations are required.

To make reservations, call 765-688-3348.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

## High wire act

Airman 1st Class Adam Heykoop, 434th Civil Engineers Squadron electrician, left, places a wrench back in his tool bag after working on an electrical pole setup while Staff Sgt. Josh Huggins, 434th CES electrician, looks on. The two Airmen were practicing climbing and maintenance on electrical poles during the October unit training assembly. Until recently, when three poles were installed behind the 434th CES building, electricians were unable to practice their pole skills on base.

## Two honored as Indiana Military Achievement Award winners

By SrA. Chris Bolen  
Public Affairs Staff

Master Sgt. Christy Bartel, 434<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Operations Flight, and Tech Sgt. Logan Phillipe, 434<sup>th</sup> Services Flight, were recently named winners of the Indiana Military Achievement Award.

The award is bestowed annually upon enlisted Indiana National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been



Sergeant Phillipe

judged outstanding by their respective organizations.

Sergeant Bartel, a 19-year Air Force Reserve

veteran, who deployed with the 434<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group to Incirlik AB, Turkey earlier this year, was a bit surprised by the award.

“For me, it is a wonderful honor,” she said.

For Sergeant Phillipe, the award was also special. “This is a huge honor to be recognized in this way,” he said. He recently returned from deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Selection for the IMA is based on ratings in the following categories: military performance during the past year, judgment, reliability, leadership, appearance, attitude and preparation for advancement.

However, each service unit is the ultimate judge of its own recipients and may decide on its own criteria for selection.

For Sergeant Bartel, the award follows closely on the heels of her being named the Maintenance Group senior NCO of the Year. Sergeant Phillipe was named NCO of the Quarter in early 2007.

Presentation of the award is a highlight of the annual Veterans Day Banquet hosted by the Veterans Day Council of Indianapolis. This year, the Council is holding its 43<sup>rd</sup> annual banquet at the downtown Indianapolis Marriott, on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

“I am honored to be a part of the Veterans Day celebration in this manner,” Sergeant Bartel continued. “I am very to receive this award and look forward to the participating in event” she said.

“I really appreciate the opportunity to represent the Air Force Reserve in this manner,” Sergeant Phillipe added.



Sergeant Bartel

### In the limelight

#### Medals

**Meritorious Service Medal**— Master Sgt. John Keller, 434<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Jeffrey Lewis, 434<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Operations Flight; Senior Master Sgt. Brian Brehm, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS; Master Sgt. Richard Miller, 434<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group; Master Sgt. David Ranalli, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS; Senior Master Sgt. Joanne LaFleur, 434<sup>th</sup> MOF; Senior Master Sgt. Robert Lawson, 434<sup>th</sup> MOF; Senior Master Sgt. William Holmes, 434<sup>th</sup> MXS; Lt. Col. Arthur VanHouten, 434<sup>th</sup> MOF; Lt. Col. James Corcoran, 72<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling Squadron; Master Sgt. John Keller, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS; Master Sgt. Gary Sautter, 434<sup>th</sup> MOF; Maj. Mark Demers, 74<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron; Master Sgt. Lorraine Klingshirn, 434<sup>th</sup> Services Flight; Senior Master Sgt. William Hamilton, 49<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Flight; Tech. Sgt. Denise Walker, 434<sup>th</sup> SVF; Maj. Lewis Poore, 72<sup>nd</sup> ARS;

Master Sgt. Laurie Latchaw, 49<sup>th</sup> APF; Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason, 74<sup>th</sup> ARS; Master Sgt. Roger Smithson, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS; Master Sgt. Maurice Reed, 434<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron; and Senior Master Sgt. Gerald Fox; 49<sup>th</sup> APF.

**Air Force Commendation Medal**— Tech. Sgt. Craig Petrowsky, 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing; Tech. Sgt. Michael Weston, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS; Tech. Sgt. Tommie Melton, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS; Tech. Sgt. Sean Mahoney, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW; Master Sgt. Ruth Fair, 434<sup>th</sup> MOF; Tech. Sgt. Christopher Brill, 434<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Angelique Carpenter, 434<sup>th</sup> MOF; Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Davis, 434<sup>th</sup> MOF; Tech. Sgt. Brian Evers, 434<sup>th</sup> MOF; Tech. Sgt. Gary Fuller, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS; and Tech. Sgt. Gregory Spradlin, 434<sup>th</sup> MOF.

**Air Force Achievement Medal**— Senior Airman Omar DelaCruz, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW; Staff Sgt. Christopher Lowery,

434<sup>th</sup> CES; Staff Sgt. Nicholas Ward, 434<sup>th</sup> CES; Tech. Sgt. Rusty Hunter, 434<sup>th</sup> MOF; Senior Airman Traey Corbin, 434<sup>th</sup> SF; and Staff Sgt. April Harper, 434<sup>th</sup> SF.



#### Promotions

**To master sergeant**— Wesley Marion, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW; Christopher Rust, 434<sup>th</sup> MXS; and Duane Border, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS.

**To technical sergeant**— Anthony Krisher, 72<sup>nd</sup> ARS; and Jessica Shaw; 434<sup>th</sup> LRS.

**To staff sergeant**— Jason Lacher, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS; and ChiChi Lu, 434<sup>th</sup> CS.



# Base Honor Guard to perform at Colt's game

By Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner  
Public Affairs staff

Blue Madness is a term used when describing the many blue jerseys, shirts and jackets worn by those attending an Indianapolis Colt's football game, but one group of Grissom Airmen will wear a different kind of blue -- Air Force blue.

These Airmen, from the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, are a part of Grissom's Base Honor Guard and will perform during the opening ceremonies at the Colt's game Nov. 18, said Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason, 74<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron first sergeant.

This is a unique event for the Base Honor Guard, said Sergeant Mason, who is also an honor guard member. The primary mission of the Grissom Honor Guard is to provide military funeral honor for active-duty members, retirees and veterans who served honorably in the United States Air Force.

"Before the game, we will march out on the field and present the colors," she said. "As the national anthem is sung, all the flags except the American flag will be lowered."

Sergeant Mason said she is excited to be performing along side their active-duty counterparts, and that doing so demonstrates the total force



concept to the general public.

"We all wear the same uniform, we're all fighting the same fight, and it's seamless when you put us side by side," she said. "That's exhibited on a daily basis when we come together, and this is one way to show how we come together to pay respects to our flag."

And it was the active-duty who asked for the Reserve honor guard to be a part of the ceremonies.

"I was contacted by a representative from the Pentagon requesting our unit to participate after our honor guard's name was given to him," she said. "He said he had heard great things about our honor guard and wanted a Reserve unit to participate. I think it was

important to them to show that we are a total force."

Not only do honor guard members get to participate in events like this, they serve the entire Air Force and its members, and that is what Sergeant Mason said she is really proud to be a part.

"The honor guard portrays the core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do," she said. "We show integrity, because we believe in what we do and we protect it. We show service because we serve those who have served us. We show excellence because we understand what it means to be a total team player, with leadership, commitment and service."

As far as the ceremony at the Colt's game goes, Sergeant Mason said she wants to allow everyone a chance to honor the flag and reflect on what it means.

"What better venue to show respect to the flag and to represent the Air Force, the Reserve and our wing?" she asked. "We are honoring that flag because of the freedoms we have today, and we don't ever want folks to forget, this flag is the reason why we're here."

While they may be wearing blue for different reasons, going blue crazy is one thing both the Honor Guard and the Colt's fans have in common.

## Dialing up rather than in key to getting weather info

By Lt. Col. Gary Lockard  
Public Affairs staff

The next time severe winter weather causes a delay in reporting times for Grissom employees, they don't have to idly sit by the radio or TV and wait for updates.

Thanks to a consolidated system, base employees simply call 1-800-242-8650 to receive the latest information.

The new system saves time and manpower and helps employees receive the information quicker and accurately.

Even though Grissom has had a 1-800 number for a few years, most employees focused their attention on announcements on local and regional

radio and TV stations. Calling 1-800-242-8650 was not their primary way of obtaining weather delay information.

"In the past, we would call the radio stations, which was very labor intensive," explained Master Sgt. Joe Molyneux, of the 434<sup>th</sup> ARW command post controller. "Even if people heard it on the radio, we would still receive calls into the command post."

When winter weather warnings are received by command post controllers, they contact key personnel, such as the wing commander. Controllers then coordinate with security forces personnel who relay how much snow is actually on the ground. If snow and ice keep falling, the wing commander then makes a decision regarding delays.

Within minutes of receiving word from the wing commander of a delay, a recorded announcement is placed on the 1-800 number.

Often, base employees would tune to their favorite radio or TV station and end up waiting for an extended period while long lists of schools, organizations and business were read by an announcer or scrolled by on a TV screen. The 1-800 number allows base employees to get the information they need with a quick and simple telephone call.

The 1-800-242-8650 number has more than 25 lines so it can accommodate a heavy volume of calls. "It is a faster, more positive system," concluded Sergeant Molyneux.