

Heartland

Warrior

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

Grissom Airmen, Stratotankers deploy

Unit supports two locations

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
434th ARW Public Affairs

Personnel and KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft from Grissom ARB recently departed the base for deployment locations in the Pacific and Southwest Asia.

The 434th Air Refueling Wing is the largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve Command. Its primary mission is to provide mid-air refueling to fighter, bomber and cargo aircraft.

"My focus is on accomplishing our assigned missions and the morale, welfare and safety of each person involved," said Lt. Col. Mark Sigler, deployment commander, and Kokomo resident.

"The personnel at Grissom are exceptional at performing their duties, and I've found that if I focus on the people and what they need, they'll take care of the mission."

As commander, Colonel Sigler's primary duty is to help plan then accomplish all that is required to move people, aircraft and equipment to the deployed location and then set-up operations.

"In a way, I'm like the head coach of a huge football team," he added. "In fact, it takes a tremendous team effort to do what we do and I feel privileged to be a part of it."

More than 200 personnel are taking part in the deployments along with a small number of aircraft. Once at their deployment location, the personnel



Photo by Master Sgt. Kevin Gruenwald

A B-52 Stratofortress from Minot Air Force Base, N.D. moves into a pre-contact position to receive fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker over the Pacific Ocean during a recent exercise. Grissom Airmen and aircraft are currently deployed to Andersen AFB, Guam, and another location in Southwest Asia.

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How do you define your profession?

By Lt. Col. Michael Logar
5th EAMXS commander

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- How do you define your profession?

Not too long ago in my previous job, I was invited to a unit's luncheon with fellow Airmen as one of the members in the official travel party.

You know the type of luncheon ... a visiting group is in town and the unit wants to entertain them for a little while with the troops.

The topics at these events usually range from the latest weapon system to how we are taking care of Airmen. These are all important and relevant topics that allow additional insight we may not have had prior to the event.

However, at this particular luncheon, the discussion turned to a person's profession.

The question came from a young captain and was rather simple: how do you become successful in our career field?

You see, the captain was concerned that his chosen career field was not poised for success due in part to a number of factors well beyond his control. My mind raced for some good explanation while other members in my party gave their answers.

I searched to recall the latest promotion statistics and some manner of material learned in professional military education textbooks and lectures. Yet, for all this background, it was a rather dry and abstract explanation that swirled in the back of my mind. I needed something a little more con-

crete.

Then it dawned on me.

We all wear two hats as members of the military.

We have a technical badge that we wear on the uniform and we have our rank.

With each of these comes a different set of expectations.

If I'm an aircraft maintainer, I am obligated to be the best maintainer I can be.

Progression and success is measured by skill level designation or by the adornment on my technical badge. Instructing at a schoolhouse is another distinction, and becoming an evaluator in your specialty sets you apart from your peers. Still we all know that technical competence is only part of the story.

It only gets you so far.

The other hat is symbolized by our rank.

With our rank we are expected to lead at all levels as an enlisted member or officer.

We are expected to mentor, praise, discipline and coach those we supervise. It is not easy and it takes time, but it is rewarding.

Our rank embodies those leadership aspects found in textbooks, the core values, and those practiced daily by others around us.



Charging ahead at each opportunity and phase in our career gives us the foundation for promotion.

Each promotion selection recognizes that we've demonstrated the potential to serve in a higher grade, and we are correspondingly ready for more responsibility.

To answer the captain's question -- really a question about how we define our profession -- is a composite of our technical competence and our leadership responsibility symbolized by our rank.

To succeed, you have to work hard at both aspects.

If your career field is undergoing changes, remember that technical competence is the foundation, but demonstrated leadership at all levels will take you far in the Air Force, no matter the obstacle. (AFNS)

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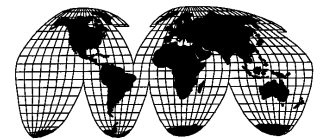
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Deploy, from page 1



Photo by Master Sgt. Kevin J. Gruenwald

Tech. Sgt. Larry Flook, a KC-135R crew chief, marshals in a Stratotanker at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Grissom Airmen and aircraft have been operating out of the Pacific island since early January.

will support current Air Force operations.

For Peru resident Master Sgt. Bob Sucharski, a maintenance operations coordinator, the deployment means doing some shuffling of family members.

"My daughter and son-in-law and grand children will actually move into my home and help me out while I'm deployed," Sergeant Sucharski said. "My other children will be with their mother. I will miss them all dearly."

During the deployment Sergeant Sucharski will work in maintenance plan scheduling and documentation as his primary duties, and assist in other areas as need.

"The week between Christmas and New Year's is not a preferred time to deploy," Colonel Sigler said, "but after 23 years of service, my family is very self-sufficient and accustomed to my absences. As usual, our friends and the people in Kokomo have been extremely supportive. There is great support for the military in this town

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Senior Master Sgt. Joe Allen, 434th Air Refueling Wing financial management office, briefs unit members completing a deployment processing line. Members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing departed for two different deployment locations. The deployers are slated to return in the Spring.

and it is deeply appreciated by me and my family."

The aircraft and personnel will return to Grissom sometime during the late Spring. Activities of this nature

are not new to the 434th Air Refueling Wing as similar deployments involving Grissom personnel and aircraft have taken place in each of the past four years.

PA reservist named Officer of the Year

By Staff Sgt. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs Staff

It didn't take long for Capt. Kelly Howard to make an impression at Grissom.

The public affairs officer was selected as the 434th Air Refueling Wing's Officer of the Year in 2008 – her first full year at the base.

"Even though I've been a reservist now for 11 years, this was my first year as a traditional reservist in a unit," she said. "I really missed the camaraderie of a unit when I was an individual mobilization augmentee. I felt like I was back in my active duty days here because it was a fast-paced year with so many great opportunities."

"Capt. Howard has been a tremendous addition to the Public Affairs office," said Lt. Col. Gary Lockard, of the Grissom PA office. "She has a wealth of experience at the base level, Secretary of the Air Force level and deployed locations."

Captain Howard is a traditional reservist with almost 20 years of military service. Her previous assignments include serving as base newspaper editor for the 92nd Bomb Wing at Fairchild AFB, Wash., Travis AFB, Calif., and Eglin AFB, Fla. After completing officer commissioning in 2000 she was assigned to the Secretary of the Air Force National Civic Outreach office in Chicago, Ill.



Capt. Kelly Howard

In 2006 she volunteered for deployment to Southwest Asia, where she served as the chief of public affairs with the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing.

"My deployment was a fantastic experience," she exclaimed. "I had 8 years on active duty and seven in the reserves by then but I never really had the chance to do my job in a wartime setting. I think it made my job feel more 'real' or valuable because I could see the bigger impact I was having on the Air Force versus a single office or base.

"Deploying made me more comfortable in my role as a leader," she added. "It was an opportunity to focus on

issues that really mattered like meeting the mission requirements, but also on prioritizing so my staff stayed mentally healthy as it was their first deployment as well."

The Officer of the Year Award is given to service members who demonstrate exceptional expertise, professionalism, and advanced leadership skills.

She has put those skills and experience to good use since arriving at Grissom in 2007 according to Colonel Lockard. "When she joined the unit she quickly picked up responsibility for a number of key areas including assuming leadership of the PA Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection planning team," he continued.

The EORI is a key test and measurement of the wing's abilities.

Captain Howard has also been heavily involved in the local Grissom Community Council.

She led a group of civic leaders on a special three-day trip to key military installations in Florida to enhance their knowledge and understanding of Defense Department operations.

"Grissom is busier than the surrounding community might realize, but each time we interact with them like we did on this trip, we have a chance to educate them," she said. "I have the best of both worlds – I get to continue to serve at a pace I can sustain and have a civilian life."

Former ARPC commander takes reigns of 4th AF

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. -- Hundreds of people here watched Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan turn over command of 4th Air Force to Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree Jan. 25.

Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner Jr., chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, presided.

After relinquishing command, General Duignan retired from the Air Force with 36 years of service.

Before accepting command of 4th Air Force, General Crabtree was commander of the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

He commanded 4th Air Force's 446th Airlift Wing at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., from August 2003 to September 2007.



Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree

He has served in a variety of positions during his Reserve career, including vice commander and commander of operations groups, Reserve

adviser to the Air Mobility Command commander.

At the ceremony, General Crabtree said, "We need to learn and align with the priorities of our new administration, especially in terms of budgeting for our mission needs in the current economy.

"I know the men and women of 4th Air Force are working hard globally to accomplish the mission," he said. "I pledge to be your strongest advocate, to help you be our best and most effective organization for today's Air Force." (AFRCNS)

'Shirt' repeats as annual award winner

By Staff Sgt. Ben Mota
Public Affairs staff

While receiving the award of 434th Air Refueling Wing First Sergeant of the year could be considered a great accomplishment in and of itself, receiving the award two years in a row would be even better.

Master Sgt. James Carter, First Sergeant of the 434th Maintenance Squadron, received the award for the second year in a row.

"I'm sold on being able to help those around me," said Sergeant Carter with a smile on his face. "I get a good feeling for being able to provide assistance to those in need, just as someone did for me when I joined the Air Force".

First sergeants are responsible for the morale, welfare and conduct of all the enlisted members in a squadron



Senior Master Sgt. James Carter and play an important role as the chief advisers to the squadron commander concerning the enlisted force.

These responsibilities are intensi-

fied during deployments, he said.

During a recent temporary duty assignment to Turkey, the Sergeant Carter was responsible for the quality of life issues for the Airmen under his supervision.

Carter wanted to ensure that his Airmen had all of the accommodations to keep them focused on their mission and ensure effectiveness in the work force, he said.

Sergeant Carter has been in the Air Force Reserve for over 20 years and is a member of the Chicago Police Department.

In addition he recently completed a master's degree in business management at St. Xavier University, Chicago and is now working on another Masters of Science in business management from Xavier University and a doctorate in international business from Argosy University, Chicago.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

Thanks Shirt!

Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason (left), formally of the 74th Air Refueling Squadron, now with the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, is given a plaque award for her many years of service as a first sergeant. The award was presented by Senior Master Sgt. Sandy Dye, 434th Operations Support Squadron first sergeant, during the January First Sergeant's Council meeting.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Bolen

Supply and demand

Airman First Class Jeremiah Walters, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron communications navigation systems specialist, left, points out an item he is requesting to Amy Stoeckert of the IEU service store during the January UTA.

Northcom: Anticipating threats key to success

WASHINGTON -- Anticipating threats is the key to readiness, the chief of the combatant command responsible for the military role in homeland defense said.

Gen. Victor Renuart Jr., commander of U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, said that when he took over the reins two years ago, he modified the Northcom mission statement to reflect this notion.

"I added the word 'anticipate' in there, and that really changed the culture of our command," General Renuart told an audience at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University here this week. "We anticipate each day what we might be asked to do."

He said his commands monitor 35 to 40 daily "events" across the country that potentially could require assistance.

"If you wait to be a responder, you will always be late -- you will always be playing catch-up. We can't afford

to do that in our country," General Renuart said.

Northcom, which was established about a year after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, is responsible for an area of operations that includes the United States, Canada and Mexico. It serves as a "one-stop-shopping" point for military support in case of an attack on American soil.

Recently, Northcom served as one of the elements supporting the U.S. Secret Service in providing security for the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Some 6,000 active-duty military and 9,300 National Guard members participated in the event that boasted between 2 and 3 million attendees.

"All of it required detailed planning across a variety of agencies to ensure that we had the right capability in the right place in the event we needed it," he said. "The good news is we didn't."

But one advantage of such preparation and anticipation is that Northcom personnel were able to administer

medical treatment to some 300 people. "We happened to be in the right place," General Renuart said.

The general emphasized that Northcom fastidiously adheres to the rules outlined in the Posse Comitatus Act, a federal law that restricts the government from using the military for law enforcement.

"There are specific roles for the military, and specific roles when the military should not be involved," the general said. "Our art form is to navigate amongst those to ensure that we do respect the laws of our country, that we do respect the rights of individuals, and that we ensure that we only provide support to the agencies that are tasked by our Constitution to enforce the laws of our nation."

He added that cyber warfare -- acts of aggression carried out over computers or the Internet -- is making the definition of war more ambiguous.

"It's harder to define what an act of war might be in the cyber world," he said.

Honor Guard openings

The Grissom Honor Guard is recruiting men and women to become a part of this elite team.

Selected individuals will participate in military funeral honors, retirement ceremonies and various community service activities.

Members must meet certain criteria and be available to attend a week long training class at Grissom March 2-6.

For further information, contact SMSgt Linda Mason at linda.mason@grissom.af.mil

MPF hours change

The 434th Military Personnel Flight has changed their customer service hours on main unit training assemblies to allow for in-house training opportunities.

The MPF customer service is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays, and from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays.

Anyone with questions, or needing more information, should call the customer service section by calling Ext. 3909.

Yellow Ribbon Program

The Air Force Reserve Command's Office of Deployment Cycle Support is charged with ensuring that deploying reservists and their families are well taken care of under the command's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.



The program requires that support and reintegration programs are provided in all phases of deployment. One provision of the program requires units to hold reintegration activities at 30-, 60- and 90-day intervals for all members who were mobilized or deployed for 90 days or more.

Key agencies for this program include Chaplain, Family Readiness, Financial Management, Legal Office, Services and Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

Denied!

Daniel Hutchinson, 434th Communication Squadron, has his shot blocked by Nathaniel Greathouse 434th Seasoning Training Flight during first round action of Grissom's annual basketball tournament. The Trainees beat the Communicators 25-23 to advance.



Photo by Senior Airman Carl Berry

Lt. Col. Gary Lockard, left, focuses a camera as he records annual award winners for an episode of 'The Beat.' The program is one of many events, listings and news clips shown on Grissom TV -- or GTV.

GTV brings local programming to Grissom

Senior Airman Carl Berry
Public Affairs staff

Lights...Camera...Action! Grissom Television is up and running.

GTV is the local commander's access channel, which has scheduled programs throughout the day.

"The goal of GTV is to provide news and information to the Grissom community," said Lt. Col. Gary Lockard, 434th Air Refueling Wing chief of public affairs.

The programs that can be found on GTV are "The Beat," "Today's Air Force" and "Grissom News."

The Beat is a locally produced interview program that focuses on the newsmakers, personalities and people of Grissom.

During the month of January the program features an interview with Dan Harshman, Civilian Supervisor of the Year, and Penny Pearson, Civilian Non-Supervisor of the Year. Coming in February there will be interviews with the annual military award winners.

The Beat airs daily at 7:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m.

"Today's Air Force" is produced weekly by the Air Force News Service, which features a variety of stories dealing with Air Force people, technology and operations. It airs daily right after 'The Beat.'

Finally, the "Grissom News" segment contains announcements and news briefs on events and activities taking place at the base. Grissom News airs at various times throughout the day.

"GTV is a great source to retrieve information, it's quick, easy and at your fingertips," said Tech Sgt. Douglas Hays, 434th ARW public affairs superintendent.

To access GTV, simply click on the Grissom Internet Protocol Television logo on your computer desktop, and click Grissom Television. Use channel 005 or 105 for low resolution. The channel includes both Air Force and locally produced programs and information.

Grissom is the first unit in the Air

Force Reserve Command to develop and utilize such a program.

"There are a number of bases that have IPTV, but Grissom is the first to have local programming," said Colonel Lockard.

IPTV is a program that provides the opportunity to streamline news and video through the internet.

The initial investment for GTV was \$20,000, which included a character generator, a video camera, a video editing system and stand alone hard drives for video archives.

Also, the Air Force Band from Washington D.C., gave permission to use their music, which is used for various production purposes including 'The Beat' and Grissom news.

"Public Affairs would really like to see people access GTV, because of the valuable information that is available," said Colonel Lockard.

Any groups, offices, squadrons or organizations on base that have ideas for GTV may email Colonel Lockard with those ideas.

And...Cut!