

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

## AFRC commander visits deployed Airmen



Photo by Senior Airman Andrew Satran

**SOUTHWEST ASIA --** Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner, Jr., (left) commander of the Air Force Reserve Command, is briefed by Senior Master Sgt. Pat Devine during a tour of a KC-135R Stratotanker. General Stenner conducted a multi-base tour of the Air Forces Central area of responsibility. Sergeant Devine is a member of the 434th Air Refueling Wing currently deployed to Southwest Asia.

**SOUTHWEST ASIA --** The commander of Air Force Reserve Command visited with Grissom Airmen deployed as part of a multi-base tour of the Air Forces Central in Southwest Asia.

Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner Jr., who is also chief of Air Force Reserve, said his tour is allowing him to see an Air Force triad that's succeeding in accomplishing the mission.

"What I'm seeing is an Air Force that's hard at work and uses three components," he said. "It uses the Regular Air Force, Reserve and Air National Guard to do it. All three components are organized, trained and equipped to the same standards. Every job that I see is executed seamlessly.

"Our Air Force reservists are hard at work, and I'm very proud of our Citizen Airmen," he said. "They're here on their time, they volunteered to be a part of our Air Force Reserve, and they volunteered to deploy and do what they have been trained to do as part of that three-component Air Force. I couldn't be prouder."

Grissom is wrapping up a deployment that took them to two locations Southwest Asia, and also to Guam.

Grissom's Senior Master Sgt. Pat Devine, and others are assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

Sergeant Devine had the opportunity to brief General Stenner on Grissom maintainers' ability to provide maximum flexibility to meet all refueling needs.

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# Trust makes our enlisted force the best

By Gen. Stephen Lorenz  
Commander, AETC

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- I had the distinct honor recently to attend the Airman's Coin Ceremony at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

It is always a privilege for me to meet the terrific men and women who train and are trained in what seems like a timeless setting.

That day, the crystal blue sky melted into the field of blue-suited trainees who proudly marched onto the parade field.

They were surrounded by thousands of family and friends, all having traveled to Lackland to witness something special. Everyone in attendance sat, buttons busting with pride, eyes straining to catch a glimpse of their son, daughter, brother, sister, husband, wife or friend. The American flag presided, waving prominently on top of the pole.

Like everyone else, I sat at the ceremony marveling at the 745 trainees, ready to become Airmen in the world's greatest Air Force.

For Lackland, this scene replays itself every week, year-round.

For trainees that afternoon, however, it was their day, and I felt it as soon as the first flight marched onto the pad. I was especially proud of these Airmen. They decided to join something bigger than themselves and defend our nation and its ideals. Within months, many of these Airmen will be sent forward into harm's way.

I have no doubt that they will succeed. You see, our Airmen, non-



General Lorenz

commissioned officers and senior NCOs are the finest in the world and it doesn't happen by accident.

We are a reflection of American society, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Basic military training is a terrific example of our Air Force's pursuit of excellence.

The training builds upon the foundation influenced by mothers, fathers, grandparents and teachers across the nation, emphasizing the Air Force core values: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. It transforms young Americans into members of the Air Force family, a motivated team of warrior Airmen.

Why is our enlisted force the best?

In a single word: trust.

When an NCO from security forces tells me that the base is secure, I know without a doubt that all is safe.

Before flying, I always review the forms documenting maintenance actions on that aircraft.

The SNCO's signature at the bottom of the forms is all I need to see to have complete confidence in the safety of that airplane.

I liken it to the cell phone commercial many of you have probably seen on television.

Although there may be a single man or woman standing in front, he or she speaks with the voice of thousands standing behind.

A successful team is one that works together, enabled and empowered by trust.

Where does the trust come from?

It starts with our integrity, which is tested daily and without which a team cannot operate successfully.

Basic training reinforces it with the discipline, initiative and competency essential to defend our nation and its ideals.

Technical training continues the theme and is the next journey for these

Later, these Airmen will become NCOs and SNCOs and the Air Force will depend on them to make difficult decisions -- the "tough calls" that years of experience and training enable them to make.

All of us have a job to do and no job is more important than another.

One terrific example is Tech. Sgt. Matt Slaydon.

In October 2007, while leading an explosive ordnance disposal team to investigate a suspicious road sign in Iraq, Sergeant Slaydon sustained extensive injuries when a bomb ex-

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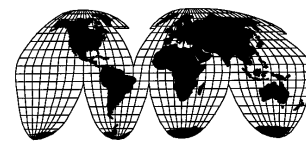
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## Visit, from page 1



Photo by Senior Airman Andrew Satran

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Bond and Senior Airman Benjamin Bond, KC-135R crew chiefs who also happen to be father and son, stand in front of an aircraft at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. The father and son team are deployed from Grissom in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa.

General Stenner said he wanted every Air Force reservist fighting in the area of responsibility to know how proud he was of them and that the contributions they make every day are vitally important.

"Thank you ever so much for being part of this Air Force Reserve and for stepping forward and doing a very difficult job around the world as part of that three-component Air Force," he said. "And thank you very much for

the personal sacrifice you are making with your family time. Please tell your families how very much we appreciate them, and tell your employers that we thank them so much for their support." (AFRCNS)

## Airmen, from page 2

ploded two feet away from him.

As Matt later said during his Purple Heart ceremony, "It's a rare thing for a person to find a job and career that gave them great, great joy.

Every day I loved coming to work, and after a short period of time, I gained a great sense of purpose from what I did. I know that those days are coming to an end for me ... I think probably what I'll miss the most is this Air Force family and this great sense of purpose."

Sergeant Slaydon gets it.

All tasks have purpose and even the least glamorous are mission essential.

We must all follow his lead and embrace our function, our purpose.

On our Air Force team, everyone's

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ability to perform their function is what builds trust and makes the machine run so smoothly.

Ultimately, we all share the same goal -- the defense of our nation and its ideals. That's the common denominator, regardless of rank, where trust and mutual respect are paramount.

At every base, in every shop and office, Air Force leadership, both officer and enlisted, consistently sets the example.

We are all role models and always on the job. Our Airmen live up to these expectations every day.

Back at Lackland, the coin ceremony concluded with the Airman's Creed. All 745 spoke with a single voice,

"I am an American Airman. I am a

*warrior. I have answered my nation's call." It was absolutely captivating; the crowd hung on every word. As the newly coined Airmen finished the creed, their voices rose in unison for the last line, "... And I will not fail!"*

The last words echoed across the field and stayed with me.

I knew each of the new Airmen stood that afternoon wondering if they were ready, eager to be tested. In reality, they had just passed their first big test with flying colors.

Other tests and challenges will follow, but these new Airmen will face their challenges as members of the Air Force team. I have unwavering trust in our team -- together we will not fail!

## Mentoring program gets modernized

By Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle  
Secretary of the Air Force PA

WASHINGTON -- As Air Force officials continue to modernize the processes to meet 21st century mission requirements, manpower and personnel force development officials have taken a hard look at the service's mentoring program to increase its effectiveness.

"Our mentoring program has existed on paper for many years, but without the right tools to exercise the program, it has remained dormant," said Col. Harrison Smith, deputy director of force development. "With the advent of deliberate force development, the need for focused mentoring has reemerged."

The revised Air Force Instruction 36-3401, Air Force Mentoring, will include the Air Force mentoring program's goals and benefits, expectations of the mentor and mentee and an electronic development tool that enlisted, officer and civilian members can use.

"My Enlisted Development Plan" provides a modern, web-based approach for enlisted Airmen to manage their career development. Available via the Air Force Portal, MyEDP is a "one-stop-shopping" electronic toolkit that enables Airmen to designate their mentor or mentee, collaborate with peers, and track their professional career progression. Air Force officials plan to roll out the officer and civilian versions of this program by fall 2009.

"We believe this is the right time to emphasize MyEDP, a product that more than 145,000 Airmen have already put to use," Colonel Smith said. "Here we are adapting to an emerging new generation of 'millennial' Airmen and leveraging new technology to meet our Air Force needs."

Chief Master Sgt. Angela Marsh, Air Force enlisted force development chief, said MyEDP allows members to grant mentoring privileges to mentors they designate.

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Heartland Warrior



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

### Packin' up

Senior Airman Michael Meyer, financial management technician, 434th Air Refueling Wing, prepares to do a pallet build-up with equipment that will be used for a training deployment up for an off base training exercise.



# Grissom named tree city for eighth time!

For the eighth year in a row, the Arbor Day Foundation has bestowed Grissom ARB with the title of "Tree City USA" for its dedication and commitment to community forestry.

The Air Force Reserve Command base was one of 61 Indiana towns and cities that were recognized for their outstanding management of urban forestry.

Grissom, home to the 434th Air Refueling Wing, is commanded by Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy. The base's "Tree City USA" streak began in 2001.

"It is nice to see the base take pride in pursuing a certification like Tree City," stated Cory Walters, a biological scientist at Grissom. "A Tree City certification shows the community cares about its appearance and its quality.

Four major criteria must be met in order to receive the prestigious "Tree City USA" title. These include having a tree management board with members who meet on a regular basis, a community tree ordinance, spend at least \$2 per person on tree related work and have an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"In 2008 we concentrated on tree maintenance and care instead of planting," explained Mr. Walters. "The maintenance included mulching, pruning, tree removal and overall tree



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

From the left, Nathan Kraemer, firefighter, Col. Betty Bowen, 434th Support Group commander, Howard Lawson, fire crew chief, Jackie Mantravadi, bio-environmental engineer, and Cory Walters, biological scientist, all participate in a ceremonial tree planting celebrating Arbor Day. The planting took place near the CE gazebo.

quality. Some trees were removed and a few were planted, but the overall appearance of the trees is what was concentrated on. This included pruning to properly shape the trees while they grow; to help prevent problems as they age. This coming year I foresee more of the same. The majority of the

work will be centered on tree quality."

Grissom will be formally recognized by the Division of Forestry later this year. The National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters help sponsor the program, which now includes more than 3,000 Tree Cities nationally.

## Mentor, from page 4

"A mentor can access the mentee's MyEDP career information, providing a great starting point for a mentor to share knowledge, experience, and guidance, based on current, relevant career input from the Airman," the chief said.

MyEDP features discussion forums that are especially popular with junior enlisted Airmen and NCOs, and an avenue for peer-to-peer mentoring to occur. Forum topics range from uniform wear to assignment information to advice on mitigating conflict with supervisors.

"The forums allow enlisted Airmen to communicate with both their peers  
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and more experienced enlisted personnel, all over the Air Force," Chief Marsh said. "I often see command chiefs, first sergeants and other senior non-commissioned officers participating in the forums, answering questions and offering advice based on their experiences."

"In my Air Force experience, you're being mentored every day," said Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman, a reservist and former command chief of the 459th Air Refueling Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. "Whether asking about family, asking about promotion and educational goals or offering advice for a range of life issues, that's

mentoring, and most of us do it daily on some level."

Air Force officials recognize today's Airman is less inclined to paperwork and much more tech savvy than in years' past. Many are more comfortable using technology to communicate and share information versus having face-to-face conversations.

"While we don't want to replace face-to-face interaction, we do see online tools such as MyEDP as a way to facilitate and enhance the mentoring process," Chief Marsh said. "It comes as no surprise that MyEDP's most popular features include online mentoring capabilities and discussion forums." (AFNS)



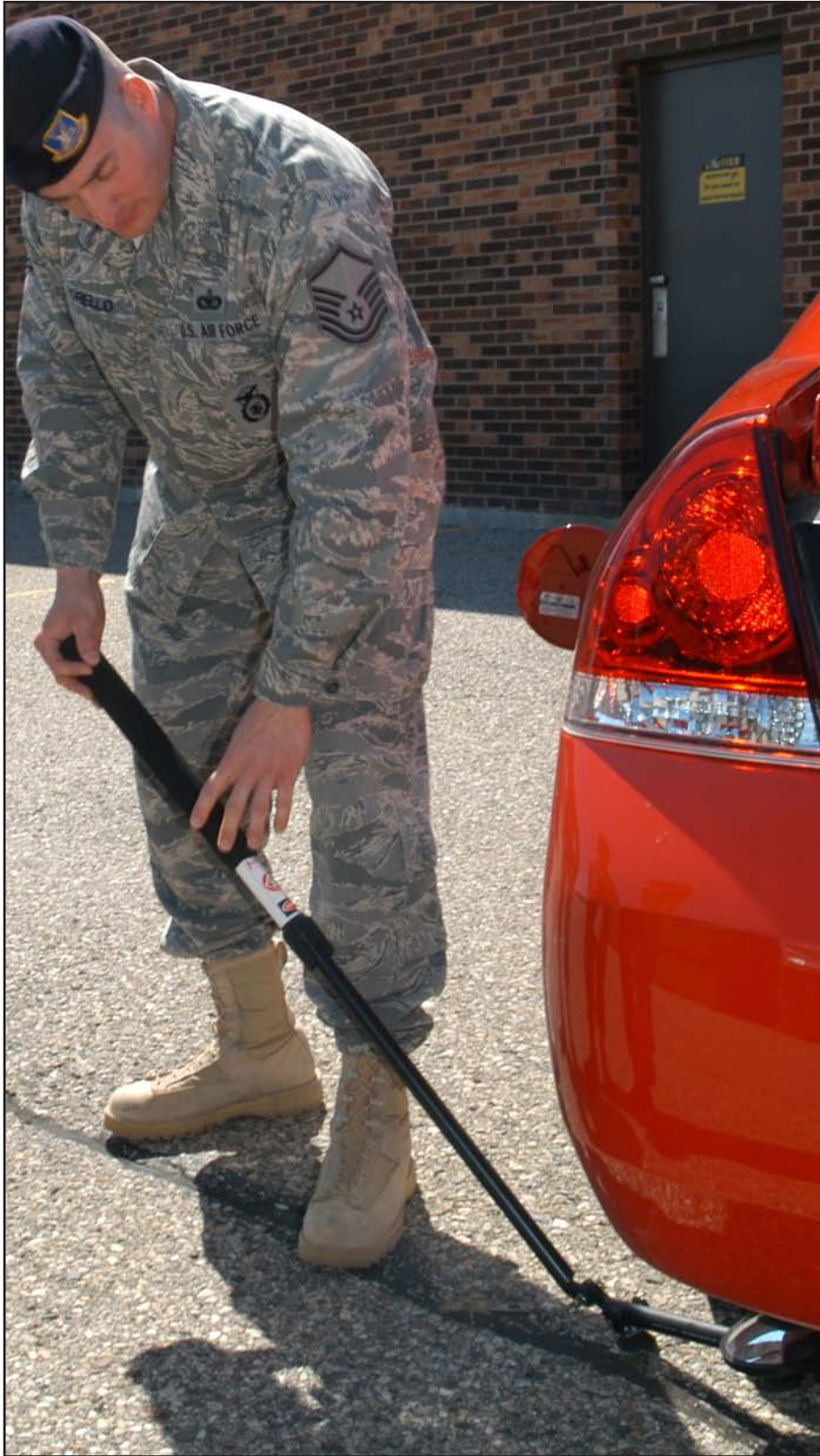


Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Mota

## Detecting IEDs

Master Sgt. Stephen Borello, a training instructor with the 434th Security Forces Squadron, ensures that a mock improvised explosive devices has been placed in the proper location. This is done as part of the hands on portion of the search techniques and IED detection course. Airmen will then be required to find the device and use proper protocol to handle the scene.

## Ancillary training

Senior leaders issued new policy guidance in March to streamline ancillary training and expeditionary skills training programs.

Two new guidance memorandums revise Air Force Instruction 36-2201, Training Development, Delivery and Evaluation, and address four new categories of ancillary training: annual Total Force awareness, selected force training, event-driven training and expeditionary skills training.

The new policy on ancillary training, signed March 26, establishes responsibilities for program management and describes the gatekeeper process for vetting ancillary training requirements.

The new guidance also includes a list of ancillary training no longer required, including Constitution Day training, crime prevention, family care plan brief, local area survival training, equal opportunity for supervisors of civilians, cultural awareness and initial security orientation-uncleared version.

For more information, the new policy memos are available at the e-publishing Web site, <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil>, under AFI 36-2201, Volume 1, Training Development, Delivery and Evaluation. (AFNS)

## Retiree Activities Office

To better reflect its mission and outreach to the local military retiree community, the Retiree Information Office has changed its name to the Retiree Activities Office.

Lead by Jim Wright, president, and Brenda Krause, secretary, the Retirees Activities Office is located in room 107 of Building 596.

For more information on the office call them at Ext. 3002.

## Family readiness

The Airman and Family Readiness Center has an opening for a Readiness NCO.

Readiness NCO's provide assistance to service members and their families with planning and preparation for deployments.

Interested members must be an E-6  
**Heartland Warrior**





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

### **Vehicle inspection**

Tech. Sgt. Mark Jasek, a fireteam leader with the 434th Security Forces Squadron, conducts a vehicle inspection of a lift truck before it is allowed on base. Security members perform an average of 12 - 20 vehicle inspections daily. Two-man teams work together to provide not only a physical inspection of the vehicle, but also specific information about every commercial vehicle coming on base.

or above, have good interpersonal skills and excellent written and oral communication skills.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Nathan Moore at Ext. 4812.

### **NSPS under review**

The National Security Personnel System is under review at the request of officials in the Defense Department and the Office of Personnel Management.

The review was announced in March and could take three to six months to complete.

The findings and recommendations are expected to be delivered in late summer.

Department of Defense officials are still determining the structure of the **May 2009**

review, but it will likely be an external review to provide an objective assessment.

In addition, DOD has suspended conversions of GS positions to NSPS until at least October. (AFNS)

### **New associate unit**

Air Force Reserve Command will stand up a classic associate squadron at Altus Air Force Base, Okla., in 2010. Reserve C-17 Globemaster and KC-135 Stratotanker instructors will fly and instruct as part of the integrated Regular Air Force and Reserve crews.

If needed, the associate squadron will mobilize in-place to keep the C-17 and KC-135 formal training unit pipelines open when Regular Air

Force instructors deploy.

Reserve instructors will be assigned to the squadron and attached to the appropriate flight.

They will fall under the operational direction of the active-duty Air Force squadron they associate with. (AFNS)

### **Discrimination hotline**

The Air Force Discrimination Hotline has a new toll free number that will serve the total force, active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian members.

The hotline number will ensure all unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment concerns are quickly identified and addressed.

The numbers are 888-231-4058, 210-565-5214 or DSN 665-5214. (AFNS)





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

### ***Out with the old***

Curtis Elburn, heavy equipment operator, Data Monitor Systems Inc., puts the finishing touches on cleaning and 'summerizing' a snow plow before its stored away until Fall. As Spring transitions into summer, the snow plows are put away and the mowers are brought out.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

### ***In with the new***

Jeremy King, an employee with Data Monitoring Systems, mows along the edge of a drainage ditch on base. With Spring in season, Grissom contractors have put away the snow plows and tuned up the mowers to keep Grissom in tip top condition.