

Heartland WARRIOR

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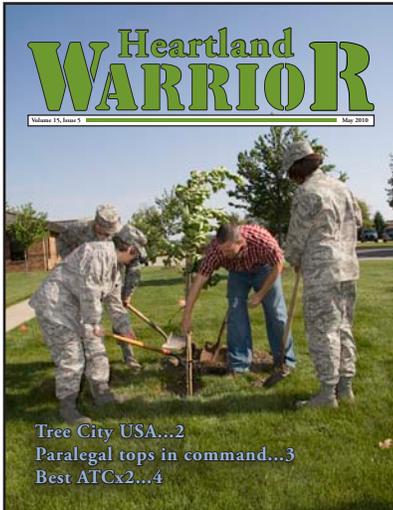
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On the cover...

Col. Betty Bowen, 434th Mission Support Group commander, and Cory Walters, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental engineer, along with two other Airmen from the 434th CES plant a tree during an Arbor Day celebration at Grissom. The base was recently named as a Tree City USA. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

Green Acres: Grissom named Tree City USA

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

In a land surrounded by corn, wheat and soy, it's hard to imagine a city of trees, but that's exactly what one finds at Grissom, which was recently named as a Tree City USA for the 9th straight year.

Not only was Grissom one of only 66 cities in Indiana to be honored with the award by the Arbor Day Foundation, it was the only military installation in the state to be honored in this manner.

"We've been awarded nine years in a row," said Cory Walters, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental engineer. "This is recognition for us giving back to the environment."

To be named a Tree City USA, communities must meet certain criteria, said Pam Louks, an urban forestry coordinator for Indiana Department of Natural Resources. There must be a public tree care ordinance, a department that manages care of trees, a tree board to advise on the care of trees and an Arbor Day celebration. Communities must also spend at least \$2 per person on tree maintenance and upkeep.

"Being named a Tree City USA is the icing on the cake for an urban forestry program," said Mrs. Louks who explained that it's not just enough to plant trees. "An urban forestry program includes the planting, maintenance and removal of trees; it's managing the whole gamut of the urban natural resource."

And, that natural resource is one that both Mr. Walters and Mrs. Louks said was important to maintain and protect due to the benefits it provides including: storm water interception; energy conservation and air pollution, all of which provide economic benefits and

savings.

"This is really important because the urban forest is the main component that touches our air and water," she said. "It's the air we breathe and the water we drink; the trees clean it all."

Throughout its years as a tree city, the urban forest here has seen growth, which has prompted a re-focusing of Grissom's efforts, said Mr. Walters.

"We used to concentrate on planting trees because we didn't have many, but now that we have enough trees, we focus on quality over quantity," he said. "Now, the focus is on using proper pruning techniques, protecting the trees from lawn mowers, mulching around trees, watering them, staking them, and if one does get damaged, using the most widely accepted techniques so it can be saved down the line."

Even the mulch Grissom uses to maintain the trees and landscape is environmentally friendly, said the environmental engineer, who added that protecting the environment is not just the right thing to do, but it's critical to the mission.

"Without maintaining the environment, you can't do your training, especially when it comes to ground training," he said. "When you work, live and train in the environment, you have to protect it; if you don't keep it clean, what's going to keep you safe in it?"

But it's not just the commitment to the environment that Mr. Walters said he is so proud about.

"It's also an honor for the hard work we put in to keeping up the base," he said. "It's like a pat on the back that says everyone here takes pride in the installation and their work environment."

And that dedication to both the community and environment is what Mrs. Louks said the award is all about.

GUS Paralegal named tops in AFRC

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

Thoughts of legendary Vikings such as Leif Ericsson conjure up images of horn-helmeted barbarians courageously leading missions of great danger into uncharted waters; but this is not the look of Grissom's "Legendary Viking," who was recently named the Air Force Reserve Command Outstanding Category A Paralegal of the Year 2009.

In fact, Master Sgt. Wes Marion, 434th Air Refueling Wing law office superintendant, who was honored with this award, wears camouflage instead of armor, and sports a military fade haircut instead of traditional long Viking locks.

According to his nomination package, Sergeant Marion was named a "Legendary Viking" in 2009 by his alma mater, North White High School in Monon, Indiana, for community service and leadership, and it's precisely that focus on leadership and service that he attributes to his AFRC award.

"I'd like to think that all along I've looked out for other people and worked to build them up," he said, explaining that taking care of others is key to leadership.

In his award package were accolades about his performance as a paralegal, to include 231 days of voluntary duty supporting real-world deployments, operational readiness exercises and inspections, as well as

field testing a new legal assistance website. It was also during this time he oversaw a legal office that provided 1,069 documents and 166 notaries to over 460 clients.

Adding to his achievements, Sergeant Marion, who holds a law degree from Indiana University, continues to focus on education as he continues to attend both military and civilian courses, teaches law classes at a local community college, and has coordinated efforts of local college students providing neighborhood cleanup services.

There are three things to which Sergeant Marion said he attributes to making him both a successful paralegal and leader. Those included working hard, looking out for others and thinking outside the box.

"I'm always looking for ways to improve things; don't assume the way things have always been done is the best way," he said. "For that matter, don't assume the way you do things is best; be willing to take criticism and grow."

But, unlike the brazen Vikings of the past, Sergeant Marion is humbled by his award.

"There are a lot of great paralegals out there, and to be chosen as the best of 2009 is quite an honor," he said. "There are probably a lot of paralegals out there who do some things better."

Sergeant Marion, who said he is not one to bask in the limelight, attributed most of his military accomplishments to the



Master Sgt. Wes Marion assists an Airman on the phone. Sergeant Marion, 434th Air Refueling Wing law office superintendant, was named Air Force Reserve Command Outstanding Category A Paralegal of the Year 2009. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

people in the office with which he works.

"Everyone in the office is fantastic," he stated. "Without everyone's support, I wouldn't be able to accomplish what I do; it's truly a team effort."

Despite all of his professional and scholastic accomplishments, Sergeant Marion says his greatest accomplishments focus around his wife and son.

"That has very little to do with me," he said. "My son is so great and that's because my wife is

such a wonderful mother; I'm truly blessed there."

Sergeant Marion offers this advice to those looking to make a difference: "Work hard every day and strive to recognize others."

The AFRC award winner and Viking Legend will now go on to face other reserve component paralegals from the other major commands in the next phase of the competition to be named the Air Reserve Component Outstanding Paralegal of the Year 2009.

Air Traffic Manager is AFRC's best

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Public Affairs staff

Controlling the air space above and around Grissom is vital to the safe operations of both military and civilian air traffic.

At Grissom, one person does that better than anyone in the Air Force Reserve Command. Mr. Terry Albaugh was selected as AFRC's Air Traffic Control Enlisted Manager of the Year.

As Grissom's Air Traffic Manager, Mr. Albaugh's goes beyond what is expected, said Col. Randall Ogden, 434th Operations Group commander.

He was selected to manage the arrival, installation and completion of a multi-million dollar standard terminal instrument replacement system, digital airport surveillance radar and final acceptance of a new radar approach control facility project.

"His planning and organizational skills led to all projects being completed without any operational delay," said Colonel Ogden.

He coordinated with engineers and other units in the development and writing of eight operational instructions on the new equipment



Terry Albaugh

which are now used as a guide for other units.

During a three-month airfield construction period, he worked to ensure the safe and expeditious movement of air traffic when changes to airfield were implemented daily. The result was safe

operations without disruption.

Mr. Albaugh created a special training schedule allowing six of the 28 controllers to attend formal training on the STARS system with minimal cost or reduction in air traffic control services.

The six trained controllers were able to train the rest of the air traffic controllers which resulted in saving the wing thousands of dollars in overtime costs.

"His outstanding leadership skills and expertise were highly instrumental in the initial planning and coordination of the national airspace system expansion initiative that will expand Grissom's airspace to the west enhancing aircraft arrival, departure and training mission options, said Colonel Ogden.

"Terry provided exceptional leadership in the development of Grissom's first tactical arrival and departure procedures," the colonel added.

The changes standardized procedures providing combat aerial refueling training, and overall flight safety, for the wing and other military units.

Having won at the command level, Mr. Albaugh will now compete at the Air Force level.

ATC facility is tops in reserve command

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Public Affairs staff

Grissom's Air Traffic Control Facility was named the best in Air Force Reserve Command for 2009.

This workforce sets the stage for other AFRC bases to follow, said Col. Randall Ogden, 434th Operations Group commander.

Unit members have been lauded as highly committed to excellence and a facility platform for others to follow, he said in nominating the unit for the award.

Staff members have received such accolades as civilian supervisor of the year, training manager of the year, and individual awards within the 434th Operations Group,

434th Air Refueling Wing, and AFRC.

"The air traffic control facility members continually demonstrate the dedication and flawless air traffic services," he said.

The facility provides support to the National Airspace System and Homeland Security, providing support for air refueling missions and more in every theater of operations.

Safety initiatives such as bird strike avoidance and controller liaison, mid air collision avoidance programs all have been lauded as the best seen within the command, Colonel Ogden noted.

The facility is the only AFRC facility within the NAS that has

developed and is providing tactical arrival and departure procedure services to the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Air National Guard, AFRC and other Air Force units supporting mission readiness – something highly valuable when flying in hostile environments abroad, he added.

The Federal Aviation Administration's re-structuring committee has identified the facility for continued growth to expand approach control and air traffic control services resulting in enhanced support for the wing's refueling mission and training capabilities.

"This is a show case facility," said Colonel Ogden. "This facility absolutely stands out."

Heartland Warrior

Air Force-wide social media access begins

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. -- Air Force officials began a two-week phased opening April 26 of access to social media sites Air Force-wide. Air Force Reserve Command will get access beginning May 1.

Pacific Air Forces bases gained access to social media sites earlier in April, serving as the test-bed prior to the Air Force-wide initiative.

Air Force Space Command, Air Education and Training Command and Air Mobility Command bases gained access to social media sites April 26. Air Combat Command, Air Force Materiel Command, Air Force Global Strike Command, Air Force Special Operations Command and United States Air Forces in Europe will get access beginning May 1. During the final phase, Air National Guard bases will get access beginning May 6.

It will take up to five business days to open up every base in each major command because technicians in the Integrated Network Operations and Security Centers responsible for opening social media access must account for the different major command network infrastructures. They also must allow members of the Air Force Computer Emergency Response Team to provide required services to each MAJ-COM as they are granted

access.

"Twenty-Fourth Air Force (officials) determined the best way to implement access to Internet-based capabilities was to follow the standard practice of allowing the 624th Operations Center, working in conjunction with the INOSCs, to determine who gets the upgrade first based on mission requirements," said Brig. Gen.

David B. Warner, AFSPC com-



munications and information director and chief information officer. "The INOSCs have the most in-depth knowledge of the network infrastructures within each MAJ-COM and thus can initiate changes in the most efficient way possible.

"Due to the importance of allowing access to more Internet-based capabilities for communication and collaboration,

we are working to strike a balance between maintaining a safe and tightly controlled network while allowing Airmen to have the access they need to get information and conduct business," General Warner continued. "We are diligently working with communications and information experts at 24th Air Force and the INOSCs to assure the mission, while ensuring a stan-

standardized roll-out and maintaining the appropriate

level of security." Providing access to social media sites from Air Force government computers meets the intent of Department of Defense Directive-Type Memorandum 09-026 -- Responsible and Effective Use of Internet-based Capabilities, issued Feb. 25.

"As we leverage these

new technologies, it is imperative that all Air Force personnel practice safe online activity to protect the network," said Gen. C. Robert Kehler, Air Force Space Command commander. "The Air Force views the use of social media sites as a positive way to communicate and conduct business. Social media and other emerging technologies provide an increasingly important means of communication and collaboration. Providing more open access will allow the Air Force to communicate more effectively to all Air Force personnel, their families and external audiences."

Various Air Force and DOD regulations provide guidance for Airmen using social media on government networks. Personal use of social media sites must be of reasonable duration and

frequency that have been approved by supervisors and do not adversely affect performance of official duties, overburden systems or reflect adversely on the Air Force.

Air Force personnel cannot post any classified or sensitive information and must follow the guidelines for appropriate social media and Internet use. The inappropriate posting of information on the AF network and any OPSEC violations are punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. (AFNS)

Engineer makes impact during deployment

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq -- Sitting at a well-crafted desk may not seem like a big deal to children in the United States or other more affluent parts of the world, but to the children of Kirkuk's school provinces, it is.

Thanks to several volunteers from the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraqi school children will get to sit in the same style of comfort other children get on a regular basis.

One of those members, is Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Raschke, an emergency management apprentice deployed from the 434th Civil Engineer Squadron at Grissom.

The idea for refurbishing the school desks sprang from a conversation Chief Master Sgt. Tom Pizzi, 506th ECES chief enlisted manager, deployed from McChord AFB, Wash., had with Stacy Barrios, public diplomacy officer, Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team, U.S. Embassy, Iraq.

There are literally thousands of



Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Raschke poses with Iraqi children as he hands out bags of school supplies.

old broken desks in Iraq, Sergeant Raschke said.

The idea was to take the old frames and have welders repair them. Other members cut out wood for the tops of the desks and seats.



Tech. Sgt. JonathanS Raschke sands down pieces of wood during assembly of school desks for local Iraqi children at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq. Out of their goal of 100 desks, 25 of them have already been assembled and are ready to be delivered to schools in need. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Tabitha Kuykendall)

Once all the wood was cut and sanded, the local nationals on base put them together for the final product.

"There are a lot of people involved in this," he said, "but the most important part was letting the local nationals get a chance to build desks for their kids. Most of these children have very little, so an actual desk that they are able to write on goes a long way!"

Sergeant Raschke, a Grand Rapids Michigan resident, also has gotten involved in another project that provides school supplies to the Iraqi children as well.

The deployed unit takes donations from the states and packages pens, pencils, crayons, and paper and repackages that to hand out to the children.

The Army normally distributes the bags, but because of his volunteer efforts, Sergeant Raschke and a few others were invited to go off the forward operation base to deliver them.

"This was an incredible experience and probably the most rewarding thing I've done in uniform," he said.

Volunteer projects such as the school packages and the desks are just some ways that deployed members work to make the country better.

"I hope the fact that the Americans came in and took those beat up, broken down desks and rebuilt them and put them back in the schools will change the mindset of the children and the parents of how they remember the Americans. It's leaving a legacy," Chief Pizzi added.

"Those desks are going to live a lot longer in their minds," the chief said. "I hope the fact that the Americans came in and took those beat up, broken down desks and rebuilt them and put them back in the schools will change the mindset of the children and the parents of how they remember the Americans. It's leaving a legacy." (AFNS)