

Heartland WARRIOR

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Heartland **WARRIOR**

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On the cover...

Grissom firefighters prepare to open the side hatch of a KC-135R Stratotanker as part of a training exercise on the airfield here during a recent unit training assembly. They are preparing for the unit compliance inspection in June. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg)

GUS pilot hits 10k

By Senior Airman
Damon Kasberg
Public Affairs staff

Spending over a year in flight on missions throughout the world, one Air Force Reserve pilot recently reached 10,000 flying hours, an accomplishment few achieve.

Lt. Col Patrick Reed, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron pilot, grew up in Chicago near the Midway International Airport, which is where his dreams of being a pilot began. In 1983 he graduated from the University of Illinois and received a bachelor's degree in aviation.

"I wanted to be a commercial pilot, but I didn't have enough experience," he said. "I joined the Air Force to get the experience."

It was in 1984, when he joined the Air Force and earned his wings in 1985. From 1985 to 1999 Colonel Reed flew the E-3 Sentry and accumulated 7,000 flying hours. During that time he was stationed in many different bases.

"Germany was my best assign-

ment," he said. "I stayed there for six years at a NATO base. The entire crew was made up of people from all the different NATO countries."

In 1999 Colonel Reed joined the Air Force Reserve. At the same time he fulfilled his dream of becoming a commercial pilot.

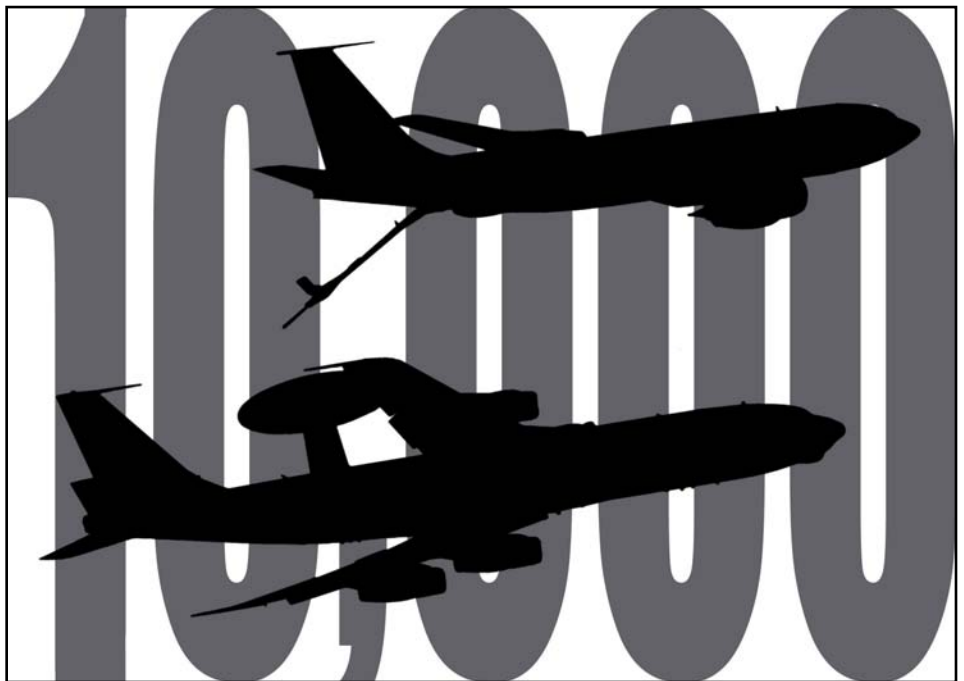
Colonel Reed achieved the remaining 3,000 hours flying the KC-135R Stratotanker. That calculates out to over 416 days spent in the air.

With more than 20 years in the Air Force, one thing above all Colonel Reed said kept him motivated to continue serving; his fellow airmen.

"There's an awful lot of camaraderie," he said "Whenever I thought about leaving, they would talk me into staying; there are a lot of good people."

Colonel Reed said he plans on putting in his 25 years of service and then retiring and has never looked back on his decision to join the Air Force.

"I have no regrets," he said. "If I did, I wouldn't still be wearing my uniform."



Lt. Col. Pat Reed, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron pilot, recently achieved 10,000 hours of flying. Colonel Reed logged more than 7,000 hours in the E-3 Sentry before crossing over to the KC-135R Stratotanker where he logged the remaining hours. (U.S. Air Force graphic/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

Air Force announces next tanker



Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley answers questions from reporters after announcing the KC-46A tanker contract was awarded to The Boeing Company during a press conference at the Pentagon Feb 24. Behind Secretary Donley are Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn and Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Ashton Carter. (U.S. Air Force photo/Jim Varhegyi)

By Capt. Chris Sukach
SAF Public Affairs

WASHINGTON -- Air Force and Defense Department officials announced the award of an engineering and manufacturing development contract valued at more than \$3.5 billion for the KC-46A aerial refueler to The Boeing Company Feb. 24.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley said in the briefing that many factors were evaluated during the tanker selection process.

"This selection process determined whether or not the proposals demonstrated the ability of an offerer to deliver all 372 mandatory requirements and whether non-mandatory capabilities

would be addressed," said Secretary Donley, emphasizing that both offerers met the mandatory requirements. "It also took into account fleet mission effectiveness in wartime, and life cycle costs as embodied in fuel efficiency and military construction costs."

Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn noted the "competition favored no one except the taxpayer and the warfighter."

The Air Force-led selection effort included experts from the larger DOD community, including staff from the Office of the Secretary of Defense and independent review teams during each step of the process.

The thorough and transparent selection

process was marked by continual dialogue with offerers to ensure the Air Force had a clear understanding of their proposals and the companies clearly understood the service's analysis of their offers, said Secretary Donley.

Secretary Donley also highlighted that the warfighter was in charge of stating the requirements for the tanker, and that meeting those requirements enables the aircraft to go to war on day one.

"General Schwartz and I are confident in the fact that when our young pilots, boom operators and maintainers receive this aircraft, they will have the tools they need to be successful at what we ask them to do," the secretary added.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz shared the secretary's sentiment.

"I'm pleased with how this has produced an outcome after an exhaustive effort by hundreds of the department's very best people, that we will get about delivering the capability that's long overdue," General Schwartz said.

While the focus of the briefing was on the award of the contract, Secretary Donley addressed basing considerations for the aircraft, stating that those decisions involve other organizations and will take place over the next couple of years.

Secretary Donley also reiterated the service's commitment to provide quality equipment to the warfighter.

"To the men and women of our Air Force, today's announcement represents a long-overdue start to a much-needed program," Secretary Donley said. "Your Air Force leadership, supported by Dr. (Ashton) Carter and others throughout the Department of Defense, is determined to see this through, and we will stand behind this work."

Air Force and DOD officials complemented both offerers and thanked congressional oversight committees and their staffs for working with the department during the contract process that served the warfighter and taxpayers well.

The program expects to deliver the first 18 aircraft by 2017. (AFNS)

Distinguished aviator is 434th ARW Officer of the Year

By Senior Airman
Damon Kasberg
Public Affairs staff

Of all the exceptional officers stationed at Grissom, Air Reserve Base only one can be named honor of 434th Air Refueling Wing Officer of the Year.

Capt. Daniel Keeney, 434th Operations Support Squadron assistant director of training, was given this award for 2010.

"It's a great honor," said Captain Keeney. "When I stop and think about my peers and all the other great officers that do an outstanding job, it's very humbling."

Captain Keeney's nomination packet is filled with accomplishments that met and exceeded the expectations of an officer. He's described as a proven leader, distinguished aviator, exceptionally skilled instructor and stand-out officer.

"He is among one of the most hard-working, motivated self-starters I've ever had the pleasure of working with, and he deserves this award," said Maj. Joseph Austin, 434th OSS director of training.

Captain Keeney's military career didn't begin in the Air Force. He had initially enlisted into the Minnesota Army National Guard for four years, working as an artillery specialist.

Then, he had urge to fly and made the switch to the Air Force Reserve.

"I just always wanted to serve; I got the bug to fly," he said. "My grandfather had been in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and I grew up listening to his old war stories and admiring him." That's why I joined the military said Captain Keeney.

Captain Keeney's responsibilities on a day-to-day basis include hiring new pilots and boom operators and setting up their training.



Capt. Daniel Keeney

According to Captain Keeney's nomination packet, he was hand-picked to lead the operation readiness inspection mission planning cell. During that time, he was in charge of planning all missions for the flyers and setting up operations.

According to Lt. Col. Todd Moody, 434th OSS commander he was essential to the unit's overall success.

"We started getting ready for the ORI a year in advance," he said. "We took to flights out to Volk (Field Combat Readiness Training Center) on ORI over a year out to make sure we were ready."

Captain Keeney he said he is keen on self improvement. He achieved a perfect score on the new Air Force physical fitness test and completed the Air Command and Staff College correspondence program in civilian status.

"My family is my number one motivation," he said. "Number two is the great guys in the squadron and great leaders; when you have leaders that genuinely care about your wellbeing, you want to put in the extra effort and do good work for them."



Capt. Daniel Keeney, 434th Operations Support Squadron assistant director of training, was recently recognized as the 434th Air Refueling Wing Officer of the Year for 2010. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg)

Base fitness center gets facelift



New wooden lockers were recently installed in the female and male locker rooms at the base fitness center. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

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

Showcasing their talent, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen are making some big improvements to the base gym.

The project, which kicked off recently, is aimed at replacing the old metal lockers with new wooden ones in both the male and female locker rooms.

“They had been in there since it was a child development center, which was way before my time, so you know they’ve been in there a long time,” said Will Somers, 434th Force Support Squadron recreation director, who arrived at Grissom in 1992. “They were rusting and had seen their better days.”

Not only were the old lockers starting to show their age, they were also small as they were designed for youth and children, said Mr. Somers.

The new lockers are

twice the size of the old ones, allowing for individuals to hang up their clothes and store more.

“I’ve used (the old lockers) before and trying to squeeze my boots and uniform into them was

kind of a nightmare,” explained Mr. Somers, who added that though there will be fewer lockers, the number isn’t a concern.

“A lot of the old lockers were empty most of the time, and the majority of them had sat empty,” he said. “And, our lockers are daily use, meaning you can’t keep them for a week; you come in, you use them and you take your stuff with you leave.”

But it’s not just a size increase that makes the improvement so significant. The civil engineers put a lot of time and effort into going above and beyond not only to make them look nice, but also to make them functional long-run, explained the recreation director.

“With this warm and

moist environment, we had to do a lot of work to make sure these wood lockers wouldn’t mold, so we put a ventilation system underneath,” said Master Sgt. Joseph Tysinger, III, 434th CES heating, ventilation, and air conditioning superintendent. “We also put in some detail work, including the Air Force symbol.”

When asked about the importance of having new lockers, Mr. Somers explained that having a clean looking and modern facility helps encourage people to exercise.

“They look 100 percent better and this enhances the overall facility,” he stated. “This makes it a nice place for people to want to come and work-out.”



Using a hammer and crowbar, Airmen 1st Class David Kessen, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron engineer apprentice, persuades a group of old lockers loose as he removes them from the base fitness center recently. New wooden lockers were recently installed, which provide double the storage space to the user and replaced aging metal lockers that were originally installed when the facility was a child development center.

Family Readiness gets new location

By Senior Airman
Damon Kasberg
Public Affairs staff

The Grissom Airman and Family Readiness office has returned to Bldg. 431 following renovations that allow them to increase their services.

“This building suites our needs so much better,” said Master Sgt. Nathan Moore, 434th Airman and Family Readiness non-commissioned officer in charge. “We are able to accommodate more people.”

The 434th Seasoning Training Flight, the sexual assault response coordinator, newcomers flight and the chaplain will also be moving into the building.

“It’s much more convenient to have it all in one place,” said Sergeant Moore. “When newcomers have questions they can go to one building; [It] just makes sense.”



Master Sgt. Nathan Moore, 434th Airman and Family Readiness non-commissioned officer in charge, and Tech. Sgt. Tammie Washington, 434th Force Support Squadron family readiness technician, move a table into the newly renovated location, Bldg. 431. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg)

Grissom hosts 2011 basketball tournament



The Marine’s Andrew Dixon drives around George Navarro from the 434th Force Support Squadron, during basketball tournament action Feb. 12. The Marines drilled a 3-pt dagger against the FSS to win the game at the buzzer, 47-45, and advance in Grissom’s annual tournament. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Carl Berry)

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Grissom’s version of March madness rolls on as teams battled in quarterfinal action in the annual basketball tournament held at the fitness center.

Four teams emerged from the February unit training assembly to fill the final four positions in the hardwood classic.

The Marines and Seasoning Training Flight teams will compete in March from the winner’s bracket while the Wing Staff and Force Support Squadron teams will fight for their playoff lives in the loser’s bracket of the double-elimination tournament.

The action starts as teams tip off at 5 p.m. March 5, with subsequent games at 5:45 and 7 p.m. The championship game will be held at 6:30 p.m. April 2.

Grissom firefighters prepare for anything

By Senior Airman
Damon Kasberg
Public Affairs staff

When the time comes one group of Grissom airmen will be prepared.

The Grissom Fire Department recently took part in training exercises that simulate a fire in a KC-135R Stratotanker.

The servicemembers performed these drills to prepare for real life situations and compliance inspections.

“We’re training for our CI in June,” said Master Sgt. Joseph Cougan, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron

fire protection craftsman. “We’re going through all the processes for the training course and to prepare for emergencies in the field.”

The training does more than prepare reservists for their military duties, it also helps open windows of opportunity to the civilian firefighting career field.

“Some of the reservists here have no fire experience,” he said. “They’re students and teachers, paramedics or EMTs. All this training helps people get the training they need to get on with full-time fire departments.”



Grissom firefighters carefully take a firehose off of the KC-135R Stratotanker after completing their training exercise on the airfield here recently. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg)



ABOVE: A firefighter hooks up a safety device during a recent training exercise.

RIGHT: Firefighters meet to discuss procedures before their second run through during a recent training exercise.



March 2011

434th MSG deputy commander retires

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

From enlisted security policeman to 434th Mission Support Group deputy commander, one man has been through it all for over 28 years.

Lt. Col. Phil Shott, who retired during a recent ceremony here, started his career in 1982 with the 434th Tactical Fighter Wing. Two years later, he earned a commission through the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program.

Since making the jump from enlisted to officer, Colonel Shott has held positions as wing executive support officer, airfield operations officer, headquarters section commander and communications squadron commander and security forces squadron commander, making him a jack of all trades.

During his Air Force Reserve career, the 26-year law enforcement veteran deployed twice in support of the Global War on Terrorism. During his time overseas he served as the anti-terrorism and

force protection officer-in-charge for the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing and commander of the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Detachment 2.

Col. Betty Bowen, 434th MSG commander, presided over the ceremony held in a packed auditorium on base and presented the colonel with not only his certificate of retirement but a meritorious service medal as well.

During the proceedings, numerous members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing went on stage to share their stories about Colonel Shott.

And, while those who worked with and respected the colonel thanked him for his service, he took the opportunity to thank his family for all their support. He made special note to thank his wife Katherine and daughters, Amanda Putz and Erin Anderson, presenting each with medals.

Though Colonel Shott retired from the Air Force Reserve, he will still continue to hold an active role at Grissom as the 434th MSG executive support officer.



Lt. Col. Phil Shott gives his wife Katherine roses as a thank you for her many years of support during his Air Force career. Colonel Shott, 434th Mission Support Group deputy commander, retired in a special ceremony held here recently. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

In the lime light

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal

The following individuals were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal:

- Chief Master Sgt. David Sajdyk, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Cassidy, 434th Maintenance Group
- Senior Master Sgt. Lewis Raye,

- 434th Security Forces Squadron
- Master Sgt. Edward Lampa, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Phillip Walton, 49th Aerial Port Flight

Promotions

To Airman:

- Abigail Wakefield, 434th Maintenance Squadron

