

Heartland WARRIOR

Volume 18, Issue 12

December 2013

REMOVE BEFORE FLIGHT

434

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Heartland WARRIOR

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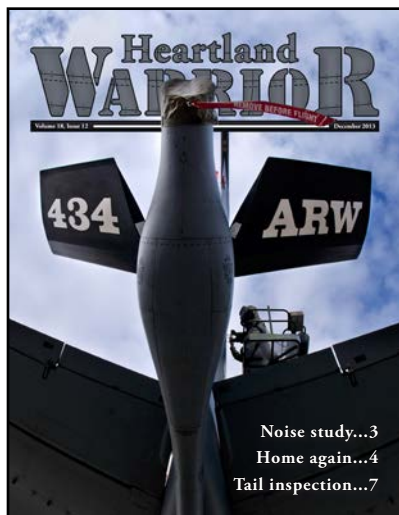
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U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays

On the cover...

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Davis, front, and Staff Sgt. Douglas Raymond, both 434th Maintenance Squadron KC-135R crew chiefs, inspect the tail section of a KC-135R Stratotanker at Grissom Nov. 25. All KC-135s in the Air Force inventory are undergoing an inspection to ensure rudder actuators aren't rubbing against the skin of the aircraft.

Marines need toys for tots

Toy, money donations due by Dec. 15

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Sharing the same last name with Father Christmas, albeit pronounced differently, is not the only way a Grissom Navy corpsman is similar to the man in red, as both are charged with giving children a merrier Christmas.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Casey Claus is spearheading a local initiative for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign, along with the rest of Grissom's Detachment One, Communication Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group.

The mission of the Toys for Tots program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less-fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

"Our goal is to give toys to about 6,000 children," Claus said before adding that the unit isn't close to where they need to be for this year. "Normally our drill deck is packed, but we've got plenty of room this year, and we're hoping that changes soon."

For those changes to come without a workshop of elves, Claus and the Grissom Marines are counting on donations from the local community to help make the season bright for area children.

"People are encouraged to donate new, unwrapped gifts in

any of the collection boxes in their area," said Claus. The boxes will be picked up Dec. 15 and sorted for distribution Dec. 18-19.

Those wanting to make a monetary donation can do so at any time, he added.

And, while Saint Nick has to cover the entire globe, Claus and the Grissom Marines have a pretty large area to cover themselves, especially without the help of eight magic reindeer.

"We're responsible for collecting and distributing toys in seven area counties," said Claus. Those include Howard, Miami, Grant, Cass, Fulton, Wabash and Tipton counties.

On base Grissom members can place items in a box located at the Base Exchange or bring them directly to the Marine Corps building on Leatherneck Drive.

The Toys for Tots program began in 1947 when Maj. Bill Hendricks, a Marine Corps reservist founded Toys for Tots in Los Angeles, Calif. During that first campaign 5,000 toys collected with the first toy being a handmade doll.

In 1995, the Secretary of Defense approved Toys for Tots as an official activity of the Marine Corps and an official mission of the Marine Corps Reserve.

Each year Marines located at Grissom have continued to support the program.

For more information on how to support the Toys For Tots initiative, contact Claus at 688-4406.



U.S. Marine Corps Reserve graphic

Base to begin land-use compatibility study



U.S. Air Force graphic by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

The Air Force Reserve Command will begin conducting an air installation compatible use zone study of Grissom Dec. 5. The study will analyze the effects of noise and established aircraft accident potential zones on land use by the base and its neighbors.

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

Good neighbors often look out for one another, which is exactly what Grissom is doing with a new study set to begin here in December.

Starting Dec. 5, the Air Force Reserve Command will conduct an air installation compatible use zone study, which will analyze the effects of noise and established aircraft accident potential zones on land use by Grissom and its present and future neighbors.

The first AICUZ study was conducted at Grissom in 1978 and was replaced by the last study conducted in 1995, just

after Grissom realigned to a reserve base. At that point, the then 434th Wing had 22 KC-135R Stratotankers and 18 A-10 Thunderbolt IIs.

Nearly 20 years later, the base is home to only 16 KC-135s. However, Grissom is now a joint-use facility with civilian enterprises such as Montgomery Aviation and Dean Baldwin Painting using its runway and taxiways for their operations.

"A lot has changed in 20 years," said Jeff Woodring, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental management chief. "We've been requesting this study for a while, in large part because of the changes to our flying

operations and to the joint use activities."

The study's main focus will be the noise produced by aircraft using the base, explained Cory Walters, 434th CES biological scientist.

"We find out what those contours are and plan our base around them," added Walters. "We also turn that data over to the local community so they can plan what types of businesses or activities should or should not be placed around the base."

The contours, officially known as day night average sound level, or DNL, contours, are the Federal Aviation Administration's primary metric used to evaluate noise effects on people.

DNLs are the 24-hour average sound levels in decibels derived from all aircraft operations during that period.

According to the FAA's Airports Desk Reference, it's important to note that due to the nature of noise, the loudest levels control the average; and that a 10-decibel penalty is added to each nighttime aircraft operation.

The FAA designated the 65-decibel contour as the noise exposure level above which residential land uses are not compatible.

"Within a certain noise contour, it might be acceptable to have an industrial-type operation, but may not be desirable to have residential developments," said Walters.

In the 1995 study of Grissom, which is located in Miami County and is immediately adjacent to Cass County, only the lowest contour of 65 decibels extended outside of the base. Higher contours were recorded, but remained within the base's fence line.

To conduct the newest study, a team of Air Force contractors recently arrived on base and will begin examining data and conducting interviews. The team is also working in conjunction with community planners and will provide a full report to them once the study is complete.

Follow-on information will also be released to the public at that time.

Hoosier Airmen return home for holidays

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
434th ARW Public Affairs

Oh there's no place like home for the holidays, and that never rang truer than for a group of Grissom Airmen fresh off their jets from a recent deployment.

Three 434th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotankers carrying nearly 40 Airmen touched down on Hoosier ground Nov. 18 after spending more than two months on deployment to Southwest Asia.

"Thankfully everybody that deployed made it back as scheduled," said Lt. Col. Jerry Malloy, 434th Operations Group commander. "They flew quite a bit, and we're thankful to have them all here and home so they could spend some time with their families."

Many family members and friends braved the cold, standing outside to watch their loved ones land as they held signs welcoming them home. Almost all appeared emotional as they embraced their returning Airmen for the first time.

"This is the best part of being alive," said Lt. Col. Erik Aufderheide, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron commander, as he hugged his 10-year-old son, Leif. "It's good to get back to the family to spend some time with them."

Aufderheide said he and his fellow returning deployers were fortunate to be home for the holidays, but pointed out that Grissom still has people who will be deployed throughout the holiday season.

And, it wouldn't be the holiday season without a few holiday



U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

Lt. Col. Erik Aufderheide, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron commander, embraces his 10-year-old son, Leif, after returning to Grissom from a deployment to Southwest Asia Nov. 18.



Tech. Sgt. Erica Morgan, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron personnel specialist, and her daughter, Melea, brave the cold to welcome home Master Sgt. Michael Morgan, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron inflight refueling evaluator, as he returns after a deployment to Southwest Asia Nov. 18. Family and friends gathered at the base to welcome back their loved ones.

surprises.

Making one of those surprises was Anita Hollis, who didn't tell her boyfriend Russell W. Smith II, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron integrated avionics systems specialist, that she would be waiting for him when he got home.

The unexpected reunion almost didn't happen as Smith, thinking that no one was there to greet him, never came through the Airman and Family Readiness Center where the families and friends had gathered.

Despite that slight misstep, Grissom personnel were able to use a bit of subterfuge and convince him to return and be greeted by his awaiting guest.

"This is just indescribable," said Hollis shortly after their reunion. "I was scared I was going to let it out of the bag when I was talking to him at different times before he came home.

"It feels like he's been gone a lot longer, and I appreciate him and what he does so much more," she added.

Also surprising a few Airmen where Bill and Susan Newman and Judy Friend, all friends of Jill Marconi, Grissom's A&FRC director.

The three came to the base to welcome home those who didn't have anyone to greet them.

"We asked Jill if there were every any (Airmen) who didn't have anyone to greet them when they came back, and she said, 'yes, always; there may be one or there may be five, but there's always someone,'" explained Friend. "We have several veterans at our church, and so we said, 'let's give it a try and see what we can do.'"

They succeeded as they surprised two Airmen with hugs, appreciation and even a box of holiday cookies to welcome them home.

"We're thrilled they took their time to serve, so we can spend a few hours to meet with them," said Friend. "We don't want anyone to come home and think they aren't appreciated."



Judy Friend welcomes home Airman 1st Class Jordan Suchovsky, 434th Operations Support Squadron aviation resource management specialist, from a deployment to Southwest Asia in the Airman and Family Readiness Center at Grissom, Nov. 18. Friend and two other community members came to the north-central Indiana base to welcome home Airmen and thank them for their service.

Make the season bright:

Airman and Family Readiness seeks holiday angels, food

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

Around the holidays, angel decorations can be seen all around, but this year, some real angels are needed to help some Grissom families.

Grissom's Airman and Family Readiness Center is once again looking for volunteers through their annual angel tree, a program that matches up families who may need extra support this year with those wishing to provide that help.

"People nominated families or self-nominated their own families, who might have needed a little extra help this year in order for them to have a wonderful

Christmas," explained Jill Marconi, Grissom's A&FRC director.

Names of the families' children are placed on the tree, and base personnel who volunteer as angels anonymously buy their chosen family's children gifts based on based on information provided.

"We ask them for clothing sizes, favorite colors, favorite toys, and things like that," said Marconi, adding that just the children, not the sponsors, are listed on the angel tree and receive individual gifts.

Angel gifts are due to the A&FRC by Dec. 7, so that any gaps can be identified. Marconi and her team will then go out that night and buy any

last-minute gifts needed.

And, while it's certain that many of the children will have a sparkle in their eye as they receive unexpected gifts from their angels, the nominated families as a whole will also have a brighter season as they receive food baskets as part of the program.

"It's not just food for the holidays, although there is normally a turkey or ham in each one, but there are non-perishable items so the families can stretch out their (resources) a little longer," explained Marconi.

And, according to her, while there has been a tremendous support for the angel tree gifts, the A&FRC is really in need

of non-perishable items for those food baskets.

Those wishing to donate food can drop off items at food collection bins around base or can bring them directly to the A&FRC.

"If they can't go shopping, I will go shopping if they just want to donate money," said Marconi. "We just need to make sure we have the exact same number of gift baskets as we have families."

"Grissom is a giving base, and the more that's given, the more we will be able to bless these families," "It's a wonderful thing to do."

For more information on how to help, contact Jill Marconi at (765) 688-4812.

From left, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffery Maier, 74th Air Refueling Squadron chief boom operator, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Henry, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron chief boom operator, and Chief Master Sgt. Tamara Jones, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron superintendent, pick names from an angel tree at the Airman and Family Readiness Center at Grissom, Nov. 22, 2013. The angel tree is an annual Grissom A&FRC program that matches up families who may need extra support during the holidays with those wishing to provide that help.



U.S. Air Force photo and graphic by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

KC-135 Stratotankers undergo tail inspections, repairs

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

In the world of aviation maintenance, it's better to be safe than sorry, which is why Grissom maintainers are now taking a special look at the base's aircraft.

Airmen from the 434th Maintenance Squadron are currently conducting time compliant technical order inspections on Grissom's 16 KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft as they look for wear and tear on the jets' tails.

The Air Force directed its entire KC-135R fleet undergo these inspections based on a problem noticed overseas, where a rudder actuator was discovered to be rubbing the skin of a Stratotanker.

Leaving that area alone could lead to problems, said Maj. Shane Toomay, 434th Maintenance Squadron maintenance officer.

"We've got a relatively short time to take a look at each of our aircraft," said Toomay, as he explained they only had 180 days to thoroughly inspect all 16 aircraft. "We'll inspect to see if they are rubbing, and if they are, we'll repair that."

While inspecting aircraft may not sound all that difficult, the 50-plus year old jets are still pretty sophisticated pieces of technology with little room for error.

"These operate under pretty tight tolerances," explained Toomay.

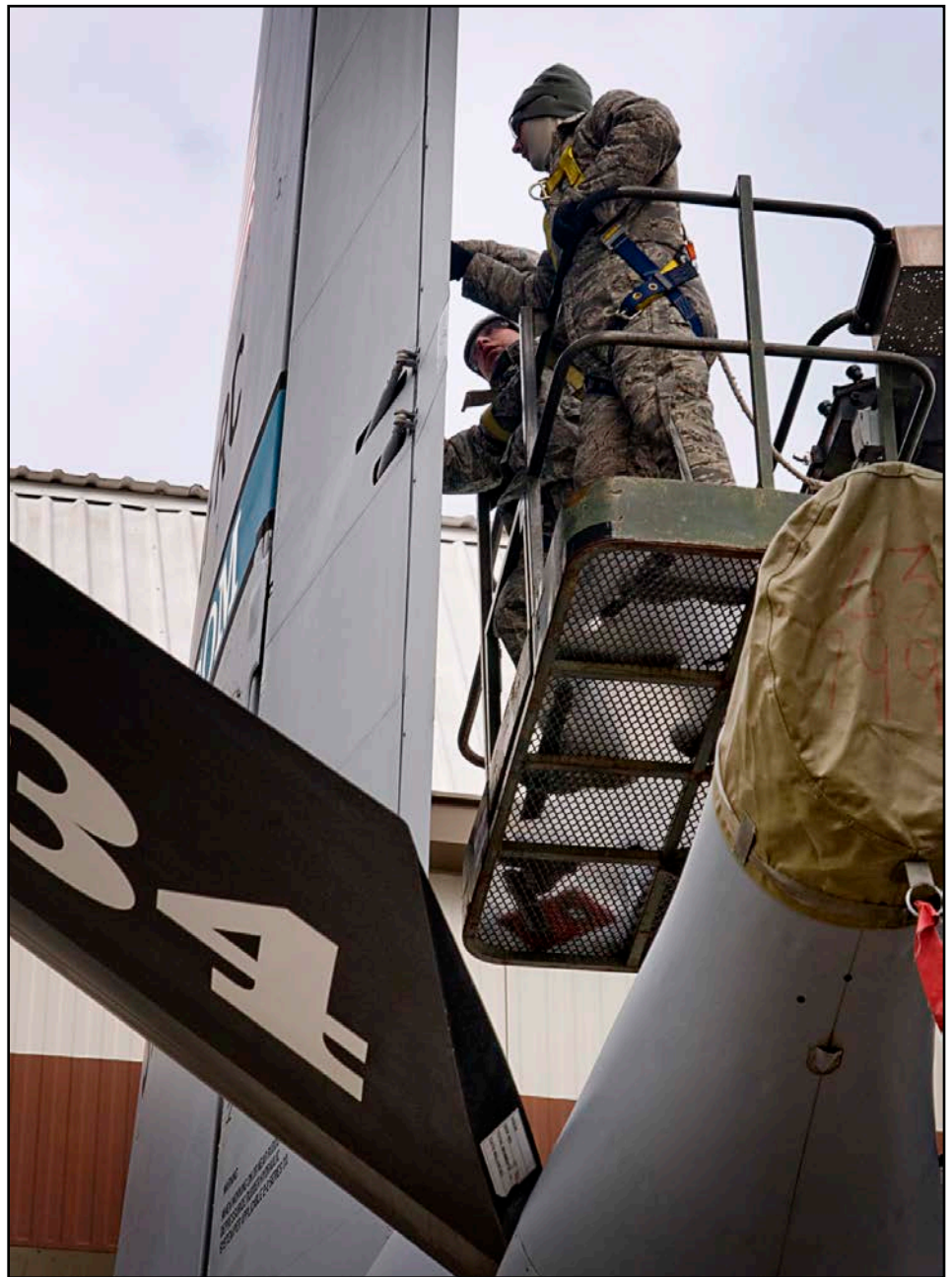
The inspections themselves take between 4-6 hours, and if repairs are needed, that could add another day or two.

So far Grissom has inspected six tankers, and two of them required repairs to be made.

For maintainers, this is chilling work in Indiana during this time of year.

The tail section of the KC-135 is the only part of the aircraft that doesn't fit inside Grissom's nose docks that are normally used for repair -- leaving the maintainers out in the cold, and up in the air.

As he worked about 35 feet off the ground, Master Sgt. Steve Thomas, 434th MXS crew chief,



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Davis, front, and Staff Sgt. Douglas Raymond, both 434th Maintenance Squadron KC-135 crew chiefs, inspect the tail section of a KC-135R Stratotanker at Grissom Nov. 25. All Air Force KC-135s are undergoing an inspection to ensure rudder actuators aren't rubbing against the aircrafts' skin.

said he made sure a high lift he used was in a safe position and that he had access to the panels he needed to remove before he began the inspection process.

"We remove the panels, bag the screws and inspect the balance bay," Thomas said describing the thorough process. "If we find issues, we call sheet metal to come in do their part; if not we button it back up."

For Senior Master Sgt. Dan Lecroy, 434th MXS NCOIC of repair and reclamation, he said all about getting the job done safely.

"Most people bring the gear in they need to stay warm, so I focus more on ensuring things are locked and tagged out," Lecroy said. "We want to keep them safe."

And, in maintenance and in flight are what this inspection process is all about.

AF Portal goes mobile, gets face-lift

By Justin Oakes
66th Air Base Group
Public Affairs

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. -- Expected to launch by the end of 2013, the Global Combat Support System-Air Force, or GCSS-AF, is rolling out a revamped portal, which simplifies navigation, improves performance on low bandwidth connections and works from mobile devices.

"The old system had become cluttered, difficult to navigate and was in need of an update," said Danielle Dunn, the GCSS service area lead. "The new system is orderly, simple to navigate, and updated with a fresh look and feel."

With more than 750,000 active users and an average of 400,000 weekly log-ins, the Air Force Portal is the service's primary web gateway, giving Airmen worldwide secure access to a broad range of information and applications.

In January 2010, the Air Force removed username and password access to the portal, requiring users to log-in using a

common access card or public key infrastructure certificate. While the same requirement is still in effect, the redesigned portal will now support PKI/CAC-enabled mobile devices, such as smart phones and tablets.

When users log-in on a mobile device, the portal will detect the device's screen size and adapt the display automatically, paring down the feature and functionality that works best for that device.

"The team studied industry trends and acknowledged the shift to mobile information access anywhere, on any device," said 2nd Lt. Rett Rayhill, the Air Force Portal service area lead. "In order for us to remain relevant, it was a logical next step to support mobile access."

The redesign stemmed from a requirement to support users in bandwidth-constrained locations, such as

overseas bases within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and geographically separated units within the United States.

According to Rayhill, the new system will continue to enable Airman to do their job whether deployed or in the U.S.

"It will provide a more consistent user experience to forward operating bases as afforded to those stateside," Rayhill said.

In addition to the system operating on a low bandwidth and from CAC/PKI-enabled mobile devices, users will notice that the AF Portal was reorganized and streamlined to make the system easier to use and navigate; another key component to the redesign.

"The look and feel has been updated to reflect today's Air Force," Dunn said. "The design helps users find

their applications and information more quickly and efficiently."

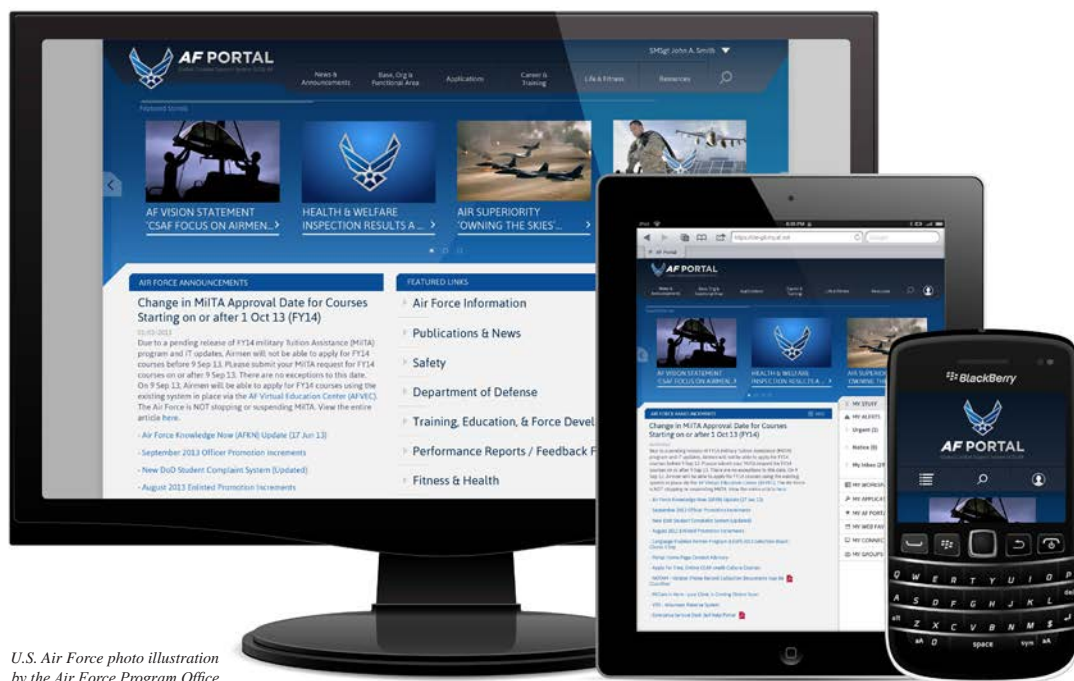
The updated navigation menu clearly highlights news and announcements, base/organization and functional areas, career and training, life and fitness and references. "My Stuff," one of the new design features, focuses on user personalization by providing quick access to each user's alerts, workspaces, applications and favorites.

Another new feature within the system focuses on information sharing.

Users will be able to join groups and compile information then transfer it to other users before leaving a location, similar to a continuity binder.

"This new portal will definitely increase productivity while enhancing Airmen's personal and professional endeavors," Dunn said. (AFNS)

The Air Force Portal is undergoing a redesign that allows access on mobile devices, geared for easier navigation and operates in low bandwidth environments. The Global Combat Support System, a Air Force Life Cycle Management Center-owned program, is responsible for the portal update, allowing more than 750,000 active users to stay connected.



U.S. Air Force photo illustration
by the Air Force Program Office

Grissom personnel hit the pavement for a 'ghoulish' run

By Senior Airman Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

As ghouls and goblins came out this Halloween, many Grissom personnel went running, but not because they were scared.

Grissom Airmen and Marines beat feet in a 'Grissom Ghouls 5K' fun run Oct. 31 at the base fitness center here to kick off seasonal fun and camaraderie.

"People on base were encouraged to dress up," explained Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays, 434th Air Refueling Wing public affairs superintendent. "There was a group of us that dressed up like Grissom's running instructor Zac Holmes to surprise him; he started laughing when he saw us."

And, while many got into the spirit through costume, that wasn't the only thing that made the run interesting and seasonal as blustery northern Indiana fall weather came out in full-force, too.

"It was an especially great run," said Lt. Col. Patricia Latham,

434th ARW executive officer.

"The weather made it all the more interesting because it was a bit blustery, which created more of an additional challenge, but I thought it was more enjoyable.

"And, it was nice to be able to dress up silly and have fun," Latham added.

But, the cold and rainy weather didn't stop the 23 participants, including six Marines equipped with ruck sacks, from hitting the pavement and battling the elements.

"It was encouraging to see that many people came out with such bad weather," said Hays.

Despite the weather, there was a close finish for first place.

Jeremy McKissack, 434th ARW judge advocate, finished first with a time of 20:22 while Brendan Carney, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron, placed second by two seconds with a time of 20:24.

"It was a good time, it was a good race and there were a lot of quick runners," said Hays. "It's really just for fun and comradery, it's

good to see."

The 'Grissom Ghouls 5K' fun run was the first of four in a series hosted by the base fitness center this fall called the 'Battle of the Bulge' to encourage fitness and fun.

While the running series shares a name with a famed World War II offensive, this series is aimed at battling weight gain typically seen around the holidays.

"It's a great way to stay fit during the holiday season," said Holmes. "This is typically when people gain extra weight and this is a good way to stay motivated and exercise and to train for these four races.

"People can enjoy the holiday season and not worry about the extra calories and extra weight that comes with it," Holmes added. "Participation over the past year with these base races has been a increasing and it's cool to see that interest in distance running is increasing."

For more on the running series or other Fitness Center programs, call 688-2000.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps military and civilian personnel take off from the start line of a 'Grissom Ghouls 5K' run at Grissom Oct. 31. Many of the participants dressed up in costume to make the race more fun and seasonal.

Hoosier Wing Airmen sew on next stripe with promotions

**By Senior Airman
Jami Lancette**
Public Affairs staff

From their first to their last, America's Airmen earn each stripe of rank through hard work.

Twenty-five Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing here recently earned their next stripe.

Their names are as follows:

To senior master sergeant:

-Jonathan Raschke,
434th Civil Engineer Squadron

To master sergeant:

-Matthew Huston,
434th Mission Support Group

To technical sergeant:

-David Engelhardt,
434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

-Scotty Oconnor, 434
AMXS

-Kris Schleinkofer,
434th Operations Support Squadron

-John Vanrees, 434th
AMXS

To staff sergeant:

-Jessamyn Rhymer,
434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

-Justin Saylor, 434th
AMXS

-Ryan Strole, 434th
AMXS

To senior airman:

-Keneisha Richards,
434th Security Forces Squadron

-Lauren Roberts, 434th
CES

-David Ruffin, 434th
CES

-Joshua Schumacher,
434th AMXS

-Zachariah Smith, 434th
SFS

To airman 1st class:

-Jamail Baldwin, 434th
OSS

-Brandon Barnescarter,
434th Force Support Squadron

-Marcel Cooper, 434th
AMXS

-Justin Coney, 434th
Logistics Readiness Squadron

-Courtney Mason 434th
Maintenance Operations Flight

-Anna Nassopoulos,
434th FSS

-Tommy Owens, 434th
CES

-Samuel Roberts, 434th
AMXS

-Austin Sands, 434th
Maintenance Squadron

To airman:

-Anthony Flaherty,
434th AMXS

-Aaron McMullen,
434th FSS



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Courtney Storey

Topping off the tank

A U.S. Navy E-6B Mercury refuels from a 434th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker during a refueling mission Dec. XX. The E-6 is a communications relay and strategic airborne command post aircraft. Two squadrons, the "Ironmen" of VQ-3 and the "Shadows" of VQ-4 deploy more than 20 aircrews from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Grissom Airmen awarded medals for service

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

For their meritorious service in the U.S. Air Force, 32 Grissom Airmen were recently awarded medals.

Meritorious Service Medal

Sixteen 434th Air Refueling Wing Airmen were recently presented with Meritorious Service Medals. President Lyndon Johnson established the MSM by Executive Order 11448 on Jan. 16, 1969, as the counterpart of the Bronze Star Medal for the recognition of meritorious noncombatant service. Those who received MSMs are listed below:

- Lt. Col. David Marien, 434th Operations Support Squadron
- Lt. Col. Maurice Noel, 74th Air Refueling Squadron
- Lt. Col. John Pannell, 74th ARS
- Lt. Col. Thomas G. Pea II, 74th ARS
- Chief Master Sgt. Glen R. Johnson Jr., 434th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Johnson, 434th CES
- Senior Master Sgt. Joanne LaFleur, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Senior Master Sgt. Wesley Marion, 434th Air Refueling Wing
- Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason-Wilson, 434th OSS
- Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Stanevicius, 434th Maintenance Squadron
- Master Sgt. Felita Calvin, 434th Force Support Squadron
- Master Sgt. Kenneth Knight, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron
- Master Sgt. Leo A. Piguet II, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Master Sgt. Robert Sucharski, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight
- Tech. Sgt. Bradley Green, 434th AMXS
- Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Knode, 49th Aerial Port Flight



U.S. Air Force graphic by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

For meritorious service, 32 Grissom Airmen were recently awarded medals.

Air Medal

Five aircrew members were presented with Air Medals. The Air Medal was established by May 11, 1942 and is awarded to U.S. military and civilian personnel for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievements while participating in aerial flight and foreign military personnel in actual combat in support of operations. Below are those who received Air Medals:

- Capt. Chayce Baldwin, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron
- Capt. Robin Cosand, 74th ARS
- Capt. Richard Hastings, 74th ARS
- Tech. Sgt. Christopher Nack, 74th ARS
- Staff Sgt. Clayton Duncan, 72nd ARS

Air Force Commendation Medal

One officer and seven noncommissioned officers received Air Force Commendation Medals. This medal was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on March 28, 1958, for award to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement and service. Below are those who received commen-

dation medals:

- Capt. Brian Hunt, 434th OSS
- Master Sgt. Rodney Honeycutt, 434th Maintenance Group
- Master Sgt. Caleb Webster, 434th OSS
- Tech. Sgt. Gregory Coryell, 434th Communications Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Philip G. Henderson Jr., 49th APF
- Tech. Sgt. George Navarro, 434th FSS
- Tech. Sgt. Bryan Stewart, 434th LRS
- Staff Sgt. Kellin Hardin, 434th OSS

Air Force Achievement Medal

Three Grissom Airmen were awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal. This medal was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on Oct. 20, 1980, and is awarded to Air Force personnel for outstanding achievement or meritorious service rendered specifically on behalf of the Air Force. Below are those who received achievement medals:

- Staff Sgt. Joseph Fruggiero, 434th MXS
- Senior Airman David Smart, 434th AMXS
- Airman 1st Class Mandy Thibeault, 434th AMXS



Winter wonderland

Grissom welcomes winter, reminds everyone to be safe

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

Winter will soon be here officially and as the first snow and ice hit Grissom, it brought with it the need for increased safety and caution.

Astronomical winter is determined by the winter solstice, which is when the Earth is tilted farthest away from the sun in the Northern Hemisphere. This year, this will occur at 12:11 a.m. EST Dec. 21.

For many, winter begins in December, when the autumn weather in Indiana starts to turn blustery and cold. Meteorologists use this reasoning as well, as they use whole months to identify meteorological seasons.

In the Northern Hemisphere, meteorologists identify the three coldest months of December, January and February as meteorological winter.

No matter what your view on the start of winter, as the cold rolls in with ice, sleet and snow, the National Safety Council has a few reminders on how to stay safe.

Winter preparation:

- Change the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors once a year.
- Clean chimneys and fireplaces.
- Check furnaces and heating systems by having them inspected by a professional prior to the heating season.
- Prepare for emergencies with a winter survival kit.
- Check fire extinguishers and charge or replace them if necessary.
- Get a flu shot.

Snow shoveling safety:

- If there is a history of heart problems or inactivity, talk to a doctor before shoveling.
- Warm up and stretch before starting.
- Drink plenty of water to keep hydrated.
- Shovel fresh snow. Freshly fallen, powdery snow is easier to shovel than the wet, packed-down variety.
- Push, don't lift. It's easier on your back and uses less energy than lifting.
- Pick the right shovel, and don't pick up too much.
- Use a small shovel, or fill only one-fourth or one-half of a large one.
- Lift with the legs bent, not with the back. Keep the back straight.
- Dress the part. Dress in layers; if working up a sweat, remove some of those layers.
- If the body is saying stop, listen to it. Stop if pain is felt or if there are heart attack warning signs including chest pain; shoulder, neck or arm pain; dizziness, fainting, sweating or nausea; and shortness of breath.

Vehicle safety:

- Have vehicles serviced regularly.
- Check the concentration level of the antifreeze.
- Add a stronger windshield cleaning/de-icer fluid solution to keep the spray from freezing.
- Check tire air pressure and replace any worn tires.
- Keep the fuel tank full or near full to avoid being caught on the road in long lines of slow moving traffic.
- Always carry an emergency kit, with items to support all occupants in case the vehicle becomes stuck.

U.S. Air Force photo graphic by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner



Transportation Security Administration

TSA Precheck expanded to all U.S. servicemembers

As part of the ongoing effort to move away from a one size fits all security approach and provide more of the traveling public the ability to participate in expedited screening, today the Transportation Security Administration and the Department of Defense announced a partnership to expand TSA Precheck expedited screening benefits to all U.S. Armed Forces servicemembers, including those serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, Reserves and National Guard.

As a result of the agreement, these individuals will be able to enjoy the benefits of the program at the 100 participating airports across the country, beginning Dec. 20.

Currently, members of the U.S. Armed Forces can utilize TSA Precheck lanes at 10 domestic airports by presenting their common access card.

The partnership expands the program to the military at all 100 airports offering TSA Precheck, allowing service members to keep their footwear on as well

as light outerwear, belts, laptop in its case and their 3-1-1 compliant liquids/gels bag in a carry on in select screening lanes.

"Expanding TSA Precheck screening benefits is great news for our service members and is a tangible sign of this nation's gratitude for the men and women who serve this nation bravely each and every day," said Mary Snavelly-Dixon, director, Defense Manpower Data Center. "We will continue to work with the Transportation Security Administration to help expand this program further."

"TSA joins with the American people in showing its appreciation for the service and sacrifices of our men and women in the Armed Forces," said TSA Deputy Administrator John Halinski, a 25-year Marine Corps veteran. "Providing expedited screening while on travel is the least we can do for these courageous men and women."

The new process being established under this agreement allows all active duty, U.S. Coast

Guard, Reserve and National Guard service members to use their DOD identification number when making reservations. That ID number will be used as their Known Traveler Number. When arriving at the airport, service members will then be permitted access to TSA Precheck lanes for official or leisure travel on participating airlines.

More than 18 million passengers have experienced TSA Precheck since it launched in October 2011. TSA has recently expanded this expedited screening program to 60 new airports in addition to the existing 40, bringing the total number of airports with TSA Precheck to 100.

TSA has long recognized our men and women in uniform as nearly a quarter of TSA's workforce is a veteran or currently serves as an active duty service member in the U.S. Armed Forces.

In addition to expanding TSA Precheck to service members, TSA wants to remind the American public about the Wounded Warrior

Screening program.

This program makes the overall experience for wounded service members as simple as possible. This includes personalized service and expedited screening to move through security checkpoints without having to remove footwear, light outerwear, jackets or head wear.

Wounded warriors or their care coordinators can contact TSA Cares toll free at 1-855-787-2227 with details of the itinerary once flight arrangements are made with the airline.

TSA will always incorporate random and unpredictable security measures throughout the airport. No individual will be guaranteed expedited screening.

Travelers can check the TSA Precheck Participating Airports page for information on locations and hours of active TSA Precheck lanes.

Further information on TSA Precheck for military members can be found at www.TSA.gov and www.defensetravel.dod.mil.

(Story courtesy TSA)



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