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Heartland WARRIOR

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This Air Force Reserve online magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services, family, and friends of Grissom Air Reserve Base.

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

On the cover...

Col. Doug Schwartz recently arrived at Grissom to assume command of the 434th Air Refueling Wing. Schwartz, who previously served as the 927th Air Refueling Wing commander at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, will have an assumption of command ceremony here in Dock 1 June 8. He is no stranger to Grissom as he is a native Hoosier and served here for 14 years prior.

Schwartz excited for future

By Col. Doug Schwartz
434th ARW commander

Since its inception in the early days of World War II, the 434th has carried on a tradition of honor and a legacy of valor throughout each generation.

That tradition has been faithfully upheld to this day by the great citizen Airmen of the Hoosier Wing, and I'm extremely excited and honored to be able to take command of this unit.

The reputation of the 434th ARW, both past and present, extends around the globe, as it is known for its unfaltering commitment to integrity, service and excellence.

Over the last couple years, I know the wing has proven itself in real-world operations, exercises and inspections.

Most recently, the unit deployed four aviation packages in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where our aviators flew nearly 400 sorties, amassing more than 2,000 combat hours and offloading 6.8 million pounds of fuel to receiver aircraft. Even to this day we have Airmen deployed around the globe in support of ongoing operations.

On top of supplying combatant commanders with the highest-level of combat-ready Airmen, the 434th ARW has continuously upheld its zero-fail mission in providing KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft on alert, around-the-clock in support of the U.S. Strategic Command, as well as performed emergency management missions vital to both our national defense and our community.

For all of these accomplishments and more, the 434th ARW has been lauded time and time again with awards such as the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Reserve Command's Heroism of the Year Award, and the Air Force

Reserve's Outstanding OSS Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Unit of the Year to name a recent few. These awards are only handed out to the very best, which is exactly what we have at Grissom.

It is also worth noting that all of these accomplishments were achieved in spite of difficult financial times. The wing has weathered the challenges of ongoing Budget Continuing Resolutions, Sequestration and Furloughs. While I wish I could say things are going to get easier, I know the Air Force is expecting more from its reserve component than it ever has before.

Today, every single reservist is vitally important to our national defense, and we will continue to need 434th ARW members to step up and answer the call just as they have so many times before. As a former 434th ARW Airman, I know what this unit is capable of and have complete faith and confidence in its ability to do whatever is asked of it.

Not only is it an honor and privilege to command this outstanding wing, Ann and I are elated to return back home to the great state of Indiana.

I've heard them say once you leave home, you can never go back. While

I don't know who 'they' are, I know they can't be right.

I've kept in close contact with many 434th ARW members since I left, and I never felt far away from home.

And, since it was announced I would be returning, the outpouring of Hoosier hospitality has warmed my heart. Truly, there is no place like home, and I'm glad to be coming back.

I cannot wait to serve as the 434th ARW commander, and I know that we will continue to accomplish great things, just as those who came before us did.

"...Ann and I are elated to return back home to the great state of Indiana."

- Col. Doug Schwartz

Indiana lieutenant governor visits GARB

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

The Hoosier Wing gave the Hoosier state's lieutenant governor an up-close look at its mission and importance.

Indiana Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann, along with her staff and staff from U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski's office, visited Grissom to learn more about the 434th Air Refueling Wing, the base and their role in both national defense and the Indiana economy May 14.

"What our Airmen do each and every day is absolutely phenomenal, and for the lieutenant governor and congressional staffers to take time from their busy schedules to meet with us and see the work we do means a lot," said Col. Bryan Reinhart, 434th ARW commander.

The first stop for Ellspermann was a KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft in Dock 1, where she was able to see firsthand the tender loving care that goes into maintaining Grissom's 50-year-old jets.

"Wow!" she exclaimed upon stepping foot onboard the Stratotanker and taking note of the 1963 aircraft's condition. "Not even my house is this clean."

While in Dock 1, Ellspermann, who earned her master's degree and doctorate in industrial engineering at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, was able to dig deep into the technical



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

Indiana Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann, left, talks with 2nd Lt. Brandon Giles, 74th Air Refueling Squadron pilot, about aerial refueling operations at Grissom May 14. Ellspermann, who earned her master's degree and doctorate in industrial engineering was able to dig deep into the technical aspects of aerial refueling with 434th Air Refueling Wing pilots.

aspects of aerial refueling with 434th ARW pilots.

After seeing the aircraft, the lieutenant governor got her chance at the controls of the aircraft in Grissom's flight deck and boom operator weapons systems trainer simulators.

In the simulators, Ellspermann proved herself a natural aviator in the virtual world, with both a successful takeoff and landing as a pilot as well as successful refueling an F-22 Raptor aircraft as a boom operator.

"That was really amazing," she said. "This is going to be one of those days the governor is going to be really jealous of what I got to do."

On top of seeing the

434th ARW's mission, Ellspermann also learned about how Grissom supports the state through its economic impact and direct mission support.

As the largest employer in Miami County, Grissom provides more than \$118 million in economic impact to the local economy. Through its fire department, explosive ordnance disposal unit and air traffic control functions, Grissom is also involved in directly supporting the state in various ways.

Grissom's fire department and explosive ordnance disposal unit train various local, state and federal agencies throughout Indiana and are frequently called upon to support those

agencies in emergency situations.

The base's air traffic control controls all air traffic up to 10,000 feet between Chicago Center and Indianapolis Center, going as far west as Lafayette, Indiana.

Ellspermann also learned about the missions of Grissom's tenant units to include its three Army Reserve units, Marine Corps Reserve communications detachment and the Air Force Reserve's Contingency Emergency Management Facility.

Several times during her visit, she reiterated her support for the military and Grissom.

"The governor and I support you all the way," she said.

Civil Engineers put training to work

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
Public Affairs staff

Members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing put on their work gloves and helped build homes for Native Americans in New Mexico recently.

Two rotations of Grissom civil engineers and medics, travelled to Gallup, New Mexico, to help construct homes for needy families.

While a total of eight different specialties embarked on the two, two-week rotations, the trip afforded a 'blurring of the lines' amongst the skill sets when it came to getting the job done.

"The best part about Gallup is that you get to work in your [Air Force specialty], so you get your training in, but you also get an opportunity to work outside of that," said Master Sgt. Josh Moormann, 434th CES associate operations air reserve technician.

"Many spent a week being a carpenter, even though they may be an electrician," Moormann said. "It makes you more rounded. You're not always going to do your job all of the time."

The military and Grissom have been supporting the Gallup effort for years, taking the materials they

supply and providing labor to give families homes.

The construction site isn't a typical neighborhood as homes are built inside a warehouse with usually three homes undergoing construction at the same time – each in a different phase.

"We offset them by a week so each is in a different phase allowing different skill sets to be working at the same time," Moormann said.

In the past all the work was done in the warehouse, but a problem developed where the homes were then placed on site and then spent long periods of time awaiting hook up of utilities.

"We sent guys on site to help button up and trouble shoot areas," he said.

Working alongside the engineers were medics from the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

"We're sometimes 20 miles onto the reservation, so having medical care nearby is a necessity," said Senior Master Sgt. Chris Brill, 434th CES senior operations air reserve technician. "We put them to work swinging hammers too."

"Trips like this really mirror the way CE operates down range," Brill continued. "You can be a

placed on a team where you may be a plumber, but you may end up driving a lot of nails and do carpenter work. You do the work needed to get the mission done."

"It's important to know your job, and what it takes to get the mission done – even if that's working outside your comfort zone," Moormann added.

Working in rotations, Grissom's team were able to finish one house and get it moved out onto the site and start another one – handing it off to the next rotation for completion.

Throughout the years, the Air Force has been joined by Soldiers, Sailors and Marines coming to the aid of the Native Americans at Gallup. Each service uses this real-world mission as a training opportunity to hone skills.

Part of the challenge is getting the job done within a predetermined time frame with Airmen who are undergoing training at the same time, said Moormann.

"While it's not a time sensitive project, there are places you want to be within those two weeks to maximize training time," he said. "But you want to make sure you get it done right because people are living in them."

And, when the training is done, a family gets a home, which is a rewarding experience.

"We met one of the families; the lady had been waiting for her house for eight months," Moormann said. "It was onsite so we trenched from the house to the utilities hook up so she could have water and was just waiting on electrical hookups."

They had eight people living in a two-bedroom house, so getting that new house was huge for them, he said.

There are 72,000 people within a reservation of 60 square miles in Gallup, and 20 houses are built each year through this service.

"Twenty families a year get a new house because people like us go and train and help them," Moormann said. "You can't help but feel good about that."



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Josh Moormann

Senior Airman James Burton, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron water and fuels journeyman, hangs drywall at a home being constructed March 4 in Gallup, N.M.

RQ-4 reservist helps find missing girls



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Harris

Master Sgt. Rob Donnelly, 380th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, conducts pre-flight checks on an RQ-4 Global Hawk before it's first launch from Southwest Asia.

By Dana Lineback
940th Wing Public Affairs

ABC, NBC and PBS reported last month the Pentagon had confirmed the United States was flying high-altitude surveillance military aircraft over north-eastern Nigeria in search of more than 250 kidnapped schoolgirls.

For Lt. Col. Allen, the national headlines were not news.

The Air Force reservist stationed at Beale Air Force Base, California, is an RQ-4 mission planner and instructor pilot. He was on duty as the operations

supervisor when a high-level request came in from a combatant commander asking to extend a mission that was about to "head home" to its deployed location.

"This was an opportunity to showcase what the Global Hawk and its crew are capable of in response to a real-world situation, providing immediate assistance to our NATO allies," Allen said.

Extending on-station time required a rapid calculation of the aircraft's remaining fuel, assessment of projected weather conditions and coordination of crew scheduling with the forward operating location.

Allen prioritized the issues, developed a plan, and consulted each element involved. Once subject matter experts had weighed in, the chain of command made the final decision to extend the mission.

"We were able to respond in a timely way and executed the mission in a safe and orderly manner, bringing down information that could be immediately interpreted. Instant feedback was provided."

Beyond the satisfaction of a successful mission, Allen said the tasking to overfly Nigeria touched him on a personal level.

"I have a young daughter myself. If someone took her, I'd feel devastated and at a loss."

Allen said that, as an American citizen, he was deeply troubled by the violation of basic human rights.

"I find it bothersome that people's liberties - these young girls' liberty - can be taken away like that. I hope that, in some way, I was able to contribute to the safe return of those girls to their families."

Japan's earthquake and tsunami, and most recently, in the typhoon-struck Philippine Islands. (AFNS)

434th ARW announces Airman promotions

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

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

More than 30 Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing here recently earned their next stripe. Their names are as follows:

To master sergeant:

- Randy Brooks, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

To technical sergeant:

- Michael Graham, 434th AMXS
- Nathan Maiuri, 434th Maintenance Squadron
- Eric McGraw, 434th AMXS

- Darius Smith, 434th Operations Group

- Timothy Ventrello, 434th MXS

To staff sergeant:

- Kyle Bergin, 434th AMXS
- Steven Burton, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron

- Theresa Daniel, 434th MXS
- Joshua Escobedo, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Jeremy Harris, 434th Security Forces Squadron
- Stephen Muenstermann, 434th AMXS

- Matthew Poor, 434th AMXS
- Gabriel Wood, 434th CES

To senior airman:

- Ricky Byrd, 434th AMXS
- Zackery Ehret, 434th AMXS

- Melissa Hunt, 434th AMXS

- Randell Morelli, 434th MXS

- Damion Reed, 34th SFS

- Keith Stephenson, 434th AMXS

- Johnathon Swan, 434th MXS

- Sarah Van Waardenburg, 434th MXS

To airman 1st class:

- Cary Albrecht, 434th AMXS

- Anthony Flaherty, 434th AMXS

- Shelby Knight, 434th Aerospace

Medicine Squadron

- Aaron Petri, 434th SFS

To airman:

- Berry Marshall, 434th SFS

- Angela Hasler, 434th LRS

- Keith Pepper, 434th AMDS

- Inri Sanchez, 434th SFS

- Joseph Woempner, 434th AMDS

Collins retires after nearly four decades

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

Serving nearly four decades in the military, one has plenty of opportunities to change lives while serving in multiple conflicts, but for the previous 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander, those opportunities almost didn't happen.

Col. Thomas Collins retired after serving more than 37 years in both the regular Air Force and Air Force Reserve here at Gus Grissom Hall recently.

Presiding over the ceremony was retired Col. William Cahoon, a previous 434th Air Refueling Wing commander.

Collins, who deployed for Operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and who twice earned bronze star medals for his combat service, said joining the Air Force was a mistake.

"When I graduated high school, I was a compass without a needle and wasn't going anywhere, so my dad and I got into a big argument about what I was doing with my life and to show him I started calling recruiters," he recalled, saying that he wanted to join the Navy because the Air Force had a four-year commitment and the Navy only had three.

"I go walking into the recruiter's office, sit down and as the recruiter was talking, I look up and think 'look



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

Col. Thomas Collins, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander, thanks the Airmen he has commanded at Grissom recently. Collins retired after serving nearly 38 years in both the regular Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

at all those airplanes; the Navy sure does have a lot of airplanes," Collins continued. "All the sudden he said, 'you're really going to enjoy your life in the Air Force,' so I'm not fessing up [that I'm in the wrong office,] and so I sign up."

Collins said that mistake was the best one he's ever made.

"I can never say thanks enough for getting the opportunity to have the best job I've ever had in my career," the colonel said during the ceremony. "I'm so rich and so very fortunate to have the things I have in life, and because the people in this squadron and wing are so good, it's really hard to walk away."

Several of those people Collins commanded spoke during the ceremony about how they were glad he made the "mistake" of joining the Air Force.

One of those people, Master Sgt. Shannon

Tribley, 434th AMDS dental assistant craftsman, admitted she wasn't so keen on the colonel at first.

"In April 2012, when I was on a family vacation in the Smokey Mountains, I got a call, it was Colonel Collins, and he said, 'I have a master sergeant promotion for you, and I need you to pass this fitness test; what can I do to help you succeed?'" Tribley recalled. "I thought, 'wow, I've never had a commander take such a personal interest in an enlisted member's promotion.'"

Tribley went on to say that her opinion of Collins grew even better after serving as the squadron's interim first sergeant.

"I worked very closely with Colonel Collins for 10 months, and I saw he really cares about us," she added. "He helped me grow as a leader, mentored me and gave me opportunities I wouldn't have had

otherwise."

Senior Master Sgt. James Malloy, 434th Security Forces Squadron operations superintendent, who also served as a first sergeant under Collins, echoed that sentiment.

"I've never met anybody with a heart as big as Colonel Collins," said Malloy. "He has passion, excitement and a tremendous sense of humor that can take any situation and put it in perspective."

During the ceremony, Collins thanked the many people that helped guide him through his career, but gave special attention to his family, including his parents, children and girlfriend.

"Bridget, Kelly and Scott, a father could not have better children, and I'm so gifted with my beautiful grandchildren," he said to his children, before turning his remarks to his girlfriend. "I think there's days as commander when it's really hard and there were days I wasn't always sure of myself, and she'd grab me by the shirt and say 'you be the colonel and you be strong.'"

Then, turning to the Airmen he commanded during his final time with the Air Force, Collins thanked them as well.

"From the very bottom of my heart, I love each and every one of you, I cannot thank you enough, and I have only one regret and that is that I can't do it all over again with you," he concluded.

GRIDIRON GIRLS

*Reserve, Guard servicewomen
take the field to break barriers*

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

Whether they're headed down field for a touch-down reception or down range on a deployment, three Indiana military women are creating a level-playing field in all aspects of their lives.

Leslie "Legs" Nance, Jenessa "Mighty" Anderson and Christa "Dirty" Martini are all members of the U.S. military's reserve component, and they all have one more thing in common – they're members of the Indy Crash, a

women's professional football team in Indianapolis.

"We have girls from all walks of life – from working professionals to stay-at-

See 'Gridiron' page 8





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

Jenessa Anderson, an Indy Crash running back who is also a cadet in an Indiana National Guard commissioning program, races past a opponent during a game in Indianapolis May 17.

home moms,” said Nance, a Crash tight end, “We have players from ages 17 to 48 years old.”

The team currently has three members active in the Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve and Indiana Army National Guard, and many of the players are military veterans, said Nance, who has two connections with the Air Force Reserve. She currently serves as both a 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron first sergeant at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and as a civilian 434th Force Support Squadron human resources specialist at Grissom.

It was at Grissom that the first sergeant got connected with professional football, a sport she had never considered playing.

“One of my teammates, Rachel Smith, is a fitness instructor at the Grissom gym, and she said ‘come check it out,’” Nance explained. “I was hooked instantly; I was hooked on the idea I could play

a sport that’s typically considered a men’s sport, but I could play competitively against other women where the other players don’t worry about coming full-force at you because they’re worried about hurting you.”

For Martini, a former Crash player who started playing in 2005 and now serves as a line coach, it was always her desire to take to the field.

“My brother was a football superstar in high school, and growing up I always wanted to play,” explained the coach, who joined the Army Reserve in 2010 for similar reasons and now serves with the 221st Ordnance Company in Fort Wayne, Indiana. “And, I always had this desire to be in the military because my brother was a Marine, and I always had that ache.

“When I decided to join the team, my mom was very reluctant and didn’t like it at first, but she

became very proud of me,” she recalled. “It was the same way with the Army.”

Martini has also found a unique way to combine both her patriotism and passion for the sport as she often sings the National Anthem before games.

“I love doing it because it’s such an awesome thing,” said Martini. “I started singing it before games as a player, and I’ve continued as a coach because it’s always been important to me.”

While the uniforms they wear may be different from field to foxhole, all three players said the coach’s singing is far from the only significant crossover between the military and football.

“They’re both kind of extreme things,” said Anderson, a Crash strong safety and running back who is also a cadet in an Indiana National Guard commissioning program. “Less than half a percent of the population serves in

the military and even less play women’s football.”

Outside of their small membership, she also said both are built on a firm foundation of structure and camaraderie.

“The bond I share with my teammates is comparable with the bond I’ve developed with my fellow servicemembers on deployments,” agreed Nance, who previously served with the 434th Security Forces Squadron. “Whether you’re in close quarters, in the trenches or on the gridiron, you build bonds that last a lifetime.”

“Aside from true family, there’s no sense of family like what we have in the military because of the experiences you share, and it’s the same as women’s football because you grow together,” added Martini. “For many of us, it’s a brand new thing with people learning through a lot of blood, sweat and tears, and that builds a strong bond.”

She added that bond is the key to a successful game-day strategy just as much as it is to a good battle plan.

“You’re trying to win a war, and that takes teamwork,” the coach explained. “You’re only as strong as your weakest person, so you have to make sure never to leave anyone behind.”

Another connection between the worlds of service and sports is found in the training and execution of missions.

“The first reception I ever had was against Chicago, which is the number one or two team in the league, and it felt like it was a 40 yard gain when

in all actuality it was about seven yards,” recalled Nance. “But, it was that thrill of connecting with the ball, even though I was tackled instantly, that told me the last several months of practice had paid off -- I had done my job in that moment, during that play, and it paid off.

“It’s the same thing in the military,” she continued. “You train and train and train to deploy and do your job, especially as a reservist, so when you’re fulfilling your duties, you’re getting that same level of satisfaction.”

Outside of the benefit of knowing they’ve done their part, all three reserve component Crash players also said they’ve benefited from their military and football experiences as both have broken down barriers.

“I’ve met people on this team that I probably would have never otherwise crossed paths with,” said Nance. “There are different backgrounds and cultures, and just like in the military, to be successful you have to get to know them, where they’re coming from, what they’re about, what their values are and how it all fits into the team concept.”

And, just as women were once excluded from military and combat service, Martini said they are breaking down barriers for females on the field as well.

“We’ve all heard, ‘women don’t play football,’ but we’re changing those perceptions,” she continued. “When I step on the field, I’m not a woman -- I’m a football player.”

For Anderson, the barriers she broke through the military and football were her own.

“Before I was in either program I was shy, but once I got into them and had to get to know these girls who are more intimidating as football players and Soldiers, it helped me branch out,” she said.

“The best thing these do for women is build confidence because they are outside the norm for women to do, and it shows them they can do anything,” continued the 5-foot-1-inch running back. “You can’t be timid, especially being in the military because you can’t be shy to stand up for what you’re thinking or what’s right, otherwise you’d get ran over.”

Another benefit football has brought to the Citizen Airman and Soldiers turned professional players is fitness.

“Even though I had always wanted to join the military, I was really out of shape, but when I started playing football I wanted to get stronger and better and lost enough weight to

join the military,” recalled Martini. “I don’t think I would have ever decided to lose the weight and get healthy had I not played.”

Physical fitness is just another connection Nance said she sees between the military and football.

“A lot of our players are in the military or former military, which isn’t surprising given that military members are generally physically fit and driven people who want something more from life,” she explained.

It’s for that exact reason Martini said she loves to coach current and former military members.

“Military and ex-military are so eager to learn, and they respond well to you pushing them,” she said. “If you push them, they’ll meet that limit every time -- when you tell them to jump, they ask you how high.”

Unfortunately, there’s another similarity between the service and the sport,

which is more personal.

“The hardest part of both is sacrificing time from my family,” said Nance. “It’s not the physical at all, as those bumps and bruises heal.”

However, the first sergeant went on to say that her family is proud of all her accomplishments and the key to success has been a strong support system.

“My husband’s my number one fan and supporter, even though he doesn’t understand football,” she said. “He’s always told me, ‘if there’s something you want to do, do it.’”

And, taking those opportunities life provides while not being afraid to fulfill her’s desires is a lesson Nance hopes her Airmen learn.

“I want them to seek out those things that open up their eyes,” she said. “Whether it’s being a part of the honor guard, Airman’s council or football team, anytime you go outside your box, there’s something you can always bring back to your unit, team or life.”



Leslie Nance, Indy Crash tight end and 434th Force Support Squadron human resources specialist, is tackled by four Derby City players during a football game in Indianapolis May 17.

Commentary: Why 'sheepdog' re-enlisted

By Tech. Sgt.
Christopher Bauchle
434th Civil Engineer Squadron

After reading Staff Sergeant Aaron Driver's letter, "Why I won't re-enlist", in the Air Force Times, I felt compelled to reply with a letter on why I did re-enlist.

There is no doubt the bureaucracy and routine beadedness inherent with an organization the size of the United States Air Force can be frustrating at times. On paper, the assurance of college money, access to health care, and the opportunity to travel while learning a skill are perks enticing to most. While these are very real benefits of military service, it is truly a sad thing for anyone to complete an enlistment without recognizing the overarching impact of their actions. I do not write this out of a do-or-die patriotic mindset, but from a very calculated decision-making process and a strong feeling of moral obligation.

In Lt. Col. Dave Grossman's book, *On Combat*, he refers to an old Vietnam veteran who uses a metaphor to describe our underlying purpose as a member of the United States Armed Forces.

He writes, "Most of the people in our society are sheep. They are kind, gentle, productive creatures



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

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Bauchle

who can only hurt one another by accident." He goes on to describe wolves - the evil men and women of the world who live to feed on the flock. There is no doubt they are out there, people and organizations alike who despise our way of life and seek to implant fear in the hearts of your family and mine. "Then there are sheepdogs," he went on, "and I'm a sheepdog. I live to protect the flock and confront the wolf." Regardless if your AFSC is involved in directly opposing the "wolf", we all have our own niche in ensuring

our loved ones can wake up in the morning and walk outside without being afraid.

We are part of a long and proud heritage of sheepdogs - individuals who believe there are things far more important than their own personal comfort and safety. I believe it is imperative that we not only recognize this for ourselves, but also instill it in our significant others by explaining the tremendous supportive role they play as sheepdogs.

We may not be able to control orders and issues that stem from above our pay grade, but we can undoubtedly control how they impact us and those we come in contact with. An airman or NCO who demonstrates a hardness of spirit despite inconvenience and adversity creates a ripple effect that can leave a lasting impact on those around them. Frustrations over deployments, scandals, etc. pale in comparison to the privilege of being part of such a noble existence. I view my current enlistment, and the ones to follow, as a small sacrifice to help give my friends and family the incredible gift of freedom and peace of mind. Every day you put on your uniform is part of your legacy and is an opportunity to leave our country a better place than when you found it. This is why I re-enlisted.

Wingman Toolkit supports Critical Days of Summer

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Air Force Reserve Command's Wingman Toolkit is partnering with the Air Force Safety Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, to highlight the 2014 Critical Days of Summer campaign.

The annual campaign runs from May 23 to Sept. 2 and focuses on risk management for all summer activities - on and off duty.

This year's theme, Risk: Double checks, not second thoughts, reminds Airmen

to be responsible wingmen and to take care of themselves, their families and their teammates.

"We are excited about our collaboration with the Air Force Safety Center and what it means for all Air Force Wingmen," said Lt. Col. David Ubelhor, chief mental health consultant to the AFRC command surgeon.

The Air Force Safety Center's request to partner with the Wingman Toolkit for this year's Critical Days of Summer

campaign shows how well known and successful the Wingman Toolkit program has become, Ubelhor said.

The WMTK initiative, which includes videos and outreach materials, continues to grow and improve. These tools help Air Force Reserve Airmen and their military and non-military wingmen use the four pillars of comprehensive fitness to build wellness and resilience by maintaining balanced lifestyles.

According to Bill Parsons, Air Force chief of

ground safety, every Airman has a role in achieving zero fatalities this summer.

"We can achieve that goal by using all the risk management techniques available, including activity planning and being responsible wingmen," Parsons said.

More information about the Critical Days of Summer is available through the Wingman Toolkit, local safety offices and the ground safety Sharepoint site. (AFNS)

More than 60 Airmen earn CCAF degrees

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

Public Affairs staff

Not only are many of the Air Force's enlisted members able to call themselves graduates of Basic Military Training, they can also call themselves college graduates.

This is now true for more than 60 434th Air Refueling Wing Airmen as they recently earned their Community College of the Air Force degrees.

Below are the names of those earning their associates in applied science degrees in the following areas of study:

Aerospace Ground Equipment Technology

Tech. Sgt. Maurice Everett, 434th Maintenance Squadron

Aircrew Safety Systems Technology

Staff Sgt. Ryan Montgomery, 434th Operations Support Squadron

Allied Health Sciences

Master Sgt. Kontinna Rosebudsawyer, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron

Aviation Maintenance Technology

Staff Sgt. Robert Grasmick, 434th AMXS

Tech. Sgt. Shane Enderle, 434th MXS

Tech. Sgt. Kyle Kaufman, 434th Maintenance Group

Tech. Sgt. Michael Maddux, 434th AMXS

Tech. Sgt. Samuel Scoskie, 434th MXS

Master Sgt. Joshua Stedman, 434th AMXS

Senior Master Sgt. Darin Daugherty, 434th MXS

Senior Master Sgt. James Hambruch, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Aviation Operations

Tech. Sgt. Caleb Daulton, 74th Air Refueling Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Obusek, 74th ARS

Master Sgt. Michael Morgan, 72nd ARS

Bioenvironmental Engineering Technology

Staff Sgt. Mathew Mavricks, 434th MXS

Construction Technology

Master Sgt. Joshua Moormann, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron

Criminal Justice

Senior Airman Torey Lyons, 434th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Timothy Augustyn, 434th SFS

Staff Sgt. Austin Esotu, 434th SFS

Staff Sgt. Michael McClintock, 434th SFS

Tech. Sgt. Anthony Ayres, 434th SFS

Tech. Sgt. James Marshall, 434th SFS

Tech. Sgt. Adam Soultz, 434th SFS

Tech. Sgt. Kent Taylor, 434th SFS

Master Sgt. William Mezel, 434th SFS

Dental Assisting

Staff Sgt. Joseph Logan, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Master Sgt. Shannon Tribbley, 434th AMDS
Education and Training Management

Tech. Sgt. Adam Oswalt, 434th MXG

Tech. Sgt. Deborah Sweet, 434th Logistics

Readiness Squadron

Electronic Systems Technology

Senior Airman Paul Harrington, 434th

Communications Squadron

Emergency Management

Senior Airman Jessica Weatherman, 434th ARW

Fire Science

Staff Sgt. Joshua Reid, 434th CES

Health Care Management

Master Sgt. Tina Hoover, 434th AMXS

Hospitality and Fitness Management

Staff Sgt. James Poole, 434th Force Support Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Kristina Williams, 434th FSS

Human Resource Management

Tech. Sgt. Crystal Nix, 434th OSS

Master Sgt. Laura Brandt, 434th FSS

Master Sgt. Wendi Conwell, 434th AMDS

Information Management

Senior Airman Matthew Hawley, 434th CS

Tech. Sgt. Roland Benitez, 434th FSS

Tech. Sgt. Leslie Heron, 74th ARS

Tech. Sgt. Chassity Howieson, 434th OSS

Master Sgt. Tina Hoover, 434th AMXS

Senior Master Sgt. James Frier, 434th CS

Information Systems Technology

Staff Sgt. Eric Baker, 434th CS

Master Sgt. James Hoagland, 434th ARW

Intelligence Studies and Technology

Tech. Sgt. William Wright, 434th OSS

Maintenance Production Management

Master Sgt. Adam Loos, 434th CES

Mechanical and Electrical Technology

Staff Sgt. Dale Trigsted, 434th CES

Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Tysinger, 434th CES

Nondestructive Testing Technology

Master Sgt. Brian Rude, 434th LRS

Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Mota, 434th ARW

Safety

Staff Sgt. Matthew Bratthauar, 434th ARW

Social Services

Tech. Sgt. Soyica Stanfield, 434th FSS

Transportation

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Harper, 49th Aerial Port Flight

Staff Sgt. Mark Magajne, 49th APF

Staff Sgt. Stephen Qualley, 434th LRS

Tech Sgt. Logan Call, 49th APF

Tech Sgt. John Drent, 49th APF

Tech Sgt. Joshua Knight, 49th APF

Master Sgt. Laurie Latchaw, 49th APF

The CCAF awards job-related associate in applied science degrees and other academic credentials that enhance mission readiness, contribute to recruiting, assist in retention and support the career transitions of Air Force enlisted members.

AF Museum breaks ground on expansion

By Rob Bardua

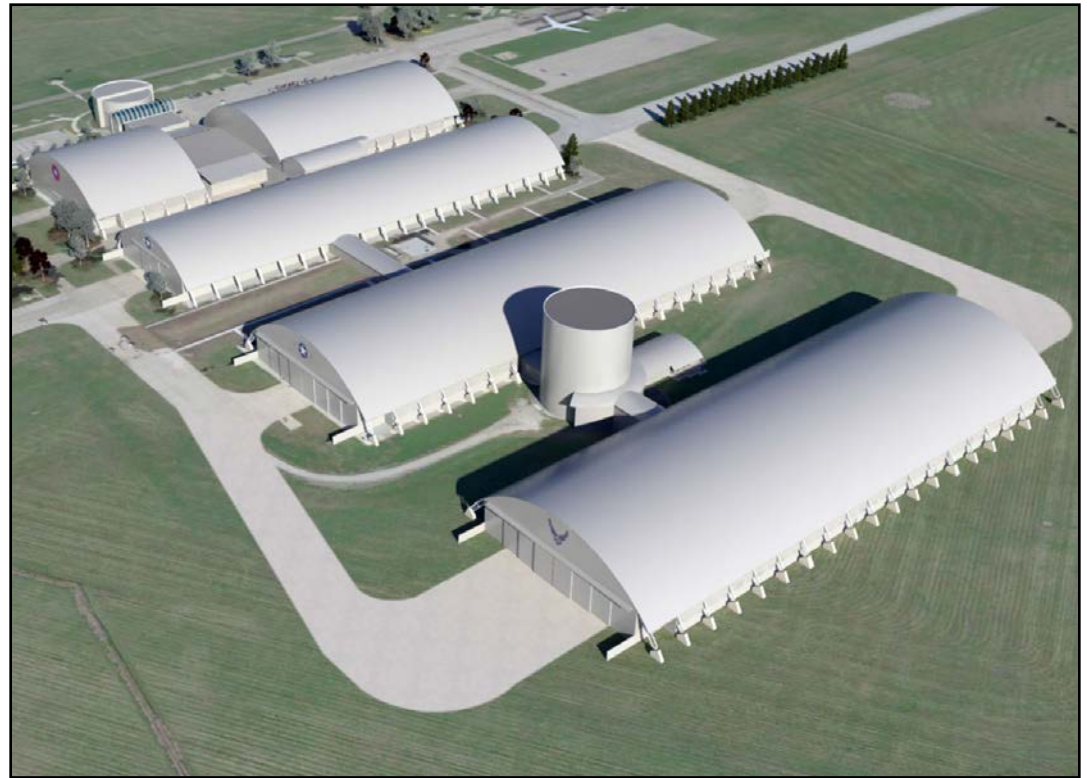
National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

DAYTON, Ohio -- The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force broke ground today on a new \$35.4 million building that will house aircraft from the museum's Presidential, Research and Development (R&D) and Global Reach collection, as well as a new and expanded Space Gallery.

The 224,000 square foot building, which is scheduled to open to the public in 2016, is being privately financed by the Air Force Museum Foundation, a non-profit organization chartered to assist in the development and expansion of the museum's facilities.

According to Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, the museum's fourth building will provide increased public awareness of the Air Force mission by giving visitors greater access to our legacy of aircraft, missiles, cyber expertise and other elements of Air Force heritage.

"As the Air Force's window to the public, the museum is where the people come to learn about the history, mission and evolving capabilities of America's Air Force and about the Airmen who are truly the foundation of everything we do," said James. "In today's Air Force, we not only cherish our legacy; we live it every day with integrity, service, and excellence. These core values guide our actions and make us the best Air Force in the



Courtesy graphic

Artist rendering of the exterior of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force's fourth building.

world. I thank the Air Force Museum Foundation for their support and assistance in making this facility a reality."

In December 2013, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, awarded the contract for the building to Turner Construction Co. of Washington, D.C. Since then a significant amount of planning and design work has taken place to meet the museum's requirements for the fourth building, said Turner Construction Co. Vice President and General Manager Kyle E. Rooney.

"Since the fourth building is similar in size and shape to the museum's three existing hangars, we had some good templates to work from, but we also have some unique challenges to navigate

through as well," said Rooney. "Innovative solutions are part of what we do, so we are looking forward to getting started with the construction phase."

Although the construction phase is set to begin, the Air Force Museum Foundation will continue fundraising toward their campaign goal of \$46 million, which would provide for further options such as theatrical lighting, a west tow path, and an additional café, as well as educational requirements including science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Learning Nodes and wireless capability in the building," said Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc. Chairman Fran Duntz.

"We're extremely pleased to assist the Air Force with financing for

the fourth building, and we're fully committed to achieving our campaign goal so that the entire potential of the fourth building can be realized," said Duntz.

Included among the many benefits of the fourth building will be the relocation of the popular Presidential and R&D Gallery aircraft including SAM 26000 (Air Force One), which served eight presidents from President Kennedy to President Clinton, and the only remaining XB-70, from a controlled-access portion of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to the main museum campus where they will be accessible to all visitors. In addition, the museum will be able to display some artifacts that had previously been

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Heartland Warrior

Twenty-two Grissom Airmen awarded medals

Staff Sgt. Andrew McLaughlin
Public Affairs staff

For their meritorious service in the Air Force, 24 Grissom Airmen were recently awarded medals.

Meritorious Service Medal

Seventeen 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:

- Col. Christopher Amend, 434th Operations Group
- Col. Thomas Collins, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
- Lt. Col. Gregory Demaio, 434th ARW
- Lt. Col. Richard Krupp, 74th Air Refueling Squadron
- Lt. Col. Brian Stopher, 74th ARS
- Maj. Kelly Ammon, 74th AARS
- Maj. Joel Brecount, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Maj. Matthew Heineman, 434th AMDS
- Maj. Michael Hoke, 74th ARS

- Maj. Brian Thompson, 74th ARS
- Senior Master Sgt. Richard Miller, 434th AMXS
- Senior Master Sgt. Darin Schenher, 434th AMXS
- Master Sgt. Scott Allen, 434th Operations Support Squadron
- Master Sgt. Gregory Minnich, 434th OSS
- Master Sgt. Todd Moore, 434th AMXS
- Master Sgt. Gerald Schumacher, 74th ARS
- Staff Sgt. Dana Bondurant, 434th AMXS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Three Grissom Airmen were awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal. 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 commendation medals:

- Lt. Col. Christopher Filer, 434th AMDS
- Master Sgt. Benita Baker, 434th ARW
- Tech. Sgt. Kevin Black, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron



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

Air Force Achievement Medal

Two 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:

- Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Beachy, 434th OSS
- Tech. Sgt. McKayla Dick, 74th ARS

Museum, from page 12

kept in storage such as the Titan IV launch vehicle, or kept outside such as the C-141 Hanoi Taxi and the C-130E.

For Museum Director Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Jack Hudson, the educational possibilities including those involving STEM is what is really exciting to envision.

"When you look at the various aircraft, the unique spacecraft and unparalleled technology that will be on display in the fourth building, then you can begin to see why it will be the

perfect setting for educational programs - especially those that inspire and motivate our youth toward an Air Force or STEM career," Hudson said. "Many museums may focus largely on the achievements of the past, but at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, we also are a catalyst for the achievements of the future."

The Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc. was established in 1960 as a philanthropic, non-profit organization to assist the Air Force in the devel-

opment and expansion of the facilities of the National Museum of the United States Air Force, and to undertake and advance programs and activities supporting the museum. The Foundation raises funds through its membership program, the Air Force Museum Theatre, Museum Store, flight simulators and Valkyrie Café, as well as from direct donations.

The National Museum of the United States Air Force, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, is the

service's national institution for preserving and presenting the Air Force story from the beginning of military flight to today's war on terrorism.

It is free to the public and features more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles and thousands of artifacts amid more than 17 acres of indoor exhibit space.

Each year about one million visitors from around the world come to the museum. For more information, visit www.nationalmuseum.af.mil. (AFNS)