



Heartland Warrior

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Heartland WARRIOR

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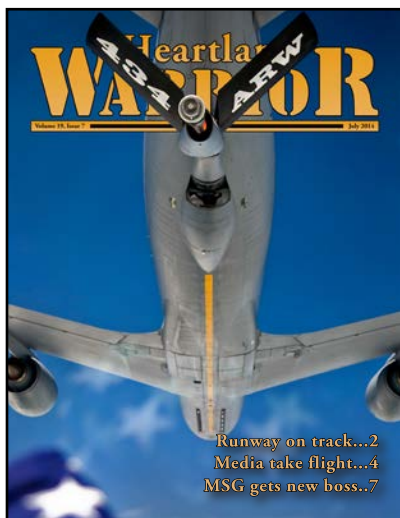
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U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

On the cover...

An American flag reflects in the window of a C-17 Globemaster III from the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, as the aircraft approaches a KC-135R Stratotanker from Grissom during a training mission June 18. Indiana and Ohio media were onboard the flight, and the flag was being flown in honor of one of the C-17 pilot's previous supervisors who was retiring.



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

Contractors use a milling machine to remove old and damaged pavement on a taxiway Grissom June 20. Six one-inch expansion joints are being replaced and parts of the runway and taxiway are being repaved as part of a 45-day project.

Runway project on track

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

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Grissom's runway construction is on track to meet its July 15 deadline to reopen the airfield.

"From the reports, the project is progressing very well, and we'll be very excited to get our KC-135s back to Grissom as soon as we can," said Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander.

Nearly all of Grissom's 16 KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft are currently operating out of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, during the construction.

The \$3.2 million project kicked off June 1 with a projected 45-day timeline, although USACE engineers had said that could be delayed slightly due to weather conditions.

"Every effort is being made to make sure this project is done on time," said John Robison, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron chief engineer, who added the crews have been working 12-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week to stay on target. "They've had to stay flexible to deal with the weather, but they ap-

pear to be on track."

The project was originally slated to be done over 120 days, but 434th ARW personnel worked with the USACE to reduce that timeline down to 45 days.

"We're doing this to prevent buckling of the runway due to thermal expansion," explained Robison. "The pavement heaves up during the summer time, so we are going to replace expansion joints in the pavement that allow it to move around and prevent an un-level pavement surface."

Six one-inch expansion joints are being replaced, and parts of the runway and taxiway surfaces are being repaved.

"When we have to close down the runway, we make sure to do multiple projects at a time to limit the time it's closed," said Robison. The last time Grissom closed its airfield was in 2004 for a similar project.

Grissom officials have said the project is necessary for both military and civilian aviation use.

"At the end of the day, these repairs are absolutely necessary and will benefit both military and civilian aviation for years to come," said Col. Bryan Reinhart, 434th ARW vice commander, who oversaw the project's kickoff.

Schwartz takes reins of Hoosier Wing

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

From ancient Roman battlefields to the modern era of stealth unmanned aerial systems, military commanders have been the source around which units have rallied and claimed ultimate victory.

With such importance of knowing who a commander was and what he expected from his troops, formal command transition ceremonies became a necessity that allowed warriors to witness a peaceful transition of leadership.

In that same time-honored tradition, Col. Doug Schwartz assumed command of the 434th Air Refueling Wing in front of the Airmen he now commands during a special ceremony held here June 8.

Schwartz previously served as the 927th Air Refueling Wing commander at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and in his new role he commands the largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve with over 1,900 military, civilian and contract personnel.

"You will not find a better man to lead the 434th ARW," said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Barnson, 4th Air Force vice commander, who presided over the ceremony. "He has taken a sacred oath to lead you, and I know that he will stand with you, between our loved ones and war's destination."

Shortly after Barnson gave Schwartz the wing's flag, adorned with its

campaign streamers dating back to the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, the colonel said he's proud to lead a unit with such a tradition of honor.

"You know you make history every day," he said. "You are part of a grand tradition that dates back to the earliest days of our nation's history when citizen soldiers would drop the blacksmith hammer or plow and answer the nation's call."

That call is one the colonel said he's ready and willing to answer along with those he commands.

"What I expect from you is that you will give your Air Force duty your all - always be ready," he elaborated. "What you can expect is for me to get out of the car in the morning with a smile on my face and a spring in my step ready to give 110 percent to our daily work of ensuring that we are always ready should the nation call."

Schwartz also said the unit has kept in line with its tradition of excellence, performing admirably over the last few years, but he added there is still work that needs to be done.

"You simply rock. Whether it's an inspection, a deployment or simply conducting readiness training, you always knock it out of the park," he added. "But, we know that we can never rest on our laurels and press clippings from the past. With two major inspections right around the corner and the constant rhythm of deployments, we simply can't rest."

While this assignment may not be a restful one



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

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Barnson, 4th Air Force vice commander, left, presents the 434th Air Refueling Wing flag to Col. Doug Schwartz as the colonel assumes command of the Hoosier Wing during a special ceremony here in Dock 1 June 8.

for the colonel, he said he and his wife, who are both native Hoosiers, are glad to get back home.

"Folks, it's great to be back home again in Indiana," said Schwartz, who served with the 434th ARW from 1992 to 2007. "Ann and I couldn't be more excited to be back in the Hoosier Wing."

Several community leaders from around north-central Indiana came to witness the ceremony, and Schwartz affirmed to them his commitment to keeping the base relevant.

"We will work together to continue to carry the message of Grissom and

the 434th (ARW) to ensure that this base is always poised for new and emerging missions and has an enduring future," he said. "I plan to stand side-by-side with you as we move forward with energy and vigor to make this great installation a beacon and centerpiece in central Indiana."

Looking toward the future, Schwartz said he's excited for what's on the horizon.

"Together we will reach new levels of success and accomplishments, and that journey starts right here, today," he concluded. "Let's work hard, but let's have some fun along the way."

Wale Aliyu, a reporter from Dayton, Ohio's, ABC 22 and FOX 45, films Master Sgt. Christopher Nack, 74th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, onboard a Grissom KC-135R Stratotanker June 18.

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jami Lancette



FROM A DIFFERENT VIEW

*Grissom, Wright-Patt team up
to tell Air Force Reserve story*

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

Since the Wright brothers first took to the sky, Ohio has been known as a state for aviation innovation, and in that spirit, two Air Force Reserve units found a creative way to showcase their missions.

The 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom partnered with the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to host a combined media flight showcasing their unique missions June 18.

"This was a great opportunity that allowed us to showcase both airframes and mission sets," said Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th ARW commander. "The community needs to see what our great citizen Airmen are doing each and every day."

Helping to allow that opportunity is the fact that the majority of Grissom's 16 KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft are currently operating out of Wright-Patterson

as the Indiana base's runway is undergoing construction.

During the flight, eight Ohio media representatives came face-to-face with a 445th AW C-17 Globemaster III aircraft as they flew onboard a 434th ARW KC-135R during air refueling operations.

Seven media members from Indiana also got a unique perspective as well as they flew onboard that C-17, learning more about airlift operations and aeromedical evacuation missions, with one even becoming a patient in a medical training scenario.

Rocky Walls, of 12 Stars Media, raised his hand and volunteered to take part in the aeromedical evacuation training and quickly found himself being treated for a simulated collapsed lung.

"I like getting in the middle of it and getting my hands dirty, and they gave me a good picture of why and how they do what they do," said Walls. "There's always that chance something could go wrong and they have to be ready for anything. A patient they pick up could have any number of challenges and they have to be ready with the right people in the right places to take care of them."

Walls was onboard a more traditional media flight in 2010 as he flew with the 434th ARW on one of the unit's KC-135s and said that opportunity allowed him to appreciate the experience all the more.

"It was absolutely fantastic being



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jami Lancette

Col. Jeff McGalliard, 445th Airlift Wing commander, is interviewed by Tyler Greenlees, Dayton Daily News photographer, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, before the two boarded a 434th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft during a training mission and media flight over Kentucky June 18.

down in the KC-135 boom pod and seeing the precision of the boom operator, but seeing it from the cockpit this time is a different perspective entirely," he explained. "There's something about facing forward and seeing this other plane right on top of you that is so much more intense and really speaks to how complicated air refueling actually is."

The media flight was also unique for the aircrews as well, said Maj. Francis W. Saul III, 89th Airlift Squadron C-17 pilot.

"It's incredibly rare for the crews of the receiver and tanker aircraft

to meet in person because we are generally coming from two different bases and headed in two different directions," explained Saul. "But, I love being able to meet these guys; it puts a face on a voice over the radio and lets you connect and learn what these guys are all about."

With their footage and experiences in hand, the media representatives left Wright-Patterson also knowing what both air refueling and airlift operations were all about and were armed to share the Air Force Reserve mission from an entirely new perspective.



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

C-17 Globemaster III pilots from the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, fly behind a 434th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker from the 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom during a training mission June 18.

SecAF: Total force readiness has declined

By Army Sgt. 1st Class
Tyrone Marshall Jr.
*American Forces
Press Service*

WASHINGTON, -- While elements of the Air Force are always prepared to meet the country's readiness needs, total force readiness has deteriorated, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James told the Defense Writers Group here June 18.

Nearing the six-month mark of her term as the Air Force's top official, James touched on appropriately balancing the readiness of the force as part of her three top priorities.

"The readiness of today ... is just absolutely crucial," she said. It means having the right training and equipment, she said, and it means having people prepared to step up to the plate no matter what.

"Today, if necessary to go do what the nation would call upon us to do, we're dealing with the situation in Iraq," she said. "If we had been together a month ago, you might have been very interested in talking about Ukraine. The point is you never know what is going to happen. The point is you've got to be ready. Our readiness in the Air Force, as a total force over the years, has atrophied -- that is to say the full spectrum of our readiness."

Parts of our Air Force are enormously ready at all times, James said, and those are the ones that would be put forward first.

"But I'm concerned with our entire readiness,"



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Omar Delacruz

Aging systems like the A-10 Thunderbolt are under scrutiny and consideration for reduction as budget constraints grow.

she added. "We need to get that readiness up."

James said the readiness of tomorrow means the platforms and technologies of tomorrow.

"You know we have our three top acquisitions programs," she said. "We have other programs as well, and we've got to appropriately invest in those so that 10, 20, 30 years from now, we remain the world's best Air Force."

Getting that balance correct is important, James said, but it is a difficult business, because it all comes down to money and where it will be spent in a tough budget environment.

"In order to pay for some of these priorities we're trying to reduce some of our aging aircraft like the A-10 [Thunderbolt attack jet, also called Warthog], for example," she said. "We don't know whether Congress will agree to this at the end of the day, but we have to make those tough decisions [and] reduce force structure in some areas in order to pay for this."

James told the defense writers that the other two priorities she remains focused on are taking care of people and maximizing

taxpayer dollars.

"People are the foundation of everything that we do," she said. "And taking care of people means a lot of things. It's a big portfolio." It means recruiting, retaining and developing people, James said, and shaping the force so the right people are in the right jobs going forward.

Part of shaping the force, she said, will come by downsizing through both voluntary and involuntary means.

"This has been quite an issue that we have been dealing with," James said. "It's on the minds of a lot of our airmen, and so I've been talking about this as I've been traveling across the Air Force. The goal is to use voluntary as much as possible [and] to use involuntary when we must to get it over with so that we are appropriately shaped in the next 14 [to] 15 months, and then we're done and move forward."

James said appropriately balancing the active duty, Reserve and National Guard components also is part of taking care of people.

"As we're reshaping and downsizing," she said, "we want to take advantage of the best

capabilities of all three of those components and the fourth component as well: our civilians."

The secretary also said another part of taking care of people is ensuring their dignity and respect in an appropriate climate in the Air Force.

"As you could imagine, sexual assault has been something I've been tracking on quite a bit as well over the last six months," she added. "It'll continue to be a top priority of mine going forward."

James said that coming from the business world, her third priority is making every dollar count in a "tough" budget environment.

This involves keeping programs on schedule and on budget as much as possible, she said, while attacking headquarters spending and getting to an auditability stage for the Air Force's books.

"We're also trying to bubble up ideas from the field through what we're calling the 'Make Every Dollar Count' campaign," James said.

The secretary stressed that her job is to ensure the Air Force is prepared to answer the nation's call, today and in the future.

"My overall job ... is to train, to equip and to organize the Air Force so that we can help the nation respond to whatever contingency we're asked to respond to in what is still a very, very dangerous world," James said. "It's to prepare the Air Force today for that, as well to make sure that we're on the path to do that 20 and 30 years from now."

Russell named to command mission support group

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

From the junior enlisted ranks to senior command assignments, Grissom is about to gain a commander who brings with him experience from the bottom to the top.

Col. Scott Russell was recently selected to take command of the 434th Mission Support Group here Aug. 10.

In his new role, Russell will be responsible for supporting the mission of the largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve and one of only five air reserve bases through a variety of functions including infrastructure, services, logistics, personnel, communications, contracting and security.

"This will be my first time at Grissom, but I've always said you always end up exactly where you're supposed to be," said Russell, who added that he's excited to get back to a host base.

"I started off at Minneapolis-St. Paul [Air Reserve Station, Minnesota,] and it was a culture shock coming to a tenant unit," he continued. "I'm excited to come back to that environment where we have civil engineering, security forces and services in a larger role."

The colonel also said he's looking forward to seeing the Grissom's operation and meeting everyone.

Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, said that he's elated to have Russell on the Grissom team.

"We are very excited to have Colonel Russell come aboard here," said Schwartz. "His reputation precedes him, and he'll be an outstanding asset to the Hoosier Wing."

Russell began his military career as an enlisted security policeman in the regular Air Force in 1979, and he received his commission through the Airmen Scholarship and Commissioning Program.

After receiving his commission, a then 2nd Lt. Russell worked counterintelligence and criminal investigations with an Air Force Office of



U.S. Air Force photo

Col. Scott Russell

Special Investigations detachment at nearby Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

After serving a subsequent tour with Headquarters AFOSI at Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C., Russell joined the Air Force Reserve, commanding the 934th Security Forces Squadron at Minneapolis-St. Paul ARS.

Since that time, he has served as chief of security forces for 10th Air Force and as a reserve advisor to HQ AFOSI. He currently serves as the 459th Mission Support Group commander at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

"I took away a lot from my four years on active duty as a security forces enlisted Airman," he said. "But, the biggest thing was how to

get the mission done while taking care of our people."

Those two things are part of what Russell called his "big three" when it comes to leadership.

"Leadership boils down to three things," he elaborated. "Get the mission done, take care of people and have fun while doing it."

When asked about his philosophy of taking care of Airmen, Russell said it's more than just focusing on their day-to-day job.

"It's about mentoring them, finding weaknesses and hardships and helping them progress," he explained. "I'm all for getting people ready for the next level."

Russell will take command during a special ceremony held here Aug. 9.

AF reservists team up to teach Army cargo ops



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

U.S. Army Sgt. Sandy Saldivar, 766th Transportation Battalion motor transport operator, chains down a Humvee in a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft here at Grissom recently.

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

As former Yale professor Halford Luccock once said, “no one can whistle a symphony – it takes an orchestra to play it,” and such is the case with the composition of modern military power.

Coming together in the harmony of global reach were Air Force reservists from Grissom and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, as they taught Army Reservists mobility airlift loading operations here recently.

Both the Airmen of Grissom’s 49th Aerial Port

Squadron and Wright-Patterson’s 89th Airlift Squadron took a day to show reservists from the Army Reserve’s 766th Transportation Battalion based out of South Bend, Indiana, how to build cargo pallets for airlift and how to load a Humvee and a heavy expanded mobility tactical truck into a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

“This was a mobility exercise where we practiced deploying and redeploying organic equipment and Soldiers,” said U.S. Army Maj. Deon Considine, 766th BN support operations officer. “If we’re going to rapidly deploy,

it’s going to be through the Air Force with their assets.”

While deploying their equipment via Air Force aircraft may be a reality of modern warfare and global military response, for many of the 766th BN Soldiers, this training provided them with their first opportunity to do so.

“A lot of our NCOs have done it before, but some of the junior enlisted who haven’t been overseas haven’t had any experience like this,” said U.S. Army Sgt. Sandy Saldivar, 766th BN motor transport operator. “We transport things, and we need to be able to do that around the world, so it’s important to know how to secure and load our own cargo.”

While the 49th APF trainers said they could tell their Army Reserve trainees were new to the air mobility process, that inexperience created enthusiasm that helped the training go well.

“You could definitely tell by their reaction that was their first aircraft they’ve ever been on,” said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Skyles Fullenkamp,

49th APF aerial port specialist. “With the chains and devices we use, it can be somewhat complicated, but they were really gung-ho and nailed it down by the end of the training.”

While the training by all accounts was a success, it was the first phase in a much larger plan to get the Soldiers fully trained to deploy their equipment on Air Force aircraft.

“This was a crawl phase because you have freshly trained mobility planners and Soldiers who have never done this before, so they are learning,” said Considine. “For the walk phase we are going to try to bring them down again and actually flying them somewhere.”

Even though it was just the start of becoming proficient, the major said it gave his Soldiers value beyond how to tie down a truck in an aircraft.

“Working with the Air Force was the best thing of it all as we worked outside of our bubble,” he explained. “Almost all of our major operations are carried out in a joint environment, so it’s always good to exercise jointly.”



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. David White, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, directs Soldiers of the U.S. Army Reserve’s 766th Transportation Battalion as they offload a Humvee from a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at Grissom recently.



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

Marty Foye, 434th Air Refueling Wing financial services officer, takes part in a flag run at Grissom June 13.

Putting the fun in run:

Flag run promotes fitness, morale for Airmen

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
Public Affairs staff

Flags have been rallied around for thousands of years, and that was the case here recently.

People from around the base gathered together to take part in a special fun run designed to promote esprit de corps, unity and fitness June 13.

A total of eight people participated in the event and were divided into two groups.

"We broke the runners into two teams, with slower runners given a five-minute head start," said

Zac Holmes, 434th Force Support Squadron fitness instructor and the run's coordinator. "After five minutes we sent four chasers after them."

Once a faster runner overtook a person with the flag, they would take the flag from them and carry it forward until they also were surpassed.

"The event is part of our unity series of races," Holmes said. "We want to make fitness fun and encourage participation."

For more information or to sign up for future events, call the fitness center at 688-2000.

Russian actions bring Europe to decisive point

WASHINGTON -- The aggressive actions by Russia in Ukraine have brought Europe to perhaps the most decisive point since the end of the Cold War and additional rotational forces may be needed on the continent for the sustained presence now envisioned, the top U.S. commander in Europe said June 30.

Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, the NATO's supreme allied commander for Europe and the commander of U.S. European Command, told reporters at the Pentagon that Russia's actions show just how important it is to maintain a forward presence in Europe to reassure the nation's partners and allies.

About seven Russian battalion task groups remain on the border with Ukraine, he said, as well as numerous special operations forces.

"That's not a helpful development in what it brings to the problem," the general said.

Russian regular military forces are facilitating the movement of forces, equipment and finances across the Ukrainian border, he said.

"Russian irregular forces are very active inside eastern Ukraine," Breedlove said. "Russian-backed forces are active inside eastern Ukraine. And Russian financing is very active inside eastern Ukraine."

President Barack Obama's \$1 billion European Reassurance Initiative will sustain U.S. forces in Europe and assist in protecting national security interests.

"It's too early to lay out the details of what we will do," he said, "but it will cover increased and enhanced training, readiness, exercises, and necessary facility improvements that we will need in order to conduct quality training and readiness activities with all of our allies and partners.

The training efforts will now fall under Operation Atlantic Resolve, the general added.

"In this operation, we will continue to demonstrate our continued commitment to the collective security of NATO and dedication to the enduring peace and stability in the region, in light of the Russian intervention in Ukraine specifically," Breedlove said.

The situation in Ukraine changes some long-held expectations in the region, he said.

"For the last 12 to 14 years, we've been looking at Russia as a partner," Breedlove said. "We've been making decisions about force structure, basing investments, et cetera, et cetera, looking to Russia as a partner."

Now, the situation is very different, he said, and there's a new baseline for the conversation about U.S. capacity and capability in Europe.

Atlantic Resolve will demonstrate the United States' solemn commitment to the collective defense of all NATO allies, Breedlove said.

"Our ability to respond quickly to reassure our European allies and partners was enabled by our forward-stationed forces and the force structure we have in place now," the general said.

Breedlove said he believes the current force structure in Europe is about right, but additional forces may be needed to cover the sustained, persistent presence that is now being envisioned.

"We are proud carriers of a legacy that began just over 70 years ago on the shores of Normandy. That legacy has endowed us with the NATO alliance and steadfast relationships with incredible allies and partners who have fought alongside of us in almost every conflict," the general said.

"It is indeed a momentous time in Europe," he continued. "But with the support of our partners and allies, we will face these challenges like we have in the past -- together -- and build a safer, more secure Europe." (AFNS)

KNOCK-DOWN, DRAG-OUT

*Grissom Marines hit hard
to improve combat skills*

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
Public Affairs staff

In chess, a move is often designed to set up a bigger play down the line; and Grissom Marines are learning similar moves, not for a board game, but for hand-to-hand combat.

Three Marines from Detachment 1, Communication Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group, underwent martial arts instructor training at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., June 9-21.

The battered and bruised Marines took their lumps to become instructors to help fellow Marines hone their skills and prepare for promotion.

"We now have four martial arts instructors to help Marines maintain a good status of mission, and combat readiness," said Gunnery Sgt. Korey Wright, Detachment 1 martial arts instructor trainer.

"Our hope is that we'll be able to do a lot more training, and teach them leadership and discipline traits they need as they move up the ranks," said Staff Sgt. Chris Goult, a newly minted martial arts instructor trainer.

"We took a three-week course and pushed it to them in 13 straight days," Wright said. "It's a tough course."

Throw after throw, the body-armor clad students took turns demonstrating different moves

U.S. Marine Cpl. Adam Gerber, a martial arts instructor trainee from Detachment 1, Communication Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group, taps out of a move against fellow trainee U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Chris Goult during a class held at Grissom June 20. Grissom Marines went through 13 days of training to become martial arts instructors so they can help fellow Marines improve their combat skills.

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



in the June heat and humidity.

Time-and-time again they picked themselves up, sometimes grimacing in pain, wiped the sweat off their brows' and moved forward to accept the next challenge.

"We were getting thrown around a lot," said Sgt. Michael Zaharias, of the course. "For us becoming instructors, it has to be that much tougher. We have to realize what we're doing right and what we're doing wrong – and it's something we have to earn."

"We've been ground fighting for the last week or two, so it got pretty rough, and it takes its toll," said Cpl. Adam Gerber of the repetition of moves. "It's about being proficient with every step."

"There's a required sustainment," Gerber added. "You maintain the knowledge that you learned before and add to it."

"You're never going to remember 100 percent of what they teach you but you want to remember as much as you can," said Goult. "So if you keep the integrity of the technique that we're teaching the whole program keeps its integrity in general."

"When you're tired, technique is what's going to get you through," Goult said. "We can all do something right when we're fresh and ready to go, but when you're tired is when it counts."

"You can try to muscle something all you want, but if you have the proper technique it's not going to take as much strength," Zaharias added.

"It takes discipline, physical discipline, mental discipline -- and the character builds as you go through this training," Goult said.

"It wasn't all fun, but I know why it's there," Zaharias said of the grueling training.

All Marines go through martial arts training in boot camp, and earn a tan belt. Other subsequent belts include gray, green, brown and different levels of black.

By completing the course, Goult, Zaharias and Gerber all are awarded their gray belt.

"By the time I go back to work, the marks and bruises will be



U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Chris Goult, a martial arts instructor trainee from Detachment 1, Communication Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group takes down fellow trainee U.S. Marine Cpl. Adam Gerber during a 13-day martial arts instructor course held here at Grissom June 20.

gone, but the training will stay with me," said Goult

"A lot of the kids we train are really young," said Gerber. "It's an opportunity to step up and teach them some practical stuff they use in life. That part of the training really grabs me."

"This training is crucial to being

a Marine," Zaharias added. "It now gives our Marines a chance to improve their skills and 'belt up' to the next level."

The individuals are assigned to Detachment 1, and their mission is to install and operate a Combat Service Support Operations Center in a tactical environment.

Grissom PSYOP Soldiers train for worst

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

Sometimes, a person just has to know when to leave, and that's exactly what a group of Grissom Soldiers trained to do recently.

More than 30 Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve's 316th Psychological Operations Company based out of Grissom took part in an intensive military support operations training at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Indiana, June 19.

"The Soldiers were here to train on asymmetric warfare and counter-IED (improvised explosive device) tasks," said Michael Demo, a training integrator with the Counter IED Integration Cell at Camp Atterbury. "They trained on their key PSYOPs tasks as they engaged with people inside of a town we had set up, and then when things got contentious, they trained on hostile contact taskings."

PSYOPS Soldiers are part of the Army special operations community



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

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Cameron Miller, Sgt. Sean Chamberlain and their fellow 316th Psychological Operations Company PSYOP specialists react to small arms fire during a training scenario at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Indiana, June 19.

who are primarily responsible for the analysis, development and distribution of intelligence used for information and psychological effect.

"Ultimately our goal is to learn as much as we can about the area and people and try to help them understand that we're there to help them," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Hutchins,

316th PSYOP Co. PSYOP sergeant. "We're there to help if we can."

While their mission may start out as friendly, the Soldiers of the 316th PSYOP Co. said in a real-world situation with multiple sources of influence things can turn ugly in a hurry.

"We want to talk to as many people as we can and get as much info as we can, but if things start turning hostile, we need to be able to recognize that early and get out quick," explained Hutchins. "We may not know if it's a setup, and if something goes crazy, we need to be able to keep our Soldiers safe."

The staff sergeant went on to explain that a hostile environment doesn't just have to be one that is imminently dangerous, and sometimes the PSYOP specialists need to leave in order to regroup and come

back at a later time when they are more welcome.

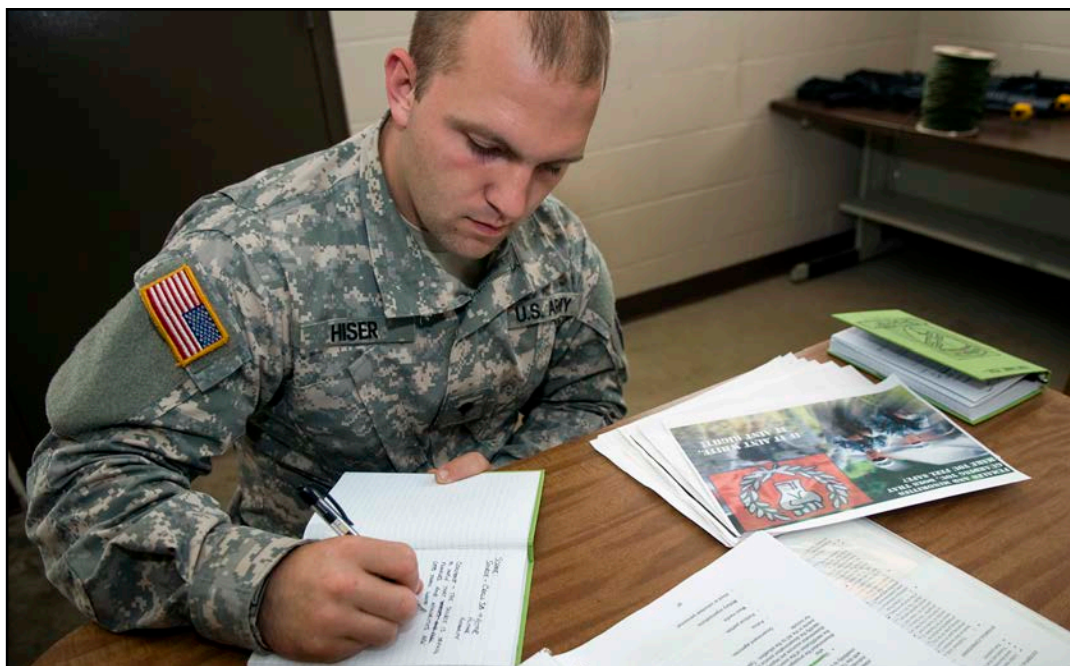
"We don't want to cause any problems," he elaborated. "We're a guest in their village, so if they feel uncomfortable and want us to leave, sometimes it's best that we do so."

In the case of the June annual training, the scenario was more than an uncomfortable situation. The Soldiers went through multiple scenarios where rival factions of local government leadership initiated violent actions during the Soldier's visit to the mock village.

In each scenario, after things turned hostile, the Soldiers had to exit the village rapidly while looking out for enemy attack from either small arms fire or IEDs. The PSYOP specialists were often forced to deal with casualties and disabled vehicles, which tested



Soldiers from the 316th Psychological Operations Company move into a small simulated overseas village at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Indiana, June 19.



U.S. Army Spec. Daniel Hiser, 316th Psychological Operations Company PSYOP specialist, takes notes as he analyzes simulated enemy propaganda during a special training scenario hosted at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Indiana, June 19.

their command and control capabilities in a combat scenario.

"We train as we fight," said Hutchins. "There's always a possibility things turning bad around us, so we don't train for the worst, we won't know how to react if it does happen."

"We have a lot of young PSYOP Soldiers who've never been in a situation like that, so they learned to be able to control what they needed to in the engagement," he continued. "When things went bad, they were able to back out of the situation."

"Over time they continued to get better," said Demo. "Each iteration was ten-fold better."

To make the training even more realistic, the unit utilized several 316th PSYOP Co. wheeled vehicle mechanics in the roles of villagers and opposing forces.

"Not only did they do their specific jobs on the maintenance side, they

also interacted with the rest of the PSYOP unit and helped them with their scenario based training and face-to-face interactions," said U.S. Army Sgt. Adam Ruddell, 316th PSYOP Co. wheeled vehicle mechanic.

"They went with us to

train on their specific job and because we convoyed our vehicles down there, but they also helped us out," said Hutchins. "While they were role playing, it helped them understand what we do as psychological operators and more about the mis-

sion they support, which makes them more well-rounded Soldiers."

U.S. Army Sgt. Drew Branstine, 316th PSYOP Co. wheeled vehicle mechanic, said the training more than served its purpose for the mechanics.

"For the most part, we were just servicing Humvees, but we got good experience moving the LMTs (light medium tactical vehicles) and up-armored Humvees down," continued Branstine. "And, turning the wrench is always good experience."

U.S. Army Spec. Stephen Thomson, a fellow 316th PSYOP Co. wheeled vehicle mechanic, agreed, but he said the best part of his annual training involved a multi-tool instead of a wrench.

"The best part so far was fixing a Humvee with a fuel leak on the convoy down here," Thomson explained. "I just pulled out my [multi-tool] and fixed it in five minutes."



U.S. Army Spec. Alexander Woodall, 316th Psychological Operations Company PSYOP specialist, talks with the mayor of a simulated small overseas village during a training scenario at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Indiana, June 19.

Ball of fun, wellness

Senior Master Sgt. Sara Lane, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron health services manager, reads a question written on a ball during a group activity held as a part of Wingman Day at Grissom June 8. Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing gathered together during the June unit training assembly to focus on the four different, but intertwined, pillars of wellness, which include mental, physical, social and spiritual.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Mora



Air Force asks every Airman to tell their story

By Staff Sgt. Torri Ingalsbe
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON -- Air Force leaders want Airmen to share their stories with the world and designed the 2014 American Airman Video Contest with that purpose in mind.

"Every Airman has a story -- and smartphone technology now allows those Airmen to share those stories to a wider audience than ever before," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh, III.

The contest, which begins July 1, asks Airmen to shoot a selfie video where they share individual stories of service and showcase the unique missions they do every day.

"I think we'll get some really creative, cool videos that together, tell the larger Air Force story," Welsh said.

Airmen who want to participate should upload their video, which should be no longer than 30 seconds, to a personal YouTube account and email a link to usafvideos@us.af.mil.

The videos will be reviewed to ensure they don't inadvertently

violate any security, policy or propriety guidelines before they are released for public viewing on the AFBBlueTube channel on YouTube.

After review, each major command will select a winner within the command. The 10 finalists' videos will be available on AFBBlueTube for public voting from Aug. 12 to 22. Voters can "like" their favorite videos and the video with the most "likes" will win.

The winning video will be shown at the September Air Force Association conference in Washington,

D.C., which attracts thousands of visitors annually and receives heavy media attention.

The contest is open to Guard, Reserve and active-duty Airmen to participate, and finalists must be in good standing without any adverse administrative actions

For more details and complete contest rules, visit <http://airforce-live.dodlive.mil/contest>.

"Our Airmen are an amazing communication resource," Welsh said. "No one tells the Air Force story like they do." (AFNS)



U.S. Air Force graphic

AFRC Readiness Management Group inactivates

By Capt. Candice Allen
Readiness Management Group Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Air Force Reserve Command's Readiness Management Group held its inactivation ceremony here July 1.

The RMG was created in April 2005 to centrally manage individual mobilization augmentees. According to the AFRC commander at the time, now retired Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, the goal of the organization was to ensure that the reservists in the program were ready to support the Global War on Terrorism.

"Today is truly bitter-sweet," said Col. Dawn M. Wallace, RMG commander. "When I took command, we established several focus areas: readiness and end-strength,

partnerships, standardization, meaningful metrics, leveraging information technology platforms, and outreach. Collectively, you've hit the mark on each of these. One of the focus areas I'm most passionate about has been our outreach and use of videos, ARCNet messages, our website and Facebook."

Since its inception, the group increased the visibility of the Individual Reserve program, centralized IR advocacy, improved MAJCOM/COCOM partnerships and infused IR tenants through Air Force policies. The group, with 170-plus members, took IR participation readiness from 9 percent in 2005 to 82 percent at the end of fiscal year 2013. Moreover, it has consistently maintained a 97-percent mobilization rate.

Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, presided over the ceremony as members of the group retired the RMG guidon.

"The inactivation became a reality when the flag was encased," said Senior Master Sgt. Candy Green, superintendent of RMG Detachment 16 that serves the IMA population in Air Force Global Strike Command units.

Green is one of a handful of RMG members who have been with the organization since its inception.

"This ceremony was very emotional," she said. "I saw this birth and saw it end."

The Air Force Reserve is consolidating personnel transactional work from the MAJCOM A1 staff to the Air Reserve Personnel Center, Buckley Air Force

Base, Colorado, in accordance with the A1 Transformation directives. However, not everything the RMG accomplishes could be incorporated in the move to ARPC, so the Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization was established.

RIO was activated Feb. 1, 2014, at Buckley AFB as a subordinate organization in ARPC. When fully operational, it will integrate Air Force Reserve individual reservists into active-duty units to meet Air Force and combatant commander requirements.

"This was a deliberate transition to ensure it was as seamless as possible for our Individual Reservists," Wallace said. "And at the end of the day, what truly matters, and what we will remember the most, is our people." (AFRC)

Thirty-five 434th ARW Airmen earn their next stripe

By Senior Airman Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

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

Thirty-five Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing here recently earned their next stripe. Their names are as follows:\

To master sergeant:

- Jason Davis, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron;
- Robert Dill, 434th CES
- Corey Fields, 434th Maintenance Squadron
- Richard Vanpelt, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Jonathan Wendricks, 434th MXS

To technical sergeant:

- Shawn Colaizzi, 434th CES

- Dennis Jewell, 434th CES
- David Robinson Johnson, 434th CES
- Gregory Lee, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Emily Temple, 434th LRS

To staff sergeant:

- Jason Ader, 434th Aerial Port Squadron
- Alex Barone, 434th CES
- Brian Humphrey, 434th CES
- Torey Lyons, 434th Security Forces Squadron
- Andrew Miller, 434th LRS
- Christian Navarro, 434th CES
- Sharon Stevens, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

To senior airman:

- Kevin Bradley, 434th CES
- Calvin Bragg, 434th LRS
- Kenneth Coyne, 434th SFS
- Luis Mendoza, 434th MXS

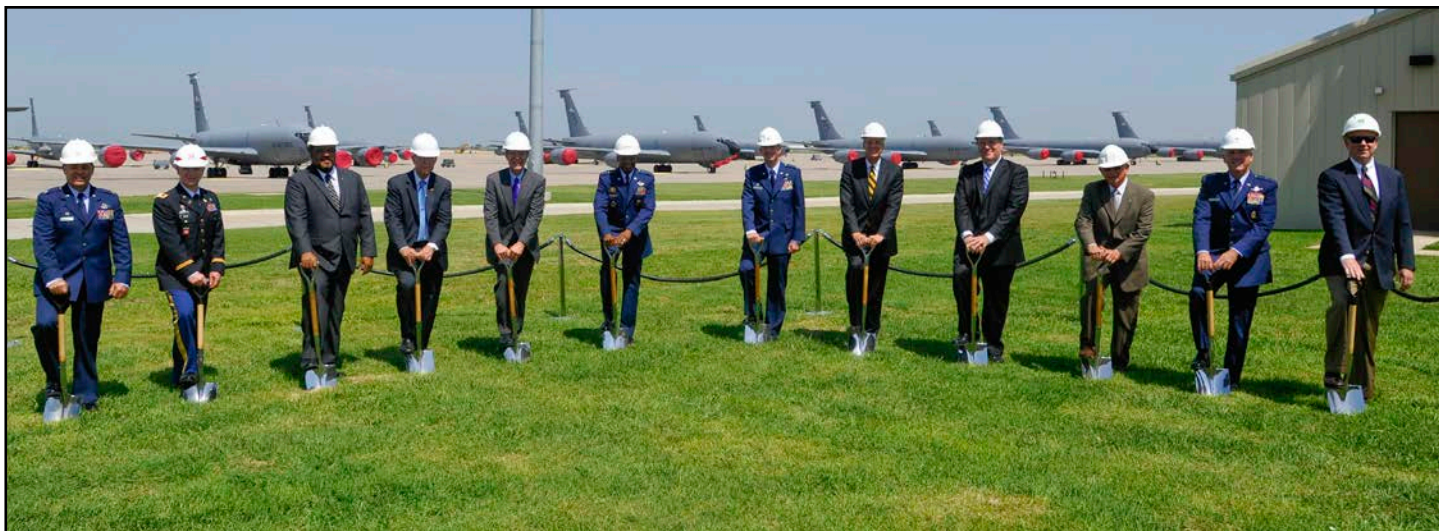
- Cory O'Connor, 434th Operations Support Squadron
- Christopher Pledger, 434th AMXS
- Mathew Schell, 434th OSS
- Ryan Schuch, 434th AMXS
- Det Rek Suggs, 434th Force Support Squadron
- Adam Vandermolen, 434th CES

To airman 1st class:

- Jeremy Honore, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron
- Anthony Jones, 434th LRS
- Cristal Rodriguez, 434th AMXS

To airman:

- Kylie Argyle, 434th FSS
- David Heisterman, 434th FSS
- Nikki Mazurek, 434th CES
- Sidney Morgan, 434th FSS
- Tushun Robinson, 434th LRS



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class John Linzmeier

Gen. Darren McDew, Air Mobility Command commander; Brig. Gen. John Flournoy, Jr., 4th Air Force commander; Col. Joel Jackson, 22nd Air Refueling Wing commander; Col. Mark Larson, 931st Air Refueling Group commander, and other distinguished visitors break ground during a special ceremony at McConnell Air Force, Kan., June 30. They officially started the construction of several KC-46A Pegasus maintenance facilities during a groundbreaking ceremony.

McConnell marks giant step for KC-46A

**By Airman 1st Class
John Linzmeier**
*22nd Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs*

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan. -- A new era in Air Force air-refueling capabilities took a giant step forward June 30.

Shovels overturned the first piles of dirt during a groundbreaking ceremony for the new KC-46A Pegasus at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. The ceremony symbolized significant progress in the KC-46A program and that construction in preparation for the Pegasus' arrival has officially started.

The construction includes a two-bay corrosion control and fuel cell hangar, a three-bay general maintenance hangar, a one-bay general maintenance hangar and an aircraft parking apron.

Gen. Darren McDew, Air Mobility Command commander; Brig. Gen. John Flournoy, Jr., 4th Air

Force commander; Col. Joel Jackson, 22nd Air Refueling Wing commander, Col. Mark S. Larson, 931st Air Refueling Group commander, and other distinguished visitors had the honor of shoveling the first clumps of earth.

While the official party broke ground on the project, McDew acknowledged that the mission is really carried out by the McConnell community.

"Air Refueling is vital to rapid global mobility - the AMC Airmen that maintain, operate and support our tanker fleet put the "global" in global reach, vigilance and power. The KC-46A Pegasus will ensure we can continue to provide our nation with this amazing capability. The success of our global air mobility enterprise depends on strong leaders, and this ceremony is about the men and women of McConnell boldly forging the future of our air refueling operations," said

McDew. "I have faith and trust they will exceed my expectations."

McConnell AFB will be the first active duty-led main operating base for the new KC-46A, which is part of a three phase effort to recapitalize the Air Force's tanker fleet. Jackson reflected on the current tanker's history.

"Since 1971, McConnell has been the Air Force's premier tanker base flying the venerable KC-135," said Jackson. "In 1995, we became one of three Air Force super tanker wings, and would eventually become the largest tanker base in the Air Force."

The establishment of McConnell as the first main operating base also means a new mission on the horizon for the Air Force Reserve 931st Air Refueling Group.

"It's exciting to know that our reservists will be some of the first Airmen to fly and maintain the KC-46," said Larson. "For the last 19 years, the 931st

Air Refueling Group has worked side-by-side with our active-duty counterparts to achieve tremendous success in conducting KC-135 operations around the globe. As we move forward to the KC-46, I know our Total Force team will not only succeed, but excel in this new and exciting mission."

McConnell will be the first base to bed down the Pegasus, expected in 2016. It has a larger refueling capacity, improved efficiency and increased capabilities for cargo and aeromedical evacuation.

The new tanker will help to expand the Air Force's war fighting capabilities supporting the Navy, Army, Marine Corps as well as allied nation coalition forces and even other KC-46As.

Along with the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter and the Long Range Bomber, development of the KC-46A is amongst the Air Force's top three acquisition priorities. (AFRC)

Thirty-six GARB Airmen earn medals

By Staff Sgt. Benjamin Mota
Public Affairs staff

For their meritorious service in the Air Force, 36 Grissom Airmen were recently awarded medals.

Meritorious Service Medal

Eight 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. Christopher Filer, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
- Lt. Col. Kenneth Hatcher, 74th Air Refueling Squadron
- Maj. John Hawkins, 434th ARW
- Chief Master Sgt. Karen Perkins, 434th ARW
- Senior Master Sgt. Ruth Love, 434th ARW
- Tech. Sgt. Brian Evers, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Sean Mahoney, 434th ARW
- Staff Sgt. Dana Bondurant, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Air Force Commendation Medal

Eleven Grissom NCOs and senior NCOs 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:

- Chief Master Sgt. Sandra Dye, 434th AMS
- Master Sgt. Michael Holmes, 434th Communications Squadron
- Master Sgt. Damon Silvey, 434th Operations Support Squadron



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

- Master Sgt. Charles Stettler, 434th Maintenance Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Jenneva Barrett, 434th LRS
- Tech. Sgt. Timothy Boggs, 434th Security Forces Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Joseph Madjecki, 434th MXS
- Tech. Sgt. Daniel Tomasiewicz, 434th AMXS
- Tech. Sgt. John Vanrees, 434th AMXS
- Staff Sgt. Joshua Minnick, 434th Operations Support Squadron
- Staff Sgt. Craig Ward, 434th AMXS

Air Force Achievement Medal

Seventeen 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:

- Master Sgt. Rebekah Hewes, 434th AMXS

- Tech. Sgt. Aubrey Able, 434th AMXS
- Tech. Sgt. Russell Smith, 434th AMXS
- Staff Sgt. Patrick Barringer, 434th SFS
- Staff Sgt. Ryan Covert, 434th CS
- Staff Sgt. Travis Helton, 434th AMXS
- Staff Sgt. Erich Maul, 434th AMXS
- Senior Airman David Culhane, 434th CES
- Senior Airman Cory Mason, 434th ARW
- Senior Airman Michael Meoak, 434th AMXS
- Senior Airman Brandon Mravec, 434th CES
- Senior Airman Derek Parrelly, 434th AMXS
- Senior Airman Kenneth Pinaire, 434th CES
- Senior Airman Brandon Roberts, 434th CES
- Senior Airman Danielle White, 434th AMXS
- Senior Airman Cameron Yoder, 434th CES
- Senior Airman Zacheriah Merkle, 434th CES