

Heartland WARRIOR

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August 2014

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Heartland WARRIOR

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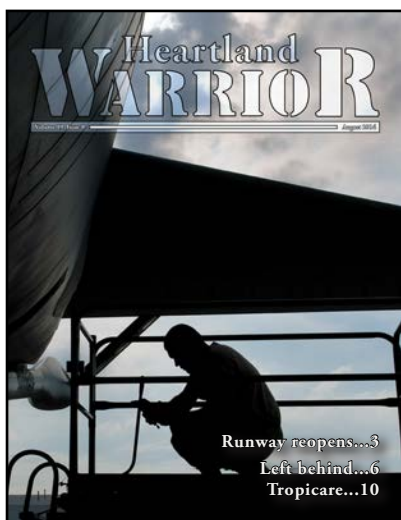
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U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Mota

On the cover...

Senior Airman Jeremy Ellert, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, reviews technical orders during a home-station check of a KC-135R Stratotanker at Grissom July 12. Home-station checks are conducted every 60 days and include lubrication of service components, various inspections, operational checks, servicing and repair of any discrepancies.

Schwartz visits Capitol Hill



From left to right, Chief Master Sgt. Karen Perkins, 434th Air Refueling Wing command chief; Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th ARW commander; and Rep. Susan Brooks of Indiana discuss the Hoosier Wing during a Capitol Hill July 16.

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

While famed actor and Air Force Reserve retired Brig. Gen. James Stewart got his big Hollywood break with the film "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," Grissom's top commander got his start to his new job going there himself.

Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Karen Perkins, 434th ARW command chief, visited six members of Indiana's congressional delegation on Capitol Hill to talk about Grissom's role in the national defense, Indiana economy and future as part of the Air Force Reserve's Capitol Hill Visit Program July 16.

During their visit, Schwartz and Perkins visited with Sen. Dan Coats, Sen. Joe Donnelly, Rep. Susan Brooks, Rep. Luke Messer, Rep. Marlin Stutzman and Rep. Jackie Walorski, as well as their military legislative assistants and legislative aides.

"We had a great visit with Indiana's congressional leadership," said Schwartz. "It provided us with a tremendous opportunity to carry the message of all the great work the citizen Airmen of the 434th ARW accomplish each and every day in support of our nation's defense."

While just on the job for little over a month, Schwartz leveraged his 15-year history at Grissom as well as his previous command assignments to give perspectives on both Grissom and the Air Force Reserve.

"Grissom is truly a beacon of military capability in north-central Indiana," he said during the visit.

Perkins, who just recently returned from a 6-month deployment to Camp Bastion and Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, was able to provide information about Grissom's enlisted force as well as her deployed experiences.

"From an enlisted perspective, we talked about how important it is to get our troops trained and ready

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Heartland Warrior

Grissom runway reopens after \$3.2M renovation



A KC-135R Stratotanker lands at Grissom July 16. The aircraft was the first KC-135R that arrived following relocation to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, on June 1 for a \$3.2 million project that added expansion joints in the runway.

**By Staff Sgt.
Benjamin Mota**
Public Affairs staff

Grissom's runway reopened at 7:30 a.m. July 16, and it didn't take long for the unit's jets to start making their way home.

The first KC-135R Stratotankers began arriving at 10:30 a.m. following relocation to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, on June 1 for a \$3.2 million project that added

expansion joints in the runway.

"Thanks to the hard work of the entire construction team the runway project was completed on time," said Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander. "We are extremely excited to welcome our KC-135s back to Grissom as we resume normal operations."

While the unit's tankers were heading home,

another aircraft arrived earlier for a temporary visit.

The first aircraft to use the newly renovated runway was a Boeing 757 arriving for painting at a local business.

Even though a commercial aircraft touched down first, the majority of flights scheduled were those belonging to the 434th ARW and returning from their temporary home.

In all, 15 KC-135Rs departed the base during the construction. However one of the Stratotankers stayed behind to undergo a scheduled inspection and refurbishment.

"Many thanks to our friends at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio from the 88 Air Base Wing and the 445th Airlift Wing for their tremendous support that enabled us to continue our air refueling mission," said Schwartz.

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to answer the nation's call," she recalled. "I got to see things from both the stateside and overseas point-of-views and relayed that on to them."

The 434th ARW at Grissom is the largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve Command, and the base has a more

than \$118 million economic impact on the local Indiana economy.

Of the Hoosier Wing's approximately 1,800 personnel, more than 980 reservists and nearly 500 civilian employees reside within the state.

The Air Force Reserve Capitol Hill Visit program enables wing

commanders to meet annually with congressmen representing their areas. The primary purpose of the program is to assist commanders in improving and building on relationships established with congressional delegations and to increase their unit's visibility with members of Congress.



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

Past, present 434th Airmen to reunite

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

From transporting paratroopers during the D-Day invasion at Normandy, France, to refueling NATO aircraft over the Libyan skies for Operation Odyssey Dawn, Airmen of the 434th have been defending freedom around the globe since 1944.

Each year, the men and women who have served with the historic unit gather together to reminisce on their service, catch up with old friends and learn more about the 434th Air Refueling Wing's current operations.

This year's reunion will be held in Colum-

bus, Indiana, Aug. 15-16. Columbus is home to the former Atterbury Air Force Base, later renamed Bakalar AFB, where the 434th was stationed at from 1949 to 1969.

"There's a world of history with the 434th and it's special to everybody," said retired Col. Larry Alexander, former 434th Mission Support Group commander, who is organizing the reunion.

The Hoosier Wing has been around a long time, and people, past and present, are proud to be a member of it."

Alexander said the reunion will be held this year at the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum, which recently doubled in size and will feature many 434th exhibits.

However, he said it's not the museum that will be the biggest pull for attendees.

"This is always about getting together with old friends and sharing memories and stories," the retired colonel explained. "I personally enjoy going to listen to the old timers, and I enjoy the young timers coming in so they can listen to me."

Reservations to attend the reunion must be made with Alexander no later than Aug. 8. He can be reached at lwalex88@sbcglobal.net or at (812) 372-5643.

The 434th was officially activated on Oct. 1, 1942 as the 434th Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron at Mitchel Field, New York.

In preparation for the invasion of Europe at Normandy, the unit was moved to Alliance Army Air Field, Neb., and was designated as the 434th Troop Carrier Group on Feb. 9, 1943. The 434th TCG consisted of the 71st, 72nd, 73rd and 74th Troop Carrier Squadrons, which all flew C-47 Skytrains throughout their WWII career including D-Day.

Today the 434th ARW operates out of Grissom and is the largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve Command. Airmen and aircraft from the 434th ARW routinely deploy around the world in support of the Air Force mission and U.S. strategic objectives.

Little takes holistic approach to new role

Staff Sgt. Ben Mota
Public Affairs staff

The same way a pillar might need support after a storm, so might Airmen during times of struggle, and Grissom Airmen just got that additional support.

That support is in the form of Amy Little, who recently transitioned into her new role as the 434th Air Refueling Wing sexual assault and response coordinator and behavioral health support coordinator after initially being hired as the director of psychological health.

"In the Air Force reserve my position as a SARC also assumes the dual role as the BHSC," said Little. "In addition to dealing with sexual assault cases and sexual assault prevention, I also serve as a liaison to assist Airmen and Grissom personnel with behavioral health support and crisis response as needed."

Little, a licensed clinical social worker with an undergraduate in sociology and a master's degree in social work from Indiana University, approaches wellness using a holistic approach mirroring the Comprehensive Airman Fitness philosophy established by the Air Force.

A holistic approach is a form of wellness that considers the whole person's body, mind, spirit and emotions, explained Little. Similar to the pillars identified in the CAF, the holistic approach focuses on each area of an Airmen's needs to achieve individual wellness.

The CAF model provides a framework through which the Air Force can deliver relevant programs and

services more effectively across the four pillars of fitness: physical, social, mental and spiritual.

"I believe that there are several different paths to wellness," she said. "I hope to offer creative approaches relating to the prevention and response to sexual assault, family, work, suicide prevention, combat and operational stress, and advocacy at Grissom."

Little, while new to the civil service, brings an array of tools from her 15-years combined experience as a school social worker and work in private practice settings.

"I am excited to be a part of multidisciplinary teams and work together to reach optimal well-being," added Little. "Just as we look at ourselves individually and all of the parts that make us whole, we can look at each squadron and the value of the individuals in our units that make the totality of Grissom whole."

Another critical role and part of total well-being needed to make Grissom whole, is that of the SARC. As Grissom's SARC, Little manages Grissom's sexual assault prevention and response program by educating Airmen and serving as the single point of contact for coordinating sexual assault victim care.

Little said she plans on taking a

proactive approach to sexual assault by educating Airmen on sexual assaults issues and providing additional alternative methods of training.

"My goal is to provide sexual assault prevention training that goes beyond the annual training requirements," she added. "I want to actually change the climate by using



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

Amy Little

proactive measures to prevent sexual assault."

What truly separates Little and makes her stand out as an asset to Grissom, in addition to her training and life experiences, is her compassion for social work.

"I think that I have always been a social worker at heart," she said. "I am amazed and encouraged at clients' strength and perseverance in the midst of life challenges and heartbreaks."

Little emphasized this love for social work in a childhood story she shared.

"I can remember being a little girl and empathizing with Kermit the Frog singing, 'It Ain't Easy Being Green,'" she recalled. "When you are able to empathize you are able to put yourself in someone else's shoes."

"While it might not be your own personal challenge or something you personally experience you can still emphasize with people and work on their behalf as an advocate; there is a lot of therapeutic value in saying 'me too,'" added Little. "After almost 15 years in the social work profession, I can honestly say that I love what I do and the people I have met along the way."

Little's office is located in the Airmen and Family Readiness Center in building 431 and can be reached at (765) 688-2040.

"I hope to offer creative approaches relating to the prevention and response to sexual assault, family, work, suicide prevention, combat and operational stress, and advocacy at Grissom."

- Amy Little

Maintainers focus on lone Stratotanker



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Mota

Senior Airman Ryan Wilkinson, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, lubricates wing flaps of a KC-135R Stratotanker during a home-station check of the aircraft here at Grissom July 12. The aircraft was the only one of the 434th Air Refueling Wing's 16 KC-135s to stay behind at the base while Grissom's runway was closed for 45 days for repair.

**By Staff Sgt.
Benjamin Mota**
Public Affairs staff

Being left behind could be a bad thing, but that wasn't the case for one Grissom aircraft left alone to ensure it was mission capable for years to come.

A single KC-135R Stratotanker got extensive pampering and refurbishment as it remained at the Hoosier base during a temporary 45-day runway closure, which involved sending the remainder of the 434th Air Refueling Wing's aircraft to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, June 1 through July 15.

"When the aircraft are refurbished and being

inspected they are non flyable," said Col. Bryan Reinhart, 434th ARW vice commander. "The closure of the runway provided a perfect opportunity for this aircraft to undergo these mandatory requirements."

Work on the KC-135 began with an interior refurbishment of the aircraft.

"When an aircraft goes into a complete refurbishment the interior is completely removed," said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Miller, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flight chief. "This includes removing, sanding and repainting all the instruments in the flight deck, crew seats, control columns, overhead lining

and cargo floor."

The refurbishment process including disassembly, restoration and assembly usually takes 30 days to complete, and the entire process is completed here at Grissom, said Miller.

"We have been told time and time again that our aircraft look like they just rolled off the assembly line or better; some have even made mention that they thought they were only 10 years old but they are really over 50 years old," he continued. "This can be attributed to the thorough refurbishment program and maintenance practices we've put together over the years."

The program and practices have been refined to the point that other refueling units send their aircraft here for maintenance.

"A KC-135 requires a refurbishment every five to eight years," explained Miller. "We have done 'refurbs' for other units such as those at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, and Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina; and we have the most cost effective program in the Air Force."

After the refurbishment process was completed, it also underwent a mandatory home-station check. The 434th AMXS squadron is responsible for accomplishing quality



Senior Airman Daniel Apolinar, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft electric and environmental system journeyman, trains Senior Airman Noah Murphy, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, on the proper procedures for changing air cycle machine oil on a KC-135R Stratotanker during a home-station check here at Grissom July 12.

inspections and preventive maintenance on the wing's fleet of 16 KC-135s, and one way this is done is through the HSC.

"The main purpose of the HSC is to find and correct any discrepancies through preventative maintenance while the aircraft is in a scheduled down-time status," said Tech. Sgt. Craig Ward, 434th AMXS crew chief, who oversaw the HSC.

An HSC inspection for a Stratotanker takes between four to eight maintainers approximately eight hours to complete, and is often used to train newer Airmen.

"The inspection provides Airmen a unique opportunity to see what is behind the instrument panels and other inner workings of the aircraft," said Miller. "It also provides them training when ops-checking system

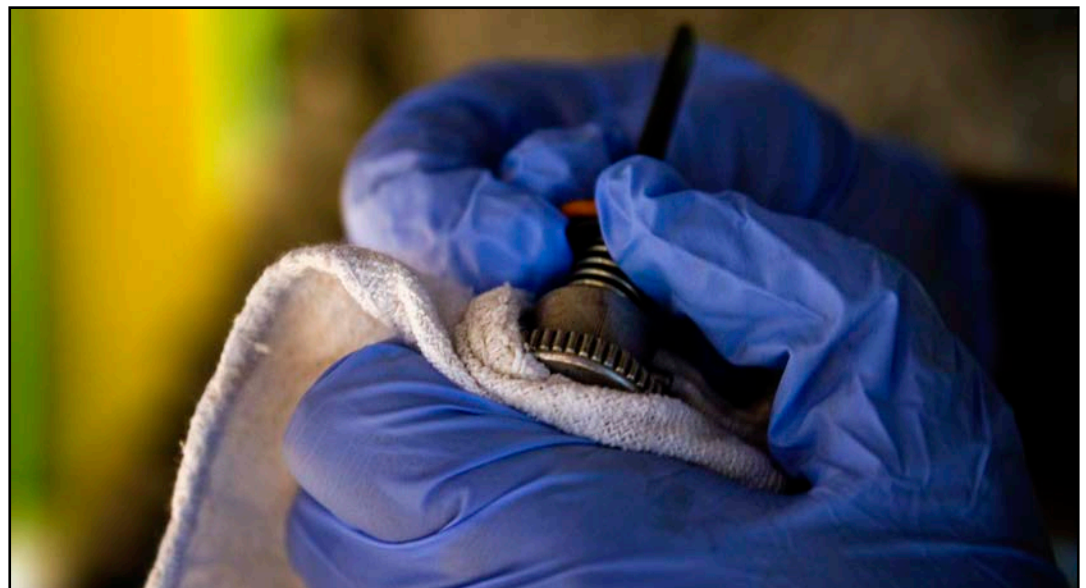
functions to make sure they are working properly and the aircraft is airworthy."

Throughout the refurbishment and HSC processes, different maintenance career fields, such as crew chiefs, electrical

and environmental systems, aerospace propulsion, and metal fabrication as well as several other departments and support flights were used.

"Despite the temporary closure of the runway, personnel at Grissom

were able to complete mandatory maintenance on a KC-135 that will ensure that our aircraft are safe and mission ready for years to come," concluded Reinhart. "This is a prime example of how we adapt and overcome."



Airman 1st Class Atkinson Giavante, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, changes a KC-135 oil drain plug o-ring during a home-station check here July 12.

Social media requires care with politics

By Master Sgt. Christian Michael
Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. -- Most Americans are born with a political rattle in their hands and learn to shake it early.

While U.S. culture promotes opinions and debate, Airmen should be reminded that, while on active duty -- and even for reservists who may be perceived as active military representatives, participating in politics on social media is exactly the same as it is in person: strictly prohibited.

According to a list of Defense Department and Air Force Instructions longer than the average Airman's arm, which includes the 2014-2015 Voting Assistance Guide, DODI 1000.04, Federal Voting Assistance Program and the Office of U.S. Special Counsel FAQ page, regarding social media and the Hatch Act, participating in politics is prohibited for members of the DOD and Department of Homeland Security when that participation can be interpreted as an official endorsement.

For active-duty Airmen, that's any Facebook share, Twitter retweet or other repost of material from a political party, partisan candidate or campaign profile to friends, or even to post on those sites in a way that would constitute political activity. Nor can Airmen

suggest their friends "like" those sites.

It's exactly like in-person partisan political activity -- no stumping or selling a particular candidate, party or campaign.

However, it doesn't mean an Airman can't offer an opinion.

As in the past, when Airmen could write letters to the editor regarding particular issues, Airmen may still post their opinions on their own pages and that of nonpartisan sites and organizations. However, as with the newspapers, if the writer is identified as an Airman or other representative of the U.S. armed forces -- which active-duty members are considered just that by default -- then it must be clear that the Airman's opinion is a personal one, and does not reflect the official stance of any government agency.

For members not on active duty, such as reservists and guardsmen, political activity is permitted on social media so long as their participation in no way implies official endorsement or condemnation of any particular partisan political entity.

If an Airman has any doubt as to what is or is not permitted, he or she could contact their unit judge advocate or their Federal Voting Officer to ensure any participation is legal.

For more information, visit Federal Voting Assistance Program website at FVAP.gov. (AFNS)

AFRC delays inactivation of 815th Airlift Squadron

By Maj. Marnee Losurdo
403rd Wing Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. -- The Air Force Reserve Command announced Monday the delay of the inactivation of the 815th Airlift Squadron here.

The 815th AS, referred to as the "Flying Jennies," is a tactical airlift unit in the 403rd Wing.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2013 called for the transfer of 10 C-130J aircraft to Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina. With the transfer of those aircraft, plans also included closing the 815th AS and 345th AS, the active component associate unit. Closing those two squadrons along with associated reductions in aircraft maintenance personnel would result in the loss of 477 personnel.

The NDAA 15 calls for the closing of the 440th Airlift Wing at Pope Army Air Field, North Carolina, and changes the final bed down



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens

The Air Force Reserve Command announced July 28 the delay of the inactivation of the 815th Airlift Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

of the 10 Keesler AFB C-130J aircraft to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.

The continued uncertain timeline of aircraft transfers led AFRC to announce delaying the inactivation of the 815th AS, said Col. Frank Amodeo, 403rd Wing commander.

Manning reductions in the 403rd Maintenance Group and 815th AS began as a result of actions generated from the NDAA 14 law.

"As always, the 403rd Wing leadership remains committed to taking care of our Airmen and families," said Amodeo. "We continue to evaluate the evolving situation and remain committed to safe mission accomplishment. Should the 10 aircraft in question depart, the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, the "Hurricane Hunters," will remain at Keesler as the Wing's sole flying squadron." (AFRCNS)

Fourteen GARB Airmen awarded medals

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

For their meritorious service in the Air Force, 14 Grissom Airmen were recently awarded medals.

Meritorious Service Medal

Seven 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:

- Maj. John Hawkins, 434th Air Refueling Wing
- Chief Master Sgt. Karen Perkins, 434th ARW
- Senior Master Sgt. Robert Berkstresser, 434th

- Force Support Squadron
- Master Sgt. Angelique Carpenter, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Master Sgt. James F. Goodman Jr., 434th Maintenance Squadron
- Master Sgt. Rodney Honeycutt, 434th Maintenance Group
- Master Sgt. Daniel Lewis, 434th MXS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Three 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:

- Senior Master Sgt.



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

Darin Schenher, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

- Staff Sgt. David Engelhardt, 434th AMXS
- Staff Sgt. Michael Graham, 434th AMXS

Air Force Achievement Medal

Four 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. Christopher Bauchle, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Staff Sgt. Lindsey Cassidy, 434th LRS
- Senior Airman Scott Hunter, 434th AMXS
- Senior Airman Jazmine Ware, 434th LRS

Grissom announces Airman promotions

By Staff Sgt. Ben Mota
Public Affairs staff

Thirty-four enlisted Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing recently earned their next stripe.

The following Airmen received promotions:

To senior master sergeant:

- Gerald Schumacher, 434th Operations Group

To master sergeant:

- Adam Soultz, 434th Security Forces Squadron
- Joshua Welch, 74th Air Refueling Squadron

To technical sergeant:

- Timothy Hayataka, 434th SFS
- James Poole, 434th Force Support Squadron

- Bradley Snow, 434th SFS
- Timothy Tucker, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

To staff sergeant:

- Dominic Bichler, 434th SFS
- Lasheda House, 434th Maintenance Group
- Abigail Wakefield, 434th Maintenance Squadron

To senior airman:

- Pierce Abbott, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Gerardo Banuelos, 434th FSS
- Jamail Baldwin, 434th Operations Support Squadron
- Eric Berger, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Londonn Bryant, 434 SFS
- Karesa Charles, 434th FSS
- Justin Coney, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron

- Samantha Cripe, 434th LRS
- Mitchell Dzierzbicki, 434th CES
- Caitlyn Grula, 434th MXS
- Miguel Luevano, 434th FSS
- Branden Mathews, 434th MXS
- Anna Nassopoulos, 434th FSS
- Samuel Roberts, 434th AMXS
- Austin Sands, 434th MXS
- Ryan Schreffler, 434th AMXS
- Benjamin Stout, 434th CES

To airman first class:

- Sarah Becker, 434th AMXS
- Jon Dickinson, 434th AMXS
- Priyank Machhar, 434 MXS
- Stephanie Peters, 434th Air Refueling Wing
- Marcus Robinson, 434th CES
- Katrina Schoenstene, 434th MXS

To airman:

- Cranecia Barnes, 434th FSS

Tropic Care no 'day at the beach' for AMDS



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Bellamy

Senior Airman Jayci Cloutier, 434th Aero Medical Squadron aerospace medical services specialist, takes the blood pressure of a Kauai'i, Hawaii, resident June 18.

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
Public Affairs staff

Island living often conjures up images of being laid back and hanging-ten, but for Grissom medics, the opposite proved true.

Eleven members of the 434th

Aerospace Medicine Squadron provided medical, dental and vision care to thousands of people during Tropic Care 2014 on the Hawaiian Island of Kauai June 16-26, 2014.

Working 14-hour days with only half a day off on the final day, the medics joined other professionals

from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps to provide no-cost medical services to the communities of Kauai.

Working side-by-side their counterparts, the medics helped form a team of 300 medical professionals.

Three fixed sites and one mobile location helped the joint-service team see more than 9,000 patients perform more than 22,000 medical services and procedures during the two-week stint.

"It was no day at the beach," said Master Sgt. Joyce Royston, 434th AMDS optometry technician and acting first sergeant on the trip. "We really had no down time. You get up, go to work, come home, go to bed and start again."

"While all areas were busy, the dentistry staff was the biggest draw," said Royston. "They were swamped!"

Doing cleanings, fillings, filling repair and extractions kept the staff busy, and for Capt. Katie Dahlen, 434th AMDS dentist and trip commander, the trip also offered a first-



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cory Long

Capt. Katie Dahlen, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron dentist, left, and Senior Airmen Ashley Hyatt, 434th AMDS dental assistant, perform a dental procedure on a Kauai resident during Tropic Care 2014, Kapa'a, Hawaii, June 17.

time experience.

"I actually had patients hug me," Dahlen said. "The patients were extremely appreciative of the work we were doing. Some had never had dental work done before so they were grateful."

For Dahlen, another plus to the trip was working alongside her counterparts from other branches.

"We all may work a little differently, but we came together as a well-oiled machine," the captain added.

Royston echoed those sentiments.

"We all rolled up our sleeves and got the job done," Royston said. "It was one of the best joint-service missions I've been on."

On the vision side of the house, partners in the optometry field teamed up with the military members and provided glasses to locals following their exams.

In all, more than 5,000 pairs of glasses were made based on the prescriptions written by the optometry staff.

"We did the exams and wrote the scripts, and every other day glasses would come back in for the pa-



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Bobby L. Allen Jr.

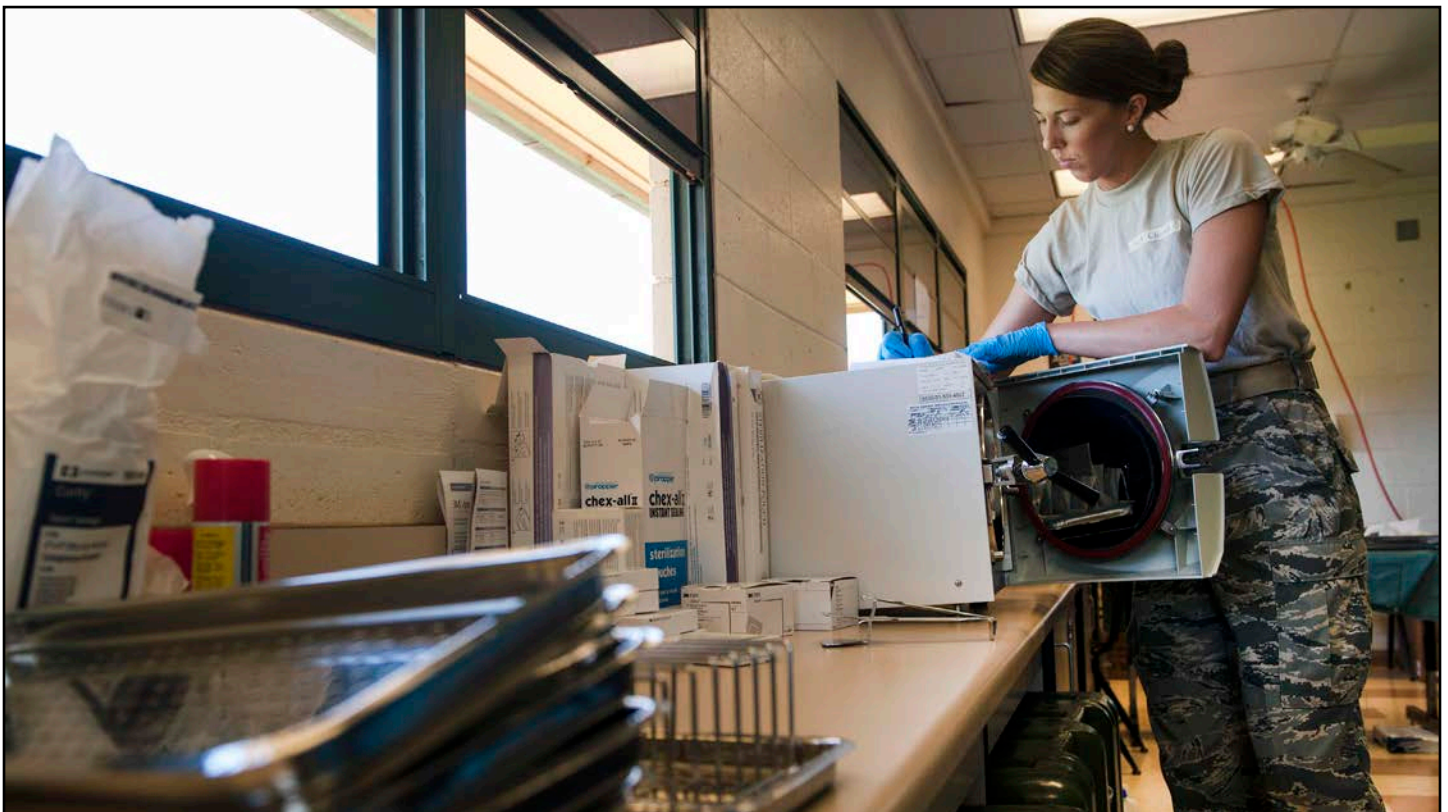
Senior Airman Keith Wuetig, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron optometry apprentice, performs an eye exam during Tropic Care in Ele'e'e, Hawaii, June 18.

tients," Royston said.

While the work days were long and often grueling, the appreciation was evident to the medics.

"People waved and honked at us and really let us know we

made a difference in their lives," said Senior Airman Ashley Hyatt, 434th AMDS dental assistant. "We worked very hard, but we did what we set out to do and helped a lot of people."



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal

Senior Airman Jayci Cloutier, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron medical service technician, sanitizes medical instrumentation during Tropic Care 2014 at the Kapaa Middle School in Kaua'i, Hawaii, June 21 .

Expectations exist for pregnant Airmen

By Senior Airman Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

From vaccines to vitamins preventative medicine is an expectation known to most pregnant woman; but what some Airmen may not know are the expectations of pregnant woman in the Air Force.

Pregnant Airmen have the requirement to notify the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron as soon as possible to remain in compliance with current Air Force instructions.

"When Airmen become pregnant they need to be put on a profile just in case they need to be taken out of their work center if they work with chemicals or have certain restrictions," said Tech. Sgt. Nichole Nadasky, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron public health journeyman. "Their profile is during pregnancy and six weeks after the delivery."

After the expectant mother reports to the clinic she must then go to public health located in building 233 to receive a fetal protection briefing.

The fetal protection program is designed by the U.S. Air Force to prevent birth defects or poor pregnancy outcomes due to environmental hazards that may be present, as well as to brief Airmen on staying healthy during and after pregnancy, added Nadasky.

"The briefing entails what they can and can't do during their pregnancy," she said. "The physical training program they obviously can't participate in; they can participate in unit training assemblies and annual tours up to 34 weeks, then they are restricted to participate



Photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

Pregnant Airmen are required to notify the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron as soon as they find out they're expecting.

until six weeks after delivery.

After this initial requirement is met, the expectant mother still has additional responsibilities that must be completed in order to stay compliant.

"After the briefing and meeting with the clinic, Airmen must continue to bring in or fax documentation every 60 days thereafter," Nadasky added. "This documentation ensures the Airman's health is on track and they are able to perform their duties."

Pregnancy requirements for Airman are outlined in AFI141-104. For additional questions regarding the policy or to receive information contact 434th AMDS at (765) 688-3597.

AF implements career intermission pilot program

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Up to 40 active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard officers and enlisted members who meet eligibility requirements will be offered between one and three years of partially-paid time out of uniform to focus on personal and professional pursuits under the Career Intermission Pilot Program, or CIPP, Air Force officials announced July 30.

In accordance with the 2009 National Defense Authorization Act, each military branch is authorized to implement CIPP, which authorizes selected members to take a sabbatical and seamlessly return to their active-duty or Air Reserve Component role.

"This program offers a few high performing Airmen the opportunity to focus on priorities outside of their military career without hav-

ing to choose between competing priorities," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III.

Applications will be accepted from Aug. 15 to Oct. 15 and a total force selection panel is scheduled to convene Nov. 12 to select the Air Force's first program participants. The active-duty, Guard and Reserve panel will consider active and reserve component applicants using common criteria.

"This is a first for the total force," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. "We've been working together for a couple of years to develop common personnel practices and implement tools used by each component, but this panel represents our first opportunity to truly assess our Airmen - whatever their component - as equal members of the total force."

The panel will select up to 20 officers and 20 enlisted members for the inaugural pilot program.

Implemented by the Navy in 2009 and more recently by the Marine Corps, the program allows participants to retain full medical and dental benefits for themselves and their dependents, as well as exchange and commissary benefits. Participants also receive a stipend of 1/15th of their monthly basic pay. In addition, members will be allowed an Air Force-funded permanent change of station move to anywhere in the U.S. when entering the program, and a move to their follow-on base of assignment when they complete the program.

"The key to the intermission program is the Airman's return to

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Heartland Warrior

DOD has zero tolerance policy for human trafficking

WASHINGTON -- Defense Department officials have a zero-tolerance level for human trafficking and have stepped up awareness and education efforts to curb the crime overseas.

In an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel, Brian Chin -- a program manager for the department's effort to combat human trafficking, said DOD is broadening its training for those who work in contracting, acquisition and law enforcement, and that a yearly general course on how to recognize human trafficking has been mandatory for DOD civilians since 2005.

Chin works out of Qatar and oversees the program in Southwest Asia and the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

DOD defines human trafficking as the use of force, fraud or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport or obtain a person for commercial sex or labor services, Chin explained.

Combating human traf-

ficking is not a war waged alone within the DOD, he noted.

"The response to human trafficking requires a collaborative approach within all of DOD's components and services," Chin said, as well as working with agencies, such as the departments of State and Homeland Security to put a stop to the crimes of slavery and prostitution.

"A lot of our training is designed to sensitize our folks to realize that (a victim) is not just someone who's serving our food, cleaning the barracks or picking up refuse around the bases that could be someone who's there against their will and is being held in circumstances that fit (DOD's) criteria for human slavery," he said.

Victims of human trafficking can be difficult to identify, Chin said, because usually no physical indicators of coercion exist, and human traffickers are adept at influencing their victims to hide their victimization.

Commanders, other mil-

itary leaders and all DOD components at all levels are "striving very hard to implement changes to federal laws and DOD-wide policies to push requirements for awareness programs, training for targeted audiences and reporting (cases) to the DOD (inspector general)," he said.

Chin called overseas human trafficking "widespread," but acknowledged that the number of victims is difficult to quantify. Victims usually are lured from rural areas with promises of working in good-paying jobs, he said.

"A classic sign of human trafficking is indentured servitude, where the victims pay large fees in a very competitive arena to secure jobs," he said, adding that the high pay they're promised is just a lure.

The fees to secure jobs become loans, and victims find themselves working as indentured servants to work off what they owe, and they can't return home because their

passports are taken away, Chin said. Victims' homes often are held as collateral for their employment, he added.

In many instances, victims are misled about where they're going, he noted.

"One of the classic cases you see is beauticians and barbers (who are) told they're going to a Gulf nation to work in a salon for a very good salary, and (when) they get off a plane, they're actually in Afghanistan, working on a forward-operating base under completely different circumstances," Chin said.

DOD's efforts to train its personnel to recognize and report human trafficking are paying off, he said.

"Our awareness programs are having a tremendous effect on sensitizing all of our (personnel), and everybody understands what human trafficking is," he said. "They're starting to understand it's not just a sex crime off our bases, especially in Afghanistan. ... It's also a labor crime." (AFNS)

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duty," said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Cody. "Top performers with a bright future won't be lost to premature separation, and upon return, those Airmen will bring greater experience, education, knowledge, commitment and passion to their career."

While participating in CIPP, members will be required to maintain all Air Force standards, including health and fitness, and be ready to fully resume their duties.

Participants won't be able to compete for promotion while in the program, and those selected for pro-

motion who enter CIPP before their promotion date will have to wait until they complete CIPP to be promoted. Upon return to active duty, participants will have their date of rank adjusted to remain competitive with those of similar time-in-grade.

Those who receive career field or skill level bonuses will not receive those while in CIPP, and they won't be eligible for tuition assistance. They will, however, be able to use any veteran's benefits they have accrued - like their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits - and they will also be able to retain up to 60 days of earned leave.

While all eligible Airmen - regardless of rank or career field - are welcome to apply, some Airmen are not eligible. Those who cannot complete the associated service commitment prior to reaching high year tenure or mandatory retirement or separation for age and years of service cannot be considered for CIPP. Airmen who are currently receiving a critical skills retention or fulfilling the associated service commitment for that bonus are ineligible for participation. In addition, any Airman who does not meet physical fitness standards may not apply.