



# Hear and See

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

## On the cover...

A Navy E-6 VQ-3 at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, is refueled by a Grissom KC-135R Stratotanker over Virginia during a congressional orientation flight Nov. 10. Onboard the Stratotanker were Congresswoman Jackie Walorski and nine congressional staffers. The flight gave the participants a firsthand view of the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing's mission before they headed back to Grissom for a base tour.

# Schwartz: Premier Wing of Choice must create 'culture of compliance'

By Col. Doug Schwartz  
434<sup>th</sup> ARW commander

During the December unit training assembly, we welcome Brig. Gen. John J. Mooney III, the Air Force Reserve Command inspector general and the AFRC inspection team as they conduct a capstone unit effectiveness and compliance.

We often talk about a "culture of compliance." Let's break that statement down and explain what that means to us each and every day.

First, it means getting it right the first time; every time. It means ensuring that we are in compliance with applicable laws, directives and any commander directed taskings.

It also means that we are good stewards of the nation's resources and our own time by eliminating waste from our work and self-imposed clutter.

Bottom line, if any compliance activity is not by law, Department of Defense instruction, Air Force instruction or commander directed, then challenge your supervisor and commander on why you are doing that activity.

There is no better time in our Air Force than now to eliminate those "Cold War" relics and legacy self-inspection activities that we all have been doing for so long just because that is the way we have always done it.

So, you are thinking, "okay, colonel, how do I comply each and every day? What and where are the tools to ensure I'm in compliance? Where does the path start in this compliance journey?"

We can help you with that! For starters, we have a great tool called MICT, or Management Internal Controls Toolkits. As you know, this program is a tool and the foundation to your compliance success.

MICT allows each unit to build, use and develop effective and relevant checklists while managing and taking ownership of your own processes.

Through this toolkit you will



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

Col. Doug Schwartz

be able to keep track of programs more efficiently by keeping a record of items- both open and closed – ensuring everyone is always on the same page.

As we travel further down the compliance path we influence and "check ourselves" through the Commander's Inspection Program.

The CCIP is the latest cutting edge shift in the Air Force as we are now charged with the responsibility of self-assessing our compliance activity. Make this program work for you.

Commanders, we have tremendous talent, so take and use input from your Airmen to truly find out what is needed to be compliant and assure readiness.

And finally, at the end of the day, let's do it for ourselves. Does anyone really want to leave their duty section at the end of the day without the sense of fulfillment that comes with doing it right the first time, every time, or without complying with laws and applicable directives?

Our wing is made up of talented Airmen who ensure mission success 24/7. It's not our culture to be less than excellent in all we do. Make compliance part of your daily routine each and every day!

# Hoosier Wing hosts congressional orientation flight



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

**Congresswoman Jackie Walorski and Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, discuss the operations of a KC-135R's boom during a visit to Grissom Nov. 10.**

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

Congresswoman Jackie Walorski, along with nine congressional staff members were given a rare opportunity to fly in one of the 434th Air Refueling Wing's KC-135R Stratotankers to see first-hand an inflight refueling mission take place Nov. 10.

Grissom's guests also included representatives from the offices of Sen. Dan Coats, Sen. Joe Donnelly, Rep. Susan Brooks and Rep. Todd Young.

The participants started the day off with a briefing that highlighted Grissom's impact not only in the military, but in the surrounding community provided by Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th ARW commander.

They then received a briefing on the day's refueling mission from Lt. Col. David Fitschen, 74th Air Refueling Squadron pilot.

During the mission, the guests took turns in a KC-135's boom pod where they witnessed that Strato-

tanker offload more than 10,000 pounds of fuel to a Navy E-6 from VQ-3 stationed at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, as they flew over Virginia.

The E-6 is a communications relay and strategic airborne command post aircraft. It provides survivable, reliable and enduring airborne command, control and communications between the National Command Authority and U.S. strategic and non-strategic forces.

Upon returning to Grissom, the participants toured the north-central Indiana base.

Their first stop was Grissom's Airman and Family Readiness Center, where they learned from Jill Marconi, Grissom's A&FR director, how Grissom has co-located its A&FR Center with its sexual assault prevention and response coordinator, mental health coordinator and chaplains office in order to provide a one-stop shop for Airman wellness.

After their tour of the A&FR Center, the visitors then toured the base's new air traffic control



**Congresswoman Jackie Walorski, left, watches as Master Sgt. Deborah Wood, 74th Air Refueling Squadron inflight refueling technician, refuels a Navy E-6 from a KC-135R Stratotanker during a mission Nov. 10.**



**Senior Master Sgt. Drennen Gaffney, 74th Air Refueling Squadron inflight refueling technician, talks about a Grissom KC-135 with congressional staffers here Nov. 10.**

tower and radar approach control facility, where Grissom ATC controllers recently provided 24/7 support to Chicago Center after a fire shut down their

ATC capabilities.

During that support, the civilian and military aviation controlled by Grissom increased more than 515 percent.



# Grissom transitions to commercial fuel

By Staff Sgt. Benjamin Mota  
*Public Affairs staff*

The smell of jet fuel in the morning remains the same, but something different is putting thrust behind Grissom's tankers.

Following an Air Force cost savings initiative, Grissom Air Reserve Base transitioned from JP-8, a jet fuel used specifically by the Department of Defense since the late 1970's to Jet-A, a commercial grade jet fuel, Oct 18.

"The primary reason for the conversion from JP-8 to Jet-A was to save the Air Force money," said Matt Snyder, Grissom's contracted fuels manager. "Jet-A is approximately two cents cheaper because it does not require segregated transportation and storage and is open to competitive sourcing."

While two cents at the pump does not sound like a lot, it adds up

quickly, explained Snyder.

"During fiscal year 2014 Grissom's tankers used approximately 4.8 million gallons of fuel and transferred another 2.9 million gallons of fuel during aerial refueling," he said. "That adds up to a savings of \$154,000 per year."

While the amount of jet fuel Grissom uses changes annually, one thing that remained the same was the maintenance to the aircraft.

"The transition from JP-8 to Jet-A was flawless," said Chief Master Sgt. Chad Weisend, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron superintendent. "The new fuel looks, smells and functions exactly the same as the old jet fuel and did not require any changes to the maintenance of the aircraft."

Despite the similarities between JP-8 and Jet-A, additives have to be mixed in to bring the commercial fuel to military specifications.

"Antistatic additives, a corrosion inhibitor and an icing inhibitor are added to Jet-A prior to it arriving here," explained Snyder.

After the fuel arrives at Grissom it undergoes a series of quality control checks to ensure the fuel meets military specifications.

"Since we've began receiving the new fuel we have conducted routine quality control inspections without any issues," he added. "The fuels are interchangeable so the transition was simple."

According to the Defense Logistics Agency, the Air Force purchases more than one billion gallons of fuel annually within the continental United States, therefore the transition will save the Air Force an estimated \$25.5 million in annual fuel costs and will help eliminate excess infrastructure, provide energy security and create operational flexibility for the Department of Defense.



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

Christina Looney, 434th Air Refueling contracted fuels laboratory technician, conducts a fuels system icing inhibitor test on Jet-A jet fuel to ensure the fuel meets military specifications at Grissom Nov. 14.

# Grissom Marines celebrate 239th USMC birthday with ball



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

U.S. Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Lara Soto, Detachment One, Communication Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Headquarters Platoon commander, reads Lt. Gen. John Lejeune's, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, traditional birthday message.

by Staff Sgt. Ben Mota  
Public Affairs Staff

U.S. Marines have a long-established history of heritage and traditions that are passed down through generations, but one stands out more than others and is celebrated with a birthday ball.

The Marine Corps reservists of Detachment One, Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group attended U.S. Marine Corps 239th birthday ball in Kokomo, Ind. Nov. 15.

"The Marine Corps Ball is a traditional event that celebrates our heritage and honors those

who have served before us and are continuing to serve," said Capt. Timothy Chun, Detachment One inspector instructor. "It's an annual reminder of our loyalty to each

other and to our nation - our legacy." That tradition dates back to the time when the American Colonies were developing and a committee of Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to draft a resolution calling for two battalions of Marines. That resolution was approved on November 10, 1775, officially forming the Continental Marines and the birthday of the US Marine Corps.

"The ball is our way of remembering where we come from and how we grew to be who we are today," Chun said.

The tradition of the ball dates back to 1925 and was formalized in the Marine Drill manual in 1956.

The ball began with a social hour and was followed by the Marine Corps Birthday Message issued by the General Joseph Dunford Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, said Chun.

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*"The ball is our way of remembering where we come from and how we grew to be who we are today,"*

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- Capt. Timothy Chun

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other and to our nation - our legacy."

That tradition dates back to the time when the American Colonies were developing and a committee of Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to draft a reso-

The message originated in 1921 when the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, issued Marine Corps Order No. 47. This order summarized the history, mission and traditions of the Marine Corps and was to be read to all Marine commands throughout the world each year on Nov. 10.

Marines take great pride in their tradition, and in doing so they believe tradition should be passed down - this is demonstrated with the Marine Corps ceremonial cutting of a birthday cake.

"During the cake cutting, a piece of the cake goes to the oldest marine, and then that Marine gives the youngest Marine another piece," explained Chun. "This symbolizes passing of experience and knowledge from one generation to the next."

All in all, Chun said that the Marine ball was a success with over 250 attendees.

"Everyone had a great time, and we look forward to future Marine Corps Birthdays to come," he concluded.

The United States Marine Corps Reserve Center at Grissom was officially opened in September 2003.

It includes a vehicle maintenance facility, communications electronics maintenance facility, communications equipment storage facility, motor transport lot, supply warehouse, administrative offices and training areas.



# New exercise physiologist arrives

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

Service before self, a core value instilled in Airmen from the day they enlist, often follows them in their career after they depart, and Grissom's new exercise physiologist is an example of that.

Vera Rivera, 434th Force Support Squadron exercise physiologist, recently began her new career with a goal of ensuring Grissom personnel remain fit-to-fight and mission-ready.

"I am really excited about my job," said Rivera who retired from the regular Air Force. "I have several ideas that I hope will bring more people to the fitness center and increase fitness scores."

As Grissom's exercise physiologist, Rivera is tasked with the responsibility of managing the 434th Air Refueling Wing commander's fitness program and educating the entire base populace on exercise and fitness.

"I feel like I can relate to individual's fitness needs because I once had the same fitness requirements as [Airmen] here have," said the retired master sergeant. "I know how important fitness is in the Air Force, and it's my goal to help people who are struggling."

Rivera says that her first priority is getting to know her clients so that she can better understand their needs and goals.

"A good exercise physiologist is a person who can obtain a connection and trust with a potential client, yet inspire them to get



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

**Vera Rivera, 434th Force Support Squadron exercise physiologist, assists Senior Airman Alexis Wilson, 434th FSS services journeyman, with proper bench-press techniques at Grissom's fitness center Oct. 21,**

excited about their health and fitness," explained Rivera. "You cannot easily change someone's fitness and health needs unless they trust you."

After a trusting relationship is built with the client, Rivera can begin making an individualized program that matches their needs.

"Each person is different and has different types of needs depending on their fitness levels, age and lifestyle," said Rivera. "A fitness assessment can help get people on the right track to a healthier

lifestyle."

Fitness assessments are used to determine an individual's health and fitness levels, explained Rivera. This allows her to make suggestions based on the client's needs and abilities.

"The fitness assessment gives me a starting point to work with, and allows me to individualize a program for the client," she explained. "The fitness assessment uses several tools including fitness test scores, cardiovascular endurance, body mass index and several other factors to

determine an individual's proper prescription."

A prescription is a list of recommended exercises, nutrition habits and other lifestyle changes based off an individual's fitness assessment that are used to create a wellness plan, Rivera said.

"Lifestyle changes incorporate long-term health and fitness activities into daily activities, and are critical for good long-term health and fitness," she added.

Rivera stressed the importance of making permanent lifestyle changes and being consistent with those changes.

"Lifestyle changes are important because they increase your metabolism, decrease your body fat percentage, improve your cholesterol and blood pressure, and decrease your chances of having a cardiac event," said Rivera. "Simple day to day lifestyle changes such as routine fitness, food portion control, and nutrition education can help ensure Airmen are healthy and mission ready."

Fitness assessments can be done at the fitness center on a walk-in basis, however appointments are recommended.

"I invite everyone to come to the fitness center where I can provide a full fitness assessment and exercise prescription," Rivera said.

In addition to fitness assessments, the fitness center currently offers smoking sensation classes, nutrition classes and personal training, but Rivera says that she wants to add more classes.

# Safety office manages ground, flying, weapons systems

By Staff Sgt. Andrew McLaughlin  
Public Affairs staff

While juggling a chainsaw isn't safe, sometimes juggling everyone's safety is just as complicated.

The 434th Air Refueling Wing's safety office juggles ground, flying and weapon systems to ensure Grissom's workforce gets the job done without getting hurt.

"At regular Air Force bases whole divisions are dedicated to the individual components of our triad," said Lt. Col. Doug Perry, 434th ARW chief of safety.

"Because of our smaller installation, we don't have that luxury," Perry said. "We must cover all three areas with a fraction of the people, – and get the same results."

"We may run the commander's program, but people put the mission into action, and its inherent they have the knowledge and tools they need to get the job done right and without harm," he added. "But ultimately its everyone's responsibility."

Grissom's mission is to provide aerial refueling, and that starts with the boots on the ground and works its way into the cockpit and flight operations.

"Before jets are launched, people have to get to their work spaces and do all that encompasses supporting our aerial refueling mission," Perry said.

"It starts on the ground," said Johnny Armes, 434th ARW ground safety manager. "We have to ensure that people are doing their jobs safely, and I take pride in ensuring people have the tools they need to get the job done and return home to their families at night."

Work on the ground sometimes isn't quite on the ground, and it's a point of emphasis for safety staff.

"Fall protection is getting a lot of attention now," Armes explained. "We must ensure that people are doing these critical tasks with the safety net that is in place,"

Once all the tasks are done on the ground to get the aircraft off of it, another facet of the safety program takes off – flight safety.

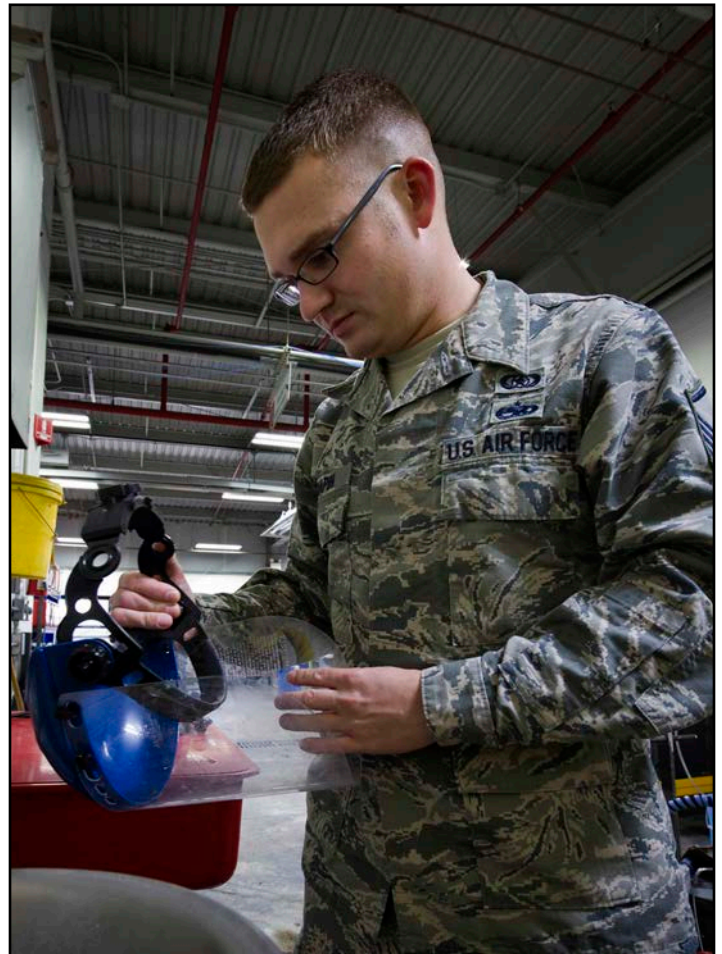
Within flight safety, one of the largest programs is aviation maintenance safety.

"I routinely work with our local maintainers on trending mishaps, incidents, in-flight emergencies and both air and ground aborts," Perry said. "This often requires coordinating with outside agencies such as the Air Force Safety Center and depot-level engineers."

That thoroughness helps the staff to identify potential trends.

"If a particular part, process or human factor is trending in a negative direction; it is critical we identify and track that to prevent future mishaps," he added.

"Our maintainers provide us fantastic jets," Perry said. "They are reliable and remarkably well main-



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

**Master Sgt. Zachary Chapin, 434th Air Refueling Wing noncommissioned officer in charge of ground safety, checks the personal protective gear for safety compliance during a recent safety inspection at Grissom Dec. 3.**

tained. We control what we can control very well."

What the workforce at Grissom can't quite control are the feathered friends that we share space with – birds.

"People think birds aren't a big deal, but they have caused accidents in the past and will cause them again in the future," Perry said. "We have to deal with them the best that we can."

To do that Grissom has a bird aircraft strike hazard program. BASH uses a variety of measures to help minimize the risk of sharing Grissom's airspace.

From maintaining a standard height of grasses to discourage nesting, to noise deterrence and more, aircrew members can rest assured that safety is doing all they can to lessen the danger, Perry said.

However, sometimes sharing the same airspace at the same time does occur, and when it does pilots must submit bird strike reports. Safety collects the feathers and sends them to the feather identification lab at the Smithsonian Institute to help identify wild-life trends.

See 'Safety' page 9



# Airmen use math to keep mission flying



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

Master Sgt. James Hoagland, 434th Air Refueling Wing senior emergency actions controller, uses tie-down techniques to restrain cargo on a pallet at Grissom Nov. 1. The techniques were taught during a pallet building course that trains Airmen on the proper ways of loading cargo onto an aircraft using a combination of geometry, algebra and tie-down techniques.

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

High-school algebra, a course many have thought useless for day-to-day activities, is being used to keep Grissom's mission in the air.

Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing completed a pallet build-up course that uses such math to properly load cargo onto an aircraft at Grissom Nov. 1.

"Pallet building combines several basic skills such as high-school algebra and geometry to safely and efficiently load cargo onto aircraft," said Brian Wright, 434th ARW contracted combat readiness resource specialist. "Without the training, cargo could be loaded improperly and lead to damaged equipment or even worse, an injury."

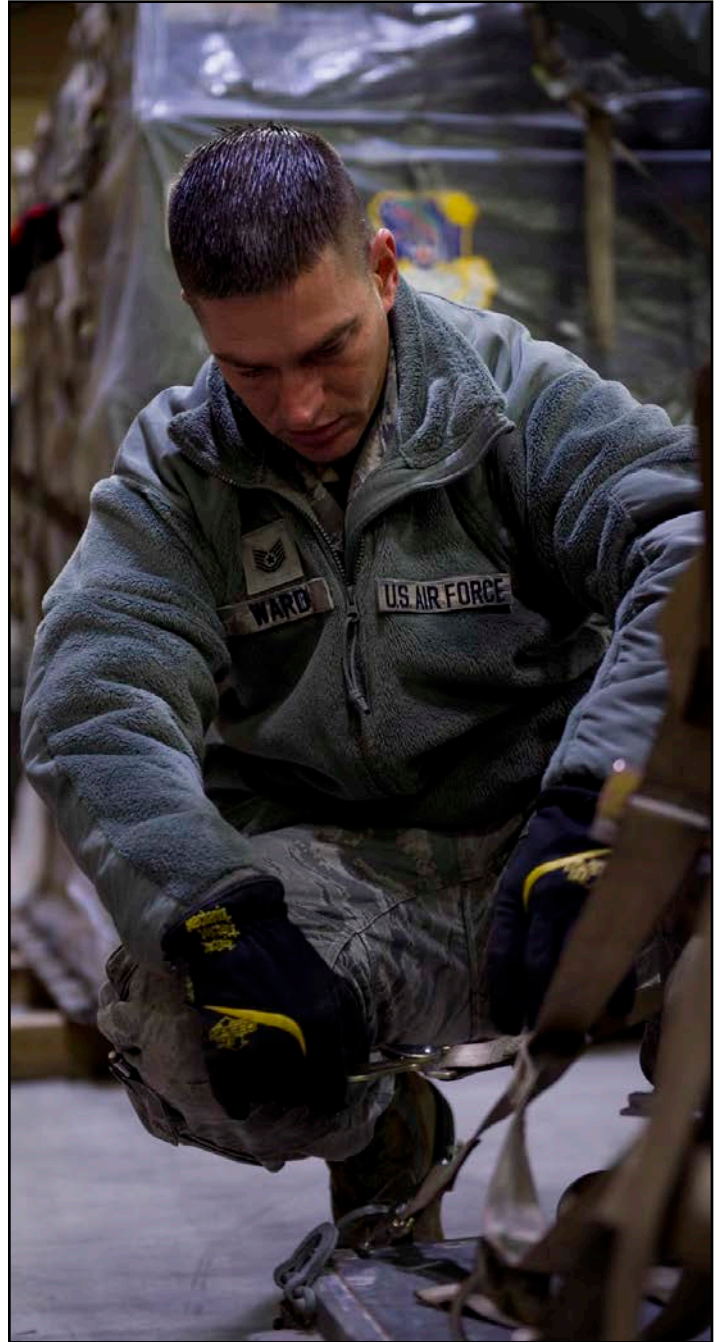
From the beginning of

the course, fundamentals of balance and geometry are introduced to allow pallets to be loaded efficiently and safely, said Wright.

"The math ensures that the cargo is loaded in a square or pyramid shape to fit within the parameters set for the pallet size needed for a specific aircraft," Wright explained. "This is where the efficiency comes into play because the better a pallet is loaded the more you can fit in the plane, and this saves the Air Force money."

Loading a pallet and cargo properly also prevents cargo from shifting and being damaged during flight.

"Cargo that is not loaded and tied down the way it is supposed to can shift during flight and injure passengers," he said. "That is why the palletized cargo has to be distributed evenly



Tech Sgt. James Ward, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, uses a combination of tie-down techniques and pallet build-up techniques to secure cargo at Grissom Nov. 1.

and tied with the appropriate straps."

Larger items that can't fit on a pallet due to shape or size still have to be balanced, properly loaded and secured.

"Algebra equations are used to determine the center-of-balance for large items such as cars

and trucks," Wright explained. "The center of balance will then determine how and where the item will be loaded."

The principals taught in the course will ensure Airman remain safe and are good steward's of Air Force's money concluded Wright.



# AF makes strides in combating sexual assault

**By Staff Sgt. Torri Ingalsbe**  
*Air Force Public Affairs*

Eight-hundred fewer active-duty Airmen experienced some form of unwanted sexual contact in fiscal year 2014 than in fiscal 2012, and 500 more Airmen reported the crime over the same period.

This data was part of a report provided to the President, Dec. 2, that summarizes the progress the Department of Defense and all the services have made in eliminating sexual assault in the DOD over the past three years.

"The increase in the reporting shows us that victims are more comfortable coming forward, and believe they will get the services they need to recover from the trauma" said Maj. Gen. Gina Grosso, the director of Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response.

A sexual assault report does not automatically trigger an investigation. Victims who choose to file a restricted report can get the care to help them cope with the crime, and the sexual assault response coordinator will assist them in getting any desired assistance. Unrestricted reports also provide care and assistance to a victim, while automatically launching a criminal

investigation by The Air Force Office of Special Investigations. Victims can always seek care from a medical provider without triggering any kind of report.

"We strongly believe in victim's choice," Grosso said. "Victims always have voice and choice when seeking care after an assault. We want all victims to get the help they want and need and should never be pressured into filing one kind of report over another."

She attributes the decrease in prevalence and increase in reporting to the culture change within the Air Force toward sexual assault, particularly at the commander level.

"Leadership involvement at every level the past three years has resulted in fewer sexual assault incidents and more victims reporting the crime," Grosso said. "However, we still have work to do."

Providing a robust sexual assault response system will continue to be a focus moving forward, but Grosso also wants to take a new approach to prevent sexual assault, emphasizing it's everyone's responsibility: individual Airmen, peer groups, leadership at all levels, installation-level programs and Air Force-wide programs working

together to eliminate the crime.

"We're starting the new year with a week-long prevention summit in January," she explained. "We're pairing Airmen from the field with primary prevention research experts to develop new prevention tools that will drive us to our vision of an Air Force free from sexual assault."

Another focus area the general wants to address is social and professional retaliation that victims have reported.

"We have training modules this year designed to address communication and training to foster victim empathy," Grosso said. "This needs to happen at all levels – from the peer group, to the first-line supervisors, with commanders taking the lead."

Grosso shared that she is often asked if the Air Force's vision is attainable and she unequivocally says yes. She believes Airmen join the Air Force to be a part of something that's important for the Nation's defense and have a set of values they want to live by.

"I believe we can absolutely create an Air Force free from sexual assault because there is no important task for the nation that Airmen cannot achieve," she said. (AFNS)

## Safety, from page 7

"I never thought I'd become a bird expert," Perry said. "But it comes with the job."

The third area of responsibility is weapons safety.

While the KC-135R Stratotanker isn't an airframe that carries weapons, the need for weapons safety has always been in place.

"The Air Force mandates that every base must have a safe-haven area for vehicles transporting explosives in the event of an emergency," said Jerry Skiles, 434th ARW weapons safety manager. "We have an identified area on the airfield we use that would minimize damage in the event of a weapons related accident."

The recent addition of an explosives ordnance unit also shaped Grissom's involvement.

We ensure that EOD has the proper facilities to store sensitive and vital equipment, Skiles said.

"We have also been involved in planning the best location for a new EOD proficiency range which evolved into a land acquisition process," Perry ex-

plained.

"This will let EOD conduct their training with minimal disturbance to the rest of the base," Skiles added.

Even with their three-pronged approach to keeping Grissom safe, accidents do occur. When they do, the safety team looks to learn from it.

"Proactive safety in all areas is essential," Perry said. "Many times we find ourselves in a reactive situation, but we investigate and learn to ensure future mishap prevention."

"We look at trending factors of mishaps locally and Air Force-wide," said Master Sgt. Zachary Chapin, 434th ARW noncommissioned officer in charge of ground safety. "We want to identify potential problems if they exist and alert leadership so we can take preventative actions."

"The bottom line is we have to get the mission done," Perry added. "We can't take shortcuts. We can't cut corners, and we can't take unnecessary risks."

# Twenty-two Grissom Airmen earn next stripe

**By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays**  
*Public Affairs staff*

From their first to their last, America's Airmen earn each stripe of rank on their arms, and the Airmen of Grissom are no different.

Twenty-two 434th Air Refueling Wing Airmen from all across the north-central Indiana base earned their next stripe as they were recently promoted to the next enlisted rank here.

Their names are as follows:

**To master sergeant:**

- Krystle Lucas, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron

- Michael Darnell, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron

**To technical sergeant:**

- Jacob Edwards, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
- Clayton Duncan, 434th Operations Support Squadron  
- Timothy Augustyn, 434th Security Forces Squadron

**To staff sergeant:**

- Gabriel Struss, 434th CES  
- Ashley Roberts, 434th Maintenance Squadron  
- Michael Meoak, 434th AMXS  
- Lance Blackwell, 434th MXS

**To senior airman:**

- Kevin Salau, 434th CES  
- Anthony Morelli, 434th MXS  
- Kaila Culpepper, 434th ARW  
- Jarvis Broom, 434th Force Support Squadron

**To airman 1st class:**

- Inri Sanchez, 434th SFS  
- Jalen Kelley, 434th SFS  
- Angela Hasler, 434th LRS  
- Jazma Falconer, 434th AMXS  
- Marshall Berry, 434th SFS

**To airman:**

- Austin Sherman, 49th Aerial Port Flight  
- Kahlif Rebb, 434th AMXS  
- Ashley Patty, 434th FSS  
- Anthony Miller, 434th MXS

## 41 Airmen selected as KC-46 tanker aircrew

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas -- Forty-one officers and enlisted members from the regular Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard have been selected as KC-46 Pegasus initial operational test and evaluation aircrew, Air Force Personnel Center officials said Nov. 24.

The KC-46 is slated to enter the Air Force inventory, pending the results of operational test and evaluation, in 2016. Developed by Boeing in Mukilteo, Washington, the aircraft is set to replace the KC-135 Stratotanker, which has been actively employed since 1956.

"Test and evaluation aircrew will evaluate the tanker's capabilities under all circumstances and situations to ensure that it meets all operational mission requirements," said Maj. Broc Starrett, an official with the AFPC Mobility Air



*U.S. Air Force graphic by Corey Parrish*

Forces rated assignments section.

"This is a significant milestone in the careers of the pilots and boom operators selected to test the new tanker," Starrett said. "Airmen selected for test and evaluation positions must be the

best in their field, so selection for the program is very competitive. These total-force Airmen will have significant impact on the future of the Air Force mobility mission."

To see the selection list and for information about other personnel

issues, go to myPers. Select "search all components" from the drop down menu and enter "KC-46 Initial Operational Test & Evaluation (IOT&E) Aircrew Selection Board Results" in the search window. (AFNS)



# Grissom Airmen arm to combat sexual assault

By Senior Airman Jami Lancette  
*Public Affairs staff*

The fight is not always on the battlefield, and the enemy is not always expected, but one opportunity helped Airmen differentiate between friend and foe.

Grissom Airmen took part in an annual Sexual Assault Response Prevention Stand-Down here Nov. 2.

"The stand-down arms Airmen with the knowledge about sexual assault and prevention so that we are focusing on the core values as well as enabling us to create a culture that prevents and eliminates sexual assault," said Amy Little 434th Air Refueling Wing sexual assault and response coordinator and behavioral health support coordinator.

"This year's theme is focusing on offenders," said Little. "All of the material will emphasize on how offenders groom, think and operate."

The stand-down's aim is to support the three step strategies and objectives of the Air Force's SAPR program, said Little.

"Those objectives are that predators are detoured and eliminated, that victims come forward, and that we are building and reinforcing an Air Force climate full of dignity and respect for everyone," she added. "We turn the focus on the offender and what we know, how they operate and by then we're able to have more empathy for the victims, be better bystanders and intervene at the lowest level to prevent sexual assault."

In addition to knowing how offenders typically operate, there's also a certain responsibility that Airmen have with upholding their core values and being a good wingman.

"It's all of our responsibility to make sure that those around us are being good wingman and that this is indeed the oasis where people want to come, they trust each other and they have every opportunity to succeed," said Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander. "That's just making it a positive work place."

"We will need all of your help; leadership can stand up and talk about this all day but really it's all on you in the work centers making sure that we're providing a positive environment," Schwartz added. "There's some great conversation and dialogue going around the wing."

During the training, Airmen were given the opportunity to participate in a group dialogue about the issue, wingmanship and what it takes to prevent sexual assault.

"We owe it to our fellow Airmen," said 1st Lt. John Pedro II, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels flight commander. "The key is to get them the help from the specialist who knows how to handle the situation best."

"If you don't do anything about it then you're wrong," Pedro added. "You then become part of the sexual assault."

Amy Little 434th Air Refueling Wing sexual assault and response coordinator and behavioral health support coordinator, educates Airmen on the characteristics of a sexual offender during Grissom's annual Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Stand Down Day here Nov. 2. During the training, Airmen were given the opportunity to participate in a group dialogue about the issue, wingmanship and what it takes to prevent sexual assault.



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

# Top-3 provides mentoring, opportunity for SNCOs

**Staff Sgt. Andrew McLaughlin**  
*Public Affairs staff*

Senior noncommissioned officers looking for more ways to develop themselves professionally and network with other enlisted leaders may be interested in joining the Grissom Top-3.

The Grissom Top-3 will hold its first official meeting of 2015 during the February unit training assembly.

The Top-3 is a collaborative organization for SNCOs whose purpose is to provide a forum for leadership and mentoring. The group is already active here, but the new leaders are hoping revitalize it and give it a more defined purpose that will benefit enlisted leaders.

"It's a good opportunity for learning and networking," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeffery Withrow 434th ARW command post superintendent.

The Top-3 is primarily composed of master sergeants, senior master sergeants and some chief master sergeants. At least one

chief is present at their meetings.

Last year, Grissom Top-3 members elected new officers who decided to take the group in a new specific direction, said Withrow adding that the group realized that mentoring for SNCOs could be improved at Grissom.

"Most of us don't do PME in-residence," said Withrow. "The opportunity for mentoring and growth are lacking for a lot of us."

Withrow hopes that an active Top-3 group will fill this gap.

Top-3 membership provides networking opportunities between SNCOs, and can help their own careers and help them to better serve their Airmen as well.

In February, Col. Douglas Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing Commander, will speak of his expectations for SNCOs and the training office will follow with services they can provide. They will meet at least quarterly.

At meeting they will present practical and useful information such as writing enlisted performance reports, promotion en-

hancement program packages and disciplinary action, he said. Every meeting they will invite a senior unit leader to talk about the challenges of enlisted leadership and the successes and failures they have experienced.

"You can learn a lot from other people's experiences," he said.

Withrow said he hopes that interest in the organization will grow among the more than 230 SNCOs on Grissom.

Any SNCOs interested in joining Top-3 should contact Master Sgt. Doug Preece, 74th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator.

Chief Master Sgt. Perkins, 434th ARW command chief, spoke to the group during the November meeting. She emphasized the importance of bringing in leaders from different areas so they can learn more about other sections what it takes to do their jobs.

"How do we support our wing if we don't know what others do to accomplish the mission," Perkins said. "We need to understand how we as a whole function together."



Senior Master Sgt. Jeffery Withrow, 434th Air Refueling Wing command post superintendent and Top-3 vice president, discusses the future of Grissom's Top-3 while Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Meadors, 434th Aerospace Medical Squadron superintendent and Top-3 president, and other Top-3 members listen here Nov. 2. The Top-3 is a collaborative organization for senior noncommissioned officer whose purpose is to provide a forum for leadership and mentoring. The group is already active here, but the new leaders are hoping revitalize it and give it a more defined purpose that will benefit enlisted leaders.

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





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