

Heartland WARRIOR

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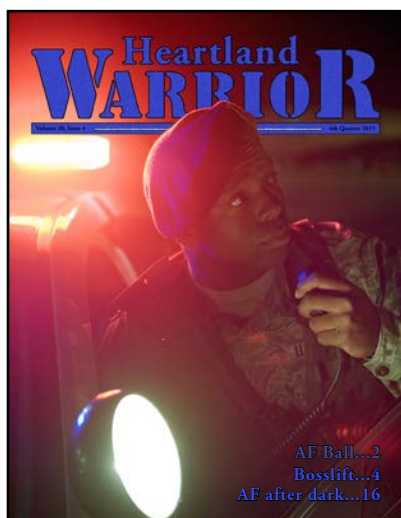
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U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota

On the cover...

Senior Airman Marshall Berry, 434th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, speaks on the radio during a training exercise at Grissom, Sept. 29. With over 1,200 acres of land, more than two billion dollars of real property and 16 KC-135R Stratotanker's valued at approximately fifty-two million dollars each the 434th Security Forces Squadron plays a vital role protecting Grissom's resources.

434th ARW hosts AF Ball

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota
Public Affairs staff

It wasn't a time machine, but after walking through a sandbag bunker, members and guests of the 434th Air Refueling Wing were transported in time to the end of World War II and the celebrations that ensued.

Those celebrations and memories were recreated with a military ball hosted by the 434th ARW here, Sept. 12.

"The 2015 Air Force ball was an outstanding event!" said Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th ARW commander. "It was great to see so many civic leaders and Airmen enjoy a spectacular evening of camaraderie and fellowship as we celebrated the 70th anniversary to the end of World War II."

This year's ball, "Wings over America: A salute to the 1940s" featured music and festivities from that era inside a hangar transformed with authentic World War II memorabilia.

"Today's theme, a salute to the 1940s, is all about honoring those

who served before us, said Maj. Gen. Maryanne Miller, Headquarters U.S. Air Force deputy to the chief of the Air Force Reserve and guest speaker. "Those veterans contributed bricks of success paved for us to follow, but now it's the trail laid by Airmen from the 434th and others that keep the skies above this great country and our allies safe for the generations to come."

Other guests included U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, Indiana Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann, Logansport, Ind. Mayor Ted Franklin and other civic leaders and veterans from the local area and throughout the state.

Attendees observed ceremonial traditions including the presentation of colors ceremony and prisoner of war/missing in action ceremony in addition to the cake cutting ceremony, a military tradition where the most senior ranking individual and the lowest ranking individual cut a decorated cake using a ceremonial sword.

See 'Ball' page 11



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

Master Sgt. Kerry Vanausdall, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, left, Airman 1st Class Kaila Walker, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron logistic plans apprentice, center, and Maj. Gen. Maryanne Miller, Headquarters U.S. Air Force deputy to the chief of the Air Force Reserve, use a ceremonial sword to cut a cake during the Air Force Ball at Grissom Sept. 12.

Water sample results alleviate fears from PFCs

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
Public Affairs staff

Water samples taken from wells near Grissom came back with sparkling results.

The samples, collected Sept. 2, each had levels far below the Environmental Protection Agency's provisional health advisory limits.

"Some results were so low they were below the calculation testing limits and had to be estimated," said Jeff Woodring, 434th Base Civil Engineer chief environmental engineer.

Water from four wells, as well as the in and out-flow of the Peru Utilities water treatment plant, were tested for forms of

perfluorinated compounds (PFCs), specifically compounds used in aqueous firefighting foam (AFFF) used to extinguish fuel fires since the 1970s.

The wells tested were the closest to fire training areas used to train Air Force firefighters to battle petroleum driven aircraft fires at the former active base that realigned in 1994.

The foam is no longer used in training and the Air Force is systematically removing it from the field.

"We made a commitment to our friends in the community to keep them informed of our environmental efforts," said Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing

commander. "We tested the water and are pleased that the results were very favorable.

"We're a stakeholder in this process," Schwartz said. "We are members of the community too and have a vested interest in doing things the right way."

PFCs are used in a variety household items including non-stick cookware, food wrappers and even microwave popcorn.

"Based on the test results, people would have to drink 75,000 liters of the sampled water to get the same equivalent of PFCs found in one bag of microwave popcorn," said Lisa Krawczyk, 434th CES environmental engineer.

The Air Force is currently testing 82 former and active installations. As a former active-duty installation that was downsized and realigned to a reserve base, Grissom falls into both categories.

Environmental engineers from the Air Force Civil Engineer Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas are spearheading the Air Force's efforts in identifying, studying, and applying effective mediation strategies.

"Our environmental team is working closely with these professionals," Schwartz said. "We have a proven track record of resolving issues that affect the community because it's our community too."

434th SFS, 434th CES return from deployments

By 434th ARW
Public Affairs staff

"My hero doesn't wear a cape," read a sign, held by Franky Paredes.

Paredes, brother of Senior Airman Manuel Paredes, 434th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, stood among a crowd of friends and family members ready to provide a hero's welcome.

Senior Airman Paredes, along with more than 60 Grissom Airmen from the 434th Security Forces Squadron and the 434th Civil Engineer Squadron rejoined their units at Grissom in July and August after completing 180-day deployments to Southwest Asia.

"I've waited a long time for this day," said Jessica Dill, who was waiting for her husband Master Sgt. Robert Dill III, 434th CES power production specialist, to arrive. "We've missed him so much."



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

Yvette Morales, girlfriend of Senior Airman Manuel Paredes, 434th Security Forces fire team member, holds a sign to greet returning Airmen at Grissom July 21.

See 'Airmen return' page 12

Bosslift gives employers military overview



Three A-10 Warthog's from the 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne, Ind., form up next to a KC-135R Stratotanker during an Indiana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve event held here Aug. 7. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jami Lancette)

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
Public Affairs staff

From billows of smoke to billowy clouds, employers from Indiana and beyond got into the trenches and high above the Earth for a glimpse of military life.

Fifty-two employers visited Grissom Aug. 7-8, 2015 for an employer orientation experience designed to show them just what military members do when they are away from their civilian jobs.

Joining the 434th Air Refueling Wing on the 'Team Indiana Bosslift' were the 122nd Fighter Wing, in Fort Wayne, Ind., and the 181st In-

telligence Wing, Terre Haute, Ind., - both part of the Indiana Air National Guard.

Geoff Ginzel, an employer from Peoria Illinois was one of the members who participated in the event.

"I knew what Bob (Lt. Col. Robert Horkavi, 434th Operations Support Squadron intelligence officer) did but being able to see the value of what he does to the overall security of our nation was an incredible opportunity," said Ginzel.

"The professionalism and dedication shown by the military members made me realize we are in good hands," he said. "The involvement of all

the commanders and the generals that were there just really showed how important this was to them."

Employers from the 434th ARW and the 181st IW kicked off the event with a tour of the Army Reserve Center where they witnessed realistic combat lifesaving training, and had an opportunity to handle weapons and see the equipment the soldiers use in battlefield environments.

Afterwards, they learned about the duties and capabilities of 434th Civil Engineer Squadron's explosive ordnance disposal unit. EOD technicians broke out their gear to show the group,

allowing employers to try on the protective suit and even try their hand at driving the motorized robot.

Later that evening, leadership from all the participating units had the opportunity to provide an overview of their units' during a special dinner catered by the dining facility.

"We have incredible Airmen serving here at Grissom as well as Fort Wayne and Terre Haute," said Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander. "It's important for us to share the great things they do with their employers. Having their employer supporting them benefits us all."



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

A soldier participating in a combat life saver course qualification exercise stands guard, over a mannequin in a smoke filled room, as civilians participating in an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve tour watch at Grissom Aug. 6.

After spending the night, employers took off on a three-ship formation to refuel both A-10 Warthogs as well as a C-17 Globemaster.

"We wanted to give them the experience of seeing both types of refueling missions," Schwartz said. "Having the A-10s from the 122nd FW certainly made the first part easy."

Following the mission, employers met briefly to wrap up and were presented 'Honorary Aircrew' certificates to commemorate their day at Grissom.

Hal Job, 434th ARW honorary commander, was already familiar with the base, but was able to interact and share experiences with both employers and military members.

"I was impressed with the number of Guard and Reserve employers who were willing to spend the time to better understand the important role their employees have in the defense of our nation," Job said. "The comments I heard from several employers made me believe they were leaving Grissom with a new or renewed respect for their employees."

The event was done in conjunction with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Also attending were Maj. Gen. Courtney Carr, Indiana's Adjutant General, and Maj. Gen. David Wood, 38th Infantry Division commander, and Steve Lynch, chairman of the Indiana ESGR.



Army Reserve First Sgt. Nicholas Moore, 316th Psychological Operations Company first sergeant, explains the operating procedures of an M240B machine gun to Hal Job, 434th Air Refueling Wing honorary commander, during an ESGR tour for employers at Grissom Aug. 6.

Color run a bright spot for after-hour UTA fun

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

Nothing like being doused with powder when you're hot and sweaty - unless that powder is bright and it is just what you signed up for!

Eighteen people participated in a 5K color fun run Aug. 8 at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind.

The event, sponsored by the 434th Force Support Squadron fitness center staff pitted a hot evening, sweaty runners and volunteers armed with brightly colored corn starch they doused runners with.

"It was an awesome experience," said Tim Wood, base honor guard manager. "I was spinning in circles as they threw the corn starch on me."

"I wanted to make sure I was evenly coated," he added.

Volunteers doing the dousing were staged along the 3.1-mile course and primed with color bombs to dust runners as they ran past.

"What a great event our fitness center staff put on," said Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander and run participant. "Events like these are great opportunities for us to get together after working hard to play hard and build that camaraderie that is so important for an organization to thrive."

"We are looking forward to a bigger and better event next year," said Senior Airman Jarvis Broom, 434th FSS recreation specialist who organized and set up the event.



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Jami Lancette

Hiram Gates, 434th Air Refueling Wing vice commander, gets dusted with brightly colored corn starch by a volunteer during a 5K color fun run held August 8 at Grissom.



From left, Therese Kern, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander, Kathryn Russell, 434th Air Refueling Wing inspector general, and Wendi Conwell, 434th AMDS first sergeant, are all smiles as they get ready to run into a cloud of brightly colored corn starch during a 5K color fun run held at Grissom August 8.

Three changes of command transform 434th MXG

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota
Public Affairs staff

Following a flurry of flag passing, a new era in maintenance began.

During three back-to-back changes of command ceremonies at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., Aug. 9, the completion of the 434th Maintenance Group took a dramatic transformation.

Maj. Amy Johannsen took command of the 434th Maintenance Squadron, Maj. John Valdez III took command of the 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and Capt. Theodore Karagias took command of the 434th Maintenance Operations Section.

"This will be the best

job you will ever have," said Col. Anna Schulte, 434th MXG commander, to the new commanders as she presided over the ceremony. "You have the vision for the unit, [your Airmen] will help you to see it; you set the goal, they will help you meet it."

Despite being new to their job, each commander brought with them a history of excellence that could be seen in their past performance, said Schulte.

Prior to taking command of the 434th MXS, Johannsen, who holds a Master of Arts degree in organizational management from Ashford University, commanded the 434th MOF. Valdez, who has a Master's of Science degree in international

management from Troy State University, was a quality assurance officer-in-charge in the 434th MXG.

"Johannsen did an excellent job as commander of small section and is ready for the squadron level," explained Schulte. "Valdez also did an excellent job as a QA OIC working several issues regarding health of fleet and maintenance procedures."

Karagias, who holds a Master's Degree in human resource development from the University of Illinois, also comes from Grissom's 434th AMXS where he served as director of operations.

"This is Karagias' first command," added Schulte. "He has already impressed me with his

step-up attitude in support of AMXS personnel and leadership in preparation and execution of upcoming exercises."

The 434th MXG commander and staff are responsible for aircraft maintenance oversight and a variety of on-and-off aircraft maintenance support activities.

"We have challenges still lying ahead of us; the [deployments and Air Force missions] will continue and demand that our personnel be ready both in their areas of expertise and their mobility requirements to answer the call," concluded Schulte. "To the maintenance group squadron commanders, present and future, I offer my heartfelt thanks and best wishes."



Col. Anna Schulte, 434th Maintenance Group commander, presents a 434th Maintenance Squadron guidon to Maj. Amy Johannsen, 434th MXS commander, during a change of command ceremony at Grissom Aug. 9.



Col. Anna Schulte, 434th Maintenance Group commander, presents a 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron guidon to Maj. John Valdez III, 434th AMXS commander, during a change of command ceremony at Grissom Aug. 9.



Col. Anna Schulte, 434th Maintenance Group commander, presents a Maintenance Operations Section guidon to Capt. Theodore Karagias, 434th MOS commander, during a change of command ceremony at Grissom Aug. 9.

U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Jami Lancette

Kokomo Ivy Tech students tour Grissom

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota
Public Affairs staff

While many visitors come to Grissom to see the KC-135R Stratotanker, one group of visitors were more focused on the fabrications and mechanics that keep them in the air.

Ivy Tech automotive and fabrications students and staff from Kokomo, Ind., got an up-close look at a KC-135R Stratotanker and the work needed to keep the aircraft mission-ready during a tour here, July 22.

The first stop was the 434th Maintenance Squadron fabrication shop.

There, students and staff learned how metals technology

specialists build parts that can no longer be acquired due to the age of the aircraft.

"The fabrications shop allowed students an opportunity to explore their options and see what the world of 'work' is going to be like after they graduate and start pursuing careers," said Jennifer Hughes, Ivy Tech Community College integrated technology education program advisor. "[The metals technology specialists] did a fantastic job at letting students know what they do."

"These kids are studying CNC and automotive mechanics so the tour was fascinating for them; the staff had some really tough questions to answer and they did great," Hughes added.

Afterwards, the group headed out to the flight line to tour a 434th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R, where pilots and crewmembers showed them around the aircraft and answered questions.

"The [air crew] were excellent," explained Hughes. "When we toured the airplane, they really went out of their way to explain the mechanics and answer all the questions the students had; we'll definitely be back for tours in the future."

Grissom holds tours for groups of 15 or more people and must be approved through the public affairs office.

Tour info and request forms can be found on the questions page of the unit web site.



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

Jim Bonham, Ivy Tech Community College automotive instructor, center, and his students look at the mechanical components of a boom from a KC-135R Stratotanker during a tour at Grissom July 22.

Airmen showcase Grissom's mission at major airshow



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

From left to right, Senior Airman Kayla Rivera, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron health services specialist; Senior Airman Brent Cannon, 434th AMDS medical services specialist; Master Sgt. Corey Fields, 434th Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance supervisor; Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Stogsdill, 434th MXS fabrications flight chief; Senior Airman Sean Kaufmann, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron, Senior Airman Laura Jauregui, 434th CES structural specialist; Staff Sgt. Joe Meyer, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief and Staff Sgt. Thomas Vasbinder, 434th AMXS crew chief, pose for a photo at the Dayton Vectron Airshow in Dayton, Ohio, June 20.

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

DAYTON, Ohio -- While many people will never have the chance to fly a KC-135R Strato-tanker or operate its boom pod, several can now say they know what it's like and a little more about the Air Force due to a group of volunteers from Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana.

Eight Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing volunteered to setup and operate Grissom's interactive flight deck and boom pod displays at the Dayton Vectron Airshow in Dayton, Ohio, June 20-21.

Grissom members rou-

tinely take the displays on the road to open houses, air shows and events to share information about Grissom and the Air Force Reserve Command with audiences who may not otherwise have an opportunity to visit.

"The flight deck and boom pod are designed as informational displays to help the public obtain a better understanding of Grissom's refueling mission," said Chief Master Sgt. Rob Herman, 434th ARW command chief. "Airmen from different career fields around the base attended the event to speak about their jobs in the Air Force Reserve and help set up, operate the displays, and inspire our future Citizen Air-

men."

Over the course of the two-day event, approximately 3,000 people toured the displays.

"We stayed very busy throughout the entire event despite having rain for the majority of our first day," said Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Stogsdill, 434th Maintenance Squadron fabrications flight chief and event supervisor. "We had nothing but positive responses from people visiting the displays."

For many, this experience was their first time to see inside of a military aircraft, yet alone experience aerial refueling from a boom operator or pilot's perspective.

"This is absolutely

amazing," said Bradley Warner, an airshow attendee, who brought his son Samuel with him for the experience. "He absolutely loved seeing the plane approach to be refueled; I don't know which one of us was more excited."

"Our portion of the event was a great success," said Herman. "It provided a great opportunity for us to highlight just a few of our outstanding Airmen from across functional areas of the wing.

"The boom pod and flight deck are truly amazing; they're a testament to the skills and abilities of our maintenance personnel," he concluded.

Traveling postcards bring healing words to survivors

**By Senior Airman
Katrina Heikkinen**
Public Affairs staff

"You are not alone," a participant reads. "We're here with you."

Encouraging phrases of compassion and solidarity were echoed during a healing arts workshop at the Airman and Family Readiness Center, here Sept. 21-22.

In an effort to emphasize the Air Force's commitment to eliminate sexual assault through victim advocacy and response, more than 20 Grissom Airmen, local, state and national therapists hand-crafted traveling postcards with phrases of empowerment and hope for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

"This is a first for the Grissom community" said Amy Little, 434th Air Refueling Wing sexual as-

sault and social worker. "Coming together to create postcards for survivors gives those who want to help an opportunity to enact positive change and healing."

Hosted by traveling postcards founder Caroline Lovell, the workshop fuses transformative arts in an environment designed to foster resiliency through creative expression and experiences without censorship.

"The purpose of traveling postcard workshops is to create both healing for survivors and an opportunity [for attendees] to discuss a difficult topic and share their personal experiences of survival," Lovell said. "Even if sexual assault or domestic violence is something you've never talked about or experienced before, doing something as small as making a postcard for an anonymous survivor can

create a connection."

Lovell said she originally started the workshop after traveling to Africa where she discovered a collective occurrence when people gather and create with their hands.

"The idea of traveling postcards is the same as the idea of an old fashioned sewing circle," Lovell said. "I have found that when people gather and they feel safe, their hearts are open. When people talk from their heart they have incredible wisdom to share."

Many attendees, including Karen Smith, Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina, sexual assault response coordinator, originally attended the workshop with the intentions of empowering others; but what she gained out of the experience was more personal.

"Originally, I came looking for innovative

ways to help people heal," Smith said. "As a cancer survivor, I can attest to the power of receiving a hand-made gift; after beating cancer I received a quilt and the creativity and thought that went into the quilt was extremely personal and healing for me."

Postcards created during the workshop will be on display during the October unit training assembly.

"We all have moments we can connect with other people - even if they're anonymous and we never see them," Little said. "The beauty of creating these cards is that we might not know who they're going to - but they will go to a survivor."

Traveling postcard workshops will be offered quarterly for Grissom Airmen in the near future. For more information about the workshops, contact Little.



Emily Hays, a non-profit human services organization therapist, reads a message of empowerment she wrote on a handmade postcard during a healing arts workshop at Grissom Sept. 22. More than 20 Grissom Airmen, local, state and national therapists created traveling postcards for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Katrina Heikkinen

Ball, from page 2

“The Air Force ball was a great experience for me,” said Airman 1st Class Kaila Walker, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron logistic plans apprentice and lowest ranking individual at the event. “I really enjoyed cutting the cake and witnessing Air Force traditions for the first time.”

In addition, two World War II veterans, William Mallow and Forest Mason, attended the event as honored guests.

“We are very honored to have two World War II veterans here with us today,” added Schwartz. “Their contributions to our nation are true examples of the selfless service the Air Force continues to instill in Airmen today.”

During the ball, specially prepared meals were plated and served to guests followed by a night of fellowship and dancing.

“Events like these remind us that our great citizen airmen are making their own history each and every day while remembering the sacrifices of those veterans who served before them,” concluded Schwartz.



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

Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, presents Maj. Gen. Maryanne Miller, Headquarters U.S. Air Force deputy to the chief of the Air Force Reserve and guest speaker, a token of appreciation from Team Grissom during an Air Force Ball at Grissom Sept. 12. This year's ball, 'Wings over America: A salute to the 1940s' featured music and festivities from that era inside a hangar transformed with authentic World War II memorabilia.



Maj. Gen. Maryanne Miller, Headquarters deputy to the chief of the Air Force Reserve, and Col. Hiram Gates, III, 434th ARW vice commander, thank Forest Mason, a World War II veteran, for his service during an Air Force Ball at Grissom Sept. 12.



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

Family members of Master Sgt. Robert T. Dill III, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron power production journeyman, hold up signs to welcome him home as his aircraft approaches the hangar at Grissom July 22.

During their deployment, Grissom's defenders and civil engineers were attached to various missions throughout Air Forces Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and Freedom's Sentinel.

"While deployed, our security forces specialists provided mission essential base defense and aircraft security," said Lt. Col. Christopher Witter 434th Mission Support Group deputy commander. "Their efforts maintained the same air-tight security [at the 332nd AEW] that has been in place since Desert Storm."

Spread across regions of Asia, some CES Airmen conducted missions to provide water to an undisclosed base in Iraq, others including Grissom's defenders transitioned to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Southwest Asia, to replace their predecessors.

"One of our biggest feats was building a well for the base," said Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Brill, 434th CES operations superintendent. "The base had been without water for 16 days when we arrived. The well we provided allowed them to fill storage tanks that held 1.5 million gallons of water for military personnel and refugees housed at the base."

Operation Freedom's Sentinel, formally Operation Enduring Freedom, supports NATO's Resolute Support Mission by sustaining counterterrorism efforts and providing programs to improve the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, according to the Lead Inspector General for Overseas Contingency Operations.

"It felt good knowing that the work we did while we were there would continue to help people even after we were gone," said Senior Master Sgt. Nate Colborn, 434th CES heavy repair superintendent. "Everyone had a really good attitude throughout the deployment, but we are all glad to be back."

"What a great way to start the day," said Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander. "Seeing the joyful reunions always warms your heart and brings to the forefront the sacrifices our members and their families make to serve our nation."

Most deployed members arrived in Baltimore, Maryland, where they were cleared through customs before parting for their final leg home to Grissom. After turning equipment in, they were released until later in the day for final in-processing before beginning rest and recovery.

316th Psychological Operations Company deploys

By Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays
Public Affairs staff

Twenty soldiers gathered at Grissom Aug. 24 to begin a long journey to participate in the war on terror.

Soldiers from the 316th Psychological Operations Company gathered for deployment processing as part of a nine-month tour supporting the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.

As the soldiers stood in formation, they received words of encouragement and gratitude from a speakers including Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander and their own deployment commander, Army Capt. Glenn Laws.

"Grissom has a wealth of resources right here on base to help families and loved ones during the deployment," said Schwartz. "Our Airman and Family Readiness Center staff is

here to provide care for you as well."

This isn't the first time the unit has deployed to Africa. The unit had members there as recently as 2013.

"It doesn't matter if it's your first or your fifth deployment it's never easy to say goodbye to families or friends," Laws said. "These men and women standing in formation could not perform their duties if it was not for the love and support of their families, and for that we are grateful."

Schwartz added that those deploying multiple times can help the younger folks during the process to make it easier.

"You younger folks can help make sure those that have done it before don't become complacent as well," Schwartz said. "We all work together."

"The troops standing before you today are trained and ready to perform their mission," Laws added. "We have spent the last few weeks, months and even years preparing for this mission."



Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander talks to soldiers from the 316th Psychological Operations Company during their deployment processing Aug. 24.

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

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U.S. Air Force graphic by Senior Airman Katrina Heikkinen

72 Airmen recently awarded medals

By Senior Airman
Katrina Heikkinen
Public Affairs staff

For their meritorious service in the Air Force, 72 Grissom Airmen were recently awarded medals.

Meritorious Service Medal

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

- Maj. Amy Johannsen, 434th Maintenance Group
- Maj. James Benvenuto, 434th Security Forces Squadron
- Capt. Erik Anderson, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Chief Master Sgt. Louise Dietzer-Hensley, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
- Chief Master Sgt. Robert Herman, 434th ARW
- Chief Master Sgt. Tony Hoffman, 434th MXG
- Chief Master Sgt. Rickie King, 434th SFS
- Chief Master Sgt. Karen Perkins, 434th ARW
- Senior Master Sgt. Steven Burton, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Senior Master Sgt. Bradley Marcum, 434th AMDS
- Master Sgt. Nicholas Christos, 434th AMDS
- Master Sgt. Philip Deckard, 434th CES
- Master Sgt. Tonya Gonzales, 434th SFS
- Master Sgt. James Nichols, 434th CES
- Master Sgt. James Hoagland, 434th ARW
- Master Sgt. Adam Soultz, 434th SFS

Air Medal

Six aircrew members were presented with Air Medals. The Air

SEVENTY-TWO GRISSOM AIRMEN AWARDED MEDALS



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

- Lt. Col. Richard Day, 74th Air Refueling Squadron
- Maj. Brian Thompson, 74th ARS
- Capt. Jacob Creel, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron
- Capt. Johnathon McCashland, 72nd ARS
- 1st Lt. Timothy Robertson, 74th ARS
- 1st Lt. Jeffrey Vincent, 74th ARS

Aerial Achievement Medal

Two officers and one NCO were awarded the Aerial Achievement Medal, which is awarded by the Department of the Air Force to U.S. military and civilian personnel for sustained meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. The following received the Aerial Achievement Medal:

- Lt. Col. Shelby Basler, 74th

ARS

- Capt. Timothy McBees, 74th

ARS

- Staff Sgt. Scott Floyd, 434th CES

Air Force Commendation Medal

Three officers and 22 Airmen received Air Force Commendation Medals. This medal was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on March 28, 1958, for award to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement and service. Below are those who received commendation medals:

- Capt. Kathryn Dahlen, 434th AMDS
- Capt. Madalyn Davidson, 434th AMDS
- 2nd Lt. Martin Valadez, 434th ARW
- Senior Master Sgt. Nathan Colborn, 434th CES
- Senior Master Sgt. Adam Loos, 434th CES
- Master Sgt. Nicholas Christos, 434th AMDS
- Master Sgt. Philip Deckard,

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Grissom Airmen lend helping hands with Haitian hunger relief

By Staff Sgt. Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

Not only does the 434th Air Refueling Wing fuel a major machine of war but it also fuels a machine of compassion and humanitarian relief to those in need.

Reservists from Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., stepped up to help extinguish hunger to those in need thousands of miles away by delivering over 43,000 pounds of food to over 8,500 people in Haiti from Grissom Sept. 12.

"It's a wonderful vehicle that pays off in more than one way," said Master Sgt. Bradley Frank, 49th Aerial Port Flight, aerial port journeyman. "Airmen get training and those in need are getting the supplies they need; it's going to a good cause."

The work was done under the Denton Program, a part of a Department of Defense humanitarian assistance transportation program, which provides continual transportation of supplies such as agricultural equipment, clothing, educational supplies, food and medical supplies to countries in need of assistance.

With all hands on deck, everything was put



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Jami Lancette

Senior Airman Holcomb, 49th Aerial Port Flight aerial port journeyman, and Senior Airman Thomas Wewel, 49th APF aerial port apprentice, check to ensure palletized food for a humanitarian mission is properly secured at Grissom Sept. 12.

into place, palletized and ready for the flight to help neighbors in need.

"People enjoy the mission, they get a sense of motivation, putting together the cargo and the end product is helping others," said Master Sgt. Laurie Latchaw, 49th APF deputy superintendent.

As supply and demand comes in, Grissom becomes a helping hand in delivering and completing the mission as asked, without hesitation.

"I hope we are able to continue to do this for years to come," added Frank. "It's nice they're using Grissom, because we are a strategic and valuable location for missions like these."

The 434th ARW is the largest KC-135 Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve Command. Airmen and aircraft from the 434th ARW routinely deploy around the globe in support of the Air Force mission and U.S. strategic objectives.



Master Sgt. Bradley Frank, 49th Aerial Port Flight aerial port journeyman, uses a fork lift to load a skid containing packages of food for a humanitarian mission at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., Sept. 12

Grissom after dark:

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota
Public Affairs staff

Whistling winds blowing through acres of cornfields under the night sky paint a remote picture with little to no activity, but that picture can be deceiving

from a distance.

Despite its remote location, Grissom is a robust base with security forces and Department of the Air Force civilian police officers who work into the night to ensure the mission continues by providing base security and police services to the 434th Air Refueling Wing.

With over 1,200 acres of land, more than two billion dollars of real property and 16 KC-135R Stratotanker's valued at approximately fifty-two million dollars each the 434th Security Forces Squadron plays a vital role protecting Grissom's resources.

"Just like any police department we work around the clock," said Nathan Gann, a 434th SFS DAF-C police officer and shift supervisor. "Despite the time of day, it is our responsibility to protect the people, property and resources at Grissom."

That protection starts before role call when 434th SFS civilian and military personnel arm-up and begin preparing for their shift.

"During roll-call everyone is assigned to their stations and all the 'latest and

greatest' information is passed along," said Gann. "Information about the most recent security issues and anything about events that occurred during prior shifts is relayed.

"Roll-call also serves as a time for us to ensure we are up-to-date on any required training, or dates for upcoming training," added Gann.

Both security forces specialists and DAF-C police officers routinely conduct training to maintain their proficiency with weapons they carry.

"Working into the night gives us a little more time to focus on things like training, but with that also comes a unique set of challenges," said Tech. Sgt. Haime Anderson, 434th SFS security response team leader and shift supervisor. "We do not have sufficient lighting in many areas, so we rely on our night training and equipment to stay vigilant of any potential threats.

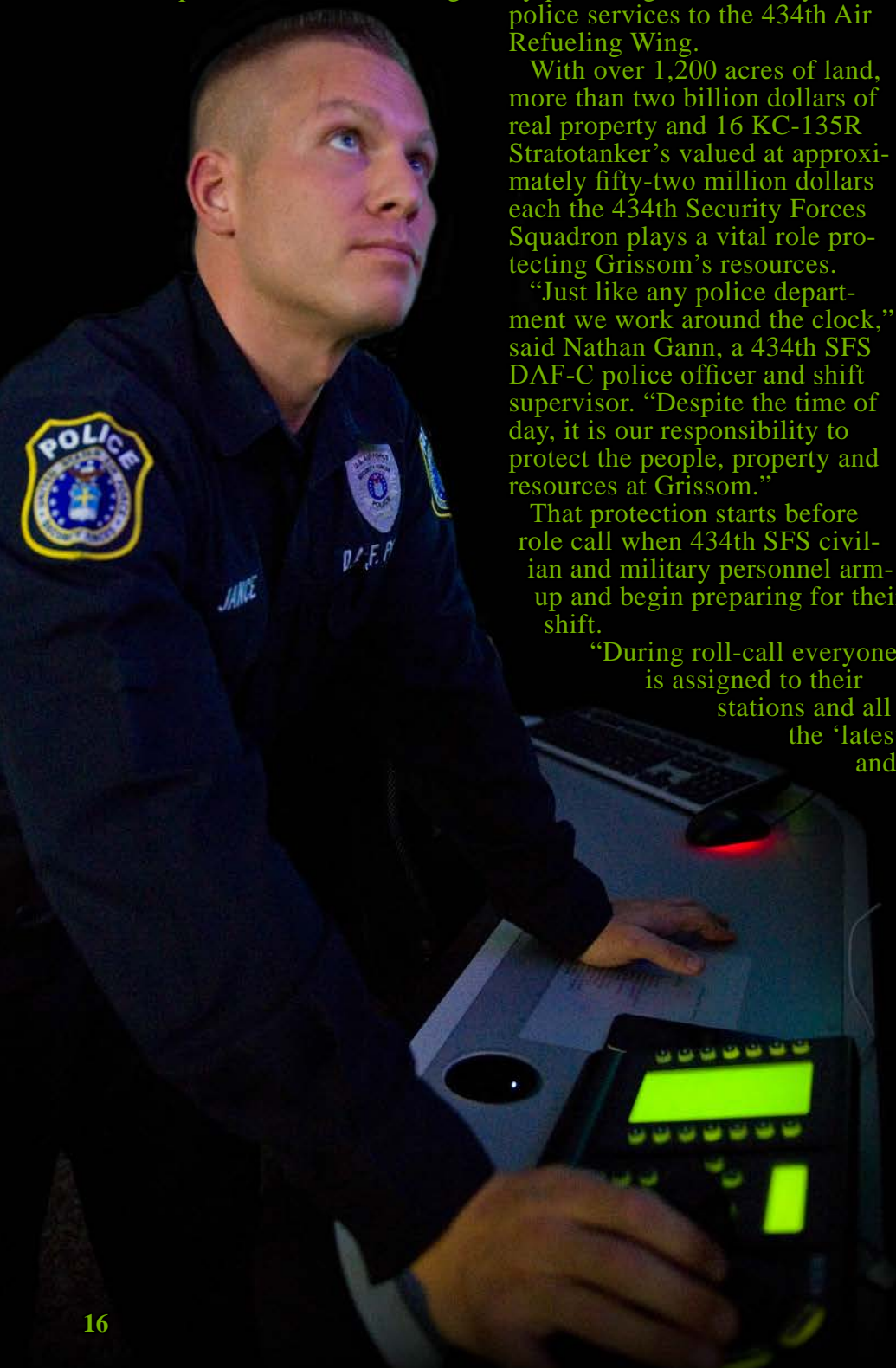
"Due to our late hours, we also have to overcome fatigue and ensure we maintain the same level of vigilance as we would during any other shift," added Anderson.

During each shift, security is broken down into four areas; exterior perimeter, interior perimeter, entry control points and manning of Grissom's emergency command center.

"One way of reducing fatigue is by rotating work stations and keeping security forces members engaged," explained Anderson. "Even though Grissom is a reserve base, there is quite a bit of work to be done."

"Even when the based is closed

Left: Chris Jance, 434th Security Forces Squadron Department of the Air Force police officer, monitors surveillance cameras during his evening shift at Grissom Sept. 29.



434th SFS showcases night mission

because of bad weather, we maintain the minimum required force,” added Gann.

Grissom’s ECC is no exception when it comes to around-the-clock operations.

“The ECC is a central dispatch that receives and sends out emergency information to the proper first responders,” said Chris Jance, 434th SFS DAF-C police officer. “We receive information from a variety of sources and ensure first responders receive that information within seconds of receiving it.”

When the radio and phones are quiet ECC personnel also have the responsibility of monitoring Grissom’s video surveillance.

“Our video surveillance allows one person to monitor multiple locations,” explained Jance. “It also lets us monitor any ongoing situations as they develop to ensure [first responders] are provided the most updated information as it transpires.”

With more than 130 buildings, Grissom security forces are also tasked with building security.

“Everyone pulls their weight,” said Gann. “We’ve got a lot of good guys here with backgrounds from multiple law enforcement agencies and every military branch of service.”

That background is a critical part of the job, but more important is the relationship amongst each other, explained Anderson.

“Relationships are critical; understanding each person’s capabilities so we can work together as a team is an important part of the job,” he said.

“We’re kind of like family here,” added Gann. “Sometimes we have our differences but if things get tough there is no doubt in my mind that any of my team would be here to support me without hesitation.”



Left: Senior Airman Marshall Berry, 434th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, stands in front of a KC-135R Stratotanker during a training exercise at Grissom Sept. 29.

Medals, from page 14

434th CES

- Master Sgt. Robert Dill, 434th CES
- Master Sgt. Kent Hinshaw, 434th CES
- Master Sgt. John Rapp, 434th SFS
- Tech. Sgt. Marion Calma, 434th SFS
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Cochran, 434th SFS
- Tech. Sgt. Brian Haase, 434th SFS
- Tech. Sgt. Mark Magajne, 49th Aerial Port Flight
- Tech. Sgt. Danielle Mann, 434th SFS
- Tech. Sgt. Brian McMillen, 49th APF
- Tech. Sgt. Gregory Moolenaar, 434th SFS
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Rush, 434th SFS
- Tech. Sgt. Bradley Snow, 434th SFS
- Staff Sgt. Justin Coe, 434th SFS
- Staff Sgt. Julie Hazelett, 434th SFS
- Staff Sgt. Torey Lyons, 434th SFS
- Staff Sgt. Troy Mace, 434th SFS
- Staff Sgt. Nathan Micks, 434th Communications Squadron
- Staff Sgt. Gabriel Wood, 434th CES

Air Force Achievement Medal

Twenty-two Grissom Airmen were awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal. This medal was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on Oct. 20, 1980, and is awarded to Air Force personnel for outstanding

achievement or meritorious service rendered specifically on behalf of the Air Force. Below are those who received achievement medals:

- Maj. Matthew Basler, 72nd ARS
- Master Sgt. Krystle Lucas, 434th CES
- Tech. Sgt. Ronald Maxwell, 434th CES
- Staff Sgt. Elias Alanis, 434th CES
- Staff Sgt. Alex Barone, 434th CES
- Staff Sgt. Dustin Fullerton, 434th CES
- Staff Sgt. Eric Griffin, 434th CES
- Staff Sgt. Malcolm Mitchell, 434th CES
- Staff Sgt. Timothy Morse, 434th CES
- Staff Sgt. Timothy Poremba, 434th CES
- Senior Airman Terros Dilworth, 434th AMDS
- Senior Airman Daniel Garcia, 434th SFS
- Senior Airman Samantha Keeslar, 434th AMDS
- Senior Airman Maurice Kendall, 434th SFS
- Senior Airman Manuel Paredes, 434th SFS
- Senior Airman Kayla Rivera, 434th AMDS
- Senior Airman Eric Rosson, 434th SFS
- Senior Airman Erica Sherwood, 434th Force Support Squadron
- Senior Airman Caroline Taylor, 434th LRS
- Senior Airman Marshall Vondy, 434th LRS
- Senior Airman Brittany Wildman, 434th AMDS
- Senior Airman Todd Williams, 434th CES



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Nominations must come from a Guard or Reserve member who is employed by the organization they are nominating, or from a family member.