

Serving the men and women of the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, Ind.

Hurricane Grissom member endures Katrina

By Tech Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

“Will the wind ever stop blowing?”

That’s what Cynthia Stepp thought as she looked out of the window of her shelter at Keesler AFB, Miss., as she rode out Hurricane Katrina Aug. 29.

Mrs. Stepp, a member of the 434th Maintenance Operations Flight, was at the base for an information management course at the coastal base when the base sheltered for the massive storm.

“We went into the shelter on Aug. 28,” she said, and it was Sept. 1st before we were allowed to leave it.”

Not that there were many places to go once you did leave the shelter.

“You know how people say a tornado sounds like train?” she asked. “When the wind would slow down it sounded like a train...until then it sounded like a jet engine.”

From her view from Thompson Hall, she could see some of the devastation.

“We weren’t supposed to look, but how can you not?” she said. “I really had to see what was going on.”

“I parked between two hangars thinking it would be a wind break for my car,” she said. “It turns out it was a wind tunnel.”

Pebbles from the roofs of the hangars pelted the cars and shattered and cracked the windows of the cars

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Photo by SrA. Roberto Modelo

Breaking away....

Lt. Col. Arthur Van Houten, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight commander, pulls away from Lt. Col. Pam Leblanc, 434th Mission Support Group deputy commander, during the commander's tricycle race at the annual family day picnic. The picnic gave Grissom members and their families an opportunity to relax and have a good time with each other. For a closer look at the day's activities, turn to pages 4-5.

Push it up, and make the mission happen

By Gen. T. Michael Moseley
Air Force chief of staff

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force, We are a Nation at war. We've been fighting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM for more than 1,400 days. World War II lasted 1,347 days. We've now been fighting the Global War on Terror for two months longer than World War II. From the day DESERT STORM kicked off, January 17th 1991, the Air Force has been in continuous combat.

For 14 years our enemies have shot at us and for 14 years we've returned the favor. But no matter how long the road, we must never lose our focus on winning this fight.

Today, we are engaged more than ever. ..from across the globe to here at home.

From taking the fight to the enemy in Iraq; to rebuilding lives in the wake of hurricane Katrina; to controlling satellites on the other side of the world; to fighting forest fires in the Rockies; to patrolling the skies over America you can be proud of the work your Air Force is doing to protect our country.

I'm incredibly proud to be a member of an Air Force family that has over 106,000 Airmen assigned or deployed



Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

General Moseley, right, takes command of the Air Force from Gen. John Jumper, during ceremonies held in early September.

in 64 countries, on every continent, and in every time zone throughout the world.

We have handled each and every task brought before us with lethal efficiency, because of you. It is an honor to work and fight alongside you in service to our Republic.

The 684,000 active, Reserve, Guard, and civilians of the United States Air Force are truly a total force.

We stand alongside our Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine brethren ready to answer the Nation's call.

We fight together. We triumph

together. Our promise to the joint team is that as Airmen we will always be the best in the world at what we do: dominating Air and Space from 1 inch above the ground to 100,000 miles above the earth.

Today, we have three major challenges facing our Air Force.

First and foremost is accomplishing the combatant tasks the President and Secretary of Defense assign.

The tasks will be ones we've done before and ones we've never undertaken.

Second, we must preserve that which makes us the most feared air force in the world – our people. Our culture of excellence must continue to develop Airmen... Airmen who are the most adaptable,

most skilled, most professional, and most lethal the world has ever known.

Third, we face the difficult task of operating the oldest inventory in the history of the United States Air Force. My senior leadership will work to break this vicious cycle. I need you, our Airmen on the line, to continue making the mission happen.

As we work towards a more secure, more peaceful tomorrow. ..look around. Behind us you'll see a proud, rich heritage. And in front of us is a limitless horizon. So let's push it up, go to work and make the mission happen.

Heartland Warrior

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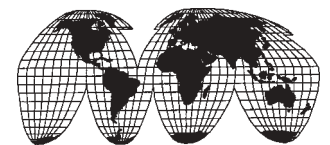
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Fire prevention week draws attention to safety

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 9-15. This annual week is designed to draw attention to need for fire safety in the work place and home, said Les McConnell, assistant chief of fire prevention at Grissom.

Know what to do if a fire occurs, he said. Talk with your co-workers and family members about escape routes and a safe assembly area.

The national observance traces its beginning to 1871 to a famous cow.

At about 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 8, 1871 the famed 'Mrs. O'Leary's cow' started a fire in barn in Chicago.

Local homeowners started a bucket brigade to attack the barn fire, but nobody went to the local fire alarm call box to contact the fire department for 35 minutes.

Before the flames could be controlled, it devoured an area five miles long and one mile wide, destroying 17,000 homes and killing 300 people.

On that very same day in

Wisconsin's woodland area, the little town of Peshtigo with a population of 1,700 was having a drought for the last 3 months.

A fire started in the woods just outside of town. As the fire grew in strength it totally destroyed the town businesses, homes, nearby towns, some 400 farms and the loss of 1,200 lives before being stopped.

The Great Chicago Fire caused so much concern in communities throughout the United States, civic leaders created the basic fire codes we know today to help save lives and property.

To remember the great fire tragedy in Chicago and in other communities, the first full week of October is being known as Fire Prevention Week.

Nearly 3,400 people die each year in fires at home.

There were 3,380 fire related deaths in 2002.

Residential structure fires, the very place people should feel the safest,

account for the majority of fatal fires.

Structure fires account for 74 percent of 3,300 fatal fires in 2002. Of these fatal structure fires, 94 percent occurred in the home. Arson is the leading cause residential fires at 22 percent, but smoking is closely behind at 21 percent.

Candles are responsible for approximately 18,000 fires each year with \$333 million in direct property loss, 130 deaths and 1,350 injuries.

Women are more likely to be injured or die in candle fires than men. Figures show 45 percent of candle fires originate in the bedroom. Of those, 41 percent of candle fires are from either unattended candles or candles placed too close to combustibles. One-quarter of candle fires occur during the holiday season.

If you would like additional information about fire safety, please contact Mr. McConnell at Ext. 4051 or contact your local fire department.

Your take: How do you educate others about Grissom?



Master Sgt. Teresa Williams, 434th Mission Support Flight

"I tell my neighbors about the importance of the Air Force Reserves in maintaining National Security."



Master Sgt. Allen Bridgeman, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

"I tell them we're probably one of the most active wings in the entire Air Force Reserve, and that we fly all over the world, and that we participate in both war-time operations and in normal peace-time operations."



Staff Sgt. Bridget Smith, 434th Air Refueling Wing.

"I tell them we're a flying gas station. When the little kids come up to me and ask 'are you a pilot?' I say 'no I fly a desk.' If they ask what I do, I say I fly a desk, and I make sure everybody gets paid. I'm the money."



Senior Airman Jason Torian, 434th Security Forces Squadron

Generally I discuss how things that we learn here at Grissom apply in personal life. I try and explain how what we drill and train on every week-end and what we learn here and how it applies to my everyday function in my place of work."

Annual family day picnic lets Grissom



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

Cody Larkin fires a fire hose to blast his way through a target at this year's Family Day Picnic. Cody is assisted by James Jones, a firefighter and emergency medical technician with the Grissom Fire Department, and is the son of Master Sgt. Jeff Larkin, 434th Maintenance Squadron.



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

Lt. Col. Tom Pemberton, 434th Operations Support Squadron commander, shows off his reverse handlebar technique during the commander's tricycle race.



Col. Gary Beebe, 4th Squadron commander, during his stint in the command center.



Breanna Koval, left, and Lanna Steele enjoy their initial flight simulator experience during the Grissom ARB 2005 Family day, on 11 September. Lanna is the daughter of Gregory Steele of the 2nd Battalion 329th Infantry Regiment and a

Heartland Warrior

Grissom Airmen, families play together



Photo by SrA. Jonathan Jones

34th Operations Group commander, battles back the dunk tank.



Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen

sortie in the Grissom KC-135 flight deck display
Lanna is the daughter of Army Reserve Staff Sgt.
at Grissom. Breanna is Sergeant Steele's niece.

October 2005



Photo by SrA. Jonathan Jones

Tilly the Clown paints a lady bug on the arm of a child during the family day activities.

Katrina, from page 1



Photo by Airman 1st Class Cynthia Morrow

The damage suffered from Hurricane Katrina is still evident more than a week later at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., on Sept. 7, 2005. Efforts to repair the base are ongoing and include units from several different bases.

in the lot – including hers.

Thompson Hall swayed and trembled against the force of Katrina.

“I was scared,” she said. “As it swayed I began to question the integrity of the building.”

As the wind took its toll on base, the water made its move.

The storm raised the level of the back bay 30 feet above normal moving the water south across the peninsula to the gulf and putting the base 5-6 feet under water at times.

Once they could venture out of the shelters, they had to go in teams and be escorted.

The base had suffered nearly \$500 million in damages to facilities and homes. Electricity was provided by those generators that survived.

Commercial phone lines were down but the Defense Switching Network (DSN) survived, and she was able to

contact her husband.

Initially after the hurricane people were housed on the first through third floors, but by Tuesday they moved people down stairs.

“It was too hot to be on the third floor,” she said.

My wife is in here and I need to save her.”

-- Ken Stepp

Sixteen people were assigned to share a room, and without air conditioning and little air movement the conditions weren't pleasant she added.

At a commander's call people were given the option to leave if they could and wanted to, she said. “People were jumping into vehicles with the windows broke out just to get out of there.”

Ken Stepp drove from their home near Grissom to Biloxi to get to his wife. He faced gas shortages, dam-

aged and closed roads but made it to the base.

At the gate he was stopped and asked what he was doing there.

“My wife is in here and I need to save her,” he said. He was allowed access and found Cynthia.

As they drove away, she could see the outlying destruction first hand.

“I thought on base was bad,” she said. “We had

buildings that were built to withstand a storm, but off base the homes looked like matchstick houses. Some were completely gone with nothing remaining but the foundation.”

“I've seen the pictures,” she said, “but the pictures don't show the true impact.

“It was like getting hit with a hurricane and a tsunami at the same time,” she added. “It just annihilated everything.”

UTA items

Lodging is open 24 hours a day during the primary UTA and from 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. on alternate UTAs.

The fitness center is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The dining facility troop feeding hours on Saturday are 6-7:15 a.m. for breakfast; 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for lunch (12:30 p.m. on the alternate); and 4:30 -5:30 p.m. for dinner.

On Sunday the hours are 5:45-6:45 a.m. for breakfast, and 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for lunch (12:30 p.m. on alternate).

Box dinners for the Sunday evening meal must be ordered by the Sunday breakfast, and must be picked up by 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The immunization clinic is open on Saturday from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m.

Pass and ID is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday of the primary UTA.

Upcoming UTAs: Primary UTAs include Oct. 1-2; and Nov. 5-6.

Alternate UTAs are Oct. 22-23; and Nov. 19-20.

Worship services are held in Bldg. 596, Room 116.

During primary unit training assemblies, Protestant services are Sunday at 11 a.m. with Catholic worship services at 12:15 p.m.

Employer flight

The 434th Air Refueling Wing looks to host an employer flight in November.

Reservists are encouraged to nominate their civilian supervisor for participation.

The flight gives supervisors an opportunity to see how the Airman that works for them contributes to the defense of the nation.

Due to space limitations, members may nominate only one person for the orientation flight.

Reservists may not fly with their employer.

For more information, or a nomination form, visit the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 596, Room 200A.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Safe crossings

Ricky Collins, Satellite Services, Inc., re-applies paint to a crosswalk on Grissom. Vehicles should yield the right of way to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal—Staff Sgt. Michael Rodriguez, 49th Aerial Port Flight; Master Sgt. Bradley Klepinger, 434th Security Forces Squadron; Master Sgt. Patrick Ward, 434th SFS; Lt. Col. Michael Woloshuk, 434th Operations Group; Lt. Col. Brian Dobbert, 74th Air Refueling Squadron; Master Sgt. Mattie Patterson, 434th OG; Master Sgt. Reginald Caldwell, 434th Civil Engineers Squadron; Senior Master Sgt. Daro Johnson, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and Maj. Eric Foreman, 434th Aerospace Medical Squadron.

Air Force Commendation

Medal—Lt. Col. Stephen Whicker, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Lisa Fitzgerald, 434th Mission Support Flight; and Tech. Sgt. Drennen Gaffney, 74th ARS.

Promotions

To chief master sergeant—Michael Fornal, 434th AMXS.

To senior master sergeant—Brent Stephen, 434th Maintenance Squadron; and Martin Quirk, 434th MXS.

To master sergeant—Larry Lynch, 434th Air Refueling Wing; and

Brian Griebenow, 434th AMXS.

To technical sergeant—Jerald Cummings, 434th AMXS; R. Cortez Milton, 434th CES; Tawanda Irving, 434th MXS; Foy Cox, 434th SFS; Joshua Shasky, 434th CES; and Kevin Johnson, 434th CES.

To staff sergeant—Sarah Andersen, 434th Services Flight; Jennifer Emmet, 434th SFS; April Harper, 434th SFS; Asa Koons, 434th MXS; John Pedro, 434th AMXS; Jonathan Jinks, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; Jeremiah Rushmore, 434th AMXS; Christin Rudell, 434th AMS; Ronald Mahoy, 434th SFS; and Katie Dean, 434th MSF.

Agent works to identify security concerns

By SrA. Roberto Modelo
Public Affairs staff

Threats often have no boundaries and can extend far beyond the friendly confines of a base's perimeter.

Working in the background to combat these threats are special agents from the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations.

Grissom's special agent, Tosha Ferron is tasked with ensuring that members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing continue to operate in a secure environment with the Eagle Eye Program.

Generally, the Eagle Eye Program will identify security concerns on Grissom. The program analyzes procedures involving things like surveillance, and criminal activity.

To combat these threats to Grissom, special agents work closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement

agencies to ascertain the existence, or non-existence, of threats directed at military installations and surrounding areas. This current threat information is gathered and then relayed to base leadership to identify possible concerns.

The AFOSI's mission is varied and can also include major criminal investigations, fraud investigations, and counter-intelligence support to force protection.

Grissom Airmen are encouraged to contact Special Agent Ferron if they see something suspicious – sooner better than later. She can work with the appropriate law enforcement agencies to identify and clarify the possible threat. Airman can contact Special Agent Ferron at ext. 3980 or call the 434th Security Forces Squadron's law enforcement desk at Ext. 2677, to report suspicious activities.



Special Agent Tosha Ferron

**434th Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs Office
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