

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

Grissom spared; Navy center to close under BRAC release

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Grissom dodged a fatal shot by the latest round of base closures but was nicked as the Naval Reserve Center here was targeted for closure.

The impending loss includes seven full-time Seamen, and approximately 180 Navy Reservists.

The full-time folks will be transferred to other facilities, while the reservists will have the opportunity to join other units in the state or surrounding states.

The list that came out May 13 is the recommendation of the Secretary of Defense. The listing still requires congressional and presidential approval before being finalized.

“The purpose of BRAC is to make the most efficient and effective use of all the resources we have so that future generations of military members will have the tools they need to do their job,” said Brig. Gen. James Melin, 434th Air Refueling Wing Commander.

Pentagon officials say that BRAC allows the Department to maximize war-fighting capabilities to meet 21st century threats.

The department’s BRAC recommendations, if adopted, would close 33 major bases and realign 29 more.

In all, 11 military installations in Indiana were affected by the BRAC announcement. Overall the state stands to gain about 2,200 jobs as a result. The largest gain is the Army Finance Center in Indianapolis that is slated to gain about 3,500 new employees.

In the Air Force Reserve Command, 17 bases were affected in some way by the commission’s

Please see BRAC, page 3



Photo by SrA. Roberto Modelo

Preparing to fire

Staff Sgt. Dustin Schimp, 434th Security Forces Squadron, oils a M60 machine gun prior to heavy weapons firing training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., recently. For a closer look at the Security members in training, turn to pages 4-5.

BRAC is first step to ensure effective fighting force

By Brig. Gen James L. Melin
434th ARW commander

The recently published Department of Defense Base Closure and Realignment recommendations are the first step in a much larger process to streamline our nations defense forces and provide the American people with the most efficient and effective fighting force possible.

This larger initiative is critical for America if we in the defense community are to continue to successfully combat the terrorist threat while our nations elected leadership tackles a growing budget concern.

The total picture for the future of our defense programs has three main components. The BRAC announcement on May 13 was the recommended adjustments to the facilities the DOD intends to use to conduct our future operations.

At the same time, the DOD is conducting a study called the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) to identify new weapons systems, technology and training capabilities that will be needed in the future.

The third aspect of this overall review is called Force Realignment which would then combine the new weapon systems and facilities available with the right personnel to effectively deploy those systems.

Since the BRAC recommendations are just that, recommendations at this point and will undergo close scrutiny in public debate and in Congress, the DOD will probably not press too far ahead on the weapon system and force realignment proposals until the facilities piece is finalized.



Photo by A1C Mark Orders-Woempner

Lt. Cmdr. Todd Kinney, commander of the Naval Reserve Center at Grissom ARB, addresses news media during a joint press conference to provide a local perspective on the recent BRAC announcement. A variety of TV, radio, and print journalists were on hand to hear the commander's comments. Brig. Gen. James Melin, 434th ARW commander, and Mr. James Clary of the Grissom Redevelopment Authority also participated in the press conference.

When looking at all of these proposals it is important to remember they are not intended to meet the needs of our current forces. They are laying the framework for the Joint Services requirements and capabilities of ten and twenty years from now.

All of this means that Grissom Air Reserve Base and the citizen soldiers that train and work here will continue to have a critical role in our Global War on Terror and in preparing for any future conflict we are called upon to support.

The DOD has recommended retaining Grissom based on your past performance, your current capabilities and the installation and community's capacity to accept new and evolving weapons systems. It will certainly be interesting to see what the future holds for Grissom and the community.

In the mean time, our primary job remains to train ourselves and the next generation of airmen and soldiers to carry on our tradition of excellence.

Thank you for what you do every day for our nation and for each other.

Heartland Warrior

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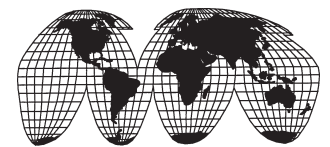
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World Wide Web

Air Force Reserve Home Page
<http://www.afrc.af.mil>
Grissom Home Page
<http://www.afrc.af.mil/434arw/>

BRAC, from page 1

recommendations.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announced that the department's recommendations to close or realign military facilities in the United States will better position U.S. forces to confront this century's threats. The recommendation, if fully implemented, will generate an estimated net savings of nearly \$50 billion over the next two decades.

The department's BRAC recommendations were developed by the military services and seven joint cross-service groups in consultation with the combatant commanders.

Each recommendation was created under the procedures established in the Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended. The BRAC analysis started with the 20-Year Force Structure Plan and the department's inventory of facilities, and then applied BRAC selection criteria that had been published early in 2004.

The department's recommendations will now be reviewed by the BRAC Commission, which will seek comments from the potentially affected communities. As it has in the past four BRAC rounds, the department will assist affected communities in a variety of ways. Department of Defense programs include personnel transition and job training assistance, local reuse planning grants, and streamlined property disposal. The department will join with other federal agencies to offer additional assistance to affected communities.

Once the commission has completed its review, it will



Mike Sampson, director of services, watches the press conference announcing BRAC recommendations at the new dining facility. Base members gathered around television sets across the base to learn of Grissom's fate.

present its recommendations to the President. The President must approve and submit the commission's recommendations to the Congress for review and appropriate action. The entire process is expected to be completed by the end of 2005.

The full BRAC recommendations, additional information regarding community assistance and other details, may be found online at <http://www.defenselink.mil/brac>

Your take: How do you maintain your readiness?



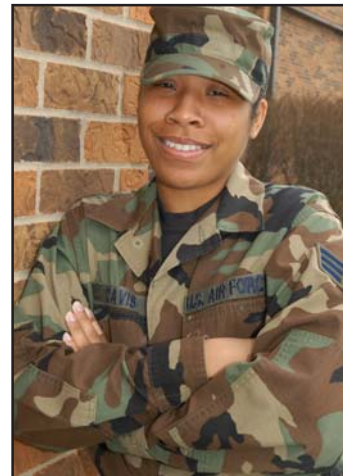
Maj. Greg Pinnell, 74th Air Refueling Squadron --
"I maintain my readiness by working as hard as I can on the weekends and try to work on Air Force related issues in my spare time."



Chief Master Sgt. Diana Rogers, 434th Maintenance Group--
"Training is the first part of it, then being aware of the requirements for my career field."



Staff Sgt. Allen Walden, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.
"I maintain my readiness through diligence in keeping on top of my training records and working closer with my training."



Senior Airman Kelly Davis, 434th Mission Support Flight
"I keep my dependant care information, my mobility folder, and my training requirements up to date."

Security Forces get 'Trigger Tim



Spent cartridges and clips fly as a member from the 434th Security Forces Squadron puts lead down range during heavy weapons training.

Master Sgt. Chet Nance, combat arms training instructor, adjusts the elevation sights on his M-60 machine gun to effectly put the rounds on the target. Grissom's firing range isn't compatable with heavy weapons training, so the security forces packed up their bullets and guns and went someplace that was better suited. Camp Atterbury gave the security members an opporntunity for valuable training.



Senior to obs training

'e' during weekend deployment



ng at Camp Atterbury, Ind. recently.



Airman Daniel Kosa, 434th SFS, uses binoculars
erve hits down range during weapons firing
g at the Southern Indiana Army base.



Photos by SrA. Roberto Modelo

Senior Airman Danny Perez, 434th SFS, has plenty of ammunition to throw down range during his time behind the trigger.

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 June 4-5; and July 9-10.

Alternate UTAs are June 25-26; and July 30-31.

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.



Courtesy photo

Defending the goal

Greg DeMaio, performance planner, defends the goal for his Circle City Lacrosse Team recently. DeMaio has played Lacrosse since his college days, where he was a Division 3 All-American in 1981 at Norwich University in Vermont.

Health plan extends care for activated reservists

WASHINGTON – Health care for reservists got a booster shot April 25. That's when a premium-based health care plan started for those activated for a contingency anytime since 9/11.

Department of Defense officials announced Tricare Reserve Select at a Pentagon news conference March 24.

TRS offers a bridge for reservists entering or leaving active duty who are not covered by a civilian employer or other health insurance plan. It's similar to Tricare Standard and comparable to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan for federal employees.

Monthly premiums for a reservist are \$75.

A reservist and family pays \$233.

Premiums will be adjusted annually.

Air Force reservists must serve on active duty for 90 consecutive days or more on or after Sept. 11, 2001, in support of a contingency. And, they must enter an agreement with Air Force Reserve Command to serve in the Selected Reserve for one or more years before leaving active duty.

If they got off active duty, they have until Oct. 28 to apply.

Reservists earn one year of care for every 90 days of continuous active-duty service and every year of service commitment.

For example, reservists with 360 days of qualifying active duty can get four years of coverage if they sign up

for four years in the Selected Reserve.

Coverage ends when the service agreement ends. It stops sooner if the reservist separates from the Selected Reserve, voluntarily withdraws from the program or fails to pay the monthly premiums.

The Tricare Web site – www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect – will have more details. To get updates by e-mail, reservists and their families can subscribe to www.tricare.osd.mil/tricaresubscriptions/.

For reservists enrolled in the Transitional Assistance Management Program, coverage will start the day after TAMP ends. (AFRCNS)

FSC activities

The Family Support Center will be hosting a Spouse's Coffee from 2-4 p.m. June 5 at the FSC in Bldg. 431.

All spouses are invited to attend.

The center will also host a game/movie and popcorn night from 7-9 p.m. June 4.

For more information, contact the center at Ext. 4812.

Gas mask inserts

Gas mask inserts can be ordered from 7:30-10 a.m. Sundays in the Optometry Clinic in Bldg. 669, Room 22.

Point summaries

DENVER - The Air Reserve Personnel Center here no longer mails Air Force Form 526, Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve Point Credit Summary, to Air Force reservists.

Members had been receiving the form annually since October 1972.

They must now use the virtual Military Personnel Flight to print a copy of their point credit information.

Reservists should print their summary of points using the vMPF and maintain copies in their personal files in the same manner as leave and earnings statements and other important documents.

Media flight

Staff Sgt. Debbie Melton, a boom operator with the 74th Air Refueling Squadron, is interviewed by a reporter from WNDU-TV, Channel 16, South Bend, Ind., during a media orientation flight in May. Media members from Indiana and Chicago got a first-hand look at the aerial refueling mission performed by the 434th Air Refueling Wing.



Photo by A1C Mark Orders-Woempner

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Serve Medal—Maj. Maurice Noel, 74th Air Refueling Squadron; Maj. Gregory Schultz, 434th Operations Support Squadron; Maj. Ralph Taylor, 74th ARS; Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Eller, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Harold Kline, 434th Maintenance Squadron; Maj. Laen August, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; Maj. Mirko Rastovic, 72nd ARS; Master Sgt. John Pinkerton, 434th Logistics Group; Maj. Joseph Revit, 434th LG; and Chief Master Sgt. Oakah Hays, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Air Force Commendation Medal—Senior Airman Michal Bednarszyk, 434th CES; Master Sgt. Timothy Wood, 434th Services Flight;

Staff Sgt. Cinthia Webb, 434th SVF; Master Sgt. Keith McAndrews, 434th Maintenance Group; Senior Airman Nora Tellez, 434th Air Refueling Wing; and Tech. Sgt. Scott Apple, 434th MXS.

Air Force Achievement Medal—Staff Sgt. Robert Botham, 434th MXG; and Staff Sgt. Bridget Smith, 434th ARW.

Promotions

To senior master sergeant—Andrew McLean, 434th OSS; and Joanne LaFleur, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight.

To master sergeant—William Cook, 434th MXS; Kleim Tomlinson Jr., 434th CES; Mark Ashbaugh, 434th CES; Julie Holt, 434th Aerospace

Medicine Squadron; Ray Boylan, 434th OSS; and Sandra Dye, 72nd ARS.

To technical sergeant—William Archer, 49th Aerial Port Flight; Daniel Bishop, 434th CES; Tina Hoover, 434th AMDS; Marjorie Trittipio, 434th AMDS; Corey Maston, 72nd ARS; Brian Remington, 434th MXS; and Mitchell Geesaman, 434th MXS.

To staff sergeant—Steven Thomas, 434th MXS; Ryan Walls, 434th AMXS; Thomas DeVaney Jr., 434th CES; Nicholas Lee, 434th CES; Stacy Trotter, 434th CES; Daniel Sharp, 434th CES; Nicholas Ward, 434th CES; Donald Yoakem, 434th CES; Christopher Lowery, 434th CES; Joyce Royston, 434th AMDS; Charles Bernardo, 434th AMDS; Jason Geiger, 434th AMDS; and Michael Gray, 72nd ARS.

Fuels troop serves in deployed honor guard

By Staff Sgt. Eric Petosky
447th AEG Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Deployed environments don't allow much time for volunteerism, but Master Sgt. Robert Moore, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron, finds the time to join 30 others that make the Sather Air Base Honor Guard.

Sergeant Moore serves as the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Honor Guard. He and other members often sacrifice precious personal time to fly flags and post the colors.

So far, the Air Expeditionary Force 3/4 Honor Guard detail has flown 612 flags and posted the colors for more than a dozen events.

The flags are purchased by individuals and flown on specific dates. The flags are returned to the owner with a certificate stating who the flag was flown in honor of and on what date.

Since every member is a volunteer, it can be difficult to mesh work schedules, Sergeant Moore said. "There are some things that time just doesn't allow for," he said. "But, we're very lucky to have eight or nine members who have prior honor guard experience. It allowed us to perfect our ceremonial details and perform additional honor guard services."

During the April 8 Sather AB rededication ceremony, the honor guard fielded the first rifle squad, a testament to the devotion to detail by the Airmen involved.

As the AEF 3/4 rotation prepares to redeploy, ceremonial support is winding down, according to Sergeant Moore, but he hopes the next rotation will follow with the same tradition of excellence.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Petosky

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Tech. Sgt. Chyrise Jenkins, Sather Air Base Honor Guard member, straightens the American Flag during a ceremony recognizing the ultimate sacrifice of Staff Sgt. Scott Sather, the fallen combat controller for whom the base is named. The all-volunteer honor guard has performed more than a dozen ceremonies and flown more than 600 flags since the Aerospace Expeditionary Force 3/4 rotation began.

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