

Heartland

# Warrior

Vol. 10, No. 1

January 2005

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



Photo by SrA. Roberto Modelo

Tech. Sgt. Brian Rude, 434<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, tightens the straps on his gas mask during a mask fitting test. Bioenvironmental Engineering Services conducts Chemical Warfare Mask fit testing in Bldg. 669, Wednesdays from 8-11 a.m. and Saturdays of the Main UTA from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Other times are by appointment only.

## Unit resolves to prepare for ORI

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

Resolutions are common at the start of every New Year, and the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing is resolving to have a successful operational readiness inspection.

Inspectors will arrive at Grissom on July 31, giving unit members about six months to prepare.

"We're taking a building block approach to help us have a successful ORI," said Lt. Col. Greg DeMaio, performance planning officer.

Different unit training assemblies will offer different training scenarios and the unit will use those individual instruction blocks to build for the ORI.

Exercises along the way will test the unit's progress.

In February and April, the unit will gain experience in cargo movement, and the personnel side of the IGX.

"This will take a monumental effort," Maj. James Klein, installation deployment officer said of the game plan for a successful ORI. "That effort starts with each individual member, right through to the unit deployment managers and squadron commanders and even contractors."

The biggest challenge will be coordinating will all the units, Colonel DeMaio said. There are currently 12 different units involved, with the main three bases being Grissom, Westover ARB, Ma., and Andrews AFB, Md.

"People are looking to us for answers and that will be a challenge," he

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# Grissom makes an impact in the community

By Lt. Col. Gary Lockard  
Public Affairs staff

While the men and women of the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing have been busy supporting various military operations around the world during the past year, the unit has also made its presence felt in the local area by providing an economic impact of more than \$97 million.

While that figure should not come as a surprise, I wonder how many people at Grissom and in the local community, if asked about the wing's annual economic impact, would have an answer that was anywhere close?

Since Grissom has been a fixture in the local community for generations, it is easy to overlook or take for granted the economic impact the base pro-

vides.

Data compiled by Air Force officials for the time period of Oct. 1, 2003 to Sept. 30, 2004, show the 434<sup>th</sup> ARW's combined direct and indirect economic impact is \$97,261,080.

When you then toss in the economic data from Grissom's tenant units, the overall total soars to more than \$100 million.

What goes into the overall economic impact? It's a combination of military and civilian salaries, construction projects, service contracts, equipment and supplies purchased from local businesses and utilities.

From an employment perspective, Grissom's presence is huge when you consider the base has 650 civilian employees and 1,700 military personnel (including tenant units). It is estimated

that Grissom indirectly creates another 450 jobs in the local community.

This is significant as the next largest employer in Miami County, where Grissom is located, has 550 employees.

The past three years have been a non-stop series of mobilizations, deployments, and day-to-day activities in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. These activities have brought to the forefront the outstanding contributions the 434<sup>th</sup> ARW and Grissom make to the national defense effort.

The members of the wing are proud of their accomplishments and have done an excellent job in relaying this fact to the community. We should also be proud of the jobs and overall economic impact Grissom provides to Indiana.

# Resolve to make the 434th ARW better for us all

By Col. Kerry Keithcart  
434<sup>th</sup> ARW vice commander

The New Year is upon us and with it brings an opportunity for all of us to make a difference in our base, our unit, our command, and our Air Force.

Top priority for the year is our operational readiness inspection. The Col. James Melin, the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing commander, gave a concept briefing recently, sending a clear message about the importance of our upcoming inspections.

I encourage everyone to get out of their comfort zones and get involved on base. Whether it be as we prepare for our ORI or other activities.

Some of those activities include the NCO induction ceremony, wing advisory council, or the critical incident stress management team.

One of our Airmen showed up early for one meeting and instead of walking out she stayed and took the opportunity

to learn about another.

Those looking for more knowledge and career broadening activities can take advantage of upcoming conferences like the Airlift/Tanker Association, Black Expo, or congressional orientations.

I applaud the efforts of Senior Airman Anna Marie Jones, one of our financial management troops for her participation. Airman Jones, who majored in religion and broadcast journalism, took the opportunity to participate in a break out workshop called "Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life" during the A/TA conference. One important point made by the speaker is that religion is non-negotiable in war. The speaker also talked about how historically religion has played a part in war and the changes of conventional warfare.

My point here is that we have some great opportunities to learn and to help each other – and to have fun doing it. Take advantage of the opportunities we have and resolve to make the unit better for us all.

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Vol. 10, No.1  
January 2005

This funded Air Force Reserve Command newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

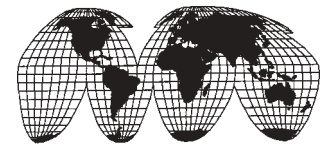
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The editorial content is edited, and prepared by the Public Affairs Office of the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, IN, 46971-5000.

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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/>

# Melin selected for brigadier general

Col. James Melin, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, has been nominated for promotion to brigadier general.

The announcement was made by Air Force Reserve Command in early December.

He's joined on the list by 13 other AFRC colonels in the nomination. Seven members were nominated to receive their second star.

The list must still be confirmed to make it official.

Colonel Melin has been the commander of the 434th Air Refueling Wing for two years.

He is a command pilot with more than 5,500 flying



Colonel Melin

hours in the KC-135 Stratotanker.

He is currently on his third assignment to Grissom, having served previously as an instructor pilot, and as operations group commander.

## ORI, from page 1

said. "In February we'll show them our plan and we'll have to work together to implement it."

Both Colonel DeMaio and Major Klein expect the 434th ARW to be the lead unit since we're tasked with bringing our aircraft.

"Supervisors and squadron commanders can help the process by ensuring that those assigned to any particular unit type code be able to perform the function of that UTC," Major Klein said. He added that in his unit, the 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron, they are holding UTC training every unit training assembly.

Members can get the latest information about the ORI by visiting the Grissom intranet homepage at <https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/434arw/IGX/IGX.htm>

"That website has a wealth of information from requirements and exercises to the frequently asked questions," Colonel DeMaio said.

"It really has a little bit about everything," Major Klein added. "We post anything relevant that comes across our table. We believe the unit that takes advantage of the information that is out there will do well."

In the end a team effort will be required to be successful, DeMaio said.

"A team effort sets the tone of the entire exercise," Major Klein replied.

"Communication and coordination will spell success for us if we can all work together," the colonel said.

## Your take: *What is your New Year's resolution?*



**Lt. Col. Eric Brandes**, 434th Maintenance Squadron, commander

*"My resolution is to lose between five to 10 pounds, unlike 10 years ago when I wanted to gain weight. I want to become more fit."*



**Senior Airman Randy Calmese**, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, information management specialist

*"To finish what I started."*



**2nd Lt. Tenna Pershing**, 434th Mission Support Squadron, military personnel officer

*"I want to be able to give more to the community in which I live in. There are a lot of needs that are overlooked and I want to slow down and listen and see how I can help others."*



**Senior Airman Tanielle Phillips**, 434th Mission Support Squadron, personnel technician

*"To exercise more, to tone up, to get in shape, and stop procrastination. Oh...and pay off my credit cards."*

# Taking aim

## Security Forces target ORI success

By SrA. Roberto Modelo  
Public Affairs staff

As units take aim at a successful operational readiness inspection this year, the 434<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron will help keep them on target.

The SFS has been making sure that units can meet the contingencies they may face by preparing them in areas of force protection. It will be a joint effort between security forces and the combat arms personnel.

“The combat arms staff will take care of the of weapons qualifications for personnel including the M240B machine gun and M249 squad automatic weapon, M203 grenade launcher, M16/A2 rifle, and M9 pistol,” said Master Sgt. Chet Nance, air Reserve technician for combat arms.

Also as part of preparation for the upcoming ORI, the combat arms section will be conducting overall weapons inspections for everyone in the wing.

Two other areas that the SFS will be covering are the Use of Force and Rules of Engagement training.

“We are ensuring that friendly forces use the minimal amount of force necessary in conflict situations,” he said.

As part of using force, the rules of engagement are another area that determines what kind of force can be used. Rules of engagement specify who and what are military targets, and the proper treatment of enemy troops surrendering.

The SFS will also setup a field armory to filter weapons to troops who will need them in a deployed location.

ORI training for the SFS will also consist of refresher training for personnel tasked with flight line security, said Master Sgt. John Jones training NCO.

“We have to put on a different hat



Photo by SrA. Roberto Modelo

**Master Sgt. Chet Nance, NCOIC of Combat Arms with 434 SFS, demonstrates to a group of Airman, the proper position when firing an M9 gun. The M9 demonstration was part of the weapons familiarization training for the upcoming ORI.**

from ground combat training to airbase security,” Sergeant Jones said.

Whether it be securing the flight line or protecting the base from enemy

attack, the 434<sup>th</sup> SFS will be doing their part to train and prepare themselves and other wing members for the upcoming ORI.

# Medics offer tips for fighting flu symptoms

By Al Eakle

88th Medical Group Public Affairs

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio** — Colder temperatures signal the start of the flu season, which runs through April. With a nationwide shortage of vaccine this year, health officials say it is important to know the symptoms of this contagious respiratory illness, and what to do if a person is infected.

The flu usually starts suddenly, said Maj. (Dr.) Molinda Chartrand, a staff pediatrician, and Capt. (Dr.) Eric Halsey, an infectious disease physician, assigned to the 88th Medical Group here. Symptoms may include fever, headache, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, tiredness, cough and sore throat.

Diarrhea and vomiting also can occur but are more common in children, Dr. Chartrand said.

Although the phrase “stomach flu” is often used to describe an illness involving nausea, diarrhea and vomiting, Dr. Halsey said the flu virus does not classically cause gastrointestinal disease.

The flu spreads from person to person in respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing. Occasionally people may become infected by touching something with virus on it, and then touching their mouth or nose.

Adults may be able to infect others



one day before getting symptoms and up to seven days after getting sick. That makes it possible to give someone the flu before you know you are sick as well as while you are actually under the weather, Dr. Chartrand said.

People with the flu need plenty of rest and a lot of liquids. They should avoid using alcohol and tobacco. They should also take medications to relieve the symptoms of the flu.

The doctors said parents should never give aspirin to children or teenagers who have flu-like symptoms, particularly fever.

They also advised people who are at high risk from complications of the flu to consult their health-care provider if they develop flu-like symptoms. Doctors, they said, may recommend use of an anti-viral medication to help treat the flu.

There are also some “emergency warning signs” that require urgent medical attention, they said.

In children, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing.
- Bluish skin color.
- Not drinking enough fluids.
- Not waking up or not interacting.
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held.

— Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough.

- Fever with a rash.

In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen.
- Sudden dizziness.
- Confusion.
- Severe or persistent vomiting.

People need to seek medical care immediately if they are experiencing any of these signs, the doctors said. At the hospital, they should tell the reception staff that they think they have the flu.

For more information on flu symptoms or treatment, contact your primary care manager. (AFP)

## Units to begin using National Security Personnel System

WASHINGTON -- Navy Secretary Gordon England announced Dec. 15 the units selected to take part in the initial implementation of the human resources and appeals elements of the Department of Defense’s National Security Personnel System.

Grissom is slated to start in the summer of 2006.

Secretary England indicated that the employees slated for conversion will be included into groupings called “spirals.”

Spiral 1 will include about 300,000 general schedule, U.S.-based Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and other Department of Defense civilian employees. It will be rolled out in three phases over an 18-month period beginning as early as July. DOD currently has about 700,000 civilian employees.

Spiral 2 will comprise the remainder of the eligible work force and will be initiated following an assessment of Spiral 1 and after the secretary of defense certifies the performance-management system.

Congress authorized the new personnel system as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act.

“NSPS provides an opportunity to improve the effectiveness of the department through a simplified personnel-management system that will improve the way (the department) hires and assigns, as well as compensate and reward its employees,” Secretary England said. “(The system) will provide the department with a modern, flexible and agile human-resource system that can be more responsive to the national security environment, while preserving employee protections and benefits.”



Photo by A1C Mark Orders-Woempner

### Vehicle inspection

Army Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Matt Brindle, a forward observer from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 139th Field Artillery Regiment Headquarters Battery, conducts a random vehicle search at Grissom's main gate. Private Brindle along with the other members of the 3/139 FA wrapped up their tour at Grissom in December after being activated for nearly two years. The Soldiers provided additional base security for Grissom after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

### 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. - 3 p.m. on Saturday of the primary UTA.

**Upcoming UTAs:** Primary UTAs include an.8-9; and Feb. 5-6.

Alternate UTAs are Jan. 22-23; and Feb. 12-13.

**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.

### ORI website

The 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing has activated a website dedicated to the unit's 2005 Operational Readiness Inspection.

The site is linked from the 434<sup>th</sup> ARW Intranet homepage.

## In the limelight

### Medals

**Meritorious Service Medal** – Lt. Col. Roger Claffey, 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing; Lt. Col. Bradley Knapp, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW; Lt. Col. James Corcoran, 72<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling Squadron; Maj. Matthew Conrad, 72<sup>nd</sup> ARS; Capt. Stephen Yeaton, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Nealy Brown, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW; Master Sgt. John Morris III, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW; Senior Master Sgt. Mary Chase, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW; Master Sgt. Jesse Batey, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW; Master Sgt. Herbert Helms, 434<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron; Master Sgt. Steven Douglas, 434<sup>th</sup> MSS; Master Sgt. David Scott, 434<sup>th</sup>

Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Roy Phipps, 434<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron; Master Sgt. Donald Skinner, 434<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineers Squadron; Senior Master Sgt. Sherman Mann, 434<sup>th</sup> MSS; Tech. Sgt. Karl Olson, 434<sup>th</sup> CES; and Master Sgt. George Dibattiste, 434<sup>th</sup> AXMS.



Photo by A1C Mark Orders-Woempner

## Gifts from Santa

Wyatt Fletcher glares at his new toy from Santa Clause, a model of an F-15 Eagle Fighter. Wyatt is the son of Staff Sgt. Wesley Fletcher, a crew chief with the 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The address is: <https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/434arw/IGX/IGX.htm>

Information released by Headquarters Air Mobility Command's Inspector General team will be posted to the website.

## DSN change

Grissom's DSN prefix is now 388. The 928 prefix was removed on Dec. 31. Any correspondence should reflect the new prefix.

## MyPay

Grissom members not yet enrolled in the MyPay system should do so soon.

Air Force Reserve Command officials are making enrollment mandatory as they move one step closer to eliminate the mailing of leave and earning statements.

Members can access the site by going to: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>

[mypay.aspx](#) Once there, customers have a variety of options at their disposal. Prominent features of the program are the availability to view, print and save payroll documents, update address changes for correspondence, and update changes to the Thrift Savings accounts.

The secure internet system allows members to take care of routine pay issues without involving military or civilian pay offices.

Beginning this month AFRC mandates that all members of the command will be required to use the site for routine financial transactions and accessing pay information.

## Senior leaders

Air Force Reserve Command officials announced that Maj. Gen. John Batbie Jr., will be retiring as vice commander of AFRC. The retirement date is listed as March. 15, 2005.

His replacement will be Maj. Gen.

David Tanzi, commander of 10<sup>th</sup> Air Force at NAS JRB Forth Worth, Texas.

General Tanzi will be replaced by Maj. Gen. Allan Poulan, mobilization assistant to the commander of Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.

## Computer purchase

In an initiative to secure computers and networks worldwide, Air Force officials entered into an agreement with Microsoft to purchase software and support for more than a half-million computers.

Under the agreement, all existing Air Force software and support contracts will be combined into one. The resulting contract will affect about 525,000 computers, officials said.

By purchasing software for the whole service under one licensing agreement, the Air Force will save \$100 million over the course of the contract, they said.



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays*

### ***Providing guidance***

Master Sgt. Jeff Withrow, a boom operator with the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, adjusts the helmet for Civil Air Patrol Cadet Staff Sgt. Jon Ward during a CAP open house recently. Sergeant Withrow is a military advisor for the local organization. The CAP uses aviation as a cornerstone to their youth programs. To learn more about CAP contact Capt Sharon Groome at 765-868-0513.

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