

Heartland

# Warrior

Vol. 11, No. 2

February 2006

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

## ***New chief***

Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski, 434th Air Refueling Wing command chief master sergeant, receives her chief's headdress from Chief Master Sgt. David Sward, 434th Maintenance Squadron, during an Induction Ceremony Jan. 7. In the background is retired Chief Master Sgt. Randy Van Loton, Chief Rogowski's predecessor.



Photo by SrA. Jonathan Jones

## **New web site puts Grissom a click away**

**Public Affairs staff report**

Want to read the latest headlines from Grissom and the Air Force Reserve Command? Would you like to see photos of the aircraft assigned to the base? How about browsing through an on-line library.

These and many other items are now available with just a click of a mouse as the new Grissom internet web site is available at [www.grissom.afrc.af.mil](http://www.grissom.afrc.af.mil).

"The new web site has a wealth of material that will be of interest to a

wide ranging audience including base personnel, the general public, news media, and military retirees," stated Lt. Col. Gary Lockard, chief of public affairs. "The web site will be updated daily and it is our hope that people will visit it on a frequent basis."

Grissom has had a presence on the internet for a number of years but the new web site is unlike anything that previously existed. "Visitors to the site will notice a number of innovations," he said. "For example, the layout and design mirrors that of Air Force Link to ensure continuity and a professional

image."

Additional highlights include a photo and art gallery, news and feature section, on-line library, fact sheets, biographies of key base personnel, links to other Air Force and government sites, information on Air Force Recruiting, and even a question and answer section regarding the base.

"We have received very positive feedback regarding the new site," added Lockard. "We even changed the address of the site to make it easy to remember—  
[www.grissom.afrc.af.mil](http://www.grissom.afrc.af.mil)."

# Principles guide Grissom's HRDC

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

Diversity, opportunity, and a healthy work environment --each can stand alone, or when put together mark the principles behind the Human Resources Development Council.

We'll be celebrating the diversity principle by having a multi-cultural banquet May 6. The theme is: Soldier. If you think about all the diverse groups that played major roles in our military history, from the Tuskegee Airman, to the Navajo Indians, to the Women Air Force Service Pilots, or WASPS. These folks define our history's rich diversity.

We're just getting started in the planning process and have many

opportunities for people to get involved. Contact Military Equal Opportunity office at Ext. 2408 to volunteer.

The diversity principle will also be highlighted as we send representatives to a variety of conferences during the year.

The Women in Aviation International conference in March, the League of United Latin American Citizens in June, the Tuskegee Airman International in August and the Tanker Airlift Association in October.

If you're interested in attending any of these, let your HRDC representative know...or attend our next meeting at 2 p.m. April 2 in the wing conference room.

The next principal is opportunity. The best level to make opportunities

available is at the group level. Everyone at the group level can make a difference in the lives of our Airmen by ensuring they are prepared to move forward when the opportunity exists. Job performance, awards and decorations are vital to ensure those vying for promotion are competitive. Mentoring will go a long way in helping people answer when opportunity knocks.

Finally for healthy work environment, the HRDC relies on the Wing Advisory Council to be the focal point in the unit. Their efforts to improve our environment do not go without notice to me or other HRDC members. Look for them to open the new club soon, and offer periodic special events -- all designed to improve everyone's work environment -- Grissom.

## Every part counts in the Air Force puzzle

By **Capt. Julie Wokaty-Kozma**  
*777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron*

**ALI BASE, Iraq** — Descending into Baghdad, my C-130 Hercules crew prepares for landing.

The copilot coordinates with air traffic control while the navigator ensures we follow desired ground track to the field. The flight engineer runs checklists and the loadmasters scan for threats. We keep our speed up as long as possible, configure close to the airfield and the plane settles onto the runway.

Through all the maneuvering, coordinating and flying I have a sense

of deja vu — with a twist. I've done all this before, but never with this group of people. It's the same, yet different.

I arrived at Ali Base the last week in December and soon set out on my first Operation Iraqi Freedom mission in more than a year. While it was far from my first time flying in combat, it was my first time flying in combat with this crew. In fact, it was my first time flying with this crew — ever.

I knew little more about them than their name, rank and crew position. This will change over the duration of the deployment, of course. But one might wonder: What enables a crew of people who haven't flown together

before to successfully maneuver an aircraft to accomplish a combat mission?

I believe the answer boils down to the professional integrity of the crewmembers and the support Airmen on the ground. This professional integrity comes from knowing your job, performing your duties to the best of your ability and constantly striving to improve your skills.

From my perspective as a C-130 pilot, I know that each crewmember is trained in specific duties and must be able to perform those duties proficiently. The training and checklists are

Please see 'Puzzle,' page 3

Heartland

## Warrior

Vol. 11, No.2  
February 2006

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

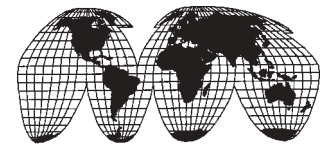
Contents of the Heartland Warrior are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

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.

Any questions regarding stories or photos should be directed to the editor at (765) 688-3348.

### Staff

Brig. Gen. James Melin.....commander  
Lt. Col. Gary Lockard.....chief, public affairs  
Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays.....editor  
SrA. Chris Bolen.....staff writer  
SrA. Roberto Modelo.....staff writer  
SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner.....staff writer  
SrA. Jonathan Jones.....staff writer  
SrA. Ben Mota.....staff writer  
Penny Pearson.....administration



World Wide Web

Air Force Reserve Home Page

<http://www.afrc.af.mil>

Grissom Home Page

<http://www.grissom.afrc.af.mil>

# Make a difference no matter where you are

By Senior Master Sgt. William Megnin  
407<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Deployment. It's a word that's taken on an ominous ring over the past few years.

For some it's been a seemingly constant rotation between home and a distant land; for others, a time of quiet preparation and waiting.

I'm a product of the post Vietnam era. My first military experience was a three-year stint in the Army stationed in the Washington D.C. area in the mid 1970s. Being in more of a protocol position, I was far removed from my Army brothers who would spend a lot of time in the field preparing for whatever would come our way during the cold war period.

After joining the Air Force Reserve in 1982, the worst 'deployment' would be an Operational Readiness Inspection that the unit would go through every four or five years. Even with Operation Desert Storm and the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as members of my unit were called to active duty, I wasn't tasked and was left supporting the home station.

But finally, the word came down – I had been tasked to provide support to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It was finally my time to serve. It was time to prepare my family and employer for my departure. But in the back of my mind I had some nagging questions. Am I ready? How can I make a difference?

I've learned that part of making a difference is to understand what the rotations before me have accomplished; where the unit is now; and what individuals and teams can do this rotation to keep the progress moving ahead.

This understanding and the solutions aren't limited to your duty section. Look beyond your work area to various councils and activities that offer opportunities to get involved.

You may not be able to witness the completion of every project you help start, but you can still take pride in giving

the following rotation the platform that success springs from.

Another way that each of us can make a difference is through dedication. Your personal commitment to dedication will determine how you, as an individual, will affect the

outcome. Some Airmen just put their time in and go home; others arrive dedicated to make a difference...whether it be on deployment or during a unit training assembly.

I arrived at my deployed location ready to meet the challenges of the deployment. I've found how and where I can take my section to the next level, to set a standard for the next rotation.

This analysis can be accomplished regardless of rank, the section you work, or the additional duties you have been tasked with while you are deployed.

I've decided as a senior NCO to dedicate my deployment to those I'm stationed with. This deployment comes at the twilight of my career, and I want to serve others...especially the young men and women who will shape the future of the Air Force. As you wrap up a deployment, or set to begin one, ask yourself – and come up with an answer – 'How or where can I make a difference?' (Editor's note -- SMSgt. Megnin is a deployed member of Grissom's 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron.)



SMSgt. Megnin

## Puzzle, from page 2

standardized. Everybody knows what to expect and what's expected from them, regardless of whether they've flown together or not.

Each piece of the puzzle is important, unique and irreplaceable.

My part of the puzzle (and yours) fits into the overall puzzle: Each Air Force Specialty Code having its own unique pieces and each irreplaceable to the total mission.

Professional integrity allows us to trust that others are doing their jobs correctly, and to accept their product as flawless. I count on the professional integrity of maintenance Airmen, intel Airmen and air terminal operations center Airmen in my job — to name a few. Being able to trust in their abilities and integrity saves crucial time in a combat zone. This trust is vital to mission accomplishment.

Professional integrity also involves challenging yourself to stay at the top of your game and never growing complacent. The enemy and their weapons are constantly changing. Every Airman must stay ahead of these changes to win the war.

Knowing that you work hard to be your best at your job and trusting others to do the same, that's the professional integrity that allows us to show up in a combat zone and complete a mission with people we have never worked with. It distinguishes professional warfighters from ordinary citizens.

No matter how your duties fit into the puzzle, you are vital to the Air Force mission. Wherever your piece of the puzzle fits, work hard to bring the entire picture together for mission accomplishment.

# Security member tops in Air Force Reserve

By SrA Jonathan Jones  
Public Affairs staff

Going above and beyond will get the job done, and in the case of Master Sgt. Jackson Barnett, get you command-level recognition too.

Air Force Reserve Command named Sergeant Barnett the Outstanding Security Forces Support Staff Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the year.

His initial reaction to receiving the award was shocked, said Sergeant Barnett, the 434<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron supply and mobility non-commissioned officer in charge. Sergeant Barnett has spent six of his 14 years of military service here. Before coming to Grissom, he spent time in the Marine Corps working for the military police and as an MP accident investigator.

Sergeant Barnett stands by specific principles to aid him in getting the job successfully.

“Just to make sure that things are done right and to take the initiative to get things done before they need to be done,” he said.

“The unit deployment manager position that I fill is a pretty detailed job and if you don’t do it properly then the whole unit suffers,” he added.

His duties for the 434<sup>th</sup> SFS, when not deployed, include ordering inventory, figuring out what items the unit needs to function at the best possible level and stocking new equipment. On the other hand, his duties in a deployment situation become more detailed.

“During a deployment it gets pretty hairy, he said. We have personnel issues to deal with; making sure they have all of their equipment, making sure they have all of their paper work, making sure everything is signed and T’s are crossed and I’s are dotted. We make sure they have all of their shots, all of their training is up to date and then we have to pull all of the proper equipment; make sure it’s useable, there’s nothing missing and nothing broken.”

A key function that the sergeant



Photo by SrA. Jonathan Jones

**Sergeant Barnett moves a mobility bag within the 434th Security Forces Squadron's supply area. He was named AFRC's Outstanding Security Forces Support Staff Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the year.**

believes is vital to his success is the knowledge needed to perform the job, while going above and beyond the call of duty. This knowledge and desire to serve Grissom is reflected in the numerous accomplishments aiding him in receiving his award.

The accomplishments Sergeant Barnett is most proud of include being

awarded an inspector general coin for excellence at Grissom and his success during the ORI, as a member of the wing deployment team where he managed and coordinated with forward base logistics to palletize and load cargo in a minimum of time despite hazardous work conditions and a short redeployment schedule.

**Heartland Warrior**

# Defense authorization act benefits reservists

WASHINGTON – New year brings new benefits for reservists.

The 2006 National Defense Authorization Act lets the Department of Defense offer reservists a variety of benefits more on par with their active-duty counterparts, said Chuck Witschonke, DOD’s deputy director for compensation.

One big change is a provision that shortens the duty time before reservists qualify for the full housing allowance.

People called to active duty for non-contingency operations for more than 30 days will now get the full allowance, just as active-duty troops do.

For reservists who experience pay cuts when called to active duty, a new provision for income replacement will

help reduce the strain military service places on the family, he said.

“It can be difficult for a family that has been living on a certain income to now have less money, particularly at a time when they’re stressed by a change in their lifestyle” due to a military deployment, he said.

The income-replacement program won’t be instituted for six months, in accordance with the law. At that time, specific guidelines and qualifications will be issued, he said. This authority will end in December 2008.

The 2006 authorization act also permits increases in recruiting bonuses for reservists. People could get accession and affiliation bonuses of up to \$20,000 to enlist in the Selected Reserve. Officers could see an

increase from \$6,000 to \$10,000 for initial service in the Selected Reserve.

People who possess a designated critical skill could earn a bonus of up to \$100,000.

Another provision of the defense bill extends the eligibility for a prior-service enlistment bonus to include Selected Reserve members who previously received one.

Mr. Witschonke emphasized the new law does not guarantee that all service members will qualify for these pays and benefits or that those who do will receive the highest amounts authorized.

More information about pay and benefits is posted at [www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/](http://www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/) (AFRCNS)

## 2006 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

### Years of Service

	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
O-8	1,102.80	1,138.92	1,162.88	1,169.60	1,199.48	1,249.48	1,261.08	1,308.56	1,322.16	1,363.04	1,422.16	1,476.72	1,513.16	1,513.16	1,513.16
O-7	916.36	958.92	978.64	994.28	1,022.64	1,050.60	1,083.00	1,115.32	1,147.72	1,249.48	1,335.44	1,335.44	1,335.44	1,335.44	1,342.20
O-6	679.20	746.16	795.12	795.12	798.12	832.36	836.88	836.88	884.44	968.52	1,017.88	1,067.20	1,095.28	1,123.68	1,178.84
O-5	566.20	637.82	682.00	690.28	717.80	734.32	770.56	797.16	831.48	884.08	909.08	933.84	961.92	961.92	961.92
O-4	488.52	565.52	603.24	611.68	646.68	684.24	730.96	767.44	792.72	807.24	815.68	815.68	815.68	815.68	815.68
O-3	429.52	486.92	525.56	573.00	600.40	630.52	650.04	682.12	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76
O-2	371.08	422.68	486.80	503.24	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60
O-1	322.16	335.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28
O-3E	-	-	-	573.00	600.40	630.52	650.04	682.12	709.12	724.60	745.72	745.72	745.72	745.72	745.72
O-2E	-	-	-	503.24	513.60	529.96	557.52	578.88	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76
O-1E	-	-	-	405.28	432.84	448.80	465.16	481.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24
E-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	536.28	548.44	563.76	581.80	599.92	629.04	653.64	679.60	719.20
E-8	-	-	-	-	-	439.00	458.44	470.44	484.84	500.44	528.60	542.88	567.16	580.64	613.80
E-7	305.16	333.08	345.84	362.76	375.92	398.60	411.32	424.04	446.72	458.08	468.84	475.44	497.68	512.08	548.48
E-6	263.96	290.40	303.24	315.68	328.68	358.00	369.40	382.04	393.16	397.08	399.80	399.80	399.80	399.80	399.80
E-5	241.88	258.04	270.48	283.28	303.16	320.28	332.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88
E-4	221.72	233.08	245.68	258.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12
E-3	200.16	212.76	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60
E-2	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32
E-1	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80

E-1 with less than four months: \$157.08



Photo by SRA. Jonathan Jones

### **Air Valadez?**

Martin Valadez, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, soars across the lane toward the basket in front of Nick Delaurentis, 434th Services Squadron, during the opening round of Grissom's annual basketball tournament. Valadez and the Maintainers downed Services in overtime 35-34.

### **UTA items**

**Lodging** is open 24 hours a day during the primary unit training assembly 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 434th Aerospace Medical Squadron's immunization clinic** is open on Saturday from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m.

**434th Security Forces Squadron Pass and ID** is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday of the primary UTA.

**Upcoming UTAs:** Primary UTAs include Feb. 4-5; and March 4-5.

### **In the limelight**

#### **Medals**

**Meritorious Service Medal**—Maj. Darel Longyear, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Master Sgt. Bryan Hettinghouse, 74th Air Refueling Squadron; Maj. David Mikkelson, 74th ARS; and Senior Master Sgt. Wayne Raby, 434th Civil Engineering Squadron.

**Air Force Commendation Medal**—Major Douglas Perry, 434th Operations Squadron; and Tech Sgt. Gregory Minnich, 434th OSS.

#### **Promotions**

**To major** – Doug Perry, 434th OSS.

**To chief master sergeant**—Peri Rogowski, 434th Air Refueling Wing

**To senior master sergeant**—Michael Pershing, 434th OSS; and David Swiss, 49th Aerial Port Flight.

**To staff sergeant**— Dale McKinney, 49th APF.

## News Briefs

Alternate UTAs are Feb. 11-12; and March 18-19.

**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.

### Diversity banquet

The Annual Multi-Cultural Banquet

is scheduled for May 6 at the Grissom Club.

The theme for this year's event is: Soldier.

Both military and civilian members are invited to attend, and volunteers are needed to help plan the event.

For more information, or to volunteer for one of many positions, contact Military Equal Opportunity office at Ext. 2408.

### Superbowl party

The 434<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron is hosting a Super Bowl Party beginning at 5 p.m. Feb. 5 in Bldg. 470.

Door prizes, along with food and beverage specials will be offered.

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. William Somers at Ext. 2751.

### Community council

The Grissom Community Council, a civilian non-profit organization dedicated to providing support to the military units at Grissom Air Reserve Base, held its annual meeting and election of officers recently.

The meeting was held in the Civil Engineering Complex at Grissom ARB and featured not only elections of officers but also a dinner and special presentation by Brig. Gen. James Melin, 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing commander.

Election results include:

President: Steven Bowyer, Logansport, Ind; vice president: James Trobaugh, Kokomo, Ind; secretary: Donald Nelson, Flora, Ind; and treasurer: Brian Wright, Kokomo, Ind

### Employer awards

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, in association with the Secretary of Defense, is once again sponsoring the prestigious Employer Support Freedom Award.

This award is given to civilian employers who demonstrate the highest levels of support and assistance to their employees who are members of the guard or reserve.

Members of the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing who would like to nominate their civilian employers can do so by visiting the ESGR web site at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) and completing the 2006 Freedom Award nomination form. Nominations will be accepted until Feb 28.

Winners of the Freedom Award receive their trophy and recognition during a special ceremony in Washington D.C.

Grissom ARB personnel that have questions should contact the 434<sup>th</sup> ARW Public Affairs Office at Ext. 3348.



Photo by SrA. Jonathan Jones

### No more FOD

Senior Master Sgt. Rod Gunter, 434<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, stoops to pick up debris during an early morning 'FOD' walk. The walk is designed to pick up items that could do foreign object damage to aircraft operating in, on, or around the flightline, parking ramps and Aircraft Maintenance areas.



*Photo by SrA. Roberto Modelo*

### ***Setting up shop***

Mike Sampson, 434th Services Squadron's chief of services, removes a panel to repair a dart machine during renovation of the new Grissom club. The facility is open from 4-10 p.m. Friday and Saturdays of the unit training assemblies. When the renovations are complete, Services plan to use the building for other functions like meetings and parties.

434th Air Refueling Wing  
Public Affairs Office  
Grissom ARB, IN 46971-5000

**FIRST CLASS PRSRT  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
Permit No. 480  
Peru, IN**