

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

Command change

Brig. Gen. Despinoy takes charge

By Lt. Col. Gary Lockard

Public Affairs staff

Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy took command of the 434th Air Refueling Wing during a formal change of command ceremony July 16.

He replaces Brig. Gen. James Melin, who is named as commander of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March ARB, Calif. General Melin has been commander of the 434th ARW since January 2003.

General Despinoy began his military career in 1969, entering the Navy and serving on board both conventional and nuclear fast attack submarines as an electronics technician. He left the Navy and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University.

He was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force in 1977 as a distinguished graduate of the Notre Dame University Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He served in many positions within the Strategic Air Command, transferring to the Air Force Reserve Command in 1987. General Despinoy served on the Jeddah Saudi Arabia Battle Staff during Operation Desert Storm, commanded several deployed units in Turkey, France and Spain during contingency operations and served as the Deputy Director of Mobility Forces during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

This is the general's second assignment to Grissom as he previously served with the 434th ARW during the late 1980s and early 90s. His most recent assignments include commander of the 507th ARW, Tinker AFB, Okla.; commander of the 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn.; and commander of the 931st Air Refueling Group, McConnell AFB, Kan.

He is a command pilot with more than 4,300 flying hours and has flown the T-37, T-38, KC-135 and C-130 aircraft.

Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan, commander of 4th Air Force, presided over the ceremony.



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan, 4th Air Force commander, presents Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy the 434th Air Refueling Wing guidon during the 434th Air Refueling Wing change of command ceremony July 16.

Now's our chance to impress, improve

By Col. Kerry Keithcart
434th ARW vice commander

Impressing and improving. Those two words are the mantra for Grissom in the coming months. With Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy here now, I'm sure he will be impressed with the 434th Air Refueling Wing, our people, our facilities, and our attitude of being the unit of choice. Change is an opportunity for all of us to continue to put our best foot for-

ward and impress not only General Despinoy but each member of the unit we come in contact with. It's our attitudes that truly set us apart. They make the 434th ARW what it is. Our inspectors have moved on. They delved into many facets of our operations and came away impressed with many areas. There were some areas that we need to improve upon, but we'll do that. Their look gives us an opportunity to polish areas that needed a little polish-

ing. They help ensure we do things the right way now, and in the future. Sometimes we can get our feelings hurt over inspections or comments by the inspectors, but look beyond that and use their comments, findings or suggestions as a springboard to improve the areas that you control. Making each of your areas and organizations better only strengthens Grissom as a whole. Improve those things that need improving and we can impress everyone, every time.

Lead, follow, but no more getting out of the way

By Chief Master Sgt. John Gebhardt
22nd Medical Group

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan. — My first Air Force lesson 27 years ago was "lead, follow or get out of the way."

A great deal has changed over the years but not the basic principle of leading or following every day. What has changed is we no longer have the luxury of allowing any Airman to get out of the way. Ask yourself throughout the day if you are leading or following and improving the mission or people. If you are not doing either you have decided to get out of the way. Shame on you and the supervisor who allows this to happen. Now more than ever Airmen and America needs you leading and following, every day. Our quest for more leaders and followers has expanded to higher expectations from everyone — every

rank, including dependents and community members. The responsibilities of our newest Airmen have grown rapidly over the past years, and they have exceeded expectations. The confidence of our general officers and commanders manifests itself in faster promotions, higher mission achievements and improved education, both professional military education and formal degree programs. For the past 16 years we have been engaged in deploying Airmen within the air expeditionary force construct. Our Air Force has increasingly required better trained, educated and fit Airman to accomplish the mission right here, right now. United as a team we must accomplish both mission requirements and take care of each other. From airman basic to colonel, everyone must both lead and follow many times during a day's work. Ask yourself in every task if you're

leading or following with the best of your ability, motivation and positive attitude completing the task at hand. The days of getting out of the way are no longer an option. Take time every day to reach out and build stronger relationships and teams, improve skills and always keep an eye out to ensure no co-worker falls behind or gets out of the way. If by chance someone falls behind, pull them back up with the team. Be a great wingman first and foremost. World circumstances require all Airmen to stand as one, completing mission requirements and developing our No. 1 resource — our people. Greater agility, leadership, involvement, versatility and education from each Airman are required. In essence, with our smaller numbers we must be capable and vigilant to meet the Air Force mission; there are no spectators in the war on terrorism.

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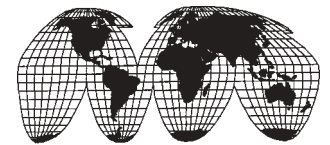
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Grissom maintainers react to engine fire

By SrA. Roberto Modelo

Public Affairs Staff

A lot can happen in the blink of an eye. An ordinary shift can turn into a worse-case scenario in a matter of minutes. When that situation arises, individuals have to rely upon training and teamwork.

Airmen and air reserve technicians here displayed those traits on what looked like an ordinary day recently.

They followed procedure, acted as a team and possibly saved the lives of aircrew on board a KC-135R Stratotanker. Their quick thinking also prevented extensive damage to the aircraft.

Staff Sgt. Zurial Lund, Master Sgt. Chris Harshman, Master Sgt. Darin Schenher, Tech. Sgt. Joe Brown, and Tech. Sgt. Larry Flook all sprang into action when a potential disaster flared up.

The sequence of events started with aircraft 364 taxiing off the parking ramp.

“Sergeant Lund had noticed that there was fire-red glow coming out of the number three engine and immediately went to notify the refueling supervisor, Sergeant Harshman,” said Tech. Sgt. Larry Flook, an aircraft mechanic with the 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. “Sergeant Harshman proceeded to call into job control to notify the aircraft about what was going on.”

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Zorn, a mechanic with 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Sergeant Flook proceeded in a vehicle when they heard Sergeant Schenher on the radio traffic calling job control about the situation. Sergeant Zorn radioed job control for permission to cross the ‘red line’ to stop the aircraft and take control of the situation. At that time, job control was trying to get the fire department out to the aircraft.

Seeing that the aircraft was still taxiing down the runway with the effected engine now turned away from their viewing and not yet getting clearance to make his way out to the aircraft, Sergeant Flook took it upon himself to cross the ‘red line.’

While he had made his decision, Sergeant Brown and Tech. Sgt. Eric Saddlemire were already making their way down to the aircraft as well. After the aircrew had set the parking brake and was isolating the issue, Sergeants Brown and Saddlemire hooked up their headsets to communicate with the aircrew, while Tech. Sgt. Larry Pierce was manning a fire bottle near the effected engine. During this time Sergeant Flook was providing hand signals to the aircrew, effectively marshalling the aircraft.

Almost simultaneously the fire department arrived on the



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

A Grissom maintainer locks the wheels on a stand as he prepares to gather a fuel sample from Aircraft 00364. Several maintainers took action recently when one of the aircraft's engines caught on fire.

seen, he said.

The maintainers informed the aircrew to pull a handle that would prevent fuel from entering the effected engine. This allowed the engine to finally burn itself out, allowing the situation to be under control.

After the incident, the aircrew stated that aircraft did not show any warning of an engine fire. The crew only found out about it when the ground crew took notice.

The quick thinking of Sergeant Lund led to the series of actions taken by individuals who knew to do the right thing which avoided loss of life and structural damage to the airplane.

“I think everybody involved did well, said Sergeant Flook. “I am proud of them and proud to be a part of them.”

Lightning II

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley announces the name selected for the new Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II, during the inauguration ceremony at the Lockheed Martin plant in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 7.

In naming the F-35, General Moseley said, "Today, the enemies of peace and freedom have been put on notice. They have feared this day because the F-35 provides the coalition warfighter the perfect blend of speed, precision and stealth. The F-35 Lightning II is the next generation strike fighter bringing cutting-edge technologies to the battlespace of the future."



Courtesy photo

Aerial porters support little known program

By SrA. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs staff

Just outside the Grissom's fence is the warehouse of an innovative joint-service, inter-agency, civil/military operation that most don't know exists.

A multi-agency operation that utilizes the talent of Air Force Reserve personnel to aid in improving the health and welfare of thousands of Native Americans throughout the nation.

That operation is TRANSAM, more commonly abbreviated TRANS AM.

TRANS AM evolved from a pilot program in the 1990's, and is a cooperative program involving: the Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Indian Health Service, the Director of Civil Military Cooperation in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, and other civilian agencies.

In a nut-shell it acquires surplus medical equipment, vehicles, and other medical supplies and transfers them to native American tribes.

At the same time TRANS AM provides solid joint service training to all participants.



Although assigned to the 49th Aerial Port Flight, Master Sgt. Gary Hochenberger serves as project chief, and manages warehouse next to Grissom's base supply.

"Material is procured from the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, Veteran's Administration hospitals, and donations from hospitals, ambulance services, — anyone who

deals with medical supplies," he added.

The material is brought here, refurbished, repackaged, and shipped out to reservations through out the fifty states, he explained. Basically, we accept "anything for improving the quality of life for American Indians," he continued.

The agency utilizes reservists from all over the nation. "We strictly utilize reservists," Sergeant Hochenberger emphasized, "and the only non-reservists involved are the instructors for each of the functional areas."

Because the program is logistically complex and work intensive, training is a key by-product Sergeant Hochenberger noted.

Aerial Port performs all the required activities for aerial transport including unloading at the material's final destination, Transportation Management Office personnel process ground and commercial transportation requirements and supply personnel handle all processing of the material.

Grissom has been involved with the program since the agency moved to the base in 2000.

Engineers use training to create training area



Staff Sgt. Soyica Hinkle, an electrical systems craftsman with the 434th Civil Engineering Squadron, pulls a cable used to hoist a telephone pole into position behind Bldg. 671. During the July unit training assembly, the civil engineers set poles to use for future training programs.



Photos by SrA. Jonathan Jones

Left, Master Sgt. James Nichols, NCOIC of the electrical section, bores a hole to set a telephone pole for use in training CE members. Above, Staff Sgt. Howard Campbell, an electrical systems craftsman, hooks a piece of cable cinched around a telephone pole to a hook so the pole can be raised into position and set.

Reporting procedures

Senior Master Sgt. Judy Tubbs, Air Force Reserve Command Inspector Generals office, answers a question asked by Pamie Yeager, civilian personnel office, as they work together in preparing the unit compliance inspection report during the July Unit training assembly. Grissom personnel supported the I.G. team in several important administrative functions during the UCI. Inspection results are for official use only and not reportable in unit newspapers.



Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen

Athletic competitions shaping up for picnic

By SrA. Jonathan Jones
Public Affairs staff

The 434th Air Refueling Wing annual family day picnic will be held on Saturday during the September primary unit training.

Participation in eight competitive sporting events will be available to kids, teens, family and military members during the picnic.

These events include:

■ 1.5 mile-run

For military members only and will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the normal location at fuels.

■ Kids Run

Participants must be between 5-13 years-old, begins at 10:30 a.m.

■ Tricycle Race

For group commanders only and will begin at 11:30 a.m.

■ Horseshoes

Teams of two and begins at 1:30 p.m.

■ Three on three basketball
Ages of participants must be 16 years-old and up, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

■ Six on six volleyball
Ages 16 years-old and up welcome and begins at 1:30 p.m.

■ Free throw contest
No age limit and begins at 2:00 p.m.

■ Tug of war contest
Teams of five, ages 16 years-old and up welcome and begins at 2:30 p.m.

According to Bruce Cannady, the fitness director for the 434th SVF, these events were recommended by him based off of the participation and responses of individuals, who attended last years picnic.

In addition, all squadrons that make up the 434th ARW and the tenant units assigned are encouraged to participate in the events.

While the tug of war is open to anyone over 16 years-old, five person teams, which represent the squadrons

or tenant units are highly encouraged to compete against each other, he added.

The fitness center staff needs volunteers (three volunteers each for the kid's run and 1.5 mile-run, and one volunteer for each of the other events) to assist them in officiating all of the events, especially the kid's run due to safety concerns with younger children running off of the track that surrounds the fuels area, Mr. Cannady said.

"It's going to be a fun event [for the kids]; give them a chance to do something physical and get rewarded," the fitness director added.

Practicing safety while participating in the events is stressed by, the fitness center staff and the 434th ARW safety office, he said.

"Everybody seems to have a good time [at the picnic]; last year was really fun because we had lots of participation and everyone got to meet new people," Mr. Cannady added.

Heartland Warrior

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 Aug.5-6, and Sept. 9-10.

Alternate UTAs are Aug. 19-20, and Sept. 16-17.

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.

Deserving Airman

Grissom is looking to fill an opening for a military equal opportunity officer through the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program.

Interviews for the position will be held during the primary October unit training assembly.

Requirements include being a U.S. citizen, medically qualified for an Air Force Commission, having a baccalaureate or higher degree, have completed one year of a military service obligation and more.

For a full list of requirements, or more information, contact the career enhancement office at Ext. 3914.

August 2006



Photo by SrA. Roberto Modelo

Extinguishing circumstances

Matt Conlonis, 434th Services Squadron, takes aim at a staged fire during fire extinguisher training offered by the Grissom Fire Department. Services personnel got hands on experience using the extinguishers.



Photo by Maj. Cecilie Bredehoeft

An academy cadet surveys an area under construction at the Air Force Academy. Members of the 434th Civil Engineering Squadron traveled to the Academy to be part of the unveiling of a mentoring award named after Master Sgt. Charles Jones, who died recently. Sergeant Jones was an active mentor at the Academy assisting engineering majors to hone their engineering and construction skills.

Engineer remembered in Academy award

By Maj. Cecilie Bredehoeft
434th Civil Engineering Squadron

A mentor has been defined as someone who is a wise and trusted counselor, and it is mentors who lead the way for the future of the Air Force and the entire world.

One such mentor, trusted by many to lead and guide them, was Master Sgt. Charles Jones, 434th Civil Engineering Squadron, who passed away in April of this year.

Due to the dedication to mentoring displayed by Sergeant Jones, a mentorship award was named after him recently.

The Sergeant Jones Top Mentor Award, presented by the Air Force Academy's Field Engineering and Readiness Laboratory, recognizes

NCOs who have helped cadets learn a variety of engineering and construction skills.

Sergeant Jones, along with several other 434th CES members, worked with Air Force Academy cadets during five-week courses held at the Academy's FERL. The course is for all civil and environmental engineering majors.

"Each summer, we depend on a few dozen NCO 'mentors' to help us by working hand-in-hand with cadets to teach them a variety of engineering and construction skills," said Dr. James Pocock, assistant professor, Dean of the Faculty's civil engineer office.

Students from both the Academy and Reserve Officer Training Corps programs around the country attend the course and are mentored by the

group of NCOs participating in the program.

The mentorship award is given at the course graduation to a select mentor in recognition of their sacrifice of time and gifts knowledge that help make civil engineer officers better.

"We'll make sure we make the new Sergeant Jones Top Mentor Award a meaningful part of the FERL graduation," Dr. Pocock said.

With the new award named after Sergeant Jones, his mentorship will continue to influence Air Force officers for years to come.

(Editor's note: Members of the 434th CES honored Sergeant Jones recently on what would have been his retirement date, by presenting the certificate and other mementos to his family.)