

Heartland

# Warrior

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



U.S. Air Force photo

A Pakistani F16D pulls up for a refueling mission during Iron Falcon 0701. Grissom aircrews performed the very first aerial refueling with the Pakistani air force during the month-long exercise.

## Grissom Airmen perform refueling first

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays  
Public Affairs staff

Seventeen members of the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing wrapped up a near month-long deployment to Southwest Asia as they deployed to participate in Exercise Iron Falcon 0701.

The description that Iron Falcon is to Southwest Asia what Red Flag is to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., is very accurate, said Lt. Col. Gerry Conway,

deployment commander said.

The exercise included several firsts for the tanker community.

Grissom was the first unit to refuel Pakistani aircraft. Four Pakistani F-16 pilots became certified for in-flight refueling during the deployment.

"The Pakistanis had a good instructor and were very skilled," Colonel Conway said.

The Grissom tanker was the first refueling aircraft to participate in the

exercise. The unit flew 13 sorties and more than 74 hours. During those flights they offloaded more than 415,000 pounds on a whopping 300-plus refueling contacts.

Boom operators are required to have 36 contacts during a year to maintain proficiency. In one day, Master Sgt. Kim Orange had 51 contacts, and Master Sgt. Mike Morgan had 49 contacts.

Please see 'Iron Falcon,' page 3

# Learning about the other side of leading

By Lt. Col. Stephen Ziadie  
341st Space Wing

**MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, Mont.** — While reams of good advice have been written on effective leadership principles (by far-worthier authors than me), one critical aspect of leading a diverse set of individuals is often overlooked: the part where you as a leader make a concerted attempt to thoroughly know your folks.

Supervisors often get caught up in myriad mission-essential tasks and inherent responsibilities.

The most important task of all, the people focus, gets pushed aside for “mission” stuff.

People are the mission and without people, you have no mission.

The most technologically advanced weapons systems in the world are nothing but junk without trained, motivated and prepared warriors to operate them. The more you know about the folks you lead, the better off your team will be in the long run.

How do I know this?

Let me relate a short story about a plumber who once designed a computer network.

Airman 1st Class “M” was a water and waste specialist assigned to a civil engineer unit located in the Pacific Northwest.

As one of the lowest ranking Airmen on one of our deployments, Airman

“M” didn’t attract too much attention at first.

He was extremely competent but also quiet, reserved and soft spoken.

He did a superb job constructing water and waste water systems in Iraq, and through his efforts, 5,000 detainees saw significantly improved quality-of-life conditions including air conditioning, bathing and foot-washing facilities, functional ice coolers for bottled water and improved hygienic latrine facilities.

Unlike typical air expeditionary force

usual soft-spoken manner, calmly told me how he was able to create a working network connection for all our computers using what appeared to me to be very austere parts he scrounged from somewhere.

The NIPR connections worked to near perfection and improved not only our ability to order materials from Baghdad and Balad, but it also boosted our morale by giving each Airman the ability, for a few minutes each day, to e-mail a short message home.

Amazed beyond imagination, I asked and found out that before joining the Air Force, Airman “M” was one of only two Microsoft-certified network engineers on the island of Guam.

In fact, he was the network administrator for the University of Micronesia-Guam Campus.

When in awe, I asked him why he became a CE plumber instead of a communications officer, he replied: “Well Sir, computers are going to be around forever ... but I’ve always had this dream to be a plumber.”

His answer blew me away.

What’s the moral of this story?

Despite being the unit commander and believing I knew everyone pretty darn well, I didn’t know this crucial bit of information about this Airman’s background.

He taught me there are many hidden skills and talents all of us possess, and to know your troops is to posture your unit for success. (AFNEWS)

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*People are the mission and without people, you have no mission.*

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rotations where Air Force assets are supported by Air Force communications support, ours was not.

We knew prior to deploying that the Army did not have communications assets to support us, but we were unable to deploy with an organic, stand-alone communications capability.

Once in the area of responsibility, we tried unsuccessfully to beg, borrow, steal, develop or worm our way into some sort of network that would provide a rudimentary non-secure Internet protocol router, or NIPR, capability.

After many failed attempts and frustration, Airman “M” came to see me one evening and asked if he could spend his off-duty time looking at our computers. I consented.

The next day, Airman “M,” in his

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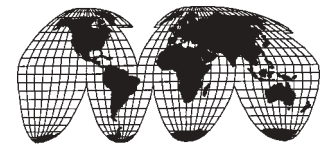
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Air Force Reserve Home Page

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

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## Black history: Military service tradition continues

By Master Sgt. Kevin  
McWashington

301st Aerospace Medicine Squadron

FORT WORTH, Texas – Back in 1915, teacher, historian and author Carter G. Woodson proposed in a time to celebrate nationwide Negro History Week. Through twists and turns, his proposal has gone on to become what we now know as Black History Month, celebrated every February.

One of the main purposes of Black History Month is to recognize events in our past that still affect us today.

Looking through the window of history, there are several milestones in our nation's evolution that resonate in the depths of our culture.

Some events receive great attention. Others are more subtle, receiving little

fanfare, yet they are just as important in shaping and molding this country we as military members love and serve.

War Department General Order No. 143 is one of those less-remembered but important events in our history.

Issued on May 22, 1863, the order established the Bureau of Colored Troops.

In his article, *First to Fight*, author John Raymond Gourdin wrote, "Prior to the establishment of the Bureau, colored regiments were organized and supported by state governments in free states and in areas in Confederate states occupied and controlled by Federal troops.

However, after the establishment of the Bureau, those regiments that were previously raised by state governments and carried state designations were

redesignated as regiments of United States Colored Troops and assigned a USCT number."

Although no longer considered colored, Americans of African descent continue to agree with the fundamentals and principles established by General Order 143.

Accepting the opportunity to serve, defending the borders we dwell within and upholding the integrity of law permeate through those of us who continue the tradition of military service to this great nation today as our ancestors did in the past.

February is not only a time to reflect, but more importantly, a time of growth. By understanding the struggles and progress made by our predecessors, we are obliged to follow their lead and improve our country. (AFRCNS)

## Iron Falcon, from page 1



U.S. Air Force photo

A Royal Air Force Tornado pops out from the contrails of a Grissom KC-135 as it approaches for a refueling.

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"Busy doesn't truly paint the picture," said Sergeant Morgan.

Even though it was busy, it was a great experience, Morgan said, we got to fly and work with several different countries. I really enjoyed it."

The missions were between 6-7 hours each and a variety of aircraft were refueled from countries such as United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and France, in addition to Pakistan.

"Those that represented the tanker community from Grissom did so very well, from both our maintainers and our aircrew members. They worked tireless hours and did a great job," Colonel Conway said.

"The true experience of our two boom operators was both called on and required – and they met every challenge very well," he said.

Grissom maintainers played a vital role in the exercise ensuring that the lone KC-135 was mission ready at all times. Without their efforts, all aerial refueling activities would have come to a halt.

"It was a very successful operation. We provided valuable air refueling training," he added.

"The tanker community can be a strong part in that coalition for years to come, and I think we did a very good job building a solid foundation for future relations," Colonel Conway said.

"The relationships we built may pay dividends down the road, because you never know when you will be hooked together on the boom again in some other situation in some other place," he added.

# MSF gets diamond in the rough

By SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner  
Public Affairs staff

Just as a diamond undergoes a long and difficult process while becoming a gem, passing through pressure and stress, and being cut, polished and refined, so must those who call themselves first sergeants.

Master Sgt. Kevin Smith, who was recently selected as the 434th Mission Support Flight first sergeant, will undergo his polishing at the First Sergeant's Academy, Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Ala., this month.

Sergeant Smith comes from a family with an Air Force heritage, which is why he joined the Air Force Reserve almost 22 years ago.

"My dad served on active duty in the Air Force for 26 years, so I have lived on many bases and have grown up with a love for my country and a love for the military, and I have a high respect for those individuals who also serve in any branch of the armed forces," said Sergeant Smith. "For me, the Air Force has been a way of life and one of my passions."

Before his selection as first shirt, Sergeant Smith, a Kokomo, Ind., native, had been a logistics management specialist for eight years. During that time, his responsibilities included preparing troops for deployments and re-deployments, monitoring deployed personnel and cargo, reviewing planning documents and assisting with bed-down of combat forces.

After his time in logistics, Sergeant Smith said he was looking for a new challenge that dealt with his enjoyment of being around people and helping the resolve their issues. Seeing what capabilities a first sergeant had to help others, Sergeant Smith said he jumped on the position.

When asked about his new position, he said first sergeants act as the liaison between the enlisted force and the commander.

He added he is proud to fill this role for this 434th MSF and takes his new job very seriously.

"I feel I am here to help others as



Sergeant Smith

the need arises," he said. "This is definitely a role I feel is very important and one I hold in high regard; I want to be there for others and will give 100 percent to the unit."

Sergeant Smith and his wife Julie, have two children, Kyle and Sarah.

In the civilian world, he is an electronics technician for a company in Kokomo.

Looking ahead to his polishing at the First Sergeant Academy, Sergeant Smith said that he is looking forward to the challenge it will provide.

"I know that I will come away with an increased knowledge base in regards to my position and the person that I am," he said.

Sergeant Smith said there is one thing he wants all Grissom personnel to know as he takes on his new duties.

"I believe in people, I believe we are all here for a reason and that each and everyone should be valued, and I look for the best in others and know that we all have our faults," he said. "I value integrity, honesty, responsibility and cooperation along with many other virtues in people, and I want individuals to know that they can come to me at any given time."

# Annual award

## LRS first sergeant named base's best

By SrA. Chris Bolen  
Public Affairs staff

Being a people person is part of being a

first sergeant. Excelling at that, may earn you the respect of your peers – it did just that for Master Sgt.



Sergeant Carter

James

Carter, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron. He was selected as Grissom's first sergeant of the year.

Sergeant Carter just began his assignment with the 434th LRS, prior to that he was the first sergeant for the 434th Security Forces Squadron.

Sergeant Carter has 20 years of military service and was recognized for demonstrating professionalism and advanced leadership skills.

"I deeply appreciate the support of Grissom personnel," the Chicago resident said. "My job is people, and the success I have had is due to being surrounded by good troops."

In his civilian occupation, Sergeant Carter is a member of the Chicago Police Department, and is working to complete a masters degree in business management at St. Xavier University in Chicago.

Sergeant Carter joins Grissom's other annual award winners in competing for 4th Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command honors in their respective categories.

# Wing Top 3 organizes T-shirt design contest underway

By SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner  
Public Affairs staff

The first ever 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing Top 3 was recently organized and is already making headway while providing senior NCOs with four key pieces to success, said Chief Master Sergeant Peri Rogowski, 434<sup>th</sup> ARW command chief.

These pieces, key to the role of senior NCOs, are mentorship, morale (which includes recognition), networking and leadership opportunities, added Chief Rogowski.

Grissom has several unit level Top 3 organizations already in place, but there has never been a wing-level program here.

Currently, squadron and group-level Top 3 organizations have functioned well, but these groups basically take care of their own, she said.

The Wing Top 3 will allow senior NCOs to influence the entire wing while focusing on the four leadership pieces, she added.

“One of the biggest things the Top 3 will focus on is the mentoring piece,” she said. “We will teach senior NCOs mentoring techniques by giving them other senior NCOs to look to for advice and experience.”

Another crucial part the new organization will focus on is the networking piece, giving enlisted members leadership experience with networking and the ability to take care of their people, said Chief Rogowski.

“With the way we deploy in AEF cycles, individual people need to know how to network; the new Top 3 will give senior NCOs the opportunity to network with people around base who they may not have ever dealt with,” she said. “It’s a great tool for us to work together and form as a team.”

While allowing senior NCOs to learn these valuable leadership tools, the Top 3 will play a major role in planning and running functions designed to increase the quality of life around base.

“We want it to be more than a booster club,” the chief said. “We want it to allow senior NCOs to participate in the planning of events at a wing level.”

The command chief also wanted to make sure that everyone knew the new Wing Top 3 will not replace the current senior NCO organizations, but it will incorporate individuals from each of them.

“We do not want to dissolve any of the squadron or unit level Top 3s,” she stated. “Right now, the Wing Top 3 is composed of representatives from each squadron.”

Despite just starting out, the organization has already come up with a wing-wide event.

“We wanted to start off the Top 3 with a T-shirt contest,” said Chief Rogowski. “This is a way base members can support the Top 3 and the wing as money will be put back into the units that support our base here and its quality of life programs.”

In trying to keep with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Mosley’s passion for history and remembering Air Force heritage, the Top 3 came up with suggested guidelines for the T-shirt.

The group recommends the front of the shirt have the wing crest, or Grissom or 434<sup>th</sup> ARW identified in some way, and the back list the history of the wing’s deployment and operational involvement.

“These guidelines are suggested ones, but we are open to all ideas,” said Chief Rogowski. “I would love to see what folks come up with.”

The winning shirt will be authorized to be worn under the BDU blouse and the designer will be both recognized and rewarded for their efforts.

The deadline for design submissions is noon, March 4, and all submissions must be made to Chief Rogowski.

Submissions would be preferred in an electronic format, but hand-drawn designs are also welcome.

## ESGR seeks input for employer awards

By Samantha Quigley  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is looking for a few good employers to recognize this year.

The committee, in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, announced that it has begun accepting nominations for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards.

The nomination process will conclude Feb. 28.

National Guardsmen, reservists or their family members can nominate an employer by completing the 2007 Freedom Award nomination form on the ESGR web site at:

<http://esgr.org/fap.asp>

ESGR field committees will review the nominations and have the option to present three nominations per committee for review by the National Selection Board, which will select up to 15 recipients.

Founded in 1972, ESGR’s mission is to gain and maintain active support from public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. It also is a member of America Supports You, a Defense Department program showcasing ways Americans are supporting the nation’s servicemembers.

“I am encouraging all National Guardsmen and reservists worldwide and their family members to visit the ESGR web site ... to nominate their employers for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award,” said Bob Hollingsworth, ESGR executive director.

“This prestigious national award recognizes supportive employers who provide exemplarily support above the (federal law) requirements for their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve,” he added.



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

### ***Dribble penetration***

Gerald Merchant, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron, drives past James Goodman, 434th Maintenance Squadron, during their first round tournament matchup. LRS clamped down on the maintainers and won the game 27-21 to advance to the second round of the annual competition where they'll face the security forces team at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at the fitness center.

### **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. 10-11; and March 3-4.

Alternate UTAs are Feb. 24-25; and March 17-18.

**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.

### **Exchange**

The base exchange is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays of the main and alternate UTAs and from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Sundays of the main and alternate UTAs.

### **Web page**

Military and civilian members can keep up to date on the latest happenings at Grissom by visiting the public web site.

The address is:

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

The web site is updated on a near daily basis and provides information in a timely manner that affects Grissom Airmen and civilians.

For more information about the web  
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site or items on it, contact the Public Affairs office at Ext. 3348.

### Travel vouchers

The finance office now only requires one legible copy of the travel voucher (DD form 1351-2) to be submitted when filing a travel claim.

For more information, contact the travel section at Ext. 3686.

### Bundles for babies

The Airman and Family Readiness Center will host another bundles for babies class during the February unit training assembly.

The class is designed for new or expecting mothers and provides a variety of information for expanding families.

For more information, or to register, contact the center at Ext. 4812, or toll free at 1-800-234-6911.

### Senior NCO course

Grissom will host a two-day senior leadership course March 24-25.

Approximately 50 senior NCOs from AFRC will be here to participate in the course. Grissom has about 16-20 slots.

Unit first sergeants have more information, and can provide details for registering for the class.

### Honor guard

The Grissom Honor Guard is looking for highly motivated members to become a part of their team.

The honor guard assists with military funeral honors, retirements, parades, change of command ceremonies and various other events.

Interested candidates should be in accordance with current dress and appearance regulations, be able to march, fire a weapon and stand for prolonged periods of time. In addition, members must have their supervisor and commander's approval to participate.

To help prepare potential members, a training class will be held March 26-30 at Grissom.

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason at Ext. 4221 or email her at

Linda.mason@grissom.af.mil

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Photo by SrA. Omar Delacruz

### UTA tailgating

Senior Airman Mike Maddux, right, and Staff Sgt. Jason Barnett, watch the first round playoff game with Indianapolis Colts against the Kansas City Chiefs during the January unit training assembly. The 434th Services Flight hosted a tailgating party for unit members at Chocks during the game.

## In the limelight

### Medals

**Meritorious Service Medal**—Master Sgt. Paul Peterson, 434<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron; Lt. Col. Leonard Noens, 434<sup>th</sup> CES; and Master Sgt. Espiridion Gonzalez, 434<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron.

**Air Force Commendation Medal**—Capt. John Tomczak, 434<sup>th</sup> CES; Tech. Sgt. Terence Shereck, 434<sup>th</sup> CES; Tech. Sgt. Bruce Jordan, 434<sup>th</sup> CES; and Master Sgt. David Duch, 434<sup>th</sup> CES.

**Air Force Achievement Medal**—Senior Airman Tanisha Timmons, 434<sup>th</sup> Services Flight; Staff Sgt. Andrew Julius, 434<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron; Senior Airman Matthew Hammer, 434<sup>th</sup> SFS; and Tech. Sgt. Louis Chaison, 434<sup>th</sup> SVF.

### Promotions

**To senior master sergeant**—Richard Scully, 434<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron.

**To master sergeant**—Christopher Schock, 434<sup>th</sup> MXS; John Moreland, 434<sup>th</sup> MXS; and Brett Lewis, 434<sup>th</sup> MXS.

**To technical sergeant**—Curtis Bullick, 434<sup>th</sup> MXS; Rodney Mitchell, 434<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron; and Roy Murphy, 434<sup>th</sup> MXS.

**To staff sergeant**—Timothy Augustyn, 434<sup>th</sup> SFS; Charles Coyne, 74<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron; Joseph Demore, 434<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Robert Haswell, 434<sup>th</sup> OSS; Elizabeth Kowalski, 434<sup>th</sup> SFS; Misty McKinney, 434<sup>th</sup> CES; Elizabeth Romero, 72<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling Squadron; Marilyn Sabido, 434<sup>th</sup> CES; Christopher Sterling, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS; Frederick Weigt, 434<sup>th</sup> AMXS; and Ashley Huhnke, 74<sup>th</sup> ARS.

# RESERVE PAY FOR 4 DRILLS

PAY GRADE	YEARS OF SERVICE														
	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
<b>COMMISSIONED OFFICERS</b>															
O-10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1821.20	1830.12	1868.16	1934.48
O-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1592.88	1615.80	1648.96	1706.84
O-8	1127.08	1163.96	1188.48	1195.32	1225.88	1276.96	1288.84	1337.36	1351.24	1393.04	1453.44	1509.20	1546.44	1546.44	1546.44
O-7	936.52	980.00	1000.16	1016.16	1045.12	1073.72	1106.84	1139.84	1172.96	1276.96	1364.80	1364.80	1364.80	1364.80	1371.72
O-6	694.16	762.56	812.60	812.60	815.68	850.68	855.28	855.28	903.88	989.84	1040.28	1090.68	1119.36	1148.40	1204.76
O-5	578.64	651.84	697.00	705.48	733.60	750.48	787.52	814.68	849.76	903.52	929.08	954.40	983.08	983.08	983.08
O-4	499.28	577.96	616.52	625.12	660.92	699.28	747.04	784.32	810.16	825.00	833.64	833.64	833.64	833.64	833.64
O-3	438.96	497.64	537.12	585.60	613.60	644.40	664.36	697.12	714.12	714.12	714.12	714.12	714.12	714.12	714.12
O-2	379.24	431.96	497.52	514.32	524.88	524.88	524.88	524.88	524.88	524.88	524.88	524.88	524.88	524.88	524.88
O-1	329.24	342.64	414.20	414.20	414.20	414.20	414.20	414.20	414.20	414.20	414.20	414.20	414.20	414.20	414.20

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER 4 YEARS ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE AS AN ENLISTED MEMBER OR WARRANT OFFICER

O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	585.60	613.60	644.40	664.36	697.12	724.72	740.56	762.12	762.12	762.12	762.12	762.12
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	514.32	524.88	541.60	569.80	591.60	607.84	607.84	607.84	607.84	607.84	607.84	607.84
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	414.20	442.36	458.68	475.40	491.84	514.32	514.32	514.32	514.32	514.32	514.32	514.32

## ENLISTED MEMBERS

E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	548.08	560.52	576.16	594.60	613.12	642.88	668.04	694.56	735.04
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	448.64	468.52	480.80	495.52	511.44	540.24	554.84	579.64	593.40	627.32
E-7	311.88	340.40	353.44	370.76	384.20	407.36	420.36	433.36	456.56	468.16	479.16	485.88	508.64	523.36	560.56
E-6	269.76	296.80	309.92	322.64	335.92	365.88	377.52	390.44	401.80	405.80	408.60	408.60	408.60	408.60	408.60
E-5	247.20	263.72	276.44	289.52	309.84	327.32	340.20	344.28	344.28	344.28	344.28	344.28	344.28	344.28	344.28
E-4	226.60	238.20	251.08	263.80	275.04	275.04	275.04	275.04	275.04	275.04	275.04	275.04	275.04	275.04	275.04
E-3	204.56	217.44	230.56	230.56	230.56	230.56	230.56	230.56	230.56	230.56	230.56	230.56	230.56	230.56	230.56
E-2	194.52	194.52	194.52	194.52	194.52	194.52	194.52	194.52	194.52	194.52	194.52	194.52	194.52	194.52	194.52
E-1 >4	173.52	173.52	173.52	173.52	173.52	173.52	173.52	173.52	173.52	173.52	173.52	173.52	173.52	173.52	173.52
E-1 <4	160.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## Security and Services members exercise in Texas

By SrA. Ben Mota  
Public Affairs staff

Forty-one members of the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing are attending a training exercise called Patriot Defender at Camp Swift, Texas.

Thirty-six 434th Security Forces Squadron members will participate in the two week exercise designed to refresh basic security skills.

The exercise gives individuals who have not deployed the opportunity to experience what it is like if they were in a combat environment said Master Sgt. Tony Cochran, a security response team leader, and one of the individuals attending the exercise.

The training is set up in three phases. During the first phase of classroom training, students refresh

skills ranging from vehicle searches and weapons training to land navigation and convoy operations.

One of the training tools during the first phase is a virtual convoy operations trainer, provided by the Texas Army National Guard. Using virtual reality, the high-tech trainer allows up to nine students at a time to navigate a virtual convoy down enemy streets.

In the second phase Airman begin to train in building clearing, squad movements and building defense in an urban environment.

At the end of this training period Airmen are given the practical exercise of clearing and securing a building occupied by opposing forces played by the training cadre. The next morning, roles are reversed and the students set up defenses to protect their building.

In the final phase, a three-day field training exercise will focus on patrol, convoy and main defensive line tactics. The students apply lessons learned to accomplish the missions on their daily operations order, while at the same time guarding themselves and their base against attacks.

In addition to the security forces, members from the 434<sup>th</sup> Services Flight will provide meal support, breakfast and supper, for approximately 150 security forces from a kitchen at the camp, said Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Webb, a services specialist.

Services will also set up and run several recreation activities such as running movies, card tournaments, and other activities still to be determined.

The Training is scheduled to end on Feb 10.