

Heartland

Warrior

Vol. 12, No. 3

March 2007

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



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

Getting ready

Maj. Liesl Carter, a KC-135R Stratotanker pilot, runs through her pre-departure checklist prior to an aerial refueling mission recently. Major Carter and other members of the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron have historical patches commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force. The patches are intended to remind members of the tradition and history of their unit. Members may wear the patches during several special observances during the year.

Web-based MPF brings changes *Savings, efficiency expected by move*

By SrA. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs Staff

The times they are a changing. In the field of military personnel, the change is designed to improve service.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver is in the early stages of transition to a web-based personnel service system referred to as personnel services delivery, or PSD.

The change is designed to centralize personnel functions through web-based applications. The bottom line is to have the web replace most in-person contacts with military personnel flights and thereby realize the advantages of accuracy, expanded capability and cost savings.

According to ARPC figures, 10 percent of personnel transactions now occur online with five percent of transactions handled by phone and 85 percent handled face-to-face at unit MPF customer service desks. The goal is to nearly reverse those figures with 85 percent service online, 10 percent by phone and five percent face-to-face.

“The change is an attempt to stream-line the personnel operation and make it more efficient,” said Lt. Col. Dan Harrison, 434th Mission Support Flight commander. “The new system makes each individual more

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You are the Air Force's most valuable resource

By Lt. Col. Daniel Liggins
319th Communications Squadron

Transformation. Modernization. Force shaping. Lean reengineering. Recapitalizing the force.

If you're in today's Air Force, chances are you've heard one of these buzzwords that all allude to the myriad changes taking place across our service.

Multiple, radical changes are nothing new to the military way of life.

As a matter of fact, changes have been taking place since the Air Force was born 60 years ago in 1947.

Perhaps you've heard some form of the old adage, "If you don't like today's changes, just stick around long enough and we'll come full circle."

Fortunately, there is one thing that has remained constant: People are the Air Force's most valuable resource. You are the Air Force's most valuable resource.

Sure, there are days when we don't feel that way. Force shaping and reduction-in-force boards don't exactly make us feel invaluable or give us warm fuzzy feelings.

But the fact of the matter is, without you, the Air Force mission would never get accomplished.

True enough, technology has enabled

us to perform a number of tasks with far fewer people than we needed in the past.

Gone are the days when the squadron secretary typed up your temporary duty orders and you had to bug your resource advisor for a fund cite.

Now it's all done electronically, through AROWS (or ReserveNet). And 10 years ago, who among us envisioned a "virtual" military personnel flight where everything was done

that can provide us with unimaginable quantities of data, but without a person analyzing these products, they would never become coherent, actionable information.

It is critical that military leaders maximize their Airmen's potential by fostering an environment of respect and trust.

Part of this is ensuring our folks have the training and education necessary to perform their duties to the utmost of their ability.

A piece of equipment may be able to flawlessly perform the same function over and over again, but only a person has the ability to adapt and overcome ever-

changing conditions occurring on the battlefield.

Never have these attributes been more important than in the continuing war on terrorism.

Machines and equipment are merely tools and a means to accomplish the mission, and it is leadership's responsibility to ensure our Airmen have the necessary resources to succeed.

Force recapitalization is helping to provide our Airmen with the best, most modern equipment available.

But you are more than a means to an end. You make mission accomplishment possible. You are undoubtedly the Air Force's most valuable resource. (AFNS)

No modernized piece of equipment can provide the ingenuity, innovativeness and flexibility of the human mind.

on-line?

Although we've been able to streamline many of our processes, it is still people who perform the Air Force mission.

Today's Airmen are the brightest, most talented to ever enter the military.

No modernized piece of equipment can provide the ingenuity, innovativeness and flexibility of the human mind.

Today, we have an unmanned aerial vehicle, but without the human controlling that aircraft, it would wander aimlessly and fail to achieve its desired objective.

Yes, we have information systems

Heartland Warrior

Vol. 12, No.3
March 2007

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

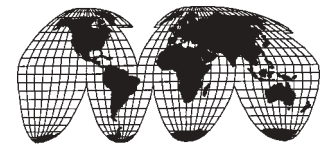
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The editorial content is edited, and prepared by the Public Affairs Office of the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, IN, 46971-5000.

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World Wide Web

Air Force Reserve Home Page

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

Grissom Home Page

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

Financial analysis civilian tops in command

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

When a group of inspectors swoop in, and rate your program the ‘best program seen’ that makes a statement.

That’s what a unit compliance inspection team had to say about Marilyn Bennett, and the Air Force Reserve Command agreed, naming her the command’s Financial Analysis Civilian of the Year.

“It is a great feeling to be recognized by my peers, but I owe everything I am or will ever be to the God I serve,” said Ms. Bennett.

Ms. Bennett developed a comprehensive resource management training class for 434th Air Refueling Wing resource advisors and cost center managers. The program received rave reviews from a unit compliance inspection team.

In addition, her guidance, training and direction were key factors in the successful execution of Grissom’s



Marilyn Bennett

\$100 million-plus budget, said Mike Ayers, Grissom comptroller.

“She has an uncompromising attention to detail and meticulous record keeping,” Mr. Ayers said. “Her scrutiny helped her to identify areas

where funds could be released for more mission critical wing needs.”

“Her actions enabled the wing to meet its day-to-day training requirements while meeting the standing strategic integrated operations plan and other short or no-notice mission taskings at the same time,” he added.

In her duties, Ms. Bennett works with unit resource advisors and senior commanders to ensure spending decisions maximize the value of each dollar spent.

She personally validated the unfunded requirements list for fiscal year-end close out. By doing so she ensured the wing was ready to commit any last-minute funding provided to the 434th Air Refueling Wing.

“Marilyn is the epitome of ‘excellence in all we do,’” Mr. Ayers added. “She is a team leader in every aspect of her personal and professional life and balances the workload demands across the full-time and Reserve teams.”

Grissom quality assurance manger best in AFRC

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Being the gold standard is how Judi Behny’s supervisor describes the financial quality assurance specialist. The Air Force Reserve Command describes her as the Quality Assurance Manager of the Year for the installation level.

Mrs. Behny works closely with 434th Air Refueling Wing personnel to ensure those with government travel cards keep their accounts current. As a result, the number of card delinquencies and the dollars associated with them was significantly reduced from previous years.

“I do my best to stress the importance of meeting goals set forth by higher headquarters within the comptroller organization and the government travel card program,” she said. “Thanks to the continued support of comptroller and wing personnel, these goals are realized.”

“Judi has one of the best track records in the command relative to monthly and quarterly financial report submissions,” explained Mike Ayers, comptroller. “There is no other QA manager in the command that has the breadth of experience that she has.”

She provides comprehensive oversight of travel, military pay, civilian pay and accounting liaison operations.

Despite continued changeover of personnel and increased operations tempo supporting the Air Force mission in the global war on terror, Mrs. Behny managed and saw improved accuracy and timeliness of payment for government travel payments, Mr. Ayers stated.

“Her expertise and no-nonsense approach are the tools that she brings to bear on problem identification and resolution,” he added. “Her programs



Judi Behny

are known to be the best and she is the person other units turn to for help when questions or problems arise in a quality assurance program. Without a doubt, she’s the best in the business.”

Medical squadron adds social worker to its staff

By SrA Benjamin Mota
Public Affairs staff

“For every decision we make in life there is a benefit and a price.”

These are the professional words of wisdom Capt. Curtis Deloach, the new clinical social worker for the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, uses to explain some of the things he deals with in his sessions.

His main duties consist of performing evaluations for potential mental health and substance abuse issues among military personnel at Grissom.

“I enjoy the interaction between the client and the therapist,” said the captain with a smile. “But most important of all, I enjoy seeing the progress clients make when they receive my services.”

The captain uses his bag of tools to help military members develop long term thinking skills designed to correct problematic behaviors.

He has been doing social work for

20 years and decided to join the Air Force Reserve Command at age 43 after receiving a letter requesting his services, he said.

The letter expressed the military's need for social workers and asked him if he would like to join.

“As a civilian social worker it was common for me to have clients who had been discharged from the military and were in need of social services,” he said.

“I thought that joining the Air Force would give me the opportunity to help those individuals cope with many of the issues experienced by military members before the problems occur.”

Although nervous about his decision to join the Air Force, his wife and three children support him, he said. “My wife believes in her heart that it was the right thing to do.”

“Having the resource of a social worker has already been beneficial for the members of the base,” he said.

“It’s another way the Air Force can

continue with what has clearly been the tradition of truly investing in and taking care of its members.”

Military members with issues such as divorce, substance abuse, and other stressful lifetime events can consult with him in a confidential manner.

“People are afraid of what will happen if they come and see me, but most therapeutic issues do not affect an individual’s ability to do their job or their ability to grow in rank,” said Deloach. “Many problems tend to be one-session-worries.”

One-session-worries are problems that can usually be resolved with a short one-time-visit and some follow-up advice to ensure that his tools are working.

He is excited about his career in the Air Force and looks forward to learning the customs and courtesies.

“I still have a lot to learn, but I feel very strong about my future here at Grissom,” he added.

Personnel, from page 1

responsible for their own affairs.”

The most visible and useful means to accomplish the PSD quest, the virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve portal, known as vPC-GR, is taking on a life of its own.

First brought to life in March 2006, vPC-GR is being rolled out in phases with each successive phase adding more capability to the system.

In vPC-GR’s first months, reservists could correct duty history online. As the system matured in capability, members could, among other things, find out and correct current points, obtain a 20-year letter re-issue, choose a Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan and sign up for Tricare Reserve Select.

For Airmen at Grissom the changes will soon become apparent. “We are now directed to tell people to go to the web to do more of their personal stuff on-line,” said Master Sgt Steven Douglas, 434th MSF, deputy superintendent, “It’s a good thing, it gives the



Photo by SrA. Chris Bolen

Master Sgt. Steven Douglas, 434th Mission Support Flight, assists a reservist with a personnel question. Most face to face interaction with customer service personnel will start to phase out with transition to personnel services delivery.

individual more independence to take care of their own affairs.”

“Our role is becoming advisors rather than doers,” Colonel Harrison said. “It is like the commercial side, this is already out there, you don’t fill out forms and walk them to human

resources.”

An awards and decoration request page is the latest feature added to the site and on the horizon, functions for separations, re-enlistments, promotions, retraining and more are slated to be added.

Most retirement actions are now done on line.

However, the human element has not totally been removed from the system and members experiencing difficulties can call the vPC-GR Contact Center at (880) 525-0102, DSN 926-6528, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. mountain standard time, Monday through Friday and 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. MST, on the first Saturday and Sunday of each month to talk with customer service counse-

lors. Or log on at: <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/>

It is the wave of the future Sergeant Douglas commented. “Most young people are technically savvy, and the old way of doing things is going the way of the dinosaur.”

Grissom to host SNCO leadership course

By SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

Having the right tools in any job can mean the difference between success and failure, and this fact reigns true for Air Force leadership.

With this in mind, Grissom has the opportunity to give not only its members, but senior NCOs from around Air Force Reserve Command the tools they need to succeed at this year's Senior NCO Leadership Course March 24 and 25.

"This is a two-day leadership course focused on intense training," said Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski, 434th Air Refueling Wing command chief. "This is an excellent opportunity for senior NCOs because it will help them learn key skills in team building as well as give them tools in practical applications of leadership."

The course is built around different modules, said Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Jackman, 434th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant. The sections will focus on leadership and trust, teamwork, communication, creativity, negotiation and conflict resolution, career progression, motivation, recognition and leadership planning.

"These topics are designed to not only provide senior NCOs with affirmation with the skills they already know but provide them with tools in their tool kit that help them deal with more contemporary issues," added Chief Jackman, who has been a facilitator of the course since its inception in 1998.

All of these things lead to senior NCOs move from the tactical level, which is leading themselves and being the doer, to the operational realm, which is leading and working through others, he said.

Chief Rogowski stated that getting this program to be held at Grissom was no easy task.

The base had to apply and be weighed through a selection process before a decision was made to have it here.

Other bases applied but only a handful were actually chosen to host the course.

"Part of the reason we were selected was due to our central location



Chief Rogowski

and our wonderful facilities that can handle this event," said Chief Rogowski. "When (Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Mitchell, 4th Air Force command chief) visited our base, he was impressed with what we had to offer and fully endorsed our hosting the course."

Grissom being selected as host for this program allows for several benefits for both the base and its members, stated Chief Jackman.

"Because the base is hosting the event, half of the 50 slots are allotted to Grissom personnel," said Chief Rogowski. "These slots are all already filled up and the remaining will go to Airmen from other 4th Air Force bases."

"This will bring exposure to Grissom and our people," explained Chief Jackman. "It will be an opportunity to showcase our base and our ability of what we can do."

Despite Grissom's slots being filled, Chief Rogowski does not want people to get discouraged from trying to attend one of these courses.

"If they can't get in here, they should really try and get in at another base," she said. "The program isn't required, but it is highly encouraged and offers invaluable skills."

Training program aims to re-blue Airmen

By SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

They're not joining the famous Blue Man comedic group and they are not all die-hard Colt's fans, but a group of Grissom's Airmen will be "re-blued."

Members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing will undergo a class designed to cover Air Force basics during the March unit training assembly, said Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski, 434th ARW command chief. In essence the Airmen will be re-blued as they are reintroduced to key fundamentals of the Air Force.

The class will be offered starting Saturday at 8 a.m. and will last through the UTA and will cover Air Force **March 2007**

customs and courtesies as well as dress and appearance standards for most Air Force uniforms.

"This class is unique because it goes over all the various Air Force uniforms, including the ones we don't have here at Grissom like the hospital whites," said Chief Rogowski. "Airmen need to know about these, so when they encounter them, they know what is proper and what isn't."

First sergeants will pick from their units members, who will be the first to go, said Chief Rogowski, but added that Airmen wishing to participate in this program can volunteer by talking with their first sergeants.

"This first re-bluing will be led by a group from Travis Air Force Base,

Calif.," she said. "After that, Grissom will be given control of the program."

The chief also stated the two-hour re-bluing program will be incorporated into the newcomers' program already in place, so Airmen new to the Air Force will get a crash course in current standards. Along with being used for newcomers, the program will eventually be given to all Airmen on base, she added.

"This program will help us in two ways," Chief Rogowski said. "It will keep us aware of any changes in policy and will help us prepare our people for off-base deployments."

Airman with questions about the program or who want to volunteer should see their first sergeant.

Main gate relocates for construction project

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Traffic is flowing in and out of Grissom differently now as the contractors are moving forward on a \$3.2 million front gate renovation project.

Traffic into and out of the base is now routed to the North Gate located on Thunderbolt Avenue, which is west of Foreman Avenue and about two blocks north of the current main gate at the intersection at Hoosier Boulevard and Foreman Avenue.

“We’ll have signs up in the vicinity directing people to the gate,” said Maj. Randall Stivers, 434th Security Forces Squadron commander.

During the relocation, two ‘guard shacks’ will be in operation at the North Gate.

The first gate is where identifications and credentials will be checked. Those not having the proper identifica-



Photo by SrA. Omar Delacruz

Tech Sgt. Michael Miller, a 434 Security Forces Squadron, performs an identification check on a person arriving at the main gate. Grissom's main gate is now located on Thunderbolt Ave., just west of Foreman Drive.

tions can be routed down Alan Olsen Drive, which has been marked as a ‘one-way’ street.

Those requiring a vehicle pass will be directed to the second guard shack

located just inside the fence.

Traffic is scheduled to be re-routed until August while construction crews work to help alleviate traffic congestion and improve security at the main gate.

“The new main gate will give security forces a modern way to protect the assets on the base while at the same time making it possible to adjust checkpoint security levels as needed,” said Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander.

Part of the gate project includes a new visitor center, truck inspection facility, and a new parking area.

During the detour period

Major Stivers asked that drivers use extreme caution.

“The only thing between us and you are a few barriers, so we urge people to use caution,” he said.

Air Force Assistance Fund drive underway

This year’s Air Force Assistance Fund “Commitment to Caring” campaign, is underway and runs through May 4.

The drive will provide Airmen the opportunity to contribute to any of the four official Air Force charitable organizations.

At Grissom, Master Sgt. Dennis Godsey, 434th Military Personnel Flight, is the base’s project officer.

Now in its 34th year, 100-percent of designated AFAF contributions will benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Air Force people, surviving spouses and families. Last year, Airmen exceeded the campaign goal as they contributed more than \$7.33 million.

Workers will have a chance to contribute through cash, check, money order or payroll deduction to:

— **The Air Force Aid Society**, which provides Airmen and their families with worldwide emergency financial assistance, education assistance and an array of base level community-enhancement programs. Base airman and family readiness centers have full details on programs and eligibility requirements. Information is also available online at <http://www.afas.org/>.

— **The Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widows’ Fund** in Shalimar, Fla., near Eglin Air Force Base which provides rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted people 55 and older. More information is available at <http://www.afenlistedwidows.org>.

— **The Air Force Villages Indigent Widows’ Fund** in San Antonio,

a life-care community for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family members. The Air Force Villages Web site is <http://www.airforcevillages.com>.

— **The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation**, which provides rent and financial assistance to indigent widows and widowers of officers and enlisted people in their own homes and communities. The LeMay Foundation Web site is <http://www.afvw.com/lemay.html>.

Contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible.

For more information, visit <http://afassistancefund.org> or the Air Force Personnel Center’s Voting and Fundraising Web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

To learn more, contact Sergeant Godsey at Ext. 3278. (AFNS)



Photo by Senior Airman Omar Delacruz

Looking for a lane

Steven Scott, 434th Security Forces Squadron, makes a move against Justin Ramler, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron during second round action of Grissom's annual basketball tournament. Despite having only four players, the cops held the lead until the closing seconds when LRS's Brandon Williams hit a last second, buzzer-beating shot to give his team a 49-48 victory.

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 March 3-4; and April 14-15.

Alternate UTAs are March 17-18; and April 21-22.

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.

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal—Lt. Col. Michael Kolb, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Randy Munter, 434th Communications Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Ronald Lapkovitch, 434th CS; Senior Master Sgt. George Hornbeck, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron; Master Sgt. Robert Piovesan; 72nd ARS; and Master Sgt. James Carter, 434th Security Forces Squadron.

Air Force Achievement

Medal—Tech. Sgt. Mark Jasek, 434th SFS; Staff Sgt. Nicholas Stapleton, 434th SFS; and Master Sgt. Tony Cochran, 434th SFS.

Promotions

To senior master sergeant—Harry Fisher, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

To master sergeant—Raymond Butler, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Gregory Minnich, 434th Maintenance Squadron; and Terry

Rhea, 434th AMXS.

To technical sergeant—Adam Evans, 434th Air Refueling Wing.

To staff sergeant—Richard Schonegg, 434th CES; Joseph Hubbs, 434th AMXS; Brittany Arnett, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Joseph Cougan, 434th CES; Joshua Hardin, 434th AMXS; Milita Hopkins, 434th ARW; Ashlee Nemeth, 434th LRS; Gerald Smith, 434th AMXS; Jonna Sullivan, 434th Services Flight; Nicole Nadasky, 434th AMDS; and Benjamin Schenkel, 434th SFS.



Photo by SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner

Lining up

An F-16 Fighting Falcon pulls up for fuel from a KC-135R Stratotanker from the 434th Air Refueling Wing during a recent refueling mission. In an average year aircrews from the 434th ARW will log more than 5,500 flying hours and offload fuel to a variety of fighter, bomber, and cargo aircraft.

Engineers deploy for training, exercise

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Seventeen members of the 434th Civil Engineering Squadron got some hands-on combat skills training recently – and then got to put that training to the test.

The civil engineers deployed to Dobbins ARB, Georgia for the Air Expeditionary Force combat support training certification center where they got an opportunity to be certified on a variety of equipment.

“They teach you how to operate things you’d come across when deployed to a base environment,” said Master Sgt. Chuck Gill, 434th Civil Engineering Squadron operations superintendent.

“It’s a very relaxed environment at the TCC,” said 1st Lt. William Swanson, deployment commander.

“It’s a great place to learn. We trained on all the contingency equipment we’d get to use [during a deployment].”

From there the 17 members were joined by two other unit members and put those newly acquired skills to the test at Silver Flag, an exercise at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

“Silver Flag is a requirement for civil engineers,” Sergeant Gill said, “it puts all of us on the same page when it comes to responding to attacks and managing the equipment and resources we have as tools following those attacks.”

“This was a great training experience for our folks,” Sergeant Gill added, “at the TCC they got hands on training, and then got validation of that knowledge at Silver Flag.”

“It was very beneficial,” reiterated Lieutenant Swanson. “They throw everything at you during the exercise

and let you work it all out.”

Six members were selected as superior performers during the Silver Flag exercise – including the entire four-man utilities team – something that was a first, he said.

One scenario involved the sabotage of the reverse osmosis water proliferation unit, a life line in a deployed environment. The utilities team excelled in correcting the problem and ensuring fresh water was available.

“Water and runways are our main factors in a bare-base environment,” the lieutenant said. “Our utilities guys really excelled!”

Other superior performers came from the carpentry and electrical fields.

The two-week training may be over, but Lieutenant Swanson said it was very beneficial, and will be good for the unit as a whole.