

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

Security forces members return from Iraq



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Tech. Sgt. Foy Cox, 434th Security Forces Squadron, greets his wife Jane upon his return to Grissom recently. Thirteen members of the 434th SFS returned home following a six-month deployment to Iraq.

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Thirteen members of the 434th Security Forces Squadron returned from a six-month deployment to Kirkuk, AB Iraq recently.

The team departed Grissom in August for Kirkuk to provide integrated security for the 506th Air Expeditionary Group and multi-national forces stationed there. During the deployment they were assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

The members patrolled mostly on base and kept watch on the outlying areas from observation points.

"We did a lot of SALUTE reports," said Tech. Sgt. Foy Cox, the deployers' squad leader.

The SALUTE report is used to report the size, activities, location, unit designation, time and date, and equipment of hostile or enemy forces.

"We worked the largest section of the base," he said. "We could basically look right downtown in Kirkuk."

We'd be on the lookout for insurgents setting up vehicle borne improvised explosive devices and report them and keep an eye on them as best we could," he said. "We also looked for roadside improvised explosive devices being set up or planted near common convoy routes."

"The troops felt frustration in being restricted to the base and unable to respond to the incidents they were calling in at the time," he added.

Responding to the call was the responsibility of the Army and coalition forces along with explosives ordnance

Please see 'Security forces,' page 3

Mentoring, opportunity, diversity

Learn about, get involved with Grissom's HRDC

By Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason
74th Air Refueling Squadron

HRDC...do you know what that means?

As new members join the Grissom family coming from active duty, out of technical school or from another branch of service, acronyms are tossed around and meanings are left out – like HRDC.

The acronym HRDC stands for the Human Resource Development Council.

This is a committee comprised of members at Grissom from around the wing. It is an open forum and anyone is eligible to participate.

The group focuses on three things: mentoring; opportunity; and diversity.

Mentoring is something we do on a daily basis although we may not always document it. When we show someone how to perform their job, when we take time to help others with problems, we are mentoring.

On the flip side, what are you as an individual doing to make yourself marketable and promotable so you in turn will have the necessary skills to mentor others?

Are you on track with your career development courses and professional military education?

Are you taking additional classes that will broaden your horizon?

A mentor is an example, a leader, a person someone looks up to. Are you this individual?

During this primary unit training assembly, members of the 434th will have an opportunity to learn more about mentoring from a special presentation from Col. Mary Hittmeier.

Opportunity is another focus of the HRDC.

If you would like to become involved in wing activities, some you can get involved in along with the HRDC are the



wing enlisted advisory council.

Their purpose is to have members bring concerns to this platform for possible resolution.

In other words, what are you unhappy about or what can the wing do to make life for you as a Reservist better?

Another opportunity for service is the Grissom Honor Guard.

Their primary responsibility is to provide military funeral honors to active duty, retirees and veterans who have served faithfully.

The Grissom Honor Guard also participates in retirement and change of command ceremonies along with a host of community service activities to include parades, major sporting events, school functions and more.

If you are interested in learning more about the Honor Guard, contact me at Linda.mason@grissom.af.mil.

Grissom will hold its an annual family appreciation day picnic on Saturday of the September UTA.

There are opportunities for you to assist on the planning committee and on various duties and tasks leading up to, on that day, and after the picnic.

Last, diversity is a focus of the HRDC.

When individuals from different races, natural origins, experience levels, and social-economic backgrounds come together, synergy is created and everyone wins because we all learn from one another.

On June 2, 2007, the HRDC will host a diversity dinner.

The theme for this year is “Diversity for Thought.”

Our keynote speaker will be General James Graves, the mobilization assistant to the Pacific Air Forces commander. He’s known as the voice of HRDC.

We hope you’ll join us. Look for more information to come!

Heartland **Warrior**

Vol. 12, No.4
April 2007

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

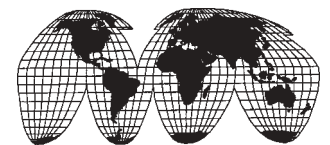
Contents of the Heartland Warrior are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, and prepared by the Public Affairs Office of the 434th 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. Dean Despinoy.....commander
Lt. Col. Gary Lockard.....chief, public affairs
Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays.....editor
SrA. Chris Bolen.....staff writer
SrA. Mark Orders-Woempner.....staff writer
SrA. Ben Mota.....staff writer
SrA. Omar Delacruz.....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>

Grissom wingmen rally around aerial porter

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Technical Sergeant Phil Walton always thought of the Air Force as a family. Only recently when suffering the loss in his own immediate family did he realize just how much others cared.

Sergeant Walton, an aerial port specialist, was on temporary duty attending seven-level school at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas when his step daughter Destiny Owens fell ill due to complications of asthma.

Destiny was hospitalized and later succumbed to the complications.

"From the beginning everyone was great," Sergeant Walton said. "I was going through school with Staff Sgt. Kevin Connelly and he stepped in right away asking about me, and how he could help."

Back at home station Master Sgt. Laurie Latchaw and Senior Master Sgt. David Simpson, both 49th Aerial Port Flight members, were getting information together for Sergeant Walton and helping him get home.

"It was truly a blessing how every-



The Waltons, Phil, Lisa and Destiny Owens.

one stepped up and helped us out," he said. "It totally blew me away."

Sergeant Walton has been at Grissom since 1993, and in addition to working in the aerial port arena, he also worked in aircraft maintenance.

"The folks here got with the folks in maintenance and even they pitched in to help us out," he said. "The donations and outpouring of support was amaz-

ing."

"This has been a terrible thing, but people stepped up to the plate and said 'hey I'm your wingman if you need anything let me know,'" he said. "And they did!"

Sergeant Simpson, [the unit's first sergeant] came to my house," Sergeant Walton said. "My wife hugged him and she cried; we've all been overcome with emotions."

The Waltons chose to have Destiny act as an organ and tissue donor. They received a listing of all the people their decision made on the lives of others.

"We wanted to help others," he said, "so that maybe they wouldn't have to go through what we went through."

Destiny was buried the day before here 15th birthday. Sergeant Walton admits he's never gone through something like this before and it has been tough but his family appreciates how base members have supported them."

"My wife Lisa wanted to be here today to hug everyone that helped us out," he said. "People really stepped up and that has made a difference for us."

Security forces, *from page 1*

teams and even some close air support."

"Sometimes we'd see the Army go out and come back, and sometimes we'd get reports some didn't make it back," Sergeant Cox said.

"During times where rockets were fired we'd call in points of origin and points of impact," he stated. "It would be something to walk out and see the helicopters right there to respond."

The Grissom members were commended by the Army leadership during their deployment for having 'spot on' reports.

"We were very accurate in reporting things," he said.

When the group returned to the base, they were met by family,

friends and news media covering their return.

As the aircraft touched down the families applauded. When the bus pulled to a stop they ran, and hugged and kissed and cried tears of joy.

"We can finally have Christmas," said Dawn Hammer, upon the return of her son Senior Airman Matt Hammer.

The family had left the Christmas tree up so they could all celebrate the holiday together.

A teary-eyed John Sawyer met his dad Tech. Sgt. Tom Sawyer and clung to him tightly.

Through earned leave the members will have several weeks to spend with family now that they are back.



Owen Singley and Jodie Miller anxiously await the return of Senior Airman Justin Strahlem.

Grissom's tankers get digital upgrade

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Imagine a world where as you drove to work all the traffic lights turned to green as you approached. All obstacles and detours removed.

With the help of technology, that fantasy is on the cusp of reality for the airline industry – and for Grissom's KC-135R Stratotanker fleet.

A current upgrade project labeled Block 40 is adding new technology to Grissom's 50-year old airframes.

The work is being done at Kelly Field Annex in San Antonio, Texas, and consists of upgrades to the communication, navigation and surveillance systems on the tanker.

This digital makeover will add a few more antennas to the outside of the aircraft that will connect the world to the crew members inside.

Flight data information can be added and changed automatically from locations anywhere in the world via satellite uplinks and downloads into the aircraft's computer operating systems.

Text messages can be delivered to the aircrew from air traffic controllers and the tanker airlift control center.

"The equipment on the ground will be able to talk to the new systems in the aircraft," said Maj. Vic Verboncoeur, 434th Operations Support Squadron's director of training. "The increased navigational performance along with air traffic control's improved ability to monitor aircraft position greatly increases safety and allows reduced airspace surrounding each aircraft." When the new global air traffic management system comes



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Grissom's fleet of KC-135R Stratotankers is undergoing the latest in upgrades offered to the fleet. The Block 40 upgrade will bring new technology to the 50-year-old airframes.

on line, the current airspace required for a single KC-135 to operate will then safely allow eight aircraft to operate in the same airspace.

For aircrew members there will be little noticeable difference in the cockpit. Some additional buttons and switches will be placed in the armrests to help effectively manage and access the data that is fed to them, and extra data ports will be installed in the back of the aircraft. Also, a printer was added and the entire circuit breaker system is replaced.

Three additional global positioning receivers and a satellite radio will be installed on the aircraft.

With the new capability also comes new accountability.

"No more speeding," laughed Major Verboncoeur. "Flight data information is constantly being sent back and forth and monitored on the ground."

The pre-assigned altitude and required times of arrival at various reporting points along the way allow controllers to manage and monitor much closer than before.

The first KC-135 began the upgrade process Feb. 1. The upgrade on that aircraft is slated to be done in early April, with each project taking about 36 work days to complete.

The project is likely to last until September 2008.

Aircrew members must be trained on the new system as well.

"There are about 300 new data pages for the aircrew to learn in the upgraded systems," said Capt. Doug Perry, assistant director of training.

Each pilot must complete 17 hours of computer based training, 16 hours of simulator

training and fly two sorties before they can be certified in the new system.

Boom operators must complete five hours of computer based training and take an aircraft field trip.

The upgrade keeps Grissom's KC-135R fleet on the cutting edge of technology and helps to extend its life span.

Current estimates are for the KC-135 fleet to be flying for more than 30 more years.

Grissom cop augments troops in England

By Tech Sgt. Scott Wakefield

Air Force News Agency

ROYAL AIR FORCE CROUGHTON, United Kingdom — One member of the 434th Security Forces Squadron is part of a group augmenting the 422nd Security Forces Squadron at Royal Air Force Croughton, in the United Kingdom as 21 active-duty Airmen stationed there are deployed supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Even though almost half of the 422nd SFS are deployed downrange, the mission at their home station doesn't end, but that's where the Guard and Reserve come in.

"The Guard and Reserve provide a lot of versatility for the military,



Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Scott Wakefield

Tech. Sgt. Dustin Schimp participates in an exercise at Royal Air Force Croughton, United Kingdom. Sergeant Schimp is a combat arms specialist with the 434th Security Forces Squadron currently deployed to the UK.

because we can be called on at any time to help augment the active duty mission," said Tech. Sgt. Dustin

something he does in his civilian role, and helps him with his college studies back home. (AFNS)

Schimp, a combat arms specialist for the 434th Security Forces Squadron in Indiana.

Sergeant Schimp volunteered to be activated to come to England for 18 months of duty.

The Guard and Reserve Airmen provide installation security, complete random anti-terrorism measures, and maintain fence line integrity.

Sergeant Schimp has also been tasked to help redevelop their record management system, to help make the data easily accessible, and help them work better with their limited manpower. It's

Grissom security forces named best in AFRC

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Maj. Randall Stivers always thought his security forces squadron was the go-to unit for the command. Being named the Air Force Reserve Command Outstanding Security Forces Reserve Unit of the Year for 2006 -- well that just confirms things for him.

For Major Stivers, the 434th Security Forces Squadron commander, the formal announcement is just what he expected from a unit that is consistently called upon as a bench mark unit the numbered Air Force and AFRC come to in order get things done.

"We're ahead of the curve in things that need to get done," said Senior Master Sgt. Lewis Raye, assistant operations superintendent. **April 2007**

tendent. "We've got 90-95 percent of our unit members trained in combat skills training and maintain high levels of ancillary training completion."

With multiple Air Expeditionary Force taskings and support and integrated security for the base, personnel and assets it's no wonder Grissom's security members stood in the spotlight.

Unit members were deployed more than 2,900 days in support of contingency operations, including pulling high-profile assignments such as working security screening at the war crimes trial of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Our total involvement really sets us apart," Major Stivers said. "In addition to supporting the AEF's we

have an outstanding working relationship with the local law enforcement agencies, at levels most other units don't have."

"We work very closely with the county, state and city police departments," the Lafayette, Ind., resident said. "We augment their training by allowing their trainers to use some of our computer-based equipment to expand their capabilities."

Grissom won the award following the submission of a nomination package that every unit sent forward. From there, the AFRC award committee, whittled down the entries to Grissom and then visited the finalists.

"Their visit really helped us," Major Stivers said. "The team came and talked with unit members, looked at our equipment and visited each post."

"Their visit was a com-

plete validation," Sergeant Raye said. Sergeant Raye is a traditional reservist from Chicago.

While at Grissom, the team also had an opportunity to meet with other members of the base during an informal reception.

"The team was really impressed by what people had to say about us," explained Major Stivers.

The session was supposed to last an hour, but ran long because so many people stood up and spoke on our behalf, Major Stivers added.

The 434th SFS unit is made up of civilians, active duty members (AGR) and traditional reservists. The inspection team looked at the whole package and in the end, came up with the conclusion that Major Stivers thought they would — that Grissom is the best in AFRC.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Rescue 5, sits in front of the fire department. The new vehicle broadens the capabilities of Grissom first responders.

Grissom gets heavy duty rescue vehicle

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Grissom's fire department's response capabilities got an upgrade recently with the arrival of a heavy duty rescue vehicle.

The vehicle replaces a medium duty vehicle and made a big impact with those who use it.

"This broadens our capabilities as rescues are concerned," said Wabash resident Howard Lawson, the captain of the vehicle known as Rescue 5.

"We're able to respond just as rapidly as before, but we are able to carry more equipment on the truck with us," he said. "We perform just about every technical rescue with the equipment we carry on the truck with the exception of water rescues."

The massive truck also handles better than the medium duty truck. "Way better," Mr. Lawson chimed in.

"This is basically a fire engine without the water tanks and the pumps," said William Barton, fire chief.

"All that area is now storage room for our equipment," Mr. Lawson added.



In addition to carrying equipment for auto extraction, hazardous materials responses, high angle rescues and confined space items, the truck also carries medical supplies that rival basic life support ambulances – without the capability to transport.

David Perryman of Greentown, Ind., is one of the drivers of Rescue 5.

He said the big Detroit Diesel engine provides plenty of power to get them where they need to go, and through computer system it is smart enough to shut unneeded items down to power critical functions when required.

One of those systems is lighting.

"We can turn 3 a.m. into noon," Mr. Perryman said. The truck has a mast that rises into the air and can tilt and turn to angle the lighting as needed.

"Having light at night makes a big difference," said Mr. Lawson.

Rescue 5 has a crew of four, but can be operated with three people. The driver, captain, and two rescue men are all certified emergency

medical technicians.

The crew was recently credited for saving a life during a response in the local area. The crew responded to a local nursing home where a nurse was having respiratory distress.

First responders were able to establish an airway and stabilize the person until an ambulance from the local area arrived.

The truck wasn't originally destined for Grissom. It was scheduled to be sent to Gen. Billy Mitchell ARS, Wisc., but since that unit took a hit during the base realignment and closure, Air Force Reserve Command asked Grissom if they wanted it.

"I couldn't say yes fast enough," Chief Barton said.

The basic vehicle itself costs approximately \$500,000 — add to that the equipment on the vehicle and you're looking at \$800-900,000 total.

"This vehicle is a great asset to Grissom – and to the local communities," he said. "We've worked hard and have an outstanding working relationship with the local fire departments. Having equipment like this to bring when needed enhances that relationship."

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 April 14-15; and May 5-6.

Alternate UTAs are April 21-22; and May 19-20.

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.

AFAF

This year's Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign is underway and continues through April 18.

Master Sgt. Dennis Godsey, 434th Military Personnel Flight and base project officer, has organized a group of 13 individuals from Grissom Air Reserve Base to assist with fund collections from base personnel.

April 2007



Photo by Senior Airman Omar Delacruz

Championship drive

Dan Percival, a member of the 434th Communication's Squadron's team, drives to the hoop against the flyers from the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron during the championship game. The Communicators shot down the flyers 53-42 to win the tournament.

The campaign is conducted annually to collect donations for the following four charities: The Air Force Aid Society, The Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widows' Fund, The Air Force Villages Indigent Widows' Fund and The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

Workers can make donations through, cash, check, money order or payroll deduction.

All donations are made on a voluntary basis and are tax deductible.

For further information on the

campaign, contact Sergeant Godsey at Ext. 3278.

Web page

Anyone 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 routinely updated and provides information that affects Grissom Airmen and civilians.

For more information, contact the Public Affairs office at Ext. 3348.

Think your job is cool?

Grissom medics moonlight for NASA

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Think your job is cool? If you want to keep thinking that maybe you shouldn't talk to Lt. Col. (Dr.) Scott Phillips or Maj. (Dr.) Greg Pinnell, both from the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron the next time you go for a physical.

The two doctors work for NASA as part of a 30-member medical rescue team for launching landing space shuttle missions, and have a front row seats to the action.

"We're there in case a survivable mishap occurs," Colonel Phillips said. "We can be there to rescue and treat the astronauts."

"It's an awesome job!" Major Pinnell added.

Colonel Phillips, a native of Logansport, Ind., is the current senior member of the team. He joined the program in 1998 following an active-duty tour with a special operations unit.

"I had most of the training already, so it was an easy transition for me," he said.

For Major Pinnell, a Saginaw, Mich., resident, it wasn't quite as easy.

"When I first met [Colonel Phillips] I told him one of my dreams was to work with NASA," he said. "His response was 'have I got a deal for you,'" he added with a laugh.

Major Pinnell applied for the position, but was originally turned down for it.

"I was able to talk my way into the job anyway," he said drawing a laugh from the colonel. "They asked me why I thought they should reconsider, and I said have a seat and I started talking."



Maj. (Dr.) Greg Pinnell, left, and Lt. Col. (Dr.) Scott Phillips, both physicians with the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, are members of NASA's shuttle rescue team.

Courtesy photo

It worked.

The next day he got a call telling him to have orders cut to come attend training.

"The funny part is I already had the orders cut beforehand," he said. "I forgot to have them cancelled, so I was all set!"

Participants must have survival training and advanced cardiac and life support training. Both hope they never have to use their training but they maintain preparedness.

Even though the team consists of 30

members from throughout the country, not everyone is assigned to work a take off or a landing.

"The amount of missions you work is based on your ability and drive to say 'yes' when asked," Colonel Phillips said.

He has worked 10 take off and landings during his tenure with the program, and Major Pinnell has worked seven missions.

"I'm trying to catch up!" he joked.

The two have had an opportunity to work together on occasion, and both stated that their friendship and working relationship they have here at Grissom show when they are together.

"We're able to know what each other is thinking at various times," Colonel Phillips said.

"It's almost scary," chimed in Major Pinnell.

During one recent mission, the major had radio trouble, and Colonel Phillips sensed that something was wrong and took action.

"I knew he'd realize what was going on, and he did," Major Pinnell added.

The shuttle program plans to have five launches this year, a number that both seem to think is more than will actually happen, but they do hope to work together again in July on a shuttle landing.

Until then, the two flight surgeons will be at Grissom, working in the clinic and performing physicals on unit training assemblies and both may deploy to Turkey this spring in support of upcoming air expeditionary force taskings.