

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

Project Warrior helps unit preparedness

By SrA. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs staff

Project Warrior is the 434th Air Refueling Wing's new effort designed to highlight key elements of deployment preparation and to provide feedback for Grissom personnel and their units.

The project, which started in April, was conceived by Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy, 434th ARW commander, as a way to look at wing capability, and develop ways to improve it.

Lt. Col. Greg DeMaio, performance planner, is acting as the facilitator for the project.

The colonel utilized the skills and abilities of several wing members to pull the new program together.

"It's designed to help us keep our eye on the ball for what the wing needs to be able to deploy," he noted.

The focus is on individual and unit preparedness however, there is also a desire to make this competitive and measurable.

"Although it's meant to act as a report card, so to speak, on how we are doing in key areas, we also want to



Photo by SrA. Ben Mota

Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, right, and Lt. Col. Thom Pemberton, director of operations for the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, place a "W" on the sign, in front of the building, to indicate that the unit received the Warrior Award.

make it competitive and fun," the colonel continued.

The metrics are tracked monthly and rewarded quarterly. Those units achieving a 'Warrior Factor' of 95 percent on the metrics for the previous quarter will receive the Warrior Award. In recognition of receiving the award, units will receive and display a "W" on their unit signs.

Additionally, unit members will be eligible to sign out one hour early on the final day of the unit training

assembly, at their commander's discretion.

"As the project continues we will add more metrics, and tweak the process, but we wanted to get it going and allow people to become accustomed to it," he explained.

"We basically want people to realize the importance of individual and unit readiness by identifying 'hot spots' and focusing their efforts to improve deployment preparation," the colonel concluded.

Adapt or die: A philosophy for your career

By Lt. Col. Patrick Reese
354th Medical Support Squadron

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — Three words stood emblazoned on a small plaque in the colonel’s office: Adapt or die.

In the colonel’s typical freight-train style, he explained his philosophy to me — the new lieutenant. We have those moments early in our careers when we hear something from a senior leader that sticks with us. I was having my moment.

The adapt or die philosophy has been an invaluable guideline for me since that first assignment.

Adapt or die is simple. Every new leader we encounter has a unique style, interlaced with likes, dislikes, pet peeves and idiosyncrasies.

Your job is to figure those out and chart a course through them to success.

Don’t expect the leader to change their style to accommodate you.

Work hard to make your end-product suit your leader. That is when smiles begin and once you get the boss smiling, that is a good day.

Adaptation is also important in dealing with colleagues.

Knowing the environment you’re entering before wading in with a request can mean the difference between hitting brick walls and hurdling them in-stride. See the issue from both sides, orient yourself to the different points of view involved, and then adapt your attack to achieve your ultimate goal.



Smashing through a door with a big hammer will get you through the door once, but figuring out how to turn the handle and open the door will allow you to use it many times.

I once asked the colonel if he had ever said to anyone, “You’re not adapting!”

He said he had used that phrase with two officers in his career and neither of them stayed in the Air Force for very long.

He went on to note that he hadn’t processed them out of the Air Force. Neither officer was able to adapt to their next leader, at which juncture they were encouraged to seek their fortunes in venues outside of the Air Force.

A corollary to the adapt or die principle became evident when the colonel organized staff work.

He would calmly announce to all of us young officers, “I’m not writing the response. That’s what captains and

lieutenants are for.”

At first, this caused a lot of choice words uttered under our breath, but I began to realize the power the colonel was placing in our hands.

A well-prepared memo was often signed quickly.

A well-thought plan received his enthusiastic backing. In short, he gave us the power to shape policy and make things happen in his name.

What once sounded like a flippant remark turned into how I decided what the response will say, I wrote the memo, and the colonel signed it. I helped shape policy.

Too often we are more than willing to abdicate our responsibility to be an active voice for our leaders.

The attitude of “send it through and the boss will bleed all over it, then we’ll write it the way they want” can bring organizations to a screeching halt.

Soon, the entire unit adopts a passive posture, waiting for the leader to give direction before they do anything.

Don’t fall into this trap!

Adapt to the leader’s style and forge ahead.

In many units, there is the Airman, NCO or company grade officer who always seems to know what’s going on.

He is the person to whom everyone else is willing to listen and value his judgment.

The challenge is to be that person — the one who makes things happen, not wonder what happened.

Adapt or die. Do one or the other. (AFPJ)

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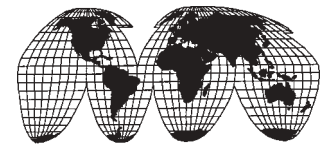
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Exercise tests self aid buddy care skills

By SrA. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs staff

The 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron provided a dose of reality during the July unit training assembly when they kicked off a pilot program for Grissom intended to boost awareness and skills in the self aid buddy care program.

The four-hour exercise was designed to test and evaluate the level of capability of personnel to respond to a range of medical emergencies.

“The SABC program has dramatically increased in importance due to today’s changing warfare strategy,” said Lt. Col. Brian Preston, 434th AMDS senior administrator.

“The strategy has changed so that now any medical support has moved off the flightline and Airmen are now responsible for initial treatment and movement of wounded to the medical facility,” he continued. “The medical facility could be miles away and there is no 911 in a war zone or deployed theatre of operations.”

“This exercise is intended to get the message out about the importance of individual preparedness,” he stated.

Utilizing a technique used by some other Guard and Reserve units this exercise might best be described as rolling accident simulation.

Teams consisting of doctors, nurses and simulated wounded traveled to the various duty shops providing sudden, no-notice opportunities for personnel to practice their first aid training.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

Tech Sgt. Rebecka Kimble, 434th Mission Support Group, places a splint around the leg of an "injured" Boy Scout during a self-aid buddy care exercise here, while Maj. Patrick O'Neal, also of the 434th MSG, wraps the leg.

“The controlled chaos environment is intended to balance realism and training,” Colonel Preston noted. “The basics of the program are to view a video on Self Aid Buddy Care and then show the skills,” he continued.

Five to six teams made up of a doctor, a nurse, and several simulated “wounded,” paid visits around the base simulating vehicle accidents, explosions, and other emergencies.

The wounded were portrayed by

local Boy Scouts, moulaged before the start of the exercise to realistically simulate the types of injuries personnel might come across.

“The intent of the exercise was not to catch people off guard,” explained Maj. Connie Gault, 434th AMDS medical readiness officer. “It was not to scare or intimidate anybody; unit commanders and first sergeants were notified in advance of the exercise.”

“By using the Boy Scouts to simulate injured we were able to train at a realistic level and scale, with overwhelming numbers to add to the load,” Colonel Preston explained. “And this is also a training opportunity for the Scouts,” he continued.

“Actual doctors and nurses also acted as patients and coached the Airmen as they treated wounds, and the Scouts observed.”

Participants were evaluated on their sense of urgency, situation management, and technical wound man-

agement.

Readiness is a theme emphasized by the 434th ARW, said Maj. Katherine Whitaker, SABC advisor. “Personnel must be prepared for the real world.”

“This training doesn’t stop at the front gate,” Colonel Preston echoed, “these are serious life saving skills that people can take with them through life. As a citizen soldier we can go back into the public with these life saving skills, prepared for the unexpected.”

Grissom Airmen take aim at f



Photo by SrA. Ben Mota

Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, returns fire after the stage is assaulted by the crowd during the Combat Dining In held during the July unit training assembly. Unit members gathered for an evening of fun and games.



Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy, 434th Air Refueling Wing mobilization augmentee, avoid a dousing by 434th Air Refueling Wing personnel during a confusion course to the grog bowl during the Combat Dining In.



Photo by SrA. Chris Bo

Master Sgt. Everett Liggett, left, 434th Maintenance Squadron, and Senior Airman Gisele Delgado, 434th Air Refueling Wing, fill their squirt guns at the start of the Combat Dining In.

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Fun during Combat Dining In



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

g commander, left, and Maj. Gen. Mark Pillar, ARW members as they make their way along the at Dining in July 7.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Maj. John 'Truck' Pannell, taunts his assailants as he makes his way along the confusion course to the grog bowl following a citation for many uniform violations.



Photo by SrA. Ben Mota

Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski, 434th Air Refueling Wing command chief, arrived at the event with her 'game face' on.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Maj. Jim West, acting wing executive officer, was an active participant in the combat portion of the event.



Photo by SrA. Ben Mota

Ambush!!!!

Master Sgt. Rickie King, 434th Security Forces Squadron, plays the roll of an opposing force member, during a recent ambush exercise conducted by the unit. The security members were involved in a four-day exercise spanning part of the July unit training assembly. The exercise gave the members an opportunity to hone their skills in a tactical environment.

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 unit training assemblies.

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 UTAs.

Upcoming UTAs: Primary UTAs are 4-5 August; and Sept. 8-9.

Alternate UTAs are 25-26 August; and Sept. 22-23.

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.

Free tax course

Military spouses are eligible to take a free course on income tax preparation through a nationally known tax preparation service.

The course will give spouses the experience needed to earn extra income with no previous training experience.

Classes are held in a variety of locations and times.

For more information or to register
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for a course, call 765-446-9701 or 1-800-472-5625.

Celebration of faith

Grissom will hold its annual Celebration of Faith during the September unit training assembly.

The event will coincide with the family appreciation day Sept. 8.

This year, the production "And He Came Knocking," will be featured.

The event is open to all faiths.

In addition, if anyone is interested in participating in the program, they can get signed up by contacting Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason at linda.mason@grissom.af.mil, or Master Sgt. Trudy Burnett at trudy.burnett@grissom.af.mil

Retiree appreciation

The Grissom Retiree Information Office will host a special Military Retiree Appreciation Day from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 24 at Grissom.

The event will be held at the new pavilion adjacent to the 434th Services Complex and is open to all military retirees, regardless of branch of service, and their families.

Lunch is free and will be catered by the 434th Services Flight.

An information fair will include



U.S. Air Force photo

Generating power

Members of the 434th Civil Engineering Squadron connect a 350 kilowatt generator at a water treatment plant at Kunsan AB, Korea. Grissom civil engineers deployed in two-week rotations to the remote base to train and provide services there.

representatives from TRICARE, Veterans Administration, Delta Dental, 434th Military Personnel Flight, Grissom Community Council, Miami and Cass County Veterans Service Offices, American Legion, Navy

League, Air Force Association, Marine Corps League, Disabled American Veterans, and the Grissom Air Museum.

For more information, call the office at Ext. 3002.

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal—Maj. Gregory Pinnell, 434th Aerospace Medical Squadron; Master Sgt. William Dougherty, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Robert Sanders, 434th Civil Engineering Squadron; Maj. Lorenza Shaw, 74th Air Refueling Squadron; Maj. David Fitschen, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Kim Ayers, 74th Air Refueling Squadron; Maj. Brian Stopher, 74th ARS; Maj. Douglas Gullion, 434th Air Refueling Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Michael Bowden, 434th CES; Chief Master Sgt. David Sajdyk, 434th CES; Senior Master Sgt. Jeffery Maier, 72nd ARS; Maj. Matthew Conrad, 72nd ARS;

Tech. Sgt. Ronald Huffer, 434th AMS; Master Sgt. Kerry Vanausdall, 72nd ARS; and Col. Douglas McHugh, 434th Mission Support Group.

Air Force Commendation Medal—Master Sgt. Timothy Cahill, 434th ARW; 1st Lt. Rachel David, 434th ARW; Tech. Sgt. Warren Flood, 434th AMS; and Tech. Sgt. Brian Arnold, 434th Communications Squadron.

Promotions

To master sergeant—Steven Austin, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight; Victor Hasstedt, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Brian Dickerson; 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Jeffrey Dilbone, 434th Maintenance

Squadron; Terrence Memenga, 434th CES; Todd Moore, 434th MXS; Scott Orr, 434th AMXS; Kevin Stath, 434th CES; Douglas Stogsdill, 434th MXS; and Cynthia Webb, 434th Services Flight.

To technical sergeant—Christopher Brill, 434th CES; Donald Yoakem, 434th CES;

To staff sergeant—Dion Fanning, 434th CES; Adalberto Garcia, 434th AMXS; Michael Maddux, 434th AMXS; Jennifer Michael, 434th CES; Mark Orders-Woempner, 434th Air Refueling Wing; Tyler Smith, 434th ARW; Brandon Toth, 74th ARS; Adam Oswalt, 434th AMXS; Jason Conroy, 434th MXS; and Terry Huddleston, 434th LRS.

Airmen promote AF through pedal power

By Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

The exciting life of an Airman can go anywhere. Many Airmen find themselves in places like Guam, Turkey, Iraq or....Iowa.

For two of Grissom's maintainers, their Air Force journey is taking them to the "Tall Corn State" as they prepare to participate in the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa as part of an official Air Force team.

Senior Master Sgt. Richard Scully, 434th Maintenance Group quality assurance technician, participated in the race last year, and is taking his colleague and riding buddy, Tech. Sgt. Mark Wilson, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, with him.

The two said they loved bike riding as kids, but stopped as they grew older. It wasn't until five years ago, when watching the Tour de France, the two maintainers decided to hit the road again.

"We were working together and started talking about the Tour de France and how amazing those guys were," said Sergeant Scully. "Next thing you know, we went out and bought bikes and were riding 12 miles together."

Five years later, the two find themselves as part of a 125 man team riding 497 miles over a six-day period.

"This team is diverse, there are civilians, active duty, Reserve and Guard," said Sergeant Wilson. "There are people from all ages."

"This year I'm really looking forward to riding with someone from Grissom," said Sergeant Scully. "Last year I was worried about finishing, but now I know I can, so this year I can enjoy more."

The ride is more than a typical bicycle race or marathon for the participants, he added.

"It's not really a race, it's more of a tour," said Sergeant Scully. "It's really



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

Tech. Sgt. Mark Wilson (left) and Senior Master Sgt. Richard Scully peddle down County Road 400 near Grissom as they train to ride across Iowa.

a great event. A lot of the towns get behind it and have annual festivals for it."

Not only will the maintainers be riding along with many other Airmen, the Air Force is sending a team of support people that will help blaze the trail for the bikers.

"They take all the equipment to the next town and put signs up to show us where we are going to stay," said Sergeant Scully. "They are a big support because when we get to a town we can focus on meeting the people and then kick back and relax."

While both riders said having logistical support is a big help, they both said they were excited about being part of the team for many other reasons.

"Being a part of a team like this provides not only logistical support, but also moral support," said Sergeant Wilson. "You're going to have rough

days, but when those come, you will have guys that are encouraging you."

Sergeant Scully said he is excited about being a part of the team because of one of the teams, major goals.

"The Air Force's team is more of a public relations team, and our goal is to talk to people while we're riding," he said. "It's a great chance for us to just go out and be with the people. Last year they estimated that there were 20,000 people on the road."

The biking community is diverse, but often people just think of the military as just the military, a faceless organization, said the sergeant. The Air Force bike team in the RAGBRAI adds a face to the military and shows them a different side.

"We're just everyday people; we have families and we work, and yes, we are military, but we are just normal people," said Sergeant Wilson. "We are just typical people with a not-so-typical job."