

Heartland

Warrior

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



Construction city

Projects total more than \$20 million

By Lt. Col. Gary Lockard

Public Affairs staff

During the past few years Grissom has been awarded the "Tree City USA" title due to the hundreds of trees that have been planted throughout the base. With the vast number of construction projects that have sprouted up on base or that are on the drawing board, Grissom is fast becoming "Construction City USA."

Grissom had more than \$20 million in construction projects in fiscal year 2007 roughly the same amount allotted for FY 2008.

"There has been a lot of major projects as well as upgrading and repair of base infrastructure," explained Mr. Oliver Woodd of the 434th Base Civil Engineers. "There is a good mix of projects that cover operations, maintenance and quality of life."

Current projects include a new Radar Approach Control facility, extensive renovations to Base Operations, upgrading of aircraft parking and ramp areas, taxiways and approach lights, equipment storage areas, fire suppression systems in the aircraft nose docks and the main gate.

Future projects include converting one of the aircraft nose docks into a fuel cell, renovations and an addition to the base gym, and additional upgrades to the nose dock areas.

When you add the other major projects that have taken place in recent years such as an \$11 million Civil Engineer Complex, \$5 million Marine Corps Reserve Center, \$33 million Services Complex and \$15 million runway upgrade project, the total amount of construction at Grissom far exceeds

Plucked to safety

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Lt. Col. Miles Heaslip, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, looks up at a Coast Guard rescueman, as he is hoisted up as part of water survival training held during the September unit training assembly. For a closer look at the water survival training, turn to pages 4-5.

Please see 'Construction,' page 3

Grissom honors fallen Soldier, comrade

By Master Sgt. Kevin Pitzer
434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

September 17th was a day I'll long remember.

The day started out to be a typical Monday, a little bit chilly and overcast. I was inside working on aircraft forms when a call came over the maintenance radio telling us that there would be a quiet time between 9:15-9:45 a.m., because a civilian aircraft was bringing home a fallen soldier.

Shortly after 9 a.m. a group of crew chiefs and maintenance people started gathering outside the hangar to watch the proceedings. I was surprised to see all the vehicles out there including the hearse, numerous police cars, civilian cars and the Patriot Guard riders with their motorcycles.

When we saw the aircraft land, we all lined up along the ramp and stood behind the family. There was probably 60-80 of us including Indiana State Troopers, Patriot Riders and base

personnel.

I did not know the family, but I could see the pain in their faces.

We all stood at attention and saluted the aircraft as it taxied to a stop. The engines shut down and a few minutes later the cargo door opened. The commander and honor guard marched up to stand beside the aircraft. It took a few minutes to get everything ready, first the escort stepped out, then a flag draped casket came into view, gently lowered from the aircraft, then picked up by the honor guard and carried to the hearse.

One of the most poignant moments was when the commander brought the personal effects of the soldier from the aircraft. They consisted of a plastic bag and the soldier's rucksack with his combat boots hanging from it. These were placed in the hearse with the casket.

We were dismissed, yet we all stood by to watch the caravan leave for the soldier's hometown. There were other

base personnel lining the street saluting as the group drove past.

This whole event was sobering. Most of the base personnel who were supporting this are in the Air Force Reserve, not like active duty by any means, but we are brothers in arms. Our soldiers deserve all of the support that we can give them.

September 11, 2001, our nation was the victim of an unmerciful and unprovoked attack, and we have been at war since then. There were many innocent people killed in this attack and many soldiers have been injured or have died since the war began.

During the ceremony, I noticed that Grissom Air Reserve Base had not been this quiet since 9-11.

This was a fitting tribute to a fallen comrade.

I am thankful that we were able to participate in this solemn, sobering ceremony, paying respect to Sgt. Nicholas Patterson. May he rest in peace.

'Golden Rule' also applicable in leadership

By Chief Master Sgt. Jerry Thomas
U.S. Air Force Band

BOLLING AFB, D.C. (AFP)
— Not long ago a young Airman asked for my thoughts on leadership.

I figured he wasn't expecting a detailed explanation on what style or combinations of styles I use and why I use them. So, I searched for a concise answer to deliver maximum impact with the fewest words.

I said, "Golden Rule." He gave me an inquiring look, my cue to continue.

"My parents taught me to do unto others as you would have them do unto you and they called it the Golden Rule," I said. "I try to treat others the way I want to be treated even if they don't reciprocate. I've found it's a good basis for establishing and maintaining a relationship of mutual respect, which is crucial to successful leadership."

"Uhh, thanks, Chief. Have a nice day," he said right before walking away.

Most of us have read volumes of literature and attended seminars on leadership. We've learned styles, traits, characteristics and qualities — the list goes on and on — of successful leaders. We've looked at what comprises the tool kit of a successful

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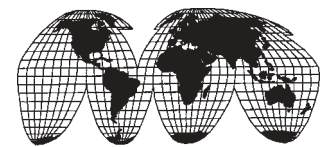
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Construction, from page 1



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Grissom's new visitor center located on Foreman Avenue will streamline main gate operations by alleviating congestion.

\$100 million.

The construction, in addition to benefiting the mission and employees at Grissom, provides a direct economic impact on the local communities.

"The majority of the construction companies are from Indiana," stated Mr. Woodd. "We do have some general contractors that are outside Indiana but they generally hire local subcontractors."

One major construction project that will benefit all employees at Grissom as well as visitors is the main gate. It is actually a combination of six items including the renovated main gate area, security improvements, visitors' center, parking lot and truck inspection station. The total cost is \$3.2 million and the main gate reopened on Friday, Sept. 28.

While trees may sprout and grow on

their own, construction projects do not. Grissom's success as "Construction City USA" can be attributed to good planning and cooperation by base personnel and Air Force Reserve Command headquarters added Mr. Woodd. "We have people and leaders that plan ahead. We have projects ready to go so that when money becomes available from headquarters, we're ready."

Leadership, from page 2

leader. We've studied comparison and contrast on the polar opposites — directive and non-directive leadership styles — and studied scenarios on applying different combinations of these styles to find out what works best.

There are as many variations of leadership styles as colors in the rainbow. And there is no one style or combination of styles that fits every circumstance because successful leadership is situational. But the reason we spend so much time learning situational leadership concepts is so we can effectively deal with people whether they are our superiors, peers or subordinates.

We all know what it feels like to be

treated well or not to be treated well. It's easy to treat someone well when they're treating you well, but when you're treated poorly, it can be very difficult to treat someone well. But it can be done and it's usually your choice. Sometimes the choice is easy; sometimes it's not.

When you choose to treat people poorly or respond poorly to an order, you encourage a bad attitude, which yields an unhealthy working environment, which yields low productivity and discourages mission accomplishment. When you choose to treat people the way you want to be treated, whether or not it's reciprocal, you encourage a good attitude, which yields a healthy work environment,

which yields better productivity and encourages a high level of mission accomplishment.

The way you deliver a message or task and the way you solicit information is the key to success of the response. The way you respond to people, the way you conduct yourself, the way you administer your authority and the way you implement decisions are all choices.

The way you choose to treat others will likely be the way they choose to treat you. The Golden Rule: It's a concept, philosophy and value that I try to live by every day. It doesn't matter what you call it, what matters is that you apply the concept. I encourage you to try it.

Grissom aircrew members dive



Lt. Col. Thom Pemberton, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, watches as billows of red smoke pours out of his signal marker.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays



Tech. Sgt. Ken Knight, a boom operator with the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, is seen during training.

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Find a seam and follow it. Find a seam and follow it. Find a seam....

Over and over again Tech. Sgt. Russell Fernald, a 72nd Air



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Senior Master Sgt. Mike Pershing, superintendent of life support, kept a watchful eye on the aircrew while they were in the water.

Refueling Squadron life support craftsman, briefed air crew members as they began their journey under a parachute laying on the surface of a remote Cass County lake. One by one they heeded his advice and made their way under the soggy canopy following a seam to the middle, then following a seam to the other edge and open skies.

Approximately 25 aircrew members broke out of the classroom and dove into water survival training during the September unit training assembly at a privately owned lake outside of Logansport, Ind.

The joint training event also consisted of members of the Indiana State Police dive team and the Coast Guard.

“Everyone was charged by the training,” said Lt. Col. Thom Pemberton, 72nd ARS director of operations. “We were able to get hands-on quality training in a realistic environment.”

“We’ve been planning this training since April or May,” he said. “It had been 12 or 13 years since we got into the water for this training – and that was in the swimming pool of a local high school. Since then we’ve been watching the video for refresher.”

Training at the lake added realism and made the training obviously better, he said.

Heartland Warrior

ve into water survival training



Photo by SrA. Carl Berry

Tech. Sgt. Russ Fernald, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron life support, tosses out a cement block used as an anchor to secure a parachute canopy.

adron, makes his way to an awaiting life raft.

the training was conducted by the life support sections of n flying squadrons, and the survival equipment section of the th Maintenance Squadron – all under the watchful eye of base safety office.

When the idea first came about we contacted the Indiana e Police to see if they'd be interested in assisting us with ers for safety," Colonel Pemberton said. "It turns out they ually conduct their training on the same weekend at the e lake we were targeting so that worked out perfectly." o add realism to the training, the Coast Guard unit at verse City, Mich., was contacted and they too agreed to icipate.

I had a chance to use the survival radio to talk to the copter and vector them to the location," Colonel Pemberton l, "and everything worked like a charm."

We were able to do 13 hoists out of the water with the ast Guard," Colonel Pemberton said.

The experience of the 'hurricane blast' under the rotors of helicopter isn't something we can provide," said Senior ster Sgt. Dennis Hughes, NCOIC of life support for the Air Refueling Squadron.

classrooms were set up under drier parachute canopies ere crew members could learn what was in their rafts and y to use those items – including flares.

ach member had an opportunity to use either a bright nining or a smoke generating flare that could signal help. The realism of being outdoors, in the elements, making the w members adapt to those elements adds to their training erience," Sergeant Hughes added.

olonel Pemberton echoed those sentiments, saying "this e of training really gave us the full effect. We got more istic training and training that was more effective because hat realism. You don't get that from computer based nning," the Howard County resident said.

Our thanks go out to everyone involved, from the property mer to the ISP divers, Coast Guardsmen, and Grissom mbers," he added.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Tech. Sgt. Joe Swisher, an inflight refueling specialist, is assisted with his life preserver by Senior Airman Kellin McCamey, a survival equipment apprentice with the 43th Maintenance Squadron.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Maj. David Fitschen, a KC-135R Stratotanker pilot with the 74th Air Refueling Squadron, looks away as he ignites a bright-burning signal flare during the training.



Photo by SrA. Carl Berry

Splashing down!

A young boy does his best Superman impression as he cools off on a water slide during Grissom's family appreciation day picnic. The annual event allows families to visit, see the base and be recognized for the support they provide Airmen.

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 alter-



nate).

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 Oct. 13-14; and Nov. 3-4.

Alternate UTAs are Oct. 20-21; and Nov. 17-18.

Worship services are held in building 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 **Heartland Warrior**

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.

TRICARE revised

TRICARE Reserve Select, a health insurance plan offered by the insurance company for Reserve and Guard members will undergo major changes starting Oct. 1.

The changes include:

- One standard payment for all members instead of the three-tier system
- Single premiums of \$81 per month.
- Family premiums of \$253 per month
- Expanded survivor coverage
- Continuously open enrollment

Due to the changes, current members of the old three-tier system must renew their coverage if they want it to continue past Sept. 30.

For a complete listing of the changes visit www.tricare.mil.

Bundles for babies

The Airman and Family Readiness Office will host another Bundles for Babies class from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Nov. 3 in Bldg. 431.

The class helps growing families to learn more about what to expect, child passenger safety, and suggestions for planning a family budget.

For more information or to register, call the office at 765-688-4812 or 800-234-6911.

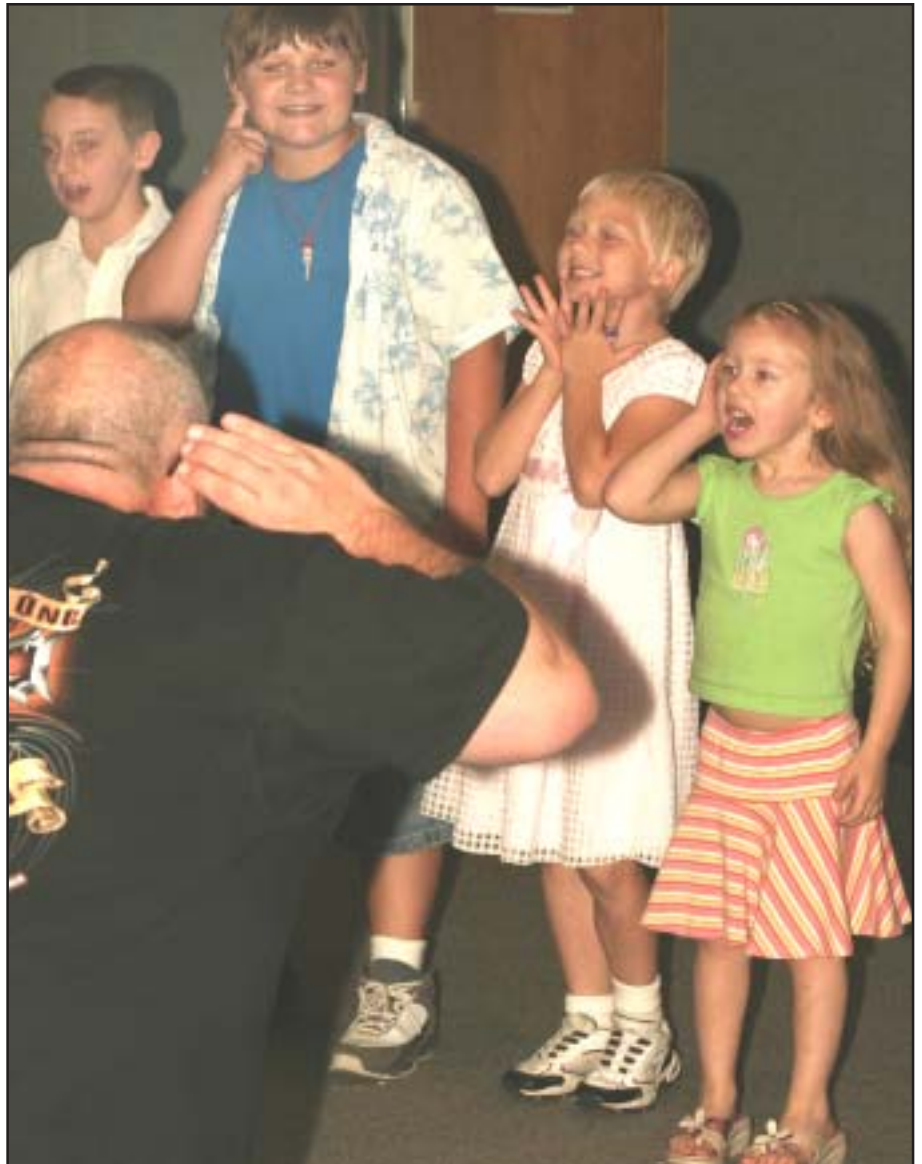


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

Joyful noise

Children sing as part of the annual Celebration of Faith program held here Sept. 8. The event featured singing and skits performed by members of all ages.

In the limelight

Medals

Defense Meritorious Service Medal —

Lt. Col. Darrel Bredehoeft, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Joint Service Achievement Medal — Staff Sgt. Jason Lee, 434th Air Refueling Wing.

Meritorious Service Medal — Tech. Sgt. Christopher Evans, 49th Aerial Port Flight; Tech. Sgt. Bruce Jordan, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Karl Olson, 434th CES; Master Sgt.

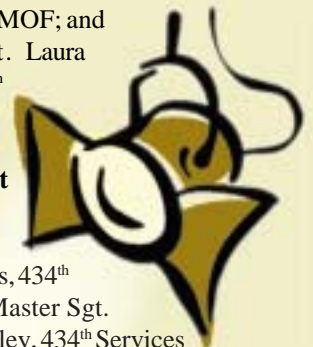
Thomas Wickersham, 434th Maintenance Group; Senior Master Sgt. Merrill Stevens, 434th MXS; Master Sgt. Keith McAndrews, 434th MXS; Tech. Sgt. Paul Bloyd, 434th MXS; Master Sgt. Brian Reinhardt, 434th MOF; Tech. Sgt. Frederick Leist, 49th APF; and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Moore, 434th LRS.

Air Force Commendation Medal — Tech. Sgt. James Hoagland, 434th ARW; Tech. Sgt. Richard Byrd, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight; Tech. Sgt. Christopher

Feltis, 434th MOF; and Tech. Sgt. Laura Lucker, 434th MOF.

Air Force Achievement Medal -

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Lewis, 434th MOF; and Master Sgt. William Hurley, 434th Services Flight.



It's 9,200 flying hours – and counting

By Capt Anne Noel
72nd Air Refueling Squadron

Do you know what it's like spending 383 days speeding through the skies in a KC-135R Stratotanker? If not, you could ask Jim Seidle.

He is also known as Senior Master Sgt. Jim Seidle, an inflight refueling technician who has racked up more than 9,200 flying hours in the tanker during his Air Force career.

He started his military career in 1968 by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps when he was 19 years old. After his enlistment was up in 1972, he returned to civilian life and drove trucks for the next eight years.

Ironically, it was his truck driving route that led him to Grissom. He would often drive past the base on U.S. Highway 31 and would see the aerial refuelers as they departed on their missions.

This sparked something inside of him that made him want to join the Air Force.

In 1980 he joined the Air Force Reserve and told the recruiter he wanted to be a boom operator.

The recruiter said there were no boom positions available, so he became an aircraft mechanic. He soon discovered the recruiter was misinformed and he was able to train as a boom operator and officially became an inflight refueling technician in August 1981.

Sergeant Seidle currently leads the unit with just over 9,200 flight hours in the KC-135R Stratotanker.

One of his most memorable moments came during Desert Storm when the KC-135 tanker he was in came under anti-aircraft fire. At that moment, he realized that "there really are bad guys that want you to crash."

Having the enemy fire upon him, he knew that serving in the military was



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Sergeant Seidle peers out his 'office window' on a KC-135R.

the least he could do for citizens of the United States of America.

With that being said, he states that his proudest moment is, "just being a part of the military. I'm proud to be in the military and be a deterrent to the enemy. It gives the people of this country safety and a peace of mind. Because we serve and are here, there are people who have the freedom to live and protest the military."

For the newer, younger airman he stresses the importance of honesty. "Sometimes it's hard to be honest, often times people find it easier to talk behind the backs of coworkers," he said. "Avoid doing that, speak up and talk to individuals when there are problems. Especially in the Reserve, everyone needs to communicate face to face better and be honest."

He also feels that there is not enough time to impart the knowledge of the past to the younger members of the unit. "Younger airmen do not get the benefit of personal communication.

It is important to communicate with your peers, supervisors and commanders one-on-one. That way you can see the expressions on their face. Using email, phone and blackberries are okay but they cannot always substitute for the need to talk in person."

Another change that Sergeant Seidle has observed is that there used to be a straight-forward level of discipline. He sees that today it has changed to more of a reward system. If you are good, you are rewarded so people seem to have an expectation of a reward when a job is done well. In earlier days, just knowing that a soldier did a good job at the task at hand was reward enough.

In his off-duty hours, he has donated his time and money to an organization known as Cause for Paws.

This organization rescues pets that have been abandoned or abused and tries to find new homes for them. He and his wife take in stray cats, have them spayed or neutered (at their expense), then try to find them new homes.

He currently has 25 cats that live in his house and is diligently trying to find families that will adopt them. One heartbreaking story was the rescue of a Japanese cat that was mistreated by the owner. When the owner found out his Japanese cat was not purebred, they sliced through his face, nose, mouth and eyes then threw it out a window.

Sergeant Seidle has spent approximately \$1,100 to rehabilitate the cat and it now lives happily with Jim and his family.

Other interests include restoration of classic cars from the 1970's. He has three Dodge Chargers, a Plymouth Roadrunner, and a Dodge Coronet that plans on restoring.