

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

Grissom assists Purdue research team

By Lt. Col. Gary Lockard
Public Affairs staff

Grissom aircrews and aircraft routinely travel to different places around the globe to conduct aerial refueling missions.

In late July, a single KC-135R Stratotanker and crew headed in a slightly different direction as they traveled north to Greenland to assist a Purdue University professor with his scientific experiment.

Professor Ephraim Fischbach of Purdue's physics department, his staff and cargo are traveling to Thule Air Base, Greenland, aboard one of the 434th Air Refueling Wing's KC-135R tankers.

"Grissom is in many ways the key component in this exciting experiment," stated the professor. "Without the transportation that Grissom will be providing to and from Thule, this mission could never take place."

In addition to Professor Fischbach, the research team includes Mr. Jere Jenkins, Purdue's nuclear engineering department; Col. Michael Silver, Purdue Air Force ROTC; faculty from the U.S. Air Force Academy and five Air Force cadets.

Thule is the United States Air Force's northernmost base and is located 695 miles north of the Arctic Circle on the northwest side of Greenland.

While there, the professor and his staff of 12 will study the behavior of both electronic systems and radioactive decays during a rare total solar eclipse.

"The core objective is to study the



Photo by Lt. Col. Gary Lockard

Maj. Erik Thorell, a KC-135 pilot, helps to load equipment from Purdue University aboard the aircraft in preparation for a trip to Greenland.

behavior of electronics during a solar eclipse," explained the professor.

"There will be a solar eclipse on August 1 which will pass almost directly over Thule. We will be making a number of careful measurements including

the decay rates of radioactive elements before, during and after the eclipse."

The planning for the experiment began in March 2007. Due to Thule's remote location, reliable transportation

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For the Air Force, its getting back to basics

By Gen. Stephen Lorenz
Commander, AETC

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- These are challenging times. If you're keeping up with the news, you're probably as frustrated as I am when you see editorials with titles like, "Clean up the Air Force." While we have important issues such as nuclear accountability that must be addressed, you and I both know that the vast majority of the Air Force does not need "cleaning up." As Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has said, "I have every confidence in you, and in the Air Force that has served our country so well."

Nevertheless, when faced with these negative perceptions, our best answer is to get back to basics. Every good team faces bad news from time to time. The excellent teams get through adversity by focusing on what made them excellent to begin with. This is what we must do now.

For the U.S. Air Force, our basics have been, and must always be, our core values: integrity, service and excellence. These values have stood the test of time. They sustained our predecessors when they faced difficulty, and they will do the same for us today.

Integrity is our number one value, which is why we say "Integrity First." When used to describe a building, the word integrity implies strength. If a building has integrity, it can weather a storm and remain strong. The Air Force is built upon the integrity of its people -- you and me. If our collective integrity is strong, then the Air Force will be able to weather any storm.

Unfortunately, the opposite is true as well.

I believe the key to integrity is transparency. Our actions should be transparent to outsiders. While they may not always agree with our decisions, they will see that we are making an honest effort to do what is right. Everything we do in serving the nation should be done as if we were being observed by the American people. If we act in this way, integrity will not be a problem.

We are all public servants, and this requires sacrifice. In short, it requires us to put "Service Before Self." We exhibit this core value when we leave our families for deployments, when we put ourselves in harm's way, and even when we work the extra hour to make sure the job is done right.

Service Before Self does not mean service in spite of self, however. We all have times when our personal lives, especially our families, take priority. That is when we as the Air Force family must step up and cover for each other. When you take on an additional task to help a fellow Airman who is dealing with personal issues, you make the Air Force stronger. And one day, someone will do the same for you.

We became the world's leading Air Force by exhibiting "Excellence In All We Do," and we must keep striving for excellence today. This means that we must aggressively and constantly seek improvement. The Airmen who came before us would not settle for the status quo. They always sought better ways of doing business -- better processes, better equipment, better training. We must do the same.

It is a fact that the most dangerous time for each of us is when we first get comfortable at something, be it flying a sortie, fixing an engine, teaching a class, or simply driving to work. Comfort leads to complacency, and complacency kills. For this reason, I believe that we all should be a little uncomfortable in our jobs. That slight degree of discomfort gives us a valuable edge that spurs us to learn more and get better.

Can I share a secret with you? I'm a little uncomfortable in my new position as commander of Air Education and Training Command. As I learn about what the great Airmen of the command do, I am truly humbled. Our command is so large and diverse that I have a hard time seeing how I can ever become as knowledgeable as I want to be.

Although I would like to be comfortable, I know that personal comfort would be professionally detrimental for the Airmen I command. That is why I'm going to leave my comfort zone, focus on the basics, and strive for bigger and better things for our team. I am just one Airman, however, and I can't do anything alone.

No one says it better than our acting Secretary of the Air Force, Michael Donley. "There is no quicker route to recovery than the power of tens of thousands of Airmen and civilians rededicating themselves to the high standards of excellence that have always been the hallmark of the world's best Air Force." I ask you to come alongside me, and let's work together to turn adversity into opportunity by getting back to basics.

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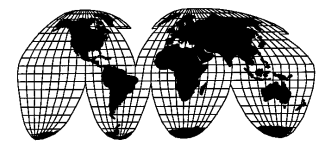
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Reserve firefighters train to respond

By SrA. Ben Mota
Public Affairs staff

The best training is focused training. And for the firefighters in the 434th Civil Engineers Squadron, that is training on the alternate unit training assembly.

The firemen collectively gathered on July's alternate UTA to conduct training and complete upgrade skill level tasks.

The reserve firemen are a fully functional group of military personnel capable of combating both structural fires and performing airfield rescue firefighting.

Each firefighter must go through a Department of Defense firefighter academy at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, before working as a fireman.

"We're often thought of the firefighters who combat aircraft fires but we respond to any type of fire on base," said Master Sgt. David Perryman, a fire protections craftsman. "It is not uncommon for us to respond to fire alarms at billeting during the UTA's and many other types of emergencies."

In July, they began their training by performing a function check on their fire truck, a P-23 aircraft rescue firefighting vehicle, to ensure that it was ready in case of an emergency.

"You have to begin at the front of the vehicle and work your way to the back," said Senior Airman Ryan Ule, a firefighter journeyman with the 434th CES.

"When we get to work, we are responsible for the vehicle that we operate", he said. "It is our job to ensure that all of the fluids are full and that the vehicle is going to be ready if there is an emergency on base."

After all functions checks were performed and the vehicle was determined to be in operable condition the fighters made their way to Grissom's fire pit.

The fire pit allows them to perform fire fighting tactics on a full size model aircraft that is engulfed in flames by propane burners.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Mota

Senior Airman Ryan Ule, a firefighter journeyman with the 434th Civil Engineers Squadron performs a preventative maintenance inspection of a P-23 fire truck before the vehicle can be used during a training exercise.

The P-23 with its two turrets can expel approximately 1750 gallons of water per minute to extinguish a fire.

These immense vehicles are equipped with an arsenal of weapons used for emergency fire fighting.

Reserve firefighters at Grissom are trained to perform the same tasks that

the full time civilian firefighters perform throughout the year.

"The majority of the reserve firefighters are also firefighters in their civilian jobs from all over the state," said Sergeant Perryman. "This brings a lot of good knowledge and experience to Grissom."

Security forces train to ho



Senior Airman Thomas Englehardt, points out to Master Sgt. Chris Miller, the fire team leader, a possible route to take during land-navigation training held during the July UTA. Sergeant Miller and Airman Englehardt are both members of the 434th Security Forces Squadron's Fire Team 1.



Master Sgt. Steven Scott and Tech. Sgt. Robert D. Delee are both 434th Security Forces Squadron members. They are training their next objective during land-navigation training. Sergeants Scott and Delee are both 434th Security Forces Squadron members. They are training their next objective during land-navigation training in a remote area of the UTA.



Master Sgt. Steven Scott, 434th Security Forces Squadron member, points out a possible route to his team to follow during the land-navigation training. Scott is training his team to follow during the land-navigation training in a remote area of the UTA, traversing dense and rough terrain in hot, humid weather.

Heartland Warrior

one land navigation skills



...elee review a map and discuss how to get to
...ng held during the July unit training assembly.
...ty Forces Squadron members who honed their
... Cass County.



Squadron fire team leader, points out a path for
...ning. Security Forces members spent the day
... and rainy conditions.

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Photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

Master Sgt. Chris Miller, 434th Security Forces Squadron fire team leader, uses a compass to identify the direction of his team's next objective during land-navigation training held during the July unit training assembly.



Photo by SrA. Christopher Bricker

Sound and fury

Lightning bolts split the sky during a recent thunderstorm at Grissom. Thanks to weather warnings that display on base computers systems, Grissom personnel know when severe weather is headed their way.

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to and from the permafrost encrusted base was a major concern.

Professor Fischbach became acquainted with Grissom and the capability of the KC-135 via his participation in a special civic leader orientation in a special flight in June 2007.

As Grissom is a short 1-hour drive from the Purdue's West Lafayette, Ind., campus, the idea soon emerged of having Grissom play a key role by providing transportation. After coordinating with various Air Force organizations, including Air Force Mobility Command, Air Education and Training Command, Space Command and the U.S. Air Force Academy, the trip was approved.

The Arctic Science Center at Thule

plays hosts to visiting scientists and will be the temporary home to Professor Fischbach's staff during their nine-day stay. At this time of the year, Thule experiences sunlight 24-hours a day with temperatures in the 30s.

The team hopes the data gathered will help researchers learn how solar activity disrupts various forms of communications, such as satellite communications, Global Positioning Systems and other equipment used by the Department of Defense.

The long-term goal is to develop technology that would provide warnings of impending solar events to ensure critical communications remain uninterrupted. No such technology

currently exists.

The efforts of the research team will continue long after the eclipse is over and they have returned to the confines of their campus. "All of us will spend many months analyzing the data and writing up the results of the various experiments," added Professor Fischbach.

According to Air Force officials, the trip is also providing supplemental benefits to three Purdue ROTC and two Air Force Academy cadets who are part of the research team.

While the act of flying people and cargo aboard a KC-135R to another Air Base may seem routine to Grissom aircrews, the final destination and purpose makes this a unique mission.

Heartland Warrior



Photo by SrA. Carl Berry

Corrosion control

Staff Sgt. Daniel Helms, a crew chief with the 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, lubricates the rollers and flap tracks on a KC-135R Stratotanker. After aircraft are washed it is policy that they are lubricated to prevent corrosion.

Grissom hosts annual military retiree appreciation day

The Grissom will host a special Military Retiree Appreciation Day from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Aug. 22 at the Army Reserve Center on base.

Activities include a complimentary lunch and information fair.

The event is open to all military retirees, regardless of branch of service, and their families.

Organizations schedule to be a part

of the information fair include the Air Force Association, American Legion, Delta Dental, Grissom Air Museum, Grissom Community Council, Marine Corps League, National League of Military Families, Navy Club of Lafayette, Small Business Administration, TRICARE, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Grissom ARB organizations will

include military personnel flight, legal office, family readiness, retiree office and base operations (Space A)

Reservations are not required but would be appreciated. This will help us to plan on how much food to prepare.

Those planning to attend, please call (765) 688-3002 or e-mail at: 434arw.pa@grissom.af.mil.

In the limelight

Promotions

To senior master sergeant— Joseph Allen, 434th Air Refueling Wing.

To master sergeant— Dean Regazzi, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron; James Strode, 434th Security Forces Squadron; and Steven Scott, 434th SFS.

To technical sergeant— Marvin Seagraves, 49th Aerial Port Flight; Marilyn Sabido, 434th CES; Brian Haase, 434th SFS; Misty McKinney, 434th ARW; Elizabeth Kowalski, 434th Operations Support Squadron; and James Szczesny, 434th Aerospace Medical Squadron.

To staff sergeant— Ryan Waddell, 434th AMDS; Christina Glenn, 434th Communications Squadron; Ryan Monahan, 434th SFS; Martin Valadez, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Christopher, Pugh, 434th AMXS; and Tracy Corbin, 434th Services Flight.





Photo by SrA. Carl Berry

Master Sgt. Trudy Burnett, left, and Senior Airman Krista Kulak, both members of the Rising Six display the council's logo. Members interested in joining the council should contact Sergeant Burnett at Ext. 4030.

Rising Six Council seeks members

Senior Airman Carl Berry
Public Affairs Staff

The Rising Six Council located at Grissom Air Reserve Base, first convened eight months ago with the purpose of establishing and maintaining a spirit of camaraderie and esprit de corps that will enhance the prestige of all Airmen and junior non-commissioned officers.

“We currently have 18 members in the Rising Six, and we really want to see our membership increase,” said Master Sgt. Trudy Burnett, the 434th Air Refueling Wing chief chaplain

assistant.

In an effort to boost membership and raise money for different causes the Rising Six will have a booth setup for Family Day, in September.

People will be able to purchase raffle tickets, t-shirts, and sign up to become

being a part of decision making that will enhance the overall quality of life at Grissom,” said Senior Airman Krista Kulak, the 434th Air Refueling Wing executive officer’s assistant.

“It is also great because you are able to meet and interact with Airmen and

NCO’s from different career fields,” she added.

The council assembles Sunday’s at 9 a.m., during the

primary uniformed training assembly.

Any Airmen or junior NCO’s interested in becoming a member of the Rising Six Council should contact Sergeant Burnett at 756-688-4030.

“You are able to meet and interact with Airmen and NCO’s from different career fields.”

-- Senior Airman Krista Kulak

a member, said Sergeant Burnett.

The fee for becoming a member of the Rising Six Council is \$12, which is due annually.

“I joined the Rising Six because of the leadership opportunities, such as