

Heartland

Warrior

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



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Gill

Sharpening a BIG bit

Staff Sgt. Adam Loos, a carpenter apprentice with the 434th Civil Engineers Squadron, sharpens the auger bit on a bobcat prior to setting a post used for an exercise station. CE members at Grissom have been installing fitness stations along the running track on base.

Military personnel flight duo claim base honors

By Staff Sgt. Chris Bolen
Public Affairs staff

GRISSOM AIR RESERVE BASE, IND., --- Senior Master Sgt. Juanita Withrow, 434th Military Personnel Flight superintendent, and Master Sgt.

Kenneth Ferron, 434th Mission Support Flight, were recently named winners of the Indiana Military Achievement Award.

The award is bestowed annually upon enlisted Indiana Guard and Reserve personnel who have been judged outstanding by their respective organi-

zations.

Sergeant Withrow, a 21-year Air Force Reserve veteran was recently promoted to senior master sergeant and was the winner of the 2006 Air Force Reserve Command Wing Career

Please see 'Awards,' page 3

Keep balance in your work, life

By Lt. Col. Kevin Oliver
386th Expeditionary Operations
Support Squadron commander

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- You may have heard about the importance of maintaining balance in your work and in your lives.

The tradeoffs between work and recreation, or fitness and rest, are important and well documented.

Let me tell you about balance from a different perspective --

from a perspective of risk.

The new Air Force chief of staff recently commented that the Air Force will be taking a "back to basics" approach. In the past this phrase meant, at least for the C-130 Hercules community, that we would try to operate without risk, to play it safe and be conservative.

Is this the intent of the chief of staff's message?

I'd argue no.

Reading his comments, you can see what he's actually talking about is a return to flight discipline.

Understand I'm using "flight discipline" in a broad context that applies to all of our operations at this airbase in Southwest Asia, not just flying operations (similar to the concept of how we're all Airmen).

I turned to a very basic regulation to gain a perspective on flight discipline, words that every student pilot would

read in the very first days of aspiring to become a professional aviator.

This regulation described flight discipline as being "at the core of every flying operation.

Maintaining the highest standards of integrity, professional military pilots must adhere to the spirit and intent of governing guidelines while executing

Flight discipline provides ways to balance the risks required to execute our wartime missions.

Fatigue, complacency, dehydration -- all of these are challenges to the mission we must overcome -- even before we actually face the enemy.

Flight discipline arms us with tools to take on these challenges, to bal-

ance the risks against mission effectiveness.

One final point about balance: It's

Keep a mission-oriented goal out there on your horizon to steer for, in addition to your faith, family and personal interests.

the mission in the presence of temptation to do otherwise."

In addition, this guidance instructs brand new Air Force professionals that "flight discipline begins with mission preparation.

Know the rules and procedures, study the profile, ensure crew rest requirements are met and show up prepared to fly.

One unprepared crewmember can jeopardize the mission."

I realize these words are specific, in this case, to flying.

Look at the guidance for your job, for your duties as an Airman, an NCO or officer; however, and you'll find similar sentiments.

The point is to treat discipline according to the root meaning of the word, which is ... knowledge.

What does all this have to do with balance?

Everything.

easier to maintain if you're moving forward with your eyes on the horizon.

Have you ever tried to ride a bike standing still?

Keep a mission-oriented goal out there on your horizon to steer for, in addition to your faith, family and personal interests.

Sounds complicated, doesn't it?

We have challenges to overcome, and must possess in-depth knowledge about our profession in order to be successful.

We have to weigh risks against rewards, and decide how far to push on any given day.

We have to prepare and focus -- to maintain discipline.

It sounds complicated, but when you really think about it, it's pretty simple.

There's only one thing to remember when it comes to balance. Don't lose it. (AFNS)

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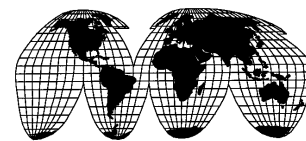
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Any questions regarding any

content should be directed to the editor (765) 688-3348.

Staff

Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy.....commander
Lt. Col. Gary Lockard.....chief, public affairs
Capt. Kelly Howard.....public affairs officer
Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays.....editor
Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner.....assist. editor
Master Sgt. Rob Hoffman.....graphics
Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz.....photographer
Staff Sgt. Chris Bolen.....staff writer
Staff Sgt. Ben Mota.....staff writer
SrA. Carl Berry.....staff writer
Penny Pearson.....administration



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Reveille

Members of the 434th Communications Squadron salute as they stand in unit formation for reveille during the October unit training assembly.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

Awards

from page 1

Assistance Advisor of the Year Award.

For Sergeant Ferron, the award also comes on the heels of his promotion to master sergeant.

Selection for the IMA award is based on ratings in the following categories: military performance during the past year, judgment, reliability, leadership, appearance, attitude and preparation for advancement.

However, each service unit is the ultimate judge of its own recipients and may decide on its own criteria for selection.

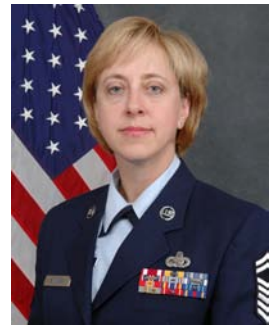
For Sergeant Withrow, the award also follows her winning the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Top Performer Award in 2006.

Sergeant Ferron was named the 2007, 434th Air Refueling Wing Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

Presentation of the award is the highlight of the annual Veterans Day Banquet hosted by the Veterans Day Council of Indianapolis.

This year, the Council is holding its 44th annual banquet at the downtown Indianapolis Marriott, Nov. 11.

The two senior NCOs will be honored following a day of activities in Indianapolis.



SMSgt. Withrow



MSgt. Ferron



Photo by Senior Airman Carl Berry

An employee from the Raytheon Corporation based out of Fort Wayne serves up a shot during a volleyball competition as part of a special challenge day held at the Marine Corps complex.

Marines host Challenge Day events

Senior Airman Carl Berry
Public Affairs staff

Marine Corps Detachment 1 Communication Company, a tenant unit of Grissom Air Reserve Base, held a Challenge Day on Oct. 18.

Challenge Day is a day we created with the purpose of building a special "Unit Partnership" between the Indiana military and companies that support our mission, stated Maj. Patrick Allison, the Marine Corps commander said.

There were 10 events that took place on the day including: a 5k run, volleyball, tug-of-war, darts, ping pong, egg toss, Wii bowling, Guitar Hero, chip

in golf, and a Marine favorite pull-ups, sit-ups and push-up competition.

"Events like this allow the technical support provider and the war fighter to integrate and understand each other," said Maj. Allison.

"Marines are able to understand the engineer who builds the technology they will be using and they are able to brush up on leadership skills by networking and communicating with business professionals," he said.

One of the business professionals at the event was Ken Steiner, the director of engineering at Raytheon's Fort Wayne office.

"Getting to know the Marines that we are servicing allows for us to build

camaraderie and understand the problems they face on the battleground, so that we are able to better service them," he shared.

"I also appreciate the opportunity of seeing the disciplines of the Marine Corps, the opportunity to see what the Reserves do, and hearing some of the stories of the Marines," said Mr. Steiner.

Everyone who participated in Challenge Day received a coin and T-shirt. There was also food, drinks, music and laughs.

"We plan to have this event annually, to continue building and strengthening our relationship," Maj. Allison added.

Bivouac lets members train as they fight

By Staff Sgt. Ben Mota
Public Affairs staff

Pack your duffle bags and put on your battle rattle. No, it is not a deployment but they train as they fight.

The 434th Civil Engineering Squadron recently finished a bivouac designed to satisfy mandatory training and upgrade training in simulated real world conditions.

The four day training was conducted during the alternate unit training assemblies of August and October.

Throughout the mission Airmen received training in areas such as convoy operations, generator operations, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, night operations, temper tent setup, and bare base concepts.

“We are trying to give Airmen hands-on experience and the training needed in a real world environment,” said Master Sgt. Kevin Johnson, 434th CES.

“The training allows Airmen to make mistakes and learn from their mistakes in a training environment so that those mistakes won’t occur during real missions,” he added.

“If they get it wrong then we do it over again,” said Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Gill, 434th CES operations superintendent. “That is one of the most important parts of these kinds of training.”

The second phase of the training began with transporting all of the supplies necessary for the operation to the bivouac site, just as done in an actual deployment.

“Everything is done the same way as if we were deploying,” said Sergeant Gill. “From start to finish we transport all of our equipment to the site and then tear it down and transport it back when we are finished,” he added.

During the training, the 434th Services Flight provided meals for the squadron and all other participants in the event. Early Sunday morning, with frost still on the ground, members



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Mota

Staff Sgt. Bartlett Fletcher, a liquid fuels systems craftsman with the 434th Civil Engineers Squadron takes cover during an exercise as part of a bivouac held during the October unit training assembly.

or their team began cooking breakfast for the group.

The Marine Corps also provided a role in the training by instructing Airmen how to react under fire while in a convoy. Airmen received crucial training regarding the responses necessary to survive an ambush.

During the training the Marines used their vehicles to simulate the proper methods of mounting and dismounting vehicles in a combat environment.

“Their experience in combat situations overseas provided us with excellent training since they have been there and done it,” said Sergeant Johnson.

“The combined support of services, the fire department, and the Marine Corps has greatly enhanced our ability to complete the training successfully,” he added.

In addition to training the bivouac provided opportunities for team building and camaraderie amongst the Airmen.

“The training gave everyone the opportunity to get together and learn as a team,” said Sergeant Johnson, with a smile on his face. “It also gave higher ranking individuals the opportunity to learn about their subordinates while passing on their knowledge.”

Telling Grissom's tale UPARs serve as conduit to report on unit news

By Capt. Kelly Howard
Public Affairs Officer

Grissom Airmen are always on the move doing great things; so much so that one office cannot possibly get everyone the recognition they deserve.

The Unit Public Affairs Representative program was created to assist public affairs in "getting the word out."

"We have a lot of very talented people in the wing," said Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays, superintendent of public affairs.

"It would be impossible to know all the great things going on in the wing without the help of the UPARs."

The UPAR program was developed to augment the public affairs staff by putting a more immediate contact in each unit to ensure newsworthy items are released to the media as well as featured in the *Heartland Warrior*, website, and hometown news releases.

Photos and story ideas are some submissions UPARs make in order to "better educate others on our mission and involvement," according to Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Gill, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron operations superintendent.

"(Submissions) heighten awareness of the CE mission which is often taken for granted until needed (power, water, heat, AC, fire, roads, disasters, etc...) then quickly forgotten," the superintendent said. "(Getting information out through the UPAR program) changes perception from low level workers to mission impacting enablers... we gain respect and recognition while not directly associated with an air frame."

Public Affairs is the vehicle through

which the wing commander communicates with other Air Force members as well as the civil community.

Stories published or televised in the community help inform the public of the dedicated efforts of the 434th professionals who live and work beside them.

Hometown news releases recognize the accomplishments of wing members while giving that member's family a chance to read about their Airmen in the paper.

Stories published or televised in the community help inform the public of the dedicated efforts of the 434th professionals who live and work beside them.

"The (hometown news releases) are an excellent tool to let the public know that Grissom is

still open and running strong," said Master Sgt. Ralph Ross, 434th Security Forces Squadron's NCOIC of quality control. "It's amazing how many people that don't live close by think that the base has closed. Getting the word out to the public helps increase the awareness of the operation here at Grissom."

"Having another individual right in the squadron who can tell us about major events or send back photos from a deployment or flight that we could not cover is extremely important," Sergeant Hays. "We've written some great stories based on submissions from UPARs and we've published submitted photos on the website for everyone to access."

The word "augment" can make some shudder with thoughts of extra duties, but Sergeant Gill does not agree in this case.

"(It's) not all that much (extra effort)...the return far outweighs the investment," he added.

Who is my UPAR?

434th Logistics Readiness Squadron – Senior Airmen Desirita Bussell and Serina DeJesus

434th Operations Group – Master Sgt. Tina Youker

434th Operations Support Squadron – Senior Airman Joshua Parson

72nd Air Refueling Squadron – Capt. Anne Noel and Master Sgt. Laura McKee

74th Air Refueling Squadron – Technical Sgt. Deborah Melton

434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron – Senior Master Sgt. Janet Wescott, Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Mercier and Staff Sgt. Michael McGowan

434th Maintenance Group MOF – Master Sgts. Gary Scheiter and Sara Greene and Staff Sgt. Cornelius O'Sullivan

434th Maintenance Squadron – Master Sgt. Everett Liggett and Technical Sgt. Scott Apple

434th Mission Support Group – Technical Sgt. Darrell Watts and Staff Sgt. James Frier

434th Security Forces Squadron – Master Sgt. Ralph Ross

434th Civil Engineering Squadron – Technical Sgt. George McGookin and Master Sgt. Christopher Heston

434th Services Flight – Technical Sgt. Denise Walker and Senior Airman Corbin Tracey

434th Communications Squadron – Staff Sgt. Chichi Lu and Senior Airman Andrew Vernum

434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron – Capt. Debra Edgerley and Senior Master Sgt. Mark Campbell

49th Aerial Port Flight – Technical Sgt. Debra Turner and Staff Sgt. David Gentile



Photo by SrA. Carl Berry

Blazin'

Reserve fire fighters with the 434th Civil Engineers Squadron, watch as the fire training simulator is ignited. The firemen conducted night training as part of a 434th CES bivouac held on the alternate unit training assembly in October.

Military OneSource

Military OneSource is a one-stop shopping for military personnel and their families, 24 hours a day -- seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Whether its help with child care, personal finances, emotional support during deployments, relocation information or resources needed for special

circumstances, Military OneSource offers assistance.

Services are available by phone or online, and the office provides master's level consultants trained to offer confidential support and practical solutions.

Military OneSource is provided by the Department of Defense at no cost

to active, and reserve forces -- regardless of activation status. Families are also eligible for assistance.

The program is designed to be a virtual extension of installation services, officials said.

People can visit Military OneSource online at www.militaryonesource.com or call 1-800-342-9647.

In the limelight

Promotions

To chief master sergeant – Glen Johnson, 434th Civil Engineers Squadron.

To senior master sergeant— Juanita Withrow, 434th Mission Support Flight.

To master sergeant—Daniel Lecroy, 434th Maintenance Squadron; William Garman, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Kenneth Ferron, 434th MSF; and Marion Cormican, 434th CES.

To technical sergeant— Brett Jaynes, 434th Communications Squadron; Richard Schonegg, 434th CES; Joyce Royston, 434th Aerospace Medical Squadron; David Schneider, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Philip Henderson, 49th Aerial Port Flight; Tanielle Phillips, 434th MSF; Katie Deane, 434th MSF; Nicholas Ward, 434th CES; and Eric Vance, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight.

To staff sergeant— Tela Fisher, 434th Security Forces Squadron; Taria Anderson, 434th SFS; Joseph Boelcke, 434th AMXS; Robert Faurot, 74th Air Refueling Squadron; James Klebe, 434th MOF; Zachary Chapin, 434th MXS; Alexander Harris, 434th SFS, Bradley Frank, 49th APF, Andrew Smalley, 49th APF; Joshua Inman, 49th APF; David Malon, 434th AMXS; Lynn Htaik, 434th CES; and Gregory Coryell, 434th LRS.



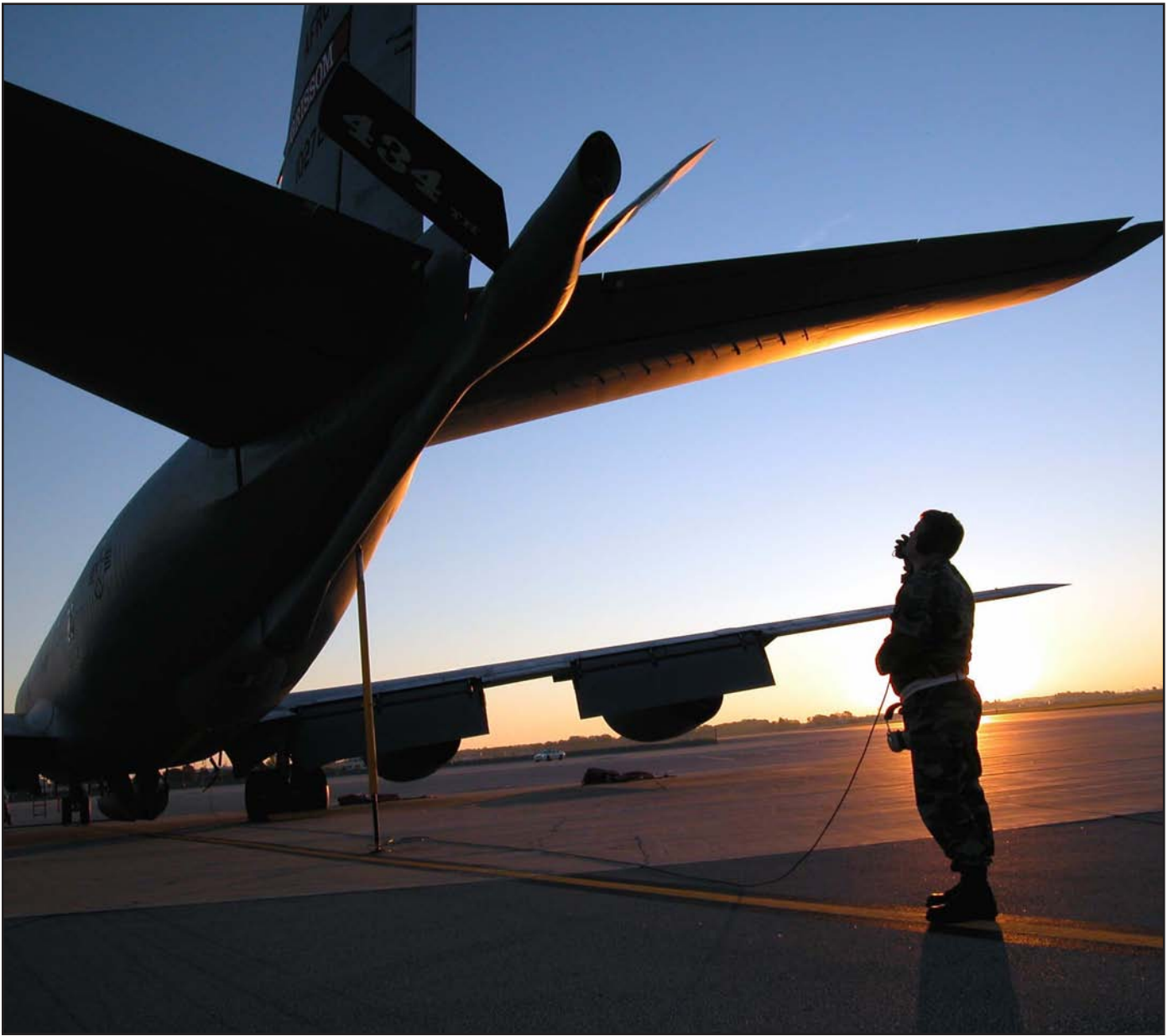


Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Bolen

Dawn's early light

Staff Sgt. William Vansweden, a KC-135R crew chief, works with an aircrew to pre-flight the refueling boom on a Grissom tanker before an early morning on the October alternate unit training assembly.

Grissom night scheduled at Pacers game

The Grissom Honor Guard will present the colors at the Indiana Pacers basketball game against the Los Angeles Lakers on Dec. 2 -- and military members can attend the game for a discount.

The game starts at 7 p.m. in Conseco Field House in Indianapolis and the night is dedicated to Grissom members and their families.

A limited number of tickets are

available to unit members beginning in November.

The tickets are \$20 each and are available at the Grissom Inn lodging desk, and during lunch at the dining facility.

Ticket sales run through Nov. 21st.

The ticket price includes club seating admission and a food voucher redeemable at the concession stands.

After the club seats are sold out,

members will still be able to purchase seats and receive the same amenities, but the seats will be located in a different area than the rest of the group.

A special photo opportunity with one of the Pacer's personalities will be afforded to Grissom members at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason at Ext. 4221.