

Heartland

Warrior

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



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

Training to survive

Airmen respond to a fallen comrade during a chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear training held on the February unit training assembly. For a closer look at the training, turn to page 5.

Maintainers earn 4th AF Clouse award

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

The 434th Maintenance Group rose to the top in 4th Air Force and received the Chief Master Sgt. James K. Clouse Trophy for 2008.

The award recognizes the 4th Air Force maintenance organization that achieved the highest standards in

safety, mission support, demonstrated ingenuity, mission accomplishments and maintenance excellence.

During the award period, Grissom participated in a major air expeditionary force deployment serving as the lead wing at Incirlik AB, Turkey supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

They built the maintenance package

for all Air Force Reserve Command KC-135R units; displaying great communication and teamwork.

In addition, Grissom maintainers took the first two months of the tasking alone, setting the standard with the maintenance personnel package.

With more than 200 maintainers deployed, they were able to maintain

Please see Clouse Award, page 3

Fitting the pieces to the puzzle

By Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Craver
71st Expeditionary ACS

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) -- As the father of three children, I have fond memories of sitting around the kitchen table with my kids putting picture puzzles together.

Each one of my children enjoyed seeing the picture begin to develop as the puzzle pieces were found and gently put into place.

As they got older, it became a competition to see who would find the last piece and have the honor of placing it in the correct position to complete the picture.

It became so competitive that arguments would begin and the joy we shared working the puzzle began to fade.

What they did not understand is that the first piece was just important as the last.

As a member of the Air Force, deployed in a joint environment, I realize that my contribution is just as important as the person standing guard while I sleep or the person providing the necessary support to load and ready aircraft for flight.

When one of the pieces is missing from the team then the entire mission suffers.

The honor and importance is not in the last piece of the puzzle, but the result of the individual pieces coming together to successfully complete the mission.

Each piece must fit perfectly together

in order for the picture to be correct and the mission to be completely successful.

Following the proper instructions and guidelines allow us to apply our piece correctly and guarantee our piece -- or portion of the puzzle -- will contribute positively to the overall mission accomplishment and successfulness.

Cutting corners or ignoring established procedures could change your piece just enough that it may not correctly fit or achieve the desired results.

One of the biggest Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century initiatives we could all embrace is to do all things the correct way the first time.

By taking the time to do things correctly, we set the stage for excellence.

In the war on terrorism, we must all understand the importance of the different services we provide and the impact each have on one another.

Having served in the military for close to 23 years and being assigned to various organizations with numerous deployments, I am constantly reminded of three things.

First, each piece of the puzzle is important.

Second, each piece must fit properly in order for the picture to be completed.

And third, each piece must be managed and placed with a champion's effort.

Accomplishment of these three things allows a significant contribution

to the overall big picture and leads to successful mission accomplishment.

As we realize how important our piece is and we guarantee our piece will fit correctly into the bigger picture, we can continue to guarantee to provide the best possible product by being champions in our field.

Chuck Knoll, the legendary head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers from 1969 to 1991 defined champions by saying, "Champions are not champions by doing extraordinary things, but by doing the ordinary things better than anyone else."

As we become champions in our field, we will enable the success of the team.

Our goal is to perform the ordinary things, extraordinarily well.

Are you making sure that your piece of the puzzle fits into the bigger picture?

If we all continue to guard our piece and hold it to the very end, the picture will remain incomplete and the mission will suffer.

Instead we must understand the importance our contributions have on the total picture, no matter how small they may seem.

We must guarantee when presenting our contributions that they are offered readily and with the excellence demanded of ourselves and others to complete the picture.

Finally, we must continue to strive to be the champions in our field performing the ordinary things, extraordinarily well. (AFNS)

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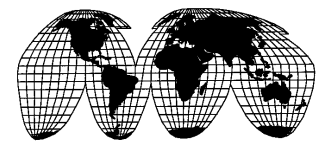
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Any questions regarding any

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

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Clouse Award, from page 3

a 94 percent mission capable rate on an average of 19.6 sorties per aircraft. That equates to the unit being able to offload nearly 12 million pounds of fuel.

The unit also blazed a trail by forging ahead with a new paperless isochronical inspection process for the KC-135R Stratotanker; meeting the target implementation date, and despite numerous obstacles, was able to improve the process to the point where fly-to-fly times were reduced to 31 days – among the leaders in AFRC.

“It took a team effort from every person in the group to win this award,” said Col. Stan Sheley, 434th Maintenance Group commander.

The award, named after Chief Master Sgt. James Clouse, who was on the 4th Air Force Staff in the early 1980s when the award was being developed. He died of cancer in 1984 just before the first award was given with his name on it.

Chief Clouse was known as a man who got things done the right way and never saw a challenge too big to tackle.

“Our group has taken Chief Clouse’s legacy to heart. Even during an incredibly fast-paced year filled with deployments, inspections, new requirements and a heavy flying workload, the Air Force’s finest collection



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

Col. Cam Leblanc, 4th AF maintenance officer, left, presents the Chief Master Sgt. James Clouse Trophy to Col. Stan Sheley, 434th Maintenance Group commander, during the wing commander’s call held in February. The trophy is given to the 4th Air Force maintenance organization that achieves the highest standards in safety, mission support, demonstrated ingenuity, mission accomplishments and maintenance excellence.

of aircraft mechanics met any and all challenges head on and never wavered in a commitment to produce safe and reliable aircraft for the Air Force’s best aircrews,” Colonel Sheley said.

“Without those superior mechanics,

the NCOs and officers leading them, and the awesome support we receive from everyone in the wing, we would not have won this award,” he concluded.

AFRC hosts leadership summit for teenagers

The Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard will host two teen leadership summits in 2009 in Georgia.

The first summit will be held July 13-17 at the Wahsega 4-H Center in Dahlonga, Ga.

The second summit will be July 27-31 at the Jekyll Island 4-H Center in Jekyll Island, Ga.

For the first summit attendees will be flown into Atlanta-Hartsfield International Airport.

This Summit will focus on developing an awareness of programs and services available to Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard dependents.

Activities include rock climbing, white water rafting, environmental

education and leadership classes.

For the second summit, attendees will be flown into Jacksonville International Airport.

This summit will build upon information gained at the first summit so attendees should come with a basic understanding of programs and services available to them as dependents of AFR/ANG.

Speak Out for Military Kids training will be provided as well as programs focused on ocean/marsh life and the local history.

Activities will include sea kayaking/canoeing, dolphin tours, biking, leadership activities and more.

The teen leadership summits are

open to all 15-18 year old dependent teens of current Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard members.

Applicants will be required to complete the 2009 AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit application to include essay questions and Code of Conduct.

The application deadline is April 6, and the application and criteria are located at the following website: www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeenSummit

For more information, or questions, please contact Stacey Young at 478-327-0971, or Brandi Mullins, at 478-327-2090.

Grissom has a new command chief

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affair staff

It seems Larry Brady has been in training his whole life for his current job.

Chief Master Sgt. Brady, the 434th Air Refueling Wing's command chief, has been smoothing things over or overcoming unknown obstacles, and trying to help people get along his whole life.

His twin brother Garry used to set

him up when people would confuse the two.

"He'd say: 'are you important enough to know me,' or 'should I kiss or hug you,' to people who would confuse him for Larry.

Chief Brady credits the challenges brought on by having a twin with a sense of humor as being a good training experience for his new role.

"I'm just putting myself out there with an open mindset," he said. "I want to build a strong report with the

chief's group, the first sergeants and understand the needs of the commander's on base and facilitate those with the enlisted force."

As the command chief, he advises the commander on matters influencing the health, morale, welfare and effective utilization of more than 1,400 personnel within the wing and serves as the commander's representative to numerous committees, councils, boards, and military and civilian functions. He also serves as the spokesperson and liaison between the enlisted force and the commander.

"I want to help people understand why they are here and what their role is within the unit," he said. "We're all here because of those aircraft on the flight line, and our personal agendas should coincide with getting the mission done."

The chief began his Air Force career in April 1984. After completing basic training and technical school, he was assigned to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, where he served as a telecommunications systems equipment specialist.

Chief Brady joined the Air Force Reserve Command in 1987 and initially served with the 930th Communications Squadron at Grissom Air Reserve Base., Ind.

In 1991 he changed career fields, becoming an aeromedical flight surgeon technician with the 45th Fighter Squadron at Grissom.

He was assigned to the 434th Medical Squadron in March 1994 and has held numerous positions within the squadron including medical technician, noncommissioned officer in charge of physical exams and standards and superintendent of aeromedical services.

In February 2009, he accepted his current position as the 434th Air Refueling Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant.

As a civilian, he is a rural mail carrier in Winamac, covering over 100 miles a day. He also has a long history of working with the Boy Scouts and a strong involvement with Pulaski's St. Joseph's Catholic Church.



Chief Master Sgt. Larry Brady



Capt. Paul Hayes, right, 434th Security Forces Squadron operations officer, displays multiple props used to teach chemical, biological, radiation, and nuclear training during the February unit training assembly.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz

Above, Master Sgt. Tim Cahill, base safety office, illustrates the proper way to secure the helmet on the Jlist suit. Chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear training was held for hundreds of Airmen during the February unit training assembly.

Right, Tech. Sgt. Nancy Johnson, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, does her best to slip on protective over-boots during the training.



Services outlasts the field to claim 2009 basketball title



Jake Cougan drives to the basket for his 434th Civil Engineers fire department team.



Ardell Dupaty, Jr., right, prepares to make his move against Steven Barteo during an intramural basketball tournament held during the February unit training assembly. Despite both players' efforts for their respective teams, the group from the 434th Services Flight took home the championship trophy for 2009.

Right, Gabriel Rienks is defended hard by Jeremie Cutter from the 434th Civil Engineering Squadron fire department team during a basketball tourney.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

Players from the 434th Civil Engineers Squadron fire department basketball team huddle together during a game against their rival civil engineer team to discuss game strategy. Not even the best strategizing could help the boys in green as the group from the 434th Services Flight won the 2009 title.



Heartland Warrior



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Judging the chili

Tim Braun, Grissom lodging, samples a batch of chili during a Chili Cook Off held at the Grissom Club. Club patrons had an opportunity to sample a variety of different styles of chili from traditional to blazing hot.

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal— Senior Master Sgt. Darlene Cornelius, 434th Mission Support Flight; Senior Master Sgt. Martin Quirk, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Julie Holt, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Technical Sgt. Janet Rector, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Mercier, 434th AMXS; Technical Sgt. Troy Phillips, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron; Master Sgt. James Hendricks, 434th MSF; and Master Sgt. Billy Fagan; 434th CES.

Awards

Officer of the Quarter -- Capt. Michael Schaefer, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

NCO of the Quarter -- Tech. Sgt. Brian Arnold, 434th Communications Squadron.

Airman of the Quarter -- A1C Courtney Storey, 434th Operations Support Squadron.



Program supports deployed Airmen

By Lt. Col. Gary Lockard

Public Affairs staff

When you hear the words “Yellow Ribbon,” what is the first thing that you think of? For some, it may be the magnetic yellow ribbons the public displays to show their support for military personnel. For others, the words may invoke images of the hit song from the 1970s, “Tie a yellow ribbon round the old oak tree.”

Throughout the Air Force Reserve Command, the term “Yellow Ribbon” is now being used for a new program that provides support to reservists, their families, civilian employers and communities during times of mobilization and deployment.

“It was actually created to provide support and outreach activities to our reservists who are going to be deployed 90 days or longer,” stated Alison Duncan, Grissom ARB Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and chairperson of the integrated delivery system team. “It will include activities pre-deployment, deployment and post-deployment.”

The Yellow Ribbon program is a result of a congressional directive in the 2007 Defense Appropriations Act that mandated reserve components provide additional deployment support and reintegration to reservists and their families. Not only does the program focus on pre-deployment activities, but also reintegration activities after the end of any deployment or mobilization lasting 90 days or longer.

“These activities we are implementing through Yellow Ribbon will ensure families have support with their local network,” added Chaplain (Maj.) Obadiah Smith, who is also a deployment



support cycle representative. “Also, employers will have vital information regarding federal regulations and guidelines pertaining to deployed members.”

The first stage of the Yellow Ribbon program deals with pre-deployment. The focus is to provide education and ensure the readiness of reservists, their families, employers, and affected communities for the rigors of combat deployment and family separation.

When personnel are deployed, the focus shifts to meeting the challenges and stress associated with separation and combat. Keeping in touch with family members to ensure they have a local support network and employers, to make sure they have current information on any federal programs affecting deployed reservists, is an important part of this stage.

The third segment of the program deals with post-deployment and reintegration: Initial activities will provide information about resources available to help a reservist transition back to civilian life as well as connecting them with service providers who can assist in overcoming challenges of reintegration. This stage lasts for 180s

days after the service member returns from deployment.

“We are very fortunate to have a number of agencies willing to participate in our Yellow Ribbon program, including many on base agencies that are already involved in supporting our deployers,” added Ms Duncan. “Off-base agencies include Tri-Care, Veterans Administration, Military Family Life Consultants, Military One Source and a local spouse support group.”

Activities will be conducted at 30, 60 and 90-day intervals. For the Yellow Ribbon Program, families and family members are defined as spouse, children, parents, grandparents and siblings

The Yellow Ribbon Program is a combined team effort that includes a host of base organizations including Chaplain, Civilian Personnel Office, Family Readiness, Financial Management, Health Services, Human Resource Development council, Legal Office, Military Personnel Flight, Public Affairs, Safety Office, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and Services.

“As a Reservist, the core of what we do is our mission and devotion to the Air Force. I believe that Yellow Ribbon is also the essence of who I am as well as a direct connection to my family, my community and my employer,” explain Chaplain Smith. “I see the Yellow Ribbon program as a lifeline that gives stability to our Airmen who are deployed.”

“We are unavoidably connected to a common destiny. When a deployed member is affected by the stressors of a deployment, sooner or later their stress will affect all of us—home base, family, community and the employer.”

I see the Yellow Ribbon program as a lifeline that gives stability to our Airmen who are deployed.”

-- Chaplain Smith