

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

Changing of the guard:

New honor guard NCOIC takes charge, seeks recruits

By SrA. Carl Berry
Public Affairs staff

Throughout the Air Force's history the honor guard has represented every past, present and future member of the United States Air Force in ceremonies and events.

Master Sgt. Timothy Wood, 434th Services Flight shift supervisor, recently replaced Senior Master Sgt. Linda Mason, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, as the Grissom Base Honor Guard noncommissioned officer in charge recently.

Sergeant Wood has been an active member of the base honor guard for the last six years. He has participated in numerous events including military funeral honors, retirement ceremonies, and presenting the colors at nationally televised sporting events and other various community service activities.

"Serving in the Air Force has been a dream of mine and getting selected as the NCOIC for the honor guard has been the icing on the



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Tech. Sgt. Nathan Greathouse, a personnel specialist with the 434th Maintenance Squadron, folds the flag as part of a funeral detail during an honor guard graduation ceremony. Members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing were joined by classmates from the Air National Guard and Army Reserve to complete honor guard training here at Grissom. The training culminated with a display of precision movements required to pay respect those who have served.

cake," he said.

However, the honor guard is not for everyone, he added.

It takes an Airman with a lot of heart, desire and commitment, said Sergeant Wood.

Often members of the honor guard leave early in the morning for details and return late in the evenings. Some details are completed in the bitter cold or scorching heat.

"We are out there

standing for prolonged periods, in all weather conditions; it takes a lot to stand there, motionless, by choice," he said. "But, we're not out there for

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Teamwork builds mission success

By Lt. Col. Stephen Melroy
379th Expeditionary MXG

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- I am not much into fist-pumping speeches or flowery phrases to get a point across, so here is the important fact: teamwork.

Teamwork is vital for our success every day in and around the base.

When I was a squadron commander, I used to show a video clip from a commercial. It showed several hundred very small fish in an unorganized mass fleeing a large shark. As the shark was about to gobble up several of these fish, the animation changed and all of the smaller fish aligned to become an image of a much larger fish than the shark. They then turned on the shark and chased it away.

I was struck by the simplicity of the commercial and the way it portrayed teamwork in action. Several individuals -- in this case, the small fish -- coming together to face a challenge and achieve what they could not do individually. I could speak at length about the importance of teamwork and never achieved the simple message that came from that 30-second commercial.

Teamwork is a must for our challenges in the Air Force. I don't have a neat acronym for the word "team" to help remember some basic principles, but I do offer some observations from 24 years in uniform that I found helpful in building teams. It's simple in its prescription, but goes against the efficiencies those wonderful



Graphic by Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

gizmos the 21st century offers like text messaging, e-mail or similar communication methods.

I think everyone has heard at some point in their life that communication is the key to success. I am going to put a different spin on this and emphasize good, old-fashioned face-to-face communication. While the size of the team can and does matter, you can still build a team or be a better team member by seeking to do business in person. This may be less efficient than e-mail, but it helps build relationships as you continue to meet other challenges.

I make a plea today to everyone reading this: Get away from the computer; go out into the shops, flightline or wherever and work issues face-to-face. Push the chair back, put your hat on and go find those who you need to make it happen.

Secondly, if you are a team leader, try and articulate your goals as clearly as possible. Find those critical pieces that will enable success within your team; things like adhering to technical data while doing a maintenance task or being a good wingman 24/7. Then stress those verbally over and over wherever possible. These fundamentals should never leave your vocabulary and should be repeated often.

Finally, communicate wherever possible in person to get your message across. This will show your personal involvement and commitment to solving a challenge. People are much more willing to work with you and help solve a problem, if you show that level of concern and commitment. Be an active team member -- be a voice to be heard and have a piece in solving the issues confronting your team. (AFNS)

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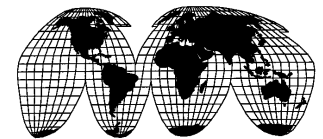
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Any questions regarding any

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
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Penny Pearson.....administration



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Photo by Senior Airman Carl Berry

Sew-ouie!

Master Sgt. Steven Kulik, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron medical technician, practices suturing on a pig's foot during the March unit training assembly. Practicing on pig's feet allows 434th AMDS to get realistic training without having to perform procedures on a human body. This training allows personnel to become familiar with the feel of various procedures, so should they need arise, they would have the experience to perform them on a human patient.

Honor guard, from page 1

ourselves; we're out there to serve the military members and their families, as the last integral part of closure."

Grissom Airmen who are interested in joining the base honor guard must go through a special application process, which includes disclosure about availability and interviews with supervisors.

"A servicemember must have the heart," said Sergeant Wood. "If the sound of Taps or seeing the American flag does not send chills up your spine then the honor guard may not be for you."

If selected, Airmen must attend one-week of intense training and are asked to commit to a minimum of six details per year.

"It truly is rewarding," concluded Sergeant Wood.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Staff Sgt. Kelly Ehrsam, 122nd Fighter Wing, Fort Wayne Air National Guard, plays Taps as part of a funeral detail during an honor guard graduation ceremony held recently. Members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing were joined by members of the Air National Guard and Army Reserve as they went through and intense week of honor guard training.

Grissom dentists fight cavities one t^{🦷🦷}th at a time



Photos by Staff Sgt. Chris Bolen



ABOVE: Maj. Michael Polomchak, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight commander, opens his mouth wide for Lt. Col. (Dr.) Craig Wisler, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron dental services chief, during his annual physical dental evaluation. A reservist's physical health is critical for mobility readiness, and this includes their dental condition.

RIGHT: Lt. Col. (Dr.) Craig Wisler, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, performs a dental examination on Maj. Michael Polomchak, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight commander, during his annual physical. A full dental examination by a Grissom dentist is required during the "long" physical. Prior to their "short" physical reservists must have a DD Form 2813 completed by their personal dentist and return the completed form to the Grissom dental clinic. Failure to do so leaves their physical in an incomplete status.



LEFT: Senior Airman Nicholas Obusek sits back and allows Lt. Col. (Dr.) Craig Wisler to go to work performing a dental evaluation on the aircraft structural maintenance apprentice from the 434th Maintenance Squadron as Staff Sgt. John C. Dietz, Jr. watches makes notes in a medical file. Both Colonel Wisler and Sergeant Dietz are assigned to the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron. A reservist's physical health is critical for mobility readiness, and this includes their dental condition.

AF wear tests new PT uniform

By Mr. Mike Wallace
Skywriter Staff

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio -- A prototype physical training uniform for the Air Force is undergoing wear testing at Wright Patterson Air Force base, Ohio, the Pentagon and MacDill AFB, Fla.

The new design was introduced last month at the three sites for 185 males and females of various

sizes, ethnic backgrounds, officers--including 42 general officers, and enlisted, to wear during PT three or more times a week.

At the end of this month, the Air Force Uniform Office here will evaluate the uniform's performance from feedback provided by the wearers.

Capt. Nick Ferry, program manager for the PT uniform, described it as "100 percent polyester with a moisture management system and an anti-odor lining."

He added that the prototypes differ from

the current PT uniform in features including: no hood or vents, better reflectivity, decreased noise and lighter weight. The uniform consists of a jacket and slacks, T-shirt, and tapered shorts with pockets and comfortable liner.

Emphasizing that the uniform still is in testing, Captain Ferry said that wearers initially "loved the fabric." He added they also "appreciated the longer length in shorts and the better fitting liner."

Captain Ferry said that volunteers were carefully measured, and they were.

"We have the whole gamut of what

people do in PT," he said. "We have the three-times-a-week Airmen, and we have people who exercise longer, such as marathon runners. We require the volunteers to keep logs of exercise and laundry cycles."

The prototype uniform laundry instructions include washing in cold water using mild detergents, and not using fabric softeners or dryer sheets since chemicals from these could clog the pores of the uniform's polyester material and affect performance.

The PT uniform currently in use was adopted in 2004 from an Air Force Academy design, and technicians here modified it for general Air Force use. Feedback on the uniform's heat, weight, and discomfort when compared to exercise clothing available commercially led to creating the new uniform.

Following the wear test, Captain Ferry said "there'll be a final survey, and we'll analyze peoples' likes and dislikes to see if further tests or modifications are needed. Then, we'd brief at the Chief of Staff level, and from there it's a go or no-go." (AFNS)

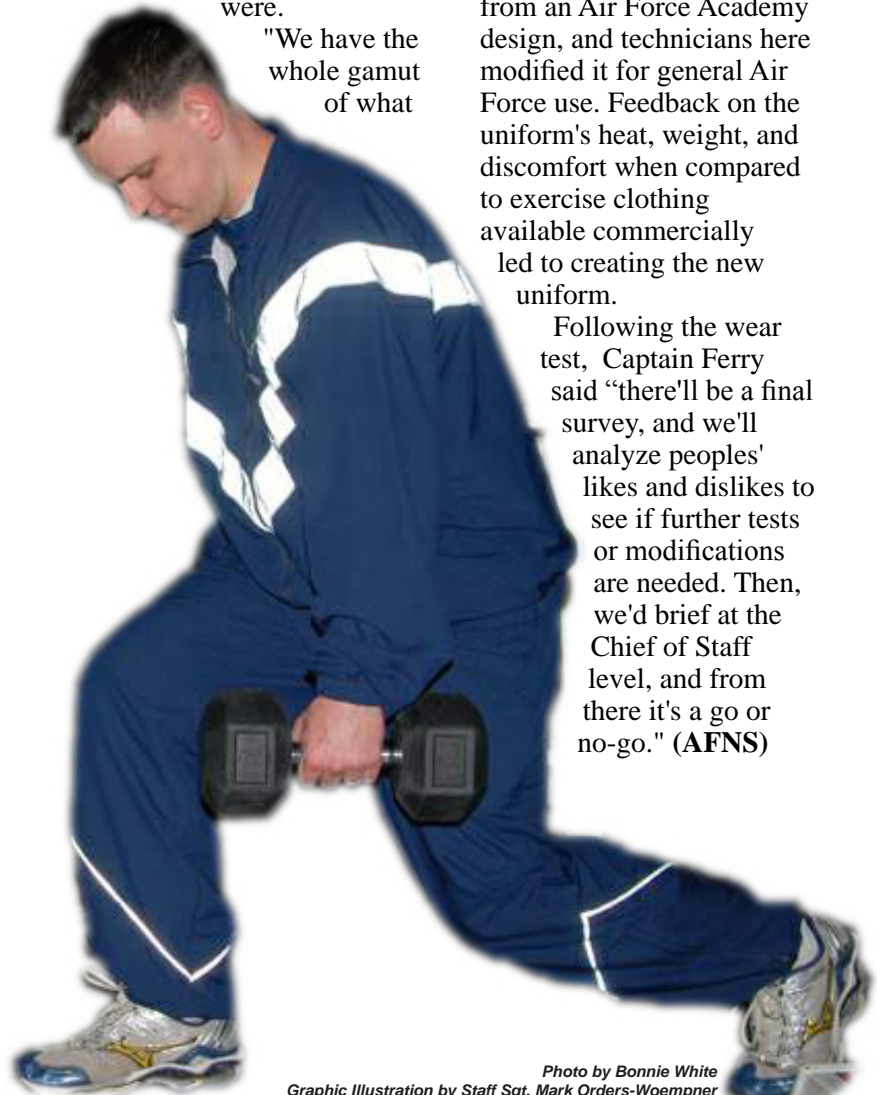


Photo by Bonnie White
Graphic Illustration by Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

PAR FOR PAR:

Airmen learn post-attack recovery skills

By Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

Sirens blazing, Airmen bunker down as thunderous explosions rage outside -- BOOM, BOOM, BOOM!

Then, silence...

From basic training on, most Airmen have been taught the skills to survive and operate during an chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or conventional attack.

But, before most can put their skills to the test, a special group of people must go out along side civil engineers, report back damages, contaminations

and casualties, and administer aid when needed.

These are called post-attack recovery teams, and they provide invaluable intelligence to base leadership after an attack has happened.

This information is used to determine where an attack has occurred, where hazardous contamination is and where it may go, and which areas are safe.

Knowing this allows commanders to protect their people while continuing with the mission.

During a recent training session here, over 30 Airmen learned what it takes to be an effective PAR team.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kuminecz



TOP: Oakah Hays, 434th Civil Engineers Squadron emergency management office, briefs Airmen taking the post-attack-recovery class during a March unit training assembly. The training is part of preparations for upcoming exercises and inspections, but provide Airmen with the skills that may one day save their lives and the lives of others.

LEFT: Staff Sgt. Nick Delaurentis, 434th Services Squadron fitness specialist, is loaded up with post-attack-recovery and identification kits by Robert Wydock, 434th Civil Engineers Squadron emergency management technician. These kits help Airmen who are part of PAR teams safely and effectively identify, report and deal with hazards after an attack has happened on a base.

AF mourns the loss of first CMSAF

Senior Master Sgt. Sean Cobb
Office of the CMSAF

WASHINGTON -- Former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Paul Wesley Airey died March 11 in Panama City, Fla.

"Chief Airey was an Airman's Airman and one of the true pioneers for our service," said Gen. Norton Schwartz, Air Force Chief of Staff. "He was a warrior, an innovator, and a leader with vision well ahead of his time. His legacy lives today in the truly professional enlisted force we have serving our nation, and for that we owe him a debt of gratitude."

"Chief Airey is the most respected enlisted Airmen in the history of the Air Force," said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley. "When we speak of today's Airmen standing upon the shoulders of giants as they reach for the sky and stars -- it was upon Paul Airey's shoulders they stood. We will truly miss his leadership, counsel and friendship."

The first CMSAF was always a leader. During World War II he flew as a B-24 radio operator and additional duty aerial gunner. On his 28th mission, then-Technical Sergeant Airey and his fellow crewmen were shot down over Vienna, Austria, captured, and held prisoner by the German air force from July 1944 to May 1945. During his time as a prisoner of war he worked tirelessly to meet the basic needs of fellow prisoners, even through a 90-day forced march.

Chief Airey was born in Quincy, Mass., on Dec. 13, 1923. At age eighteen, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Airey quit high school to enlist in the Army

Air Forces on Nov. 16, 1942. He later earned his high school equivalency certificate through off-duty study.

Chief Airey held the top enlisted from April 3, 1967 to July 31, 1969. During his tenure he worked to change loan establishments charging exorbitant rates outside the air base gates and to improve low retention during the Vietnam Conflict. Chief Airey also led a team that laid the

numerous Air Force and enlisted professional military organizations throughout the years. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Airmen Memorial Museum, a member of the Air Force Memorial Foundation and the Air University Foundation.

After retirement, Chief Airey lived in Panama City, Fla. with his wife Shirley. Mrs. Airey died in 2001.

Chief Airey was always proud of Airmen. "I have seen many changes as we progressed from simple air power to today's aerospace force. The enlisted corps has kept pace with that progress, for it is pride and dedication that keep enlisted men at their posts, not the lure of an easy life and secure future. It is the desire to serve our country that motivates today's Air Force," he said at the Air Force's 20th Anniversary ceremony in 1967.

On the north wall of the Air Force Memorial in Washington D.C., Chief Airey's thoughts on Airmen are immortalized, "When I think of the enlisted force, I see dedication, determination, loyalty and valor."

The Air Force Association honored Chief Airey with its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.

Chief Airey truly spent a lifetime serving a nation and a force he loved, said Michael Donley, Secretary of the Air Force. "From his first days flying World War II combat missions in Europe, to his work improving the welfare of enlisted personnel as the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, and his recent role as a mentor to today's Airmen, Chief Airey was a man of honor and commitment to things greater than himself. His passing is mourned by all Airmen around the globe." (AFNS)



Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force

Chief Master Sgt. Paul Airey

foundation for the Weighted Airman Promotion System, a system that has stood the test of time and which is still in use today. He also advocated for an Air Force-level Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy. His vision became reality when the academy opened in 1973, becoming the capstone in the development of Air Force Senior NCOs.

Chief Airey retired Aug. 1, 1970. He continued advocating for Airmen's rights by serving on the boards of

Firefighters train, stay ready to respond



Master Sgt. Gary Smith, a fire protection journeyman with the 434th Civil Engineers Squadron, puts on his j-list fire protection ensemble during a recent exercise. Wearing the suit allows them to battle fires in a chemical environment.



Tech. Sgt. Daniel Huff, a fire protection apprentice relieves pressure from a fire supply line following an exercise held by 434th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

A Reserve firefighter simulates ventilating a roof during an exercise conducted during the alternate unit training assembly. The firemen are training for an operational readiness inspection.