

Heartland

Warrior

Vol.14 No. 7

July 2009

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



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Slow and steady

A C-17 Globemaster from Charleston AFB, S.C., aligns itself in pre-contact position behind a KC-135R Stratotanker from the 434th Air Refueling Wing during a recent aerial refueling mission.

Grissom website undergoes re-design

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

Reservists logging onto Grissom's home page are seeing a fresh new look.

Log onto <http://www.grissom.afrc.af.mil/> to see the re-design.

Changes were done to bring the base in line with a new format that all bases will be using.

Air Force Reserve Command asked that Grissom be one of the first to make the change within the command.

In addition to a new look, the change also brings about new options for web browsers to use.

The most visible change is the rotating news story photos.

In the past news photos were updated every day and stayed pinned to the top of the page.

While the public affairs office still updates the page daily, the photos rotate on the screen to show the last 10 news photos added.

Also included are links to Air Force and AFRC video broadcasts available at the click of a mouse.

The videos are then streamed down into a pop up window on the desktop.

Slide shows of key photos and events are also available on demand, and a new spotlight section was added.

The public website is just that -- available for anyone to view.

The 434th Communications Squadron maintains a separate intranet based website accessible on base or via common access card connections only.

For more information on the public website, contact the PA office at 765-688-3348.

Simple 'thanks' serves as motivator

By Chief Master Sgt. Michael Hale
732nd Air Mobility Squadron

6/23/2009 - ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska -- I have seen many changes in the Air Force since I began my career more than 24 years ago.

The one thing that remains constant is the "smallest" things people do will sometimes have the biggest impact. Oftentimes these little things go unrecognized.

A simple "thank you" can go a long way in motivating an Airman to continue performing the simplest tasks with pride and go the extra mile.

Taking pride in doing the right things and doing them right the first time is truly what it's all about. Every job and task in the Air Force is important regardless if you're a young Airman at your first duty station or a chief who has spent nearly a lifetime in the military.

In 600 B.C., philosopher and founder of Taoism Lao Tzu said, "Fail to honor people, they will fail to honor you." This directly correlates with the old Air Force saying, "Take care of our people, and our people will take care of the mission."

Part of taking care of our Airmen is making sure we take the time to recognize people for the outstanding job they're doing.

Honoring a good performance doesn't always have to be in the form of a decoration, quarterly award or time off. A simple verbal acknowledgment of "a job well done," a "thank you," or an "atta-boy" is often more

than sufficient to convey the message of appreciation. All these actions can trigger several positive effects.

First, it helps to continue a trend of successful behavior. It's part of our Air Force culture for every Airman to want to succeed. I truly believe Airmen don't know how to fail.

We all want to do our very best, and it's not necessarily for the "pat on the back," but for the pride in knowing we did our absolute best.

Second, positive acknowledgment motivates us to continue to do our very best. It's up to us as leaders and supervisors to ensure our Airmen know they're a valuable part of the organization, and that they have a direct impact on mission success. Best of all, positive motivation can be contagious; it can motivate others to strive to do the best job they can do.

Motivated people translate into successful people.

Successful people become successful leaders.

Successful leaders guide successful organizations to accomplish the mission in an outstanding manner.

Who would have thought that saying "thank you for a job well done" could inspire so many to accomplish so much? It happens every day across our Air Force, yet we still underestimate the power of these words.

Let me paint a picture for you. You're at work. You have a deadline to meet. You scurry down the hallway, and the papers in your hands drops. Paper scatters everywhere. Someone stops to help. Say "thank you" and the tension lessens. They'll

help you get the papers back in proper order, and you can scurry off to the commander's office. All because you said "thank you."

There's a group of professionals in my organization who go out every day and perform one of the most thankless jobs in the Air Force. They're the aircraft lavatory servicing and fleet service operations technicians.

Now most may think, "who in their right mind would want a duty like that." On the flip side, these Airmen ensure a nutritious snack or meal, as well as a nice and clean latrine facility, are available for use while in flight. They go out and service every aircraft landing here, and they do it with the utmost pride and professionalism. That is why I take every opportunity to thank them as often as possible. I'm sure there are some unsung heroes in every organization.

This is your opportunity to seek them out and show them you appreciate their dedication and service to the mission.

It's incumbent upon each of us as commanders, chiefs, supervisors and leaders to take every opportunity to ensure our Airman and civilians are recognized for their efforts.

So the next time you see one of those professionals on the flightline, at the dining facility or in customer service, let them know they are making a difference. They are appreciated for their hard work and dedication accomplishing the Air Force mission.

Have you thanked an Airman today? (AFNS)

Heartland Warrior

Vol. 14, No. 7
July 2009

This funded Air Force Reserve Command newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the Heartland

Warrior are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

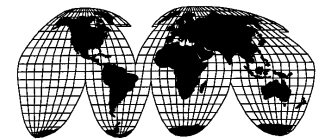
The editorial content is edited, and prepared by the Public Affairs Office of the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, IN, 46971-5000.

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...deputy chief, public affairs
Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays.....editor
Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner...assist. editor
Master Sgt. Rob Hoffman.....graphics
Staff Sgt. Chris Bolen.....staff writer
Staff Sgt. Ben Mota.....staff writer
SrA. Carl Berry.....staff writer
Penny Pearson.....administration



World Wide Web

Air Force Reserve Home Page

<http://www.afrc.af.mil>

Grissom Home Page

<http://www.grissom.afrc.af.mil>

"Dirty Dozen" clean teeth in Lajes

By 1st Lt. George Tobias
65th ABW Public Affairs

LAJES FIELD, Azores -- Twelve members of Grissom's 434th Aeromedical Squadron, conducted their two weeks of annual tour in a place far from Indiana's amber waves of grain at Lajes Field, Azores.

During their time the team, jokingly nicknamed the "Dirty Dozen," received training they normally could not get at home station.

While these reservists receive training at Grissom, they also get a lot of training on their annual tours, which for two weeks out of the year they are sent to active duty wings were they get experience they can't normally get at their home unit.

"This has been absolutely wonderful; we have had a great experience here," said Lt. Col. Linda Campbell. "We were welcomed warmly when we came, training has been excellent,

we have accomplished all our goals and we are just more than pleased."

While the Reservists were in the Azores, they were welcomed with open arms by the 65th Medical Group, who met them at the airport and ensured the reservists' time at Lajes was productive and well spent.

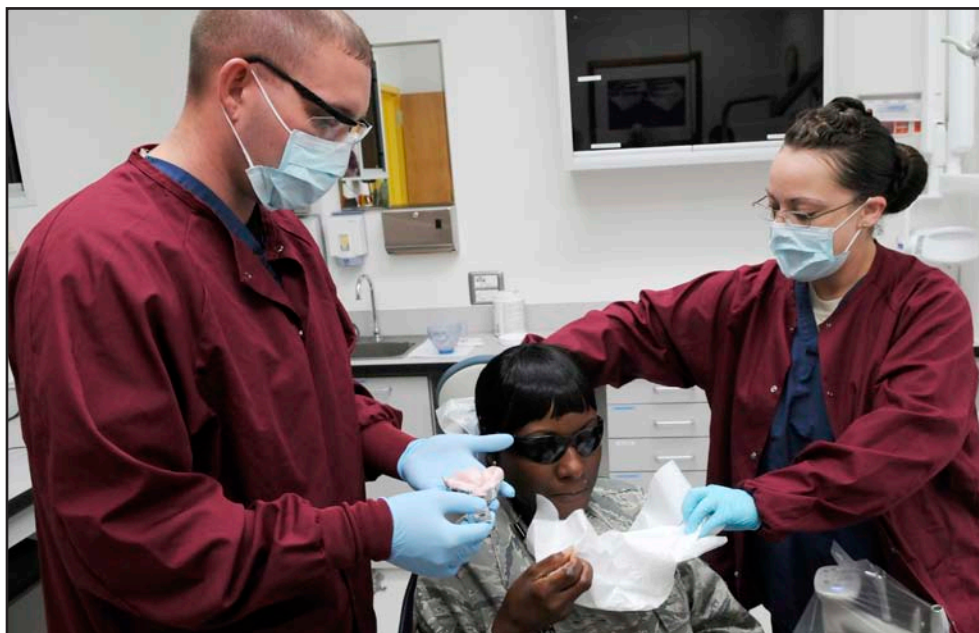
"It is absolutely amazing," said Staff Sgt. John Dietz, a dental technician with the 434th AMDS, and whose statements echo the rest of the team. "Our host unit is (Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) and we go there all the time, so we are kind of used to the way they run things and we came here not knowing what to expect."

After working two weeks and experiencing the support from the 65th MDG, the members of the 434th AMDS could tell they were a valued part of the Lajes team.

"It definitely makes you feel welcome and that you are important to the mission here," said Sergeant Dietz.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Darrell I. Dean



Tech. Sgt. Melanie Curtis, a laboratory technician with the 434th Aerospace Medical Squadron, prepares a "Strep A" culture at the medical clinic laboratory. Lajes Field is home to the 65th Air Base Wing and it provides base and en route support for Department of Defense, allied nations and other authorized aircraft in transit including those from the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Columbia and Great Britain.

LEFT: Staff Sgt. John Dietz, a dental technician with the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, checks the dental mold he took of Master Sgt. Deborah Joseph while Senior Airman Emily Allen, 65th Dental Squadron, assists.

Copp named top combat crew comm SNCO

By SSgt. Ben Mota
Public Affairs staff

Master Sgt. Mark Copp was named Air Force Reserve Command Combat Crew Communications Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

He is a combat crew communications specialist with the 434th Operations Support Squadron.

As a combat crew communications specialist, he is in charge of providing secure essential communication tools and information to the aircrew.

Sergeant Copp said his job allows ground crews to identify aircraft as friend or foe and provides secure communications.

“I love working with the people here at Grissom,” said the Sergeant. “My job makes me feel like I am a part of the big picture because the aircraft need us to fly safely”

Sergeant Copp’s managerial abilities and leadership qualities have received recognition from Grissom and other units in the Air Force. This often provides the squadron opportunities to test new procedures, equipment, and protocol that set the stage for how CCC specialists do their jobs.

While at Grissom Copp has developed and implemented a simple key loader training course for aircrew.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Mota

Master Sgt. Mark Copp, 434th Operations Support Squadron combat crew communications specialist, gives Staff Sgt. Vicki Cummings a communications kit filled with items essential for refueling missions. Sergeant Copp was recently named the Air Force Reserve Command Combat Crew Communications Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Sergeant Cummings is an in-flight refueling technician with the 74th Air Refueling Squadron.

The sergeant also participated in two deployments to Turkey and recently finished his second deployment to Guam.

He began his military career as Soldier in the Indiana National Guard and has more than 20 years of military service.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

Take me out...

Senior Master Sgt. William Fountas, 434th Air Refueling Wing senior recruiter, talks to a crowd assembled at an Indianapolis Indians baseball game June 18. Sergeant Fountas talked about the Air Force Reserve and invited attendees to visit flight deck and boom pod simulators that were placed just outside center field. Also present at the game were Reservists from the 434th Air Refueling Wing's Seasonal Training Flight, who showed off the simulators.

GUS member wins AFRC crew comm award



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Mota

Tech Sgt. John Bitzel, 434th Operations Support Squadron combat crew communications specialist, prepares a communications kit. In his job, Sergeant Bitel is in charge of providing secure essential communication tools and information to aircrew members. The sergeant was recently named Air Force Reserve Command Combat Crew Communications Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

By SSgt. Ben Mota
Public Affairs staff

Tech. Sgt. John Bitzel was named Air Force Reserve Command's Combat Crew Communications Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

As a combat crew communications specialist, he provides secure essential communication tools and information to aircrew members which allows them to identify themselves and other aircraft as friend or foe.

His office supports two flying squadrons with 16 aircraft that fly more than 5000 hours annually.

During the award period, he deployed to Turkey in support of air expeditionary forces operations.

"Working in a deployed environment gives me a great sense of satisfaction – of getting the mission done where it counts the most – in real world operations," he said. "I get to do my small part to make the world a better place than it was the day before. I know it may sound cheesy, but that's how

I feel."

Being assigned to Grissom helps in those real world deployments as well he added.

"Here at Grissom we have a unique opportunity with the many missions we are assigned and do," Sergeant Bitzel said. "We're the real deal and Crew Comm has an important part to play in the successful completion of our full time alert mission and many worldwide assignments – it's not just training."

In addition to his normal duties he also taught self aid buddy care to over 140 aircrew members and is also a certified flight line driver trainer.

While not working in his military capacity Sgt. Bitzel donates his time to speak at GED graduation ceremonies for adjudicated delinquents at the North Central Juvenile Correctional facility, provides musical entertainment to mentally and physically challenged kids at Vernon Manor in Wabash Indiana, and participates in the many community service activities at the Moose Family Centers in the local area.

Too many Airmen opting out of insurance program

By Master Sgt. Tom Kimball
Air Reserve Personnel Office

DENVER -- For less than one dollar a day, Airmen can prevent financial hardship for their families if they die unexpectedly.

Although the \$27 a month Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance premium provides \$400,000 in coverage and automatically comes out of military paychecks, some people are opting out of coverage. An airman basic recently turned down the insurance and later died.

"It was tough," said Senior Master
July 2009

Sgt. Ramon Roldan, chief of the Air Reserve Personnel Center's entitlements and benefits. "We discovered while handling the case for the grieving family that a recruiter or his unit had talked him into opting out of SGLI because he was single, not making much money yet and was so young.

"Unfortunately, neither knew his time would come sooner than expected," Sergeant Roldan said. "The consequence was the family missed the financial benefit SGLI could have provided."

ARPC officials are concerned that

Airmen are not taking this question seriously enough. Many are opting out of SGLI coverage. In fact, more than 6,800 Airmen don't have any SGLI coverage, and many more carry partial benefits.

"It's a mystery to me why you wouldn't want it," Sergeant Roldan said. "It's automatic when you are appointed or enlisted unless you otherwise decline."

People can get more information or to speak with a counselor by calling toll free 800-525-0102 and asking for the entitlements and benefits office. (AFRC News Service)



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

All in a day's work

Staff Sgt. Jason Bireley, right, a boom operator with the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, offloads fuel to a C-17 Globemaster while Roger Bishop, a videographer with WTHR-TV in Indianapolis takes a few snapshots. The flight, held June 17, afforded Indiana media members an opportunity to get a first and look at Grissom's aerial refueling mission.

Teens recognized

Ryan Santana, son of Master Sgt. Alicia Bartel 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, was selected as 2009 AFRC Youth of the Year.

In addition, Devin Duncan, daughter of Staff Sgt. Clayton Duncan, 434th AMDS, and Alison Duncan, Grissom's sexual assault response coordinator, was selected to attend the AFRC Teen Summit this summer during the week of July 13-17 at the Wahsega, GA 4-H Center.

AFRC command chief

Chief Master Sgt. Dwight Badgett has held a variety of jobs on the way to becoming Air Force Reserve Command's new command chief master sergeant, including being a high

school teacher.

Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner Jr., chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, selected Chief Badgett for the command's top enlisted post in May.

Chief Badgett is the sixth command chief since AFRC became a major command in 1997. His previous job was at the AFRC headquarters where he was responsible for organizing, training, and equipping more than 4,800 reservists as the chief enlisted manager for civil engineers.

Six generations

The Air Force Medical Service officials recently commemorated 60 years of service.

"The Air Force medical service has been an integral part of the United

States Air Force. The medical service has been there -- right care, right time, right place -- for our Airmen and their families, for our Airmen in harm's way and for our nation," said Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. (Dr.) James G. Roudebush.

Since the inception of the Air Force medical service, medics have improved the quality of health for aircrew, the aeromedical evacuation process and the aerobic and cardiovascular components of physical fitness for all Airmen.

Money and people

President Barack Obama recommended more people and more funding for Air Force Reserve Command in his fiscal 2010 defense budget

Heartland Warrior



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

Attention keeper

Staff Sgt. Richard Rinella, 434th Security Forces Squadron, briefs a group of elementary school children on weaponry and equipment used by military police. The briefing was part of annual police week activities held annually at the base.

request. Under the proposal, the command's military personnel account would increase by 7.4 percent.

If approved, the Air Force's Selected Reserve end strength would climb to 68,500, an increase of 2,100 reservists.

The command would get \$72 million for bonuses and education benefits.

Other funds would help the Reserve increase its focus on skill-level training and preparations to deploy people.

Two-thirds of the budget request for the command goes towards the operation and maintenance account.

Under the president's proposal, the O&M would get a 2.8 percent boost compared to FY 2009.

Funding would add 414 more air reserve technicians and set aside nearly \$126 million for overseas contingency operations.

One percent of the budget would cover four construction projects.

July 2009

For the president's request to become law, the House and Senate must reach a consensus before sending it to the president for his signature.

GI Bill benefit change

The Defense Department signed off June 22 on policies and procedures servicemembers will use to transfer their unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to their spouses or children, a Pentagon official said June 23.

Eligible servicemembers will be able to register their immediate family members to receive those benefits when a new Defense Department Web site goes live June 29, according to Bob Clark, the Pentagon's assistant director for accessions policy.

Defense officials are asking those whose families won't use the benefits for the upcoming fall semester to hold off registering until mid-July so applicants who need immediate attention

get processed first.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill takes effect Aug. 1, offering a two-fold benefit, Mr. Clark said. It gives the military a tool to help encourage recruiting and retention, while allowing career servicemembers the first opportunity, "to share the benefits they've earned with those they love," he said.

In a nutshell, any enlisted or commissioned member of the armed forces serving on active duty or in the selected reserve on or after Aug. 1 will be eligible to transfer their benefits -- as long as they qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and meet specific service requirements, Mr. Clark explained.

For more information, go to <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/>, accessible using a common access card, Defense Department self-service user identification or a Defense Finance and Accounting Service personal identification number.



Photo by SrA. Carl Berry

Precision paving

Contractors from E & B Paving resurface the parking lot behind Building 663. The beautification of Grissom is more than just planting trees and landscaping; it also involves maintaining of buildings, parking lots, and flight line. Servicemembers and visitors to the base will see other minor and major projects being performed including the restructuring of sidewalks, curbs roofing, and the renovation to the base fitness center.

AFRC board seeks school nominations

DENVER -- To get ahead in the Air Force Reserve, officers attend in-residence developmental education schools. The Air Force Reserve Developmental Education Designation Board will convene here in November to pick officers for schools in 2010 and 2011.

The board meets annually to select Airmen for intermediate- and senior-level schools.

Intermediate schools are Air Command and Staff College, Army General Command and Staff College, National Defense Intelligence College (one full-time and one part-time course), and the Air Force Fellowship program.

Senior schools are Air War College, Army War College, Naval War College, National War College, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and Harvard National Security Fellowship.

Candidates compete for all programs for which they are eligible and should to prioritize their choices, officials said. The board considers a candidate's preferences and experience, along with the needs of the Air Force Reserve.

Functional communities in the Air Force Reserve are involved in identifying officers to attend in-residence developmental education opportunities. These force development teams have been identifying and encouraging

their top officers to apply for these course.

To help this process, officers are being asked to complete a Reserve Officer Development Plan identifying their career goals. Details and deadlines are available online. This year decorations in the photo are optional. People can apply by logging on to vPC-GR and selecting dashboard, action request and then RDEDB.

Airmen can get more information by calling 800-525-0102 or DSN 926-6528 and asking for the developmental education branch. They can also e-mail arpc.dpafe@arpc.denver.af.mil to verify their package was received.