

Heartland WARRIOR

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On the cover...

Sue Correll, a contracting specialist with the 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron, hugs President Barack Obama after he arrived at Grissom Nov. 23. President Obama stopped to greet a crowd here before leaving for nearby Kokomo, Ind. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

President arrives at Grissom

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

On a blustery, cold November day, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden arrived at Grissom aboard their respective aircraft Nov. 23.

Shortly after setting ground on Hoosier soil, President Obama, who was accompanied by Senator Evan Bayh from Indiana, was greeted by Col. William T. "Tim" Cahoon, the 434th Air Refueling Wing commander. Other notable figures including Congressmen Joe Donnelly and Andre Carson were on hand to greet the president.

The president also took the time to greet, shake hands with and sign autographs for a crowd of military and civilians assembled to watch his arrival.

"It was awesome," exclaimed Tech. Sgt. Robin Urbane, financial management journeyman with the 434th ARW. "He seems so presidential up close, and it was honestly one of the coolest moments of my life."

Both President Obama and Vice President Biden left Grissom to visit several places in nearby



President Barack Obama deplanes Air Force One at Grissom as Senator Evan Bayh from Indiana follows Nov 23.

Kokomo, Ind., as well as talk about the economy during their White House to Main Street tour.



Airman 1st Class Daisy Winfrey, a 434th Mission Support Group knowledge operations specialist, is all smiles as she shakes the hand of President Barack Obama during his visit Nov. 23. President Obama, along with Vice President Joe Biden, arrived at here before heading to nearby Kokomo, Ind., on a White House to Main Street tour. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

Grissom families reunited after deployments

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

After months away at several locations around the world, including Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing were recently reunited with their families as they returned to Grissom in early November.

Many of the families made posters as they waited for their loved ones to return.

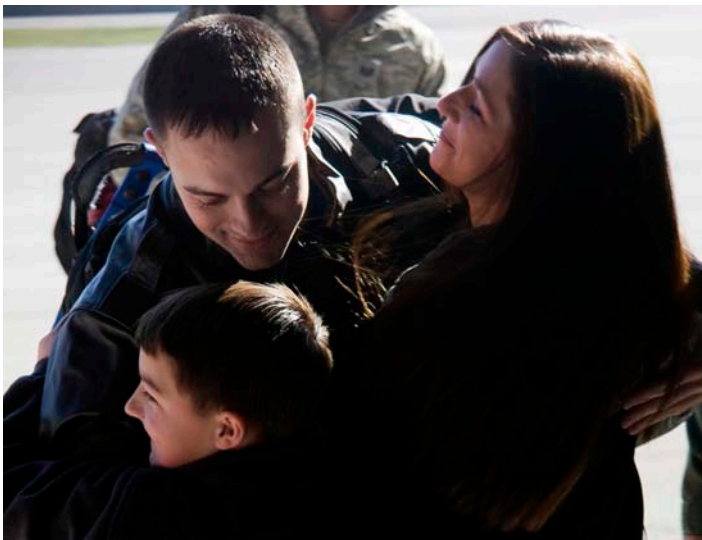
The Grissom Airman and Family Readiness Office provided the families with art supplies for the signs as well as snacks as they waited.

Grissom is one of only five Air Force Reserve Command bases in the nation and its personnel and KC-135R Strato-



Capt. Daniel Keeney kisses his son Daniel, 1, after returning from a deployment. Captain Keeney, 434th Operations Support Squadron assistant director of training, and other Grissom Airmen recently returned home to their loved ones from deployments around the world.

tanker aircraft routinely deploy around the world in support of the Air Force mission.



ABOVE: Welcomed home with open arms, 1st Lt. Daniel Kartchner, a 72nd Air Refueling Squadron pilot, hugs his wife Kacy and son Aiden, 8, after returning home with other Grissom Airmen from deployments around the world.

RIGHT: Rebecca Walls and her son Nate, 5, stand in a hangar here as they wait for Tech. Sgt. Ryan Walls to deplane a KC-135R Stratotanker after returning from a recent deployment. Sergeant Walls is an avionics guidance control specialist with the 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)



December 2010

74th ARS gets new commander



Lt. Col. Brian Stopher addresses a crowd after taking command of the 74th Air Refueling Squadron Nov. 6. Colonel Stopher took the reins from Lt. Col. Paul Wietbrock. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner

Public Affairs staff

In an age-old, military tradition a special ceremony was held here as Lt. Col. Brian Stopher took command of the 74th Air Refueling Squadron Nov. 6.

Colonel Stopher took the helm of the 74th ARS as Lt. Col. Paul Wietbrock moved out of the position to become the 434th Operations Group deputy commander.

In addressing his new unit and those assembled for the ceremony, Colonel Stopher explained that he and those under his command would new opportunities and challenges, but he would be their greatest advocate.

"I truly believe at this point and time we have the best people here," he said.

Colonel William Mason, 434th OG commander presided over the ceremony and gave praise to both Colonels Wietbrock and Stopher.

"Being a squadron commander is truly the best job in the Air Force," said Colonel Mason as he explained squadron commanders still get to fly, deploy and be with their Airmen while being a commander,

something that isn't always possible for a commander at the group or wing level.

Also in attendance were friends and family members of Colonels Wietbrock and Stopher.



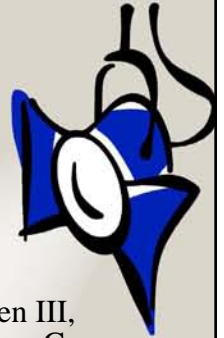
Col. William Mason presents the 74th Air Refueling Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Brian Stopher Nov. 6.

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal

- Lt. Col. Erik Thorell, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron
- Lt. Col. Arthur L. VanHouten III, 434th Maintenance Group
- Lt. Col. Craig Wisler, 434th AMDS
- Maj. Michael Schaefer, 49th Aerial Port Flight
- Capt. Timothy Kerrigan, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Senior Master Sgt. Dana Beavers, 434th Communications Squadron
- Master Sgt. Melissa Binns, 434th Mission Support Flight
- Master Sgt. William Garman, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Master Sgt. Scott Ward, 72nd ARS



AF Commendation Medal

- Capt. Michael Hill, 434th AMXS
- Capt. William L. Swanson III, 434th CES
- 2nd Lt. Bartholemew Erwin, 434th CES
- Senior Master Sgt. Brad Klepinger, 434th Security Forces Squadron
- Master Sgt. Wesley Marion, 434th Air Refueling Wing
- Tech. Sgt. Andrew Htaik, 434th CES
- Tech. Sgt. Larry Flook, 434th AMXS
- Tech. Sgt. Steven Wolf, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Staff Sgt. David Johnson, 434th CES

AF Achievement Medal

- Airman 1st Class Brian Reid, 434th CES

Employer Partnership launches powerful job search tool

By Lt . Col. Matt Leonard

Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces

WASHINGTON -- The Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces launched its new, state-of-the-art web portal recently.

The new tools offer Reserve component personnel, their family members, Wounded Warriors, and veterans increased capabilities when seeking employment opportunities. The portal also vastly improves our employer partner's access to skilled candidates.

No longer does a job seeker have to re-enter basic personal information every time a search is launched. Instead, the user simply logs in and the system can continue any previous activity. A user may now set-up a personal profile so that he or she is able to save searches, search parameters and individual job announcements within their own "dashboard". By activating the alert option, seekers will be provided with a notification whenever a desired position is posted.

The portal offers other useful features as well. The resume builder allows users to create and keep their

resume available within the system. Service members have an additional feature available to them: access to the program support manager network for career counseling and resume assistance. The new portal's functionality improvements make the search and application process much more efficient, saving service-members and other job seekers time.

But the improvements don't stop there. Employers will find the new portal more useful as well. They are now able to enter position vacancies directly into the system and track those jobs, applications and views through their company dashboard. Employers may also reach in to the system and locate the resumes of qualified candidates who may not have had the chance to apply themselves. So just by posting your resume you may be contacted by one of our military-friendly employer partners who need your skills.

If you had used the old job search engine you should definitely check out the new portal. Although the web link, www.EmployerPartnership.org is the same, you are now in the driver's seat and this definitely is not your father's old car. (AFNS)



Turkey Trot

Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, civilian and contractor personnel take off from the starting line at a 5-kilometer "Turkey Trot" run held at the fitness center here Nov. 17. Participants guessed how long it would take them to finish the race prior to starting the run. The top three runners whose guesses were closest to their actual run time received a turkey. While Chris Feltis finished the race the fastest with a time of 21 minutes, 58 seconds it was Raymond McNitt, Rich Percival and Juan Hernandez who came in closest to their predicted times and took home the birds. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

Santa, toys to be at kids Christmas party

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

The 434th Airman and Family Readiness office will be hosting a children's Christmas party Saturday during the December unit training assembly, which will be visited by Santa Claus.

Not only will kids get to sit on Santa's lap and tell him their Christmas lists, they will also receive a toy of their choice.

"We've received toys from Military One Source as part of Op-

eration Home Front, said Jill Marconi, 434th A&FR director. "This is for all our personnel, so any child that comes through the line will get a toy."

Ms. Marconi also added that parents who can't bring their family can still pick up a goodie bag to take home.

The Christmas party will be held in Bldg. 596 from 3-4:30 p.m.



434th AMXS hosts party featuring Pearl Heart

By Capt. Kelly Howard
Public Affairs staff

In an effort to end a busy year on a high note, one unit is planning something extra for the holidays during the December unit training assembly.

The 434th Aircraft Maintenance Group is hosting a holiday party Dec. 4 in Dock 1 featuring country music group Pearl Heart. The group, comprised of three sisters, finished seventh in the television show Nashville Star.

"Considering the high operational tempo we've had over the last few years, I wanted this to be a holiday party fitting for our members," said Maj. Tim Bartlett, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander. "We tried a different (entertainment) route first, but when that didn't work out I went to my personal friend and coworker, who happens to be the sisters' dad."

Pearl Heart is donating their time to perform for the anticipated 700 Grissom members that have responded to attend.

The trio kicks off their first set at 3:30 p.m. followed by a second set from 6-9 p.m. While finger foods will be available, the break coincides with the dining facility evening meal so members can partake in the holiday meal there without missing the concert.

"We've had deployments all over, the (operations readiness inspection); units are doing a lot of things," said Major Bartlett. "I just thought it was important to do a little more to cap off the year."

Holiday food drive ends soon

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
Public Affairs staff

The holidays often bring families together around the dinner table, where traditional favorites such as juicy turkey, sweet potatoes, and grandma's pumpkin pie abound. But, in these hard economic times some struggle just to provide the even the most basic food for their families.

In an effort to help out needy Airmen who may have lost their civilian jobs, or fallen on hard times due to the harsh economic environment that has become a reality, the Airman and Family Readiness office here has been holding a food drive.

"We sent out nine food baskets in November and have 13 families on the list for December," said Jill Marconi, A&FR director. "So far we've had overwhelming support, but donations are still needed."

The food drive bins around base will be collected on Dec. 1, but those who still want to help can take food to the A&FR office through Saturday of the December unit training assembly.

While there has been a good turnout for canned vegetables, dry goods



Master Sgt. Nathan Moore sorts through food donated to help those in need. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

are desperately needed.

"It would really be nice for people to remember the dry good staples such a peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese; things they can put in their cupboard and pull out," said Ms. Marconi. "Any type of dry food like that would be perfect."

Bridging the gap:

434th CS Airmen train on JISCC, connect with first responders

By Senior Airman
Carl Berry

Public Affairs staff

Bridging the inter-agency communication barriers that can create chaos during a disaster, 434th Communications Squadron Airmen recently trained on a specialized system here at Grissom connects military and first responders as well as other local, state and federal agencies.

The joint incident site communications capability system is a bridge, which allows someone on a single channel ground and airborne radio system, typically used by the military, to talk with a paramedic, police officer or sheriff's deputy using a completely different system. It also allows military personnel to connect with first responders on other devices such as

cell phones.

"The JISCC terminals are a great step forward in achieving reliable interoperability during a disaster response," said Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Lassa, 434th Communications Squadron ground radio technician.

"By tying together the high-bandwidth capabilities of satellite-enabled communications with wireless and land-mobile radio systems, first responders from different agencies can communicate through one common system locally and at long distances."

"The ability to communicate in a multiple ways is good, because if one type of communication is destroyed or becomes un-

secure we can still communicate," said Staff Sgt. Todd Bellemeey, 434th CS radio technician.

The JISCC command and control trailers feature advanced communications systems that can rapidly deploy anywhere in the U.S. to enable vital inter-agency communications at the site of a man-made or natural disaster.

"A JISCC team can have communications up and running within an hour of arriving at an incident scene and in four hours can have an entire operation running," said Sergeant Lassa.

The JISCC trailers integrate secure satellite and wireless communications; land-mobile radios;

high-frequency, long-haul communication; as well as very-high frequency, ultra-high frequency and 800 MHz- band radio communication. They also contain voice-over internet portal telephones and video teleconferencing for a complete, self-contained solution.

"The JISCC is one piece of the answer to the problem of responders from different agencies being unable to talk on incompatible communications systems in the wake of a crisis," said Sergeant Lassa.

The 434th Communications Squadron, located at Grissom Air Reserve Base, is currently one of fourteen Air Force Reserve Command units that use the JISCC program. The package is deployable anywhere stateside to support other command functions.



From left, Tech. Sgt. Jeff Lassa, Senior Airman Ryan Covert, Staff Sgt. Aaron Widner and Tech. Sgt. Daniel Hutchinson work on setting up a joint incident site communications capability system here recently. The JISCC acts as a bridge between a single channel ground and airborne radio systems, typically used by the military, and civilian communications systems typically used by first responders such as paramedics, police officers and firefighters. All for Airmen are assigned to the 434th Communications Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Carl Berry)