



Heartland WATCHBOOK

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Grissom gains new dentists...3
Annual award winners...4-5
Honorary commanders...6

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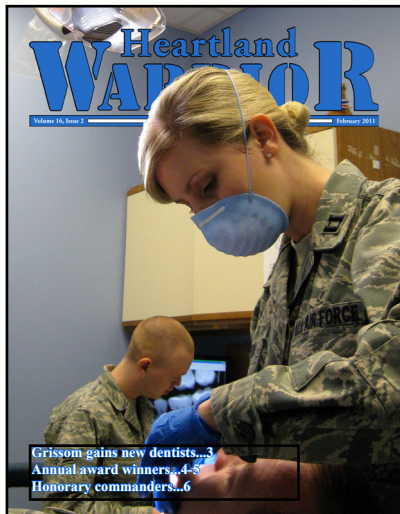
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On the cover...

Capt. (Dr.) Kathryn Dahlen, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron dentist, examines Staff Sgt. Leif Olson, 434th Maintenance Group quality assurance technician, while Airman 1st Class Joseph Hyatt, 434th AMDS dental assistant, charts her findings. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Kelly Howard)

State of Grissom a huge success

By Senior Airman
Damon Kasberg
Public Affairs staff

Though it was a freezing January night, the Grissom Community Council and the 434th Air Refueling Wing hosted the "State of Grissom" address, which was attended by more than 100 civic leaders, Airmen, elected officials and business persons from the North Central Indiana region Jan. 21.

Jim Price, Grissom Air Museum director, presented a video showing what the Grissom Air Museum has preserved and spoke about the importance of preserving the legacy of servicemembers in the future.

"If that didn't move you, I don't know what will," said Mr. Price as he began his presentation.

Jim Tidd from Miami County Economic Development Authority informed the audience of Grissom Aeroplex plans of expanding one of its hangars, which will in turn bring hundreds of jobs to Grissom and millions of dollars into the local economy.

The evening was concluded with Col. William T. "Tim" Cahoon, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, speaking about

Col. William T. "Tim" Cahoon, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, discusses the past, present and future of Grissom Air Reserve Base during a Grissom Community Council dinner here Jan. 21. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg)

Grissom's past, present, future and the importance of staying relevant in order to show that the base is a necessity.

"One can never sleep; just because we are relevant today does not mean that the members of 434th (ARW), or Grissom for that matter, will be relevant tomorrow," explained Colonel Cahoon. "We must constantly work to remain relevant; we aren't a flying club or weekend warriors anymore."

*"We must
constantly
work to stay
relevant."*



Grissom gains three new dentists



Capt. (Dr.) Madalyn Davidson examines the teeth of a 434th Air Refueling Wing Airman recently. Captain Davidson is one of three new dentists at Grissom. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Kelly Howard)

By Capt. Kelly Howard
Public Affairs staff

It's been said that an apple a day keeps the doctor away, but Grissom's three newest dentists may disagree.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Todd Martin, Capt. (Dr.) Kath-

February 2011

ryn Dahlen and Capt. (Dr.) Madalyn Davidson joined the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron here recently and were quickly put to work.

So new are the dentists to Grissom, they're just starting to get used to their new environment at

the clinic.

"How do I make the chair come up?"

Captain Davidson asked her dental assistant while being photographed during the unit training assembly. "This is my first UTA, and the equipment is different than what I'm used to."

But don't let their newness fool you as these doctors are far from inexperienced.

With only part of Saturday to see members due to holiday events, the three dentists still managed to complete approximately 60 examinations.

The paths that led the three dentists to Grissom are different, but their reason for being here are largely the same, which is the opportunity to serve and help people.

"Col. (Chris-

topher) Nixon was a big part of my decision to return to the military," said Colonel Martin, dental services officer-in-charge, who served four years in the Navy in the early 1990s. "I've enjoyed the opportunity to associate with people who are absolute-

ly on top of their game."

Colonel Nixon is the 434th AMDS commander.

While Captain Davidson had no prior military experience, it was during a visit with her brother, a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot at MacDill AFB, Fla., which an off-hand comment about her joining started her journey. But, she wasn't so quick to plunge in right away.

"I did my homework," said the Champagne, Ill., native. "I have dental school friends who are on active duty, and I discussed it with them."

Captain Dahlen's journey began when she started looking for a way to support the military. Her dad served as a Marine, so she first started her journey with the Navy, but changed course when position openings required it.

"When I looked into this opportunity in dental school, I wanted the experience to meet new people and have the opportunity for adventure," she said. "There is a very high level of respect here; everybody has a job to do and they do it."

While there may be a bit of a learning curve for the new dentists as they settle in, each one knows the importance of oral health and how best to protect it, and each talked about trying to educate unit members.

"I didn't know what the Air Force Reserve would be like, but it has been outstanding," said Colonel Martin. "We have some extremely committed troops."

SFS member is Airman of the Year 2010

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

Tough, intelligent and determined are all traits one could expect from a model security forces Airman, so it should come as no surprise these words were used to describe the 434th Air Refueling Wing's Airman of the Year for 2010.

Senior Airman Christena Alotaibi, a 434th Security Forces fire team member, displayed all of these characteristics and more while at Grissom, deployed and in her local community, which earned her the annual award for her accomplishments.

"She's smart, hard-working, dedicated, level-headed, and is a model Airman," said Senior Master Sgt. Nelson Hernandez, 434th SFS squad leader and Airman Alotaibi's supervisor while deployed.

"During the past (operational readiness inspection),



Senior Airman Christena Alotaibi plays tic-tac-toe with an Afghan boy. Airman Alotaibi volunteered at the school while deployed to the region. Along with her community service, she was named the 434th Air Refueling Wing's Airman of the Year for 2010 for her significant self-improvement and outstanding job performance. (Courtesy photo)

she was assigned to a defensive fighting position; she sat there for 16 hours in the cold and didn't complain once," elaborated Sergeant Hernandez. "That definitely showed her character."

According to her nomination packet, Airman

Please see 'Airman,' page 9

Logistics planner is 2010 NCO of the Year

By Senior Airman
Damon Kasberg
Public Affairs staff

The 434th Air Refueling Wing Non Commissioned Officer of the Year is awarded by the unit's leadership to the NCO that performs at a high level of excellence and shown outstanding leadership throughout a given year.

Tech. Sgt. Zachary Gaumer, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron logistics plans technician, was recognized as the 434th ARW NCO of the Year for 2010.

"The award is more for the wing," said Sergeant Gaumer. "We put a lot of quality work into everything we do."

Sergeant Gaumer's

nomination packet outlines the amount of dedication, care and time that he puts into his job.

"He's just one of these behind the scenes people that gets things done," said Lt. Col. Bryan Runion, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander. "He doesn't get a lot of fan fare, but he makes things happen; any project you give him, he willingly takes it on."

Sergeant Gaumer has deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as an on-site logistics planner, developed two unique logistics plans communities of practice for 434th ARW readiness program, and coordinated three Army unit moves through Gris-

som in support of Afghanistan operations.

"These missions require tremendous amounts of teamwork by several functions at Grissom," he said. "It's very rewarding when you watch the news and see the missions we supported benefit our deployed forces in the (area of responsibility)."

Sergeant Gaumer didn't enter the Air Force in logistics plans. He initially started out in supply, but cross-trained after six years.

"I liked supply, but I didn't see the big picture," he said. "I made the switch to see the big picture of what the Air Force is about, and in particular the mission Grissom performs."



Tech. Sgt. Zachary Gaumer, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was recognized as the 434th ARW Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for 2010. Sergeant Gaumer was recognized for his outstanding job performance, community involvement and significant self improvement. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woemper)

Heartland Warrior

Loggie named 2010 SNCO of the Year

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

A group of musicians assembled is nothing more than just that. But, add a conductor who can reach beyond the notes to pull out emotions and meaning from the very soul of the music, and then an orchestra is born whose symphonic resonance has the power to touch people and change the world.

Though he may not wear a tuxedo and brandish a wand, Senior Master Sgt. Michael "Tim" O'Brien is a masterful conductor in his own right and for that was awarded the title of 434th Air Refueling Wing Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for 2010.

"I orchestrate the efforts of the logistics plans office and the installation deployment readiness cell, making sure they have what they need and trying to keep the gators

from nipping at them," explained Sergeant O'Brien, who is the 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron Logistics Plans superintendent.

According to his award package, he masterfully orchestrated the deployment of 362 personnel and 35 tons for an Air Mobility Command operational readiness inspection; chaired a deployment process working group for 16 squadrons and two joint-service tenant units; and developed a long-range, five-year wing exercise and deployment plan.

And while those accomplishments are towering on their own, perhaps Sergeant O'Brien's greatest achievement came in the midst of the aforementioned ORI as he continued to support real-world deployments during the exercise inspection.

"It was a challenge keeping our

Please see 'SNCO,' page 10



Senior Master Sgt. Michael "Tim" O'Brien, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron Logistics Plans superintendent, 434th Air Refueling Wing's Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays)

434th SFS Airman is 1st Sergeant of the Year

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

My job is people - everyone is my business.

That is one of the opening lines in the first sergeant's creed and one that was exemplified in this year's 434th Air Refueling Wing First Sergeant of the Year.

Senior Master Sgt. William Hamilton, 434th Security Forces first sergeant, not only earned this award, but the respect and admiration of the 434th Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen he recently deployed with to Afghanistan.

"I can't say enough good about him," said Senior Master Sgt. John Somsel, who was the 577th Expeditionary

February 2011



Senior Master Sgt. William Hamilton, 434th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant, talks with a 434th SFS Airman in his office during the January unit training assembly. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

Prime Beef Squadron troop construction superintendent deployed with Sergeant Hamilton. "He took care of his

people...he took care of us and made sure we had what we needed at all levels."

But, it almost wasn't

Sergeant Hamilton who deployed with the 434th CES troops. Just as the combat engineers were finishing their combat skills training, the first sergeant slotted to go with them was injured, and Sergeant Hamilton was handpicked to go.

"He stepped into the role last minute," explained Sergeant Somsel. "He really had no idea what he was walking into."

What sergeant Hamilton did walk into was a U.S. Army installation in a combat zone that endured over 45 indirect fire attacks and a situation where several of his Airmen forward deployed to four different forward

Please see 'Shirt,' page 9

New appointed honorary commanders

Five community and business leaders from the Central and North Central Indiana regions were selected to participate in the "Honorary Commanders" program for 2011.

Grissom has a long history of interaction with civic and

community leaders and this year marks a new activity entitled the Honorary Commanders Outreach Program.

With this program, select individuals from the community are matched with Grissom's key commanders. The goal is to

provide the honorary commanders with a rare, inside look at the base, its mission, and its people. The honorary commanders will then take their experiences at Grissom and share them with others from their respective communities.



John Gilpin

John Gilpin is the honorary wing commander. He is a retired veterinarian who practiced for 40 years before retiring in 2006.

He is currently a member of the Wabash City Council and the Board of Directors of the Wabash County Solid Waste District. He is also a member of the Wabash Chamber of Commerce and the First United Methodist Church. He sings with the church choir and with the "Market Street Beat." He is also a volunteer at the Honeywell Center.

Hal Job

Hal Job of Wabash, Ind., is the 2011 434th Operations Group honorary commander.

After graduating from Spencer High School, Spencer, Ind., in 1961, Hal joined the U.S. Navy where he served in the Naval Communications Command until October 1964.

After his time in the service he became a banker and began as a teller trainee, holding most positions in the banking industry and retired in 2007 after 43 years in banking. He retired as chairman and chief executive officer of a bank.

Anita Harden

Anita Harden is the 2011 honorary commander for the 434th Maintenance Group.

Ms. Harden is a president emeritus Community Hospital East, Community Health Network, in Indianapolis. In a career spanning 40 years, she has been as a registered nurse with a specialty in psychiatric-mental health nursing. She has been associated with the Community Health Network for 36 years.

She began her career at Community Health Network as a nurse coordinator.

Rocky Walls

Rocky Walls is this year's honorary commander for the 434th Mission Support Group.

Mr. Walls is the chief executive officer of 12 Stars Media Productions. He works with many companies to create promotional online videos, especially for use in conjunction with social media marketing campaigns.

He has more than 10 years of experience in digital content creation and has been the owner of two businesses.

Mr. Walls served as a youth pastor with Calvary Christian Fellowship.

John Stackhouse

John Stackhouse is this year's honorary command chief for the 434th Air Refueling Wing.

Mr. Stackhouse currently serves as a financial consultant for Bloomington Motor Carriers, Bloomington, Ind. His business career began in 1963 after graduating from the University of Indianapolis and accepting a position with the accounting firm of Ernst & Ernst in Indianapolis.

In 1966, he moved to Lake Central Airlines as the accounting manager. He then joined Nixon Newspapers in Peru, Ind.

Tax season is here, help is on the way

By Senior Airman
Damon Kasberg
Public Affairs staff

The 2011 tax season is here, but there's no need to fear as help is on its way.

The Military OneSource tax program began Jan. 17. This program provides military servicemembers free access to a customized version of a basic at-home, electronic tax-filing software.

For servicemembers who aren't familiar with this service, there's a 'frequently asked questions' link and a phone number provided for private help on the website. The help number is 1-800-342-9647.

"Military OneSource offers many valuable resources such as this one to help with important issues," said Master Sgt. Nathan Moore, 434th



Master Sgt. Nathan Moore, 434th Airman and Family Readiness non-commissioned officer-in-charge, explains how to navigate to the 'frequently ask questions' section of the Military OneSource Tax Services website. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg)

Airman and Family Readiness non-commissioned officer in charge. "It's good to have online as well as phone availability so that military

personnel and their families can call anytime."

According to Sergeant Moore, filing taxes is an important process that must be done timely and

accurately.

"You take the risk of being audited if you don't file your taxes correctly, which can be very costly," he added.

Post

9/11

GI Bill changes

The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2010 was recently signed into law with, changes taking effect in 2011.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides veterans with a means to pay for college expenses and housing. These benefits are available to Air Force Reserve servicemembers who have served at least 90 aggregate days since Sept. 10, 2001.

"The GI Bill is getting better,"

said Staff Sgt. Debra Wilson-Strong, 434th Force Support Squadron training technician. "Getting BAH while taking online classes works out well for a lot of military members."

Effective as of Aug. 1, 2011

- The Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay all public school tuition and fees, including graduate training and out-of-state tuition differential.

- Reimbursement will be available for multiple licensing and certification tests.

- College fund payments will be paid monthly instead of a lump sum at the beginning of a term. Those training at one-half time or less are eligible for college fund payments.

- Reimbursement will be available for fees paid to take national

examinations used for admission on institution of higher learning, such as the SAT and ACT.

- Break or interval pay will no longer be payable under any Department of Veterans Affairs education benefit program.

Effective as of Oct. 1, 2011

- Those training at greater than one-half time, housing allowance will be prorated according to the training time those are enrolled in.

- Housing allowance will be payable to students enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance will be one-half the national average basic housing for an E-5 with dependents. The rate would be \$673.50 for 2011.

- Non-college degree programs and flight-training programs will be covered under the bill.

In the lime light

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col Richard Krupp, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Michael Bowden, 434th CES; Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Cassidy, 434th Maintenance Group; Chief Master Sgt. Diana Rogers, 434th MXG; Chief Master Sgt. Tony Fansler, 434th Operations Group; Chief Master Sgt. James Owens, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Senior Master Sgt. Steven Burton, 434th CES; Senior Master Sgt. David Duch, 434th CES; Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Johnson, 434th CES; Master Sgt. Steven Austin, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight; and Master Sgt. Edward Lampa, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

Aerial Achievement Medal

Lt. Col. David Mitchell, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; Lt. Col John Pannell, 434th Operations Support Squadron; Lt. Col David Smith, 72nd ARS; Maj. Douglass Perry, 434th OSS; Capt. Todd Hutchinson, 72nd ARS; Capt.

Daniel Keeney, 434th OSS; Capt. Timothy McBee, 74th Air Refueling Squadron; 1st Lt. Jacob Creel, 72nd ARS; 1st Lt. Jessica Hodson, 74th ARS; Master Sgt. John English, 74th ARS; Tech. Sgt. Jason Bireley, 434th OSS; Tech. Sgt. Jerald Cummings, 72nd ARS; and Staff Sgt. Brandon Toth, 74th ARS.

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. Jeffery O'Toole, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Capt. Matthew Walz, 74th ARS; Master Sgt. Robert Sucharski, 434th MOF; Tech. Sgt. Antonio Acevedo, 434th CES; Tech. Sgt. Zachary Gaumer, 434th LRS; Tech. Sgt. Steven Keller, 434th AMS; and Tech. Sgt. Joshua Suchovsky, 434th OSS.

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Sgt. Joshua Moormann, 777th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron.

Air Force Achievement Medal

Master Sgt. Kevin Ballentine,

434th MXG; Master Sgt. Timothy Bog-

nar, 434th AMS
Master Sgt. Brian Dicker-

son, 434th AMG; Master Sgt. Larry Jenkins, 434th AMS; Tech. Sgt. Donald Eggers, 434th AMS; Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Figaro, 434th AMS; Tech. Sgt. Bradley Green, 434th AMS; Tech Sgt. Kevin Hutchinson, 434th AMS; Tech. Sgt. Joseph Madjecki, 434th AMS; Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Paschal, 434th CES; Tech. Sgt. Carl Steele, 434th AMS; Tech. Sgt. Lindsay Stoll, 434th OSS; Staff Sgt. Zachary Felten, 434th Communications Squadron; Staff Sgt. Lisa Hendricks, 434th AMS; Staff Sgt. Adam Loos, 434th CES; Staff Sgt. Joseph Meyer, 434th AMS; and Senior Airman Kenneth Moore, 434th AMDS.



Maintenance chief retires after 34 years

By Senior Airman
Damon Kasberg
Public Affairs staff

Friends and family stood up for Chief Master Sgt. Diana Rogers as she entered Dock 1 for her retirement ceremony, Jan. 8.

Chief Rogers, 434th Maintenance Group superintendent, retired after serving 34 years, 4 years in the regular Air Force and 30 years in the Air Force Reserve.

Col. Paul Weimer, 434th MXG Commander, presided over the ceremony and presented Chief Rogers with her certificate of retirement.



Col. Paul Weimer, 434th Maintenance Group commander, presents Chief Master Sgt. Diana Rogers, 434th MXG superintendent, with a certificate of retirement during the chief's retirement ceremony held here in Dock 1 Jan. 8. Chief Rogers retired after 34 years of military service. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg)

Heartland Warrior

Airman, from page 4

Alotaibi, who served as a 434th SFS unit deployment manager, processed over 300 personnel and other resources to 23 contingency and exercise locations.

And, though the exercises and training she received at Grissom were part of her nomination package, it's her real-world application of that training that led to some of her most significant accomplishments while deployed.

While deployed to Afghanistan, Airman Alotaibi helped develop a comprehensive system of military police documentation for the International Security Assistance Force records section as well as an innovative system of countermeasures for airfield force protection.

"Her creative skill along with her attention to detail in creating the yearly report set the standard," said Sergeant Hernandez. "This report is now being used by the NATO command section."

On top of her development of new systems, Airman Alotaibi was part of a joint raid with the Canadian Air Force, which netted 50 grams of methamphetamines and

more than 200 other illegal items.

"We train for years to be prepared for that 30 seconds in our life that decides someone's fate," she explained. "As I have seen here, our training has saved lives."

And, as amazing as her accomplishments are, the award doesn't go to just someone who is good at their job.

It's an award that focuses in on other aspects including significant self-improvement and community involvement, both of which Airman Alotaibi displayed.

According to her nomination packet, she received a bachelor's degree in political science with minors in international studies and Spanish language.

But, it wasn't just her education that improved in 2010. Airman Alotaibi improved her physical training score from an 84 to a 91.7 percent.

"My deployment was a motivation for me to improve my PT scores; I wanted to be in the best physical condition before coming here so that I could easily handle the physical demands of the de-

ployment," she explained. "I do feel better physically and mentally because I can see the results of my determination; I like to start the day with one small victory."

On top of all that, Airman Alotaibi found time to volunteer in her communities, both at home and abroad, with organizations such as the Cub Scouts, veterans groups, local elementary schools and an Afghan school to name a few.

She said the favorite part of her deployment was the Afghan school, which teaches Afghan boys from ages 6 to 16. Each week volunteers came to interact with the boys through projects and some sort of game at the end, which usually ended up being a soccer match.

"These boys are sons of leaders of the community and they will be the next leaders of Afghanistan," Airman Alotaibi explained. "I love the opportunity to play with them, but I also recognize that they're taking as much away from the experience as we are."

"It's a really moving experience to interact with them," she said.

Shirt, from page 5

operating bases outside the wire.

Despite the austere conditions and the hazards associated with a combat environment, Sergeant Hamilton was not deterred in performing what he called a dual-hat mission.

"There's a fine line between taking care of people and making sure the commander has a combat ready force," he said. "What makes a successful first sergeant is balancing those two hats."

And, balance them he did as he went down range several times.

"He flew outside the wire on numerous occasions into hostile environments to see our people who were at forward operating bases," said Sergeant Somsel. "He didn't have to, but he'd body armor up, get on a black hawk and go into harm's way to check on his people."

Perhaps one of the most defining moments during the first sergeant's deployment came during an attempted base infiltration attack.

According to his award package, Sergeant Hamilton quickly orchestrated the movement of 75 personnel to a more secure and hardened structure.

"The morning we were attacked, he was out taking

headcounts, making sure everyone was accounted for and making sure no one was wounded," recalled Sergeant Somsel. "He was very impressive, very professional, and we were truly lucky to have him."

Other notable accomplishments during his deployment included flawlessly coordinating emergency leave for five unit personnel, streamlining the area of responsibility Red Cross notification process and coordinating the flying of more than 150 U.S. flags being flown on combat missions over Afghanistan.

Despite his numerous accomplishments, the first sergeant downplayed his selection.

"It's a nice personal achievement," he said. "But, I was just doing what the first sergeant position is designed to do, which is taking care of people."

When asked if he had any advice for younger Airmen, Sergeant Hamilton said that the key to being successful is realizing what people think of you, what you think of yourself and balancing the two.

"Be proud of the uniform you're wearing," he added. "It stands for a lot more than what you realize, and if you stay in long enough you realize what I mean by that."

SNCO, from page 5

real world tempo separate from our exercise tempo,” he explained while talking about how he and his team are accustomed to working at an extremely fast pace. “To be able to get as much done as we have to get done, we have to operate and an extremely high tempo.

“It’s not fun stuff, but everyone pulls together to get it done,” he added.

And, pulling together as a team is part of what Sergeant O’Brien attributes to his success.

“It’s my people that work for me and all the other people on the installation that we work with that come together to get the job done,” he said.

However, having a successful team is not just something that happens, and that’s where the conducting comes into play.

“With his leadership style he’s built a strong team that has been able to provide great support to the Wing,” said Lt. Col. Bryan Runion, 434th LRS commander. “He’s this

source of wisdom that people go to; for any type of deployment issue, he is the go to person.”

But, it wasn’t just his professional accomplishments and accolades which earned him this award. Both his self improvement and community involvement were major factors.

According to his nomination packet, Sergeant O’Brien completed both his bachelor’s degree in logistics management as well as the Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education course in 2010. He also volunteered as a firefighter for Pipe Creek Township, Ind., and spearheaded eight service projects to assisted disabled American veterans.

“He’s a role model as a senior NCO, not only on the military side, but in the community as well,” stated Colonel Runion.

When asked what motivated him to do so much both for the military and the community, Sergeant O’Brien explained that his motiva-

tion comes from knowing what he is doing impacts the world in a positive way. He then went on to tell stories of how he recently helped orchestrate the movement of several military working dogs and a racecar overseas.

“Knowing what those dogs are going to do for the Army troops, and knowing how that car is going to put a smile on a troop’s face, that’s rewarding,” he explained. “Everything I do is part of the bigger picture; the global impact that we have here at Grissom isn’t recognized by many.”

And, being a part of that bigger picture is what Sergeant O’Brien said gives him satisfaction and motivation.

“Inside you got to figure out what motivates you and where your self-worth comes from and draw from that,” he said. “I don’t do anything for an award or achievement, and I don’t care if anyone shakes my hand or pats my back; there’s a job to be done and I got to do it.”

Retreat

Maj. Deb Edgerley salutes the flag as Senior Airman Courtney Storey secures it during a retreat ceremony held here recently. Major Edgerley is an officer-in-charge of the Reserve administration orderly section of the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron. Airman Storey is a boom operator with the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

