



# Heartland WARRIOR

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## On the cover...

A KC-135R Stratotanker from the 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom refuels an F-22 Raptor from the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., March 18. The refueling mission gave both the pilots and crew valuable experience. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

# Grissom Inn named best in entire AFRC

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

Offering some of the finest amenities and services in the Air Force, the Grissom Inn and the men and women of the 434th Force Support Squadron who operate it were recently named the best in the Air Force Reserve Command for large inns.

This honor not only means the inn is the best large inn in the command, but it is also the chosen representative of the Air Force Reserve to compete in the Air Force Innkeeper competition.

"Each year the Air Force Services Agency, conducts an awards program for lodging, and each (major command) is allowed to select one large and one small inn to go forward," explained Mr. Alan Ray, AFRC deputy chief of services. "It's like a beauty pageant; these are the top ten in their category."

From those ten, the AFSVA will choose four of the inns to visit and inspect personally. From those four a winner will be chosen.

But, even being eligible to enter the competition is no small task.

"Each Air Force Inn undergoes a yearly certification process, and the checklist used to scrutinize our operation is extensive with a total of 452 graded areas and 1,783 possible points," said Mary McLean, Grissom Inn general manager. "In order to compete for the award, you have to have 90 or above which really narrows the field."

And, the Grissom Inn staff not only got above a 90, they increased their score from a 74 to a 94 in just one year putting them ahead of the pack in AFRC. Only three other large inns in AFRC were eligible, according to Mr. Ray.

"Grissom has got an outstanding lodging program, and they're going to make an outstanding candidate for AFRC in the large category," he



Ritta Baker, Grissom Inn guest services manager, checks out two guests here recently. The Grissom Inn was recently named the best in the Air Force Reserve Command. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

said. "With their personnel, programs and facilities, they have an excellent chance to make the top four or higher."

And, Ms. McLean agrees with that statement, putting emphasis on the importance of having the right people for the job.

"We definitely have the people for it, and it's the people that make the difference," she said. "You can have an old hotel, but if you have the right people you can win; likewise, you can have a new hotel, but if you don't have the people you can get very low scores."

Now, as the Grissom Inn prepares to submit their final package for the competition, Ms. McLean said the staff feels validated in the service they provide day-in and day-out.

"They all stand a little taller because they realize 'I'm not just doing a job, I'm doing the best job I can do,'" she added. "It's a big deal."

# Grissom holds groundbreaking ceremony for new ATC tower

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

Elected officials, civic leaders, contractors, and 434th Air Refueling Wing and Air Force Reserve Command Airmen all descended on Grissom March 15 for a groundbreaking ceremony, which marked the beginning of construction for a new air traffic control tower here.

The new ATC tower, with a programmed cost of \$7.4 million, will replace an existing structure built in 1965 and enhance Grissom's ATC abilities.

When complete, the nine-story tower will provide Grissom's air traffic controllers with increased visibility, space for a control tower simulator to enhance training, increased security, office space for administrative functions, and enhanced environmental controls.

This new addition will not only affect military aviation, but civilian and commercial aviation as well as Grissom is a joint-use aviation facility used throughout

Indiana.

"Many (people) don't realize the controllers at Grissom are responsible for the airspace between Chicago and Indianapolis," said Lt. Col. Gary Lockard, 434th ARW public affair chief. "In recent years, the airspace under control of Grissom air traffic controllers has increased and now ranges all the way to Lafayette, (Ind.)"

The new ATC tower, along with the recently completed radar approach control facility here, will provide Grissom with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities that benefit all aviation in the region.

The new tower, which is expected to last the next 50 years, will not only benefit the aviation community but will also provide significant financial impact.

"You don't usually get a lot of \$7.4 million projects in north-central Indiana," said Col. William T. "Tim" Cahoon, 434th ARW commander. "There are economic and operational benefits from this, and we'll get good use from it."

Construction on the tower will begin immediately and the estimated completion date is 2012.



A new air traffic control tower is shown here in one of the architect's concept drawings. The new ATC tower, will replace an existing structure and enhance Grissom's ATC abilities. When complete, the nine-story tower will provide Grissom's air traffic controllers with increased visibility, space for a control tower simulator, increased security, and office space. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)



From left to right are Meredith Perks, Joe Donnelly, John Gilpin, Terry Albaugh, Col. Nicholas Desport, Col. William T. "Tim" Cahoon, Tom Weatherwax, Marques Pflum, and Jessica Mullins. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

# GARB Airmen stand down, sharpen resiliency

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

Like an ax driving through wood, people power through life's problems and stressors. But, just like an ax, their edge can dull and those stressors become harder to cut through.

But, the Airmen of the 434th Air Refueling Wing were able to sharpen their resolve and improve their resiliency during a Wingman Day held here March 6.

"It's the ability to bring awareness and have available tools Airmen need to bounce back," explained Chaplain (Maj.) Obadiah Smith, Jr., 434th ARW chaplain. "We all face stressors, and it's about understanding those stressors and growing from them."

Alison Duncan, 434th ARW social worker, said the training provided Airmen with not just the tools to take care of themselves, but also those useful in helping others.

"Last year we focused on suicide prevention and personal protection; this year builds on that," elaborated Mrs. Duncan. "The focus isn't just on how to deal with stress; the focus is on who can identify people having these issues and getting them the help they need."

To highlight the importance of this training, wing leadership had Airmen across the base stand down and participate in three-hour training sessions led by Airmen from each squadron.

During these sessions



**Tech. Sgt. James Park, 434th Force Support Squadron orderly room noncommissioned officer in charge, drops his team's egg protection device from the top of a stairwell during the team building portion of Wingman Day here March 6. Airmen from the 434th Air Refueling Wing participated in a three-hour training session that focused on building Airmen resiliency and overall unit cohesion. Pictured alongside Sergeant Park, from left, are Senior Master Sgt. Juanita Withrow, Maj. Patrick O'Neil, Staff Sgt. Laura Brandt and Master Sgt. Lisa Fitzgerald. All are members of the 434th FSS. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)**

Airmen learned how to deal with stress and how to recognize someone who's reaching their stress limit with training focused on the four quadrants of wellness, which include physical, social, mental and spiritual well-being.

Facilitators across base

also stressed the importance of preventing mishaps and having good situational awareness.

The training culminated with a team building project, focused on communication and connecting people.

"The major key component is relational connec-

tivity; you've got to be connected," said Chaplain Smith. "Particularly in the high deployment phase we are in now, things can get stressful."

And, while the chaplain's office and the social worker at Grissom are helpful resources, many times the best person to help is someone closer to the individual in need, said Mrs. Duncan.

"(They) should have established a connection with their wingman so they can call upon them for strength," she added. "We encourage people to ask the question we usually shy away from."

And, that question, which asks if a person is thinking about hurting themselves, is one Airman learned they should not hesitate in asking.

"If you can see someone in need, follow (the ACE concept)," said Mrs. Duncan. "Ask them if they're going to hurt themselves, care for them and escort them to the help they need."

The training, which allowed Airmen to connect with each other and sharpen their wingman skills, also gave them a reprieve from what could be considered a hectic unit training assembly schedule as the 434th ARW ramps up for an upcoming compliance inspection.

"In life, we're cutting down a lot of trees, but we need to take time to sharpen our ax," concluded Chaplain Smith, and that's just what the Grissom Airmen did.

# 434th ARW refuels F-22 raptors over sunshine state

By Senior Airman  
**Damon Kasberg**  
*Public Affairs staff*

Recently KC-135R Stratotankers from Grissom flew out of Indiana and met with 325th Fighter Wing F-22 Raptors from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., over the Florida coastline for an aerial refueling mission.

Aerial refueling missions such as these are required of aircrew to ensure they remain proficient and mission ready.

“Pilots receive a yearly check ride,” said Capt. Joel Webley, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 pilot. “They are evaluated on take-offs, landings, instrument procedures, aerial refueling procedures and ground operations.”

These missions not only keep the KC-135R pilots mission ready, but also the in-flight refueling technician know as boom operators and receiving aircraft pilots as well.

“Boom operators must pass a check ride every 17 months,” said Master Sgt. Kym Orange, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron in-flight refueling instructor. “An evaluator rides with the mission boom and ensures that he follows the operation checklist; the job is very demanding, but also very rewarding.”

Grissom KC-135 Stratotanker pilots and boom operators fly missions throughout the world, refueling a wide array of aircraft. The KC-135R is not only used for refueling missions, but also cargo transport, troop transport and aeromedical evacuations.

The F-22 Raptor is the Air Force’s newest operational fighter aircraft. The F-22 performs both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions allowing full realization of operational concepts vital to the 21st century Air Force. The F-22 cannot be matched by any known or projected fighter aircraft.

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Capt. Joel Webley, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 pilot, takes a quick glance at his instruments during an aerial refueling mission over Florida March 18. Captain Webley and other members from the 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., took part in a recent training mission with F-22 Raptors from the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. The F-22 is the Air Force’s most advanced fighter aircraft. The 434th ARW is the largest KC-135R unit in the Air Force Reserve Command. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg)



A 325th Fighter Wing F-22 Raptor pilot is seen in the cockpit of his aircraft during a refueling mission with a KC-135R Stratotanker from the 434th Air Refueling Wing March 18. The refueling mission gave both the F-22 pilot and the KC-135 crew valuable experience and training in aerial refueling, which is vital to keeping them world-wide mission ready. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)



An F-22 Raptor from the 325th Fighter Wing prepares to connect to a KC-135 Stratotanker refueling boom over Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. March 18. Aerial refueling acts as a force multiplier for aircraft, allowing them to stay airborne longer and extending their reach. The KC-135 is from the 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., which is the largest KC-135 unit in the Air Force Reserve Command. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg)

# Air Force, Marines compete for GARB b-ball championship

By Senior Airman  
Damon Kasberg  
Public Affairs staff

Grissom's annual basketball tournament began with eight teams, all with a common goal, to win it all. After 13 games only two teams remain.

The 434th ARW Seasonal Training Flight and the Marines will compete during the April unit training assembly for the championship.

The Marines had their share of close games, but made it to the championship undefeated.

"That's what Marines do, we deal

with pressure" said Ronnie Williams, Marines. "Whether it's a last second shot on the court or completing an objective out in the field we overcome the pressure."

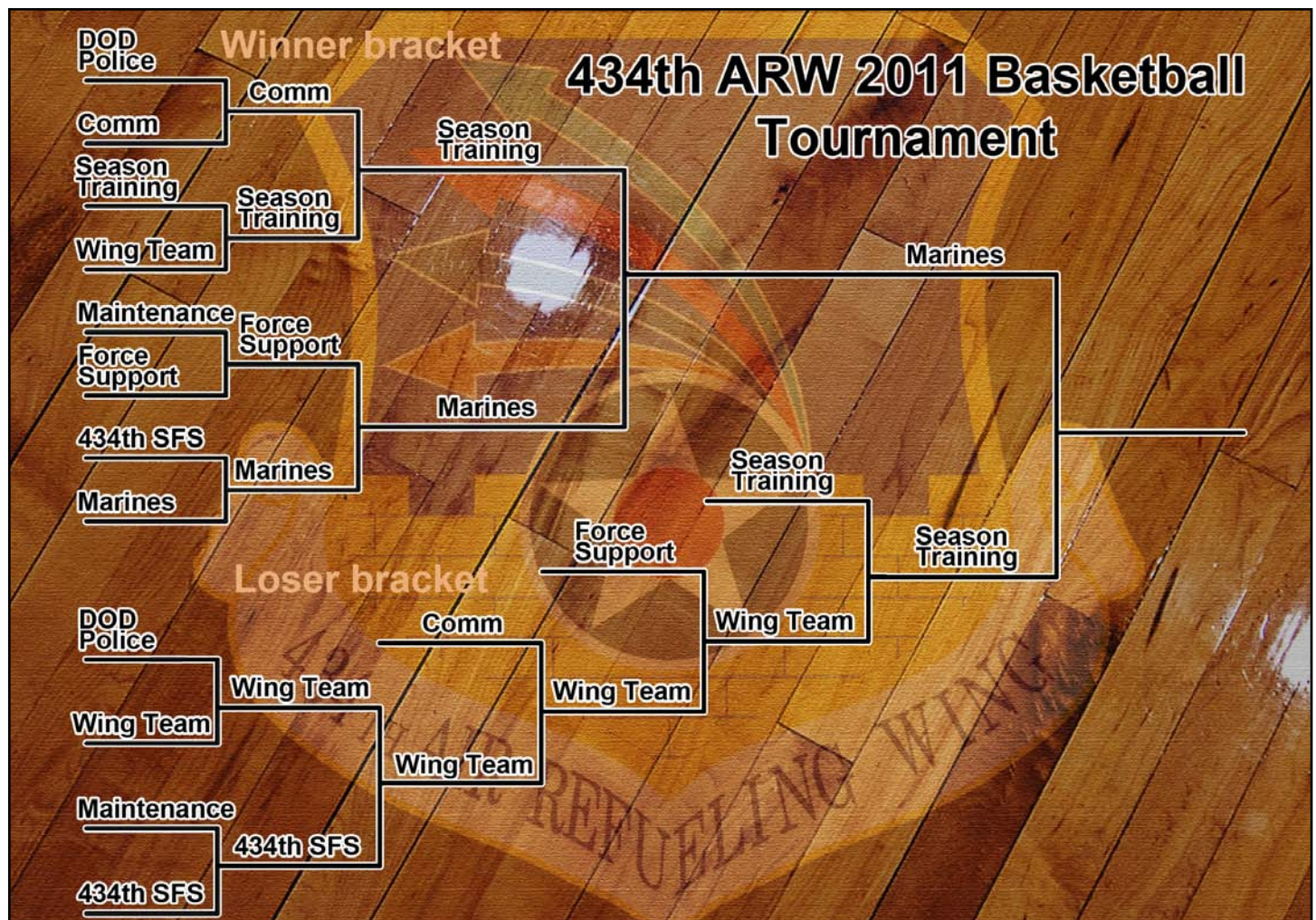
"We feel confident going into the championship," said Williams. "If we aren't confident in ourselves, no one else is going to be confident in us; we have to play the entire game, from tip off to the final buzzer."

The Seasonal training flight's record was 4-1. Their only loss was handed to them by the Marines. After winning in the final four against the Wing team they advanced to the

championship and an opportunity to redeem themselves against the Marines.

"They're a great group of individuals, with a lot of talent," said Paul Tomlinson, 434th Seasoning Training Flight course director. "As with any organization, you can have talent and still lose; they came together as a team during the games and learned to lean on each other; we look forward to this championship against the Marines."

The championship game will be held at the fitness center 5:30 p.m. April 2.



After 13 games the Grissom basketball tournament has reached the championship match up. The 434th Season Training Flight will face the undefeated Marines at the fitness center April 2. The winner will be the 2011 Grissom basketball tournament champions. (U.S. Air Force graphic/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg)



## Grissom hits airwaves on new radio programs

News and information from Grissom that impacts the local region will become a staple on several new radio programs broadcast throughout the local area and on the Internet

The first program will be aired on WMYK, 98.5 FM, on Sunday mornings at 6 a.m. The program, called "Community Spotlight," will focus on Grissom and its neighbor, the Grissom Aeroplex.

Current plans call for Community Spotlight to alternate each week between Grissom and the Grissom Aeroplex.

"The timing for the program is perfect," said Lt. Col. Gary Lockard, 434th Air Refueling Wing public affairs chief. "The public affairs staff had been looking at ways to add to Grissom's outreach and Community Spotlight will be a great addition to what we are currently doing with our Internet web site, Facebook page and Twitter account."

WMYK's radio signal is heard throughout a number of areas including Howard, Miami, Cass,

Wabash, Grant, Tipton, and Clinton counties.

The second program, called "Flight Line Radio Presents," will be aired on [www.FlightLineRadio.com](http://www.FlightLineRadio.com).

Flight Line Radio Presents is a program that focuses on aviation and aviation-related stories. The program will focus on Grissom's latest news stories, aviation heritage and current aviation operations.

"Working with Flight Line Radio is an excellent opportunity for us here to tell our story to millions of listeners across the world," said Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner, 434th ARW public affairs specialist. "The men and women of the 434th ARW do so much both locally and globally, it will be great for us to share their stories."

While the first interviews will be done with Sergeant Orders-Woempner, subsequent shows will feature other 434th ARW personnel including pilots and in-flight refueling technicians.

## General returns from SWA to command 4th Air Force

By 2nd Lt. Zach Anderson  
Public Affairs staff

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif.-- Brig. Gen. Mark Kyle assumed command of 4th Air Force from Maj. Gen. Eric Crabtree at a change-of-command ceremony in a C-17 hangar at March Air Reserve Base March 12.

Before becoming commander of 4th Air Force, General Kyle served as director of mobility forces for U.S. Air Forces Cen-

tral in Southwest Asia.

General Crabtree became the numbered air force commander in January 2009. In his new assignment, he will serve as deputy director of U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, Jr., Air Force Reserve Command, served as the presiding officer for the change of command ceremony.



Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, Jr., left, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., presents Brig. Gen. Mark A. Kyle with the 4th Air Force guidon. General Kyle is assumed command of 4th Air Force from Maj. Gen. Eric W. Crabtree on March 12. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Christine Jones)



## GUS unveils new HTNR program

By Senior Airman  
Damon Kasberg

*Public Affairs staff*

Submitting news back home just got a whole lot easier.

Gone is the process of printing out a hometown news release form, filling it out and faxing it in, and in is a new electronic process.

To start the process, personnel can access the form via a new link on the recently updated Grissom website.

Once the form is complete, the user hits the submit button and it's sent to the Defense Media Activity's hometown news release office. This provides users the ability to send hometown news release from any computer at any time.

Tech. Sgt. David Malon, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics guidance specialist, was the first person to send a hometown news release from the Grissom website.

"It was great," Sergeant Malon said. "It was straight forward and took me about ten minutes; I would recommend it to other people."



### ***Taking command***

Col. William Mason, left, presents the 434th Operations Support Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Larry Shaw as he takes command of the unit during a special ceremony held here at Bldg. 663 March 5. Colonel Mason, 434th Operations Group commander, presided over the ceremony, aimed at allowing a unit's Airmen to witness a command transition. Colonel Shaw took over for Lt. Col. Todd Moody, who is now serving as the 74th Air Refueling Squadron operations officer. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Kelly Howard)

## In the lime light

### **Medals**

#### **Meritorious Service Medal**

Senior Master Sgt. William Hamilton, 434th Security Forces Squadron first, Master Sgt. Roger Ruark, 434th Maintenance Squadron, Master Sgt. Mitchell Geesaman, 434th MXS.

#### **Air Force Commendation Medal**

Lt. Col. David Smith, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, Capt. William

Chapman, 434th MXS and Master Sgt. Jack Vollriede, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Joseph Demore, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Matthew Bengel, 434th AMXS

#### **Air Force Achievement Medal**

Captain Michael Gregory, 434th MXS, Master Sgt. Paul Tomlinson, 434th Mission Support Group.

