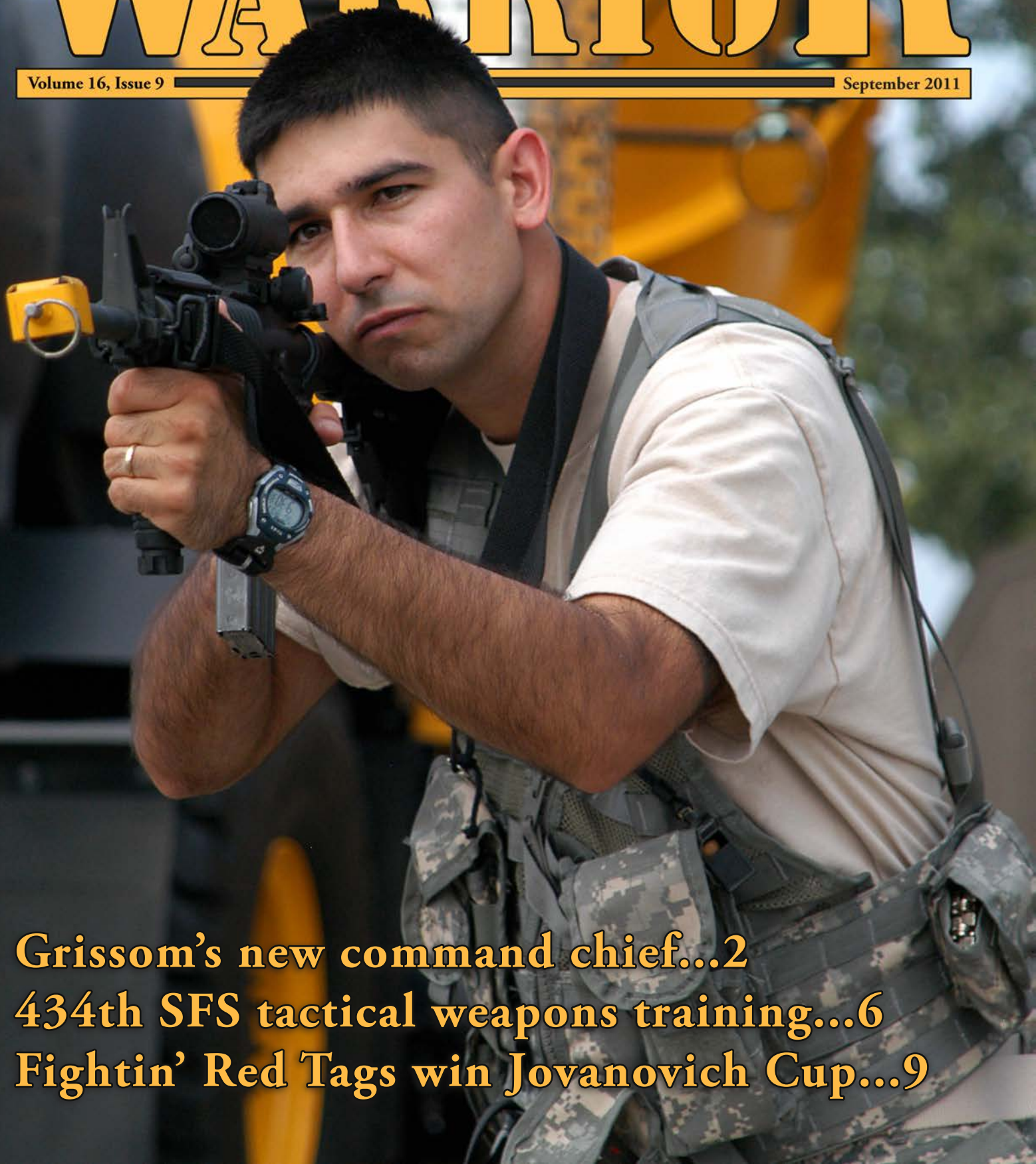


Heartland WARRIOR

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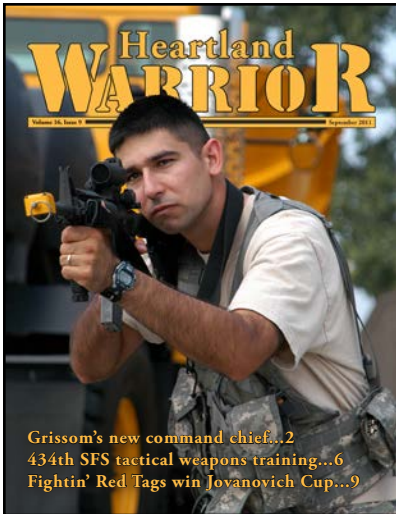
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On the cover...

Senior Airman James Marshall, 434th Security Forces Squadron, takes aim with an M-4 rifle during weapons training held during the August unit training assembly. Security Force members were practicing reloading and quick change weapons drills. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)

Grissom gets new command chief

Focus set on communication and helping Airmen

By Senior Airman Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

There's a new chief in town and she's out and about meeting the troops.

Chief Master Sgt. Karen Perkins took over as the 434th Air Refueling Wing command chief at Grissom Aug. 1 and has set her sights on meeting as many people as she can.

The chief hit the ground running, making her way through the 434th Communications and Civil Engineer Squadrons because she said she believes in fostering good, open and honest communication between unit members and their leadership. She added that communication is key to positive growth in teamwork.

"We need communication across all of the agencies with all of the people to make it work," said Perkins. "My vision is to see good cohesive teamwork amongst all the groups and all of the people here so that we can accomplish the mission."

As the 434th ARW command chief, she advises the commander on matters influencing the health, morale, welfare and effective utilization of more than 1,400 personnel within the wing and serves as the commander's representative at numerous functions. The chief also serves as the spokesperson and liaison between the enlisted force and the commander.

Chief Perkins' educational background and work history helped prepare her for new leadership role and develop the vision she wishes to accomplish.

Perkins has obtained two Community College of the Air Force degrees; one in aircraft maintenance management, and the other in human resource management. She also holds a bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics and a master's degree in leadership.

In conjunction with her educational accomplishments, Perkins has had a plethora of experiences during her Air Force career that have prepared



Chief Master Sgt. Karen Perkins

her to be the 434th ARW's senior enlisted advisor, including several years as a first sergeant. During that time she was named first sergeant of the year four times.

Prior to joining Grissom's team, Perkins was the chief enlisted manager and group superintendent for the 76th Aircraft Maintenance Group at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., where she oversaw 3,900 civilian, active duty and reserve workers.

"It gave me a lot of diversity and experience to help me fill in here," said Perkins, who is a veteran of Operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

After finishing her duties at Tinker, she took over the command chief position here.

Not only is the chief focused on military duties and education, she is also active in her local community and has volunteered her time on base with various agencies.

Since arriving at Grissom, Perkins said she has been impressed with both the base facilities and the quality of people here.

In closing the Chief said her vision is positive, and she believes it will help Grissom continue to grow in a positive direction with a focus on taking care of the Airmen so they can take care of the mission.

Indiana legislators get look at Grissom's mission

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

The Hoosier heartland sure looks a lot different from 26,000 feet and that's a unique view a group of Indiana lawmakers got to see here recently.

Twenty-one members of the Indiana State Legislature arrived at Grissom in the early morning of Aug. 17 to start their information-packed day that culminated with them witnessing first-hand the aerial refueling mission of the 434th Air Refueling Wing.

"It was an experience I will never forget," said Indiana state Rep. Dan Stevenson about participating in an "actual refueling mission."

Also joining the group of legislators was Indiana University Kokomo chancellor Michael Harris.

The group started the day learning about the important role that Grissom plays in the state as the largest employer in Miami County and



Indiana state Rep. Jim Baird takes a photo of an in-flight refueling from the boom pod of a KC-135R Stratotanker Aug. 17. Grissom hosted members of Indiana's legislature to educate them on the base and the Airmen who perform the mission here. During the mission, the group witnessed an aerial refueling between Grissom's KC-135R and an RC-135 Rivet Joint from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays)

providing over \$130 million worth of economic impact each year.

But, the lawmakers didn't just learn about Grissom's monetary impact, they also learned about the many intangible assets of having one of

only five Air Force Reserve Command bases in Northern Indiana.

One of the biggest items discussed was Grissom's mutual-aid agreements with the surrounding counties, which allow for Grissom emergency responders to provide support off base. Each year the Grissom Fire Department alone averages over 6 life-saving rescues in the local community.

After the briefings, the legislators boarded one of Grissom's 16 KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft and took flight heading southwest to refuel an RC-135 Rivet Joint from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

The RC-135V/W Rivet Joint reconnaissance aircraft supports theater and national level consumers with near real time on-scene intelligence collec-

tion, analysis and dissemination capabilities. The aircraft is an extensively modified C-135. Its modifications allow the mission crew to detect, identify and geolocate signals throughout the electromagnetic spectrum.

After returning to Grissom, the legislators were presented with 434th ARW honorary aircrew certificates and given the opportunity to talk about their experience.

"The members of the Indiana House of Representatives who participated in the refueling mission were very impressed," said Indiana state Representative Mike Karickhoff, who referred to the day as a tremendous demonstration and learning experience. "Well done!"



Indiana state legislators pose for a photo in front of a Grissom KC-135R Stratotanker shortly before taking off onboard the aircraft to witness first-hand the aerial refueling mission of the 434th Air Refueling Wing Aug. 17. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

In the limelight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal --

Lt. Col. Anthony Green, 434th Air Refueling Wing; Maj. David Wilkins, 434th

Aerospace Medicine

Squadron; Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Meyer, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron; Master Sgt. John Davis, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and Master Sgt. Kenneth Ferron II, 434th Force Support Squadron.

Commendation Medal --

Staff Sgt. Crystal Nix, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron.



Promotions

Senior Airman -- Joseph Hyatt, 434th AMDS; Qiana Jackson, 434th AMDS; Stephen Muenstermann, 434th AMXS; Ethan Eckelbarger, 434th AMXS; Brandon Hunter, 49th Aerial Port Flight; Jeffrey Murr, 49th APF; Emmanuel Vega, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Edward Ramirez-Lenis, 434th LRS; Kelsy St. Clair, 434th Maintenance Squadron; and Aaron Carr, 434th Security Forces Squadron.

Airman 1st Class -- Christopher Roser, 434th AMDS; Sarah Willis, 434th AMXS; Dustin Pervine, 434th LRS; Brandon Dillman, 434th SFS; Kara Curtis, 434 ARW; Jessica Weatherman, 434th ARW; and Travis Sager, 434th MXS.

Airman -- Shauna Allen, 434th ARW; Megan Moore, 434th FSS; Kody Harmon, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight; Kody Herbst, 434th MXS; Bianca Phillips, MXS; Bradley Rodriguez, 434th CES; Justin Williams, 434th FSS; and Kara Chapman, 434th LRS.

Cops shackle engineers, earn intramural crown

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays
Public Affairs staff

In Grissom's version of the fall classic, the Cops handcuffed the Civil Engineers 9-8 to win the 2011 intramural softball championship Aug. 25.

The Engineers were undefeated coming into the championship game and were averaging 20 runs a game.

Their firepower was evident as the Engineers put up seven runs in the first inning.

The Cops remained patient and took advantage of three Engineer

errors and rallied by putting up 8 runs in the final inning to win 13-12 and force a final deciding game.

In the final game, the Cops were once again able to shackle the Engineer's high-powered offense and hold them to their lowest scoring output of the season enroute to a championship title.

With the softball season wrapping up, other intramural sporting events such as flag football and basketball will be gearing up.

For more information on participating in intramural activities, contact the fitness center staff at 688-2000.



Tim Holmgren, shortstop for the Cops, fields a hop to make a play during the 2011 intramural softball championship series. The cops beat the engineers 9-8 to claim the softball title. (Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Carl Berry)

Guardsmen undergo fire training at Grissom



Army National Guardsmen from Camp Atterbury, Ind., blast water at a simulated aircraft fire during training held here Aug. 23. The members of the Indiana National Guard came to the base to learn how to practice responding to an incident using Grissom's specialized mock aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays)

Indiana Army National Guard members from Camp Atterbury travelled to Grissom recently to take advantage of training opportunities here.

The group, all firefighters, came to sharpen skills in battling aircraft accidents and incidents.

During the training the group addressed an simulated aircraft fire by using the fire training pit near base operations.

Grissom is often used as a training location for a variety of career fields who take advantage of the opportunities the base has to offer.



Firefighters move into position to attack a simulated aircraft fire her Aug. 23.

Honorary commanders visit 434th Maintenance Group

Three of the 434th Air Refueling Wing's honorary commanders got a firsthand look at the 434th Maintenance Group Aug. 19 during a visit to the base.

John Gilpin of Wabash, Ind., honorary 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, Anita Harden, of Indianapolis, the honorary 434th Maintenance Group commander, and John Stackhouse of Peru, Ind., the honorary command chief, got a special behind-the-scenes look at maintenance shops including aircraft refurb, Aerospace Ground Equipment, metals technology, nondestructive inspection and sheet metal.



Tech. Sgt. James Goodman, left, a structural maintenance technician, shows John Gilpin, center, and John Stackhouse, both honorary commanders, examples of sheet metal repair procedures. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hays)



Staff Sgt. Michael Cochran, 434th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, takes aim with an M-4 rifle during weapons training held during the August unit training assembly here. Security forces members practiced reloading and quick change weapons drills to keep their skills sharp. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)

Security Forces undergo tactical weapons training



Senior Master Sgt. Rickie King, 434th Security Forces Squadron quality control noncommissioned officer, demonstrates the proper reloading technique of an M-9 pistol while conducting weapons training during the Aug. 7. Security forces members practiced reloading and quick change weapons drills.

By Senior Airman
Andrew McLaughlin
Public Affairs staff

Thirteen members of the 434th Security Forces Squadron got hands-on weapons training from one of their own during the August unit training assembly.

Senior Master Sgt. Rickie King, 434th SFS operations superintendent, has trained foreign security forces in the Middle East and brought that experience back to Grissom.

Unit members trained on reloading, changing weapons and aiming with the proper technique and form, while demonstrating the ability to advance on suspicious individuals.

The training will help them should they be called upon to deploy in the future.

King will expand training for members during upcoming UTAs.

Heartland Warrior

Readiness conducts navigation training

By Senior Airman
Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

In an emergency situation all hands are needed on deck to control a situation, save lives and prevent damage.

Recent training conducted by the 434th Civil Engineer Squadron was aimed at training even more people to help during a crisis as eight Grissom personnel prepared themselves to be emergency management readiness support team members.

"Some of the things we do require more than one person on a shift; if we go into a 24-hour-a-day operation there needs to be at least one of us (Emergency Managers) on each shift, so that means we were going to have to rely on some additional help," said

Robert L. Wydock, Jr., Grissom deputy base emergency manager. "I can train (them) to do map work, they can plot plumes, and they can be the standby person with the incident commander relaying information



Maj. Toomay, 434th Maintenance Group, and Master Sgt. Richard Byrd, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight, use a compass and laser rangefinder during a land navigation training here Aug. 11. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)

back."

The emergency management readiness support team members must go through 14 hours of initial training followed by annual training conducted during base-wide exercises. The trainees receive hands-on instruction with map reading, grid coordinates, GPS capabilities, range finders, compass reading and other hands-on exercises that encompass what they've learned in class.

"There are all kinds of things that they can do that wouldn't require anything more than generalized training," said Wydock. "In between the computer based training that we assign them and some of the hands-on training that we're

doing, we're hoping that will give them the basic skills needed for them to be able to help out in case of an emergency.

"Every emergency is different so you can't really say what we're going to need them for at any given time," he added. "So we're trying to teach them general skills so that any individual particular skill at the time can be just-in-time training."

Ultimately, if an emergency would happen, this team of emergency response support professionals would get things going by employing the skills and training that they've acquired to help resolve the situation.

"We would start things off in the (emergency operations center), and we'd activate these guys, four of them would go on the second shift, and four of them would come to our

shift, the day shift," said Wydock. "Those four could run the (nuclear biological and chemical) cell that's in the EOC, which would be plume modeling and things like that.

"We could send one of them out with the incident commander or liaison," he added. "There are several different things that they could be doing; pretty much anything we'd be doing that doesn't involve the technical expertise."

So if an emergency were to occur, the readiness support team could be activated as trained to get the incident under control.

"For (them) it's considered an additional duty, but when they become activated this becomes their primary job they continue to do until the situation is over and are released," said Wydock.



Maj. Shane Toomay, 434th Maintenance Group maintenance officer, reads a compass during land navigation training here for emergency management readiness support team members Aug. 11.

FSS sergeant ensures Airmen are fed



By Senior Airman Damon Kasberg
Public Affairs staff

Hundreds of Airmen travel across Indiana and the country to Grissom for their unit training assemblies each month, but only one arrives two days prior to ensure those hundreds are fed.

For the last two years Staff Sgt. Danielle Taylor, 434th Force Support Squadron store room manager, has been driving to Grissom every Thursday before primary and alter-

nate UTAs to meet food delivery trucks behind the dining facility and ensure the deliveries are correct.

"She's here ten days a month on orders," said Master Sgt. Cinthia Webb, 434th Force Support Squadron services air reserve technician. "Sergeant Taylor is very dependable, and she's able to adapt and overcome challenges that arise."

The Friday before a drill weekend, Taylor prepares meal menus and makes certain that

there is enough food for all the recipes used for each meal.

During the UTA she works in the store room providing people with foods and material they need.

Mondays after the UTA she is in charge of ordering more food, taking inventory, and calling all food vendors to ensure the orders have gone through.

"I like what I do because people depend on me, and I like having that responsibility," said Taylor.

Moving quickly, Staff Sgt. Danielle Taylor takes a box of frozen cauliflower through the kitchen and into a walk-in freezer at the Grissom Dining Facility. Taylor, who is the 434th Force Support Squadron store room manager, is responsible for the ordering, stocking, managing and initial preparation for all food consumed by reservists during unit training assemblies. (U.S. Air Force photos Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)



Staff Sgt. Danielle Taylor, 434th Force Support Squadron store room manager, puts breasts of chicken into a pan to thaw prior to a unit training assembly Aug. 4.

Emergency management IPTV coming soon

By Staff Sgt. Carl Berry
Public Affairs staff

Grissom's emergency management office will be using Internet Protocol Television as another form of communication to give up-to-date information during emergencies.

Military communication has come a long way from sending and receiving simple signals that were often encoded to be unrecognizable for the enemy. Now, with modern technology, military communication has evolved to using high-tech telecommunications and

computing methods.

Grissom Airmen currently receive emergency information through multiple forms of communication including, the straight-talk line, *Ad hoc* messages, e-mail, and Giant Voice.

"By us using IPTV we will be able to notify Airmen on base within seconds whereas the *Ad hoc*, depending on the network can take 15-20 minutes," said Dan DeAngulo, base emergency manager.

When there is no emergency on base the Grissom Emergency Channel will have slide shows

with very basic information.

"Emergency management response templates for natural or man-made disasters such as shelter in place, and other preparation training will be available on the channel," said DeAngulo.

Grissom will be the first base in the Air Force to use this form of communication.

"What we like most about using this form of communication is that Airmen will be receiving accurate information in real time," said DeAngulo.

The channel is scheduled to go live mid September.

Fightin' Red Tags topple Dark Siders



John 'Truck' Pannell, left, leads the Fightin' Red Tags onto the field during the 5th Annual Jovanovich Cup Aug 13.



Tim McBee, Fightin' Red Tags, takes a rip at a pitch during the 5th Annual Jovanovich cup Aug. 13. The Red Tags rallied to drop the Dark Siders 13-12 in the annual softball classic. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Jami Lancette) September 2011

By Senior Airman Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

With the bases loaded, Dan Kenney stepped up to the plate and smashed a game-winning single to help the Fightin' Red Tags snatch victory from the Dark Side, 13-12 in the 5th Annual Jovanovich Cup Aug. 13.

"It was a hard fight," said Kenney about the softball game. "It really came down to the wire; the score was 11-12 when I went to bat in the bottom of the seventh.

"All the guys on the bases really set the table for me; we scored two runs before I went to bat," he explained. "The bases were loaded, I hit a hard ground ball to the right side, and we took the game 13-12."

Every year the members from the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron, the Dark Side, and 74th ARS, the Red Tags, meet on the field of play, dressed in their teams' colors. Some even adorn themselves in eccentric costumes and accessories.

"It's a tradition, it keeps a light atmosphere, and keeps it fun and interesting," said Kenney. "It's a really competitive game; we keep it fun and remember why we have the game every year."

The friendly competition is held in remembrance of Lt. Col. George Jovanovich who died in a car accident in March of 2006. Jovanovich was a plans officer with the 434th Operations Support Squadron.

Family and friends of the players came out, watched the game and enjoyed a cookout as they cheered on their favorite team and remembered a good friend.

To the winning team goes the spoils of not just a trophy but bragging rights until next battle of the Jovanovich Cup in 2012.