

Heartland WARRIOR

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On the cover...

Col. Donald Buckley took command of the 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom during a special change of command ceremony here May 19. Buckley, who was the former 919th Operations Group commander at Duke Field, Fla., replaced Col. William T. "Tim" Cahoon, who had his retirement ceremony the following day. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

Colonel Cahoon retires

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

From small-town Indiana roots to commander of the Hoosier Wing, an Air Force career came full-circle as Grissom's commander hung up his flight suit and retired to a new home and waiting grandchildren.

Col. William T. "Tim" Cahoon retired in front of family and friends after a distinguished 35-year career that included numerous command assignments and flight time in both fighter and tanker aircraft. His last assignment was commander of the 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom.

Cahoon began his Air Force career in 1977 after graduating from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., and is a command pilot with over 4,900 flying hours in the KC-135R/A, A-10, F-16A, T-38A/C and T-37 aircraft. He is also a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College.

While the retired wing commander has had an illustrious career, he said he never could have predicted

the course his life would take during his childhood.

"No one would have really predicted this career for me, despite watching "12 O'clock High" and "Combat" on television, I could not fathom this type of career for me," he recalled.

It was on a dare in his junior year in high school that Cahoon skipped class to go see an Air Force recruiter and decided to become an Air Force pilot, said retired Col. Ronald Farris, who served with Cahoon and officiated his retirement ceremony in Dock 1 here May 20.

During his address, Farris talked about how Cahoon's father passed away at an early age and yet his mother was still able to raise him and his three siblings, sending all four to college, a feat that helped launch Cahoon's career.

"I came from good stock," remarked Cahoon. "I owe my parents and my grandparents much."

Cahoon said he also owed his career success to his wife and children.

"I cannot say how much I appreciate my family, particularly my

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Col. William T. "Tim" Cahoon, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, receives his certificate of retirement from retired Col. Ronald Farris during a ceremony at Grissom May 20. Cahoon retired after nearly 35 years of service in the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jami Lancette)

Buckley takes command of 434th ARW

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

From ancient Roman battlefields to the modern era of stealth drones, military commanders have been the source around which troops have rallied and claimed ultimate victory.

With such importance of knowing who a commander was and what he expected from his men, formal change of command ceremonies were born and became a necessity that allowed warriors to witness the peaceful transition from one leader to the next.

In that same time-honored tradition Col. Donald Buckley took command of the 434th Air Refueling Wing in front of the Airmen he now commands during a special ceremony held here May 19.

In his new role, Buckley commands the largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve Command with over 1,900 military, civilian and contract personnel.

This assignment is the first at Grissom for Buckley, but he said he's firmly aware of the 434th ARW's stellar reputation and commitment to excellence.

"You have an outstanding reputation throughout the command," he said in his first formal address to Grissom's Airmen. "The second I drove onto this base, I was awed by your professionalism and your dedication, and we will continue that as we go through this together."

Buckley, whose last assignment was as the 919th Operations Group commander at Duke Field, Fla., said his primary focus is mission accomplishment through empowering Grissom's Airmen to get the job done.

"My promise to you is that I will take care of the people as you take care of the mission to meet the national security agenda of the United States of America," he said. "I'm here to serve you, to help you grow and to give you the tools that you need to accomplish the mission."

Buckley received his commission in 1987 as a graduate from Texas Tech University and has served in numerous flying positions in airlift and special operations related assignments.

A command pilot with more than 5,000 flight hours, the New York native has flown the T-37, T-38, C-130E, C-22B, C-18A, C-32A, MC-130E, WC-130J and C-130J aircraft deploying in support of Operations Just Cause, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Uphold Democracy, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Buckley replaced the now retired Col. William T. "Tim" Cahoon, who commanded the 434th ARW for two years.

In his final address to the wing as commander, Cahoon said the last two years haven't always been



Maj. Gen. Mark Kyle, 4th Air Force commander, presents the 434th Air Refueling Wing flag to Col. Donald Buckley during a change of command ceremony at Grissom May 19 as he assumed command of the unit. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

easy, but they have been rewarding as the unit has accomplished much.

"You have all contributed directly to the war effort, and that is what it is all about," he elaborated. "You have contributed to something bigger than yourselves, you have done something worthwhile, and you have done something that you will remember and be proud of for the rest of your lives."

The former commander also said he was slightly jealous of Buckley as he now gets to command some of the Air Force's finest, but he's confident the 434th ARW's tradition of excellence will continue.

"As you move on to serve under Colonel Buckley's command, I'm confident that you will continue to accomplish the mission and do the right thing in the right way," he said. "I know he will learn to trust you as I have, and that is the greatest compliment I can give."

Turkey tankers: Grissom Airmen fuel the fight

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

Putting bullets down range, bombs on target and bringing troops home after a long, hard deployment is what the U.S. military does and does well, but none of it would be possible without a little gas -- make that a lot of gas actually.

Enabling American war fighters throughout Southwest Asia, including Afghanistan, to take on the enemy and accomplish the mission were a group of 434th Air Refueling Wing Airmen who deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey January through April to fuel the fight.

"The goal is to do the mission," said Lt. Col. Brian Stopher, who commanded the second rotation of 434th ARW deployed Airmen. "We're

here to get the mission done, have fun and go home."

And that they did, thanks to a stellar performance by operations, maintenance and mission support crews who helped keep the jets in the air and fuel fighter, cargo and bomber aircraft.

"We had a 99 percent mission effectiveness rate, which means we flew 99 percent of the missions we were tasked to fly," recalled Stopher. "It was excellent maintenance and (operations crews) working together as a team to make sure our missions got off on time."

All together, the 434th team and their two KC-135R Stratotankers were directly responsible for flying over 130 missions, offloading over 8.8 million pounds of JP-8 jet fuel.

And while having a

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A Grissom KC-135R refuels a C-17 March 2 over Southwest Asia. Grissom Airmen deployed to the region January-April.



Tech. Sgt. Christopher Nack, Lt. Col. Maurice Noel and Lt. Col. Thomas Pea go over their mission before taking flight March 2 at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey to refuel a C-17 Globemaster III. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

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wife who supported me through it all,” said Cahoon, “Vicki had no idea what she was getting into that day when I came home that day from high school my junior year and told her I was going to become and Air force pilot.

“Little did we know then what would be required of us,” he added. “She has been there for 14 moves, countless (temporary duties), two desert deployments and all that is required of a commander’s wife -- she has been my soul mate and my sounding board.”

After graduating from Purdue, Cahoon completed pilot training in 1978, and his first operational assignment was as a KC-135 pilot.

While he excelled at flying the KC-135A, Farris said Cahoon’s ultimate goal was to be able to fly fighter jets, a chance he got by means of sheer determination and a bit of an unorthodox path.

After flying the Stratotanker for two years, Cahoon took an assignment as a T-38 instructor pilot in 1982. He finished up his time in the regular Air Force and three years later found himself in the Air Force Reserve as part of the 434th Tactical Fighter Wing in the seat of an A-10 Thunderbolt II at the then Grissom Air Force Base.

When Grissom realigned as an Air Reserve Base in 1994 and the A-10s left the base a short time later, Cahoon found himself back in the seat of a KC-135, but he said he missed the thrill of flying fighters and in 1997 went back to being a T-38 instructor pilot.

“I have to say that I really like being a fighter pilot,” explained Cahoon. “That is not meant to downplay any other mission or aircraft; they are all absolutely critical, but every pilot has a love, and so I was fortunate enough to eventually get to fly fighters in my career.

“It was thrilling, it was challenging, it was risky, it was hard work, and it was just fun,” he continued. “It suited my personality -- I like flying by myself and given the chance, I’d do it again in a heartbeat.”

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Col. William T. “Tim” Cahoon, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, gives a speech during his retirement ceremony at Grissom May 20. Cahoon began his Air Force career in 1977 and has piloted a variety of aircraft including the A-10 Thunderbolt II, F-16 Falcon, T-38A/C Talon, KC-135R/A Stratotanker and T-37 Tweet. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)

Perhaps two of his most meaningful assignments came in 2004 to 2006 where Cahoon served his nation as a deployed commander at war. From September 2004 to January 2005, he was the commander of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group, Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, and from May 2006 to September 2006 he served as the commander for the 451st Air Expeditionary Group, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

Farris, who later followed as a 451st AEG commander, realized how important that assignment was to Cahoon, so he saved the American flag that flew over both his and Cahoon’s headquarters building and surprised him by presenting it at his retirement. Cahoon was visibly emotional as he received the flag with dust and sand from Afghanistan still on it.

After his two deployments, Cahoon returned back to his first aircraft, the KC-135 as the 931st Air Refueling Group commander at McConnell AFB, Kan. He then went on to command the 459th Air Reserve Wing at Andrews AFB before coming back home to Indiana

to command the 434th ARW, the Hoosier Wing.

Coming back to his home state to command the largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve Command was a dream come true, said Cahoon, who added that while not everything in his career was fun, he found it immensely satisfying.

“I was a naive young man who had barely been out of Indiana, and everything related to the Air Force was new and exciting,” he recalled his first years in the Air Force. “Everything was an opportunity or a challenge, and it has been that way every day for the entire 35 years.”

Cahoon said the most enjoyable thing about his career has always been the people with whom he has served.

Despite the challenges that come with redefining oneself in retirement, Cahoon said he is looking forward to spending time with his wife, two sons and many grandchildren, but will always look back at his Air Force career and those with whom he served with fondness.

“From my heart, thank you for all of your selfless service,” he con-

Street renamed for Grissom pilot, doc

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

Little boys often dream about growing up to be doctors, pilots, farmers, veterinarians, service-members or businessmen, but one Hoosier boy grew up to be all of the above before his untimely death in service to his country.

Col. (Dr.) Marvin A. “Doc” Evens was remembered by family, friends and Grissom Airmen during a special ceremony May 14, which concluded with the unveiling of a memorial lithograph and a street being renamed in his honor.

Over 100 people, including Evens’ wife, Phyllis, and his two sons, Patrick and Christopher, attended the ceremony in Gus Grissom Hall.

“To us Marvin Evens was what America is supposed to be about,” said retired Maj. Gen. Robert Nester during the ceremony. “He understood that if you put your God-given talents to work you can be successful, you can lead by example, you can pursue the American dream with all your heart and soul, and I’m truly sorry that today’s generation never had the opportunity to meet our marvelous Marvin Evens for he made a positive difference for all of us.”

Evens was born in Greencastle, Ind., on Aug. 3, 1934, and graduated from Greencastle High School in 1952. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural education from Purdue University in 1956, a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Purdue in 1963, and his Doctorate of Medicine degree from Indiana University School of Medicine in 1968.

“I was going through some things my mom had brought over, and I saw an article that was pretty funny and described my dad as a triple threat, which pretty accurately describes his whole life,” said Patrick Evens, Doc’s son, during the ceremony. “He started out as a pilot, spent some time working on



Col. William T. “Tim” Cahoon and Phyllis Evens unveil a memorial lithograph honoring the late Col. (Dr.) Marvin Evens as the Evens’ sons, Patrick and Christopher, look on during a special ceremony in Gus Grissom Hall here May 14. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

pets as a veterinarian, and then he decided to put his talents to work on people and became a doctor.

“And somewhere in there he served a tour in Vietnam and a total of 36 years in the Air Force,” Patrick added. “He touched so many lives through his work as a farmer, doctor, pilot, family member and dear friend.”

Shortly after graduating for the first time from Purdue, Doc was commissioned in the regular Air Force through the Reserve Officer Training Corps and later became the only dual-rated command pilot and flight surgeon in the Air Force, said Nester. He joined the Air Force Reserve in 1962, flying C-119 Flying Boxcars with the 434th Troop Carrier Wing.

In 1968, Evens and other 434th TCW Airmen were called to active duty to serve in Vietnam. There the newly minted doctor distinguished himself, flying 108 combat missions.

Upon returning home, Evens continued to fly with the “Hoosier Wing” while completing his residency requirements. In 1979, the 930th Medical Squadron at Gris-

som was in desperate need of a flight surgeon and commander, so Doc selflessly took a reduction in rank and received his commission in the Air Force Medical Corps to fill that need, recalled retired Chief Master Sgt. Mary Stamper.

“Within a 24-hour period he had gone from lieutenant colonel line officer to a civilian to a major in the Medical Corps,” Stamper continued. “That may seem like it was going backward, and I’m sure it was nerve-racking for him because there’s always a glitch somewhere and he could have possibly thrown his entire career down the drain, but it worked out well.”

As a commander, Stamper said Doc was one of the best.

“He never asked us to do anything he wasn’t willing to do or hadn’t already done,” she elaborated. “He was the leader of the pack, and he took pride in that.”

Despite his new role as a flight surgeon, Doc continued to fly with the 930th Tactical Fighter Wing, a feat that endeared him to the pilots he served as a doctor.

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Heartland Warrior



Staff Sgt. Derrek Dimendco, a 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron KC-135R Stratotanker crew chief, talks with aircrew over a radio as they start up a KC-135's engines before heading out on a mission to refuel a C-17 heading home from Afghanistan March 2. Grissom maintenance Airmen deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, helped maintain a 99 percent mission effectiveness rate, meaning they were able to fly almost all the missions they were tasked to fly thanks to teamwork by both maintenance and operations personnel. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

direct impact on the Air Force's mission around the world is something of which to be proud, Stopher said the Grissom team also benefited from time together.

"It's a good time for our two flying squadrons because we don't normally fly together," he explained. "Between the two flying squadrons, it definitely builds esprit de corps as we do the same missions, we're on the same team and we're covering for each other."

He said the same benefit held true for the operations, maintenance and support personnel, traditional reservists and full-time air reserve technicians alike, who don't normally get to spend so much time working

together on a daily basis at Grissom.

"Relationships are built on things we have in common and time spent together," Stopher explained. "Deployments give us that."

In the end, while Stopher and the rest of the 434th ARW Airmen said they were glad to be back home again in Indiana, they know they did something important in their time away from their families, friends, civilian jobs and communities.

"We did have a great rotation for us, and I think everyone learned a lot, had a great time, kept everyone safe, and did the mission," concluded the lieutenant colonel. "What else can you expect; it's a success all the way around."



Senior Airman Michael Graham, a KC-135 crew chief, recharges an oxygen system on one of Grissom's KC-135 Stratotankers March 2 during a recent deployment to Incirlick Air Base, Turkey. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jami Lancette)



Col. (Dr.) Marvin Evens' family stand under a newly unveiled Doc Evens Avenue sign here May 14. Evens lost his life when his A-10 crashed during a training mission near Grissom in 1992. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

“Doc really looked out for our well being and did it in a most constructive way,” said Nester. “He wanted us to maintain our health and never look for ways to ground his fellow pilots.”

But it wasn't just his skills as a pilot and doctor that made Doc stand out, said Nester.

“Doc had the most radiant smile and personality of nearly anyone I've ever met,” Nester explained. “I always marveled at the energy and positive attitude he displayed; he was upbeat, he was fun, he looked at the bright side of life and he made everyone around him smile as well.”

That upbeat attitude and energy was what kept the doctor not only gainfully employed as an anesthesiologist, pilot and commander, but also as a farm equipment dealership president and manager of a farm in Greencastle. And, even

with all that on his plate, Nester said Doc was excellent at all he did.

“Doc could compartmentalize better than any person I've ever met,” the retired general said.

“When he was active as a pilot he was there to fly the best jet possible, he was not there to cut corners, and he was there to pull his own weight, and believe me he did.

“Then he would transfer to his role as our flight surgeon,” Nester continued. “He was absolutely into that role and his professionalism was outstanding.”

In 1981 Doc and other Grissom Airmen switched from flying the A-37 to the A-10 Thunderbolt II, an aircraft he flew for 11 years until an aircraft crash during a training mission in April 1992 claimed his life.

With more than 5,100 hours of

flying time, including 461 hours of combat flight time, Doc flew a myriad of aircraft during his Air Force career including the T-28, T-33, T-34, B-25, C-47, L-20, U-3A, C-119, A-37 and A-10.

“Not a lot of pilots get to fly that many different types of aircraft during their careers,” said Col. William T. “Tim” Cahoon, 434th ARW commander. “It was truly a pilot's dream.”

Patrick Evens said his dad would also have loved the ceremony that reflected on his dedication to his family and country.

“It's certainly an honor to have a street named after my father here where he spent so much time flying and working in the hospital,” he concluded. “He always had a love for the Air Force and everything it embodies, service, duty country, and excellence in all we do.”

New ID card scanners coming to Grissom

By Senior Airman Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

Grissom security personnel will soon field a new tool to aid security on base as they roll out electronic identification card scanners.

The device, called Defense Biometric Identification System, meets Homeland Security requirements to have a common entry controller to enter credentialing for personnel entering federal facilities; it also leverages technology to allow the entry controller to access multiple databases to ensure entry authority.

“(It’s) a system used to verify the validity of credentials presented by personnel entering Grissom and is in use at over 95 percent of Department of Defense main operating bases worldwide,” said Maj. Christopher Witter, 434th

Security Forces Squadron commander.

Card holder registration is not necessary prior to being scanned, but there are some things to consider when arriving to Grissom when the system first launches.

“The first time they encounter the system they can expect a delay of about 10-15 seconds,” said Capt. James Benvenuto, 434th Security Forces Squadron operations officer. “Registration will be automatic upon first entry once the system is put in place here.

“Expect the delay in late June early July,” Benvenuto added. “Security will have extra manpower and lanes open to accommodate personnel.”

To prepare for the arrival of DBIDS any personnel still using ID without a barcode are asked to report to Bldg. 596 to be issued a new ID card.

Any questions about the new system should be referred to Capt. James Benvenuto, at 688-2106.



In the limelight

Promotions

To senior master sergeant — Rodney Sydney, 49th Aerial Port Flight.

To master sergeant — Nicholas Christos, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Jeffrey Engel, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron.

To technical sergeant — Christopher Bauchle, 434th CES; Stacie Crama, 434th CES; Michael Justice, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Shawn Minnich, 434th CES; Dwayne Smith, 49th APF; Dustin Devine, 434th Security Forces Squadron.

To staff sergeant — Michael Graham, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

To senior airman — Christopher Roser, 434th AMDS; Samuel George, 434th Maintenance Squadron; William Gilvin, 434th Maintenance Squadron; Dustin Pervine, 434th Logistic Readiness Squadron; Cody Siegel, 434th SFS; Blake Vohs, 434th CES; Sarah Willis, 434th AMXS.

To airman 1st class — Christopher Karlson, 434th AMXS; Keith Wuetig, 434th AMDS;

To airman — Keith Diamond, 434th MXS; Michael McNally, 434th MXS; Cory Shirk, 434th LRS; Adam Webb, 434th MXS.

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal — Lt. Col. Stephen Whicker, 434th Maintenance Group; Lt. Col. Constance Gault, 434th AMDS; Lt. Col. Rafael Torres, 434th AMDS; Maj. Thomas Richard, 434th SFS; Senior Master Sgt. Mark Campbell, 434th AMDS.

Air Force Commendation Medal — Maj. Michael Hoke, 74th Air Refueling Squadron; Senior Master Sgt. James Frier, 434th Communication Squadron; Master Sgt. Shawn Perry, 434th SFS.

Air Force Achievement Medal — Capt. Cindy Petzke, 434th AMDS.



Medical squadron deploys proficient care



Tech. Sgt. Rosalba DeLapaz, 74th Air Refueling Squadron medical element technician, fastens an intravenous fluid line for Master Sgt. Mike Morris, 434th Communications Squadron client systems technician, during a recent deployment to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey March 1. The deployers' teamwork and can-do attitude delivered world-class care so that troops wouldn't miss a beat. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jami Lancette)

By Senior Airman Jami Lancette

Public Affairs staff

Getting a timely and efficient response from a healthcare organization can be a time consuming experience; however, this wasn't the case when it came to some of Grissom's finest during a recent deployment.

"It has been better here than anyplace I've been," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Arden Anderson, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron flight surgeon who was assigned to the 39th Medical Group while deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. "Everything has been done on a timely basis; if you need it now we can take care of it now."

Grissom's medical personnel fostered good relationships with the regular Air Force personnel, host-nation medical providers and Tricare that allowed them to take care of the deployers in a timely and efficient manner, which reflected in the excellent care that troops received, said Anderson.

"We had a serious last-minute surgery," he re-

called. "He needed to be seen by an orthopedic surgeon that day, and (the local authorities and hospital) got him admitted to the hospital right then, that day."

And, their ability and willingness to work around the clock to ensure their patients received the total care they needed ensured they could complete their mission of providing air refueling to the fight.

"From MRI's to surgery, (local healthcare providers) provided transportation and translation to these visits," said Anderson.

"They also kept in close contact with the patient and communicated back and forth to the medical squadron," he added.

In the end, the deployers' teamwork and can-do attitude delivered world-class care so that troops wouldn't miss a beat.

The 39th MDG is part of the 39th Air Base Wing, which provides support and protects U.S. and NATO assets and people throughout Turkey while providing a full spectrum of capabilities to the warfighter.

Grissom NAF employees win awards

By Staff Sgt. Carl Berry
Public Affairs staff

By following their motto of sustain, replace and repair, two Grissom non-appropriated fund civilian employees took home some shiny hardware and an affirmation of a job well done.

Richard Vining, 434th Force Support Squadron lodging operations manager, was named the 434th Air Refueling Wing NAF Civilian Supervisor of the Year, and John Reynolds, 434th FSS lodging maintenance worker, was named the 434th ARW NAF Civilian Non-supervisor of the Year.

“Sustain, replace, and repair is a motto that we all follow here, where we are constantly monitoring the hotel and staying one-step ahead of any potential issues,” said Vining. “By constantly monitoring the hotel we save money and most importantly keep the facility looking and running

great, which is something our guests enjoy.”

Mary McLean, 434th FSS general lodging manager, said the two award winners play an important role in maintaining Grissom’s lodging.

“Many people will never interact with Richard or John because their work is behind the scenes, but without their roles the hotel would not be available for guests to use,” explained McLean. “They really are a key component to the hotel.”

When the two learned they were selected as the award recipients both said they felt honored and humbled, because their accomplishment was a team effort.

“I am just a small part of the machine and to be singled out is quite an honor,” said Reynolds. “Although the award is given to individuals, our team is 100 percent responsible, because they have the same work effort.”

Although the two



Richard Vining



John Reynolds

recipients said they were humbled by the recognition, their accomplishments are extensive.

Reynolds ensured the operational readiness of Grissom’s lodging facilities that generate more than \$1.3 million in annual revenue.

He also ensured proper inventory control by reorganizing all lodging storage areas with structured accountability of assets and was essential in keeping lodging safe by ensuring all walkways were clear of snow and debris.

Vining was responsible for flawlessly managing the services vehicle program, revamping the lodging’s business center process by allowing wireless printing access 24-hours-a-day, and providing a more relaxed, comfortable and customer friendly seating area by reconfiguring the lodging lobby.

Reynolds and Vining will continue to sustain, replace and repair as these words have become more than just a motto to them; they have become a lifestyle.

Honorary commanders visit

Chris Theisen, honorary 434th Air Refueling Wing command chief, and Andrea Zwiebel, honorary 434th Mission Support Group commander, test their skill on the combat arms training simulator during a recent base visit.

Six honorary commanders toured various MSG agencies during the visit. Hosted by Col. Betty Bowen, 434th MSG commander, the visit included an in-depth presentation of the organization, interactive tours of the 434th Security Forces Squadron and fire department, and a look at the base’s recently renovated transportation building. The honorary commander program is a community outreach program designed to provide select civic leaders with a behind the scenes look at Grissom. (U.S. Air Force photo/Lt. Col. Gary Lockard)



Grissom ATC personnel earn awards

By Senior Airman Jami Lancette
Public Affairs staff

Excellence once can lead to recognition and accolades, but continued excellence can raise the bar and set new standards.

Three of Grissom's best just raised that bar a little higher as they carried on a tradition of excellence with the 434th Operations Support Squadron Air Traffic Control section.

Col. Darrel L. Dempsey Air Traffic Control Officer of the Year for 2011

Robert Ulibarri, airfield operations manager, was honored for the third time during his career here with a Col. Darrel L. Dempsey Air Traffic Control Officer of the Year for 2011 award.

According to his award nomination package, under Ulibarri's direct leadership and managerial oversight, the airfield operations section received a 98 percent on an air traffic system evaluation program inspection and was key to the 434th Air Refueling Wing's success during a recent unit compliance inspection.

Ulibarri said his success was helped by those he works with and their efforts to implement five goals he set out for Grissom's ATC after taking the airfield operations manager position.

"My goals were to enhance the airspace, upgrade airfield environment systems and upgrade base operations," said Ulibarri. "The fourth goal was to get a better control tower and radar approach facility, and finally to build a strong team -- now we have built a really strong team."

Col. Christopher Amend, 434th Operations Group commander, said Ulibarri's accomplishments have not only improved Grissom but also influenced the entire Air Force.

"Bob is an outstanding manager and pacesetter with a vast array of resourcefulness, skills and knowledge; an acclaimed and accomplished leader," said Amend.

Air Force Reserve Command Air Traffic Control Training Achievement of the Year for 2011

Robert Moore, training and standardization manager, was recently awarded the AFRC Air Traffic Control Training Achievement of the Year for 2011.

"Throughout this past year, Robert Moore has excelled in all facets as training and standardization manager," said Amend. "Bob has impressively forged ahead in making the Grissom ATC training program a benchmark program."

"This training program is stellar and reflects in the outstanding workforce, providing daily quality air traffic control services to a vast area of central Indiana," Amend added.

Moore, who has been the training program manager for eight years, does his part to ensure that mission



Robert Moore, 434th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control training and standardization manager, was recently awarded the AFRC Air Traffic Control Training Achievement of the Year for 2011. Two other ATC personnel won awards as well. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

readiness is a top priority.

"(I) train, evaluate training and perform annual evaluations and crew evaluations to ensure they're meeting ATC guidelines and procedures," explained Moore.

His continued excellence hasn't gone unnoticed as Moore was also recognized by retired Col. William T. "Tim" Cahoon, former 434th ARW commander, for a "showcase" tower simulator program that is utilized to show congressional visitors and other civic leaders what Grissom has to offer.

AFRC Air Traffic Controller of the Year for 2011

Theresa Wilson, air traffic controller, was recently named the AFRC Air Traffic Controller of the Year for 2011.

Described as highly knowledgeable and instrumental in the application of ATC duties, Wilson's role at Grissom is to manage military, civilian and commercial air traffic between Chicago and Indianapolis, going as far west as Lafayette, Ind., up to 10,000 feet.

With the word "outstanding" used almost 10 times in her award nomination package, it should come as no surprise that Wilson is considered the best of the best by her superiors.

"Theresa is our best controller," said Ulibarri. "She is a team player; you can ask for help and she will always be the first one to step forward."

That commitment to going above and beyond without hesitation along with her technical proficiency is what Amend said puts Wilson above the rest.

"Theresa is well respected by her peers and has been lauded by management as 'outstanding' when given a complex task in any situation," he explained. "Ms. Wilson's 'outstanding' performance and professionalism exceed the normal expectations of any controller, setting the standard for other controllers to follow and meet."

Heartland Warrior

Reserve, Guard leaders discuss budgets, cuts

By Col. Bob Thompson
*Office of Air Force
Reserve Public Affairs*

The top leaders from Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force Reserve and National Guard programs provided statements and answered questions at a Senate hearing regarding their fiscal 2013 manning and budget proposals on May 23.

Cutting budgets, making decisions and retaining the most capability were the hot topics led by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), during the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations subcommittee on Defense as the reserve component leaders testified.

“Nobody wants to cut our forces, but we have to rebalance and realign for the new strategy and today’s budget realities,” said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., chief of Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon and commander of Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. “So if we want to keep a military that the nation can afford, we need to keep as many cost-effective reservists as possible.”

Faced with austere budget times, the Air Force is refocusing and reducing the size of its forces to comply with the president’s new defense strategy and the Budget Control Act’s requirements to cut \$487 billion from the defense budget over the next 10 years.

The Air Force’s share in reductions is about \$54
June 2012

billion, and Air Force leaders plan to save \$8.7 billion in FY13.

“We provide 3.5 combat-ready reservists for the price of one active-duty Airman,” Stenner said.

He added that the Air Force Reserve is rich with combat veterans and highly-skilled reservists who average four to five years more experience than their active-duty counterparts.

The Air Force Reserve FY13 budget is about 4.6 percent of the Air Force’s \$110.1 billion allocation. This includes more than \$5 billion and funding for 70,500 Citizen Airmen who fulfill Title 10 or federal roles and missions in time of war or national emergency. Reservists are called upon to serve whenever more units and people are needed than are in the Regular Air Force as well as to fill daily mission requirements.

“We’re concentrating our resources to ensure maximum return on our investment,” Stenner said. “We can sustain operations at significantly lower cost than active forces. Trading away highly experienced Reserve personnel to invest in future active component daily operations is a sub-optimal choice that exchanges trained and available combat capability in the Air Force Reserve for recruiting and training new personnel in the active component.”

The general discussed how the FY13 President’s Budget request would



Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, testifies May 23 at the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations on Capitol Hill. (U.S. Air Force photo/Col. Bob Thompson)

fund Air Force Reserve requirements at \$5.062 billion. It provides for the operation and training of 34 wings and includes \$3.166 billion for operation and maintenance for air operations, service support and civilian pay. Another \$1.885 billion funds military personnel, and \$11 million goes toward military construction.

“We recruit and retain reservists in every Air Force career specialty in order to fulfill the nation’s need for cost-effective and efficient daily operations as well as a ready global surge capability,” Stenner said.

If Congress approves the President’s Budget for FY13, the Department of Defense and its service components will begin their budget reductions on Oct. 1. This plan will decrease Air Force Reserve’s end-strength manning from 71,400 to 70,500 Citizen Airmen. Besides the reduction of

900 Air Force reservists, the Air Force plans to decrease by 3,900 active-duty Airmen and 5,100 Air National Guard Airmen. These plans may change as Congress and the President shape and approve the budget.

If approved, the current FY13 budget plan will require the Air Force Reserve to change its force structure and retire 82 aircraft and realign 5,000 to 6,000 jobs into new locations or career fields. Many of these jobs will require reservists to retrain into other career fields and will result in a loss of experience.

“That loss could potentially break the Strategic Reserve,” said Stenner. “With the continued support of Congress, we will never return to the days of a ‘hollow force.’”

“Historically, we’ve been vulnerable to reductions,” said Stenner. “Often our cost-effective and efficient capability isn’t always recognized.”