

A firefighter in a red helmet and blue uniform is climbing a metal structure. The firefighter is wearing a red helmet with a logo, a blue t-shirt, and a harness with orange straps. A red rope is attached to the harness. The firefighter is looking down and to the right. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

# Heartland WARRIOR

Volume 17, Issue 8

August 2012

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# Heartland WARRIOR

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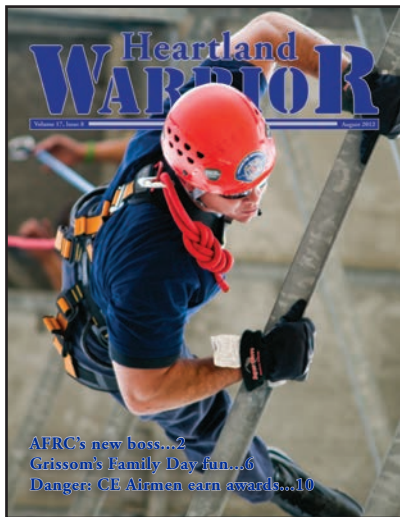
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## On the cover...

Robert Jacobs, a Grissom Fire Department firefighter, rappels down a base radar tower here July 11. The GFD tested new harnesses, which allow them to rescue people in either high locations or trapped in confined spaces. Grissom has mutual aid agreements with the local community. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)

# New AFRC commander



Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson became chief of the Air Force Reserve and assumed command of Air Force Reserve Command in a ceremony at the Museum of Aviation July 30. He replaced Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, Jr., who retired from the Air Force with 39 years of military service. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Alexy Saltekoff)

Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson became chief of Air Force Reserve and assumed command of Air Force Reserve Command in a ceremony July 30 at the Museum of Aviation.

He replaced Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., who retired from the Air Force with 39 years of military service after the change of command. Stenner had served as chief and commander since June 2008.

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer, officiated the ceremony.

As the chief of Air Force Reserve, Jackson serves as the principal adviser on Reserve matters to the Air Force chief of staff. As AFRC commander, he supervises 71,400 reservists in the Selected Reserve assigned to command units and the Individual Mobilization Augmentee program.

"The challenges will continue," Jackson said at the change of command ceremony. "I will do my best to lead us all to success.

"I will not overlook that the Reserve's strength is based on a careful balance of family, employer and military responsibilities - the triad we always talk about. I will focus on projecting those strengths of Citizen Airmen where they will most benefit the continued security of our nation and its interests."

Jackson became the deputy to the chief of Air Force Reserve in the Pentagon in May 2010. When he assumed command of AFRC, he became the chief of Air Force Reserve.

He is a 1978 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He completed more than 14 years on active duty, including flying tours in Europe and the Pacific, before joining the Air Force Reserve in 1992.

Jackson has held numerous wing leadership and command positions, as well as staff assignments at Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Headquarters U.S. Pacific Command and Headquarters U.S. Air Force. (AFRCNS)

# Former command chief bids farewell

By Senior Airman  
Andrew McLaughlin  
Public Affairs staff

Seeing double on a hot July afternoon is normally a bad sign, but not so at a special ceremony held here recently.

Amidst family, friends and fellow Airmen, Chief Master Sgt. Larry Brady said goodbye to the Air Force after 28 years of service during his retirement ceremony at Grissom July 8.

Chief Brady has served in various leadership positions during his time here at Grissom, including over a year as the 434th Air Refueling Wing command chief.

Making this retirement ceremony stand out was the person presiding over the event was Brady's identical twin brother, Army Capt. Garry Brady, a flight surgeon at Hunter Army Air Field, Ga.

During the ceremony, his brother spoke of the influence the chief had as a mentor and how he saw enlisted Airman in a way that surpassed the rank on their shoulder.

"He looks at their hearts," the captain said of his brother.

Captain Brady presented him with a meritorious service medal, his certificate of retirement and a certificate of appreciation, after which, the chief rendered his first salute to his brother.

Being identical twins isn't the only thing the Brady brothers have in common. Captain Brady joined the Air Force shortly after his brother, and both served at Elmendorf Air Force Base,



Chief Master Sgt. Larry Brady, former 434th Air Refueling Wing command chief, receives his certificate of retirement from his brother Capt. Garry Brady, a flight surgeon with the 4-3 Aviation Regiment, during a ceremony at Grissom July 8. Chief Brady retired after 28 years of service. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)

Alaska.

Although the captain went into the medical field, unlike his brother who started in communications, this eventually had an influence on the chief, who said it was his brother's work that inspired him to change his own career path and join the medical field as well.

The captain also presented the chief's wife, Lisa, with a certificate of appreciation as well to recognize the support she has given her husband throughout his career.

Retired Col. William Cahoon, former 434th ARW commander, said kind words about Chief Brady before presenting him with a large shadow-box that highlighted his career.

Speaking to the crowd,

the chief reflected on his career with emotion and thanked his family for their support over the years. He also said he wanted the Airmen of the 434th ARW to continue to strive for excellence.

"I empower you to be the best individual that you can be in your field of knowledge," he said.

Chief Brady's Air Force career began in 1984 when he left his hometown of Winamac, Ind., to attend basic military training. After technical training school, he moved on to Elmendorf where he served as a telecommunications systems equipment specialist with the 1931st Information Systems Squadron.

In 1987, he left the regular Air Force and joined the Reserve, now

working with the 930th Communications Squadron at Grissom. He later decided to change career fields and became an aeromedical flight surgeon technician in 1992. From this time forward, he held various positions within the medical units under the 434th ARW.

In February 2009, he took on the position of command chief master sergeant and the responsibilities that came with it.

As is common in a retirement ceremony of a chief master sergeant, a formation representing all enlisted ranks posted in front of the stage and passed down the American Flag as Brady's dates of promotion were narrated to the crowd, summarizing his career.



# GFD takes training to new heights



Jay Salmons, a Grissom firefighter, lowers a team member who is rappelling down a radar tower here July 11. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)

**By Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin**  
*Public Affairs staff*

Clenching the rope attached to his harness, a firefighter descends down a nine-story tower amid walls of crossing metal beams; his safety in the hands of his fellow team members above, who gradually loose the tense rope and lower him to the ground.

This was the scene as Grissom firefighters tested new harness equipment used for rescue operations as they took turns rappelling down the base radar tower July 11.

Rappelling is used for confined space entry and rescuing people trapped in the higher levels of buildings and structures, said Kleim Tomlinson Jr., Grissom Fire Department assistant chief of operations, who was observing the fire fighters from the ground.

"We're the only department in the area that practices this sort of thing," he said. "It makes us a viable asset to the state and local community."

Sometimes rappelling is more practical for rescue than using the ladder on top of the fire truck, explained Tomlinson. The ladder is only 75 feet long, so it has its limitations.

Tomlinson said this was the first time they used the radar tower for rappel training, and it gave them the opportunity to accurately test the comfort and functionality of the new equipment. They tried out two harness designs before deciding which one worked best for them.

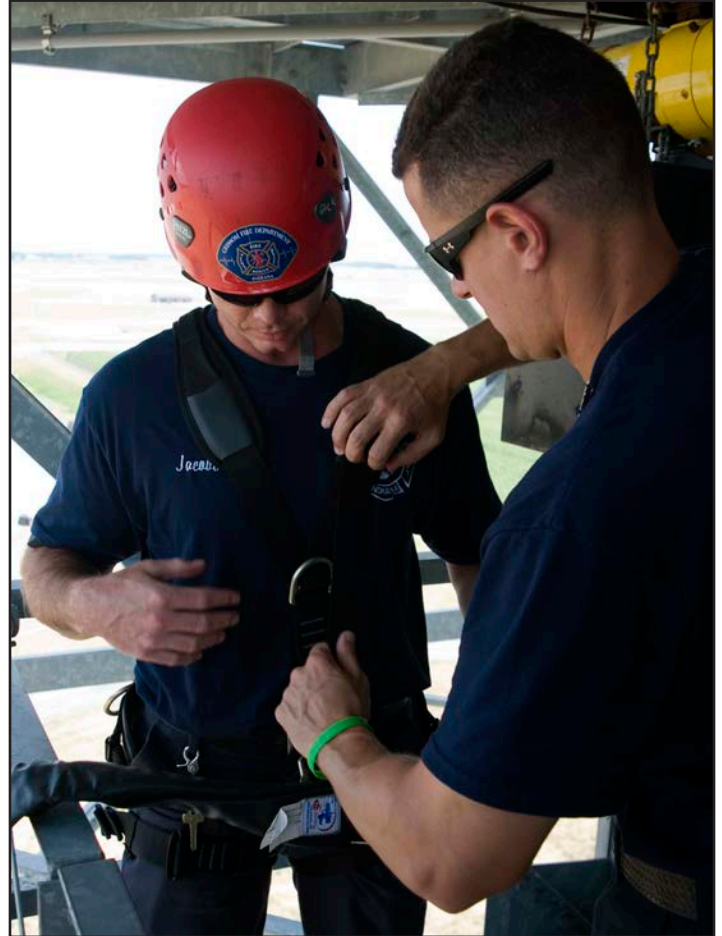
Thomas Carey, a Grissom firefighter who rappelled that day, said he likes the new harnesses.

Grissom firefighters learned advanced rescue skills such as repelling at the Department of Defense Fire Academy at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, and continue to train here.

"It helps us maintain proficiency," said Tomlinson.

Carey added this kind of training helps keep them prepared for anything.

"A lot of stuff is easy to forget unless you go out and train," he said. "With this job, you never know what you're going to get."



Thomas Carey, a Grissom firefighter, helps secure a harness to fellow firefighter Robert Jacobs before he rappels down a base radar tower. The Grissom Fire Department tested new harnesses used for rescue operations.



Robert Jacobs, a Grissom firefighter, guides himself down a base radar tower as he rappels. The Grissom Fire Department utilized the tower for rappel training and to test new harnesses used to rescue people in high-level buildings.

# Grissom Emergency Management, CAP work together

By 2nd Lt. Dustin Schimp  
434th Communications Squadron

An F-16Cs flight is suddenly disrupted by a bird strike disabling the aircraft's only engine, forcing the pilot to eject before the aircraft crashes into a field in southern Miami County.

Upon parachuting back to the ground, the pilot's leg is broken due to a harsh landing. With no help in sight, the injured pilot's only link to the outside world is his emergency locator transmitter.

Although this scenario didn't really happen, it was part of an exercise that tested the response capability of Grissom's emergency management team and the local Civil Air Patrol.

During the exercise May 5, a convoy of government vehicles converged at the Howard-Miami Mennonite Church in Kokomo, Ind., where personnel from the 434th Communications Squadron hustled to establish the critical links between rescuers.

"We have the capability to merge the CAP, emergency, medical, fire and law enforcement communication networks together which really multiplies the effectiveness and cooperation of first responders," said Senior Airman Ryan Covert, 434th CS ground radio maintenance. "The centralized capabilities that Grissom's state-of-the-art emergency management trailer provides can be crucial in the aftermath of a natural disaster or major accident."

Shortly after the emergency management trailer had arrived on scene and established communications with the Grissom command post and other agencies, CAP launched an air and ground search party to locate the simulated downed pilot. With the ground view obscured by foggy conditions, CAP Flight 131 used the pilot's emergency transmitter to help determine his location.

Once the CAP plane had a lock on the pilot's location, they were able to direct a ground search team to the crash site and provide immediate medical attention and care to help evacuate the injured pilot.

Senior Airman Ryan Covert and Staff Sgt. Timothy Jones, 434th Communications Squadron, work in the Grissom emergency management trailer during a training exercise with the local Civil Air Patrol in Kokomo, Ind., May 5. The exercise gave them the opportunity to work together and train. (U.S. Air Force photo/2nd Lt. Dustin Schimp)



Using the emergency management trailer, the on-scene commander and CAP representatives could coordinate their efforts with state and local authorities to be as effective as possible.

"What made this exercise so important it was the first time in memory where CAP and the 434th (Air Refueling Wing) worked together to test their resources," said Mike Moran, the Indiana state director for the Civil Air Patrol. "This exercise proved CAP can be valuable to the base and gave all participants real-world, real-time practice."

Daniel DeAngulo, Grissom's emergency manager, said the exercise marked the start of a deepening relationship between Grissom emergency management and CAP, one that will be further refined through subsequent exercises that will continue to promote Grissom's disaster response capabilities.

"This was an excellent opportunity to provide hands-on recovery training to the Civil Air Patrol," said DeAngulo. "They got to interact with and get valuable training from Miami County EMA and life support and emergency management assets from Grissom."

"It also allowed us to deploy our mobile communications center to an off-base site along with (communication) squadron equipment," DeAngulo added. "We can now respond to a major disaster site and establish comm reachback to the command post and the Indiana State Emergency Operations Center."

With the success of the first exercise behind them, Grissom's emergency management team is already planning further exercises that will be more challenging and sophisticated. As for the Civil Air Patrol, they are always available for both real-world emergencies and exercises, should the need arise.

"CAP looks forward to more opportunities to demonstrate its usefulness and service to the nation," said Moran.



A member of the local Civil Air Patrol operates a radio direction finder during an exercise with the Grissom emergency management team. (U.S. Air Force photo/Robert Wydock Jr.)



# Fun in the sun!

## Grissom celebrates families

By Senior Airman  
Andrew McLaughlin  
Public Affairs staff

The hot weather didn't keep servicemembers and their families from enjoying the annual Grissom Family Day during the July unit training assembly weekend.

There were a variety of entertainment acts and other activities including rides and contests for kids, a KC-135R Stratotanker on display, a carshow, a live band and food vendors.

The purpose of Family Day is to show appreciation to the families of Grissom's personnel and the support they give their loved ones.



The Parrot Troupers band performs in Dock 6 during Grissom's Family Day July 7. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)



A girl goes around on one of the rides at Grissom Family Day July 7. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)





Senior Airman David O'Donnell, 434th Maintenance Squadron electrician, gets messy at a pie eating contest at Family Day July 7. He was the first to finish his pie and win the contest. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)



A child plays pilot in the cockpit of a KC-135R Stratotanker on display at Grissom Family Day July 7. Family Day is held annually to show appreciation for the families of Grissom's service members. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jami Lancette)



Adyn Spradlin, son of Tech. Sgt. Damon Spradlin, gets bucked off a mechanical bull at Grissom's Family Day July 7. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)



A young girl dunks someone the easy way during Family Day July 7. The event is held annually and includes various activities. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jami Lancette)



# SFS aim to sharpen their skills

By Senior Airman  
Jami Lancette  
Public Affairs staff

When it comes to protecting Grissom and its members, rest assured that the 434th Security Forces Squadron is always ready.

During the June unit training assembly, 434th SFS members filled the base firing range for one of their semi-annual performance training events.

Security force troops have to qualify every six months, said Tech. Sgt. Tony Russell, 434th SFS combat arms specialist. The training course in June and the course in January are different, he added.

Their weekend at the



A 434th Security Forces Squadron member checks his target during training at the base firing range June 2.

range was no easy task; as they were there from sun up to sun down during the grueling two-day training in preparation for an upcoming deployment,

Russell explained.

The troops shot through the day and did a night qualification with the night vision equipment. Both consisted of different

targets, different weapons and different positions that included prone supported, prone unsupported, kneeling and over a barricade, said Russell.

When finished, each participant fired off 276 rounds from M-4 rifles, 100 rounds from M-9 pistols and multiple rounds from M-203 grenade launchers.

The hard work and long hours that the 434th SFS dedicate to honing their marksmanship skills reflects in their eagerness to deploy to their upcoming mission.

“We have a unit that likes to deploy, all these people volunteer,” said Russell.



434th Security Forces Squadron members fire M-4 rifles during semi-annual performance training at the base firing range June 2. SFS airmen have to qualify with their weapons every six months, (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jami Lancette)



# Port Dawgs demonstrate proficiency

By Senior Airman Jami Lancette  
Public Affairs staff

Training and real-world missions often go hand-in-hand; such was the case for 25 Grissom Airmen who recently went to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

Grissom's 49th Aerial Port Flight rolled up their sleeves and got to work during their recent two week annual tour training trip.

One of the coolest things that the team got to participate in was an exercise that was going on called Polar Force 12, said Master Sgt. Kevin Connell, 49th APF superintendent. They were able to participate and help Elmendorf personnel with their exercise, which gave them the opportunity to train on additional items for which they hadn't had the opportunity.

In addition to the exercise, Airmen helped with real-world missions and joint inspection training that were taking place at the base.

"The joint inspection training is one of our biggest functions when we move cargo and passengers in a timely manner, and we got a lot of



Staff Sgt. David Lapprad, 49th Aerial Port Flight apprentice, ties down cargo to a flat bed during a recent annual tour training trip to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Bradley Frank)

experience on some unique pieces of cargo, which can help us in the future," elaborated Connelly.

With such a busy schedule there were some Airmen that managed to use what little spare time they had to volunteer on base.

Senior Airman James Jackson, 49th APF apprentice did a lot of volunteer work for a charitable organization on base, said Connelly.

Their outstanding work in a jam-packed schedule also caught the attention of some of Elmendorf's higher ranking members.

"Tech. Sgt. Dwayne Smith was the team chief, and he was actually recognized by Elmendorf's Aerial Port commander with a coin for refining their out brief slides," said Connelly. "Our team had nothing but compliments from their commander, chief and first sergeant about the way our personnel performed."

The Grissom crew participated and helped in a multitude of duties at a moment's notice and excelled with no problems. "

There were zero issues with personnel," said Connelly. "Everybody stepped up and did their job and represented Grissom very well; they put a stamp on Elmendorf and what they think of the 49th APF.

"That was by far the most cooperative, productive and best annual tour I've had in 8 years," he added.



Senior Airman Justin Tuell, Staff Sgt. David Lapprad and Senior Airman Curtis Tillery, 49th Aerial Port Flight apprentices, prepare to load an aircraft engine aboard a jet during a recent annual tour training trip to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Bradley Frank)



# Chief takes on dangerous deployment, wins award

By Maj. Kelly Howard  
Public Affairs staff

There are moments in life where nothing will ever be viewed the same again and for one chief here, a 2011 deployment brought with it a reality check and Air Force-level recognition.

“May 19, nobody will ever forget that day,” said Chief Master Sgt. Michael L. Bowden Jr., 434th Civil Engineer Squadron manager, who was the 2011 Society of American Military Engineers Goddard Medal recipient at both the Air Force Reserve and Air Force levels.

On that fateful day in Afghanistan, Bowden and the other 434th CES deployers awoke to find themselves facing a direct assault on their camp.

“Enemy forces penetrated the camp, and our guys took up a defensive posture,” recalled the father of four. “Luckily Air Force security forces and Army special forces pushed them back.

“Luckily we didn’t have to engage them, but it was 50 feet – that’s all further they were from us,” the chief continued. “Helicopters were above unloading their guns. It was super intense and reinforced the reason why we were there.”

Such were the dangers faced by the 26-year veteran, who led a team of 62 Grissom civil engineer members augmenting regular Air Force and Air National Guard engineers for a nine-month, first-ever presidential mobilization of the 434th CES. Among other things, the

team was charged with constructing or expanding combat outposts and forward operating bases in Afghanistan.

“Bowden provided CES Airmen with outstanding leadership, technical expertise and courage in the completion of mission-critical, life-saving construction projects at multiple forward operating bases throughout Afghanistan in support of U.S. and NATO coalition partners,” said Maj. Paul Brenner, 434th CES commander.

“It was a little bizarre; we went from being reservists one day to pulling gunner duty with the Polish Army the next with Al-Qaeda and Taliban all around us,” said Bowden. “It was an intense reality check.

“I’m really proud of all that we were able to accomplish though,” he added. “It says a lot about Grissom.”

The chief’s personal accomplishments included assessing the life, health and safety at 25 combat outposts and FOBs and being hand selected to lead a team of engineers in the design and construction of four new combat outposts that supported 3,400 coalition forces and included 68 projects worth approximately \$21 million.

Bowden and his team were also responsible for providing electricity to 780 buildings, supporting more than 1,500 people at Bagram and plumbing 324 billets, which were part of military troop construction projects that made life bearable for the war fighters.

Increased operational



Chief Master Sgt. Michael L. Bowden Jr., 434th Civil Engineer Squadron, was awarded the 2011 Society of American Military Engineers Goddard Medal. (U.S. Air Force photo)

capabilities were needed in support of the presidentially-ordered 30,000 troop surge in Afghanistan as well, explained the chief.

“While we were part of route clearing teams embedded with the U.S. Army and Polish Army, we surveyed the southern, northern and eastern borders for possible expansion bases to bring in more war fighters,” he said. “It’s hard to bring in more war fighters if they don’t have a place to sleep, to eat, to shower and to do business.”

Bowden said he was particularly proud of the success his team had following a survey and site

planning for an expansion at a forward operating base.

In less than a week, the team had erected two Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resources 550 force bed-down kits, which have everything necessary to support a deployed force in the most austere environments. More than 1,200 International Security Assistance Forces immediately called the operational outpost home.

Bowden said there are moments from 2011 that will forever impact him.

“Goal 1A for me was to get everyone back safely and goal 1B was to complete the mission,” he concluded. “We did that.”

Heartland Warrior



# CES Airman provides essential support, earns award



Senior Master Sergeant Kevin Johnson, a 434th Civil Engineer Squadron engineering assistant, was named the Air Force Reserve Command Chief Master Sergeant Larry R. Daniels award for 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo)

**By Maj. Kelly Howard**  
*Public Affairs staff*

It's fitting that a Grissom senior noncommissioned officer would be recognized with an award named in honor of the first-ever chief of enlisted matters in the Office of the Air Force Civil Engineer since the work he was doing was also ground breaking.

Senior Master Sergeant Kevin Johnson, a 434th Civil Engineer Squadron engineering assistant, was named the AFRC Chief Master Sergeant Larry R. Daniels 2011 recipient for superior job performance by a military superintendent for actions taken during his six month deployment to Afghanistan.

Two months into the deployment, Johnson said he was separated from the other Grissom CE members and embedded with the Army in the northern region of the country, where he was the only reservist. He was sent to provide senior leadership to other Air Force CE assets already in place who were lacking modern survey equipment and were falling behind on mission requirements.

"I needed a strong leader who could think on his feet

and deal with difficult situations," said Chief Master Sergeant Michael Bowden, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron chief enlisted manager and team leader for the deployment. "The area we were sending him into was extremely hostile and desperate for engineering support, and Senior Master Sergeant Johnson not only had the technical skill set but the leadership and determination to ensure mission success."

Johnson would rely heavily on that skill set and his leadership ability to meld his team into a cohesive and effective unit.

"Taking 14 engineers, most of them green, and bringing the group together to accomplish the mission with only maybe one of them having any experience working without equipment was a challenge," he said. "We had to use old school methods.

"I was teaching them how to layout and grade a field using half full water bottles," Johnson continued. "I was relentless on teaching them some of these things because we had to get things done – with or without equipment."

Johnson not only accomplished the mission, he excelled, often completing projects ahead of schedule and supervising more than 400 projects valued at \$300 million that improved the quality of life at 10 bases during his deployment.

Projects Johnson worked on ranged from tent assembly to fuel farm bunker planning to designing a fire station to entire base layout and design. When a 125-acre-plus expansion at a forward operating base was called for, Johnson was responsible for the survey and layout. The results enabled more than 15 helicopters to bed down and brought in the region's first combat aviation under the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade.

"We were laying out the base, runway and defensive perimeter," the multi-service veteran said. "We were using a Vietnam-era runway patching technique to build the runway for the helos and went into 24-hour operations when work got behind.

"It didn't matter what rank you were – you were out there building that runway," elaborated Johnson. "We were pulling double duty – designing/laying it out and then actually putting the materials down with everyone else."

In the end, 80,000 square feet of runway and helipad was completed ahead of schedule.

Johnson also succeeded in acquisitioning \$200,000 worth of survey equipment, which allowed projects to move forward quite a bit faster, he said.

Johnson's resourcefulness and skills also allowed him to precisely locate primary water wells that eliminated the need for host nation support, and he also devised the optimal bare-base layout that equated to \$60,000 in force protection improvements and mitigated threats.

"To say that his mission was a success is an understatement," Bowden said.



# CES Airman earns award for front-line service

**Maj. Kelly Howard**  
*Public Affairs staff*

Leading from the front can test the most seasoned manager, but one Grissom senior noncommissioned officer only had six months on station before a deployment put him out front and earned him an Air Force-level award.

Senior Master Sgt. Nathan Colborn, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron heavy repair superintendent, was named the 2011 Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Manager of the Year in the senior NCO category after arriving at Grissom in early 2010 and deploying in October of that year.

“During (his) deployment, Senior Master Sergeant Colborn exhibited all of the qualities which exemplify excellence as a U.S. Air Force senior NCO,” said

Maj. Paul Brenner, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. “He successfully led junior Airmen of various ranks and technical aptitudes through completion of complex engineering projects under imminent threat of recurring insurgent attacks.

“His military bearing and courage were rock solid as he repeatedly forward deployed in the service of joint military and NATO coalition fighting forces,” Brenner added.

“We were able to do so many cool things on this deployment, and when I think about what was in my award package, I know it would not have been possible without all the people who were with me,” said Colborn, a 14-year veteran. “We had some pretty crappy working conditions, but their attitudes were always positive and they

just kept coming back asking what was next. It was just awesome.”

Colborn said he led his team through several major projects throughout Afghanistan. He managed everything from an internment facility demolition to power grid installation to tent building to tunneling for communications installation.

One combat outpost was built on a drainage ditch which meant that every rainfall brought raw sewage floating within feet of the Army’s facilities, recalled Colborn, who described it as the best feel-good project of the deployment when he oversaw the dredging of 1.5 miles of drainage ditch and installation of three culverts that corrected that stagnant water issue.

He said he orchestrated a \$1.2 million camera tower relocation project. The cameras were used

as added security to detect indirect fire; the outpost was attacked within days of completion and all was caught on tape.

“Probably the biggest game changer (for the warfighters) was the bare base mission we did where we built 60-plus tents, laundry facilities and shower facilities; and installed a power grid at another combat outpost,” Colborn said. “The day we arrived was the first night the Army slept in tents and they’d been there at least two weeks and averaging two to three insurgent attacks a week.

“The outpost was in a major insurgent stronghold and was critical to control, so for us to be able to provide this support was extremely rewarding,” he added.

Colborn said he continued to travel with the Army, going wherever the needs were. According to his award package, Colborn’s technical competence allowed him and his team to save \$100,000 in contractor fees and complete a major concrete installation project three months ahead of projection.

After 500 cubic yards of concrete went into 2,400 forms with 18,000 feet of reinforcing steel, the resulting storage facility allowed Army special operations units to house prepackage ammunition in a hardened shelter. Colborn was lauded for his efforts by the 3rd Special Forces Group – Group Support Battalion commander and awarded the Army Achievement Medal.



Senior Master Sgt. Nathan Colborn, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron, operates a backhoe during his recent deployment to Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo)



# Daughter helps save her 434th SFS father's life



Kelsey Baker poses with her father Master Sgt. Mitchell Baker, 434th Security Forces Squadron squad leader, after she received awards during a ceremony at Grissom July 8. She was recognized for helping to save her father's life after he suffered a stroke. The 434th SFS, Grissom Rising 6 and the Fulton County Sheriff's Department presented her the awards. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Carl Berry)

**By Staff Sgt. Carl Berry**  
*Public Affairs staff*

Staying calm during a life-threatening emergency is hard to do for any person, but for the nine-year-old daughter of a Grissom Airman, it was her natural reaction.

In May, Kelsey Baker and her father Master Sgt. Mitchell Baker, 434th Security Forces Squadron squad leader, were entering a home improvement store in Kokomo, Ind., when the older Baker began to feel dizzy.

"As we were getting out of the car I started to feel dizzy and decided to sit in the car a little longer until the feeling went away," said Mitchell Baker. "After a few minutes I felt fine and started walking toward the store when I heard a buzzing sound in my ear, and that's when I fell to the ground and my leg started twitching."

Kelsey had never been in a situation like this before, however she

reacted as if she was a veteran.

"When I saw my father fall to the ground I stayed with him and asked someone to call 911," said Kelsey.

Once the paramedics arrived Kelsey continued to remain calm and assisted the paramedics.

"When the paramedics arrived my father's speech was hard to understand so I had to answer a lot of their questions," she said.

It turned out that Mitchell suffered a stroke, and Kelsey's quick action and calm demeanor is a main reason why her father survived.

"When we were riding in the

ambulance I was unsure if he was going to live because his speech was slurred and it was hard to understand him," Kelsey continued. "When we arrived at the hospital the doctors told me that he was going to live."

In honor of Kelsey's heroic actions, the 434th SFS, the Rising 6 and the Fulton County Sheriff's Department, honored her with awards during a ceremony held July 8 at Grissom.

The award from the SFS is the first of its kind and was initiated by Staff Sgt. Anthony Kahl, 434th SFS fire team member.

"I initially approached my commander and supervisor to see if there were any military awards we could present to Kelsey, but there wasn't anything," said Kahl. "Instead we decided to create our own award and hold a ceremony in honor of Kelsey's heroic actions."

Kelsey received recognition, gifts, and plaques during the ceremony.

At the close of the ceremony a tearful Mitchell Baker shared a few thoughts thanking all those in attendance and gave special thanks to his daughter for her heroic actions.

He is currently going through rehabilitation and hopes to return to work soon.

"My current status is improving, the doctors found a hole in my heart which was the likely cause of my stroke," said Baker. "I have faith in God and

every day I thank God for keeping me alive."

Kelsey wants people to know that it's important to stay calm in emergency situations and children should stay with their parents if they need help.

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***"When I saw my father fall to the ground I stayed with him and asked someone to call 911."***

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**- Kelsey Baker**

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# DTS: New travel system on the way



By Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin  
Public Affairs staff

Grissom Airmen will soon be able to make their own travel arrangements online and file vouchers electronically through a new automated travel system.

The Defense Travel System will allow travel reservations to get approved faster and more efficiently, said Martin Foye, 434th Air Refueling Wing financial services officer.

Once the system is in place, orders created in Air Force Reserve Order Writing System will flow into DTS where the member can make their own travel reservations for airline tickets and rental cars. The request will then be sent to the member's supervisor for approval.

Foye said that utilizing DTS will benefit the 434th ARW as well as save the Air Force money.

"It allows units to better manage their funds and allows supervisors better oversight of travel arrangements and (temporary duty assignments)," he said.

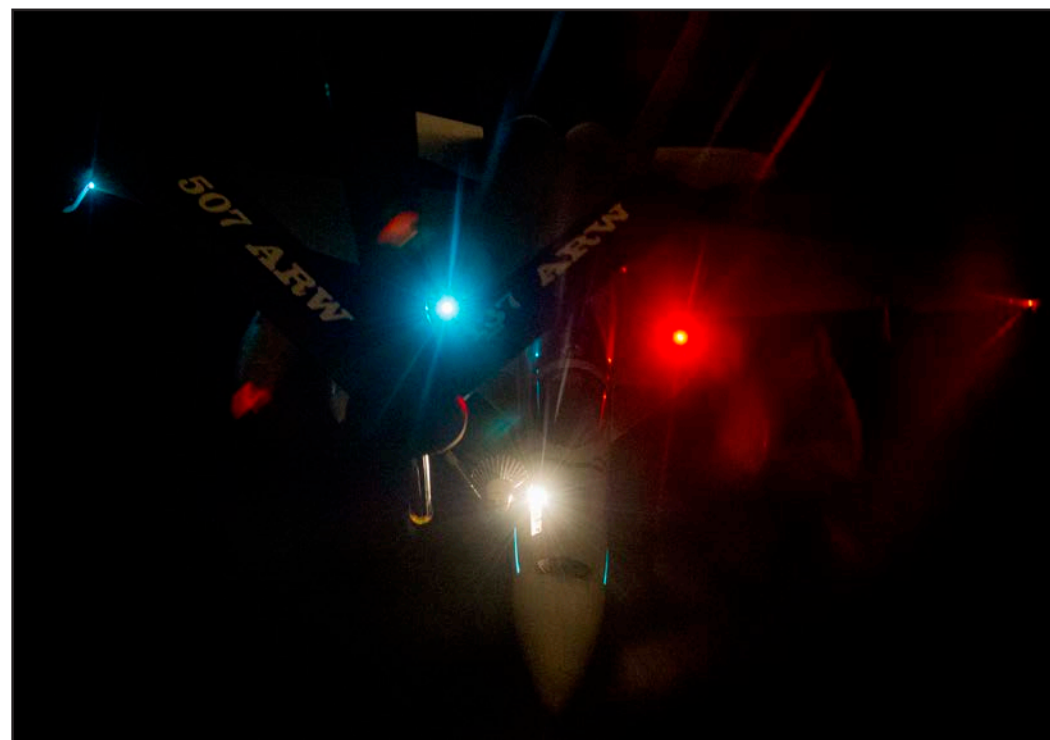
DTS provides a fully-integrated, automated and end-to-end travel management system that enables Department of Defense travelers to create authorizations, make reservations, receive approvals, generate travel vouchers and receive a split disbursement between their bank account and the government travel charge card, explained Foye.

However, DTS will not apply to everyone going on orders, said Foye. The member must have a government travel card and the orders must be less than 30 days and not in conjunction with other orders. The current system will still be used for those who cannot use DTS.

Under the current system, some supervisors have limited involvement in the travel arrangement process, which is handled through coordination between the unit, the traffic management office and SATO.

More information will be forthcoming, and the Air Force Reserve Command sent a team to Grissom in late July to conduct training and prepare the wing for implementation, said Foye. The Grissom financial management office will partner with the AFRC team in training the units. DTS has already been implemented through most of the AFRC with great success, he added.

"We know that any transition is difficult, but we believe the benefits of DTS far outweigh the upfront training and changes involved to bring it on-line," said Foye.



## ***Patriotic...***

A Navy F/A-18E Super Hornet with the "Argonauts" of Strike Fighter Squadron 147 receives fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker with the 465th Air Refueling Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., during Rim of the Pacific exercise, July 23. 22 nations, more than 40 ships and submarines, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are in RIMPAC exercise from June 29 to Aug. 3, in and around the Hawaiian Islands. RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise, (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Bradley Church)



# Past meets present: Grissom to host 434th reunion

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

From Normandy to Odyssey Dawn, Airmen of the 434th have been defending freedom around the globe since 1944.

Each year, the men and women who have served with the historic unit gather together to reminisce on their service, catch up with old friends and learn more about the 434th Air Refueling Wing's current operations.

"It's a time for everyone to get together and reminisce about what went on in days gone by and talk about where the wing's going now," said retired Master Sgt. Les McConnell, a former 434th ARW historian and current Grissom Fire Department assistant chief, who is helping to set up the reunion.

This year's reunion will be held at the Grissom Services Complex Aug. 25, and reservations must be made with retired Col. Larry Alexander no later than Aug. 18. Alexander can be reached at lwalex88@

sbcglobal.net.

Since many of the former 434th Airmen don't live locally, participants are welcome to stay at the Grissom Inn here the night of Aug. 24. To make reservations, call (765) 688-2844.

Several of the base support services will be open to assist attendees Saturday morning and will include Pass and ID as well as the 434th Force Support Squadron customer service desk to assist in updating IDs and Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System information.

The 434th was officially activated on Oct. 1, 1942 as the 434th Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron at Mitchel Field, New York. In preparation for the invasion of Europe at Normandy, France, the unit was moved to Alliance Army Air Field, Neb., and was designated as the 434th Troop

Carrier Group on Feb. 9, 1943.

The 434th TCG consisted of the 71st, 72nd, 73rd and 74th Troop Carrier Squadrons, which all flew C-47 Skytrains throughout their WWII career including on that fateful day in France, D-Day.



## In the limelight

### Promotions

**To chief master sergeant:** Rickie King, 434th Security Forces Squadron; Connie Pierce, Operations Support Squadron.

**To master sergeant:** Benita Baker, 434th Air Refueling Wing; Robert Laviolette, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Tanielle Phillips, 434th Force Support Squadron; Michael Young, 434th Maintenance Group.

**To technical sergeant:** Moani Burton, 434th SFS; Nathan Foxworthy, 434th Maintenance Squadron; Anthony Pemberton, 434th ARW; Ashley Stant, 434th FSS; Eileen Zlaty, 434th AMDS; Kevin Kimmel, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

**To staff sergeant:** Tracey Benson, 434th LRS; Christopher Effertz, 434th FSS; Skyles Fullenkamp, 49th Aerial Port Flight; Julia Person, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

**To senior airman:** Alex Barone, 434th Civil Engineering Squadron; Lance Blackwell, 434th MXS; Jacobia Doyle, 434th FSS; Sean Hart, 434th AMXS; Jasmine Nicholas, 434th MXS; Brandon Roberts, 434th CES.

**To airman 1st class:** Dionta Bonner, 434th FSS; Justin Lindstrom, 434th LRS; Christopher Robinson, 434th MXS; David Smart, 434th AMXS; Lauren Werner, 434th AMDS.

**To airman:** David Kreutzer, 434th AMXS; Steven Litviak, 434th CES; Zachary Munsell, 434th CES; Jadon Peacock, 434th OSS; Jordan Suchovsky, 434th OSS; Mandy Thibeault, 434th AMXS.

### Medals

**Air Medal:** Capt. Jacob Creel, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; Staff Sgt. Crystal Nix, 72nd ARS

**Meritorious Service Medal:** Chief Master Sgt. Allen Edgerley, 434th OSS; Master Sgt. Lisa Fitzgerald, 434th FSS; Lt. Col. Douglas Gullion, 72nd ARS; Chief Master Sgt. Tony Hoffman, 434th MXG; Senior Master Sgt. Bradley Klepinger, 434th SFS; Master Sgt. James Malloy, 434th Communications Squadron; Master Sgt. Nathan Moore, 434th FSS; Lt. Col. James West, 72nd ARS.

**Air Force Commendation Medal:** Capt. Brandon Bush, 72nd ARS; Tech. Sgt. Joshua Moormann, 434th CES; Staff Sgt. Ashley Stant, 434th FSS; Tech. Sgt. Danielle Taylor, 434th FSS; Capt. Joel Webley, 72nd ARS.

**Air Force Achievement Medal:** Staff Sgt. Adam Oswalt, 434th Maintenance Operations Flight.

