

Heartland WARRIOR

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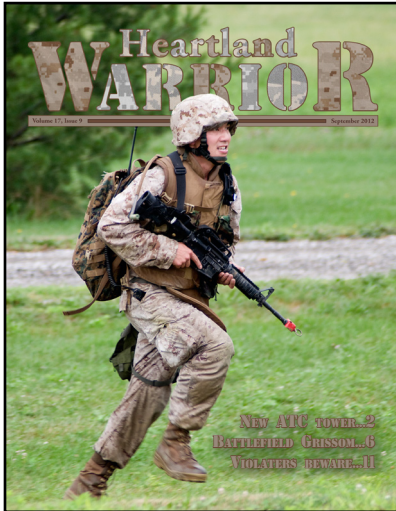
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On the cover...

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. Joseph Chen races toward an enemy position during a joint forces exercise here Aug. 5. Chen is assigned to Detachment 1, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group here. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

New ATC tower opened



Grissom leadership, elected officials and representatives, and construction personnel cut a ribbon opening a new \$7.4 million air traffic control tower here Aug. 3. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

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

With a snip of giant scissors, the 434th Air Refueling Wing celebrated the completion of a new \$7.4 million air traffic control tower.

Marking the occasion, Col. Don Buckley, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, presided over a ribbon cutting ceremony here Aug. 3 attended by local civic leaders, elected officials and base personnel.

“It’s outstanding,” said Terry Albaugh, 434th Operations Support Squadron air traffic manager, referring to the new tower.

Construction on the new tower began in March 2011 and it was designed to replace the previous one built in 1969 that was located outside Grissom’s boundary.

The new control tower maximizes safety and efficiency, provides an improved view, and is in a much closer and more secure area, said Robert Ulibarri, 434th OSS airfield operations manager.

The new facility also offers more space for modern equipment, requires less maintenance, and has

an improved safety design making it more resilient in the event of natural disasters such as earthquakes.

Ulibarri said the new tower has an increased operational capability that benefits not only the military, but the general aviation community as it provides control for all aircraft that travel between Chicago and Indianapolis, going as far west as Lafayette, Ind., up to 10,000 feet.

Standing in front of the tower during the ceremony, Buckley commented on the inception of the project, and then with some of the guests joining him, they cut the ribbon, officially dedicating the new structure.

Afterward, the guests then had the opportunity to take a tour of the tower.

Among those in attendance were Jim Walker, Mayor of Peru, Ind., Dave Murtaugh, representing Senator Dan Coats, Tresa Baker, representing Congressman Dan Burton, and Meredith Perks, representing Congressman Joe Donnelly.

Buckley also presented awards to three of Grissom’s controllers during the ceremony and congratulated them on their success.

Hoosier media tells Grissom's story



Maj. Shane Toomay, 434th Maintenance Squadron, points out the specifics of a KC-135R Stratotanker to Josh Lozinak, an television intern at Grissom Aug. 1. Indiana media outlets converged on Grissom to experience an aerial refueling flight and learn about the base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)

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

Armed with cameras, recorders and notebooks, several Indiana media outlets converged on Grissom to learn about the 434th Air Refueling Wing and tell the story of the Hoosier Wing.

Both traditional and social media took part in a special media day here Aug. 1, which not only put some of them in the air to cover actual aerial refueling missions, but also gave them a behind-the-scenes look at Grissom's maintenance and support personnel who keep the mission going day in and day out.

"When you think of Air Force Reserve, you just think of weekends, but it's operating 24/7 constantly rotating people out," said Aric Hartvig, a local television producer.

The media who flew went up on two separate KC-135s, one refueling a C-5 Galaxy, the Air Force's largest transport aircraft, and the other with two A-10 Thunderbolt IIs, close air support aircraft.

They captured the 434th ARW

in action as they spoke with pilots and crewmembers and observed an aerial refueling from the view of the aircraft's boom pod.

"It was awesome," said Hartvig, who witnessed the A-10 refueling. "Before I got to do this, I didn't

realize people could refuel in air."

A special media team stayed on the ground to film the part of Grissom's mission that keeps the aircraft flying. They documented pilots training inside a KC-135 flight simulator, and filmed Airmen from the 434th Operations Support Squadron and the 434th Maintenance Squadron as they talked about their jobs and demonstrated their work.

The media team also got a close-up view of aircraft maintainers working on a KC-135 out on the flight line.

The media also saw the Grissom Fire Department in action as they conducted life-saving training. The firefighters ignited a mock aircraft frame used for fire training as the visitors watched from a safe distance but close enough to still feel the heat. The GFD used two firefighting trucks equipped with water cannons to extinguish the flames.

The visitors had a chance to tour the new \$7.4 million air traffic control tower as well. (Senior Airman Jami Lancette contributed to this story)



Aric Hartvig, an Indianapolis television producer, takes footage inside the cockpit of a KC-135R Stratotanker during an aerial refueling mission Aug. 1. The mission gave local media the chance to see an aerial refueling take place. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jami Lancette)

Boy Scouts learn from Grissom Airmen

By Senior Airman
Andrew McLaughlin
Public Affairs staff

“Be prepared” is the Boy Scout motto, and as one troop found out Grissom’s Airmen are always prepared as well.

Boy Scout Troop 229 got a first-hand look at some of the diverse jobs performed at Grissom during a base tour July 25.

The first stop on the tour for the scouts was the 434th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment section. There, they learned about the use of aircrew survival gear and the importance of being prepared for any situation.

While touring AFE, the scouts saw an emergency life raft along with other survival equipment including tools, food rations and body armor. AFE members also demonstrated how crewmember helmets and oxygen masks are tested before flights and let some of the scouts try them out.

Steve McKinney, a scoutmaster for troop 229, said he thought the experience was much more than just a tour because it showed purpose.



Senior Airman Matthew Devers, 434th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment apprentice, shows Boy Scouts from Troop 229 how to test an oxygen mask worn by aircrew prior to flight during a base tour July 25.

“It’s very beneficial,” said McKinney. “It reinforces what we try to teach them.”

Later in the tour, the troop headed out to the flight line to tour one of the 434th Air Refueling Wing’s KC-135R Stratotankers, where pilots and crewmembers showed

them around the aircraft and answered their questions. The scouts also got their chance to sit in the pilot’s seat and lay in the boom pod where the boom operator conducts aerial refuelings.

Ruth Dilts, an assistant scoutmaster, said it’s good for the scouts to get hands-on experience because it has more of an impact.

“It’s really exciting for them,” Dilts added. “I’ve seen a lot of smiles today.”

The last stop for the Boy Scouts was at the Grissom Fire Department, where two firefighters talked with the scouts about their jobs, gave a tour of the fire station and showed them the fire trucks and equipment they use. The firefighters also gave them a demonstration of a water cannon on a Striker 1500 airport firefighting truck.

At the end, McKinney said he thought the experience was very enjoyable and well worth it.

“It was truly a quality educational program for our youth,” said McKinney. “There were a lot of benefits to it, and these boys will remember this day for the rest of their lives.”



Christopher Pribbernow, Grissom Fire Department firefighter, shows Boy Scouts from Troop 229 how a water cannon on top of a Striker 1500 airport firefighting truck works. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)

Ops puts out Fire Dogs, wins championship



Chad Tice, Grissom Ops, swings at the ball during the intramural softball championship game here Aug. 15. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)

By Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin
Public Affairs staff

Grissom operators snuffed out the fire department 16-9 in the intramural softball championship game here Aug. 15.

Ops swept through the double-elimination tournament, while the Fire Dogs had to battle from the losers bracket.

Craig Garrison, who played his first year with the Ops team, said he was pleased with how the season went.

“We work well together,” said Garrison. “We’re all out having fun.”

Ops was able to maintain a consistent lead over the Fire Dogs for most of the game before achieving their victory.

After their win, Col. Bryan Reinhart, 434th Air Refueling Wing vice commander, congratulated the Ops players and presented them with the championship trophy.

He also gave individual plaques to the members of both teams.

Despite their defeat, Thomas Carey, a Fire Dogs player and also the team’s coach, said they will be ready for next year.

“We’ll be back again,” Carey said as he smiled.

The Grissom Fitness Center organizes an intramural softball league as well as other sports throughout the year including basketball, volleyball and flag football.



Gerry Conway, Grissom Ops, slides into third against Bennett Grove, Fire Dogs, during the intramural softball championship.

BATTLEFIELD GRISSOM:

Grissom Airmen, Soldiers, Marines take part in joint exercise

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

On a gray August morning, two Army Humvees roll through on patrol when the peace of the new day is silenced by the boom of an improvised explosive device and the sharp pops of gunfire slicing through the air -- this is Battlefield Grissom.

The reserve base in the middle of Indiana cornfields was transformed into a raging battlefield as Army Reserve Soldiers fought back against an ambush, Marine Corps reservists plunged into the battle, and Air Force Reserve and Indiana National Guard medics raced to save lives during a joint forces exercise held here Aug. 5.

"The overall goal of the exercise was to test

the ability of the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron to respond to a simulated IED attack on Army assets involving multiple casualties at a simulated overseas deployed location," explained Dan DeAngulo, Grissom's base emergency manager.

"The Marines got to practice small unit tactics and train some of their new junior (noncommissioned officer) leaders, and the Army got to practice their (psychological operations), and they did an outstanding job with that," DeAngulo added. "This was the very first time we've ever done a joint field training exercise like this with the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and the (National) Guard all working together."

After the initial attack,

Soldiers from the 316th Psychological Operations Company reacted swiftly to repel the opposing force while at the same time tending to their wounded.

"We train like it's real," explained U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. Mark Hutchins, 316th PSYOP Co. psychological operations specialist. "I even got my stress level up because you're going to be at that stress level when something like this happens."

With the Army doing their best to provide care and fight back, Marines from Grissom's Detachment 1, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, raced across a field to assist, taking cover where they could while relentlessly moving forward amongst gunfire,

yelling and thick smoke.

"It's imperative for all the branches that if they're going to be setting their servicemembers up for success, then you need to train how you fight, you need to practice how you're going to play," said U.S. Marine Capt. Mark Trouerbach, Detachment 1 inspector instructor. "That means making things very difficult, that means creating a little chaos, that means challenging them physically and mentally; it's better to train them for the hard situations than the easy ones."

And, this training was not only realistic and difficult, it was also far different than what they normally receive as communications Marines here, Trouerbach explained.

"The Marine Corps heritage is that every Marine is a rifleman,



LEFT: U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. Mark Hutchins, 316th Psychological Operations Company, talks with a village leader during a joint forces exercise here Aug. 5 as U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. Daniel Lewis listens. Lewis is assigned to Detachment 1, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

BACKGROUND: Running through a cloud of smoke, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Lance Cpl. Brian Napier makes his way to an enemy position during a joint forces exercise here Aug. 5. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

and in line with that is the concept of the whole Marine, who's proficient in their MOS but also tactically proficient," he continued. "When they go down range, whether they're a radio operator, a data Marine, a wire Marine, and admin Marine or supply, there's about a 75 to 90 percent chance they're going to be in some kind of a combat aspect.

"This gives them a taste of what's expected of them in combat, forces them to think outside the box and make decisions for themselves, and challenges them outside their (military occupational specialty)," the Marine captain continued. "Our guys did a phenomenal job."

After forcing the enemy back into a cinderblock building, a portion of the

Marines stood guard over the wounded Soldiers and fellow Marines while another group entered the building to end the enemy threat. At the same time, a group of Air Force Reserve Airman from the 434th AMDS arrived on scene to assist with the injured.

"Their objective was basically to triage, do basic patient assessment, wound care, self-aid buddy care and then practice loading patients onto litters and then load them on a helicopter all within a scenario of a



U.S. Air Force Reserve personnel transport a simulated wounded Soldier to a UH-60 Black Hawk from the Indiana Army National Guard's 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion Medical Evacuation Unit here Aug. 5. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark R. W. Orders-Woempner)

firefight going on while they're doing this," explained DeAngulo. "It was a much more advanced exercise than what they've done in the past."

With the enemy defeated, all focus turned on getting the wounded safely back to medical treatment facilities. The Marines called for an aeromedical evacuation and Soldiers from the Indiana National Guard's 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion Medical Evacuation Unit responded in

their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

As the Marines brought the helicopter in and set up a defensive perimeter, 434th AMDS Airmen prepared their patients for flight and loaded them on before the Black Hawk took off.

Shortly after the most serious patients were safely evacuated, a group of Marines noticed a red pickup truck with a man standing suspiciously in the back. When they approached, they ordered the man out and found a cache of weapons





U.S. Air Force Reserve Senior Airman Anna MacLeod, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron aerospace medical service apprentice, wraps a simulated wound on a Soldier during a joint forces exercise here Aug. 5. Grissom's Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve and Marine Reserve units all participated in the exercise aimed at providing invaluable training for life-or-death scenarios. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jami Lancette)



U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. Daniel Lewis drags a fellow Marine to safety after he received simulated wounds during a joint forces exercise held on Grissom Aug. 5. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)



U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Lance Cpl. Rachel Hastin takes up a defensive fighting position and takes aim during a joint forces exercise Aug. 5. Hastin is assigned to Detachment 1, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group here. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

including an assault rifle and rocket propelled grenades.

While the Marines investigated the situation, a group of angry locals, played by Grissom Air Force personnel, approached the scene, which was still volatile from the fire fight just moments earlier. That's when 316th PSYOP Co. Soldiers stepped in to take control of the situation.

"The role players that played against my guys

were a big plus for us and gave us some ability to go in and do face-to-face interaction with civilians," recalled U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Wes Corbett, 316th PSYOP Co. training NCO. "We got to do some crowd control, calmed down things a bit and mediated between the Marines and civilian leaders that were there."

In dealing with a group like that, Hutchins said a PSYOP Soldier has to

work with the local group leader to gain control and not only has put themselves in the mindset of that leader, but aim to make their goals mutual.

"You don't control him, but you try to get him to understand that (he's) the only one that can control the crowd," he explained. "You don't want anybody hurt, so sometimes you have to use a rough side, but you also have to have a sympathetic side.

"I switch roles a lot

of time in my mind, so I can see where he's coming from, so it's a lot of talking, it's a lot of understanding the other side, it's a lot of putting your own emotions into what they're feeling, and in PSYOP, that's what we do," he added. "I want what I want on their side."

With all major objectives completed successfully, the exercise wrapped up, but that is not the end for Battlefield Grissom.



U.S. Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Brent Cannon, Senior Airman Kandi DeLee and Senior Airman Brittany Ridge tend to a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier's simulated wounds during a joint forces exercise held here Aug. 5. The exercise allowed 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron technicians to practice life-saving skills under a high-stress scenario. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)



U.S. Army Reserve Spc. Adam Ruddell, 316th Psychological Operations Company generator mechanic, responds after his patrol was hit by a simulated improvised explosive device. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)



A UH-60 Black Hawk from the Indiana Army National Guard's 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion Medical Evacuation Unit takes off from Grissom transporting simulated wounded Soldiers during a joint forces exercise held here Aug. 5. The Army Guard participated in the exercise that also included Grissom's Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve units. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

“We’re branching out and doing a lot more joint exercises and endeavors, not only with the Army, Marine Corps and the National Guard,” explained DeAngulo who went onto describe upcoming training scenarios with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Energy. “We’re trying to do a lot more here, to where Grissom is branching out, focusing more on the full

spectrum.” That full-spectrum training is exactly what both the Army and Marine units here are looking forward to being a part. “In the history of the Reserve Center, we didn’t play much with the Air Force or Marines,” said Corbett. “We never looked for anything joint, but we really enjoyed that we had the opportunity to do this, and all it’s going to do is improve the state of affairs

for Grissom.” Trouerbach agreed that Grissom’s units working jointly together is a win-win for everyone. “Everything we do is joint,” said the Marine captain. “They have to learn how to play with others, they have to learn to talk the same lingo... that sort of thing.” And, that mutual understanding is exactly what this joint exercise was aimed at, said DeAngulo.

“It’s a reality of the Department of defense. Everything we do now is joint, and it’s been a way of life since 9/11,” the base emergency manager continued. “Along with that, when it comes to real-world response, whether it’s a natural disaster or a man-made event, we respond jointly. “The more we work together now, the smoother and more efficient the response will be,” he concluded.

Grissom Airmen train to keep others fit

By Staff Sgt. Carl Berry
Public Affairs staff

For some Airmen at Grissom, they strive to reach fitness goals not only to help themselves, but others as well.

More than 20 members of the 434th Air Refueling Wing participated in a three-and-a-half day certification program leading up to the August unit training assembly to become military exercise leaders, providing them with the tools to lead and inspire others in group exercise.

The Military Exercise Leader Course provided by the Cooper Institute was developed through a collaborative research study at Langley Air Force Base, Va., and was designed to address the unique physical demands and challenges of the military.

“We decided to offer this certification program because we wanted to provide a higher level of exercise training to the base population,” said Julia Phelps, 434 Force Support Squadron exercise physiologist.

The MEL Course provides information designed to develop leadership and technical skills for those who lead group exercise programs, said Phelps. The

instruction offers group leaders a range of freedom with their fitness programs by allowing exercise to be performed indoors or outdoors, with or without equipment, at home station or in deployed environments.

“They are learning how to lead an exercise class, how to organize an exercise class and teach it correctly,” said Mike Harper, MEL Course instructor. “During the classroom portion, Airmen learn the basic anatomy of the body, the importance of eating healthy, designing workouts, leadership and safety.”

The course consisted of a combination of classroom lecture and teaching methods, and applications of group leadership during hands-on sessions.

“We did some really good running drills and learned a lot of different stretches that I will use to help out other Airmen within my unit,” said Tech. Sgt. Ashley Stant, 434 FSS chief of relocations.

“So long as the Airmen in the course practice what they have learned, and help other Airmen at Grissom to become more physically fit, then this program will be a success” said Phelps. “In the future we hope to provide Airmen with the opportunity to become personal trainers.”



Staff Sgt. Lamar Woods, 434th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment apprentice, takes part in an exercise during the Military Exercise Leaders Course Aug. 4.



Grissom Airmen participate in a certification course to become military exercise leaders. The course provides training to develop skills for those who lead group exercise programs. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Carl Berry)

Cops on lookout for traffic violations



A motorist heads towards a newly installed stop sign on Skytrain Street here as Staff Sgt. Patrick Barringer, 434th Security Forces fire team member, watches. Thanks in part to a new regulation, the 434th SFS are on the lookout for traffic violations. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

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

Cops are everywhere, and they're watching.

That's the message the 434th Security Forces Squadron wants to get out to Grissom drivers.

A new local Air Force instruction was recently released, which has Grissom's cops looking out for violations of both Department of Defense regulations and Indiana traffic code, said Staff Sgt. Timothy Potts, 434th SFS security response team leader.

The biggest change Airmen will see is not a change in the rules, but a change in the focus on enforcing those rules.

"We always could enforce Indiana traffic code, but this new AFI establishes the procedures on how to do that on this installation," said Tech. Sgt. Tony Ayres, 434th SFS security response team leader.

"We have a renewed focus, and we're out there looking now," elaborated Potts.

According to DOD and Indiana regulations, a driver must carry with them proof of insurance and a valid driver's license at all times. A vehicle must also be in proper working

condition as well.

"You have to have all your lights working, a functioning exhaust and can't have any damage to it that would cause someone to be hurt," explained Potts.

Those ticketed for violating the rules receive points based on the offense. Depending on the offense or number of points, a driver may have his on-base driving privileges suspended.

"For instance cell-phone use, the first violation is four points, but a second violation within 12 months is a 30-day suspension," said Potts. "The same penalties apply for driving without a seatbelt."

The 434th SFS members said that cell phone violations are one of the biggest problems they see on Grissom.

"Using a cell phone without a hands-free device while driving on base is illegal," Potts reiterated. "And, it has to be a true hands-free device.

"It has to be completely wireless, so having an ear bud in does not count," he added. "Speakerphones do not count as hands-free either."

Another prohibited piece of technology is radar detectors.

Even though they may be allowed under Indiana law, they are not al-

lowed under DOD regulations, so they can't be on Grissom, said Ayres, who added that expired plates and drivers licenses are another issue that can get a driver in hot water with Grissom law enforcement.

Perhaps the most obvious offense would be speeding. The 434th SFS Airmen said they are on the lookout for that, too.

"The maximum speed limit on base is on Hoosier, which is 30 mph," said Potts. "Every other road on base is 20 mph or less."

And, even if a vehicle is parked, there are still certain issues of which drivers need to be aware.

Children 10 years old and younger, along with animals cannot be left unattended in a vehicle, Potts explained.

"You're also not allowed to perform any major maintenance on your vehicle on base, so no changing your oil on base," he added. "You can fill up air in your tire or change it, but you can't put your car on jacks or do any sort of fluid changes."

It's not just four-wheeled vehicles that the cops are focusing on either.

"Motorcycles are a big issue because we constantly have people coming up to the main gate who aren't in regulation to ride a motorcycle on base," said Potts. "Cycle operators and passengers must use a helmet that is (Department of Transportation) approved; wear over-the-ankle, hard-sole boots; shatter-resistant eye protection; and a highly visible reflective material that covers at a minimum 30 square inches.

"If you have two passengers, the motorcycle must be designed for two passengers," he continued.

Keeping with that two-wheeled theme, the security forces Airmen said they are also looking out for bicycle violations as well.

"Bicycles are not allowed to use the sidewalks on base," Potts explained. "They also have to have reflectors, a light on at night, and riders must wear a helmet and use proper signaling techniques."



Full bird

Jonathan and Sarah Wietbrock pin colonel's eagles on their dad, Paul Wietbrock, during a pin-on ceremony held here in Gus Grissom Hall Aug. 25. Wietbrock left his position as 434th Operations Group deputy commander at Grissom recently to take a post as the 931st Air Refueling Group deputy commander at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)

In the limelight

Promotions

To chief master sergeant: Joseph Lageose, 434th Maintenance Group

To master sergeant: Rebecka Lewis, 434th Air Refueling Wing; Joyce Royston, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Damon Silvey, 434th Operation Support Squadron; Allen Walden, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

To technical sergeant: John Lambert, 434th Maintenance Squadron; Mark Peavler, AMXS.

To staff sergeant: Ryan Covert, 434th Communications Squadron; Courtney Storey, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron.

To senior airman: David Dalechek, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron; Hannah Tyler, 434th AMXS; Justin Warren, 434th MXS.

To airman 1st class: Michael Covington, 434th AMXS; Chad James, 434th MXS; Angelic Gaines, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Bobby Moore, 434th CS; Keven Pripusich, 434th MXS.

To airman: Brittany Chapman, 434th Security Forces Squadron; Philip Gilliam, 434th SFS; Christopher Owens, 434th Force Support Squadron; David Ruffin, 434th CES; Kevin Zelee, 434th LRS.

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal: Maj. Kelly Ammon, 74th Air Refueling Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Larry Brady, 434th AMDS; Lt. Col. Martin Foye, 434th Operations Support Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Hallam, 434th ARW; Lt. Col. Todd Moody, 74th ARS; Chief Master Sgt. Richard Scully, 434th AMXS.

Air Force Commendation Medal: Capt. Jason Baldwin, 434th AMDS; Tech. Sgt. Robert Delee, 434th SFS; Tech. Sgt. Adam Evans, 434th ARW; Capt. Brandon German, 74th ARS; Capt. Richard Hastings, 74th ARS; Tech. Sgt. Lisa Hendricks, 434th AMDS; Tech. Sgt. Tina Hoover, 434th AMDS; Tech. Sgt. Rebecka Lewis, 434th ARW; Capt. Christopher Robinson, 72nd ARS; Master Sgt. Alicia Santana, 434th SFS; Tech. Sgt. Danny Santana, 434th LRS.

Air Force Achievement Medal: Tech. Sgt. John Dietz, 434th AMDS; Tech. Sgt. Bradley Green, 434th AMXS; Senior Airman Joseph Hyatt, 434th AMDS; Maj. Christopher Filer, 434th AMDS; Master Sgt. Leana Himes, 434th AMDS; Tech. Sgt. Tina Hoover, 434th AMDS; Master Sgt. Nancy Johnson, 434th AMDS; Master Sgt. Steven Kulik, 434th AMDS; Tech. Sgt. Robert Laviolette, 434th AMDS; Senior Airman Jennifer Lloyd-King, 434th AMDS; Staff Sgt. Joseph Logan, 434th AMDS; Master Sgt. Rebecca Mattox, 434th AMDS; Staff Sgt. Vicki Maxwell, 74th ARS; Tech. Sgt. Shannon Pyle, 434th AMDS; Tech. Sgt. Annette Quattrocchi, 434th AMDS; Senior Airman Jessamyn Rhymer, 434th AMDS; Tech. Sgt. Rachel Rodeghero, 434th AMDS; Senior Airman Sharon Stevens, 434th AMDS; Staff Sgt. Martin Valadez, 434th ARW; Senior Airman Jeremy Wilburn, 434th AMDS.



Air Force reservists can be mobilized for national emergencies

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

Officials are putting new policies and programs in place to mobilize Air Force reservists in response to national disasters and emergencies.

This is the first time Title 10, or federal reserve forces from all services have been planned and funded to be mobilized, like their National Guard counterparts, to assist the state governors during a crisis in the United States.

“This is a significant change for us and a tremendous benefit for American citizens,” said Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command. “Being able to mobilize our people will save lives and mitigate suffering and damage during disasters here at home.”

In the past, these Citizen Airmen have voluntarily stepped forward to assist with events such as Hurricane Katrina and the gulf oil spill, as well as, fighting the wildfires burning in the western states today.

However, by planning mobilization call-ups, officials expect to quicken federal response times and have more capability ready for when states call for help.

Air Force Reserve Command has more than 70,000 reservists who train and are ready now for active-duty missions. They are activated to provide forces when more manpower is needed than is available in the active components. This surge capability has been used extensively in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“For more than 20 years, Air Force reservists have been serving in combat non-stop,” said Jackson. “We’ve expanded from strategic surges to supporting daily operations for the active duty.

“This new mobilization authority for national disasters here at home is just another example of how our military is leveraging the expertise and cost-effectiveness of the Air Force Reserve for Americans everywhere - even at home.”

The fiscal 2012 National Defense
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A crew member of a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft gives water to passengers on a Hurricane Gustav evacuation flight Aug. 31, 2008, at Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans. The 2012 defense authorization bill gives the secretary of defense the authority to mobilize Air Force reservists to help U.S. communities affected by natural disasters. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Shawn Weismiller)

Authorization Act changed the way the military can be used at home and now authorizes the secretary of defense to mobilize federal reserve forces to support major disaster relief and national emergencies.

The Department of Defense and Air Force Reserve Command have been working together to build the appropriate policies and procedures. Officials have gathered at the Pentagon and Robins Air Force Base, Ga., to develop readiness expectations and funding procedures. They are scheduled to develop call-up processes and identify personnel who have emergency support qualifications during upcoming meetings.

“In the event a disaster does occur and reservists are needed, they will be contacted by Air Force Reserve leadership and given specific reporting instructions,” said Col. Nancy C. Zbyszinski, director of Personnel, Office of Air Force Reserve, at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

A key issue is how to track who is subject to mobilization. DOD has developed categories for emergency responders such as transportation, communications, firefighting, public health and medical services, search

and rescue, etc. The reserve component has significant expertise in all of these fields as well as unique capabilities in aerial spray, aerial firefighting and weather reconnaissance.

Currently, Air Force reservists are slated into the Air Force’s rotation system for combat mobilization and deployments. Officials must accommodate those requirements with the challenge of quick responses to unforeseen national disasters.

“If local authorities need our assistance, we will be ready to support them,” said Col. Dawn Brotherton, special assistant for Reserve Force Integration, Office of Air Force Reserve. “As a disaster moves into the recovery phase, our reservists will step aside and let the civilian agencies and commercial partners take over, potentially as quick as 14 days or less.”

To gain federal help, state governors must request assistance and the president has to declare the situation as a national disaster. After these two critical steps, the secretary of defense is authorized to direct the mobilization of federal reservists such as Air Force Reserve’s Citizen Airmen.

NCOLDC

Staff Sgt. Timothy Potts, 434th Security Forces Squadron receives a certificate of training from Col. Don Buckley, 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, at a graduation ceremony for the NCO Leadership Development Course at Grissom Aug. 17. In all, 21 NCOs graduated the course. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Andrew McLaughlin)



AF senior leaders stress safety over Labor Day weekend

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy issued the following message to all Air Force personnel:

As our Nation pays tribute to American workers during Labor Day weekend, we thank all Airmen for your dedicated service and hard work every day of the year. While many of you enjoy a well-earned break to celebrate the last holiday of the summer season, we urge you to plan your activities with care and to make smart decisions that will keep you, your family, and your friends safe.

Safety is a concern for all of us. Sadly, more

than 40 Airmen have died in off-duty mishaps this year, including 27 Airmen killed in motor vehicle accidents. Many of these tragic losses may have been preventable, the result of reckless behavior such as excessive speed, irresponsible alcohol use, failure to use proper safety gear, or inattention. Equally alarming, our Air Force family has lost 70 Airmen to suicide this year.

Our goal is to eliminate all preventable mishaps, and you can help by setting a standard of zero tolerance for reckless behavior and through awareness of subtle behavioral changes that could indicate heightened levels of stress in yourself or others. Because one lost life is too many, we



Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy issued a message urging all Airmen to keep safety in mind during this Labor Day weekend. (U.S. Air Force graphic, photo/Michael Means)

urge all Airmen to look out for one another and remember that safety requires deliberate forethought.

Your family, friends, and fellow Airmen de-

pend on you. Please take time to consider safety as you enjoy Labor Day weekend, and as always, thank you for all you do for our Air Force and our Nation. (AFNS)