

Wale Aliyu, a reporter from Dayton, Ohio's, ABC 22 and FOX 45, films Master Sgt. Christopher Nack, 74th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, onboard a Grissom KC-135R Stratotanker June 18.
U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jami Lancette



FROM A DIFFERENT VIEW

Grissom, Wright-Patt team up to tell Air Force Reserve story

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

Since the Wright brothers first took to the sky, Ohio has been known as a state for aviation innovation, and in that spirit, two Air Force Reserve units found a creative way to showcase their missions.

The 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom partnered with the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to host a combined media flight showcasing their unique missions June 18.

"This was a great opportunity that allowed us to showcase both airframes and mission sets," said Col. Doug Schwartz, 434th ARW commander. "The community needs to see what our great citizen Airmen are doing each and every day."

Helping to allow that opportunity is the fact that the majority of Grissom's 16 KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft are currently operating out of Wright-Patterson

as the Indiana base's runway is undergoing construction.

During the flight, eight Ohio media representatives came face-to-face with a 445th AW C-17 Globemaster III aircraft as they flew onboard a 434th ARW KC-135R during air refueling operations.

Seven media members from Indiana also got a unique perspective as well as they flew onboard that C-17, learning more about airlift operations and aeromedical evacuation missions, with one even becoming a patient in a medical training scenario.

Rocky Walls, of 12 Stars Media, raised his hand and volunteered to take part in the aeromedical evacuation training and quickly found himself being treated for a simulated collapsed lung.

"I like getting in the middle of it and getting my hands dirty, and they gave me a good picture of why and how they do what they do," said Walls. "There's always that chance something could go wrong and they have to be ready for anything. A patient they pick up could have any number of challenges and they have to be ready with the right people in the right places to take care of them."

Walls was onboard a more traditional media flight in 2010 as he flew with the 434th ARW on one of the unit's KC-135s and said that opportunity allowed him to appreciate the experience all the more.

"It was absolutely fantastic being



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jami Lancette
Col. Jeff McGalliard, 445th Airlift Wing commander, is interviewed by Tyler Greenlees, Dayton Daily News photographer, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, before the two boarded a 434th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft during a training mission and media flight over Kentucky June 18.

down in the KC-135 boom pod and seeing the precision of the boom operator, but seeing it from the cockpit this time is a different perspective entirely," he explained. "There's something about facing forward and seeing this other plane right on top of you that is so much more intense and really speaks to how complicated air refueling actually is."

The media flight was also unique for the aircrews as well, said Maj. Francis W. Saul III, 89th Airlift Squadron C-17 pilot.

"It's incredibly rare for the crews of the receiver and tanker aircraft

to meet in person because we are generally coming from two different bases and headed in two different directions," explained Saul. "But, I love being able to meet these guys; it puts a face on a voice over the radio and lets you connect and learn what these guys are all about."

With their footage and experiences in hand, the media representatives left Wright-Patterson also knowing what both air refueling and airlift operations were all about and were armed to share the Air Force Reserve mission from an entirely new perspective.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner
C-17 Globemaster III pilots from the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, fly behind a 434th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker during a training mission June 18.