

The Flying Badger

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Month of the
Military Child

On the cover...



photo by 440th Visual Information

April is the month of the military child when the contributions and sacrifices of military children are recognized. Pictured on the cover are Mrs. Jori Bowen, wife of Maj. John "J.T." Bowen, and Cami Bowen, his daughter, during the December 2003 deployment.

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COMMAND PERSPECTIVE

Command Chief reflects on time with the 440th

Editor's note: As 440th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Biedenbender prepares to pass the baton of office, Ann Skarban took a few minutes to interview him.

Flying Badger: *Did you reach the goals you had set as Command Chief?*

Chief Biedenbender: Yes. My goal was to provide opportunities and experiences to the airman and NCOs of the wing; to give them a broader perspective on the command and wing missions. I think overall, we did this. For the first time, we hosted an all-wing enlisted symposium which provided our enlisted members information and access to leadership in the wing and Reserve Command. Besides the symposium, the ball was attended by 600 enlisted members. Also, by being a focal point for the Logistics Readiness Squadron and through my deployments, I was able to work issues first-hand and improve many processes affecting our enlisted members.

Flying Badger: *Would you like to provide a few words of advice to young enlisted members?*

Chief Biedenbender: Continue to do everything you can education-wise. Prepare yourself for the next rank. Take your professional military education and CDCs seriously. Always be prepared for the next stripe. Do not wait until it is available and then try to compete, be prepared. Always be ahead of the game. Stay involved with activities on the base to gain the broader perspective of what happens at the base. Meet other members, meet your peers and take the opportunity to see and experience other units and missions within the wing. Don't ever let yourself get stuck in a corner. Take charge of your career and keep moving ahead.

Flying Badger: *What was your most memorable time as command chief?*

Chief Biedenbender: I really do think the last deployment was the most memorable. Being deployed with 440th members, and Air Force Reserve and Guard members, was the most challenging time of my career. There were a number of issues to handle and new missions



AFRC Photo
Chief Master Sgt. Mark
Biedenbender

to complete. That experience was probably the most trying and most successful in my tenure. I am also proud of the First Sergeants council and chief's group which formed during my tenure.

Flying Badger: *What do you see as the future for enlisted career Reservists?*

Chief Biedenbender: Significant changes to the way the Reserve does business. Young airmen and NCOs will need to be flexible. Times have changed. The one weekend a month and 15 days of annual tour is now the exception and not the rule.

Duties and responsibilities of the

Command Chief Master Sergeant (CCM):

Advises commanders on matters impacting the enlisted force such as proper utilization, quality of enlisted leadership, management/supervisor training, operations tempo, and quality of life.

Additionally, they:

- Monitor compliance with Air Force standards, serve on advisory councils, and maintain a close relationship with the local community.
- Maintain liaison between their commander, the enlisted force, and staff members.
- Communicate with commanders on problems, concerns, morale, and attitudes of the enlisted force.
- Ensure their commander's policies are known and understood by the enlisted force.
- Identify and assess factors impacting morale and well being of the enlisted force and provide their commander with recommendations to resolve problems.
- Establish and maintain rapport with other commanders and CCMs.
- Evaluate the quality of enlisted leadership, management, and supervisory training by visiting professional military education (PME) facilities, First Term Airman Centers (FTACs), SNCO/NCO enhancement seminars and orientation courses and reviewing the curricula and effectiveness of these programs.
- Monitor compliance with Air Force standards of conduct, performance, and appearance.
- Serve as the functional manager for assigned first sergeants.

An excerpt from AFI 36-2109



The battlefield finds Battles in the desert

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

When Tech. Sgt. Keith Battles deployed to an airbase in Southwest Asia, he got more than he bargained for during his four month stay. He got “up close and personal” with comedian Robin Williams. The visit, part of a traveling USO tour, was a welcome diversion and morale booster. The 440th reservist also met retired National Football League player John Elway and Fox TV’s Leeann Tweeden of the “Best Damn Sportshow”.

Day in and day out activities weren’t nearly as glamorous. The 440th reservist supported administrative functions for Col. Nancy Kaczor, an active duty officer serving as the mission support commander at the deployed location.

“It’s amazing how small the Air Force can be,” said Sergeant Battle, commenting on how people can find mutual connections in remote locations. “It was the first time I met Colonel Kaczor, and it turned out she is a native of Oak Creek (Wis),” he explained. “She came back home to Oak Creek for her promotion, and pinned on her current rank at our own base, General Mitchell.”

Sergeant Battle’s work for Colonel Kaczor and the support group included processing



This makeshift memorial honors all those who served their time in the desert. The boots belong to airmen on their way home.



submitted photos

Technical Sgt. Keith Battles has his picture taken with Oscar award winning actor Robin Williams during a USO show that was touring Southwest Asia.

orders, assisting with filing travel vouchers, addressing housing issues, and assisting in the resolution of problems that could negatively impact the general care of the troops.

Sergeant Battles lived in an eight-person tent with other information management specialists from different Reserve and active duty units. Besides his cot, the only other pieces of furniture were an end table and wall locker. A generator provided air-conditioning and heat.

“When I arrived in September it was about 115 degrees outside, and we had the air conditioning blowing in the tent. By late November, temperatures were dipping into the 30’s and we were heating the tents,” he said.

On his day off, Sergeant Battles did laundry, slept and passed the time reading. He also downloaded music from a shared network drive on the computer. The “morale drive” was developed to boost the airmen’s spirits by making use of the digital age of shared computer files.

The base, itself, offered secrets to the past. One of Sergeant Battle’s most memorable moments was touring a bunker where Saddam Hussein imprisoned Kuwaiti military members during the first Gulf War.

“The imprisoned Kuwaitis drew pictures of their families, children and other loved ones on the walls of the bunker in remembrance of them,” said Battles. “What made it even more eerie was another wall where you could still see holes where the Kuwaitis were executed.” The flagpole where the Kuwaiti commander was hung still stands. Local legend contends Hussein hung the commander’s body on the flagpole for three days to remind people of his power.

The somber tour was tempered with one trip off base. Sergeant Battles joined other airmen at a feast provided by a grateful Kuwaiti millionaire whose assets survived the first Gulf War because of American troops.

“Once a year this man thanks the U.S. military with a party. He opens the doors to his home and provides an outrageous spread of food,” said Sergeant Battles. “In one tent alone there were more than 20 tables of food including lobster, shrimp, turkey and ham – not to mention Kuwaiti delicacies.”

Sergeant Battles said his deployment initially seemed to crawl with 10-hour work days, six days a week. “But then all of sudden it was over,” he said. “And I was heading home to Wisconsin.”

Military children need recognition too!

by Staff Sgt. Denise Quasius

The arrival of April brings more than just rain showers and spring; it starts a month long celebration recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of military children. With the increase in operations tempo military families have stepped up to support their servicemembers during more frequent and longer deployments. While the limelight often falls, justifiably so, on the servicemember, the unsung troopers are the children and families who surrender time spent with parents and loved ones in order to support the greater good of all.

The following children are very familiar with the dedication it takes to support a mom or dad in the military. Their stories are just a glimpse into the lives of children around the world whose courage and sacrifice will be recognized throughout the month of April.

Heather & Abbie Schwieso

Heather Schwieso, age 13, and her sister Abbie, age 6, watch the Simpson's every evening at 5:30. It is one of the things that they do with their dad, Tech. Sgt. Mark Schwieso a turboprop engine mechanic with the 440th Maintenance Squadron, who is currently deployed to a forward location in Southwest Asia.

"We watch the Simpson's every evening because it is something that we do all of the time when our dad is home," said Heather. "It makes me feel better knowing that we are doing something that he likes to do."

Heather has only talked to her dad three times in the last few months that he has been away. The time difference and the 12-hour-shift that her dad works does not always allow her the opportunity to speak with him. This is the second deployment for Sergeant Schwieso within a year.

"The first time he went away it was hard, I wasn't ready for it," said Heather. "This time it is still hard but we know what to expect."

Abbie has had a harder time adjusting to the

change.

Before Sergeant Schwieso left for his second deployment he visited her school and spoke to her class about what he does in the Air Force. Abbie's friends at school ask about her dad a lot and they even made cards to send to him during the deployment.

Before Sergeant Schwieso left, he explained to Abbie that he would be doing the same job on his deployment as he does in his full time job as an Air Reserve Technician with the 440th. The only difference would be the geographic location. He showed her a map and pointed to the area where he was going to be stationed.

"We are afraid for our dad's safety," said Heather. "We wonder how he is feeling, what is he eating for lunch, is he missing us, what is he thinking. Are we looking at the moon at the same time?"

The girls each gave Sergeant Schwieso a memento to take with him to help him to remember them and so he would not feel lonely. Abbie gave her dad the prayer bear from her bed and Heather bought a book and filled it with pictures. They also send him cards, letters and school projects.

"It's kind of depressing sometimes when my dad is not around," said Heather. "But, I think he is very brave and I am proud of him."

The first thing that the girls will do when their dad gets home is give him a big hug. When they get home they will order a pizza and watch the Simpson's just like always.



photo by Staff Sgt. Denise Quasius

Heather and Abbie Schwieso have learned a great deal about being part of a military family over the last year. Their dad, Tech. Sgt. Mark Schwieso is just finishing up his second deployment and is expected back sometime in April.

Jacob & Alexander Kuehn

Jacob Kuehn is 3 years old and his brother Alexander is 14 months old. Jacob will tell anyone that he meets how proud he is that his daddy, Tech. Sgt. Dan Kuehn, a flightline mechanic with the 440th Maintenance Squadron, is defending the country.

Jacob owns five different sets of BDU's and it has become customary for him to wear the outfits when his dad leaves for a deployment and upon his dad's return from the field.

"He loves wearing his BDU's" said Jacki Kuehn, Jacob's mother. "He looks up to his dad and he loves to wear them while Dan is gone."

While Sergeant Kuehn is deployed Jacob goes to his grandparents' house twice a week to play.

His mom takes him to McDonald's as a special treat and he gets to play in the Playland. Some of



Shown left is Tech. Sgt. Dan Kuehn with sons Alexander, left, 14 months, and Jacob, right, 3.

Kuehn is currently deployed and is expected to return in July.

Jacob, along with Alexander, eagerly awaits the return of their father, as well as the possibility of spending time in their cabin in northern Wisconsin.

photo submitted by the Kuehn family

home?" said Jacki.

the other fun things he is involved with are ice skating, bike riding and playing with battery operated cars.

"Whenever a plane flies over head Jacob looks up and asks, 'Is that daddy coming

Jacob gets to talk to his dad on the phone he sends packages and e-mail. Sergeant Kuehn is expected home sometime in July. Jacob looks forward to spending some family time with his father in their cabin in northern Wisconsin.

"Is that daddy coming home?"

Jacki Kuehn, talking about her son Jacob's reaction when he sees a plane flying overhead

Katie & Crystal Strohmeier

Katie Strohmeier, 15, and her sister Crystal, 7, have learned a lot about the Air Force over the last year and a special friend has helped make the separation from their dad a little easier to "bear."

Their dad is Tech. Sgt. Joseph Strohmeier, an aircraft inspection mechanic with the 440th Maintenance Squadron. He has recently returned from a tour in Southwest Asia and he brought back with him a small friend named Helper Bear.

Helper Bear was a gift from daughters Katie and Crystal and provided the girls a way to feel close to their dad even while he was thousands of miles away. The bear accompanied him everywhere he went. Whether Sergeant Strohmeier was on the flightline fixing the plane or in his room relaxing, Helper Bear was there. Sergeant Strohmeier would take pictures of the bear performing various activities with him and send them back to the girls.

"They had a great time looking at the photos and envisioning that a piece of them was with

their dad in his day to day duties," said Katie and Crystal's mom Susan Strohmeier. Before his first deployment, Katie had no idea where the Middle East was. She learned that her dad was half a planet away. Sergeant Strohmeier visited the girl's school and talked to their classes about the Middle East, what it meant to be an airman and what type of job he performed. Members of the school sent several packages filled with letters, toothpaste, deodorant and several other items to Sergeant Strohmeier. He in return sent back a flag that was flown in Iraq and signed by several servicemembers.

The girls miss their dad when he is gone, but realize that being in the military is a big responsibility and try to stay positive. When Sergeant Strohmeier visited Katie's school the kids in her class had a new found respect for her. They started to look up to her more and always ask about him.

Katie and Crystal's dad is home right now and some of the things that they like to do with him are watching movies, playing video games, and eating pizza.

Helper Bear eases stress of deployment for Strohmeier girls

The Strohmeier girls follow their dad's adventures with Helper Bear when he serves half-way across the world.

Below, Helper Bear looks over Tech. Sgt. Joseph Strohmeier while he reads.



photo submitted by Strohmeier family

Children follow in parents' footsteps

by Senior Airman Deanne Perez

Reservists are justifiably proud of their service that requires so much hard work and dedication. They are characteristics that parents would like to pass on to their children.

Often times a parent's military service can lead to the pride of seeing a son or daughter enlist. But what happens when that pride comes with a bit of worry when your child is deployed to a forward location?

Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Litvinchuck and Tech. Sgt. Christopher Thorn, 440th Security Forces Squadron, know that feeling firsthand.

Thorn's son, Airman 1st Class Nicholas Thorn, enlisted in the active duty Air Force and was assigned to Security Forces just over two years ago following a legacy started by his grandfather's Air Force service.

Chief Litvinchuk's son, Lance Cpl. Zachary Litvinchuk, entered the Marine Corps and is also a third generation military service member.

"I was pretty proud, seeing my dad was in the Air Force, too," Thorn recalled about his son's



Photo submitted by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Thorn

A1C Nicholas Thorn, left, shown here with his father, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Thorn, 440 SFS.

decision to enlist. "Not necessarily following me as a cop. I tried to talk him out of that" he laughed, "but he wants to be cop when he gets out and after he completes his degree."

Litvinchuk echoes that pride when he speaks of his own son's decision. "As far as Zach enlisting, it was seen as a step forward, as not many kids out of high school want to go fight a war. I see Zach's

enlistment as one of patriotism and following his grandfather and me into service of our country. Nothing could make me prouder than to have a Marine, for a son."

Once their children deployed to Iraq, the pride remained and the parental worry began.

"Him being in Iraq, of course, with the road side bombings and safety issues going from point A to point B," Thorn said, "...that's a

little scary.

"As a parent you always turn an ear to the news when you hear of rocket attacks, convoy attacks, and car bombings," Litvinchuck said.

But contact is fairly frequent and both appreciate it when it occurs – be it a quick email or an even more infrequent phone call – that let's them know their sons are OK.

Throughout the parental worry, the pride both Thorn and Litvinchuck feel is hard to match. From military children to military members, both Nicolas and Zachary have made their parents proud.

"Hey Dad, The comm has been down since the car bombing. Everything is going good though. It's started to cool down a lot. Well, my times up. I'll write back soon. Zach"

e-mail from Zachary Litvinchuck



USMC Photo

Lance Cpl. Zachary Litvinchuk, top row, first from the right, is shown here with members of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Al Asad, Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

Armed Forces Week 2005

A grateful nation salutes its defenders

by Ann F. Skarban

In keeping with a tradition that has withstood the test of time, the Milwaukee area's military leaders and civilian volunteers are planning a series of events to honor and salute the men and women of our Armed Forces during the days of May surrounding Armed Forces Day.

This year's events are planned around the theme, "A Grateful Nation Salutes Its Defenders," which was chosen to pay tribute and show appreciation to all who serve and have served in our country's armed forces.

Each year, since the early 1950's the Milwaukee Armed Services Committee, a group of local military leaders from the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, civilian business leaders and retired military members, meets monthly at Milwaukee's War Memorial Center.

The Milwaukee Armed Services Committee's mission is to increase public understanding of the role of the military in a democratic society as well as honor and acknowledge the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States

Each year, this committee schedules and provides support for a week of activities.

This year, for the first time, the observance has been expanded to two weeks and will begin on May 14th with the largest of all Armed Forces Week events, the military display featuring aircraft and military hardware that are open to the public.

If you have any questions about Armed Forces Week events listed below, contact the wing's Office of Public Affairs at (414) 482-5481.

Milwaukee Area Armed Forces Week Activities

May 14 & 15

Military Display

Hosted by the 128th Air Refueling Wing. Parking will be at the MATC South Campus with shuttle bus transportation to the display. Hours – Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

May 16

ESGR Breakfast with the Boss and Maj. Richard I. Bong Award

Hosted by Wisconsin Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

May 16

440th Airlift Wing Wisconsin Club Dinner

Invitation only event

May 17

Milwaukee Rotary Club Luncheon

Advance reservations required

May 18

Milwaukee Kiwanis Club Luncheon – Advance reservations required

May 19

440th Airlift Wing Civic Dinner Dance – Co-hosted with the communities of Cudahy, Oak Creek, St. Francis and South Milwaukee

The Civic Dinner Dance is held in a hangar at Gen. Mitchell ARS. Advance tickets only. Tickets available in 440th AW Public Affairs Office.

Strike up the band!

Do you enjoy educating others about your Reserve career? The 440th Band Strike Package needs you!

In addition to this year's Armed Forces Week events, the 440th Airlift Wing will host the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve for a major concert series which will include concerts in local high schools and businesses during the week of May 16. There are 23 performances scheduled.

The Band of the USAF Reserve is comprised of a 45 member concert band, which also has the capability of breaking down into several additional bands which include a rock band, a jazz band, a woodwind quintet, a brass quintet. More information on the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve is available on their website, <http://www.afrc.af.mil/hq/band/>

The purpose of this concert series is to raise awareness about the Air Force Reserve and to let recruitable audiences know the Air Force Reserve is alive and well in Wisconsin and can use more great team members.

The strike package targets will include schools and community venues in the Milwaukee, Green Bay, Oconto Falls and Neenah, Wisconsin areas. If you would like to represent the wing and would be willing to talk with students and guests about your Air Force Reserve career along with other 440th Airlift Wing Reservists and the Reserve recruiters, please call 2nd Lt Brian McReynolds at (414) 482-5668. Reservists who live in Green Bay or the Fox Valley are needed at this time. Participating reservists will be in an official duty status.

For more information about the Band of the United States Air Force, concert series, call the 440th Airlift Wing Office of Public Affairs at (414) 482-5481.

May 20

United States Air Force Reserve Concert Band

The band performs at South Milwaukee High School Performing Arts Center, performance at 7 p.m. (FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

May 21 Armed Forces Day

Navy League Dinner. Details will be announced.

May 28 – Milwaukee Brewers Military Day at Miller Park – Tickets available through the Milwaukee Coast Guard.

As I begin my command, it is important to take a few minutes to share some beliefs and philosophy to enhance your understanding of who I am. Each time I experienced a new commander, it took time to figure out their methods, likes and dislikes, each possessed unique characteristics and most were exceptional leaders.

Unfortunately, I will not have an opportunity to spend large amounts of time with each of you; therefore, these thoughts should help people understand me and help us focus on the continued success of the 440th Airlift Wing.

Core values

When General Fogelman introduced them a few years ago, I felt this may be yet another policy that commanders would emphasize, recite to the troops and then gradually fade away as it was replaced by another. However, this was not the case and the core values are indeed at the heart of our Air Force.

The old saying, "If you do not stand for something, you will fall for anything," is true. Years ago I adopted West Point's motto of "Duty, Honor, Country" as my own and I often reflect on President Kennedy's "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

More than 15 years ago, Maj. Gen. James D. Bankers, while commander at Youngstown ARB, Ohio, put three words on the door of base operations that led out to the flight line. "Pride, Attitude, Integrity." That being said, my transition to our Air Force core values was simple with "Pride" and "Attitude" interlaced within them.

"Integrity first," this is the basis for everything we do. If we lack integrity, we are not honest with each other and will fail ourselves, family, and job. I guarantee with my personal honor I will always be honest with you and expect the same in return.

Integrity being critical to our operation, I will not tolerate any breach or lack of it. Not once!

Next, "Service before self." I spent more than 30 years in the Air Force because I strongly believe in putting the good of the country and the service ahead of everything in my life except for God and sometimes my family.

I regret my family has often sacrificed for my service. Having served on active duty and in the reserves, enlisted and officer, employee and business owner, as a traditional Reservist and

Air Reserve Technician, I understand many of your concerns. Your priorities, like mine, adjust to circumstance.

Your family, church, "real job," social organizations and obligations often take priority over Reserve duty. There is no perfect mix; there will always be challenges and conflicts for your time. A good example is professional military education. Nobody ever has time for it but most figure a way to fit it in. I heard a rumor of a person who actually had time for it and liked it. Most of us will have the same experience; bear down, sacrifice time and force it into your life.

Finally, "Excellence in all we do." What I expect from myself, you, and your people is to be 100 percent Air Force while on duty. Every job is important, every single one. Strive to be the best at your station as I will at mine. When the best you have falls short, you must push the extra mile and expand your capability. Embrace every chance to work smarter. Benchmark from other proven systems. Success breeds success.

Discipline

If each of us follows the Air Force Core Values, this will be the only time we will need to address this subject. Unfortunately, with an organization this large, there will be some discipline problems.

When they occur, I expect commanders and supervisors to do four things: be fair, be equitable, consult the JAG before taking any action, and keep me informed. If you do these four things, the decisions you make concerning discipline will be the right ones.

I assure you, I have never sought confrontation, and I have never run from it. I find no pleasure in dealing out punitive actions; my hope is to prevent incidents from occurring. The paperwork is much easier dealing with positive issues.

Problem people take away significant amounts of valuable time that could be better spent on the vast majority of good people. I do not beat the masses for the sins of the few. I manage for the compliant, not for the rebellious.

I normally differentiate reluctance and rebellion quickly and accurately. If you are a problem person, leave. Having served as the inspector general at three different wings, I understand the process. I cannot be intimidated, even if the POTUS was "cc'd" in an e-mail, my resolve is steadfast; I will not relent in doing the right thing.

I do not intend this as challenge, only to inform. Solve issues at the lowest level, address

issues early, document, follow your chain of command, and most importantly, always give your first sergeant and commander the opportunity to resolve matters before they rise to my level. Remember, if it feels stupid or wrong, it most likely is.

Know your people

One of the best and worst things that came along this past decade is the use of computers and e-mail. I love technology and all the wonderful things it provides. However, computers will never replicate the personal heartfelt attention and interaction required to establish strong bonds with a child, loved one, or your people.

Get out and get to know them. The vast talents we have within our ranks never ceases to amaze me. Commanders, first sergeants and supervisors should get to know their people's civilian jobs, family situations, promotion eligibility, upgrade training requirements, their strengths and talents; know their goals, let them know ours.

In addition to knowing who they are, make sure you reward and recognize them. Recognize, reward and credit. I do not award medals for time in service other than for retirement. If it's been years since a person had an award or never had one, there may be reasons. Check. They may not deserve it or maybe they were missed. A medal given just to meet a board is wrong, unless truly deserved. If a medal is given for shallow reasons, it degrades the worth of the same medal awarded for highly commendable ones. I will be glad to present any award you want me to when my schedule permits.

Ensure awards and recognition are timely; late is better than never, but on-time is the best-time. A performance appraisal (OPR or EPR) not done in a timely manner dishonors the individual rated and indicates a lack of caring from the supervisor to the commander.

Those who need a little direction, give it early to forego a swift kick down the road. Each of us at some point in our lives felt correction, got the needed nudges or kicks, and was encouraged to do things we felt impossible. I feel the best when I am out among you, and I will be out there every chance I can. The more I get out, the better we will know each other. I want to know who you are and what you are doing.

Finally, if I know of problems, I may be able to help fix them. If I do not know what issues are out there, I cannot try. Remember, all problems

cannot be fixed, and all that can be may not be due to limited time and opportunity. What we can fix, we will, and those we cannot, I will always look you in the eye and tell you why. Fix problems at the lowest level, follow the chain.

The mission

Taking care of those who do the mission is our primary business; sometimes, the unit mission will come first. I will let you know when those times occur, and assure we return to the primary method of business as soon as practical.

Commanders, I expect you to do the same. Remember, the mission is why we exist, and without us the mission cannot be done.

"I will always keep my word. I promise each one of you that your welfare will always be considered first and the good of the 440th and the Air Force will be maintained under my watch."

- Col. Merle D. Hart
Commander 440th Airlift Wing

Safety

"We" exist for the mission, and without safety, some of us who make up the "we" may be unable to take part in its accomplishment and may lead to its failure. Safety is vital to mission accomplishment.

I hold each of you personally responsible for the safety of our people, and I expect units to have an active safety program, not just a monthly safety meeting.

Commanders and supervisors, get out and see how your folks are doing their jobs, and stress safety both on and off the job. If anyone sees a problem, they are now the catalyst that may preclude an accident.

Safety is for everyone. No task is so important, or time sensitive, that safety can be disregarded and thought a hindrance to its accomplishment. Haste often makes waste. My desire is that no one gets hurt nor equipment damaged during my watch

Standards

Standards are the minimum levels on which we operate. Commanders will be held accountable for their unit's compliance. Uniforms are not for individual interpretation. Proper patches and hats are required and no additional ornamentation will be tolerated.

If, for example, you have the lucky Packers or Cubs patch, wear it on your golf or bowling shirt or any other non-uniform item. We are not the scouts, so no unauthorized pins or badges belong on our Air Force uniform. Period.

Customs and courtesies are the cornerstones of good order and discipline. Loyalty to me and your people will promote a healthy organization. I will always keep my word. I promise each one of you that your welfare will always be considered first and the good of the 440th and the Air Force

will be maintained under my watch. Thank you for your time. I will support you 100 percent as long as you are in the right or had a logical reason to believe you were.

AFIs, many folks forget the "I" is for instruction and is not an "R" for regulation. Solid judgment must be used, and know that every circumstance is not fully outlined in a binder. Past practice and current policy do not always match. Policy is policy and exceptions are exceptions. Do not expect exceptions as practice.

Processes and Programs constantly change. If you find something that you deem wrong, identify it, make suggestions for improvement and move it up the chain. The Air Force of tomorrow will differ just as we differ from the Air Force of yesterday.

NCOs

NCO's are the backbone of the Air Force. I hold "master" sergeants in the highest esteem. If you're a "master, senior master, or chief master," you are the resident experts or masters that ensure the day-to-day business gets done. I have known E-7s/8s/9s who were not master's, senior's, or chief's. I expect those who hold those ranks to be

"master" sergeants. A strong "chief" and "top three" group can make any organization an exceptional organization.

Commanders

You are management. You are my representatives. I will trust you and your requests until proven otherwise. You know your unit needs better than I. Treat others with respect and dignity as you enforce and maintain policy and standards.

Commanders are responsible for their organization. Know your duties to including themargin unit budget and finances. There is a distinct difference between being commissioned and being an officer, I have seen both. Hold the line.



Final thoughts

I touched on some key elements of what I believe in and what I expect. I do not believe there is a single key to leadership. I hold no hidden agendas. If I want you to know something, I will tell you. Rarely do I use an emissary.

What you see is what you get. I am far from perfect and strive most days to improve. I have a great job! I truly love this job and love being here. This is the highest honor I have yet received. If you made it this far in the reading, thank you for hanging in there. There are many "I's" in this writing, many more than are normally used, so do not be concerned about my focus, I am not self-centric. This job is about me serving you, not you serving me.

I will always keep my word. I promise each one of you that your welfare will always be considered first and the good of the 440th and the Air Force will be maintained under my watch.

Thank you for your time.

Fail-Safe



Reservist uses deployment to get in shape ... and guarantees a passing fitness test. Do you believe him?

Photo by Captain Kevin Reynolds, 401st AEW

Fitness is a way of life now for Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler, shown here as he exercises while deployed to Aviano Air Base, Italy. His tour of duty is scheduled to end at the end of this month.

by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

I'm going out on one of my well-stretched limbs by saying there is no way I'm going to fail my fitness test - again.

In fact, I'm guaranteeing a passing score when I take the test for a (*cough-cough*) third time, during the June UTA. If there ever was a lock in sports - my June test is it.

Sure, naysayers will point to my "marginal" performances last year of 70.95 and 74 as justification for being skeptical of my claim. I'll admit going 0-for-2 last year was a low point for someone who once earned a varsity sports letter in high school. Golf won't train you for the Iron Man competition, but you do have to swing your arms, and bend your knees a bit.

So why will June's test be different? Simple - I've gotten my lazy bones out of the "lazy boy" and started exercising ... in Italy.

Just do it

Since arriving at Aviano Air Base, Italy, on Jan. 5, for a 120-day AEF deployment, I've made working out part of my daily routine. In fact I've only missed working out at the gym on six days. And many of those "off" days I've exercised in my room.

For the past few years I've been telling myself how I wanted to get in shape and lose a few pounds in the process. I even joined a local health club in the Milwaukee area last year, in part to get in shape and pass the fitness test. Obviously the results have only been marginal.

So I viewed my deployment here as an opportunity to truly make some healthy changes in my life. I would have no distractions, no excuses to keep me from following through this time. I had the motivation - the prospect of three-straight failing tests is an excellent motivator. All I needed was some personal commitment, which surprisingly has been as easy to find as sweet Muscato wine.

It helps that the wing I'm attached to, the 401st Air Expeditionary Wing, has mandatory physical training after work every Tuesday and Thursday. Both days consists of a minimum of 100 crunches, 50 pushups and a variety of other limb-stretching maneuvers. Following 30 minutes of this, and literally not a minute earlier, we head out to the track for our 1.5 mile run. Running is just on Tuesdays; following stretching on Thursdays, we're on our own.

Fitness a way of life at Aviano

But I'm not the only one here thinking about fitness. On any given day you can see a number

of squadrons exercising together at Aviano's Dragon Fitness Center. Feel like playing basketball in the gym at 4 p.m. Tuesday? Slim chance. That time is reserved for the civil engineer squadron to do their workout. Then how about 5 p.m.? Nope. Medical squadron has it reserved. This is pretty much the scenario at the fitness center around the clock.

To help the Air Force shape up, AFI guidelines state squadrons have to offer their members at least three opportunities a week to work out together as a unit, said Robin Brandimore, Dragon Fitness Center program director. This policy, enacted Jan. 1, 2004, coincided with the start of the Air Force's new fitness program.

"A lot of squadrons are providing more than three options for their folks to workout because it has become part of the Air Force lifestyle that everyone works out together," she said.

Aviano Airmen also must enroll in FitLinxx, which is an online program to track a person's fitness activities. The U. S. Air Forces in Europe goal is for each person to log in at least 12 fitness activities a month. Aviano squadron commanders dictate the exact monthly goal for their people.

During the late afternoons it's not uncommon to see 100 people or more on the adjacent outdoor running track. Brandimore said in the past the fitness center would be empty if there was a base-wide exercise or another similar event going on. Now it's always busy. People are taking renewed interest in their health, and that's been brought on by the new physical fitness test, she said.

Changes coming to the 440th

The idea of training together as a squadron is something that's starting to catch on this year at the 440th GMIAP. Tech. Sgt. Anne Rivera, fitness coordinator for the 440th Airlift Wing, said up to 40 members from the same squadron will be able to complete the fitness test together as a way to foster unit camaraderie. Additionally, Rivera said the base is looking at developing incentive programs on UTA weekends, such as promotion runs, seminars, aerobic classes and fitness challenges between squadrons to help encourage reservists to become active and follow a fitness regimen on a regular basis.

A total of 1,017 440th reservists took the

physical fitness test between June and December. The majority of them, 662, scored in the "good" category; 140 scored "excellent"; 89 joined me in the "marginal" category and 126 scored in the "poor" category. Most of the others who didn't test had an exemption or were deployed.

Rivera said she was pleasantly surprised by the number of people who achieved a good or excellent rating, considering the amount of skepticism she heard from people leading up to the test.

"The feedback I heard before the testing started was so negative I didn't think we would have such a great outcome," Rivera said. "I think it shows that people are taking their fitness and health seriously, which is great."

Count me in as one of those people who are taking their fitness and health more seriously. I can now run six laps without feeling the need to have my will strapped around my neck, and I can now do 54 sit ups in a minute.

There's just no conceivable way I'll be failing my test June 4. If I do I may need to save my hide by fleeing the country again on another deployment – say in July!

440th Airlift Wing-Fit to Fight

A breakdown of how each squadron did last year

	Excellent	Good	Marginal	Poor
34th Aerial Port Squadron	6	57	12	16
95th Airlift Squadron	28	86	10	6
440th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron	3	28	3	8
440th Airlift Control Flight	3	17	1	0
440th Airlift Wing	9	29	4	3
440th Civil Engineering	15	67	10	13
440th Communications Squadron	1	14	2	3
440th Logistics Readiness Squadron	8	36	2	10
440th Maintenance Group	0	9	0	0
440th Maintenance Operations	0	20	1	3
440th Maintenance Squadron	21	115	14	21
440th Medical Squadron	15	68	11	11
440th Mission Support Squadron	5	28	3	5
440th Operations Group	2	3	1	2
440th Operations Support Flight	9	15	3	2
440th Security Forces Squadron	10	44	10	19
440th Services Flight	5	26	2	4

Information courtesy of the Milwaukee (AFRC) Fitness Report

Heapes pins on new rank, assumes new role

By Capt. Keith Leistekow

Senior Master Sgt. Keith Heapes, formerly Master Sgt. Heapes, NCOIC of Career Enhancement, earned his next stripe and was also named the new Chief of Personnel Programs. Sergeant Heapes replaced Chief Master Sgt. Ed Thomas who retired in January, 2005.

As the Chief of Personnel Programs, Sergeant Heapes first provides leadership, supports and supervises the program managers and staff assigned to each military personnel duty section – Customer Service, Career Enhancement, Personnel Relocation, Wing Career Assistance Advisor and Personnel Employment.

“My role is to provide guidance and interpretation of policies and procedures to the wing’s command staff (wing and unit commanders, first sergeants, and other key staff members),” said Heapes. “I serve both our military and civilian members here at the wing.”

Sergeant Heapes, a native of Southern California, entered the military in July of 1968. After serving a four-year, active-duty enlistment with one year in Vietnam, he left the service to pursue his civilian education.

In May of 1985, Sergeant Heapes returned to duty and the military personnel field with the

Air Force Reserve, serving at Norton and March Air Force Bases, Calif., prior to joining the wing in June, 1993.

“I like getting things done and this opportunity will again allow me to work directly with the people that make the decisions,” said Heapes.

An intermediate goal is reviewing all personnel processes and programs to see how the personnel flight agencies can better serve its customers – effectively, efficiently and in a more timely fashion, said Sergeant Heapes.

“We have a great Military Personnel Flight staff, but I know we can improve on what we are already doing,” said Sergeant Heapes.

Military personnel is at the “doorstep of a major, military transition,” Sergeant Heapes’ long-range goal is to not only get the wing through the transition but also maintain the quality of the Military Personnel Flight.

As a reminder, he suggests members always follow their chain of command to resolve personnel issues at the lowest level.

Senior Master Sgt. Heapes said members should visit the Military Personnel Flight’s Customer Service desk in building 101. First Sergeant Heapes is located in room 133, ext. 5304.

Awards & Decorations

AFRC Outstanding Public Affairs Airman
SrA Deanne Perez

AFRC Outstanding Contribution to Public Affairs Programs
JoAnn M. Lindner

AFRC Public Affairs Media Contest
Magazine format, newsletter, 2nd place-*The Flying Badger*

Promotions

- Col. John C. Flournoy Jr. 440 OG
- Col. Jane Kitchen 440 MXG
- 1st Lt. Glenn Baker 440 MXS
- Capt. Walter Rose 440 CES
- Amn Chris Wilson 440 LRS
- Amn Jennifer Griffith 440 AW

Newcomers

The 440th Airlift Wing would like to welcome the following individuals:

- Maj. Robert Oates 95 AS
- Capt. William Lane 440 MDS
- TSgt. Robert Johnson 440 CES
- TSgt. Kevin Kelter 440 MSF
- SSgt. Kevin Grissman 440 CES
- SSgt. Donald Hall 440 SFS
- SSgt. Darla Johnson 34 APS
- SrA Matthew Dono 440 MDS
- SrA Jordan Jungwirth 34 APS
- SrA Steven Kridler 440 CES
- SrA Casey Longtine 440 SFS
- SrA Robert Reed 440 CES
- SrA Charon Ricks 34 APS
- SrA Eric Schaubroeck 440 AMXS
- SrA Robert Special 34 APS
- A1C William Carpenter 34 APS
- A1C Aaron Hoff 440 LRS
- A1C Andrew Lietzau 440 SFS
- A1C Matthew Moeller 440 LRS
- A1C David Wlahovich 440 CES
- AB Christopher Schlembach 440 CES

Retirements

- CMSgt. Leroy E. Frahm 440 MXS
- SMSgt. Thomas A. Yaeger 440 LRS
- MSgt. David S. Black 440 MXS
- MSgt. Terrence R. Conway, Jr. 440 AMXS
- MSgt. Gary A. Cunico 440 MOF
- MSgt. Stephen M. Eyman 440 SFS
- MSgt. Susan J. Schneider 440 CES
- MSgt. Michael A. Snyder 440 SFS
- TSgt. Steven J. Beekman 440 MOF
- TSgt. Lyle R. Hubbard 440 CES
- TSgt. Keith E. Licht 95 AS
- TSgt. John C. Ramsey 440 LRS
- TSgt. William J. Seeger 440 MXS
- TSgt. Michael P. Stolarski 440 SFS
- SSgt. Jeffrey S. Merath 440 SFS



USAF Photo by SrA Catharine Schmidt

Afghanistan Update

Capt. Scott Jones, the commander of the 440th Communications Flight who is now serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan, hands a box of donated goods to an Afghan on Feb. 22. Jones was helping members of the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment distribute the donations. Family members of the Public Affairs specialists from Kansas and Oklahoma collected more than 30 boxes of supplies that included toiletries, clothing, food, toys, school supplies and blankets.

Travel card info lost, no evidence of fraud or misuse - yet

by **Jim Garamone**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – About 900,000 Defense Department employees may be affected by Bank of America’s loss of government travel card information, Pentagon officials said today.

The General Services Administration and Bank of America notified DoD that GSA “SmartPay” travel cards are affected. Officials said Bank of America has been monitoring the affected accounts and there has been no evidence of fraud or misuse of the accounts.

Bank of America is sending letters to affected employees.

“Information regarding travel card program accounts for individual card holders has been lost, and it is possible that that information has been compromised, though we don’t believe that that is the case,” said Teresa McKay, the Defense Department’s deputy chief financial officer.

The U.S. Secret Service is conducting the investigation, with help from the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

Officials said that although there has been no evidence of criminal activity, release of details on the circumstances of the loss could jeopardize the investigation.

The information is personal cardholder information — names, Social Security numbers, addresses and account numbers – on magnetic tape. The loss occurred in late December. GSA notified DOD on Jan. 19.

“The bank is in the process of notifying cardholders of the situation,” Ms. McKay said. “They will be given a special customer service number that has been set up by the bank specifically for this purpose.

If (cardholders) have any questions, they can contact the bank. If they would like, they may request that the bank cancel the card and reissue a card to them.”

“It’s always prudent for any cardholder to monitor their monthly statements (and) dispute any charges they may question, and also it’s important for all of us to get a credit report at least once a year and look at the content of that report,” she said.

Bank of America has set up a hotline for those affected. The number is 1-800-493-8444. Cardholders who notice irregularities in their accounts should call the Bank of America at the 800 number printed on the back of their cards, Ms. McKay said.

“If you are an affected cardholder, you may contact Bank of America for information on obtaining a free credit report,” she added.

Base closure questions? Call (414) 482-6444

Wing members may now call a base phone number for the latest information on base closures or delayed report times due to severe weather.

Closure or delay notices will be available by calling the base toll-free phone number 1 (877) 412-0126 and then dialing extension 6444 or by calling (414) 482-6444 directly. The same information will still be available on the wing web site and on many radio and television stations

Reservists wanted for IMA program

Reservists (officer and airmen) who are close to retirement can add good years for their retirement and have a good chance for promotion potential if they continue their AF career as an individual mobilization augmentee (IMA). IMAs typically go to an active duty major command or numbered air force base to do their IMA time.

For more information on IMA assignments or participation requirements, call Headquarters ARPC Assignments Branch at 1-800-525-0102 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, (Mountain Standard Time).

Scholarship program announced

Grantham University, an accredited distance learning center, has announced a college scholarship program for military members, their spouses and family members.

For more information on Grantham’s course offerings and the military scholarship program call 1-866-850-2979, or go to the schools web site, <http://www.grantham.edu/fed.htm>.

Powered by diversity

The diversity subcommittee of the Human Resource Development Council is looking for members interested in defining and shaping how diversity can and does impact the wing’s mission and quality of life. No prior experience is required.

Contact Capt. Keith Leistekow, diversity chairperson, in building 102, room 122, or call 482-5481 during the April UTA for information

ROA meeting

The local chapter of the Reserve Officers Association will meet at 3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 30, in Heritage Hall, building 102. The annual budget will be voted on.

Call Capt. Erika Cashin for more details at 482-6196.

AFSA convention announced

AFSA Chapter 8 Convention to take place on May 13-15 at the Clarion Hotel in Milwaukee (on Howell and Grange.) All AFSA members are welcome to attend. For more information regarding registration, go to www.afsahq.org or www.afsa8.org.

No more paper pay statements



photo by Technical Sgt. Pat Kuminecz

Senior Airman Eloy Salazar tests out the MyPay Kiosk. MyPay became mandatory for all members as of Jan. 1. Leave and Earning Statements and W-2 forms can only be obtained through the computerized myPay system. To access myPay go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>. The Finance Office has a kiosk in building 101 for unit members who do not have a computer. People who do not have a personal identification number to access myPay should contact Patty Danes, Reggie Nash or Bill Dangutis in the Finance Office or call 482-5350.

Wellness Fair – Part Two

The Wellness Fair will return to Heritage Hall, building 102, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 9. Reservists can get information on nutrition, exercise and overall healthy living. Massage therapists, nutritionists and exercise professionals will be on-hand throughout the event.

All E-5s and below are invited to attend a special preview from 10-11 a.m. The preview will be hosted by the Wing Advisory Council.

Artist needed for children’s project

The 440th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office is looking for an artist or illustrator willing to work on a special project for children. Interested people should contact JoAnn Lindner in the PA Office at 482-5481, or joann.lindner@generalmitchell.af.mil by close of business, Sunday, June 5.

440th goes "wireless"

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

It is just a matter of time before several critical wing operations go "wireless." Using state of the art technology and wireless Internet applications, aircraft maintenance and supply operations will soon be able to connect to their accounts from key locations around base – without physically plugging their laptops into local area network (LAN) jacks in the wall.

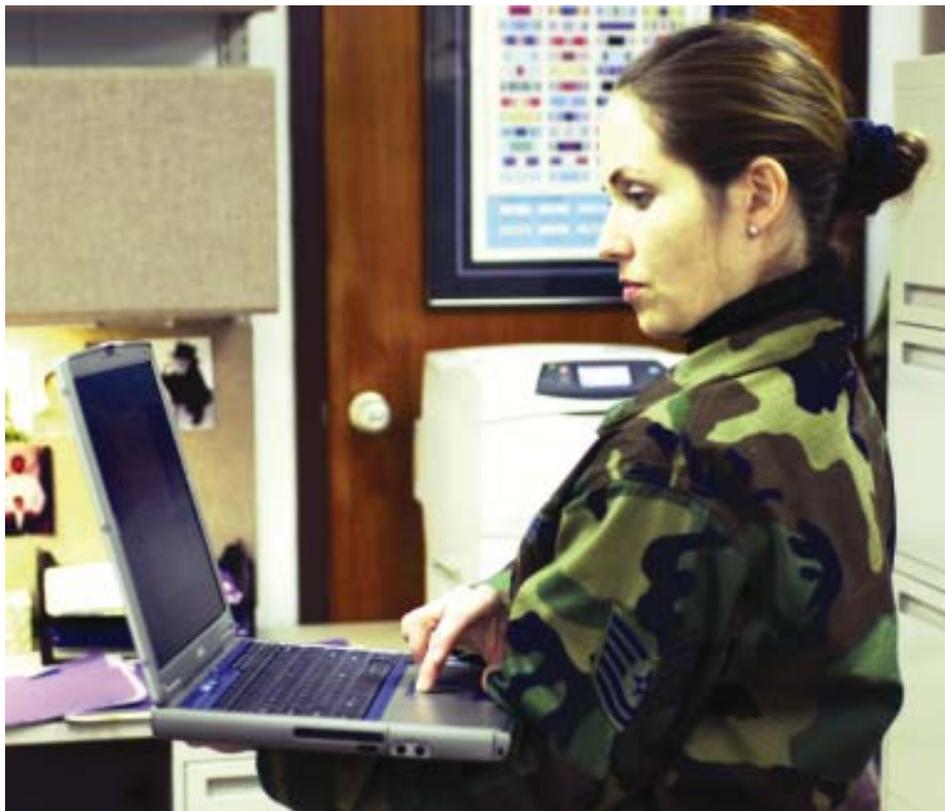
"The wireless LAN is a terrific asset for the wing," said network control infrastructure technician Staff Sgt. John Hust. "For example, our maintenance folks will be able to access essential 'real-time' aircraft data from numerous locations around base, eliminating delays in ordering parts and maintaining planes."

Located in eight buildings around base, fully functional wireless access points allow users to connect with the Internet via laptops and wireless portals. The technological application is still in its test phase as the NCC team tests different laptop and wireless LAN card manufacturers to determine which offers the best fit for the wing. A wireless card costs about \$150, but not all laptops can be fitted for wireless technology.

Wing technicians are also working to ensure security is not compromised with the new technology.

"The different levels of encryption and security at General Mitchell, explains Hust, prevents unauthorized users from breaking into the system. The system detects and shuts-down hackers before access is gained to network resources."

While the maintenance and supply offices will be the first to apply the wireless network in mission-essential operations, Hust suspects



USAF photo by Senior Airman Chris Hibben

Technical Sgt. Karyn Barrett, an information management technician with the 440th Airlift Wing, demonstrates the capabilities of the new wireless laptop technology.

the possible applications around base are numerous. However, priority will be given to mission essential, time-sensitive operations, and the number or "load" of different people accessing the wireless system needs to be tested to evaluate how many people can use the wireless system before efficiency is reduced.

Points of contact for wireless access are work group managers. Users need to complete

paperwork authorizing wireless accounts through those managers.

Thinking of taking that laptop to the local coffee shop for wireless access? Guess again.

While wireless options will soon be available for select individuals on base, users will not be able to access wireless technology with government computers outside of General Mitchell ARS.

Case lot sale at BX

The General Mitchell Air Reserve Station Base Exchange will have a case lot sale from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, May 21.

The Great Lakes Commissary will be bringing in truck loads of products for the one day sale and the BX will also have sales on items not usually sold in commissaries like electronics, large and small appliances and tires.

Product information will be available in mid-April and will be posted on e-mails, flyers and newsletters.

For more information contact the exchange at (414) 482-5291 or (414) 744-8028 or e-mail barnest@aafes.com.

Theme park tickets available to service members

SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place theme parks are offering free single-day admission to service members, including Guard members and Reservists, and as many as three "direct dependents," from now through Dec. 31. The theme parks are calling this program "Here's to the Heroes."

Eligible service members can register for free admission online or in the entrance plaza of participating parks. A Department of Defense photo ID must be presented at the gate before entrance.

Military family members also can take advantage of the offer without their military sponsor; however, an adult must accompany minor children.

The Busch Gardens theme park in Williamsburg, Va.; SeaWorld in San Antonio; and Sesame Place in Langhorne, Pa.; are seasonal operations that open in the spring.

The company's SeaWorld Orlando and Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, both in Florida, and SeaWorld San Diego, are open year-round.

NEWS & NOTES

Official Employer Day Application

Friday, July 15, 2005

(time will be determined by operational scheduling)

(Please type or print clearly – if it's illegible-no invite)

Employer's full name and title:
(please circle/highlight one) Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Other: _____

Employer's company/agency name: _____

Employer's mailing address: _____

Employer's daytime phone number: _____

Reservist's name, rank, unit (office symbol): _____

Reservist's daytime phone number: _____

Note: A schedule of events will be in the information mailed to you and your employer.

Day will include:

- Registration/refreshments
- Welcome by the wing commander
- Base tour and orientation flight in a C-130
- Lunch
- Optional tour of your (reservist's) workplace

The flight is subject to cancellation for weather or operational reasons.

Note: This event is open ONLY to employers of 440th reservists.

Return this form by June 10 to:
440th AW/PA (rm. 122, bldg. 102)
300 E. College Ave.
General Mitchell ARS, WI 53207
Fax: (414) 482-5913
Phone: (414) 482-5481
E-mail: 440AW.PA@generalmitchell.af.mil

President asks for more money, fewer Air Force reservists in FY 2006

The president's proposed defense budget for next year seeks \$3.9 billion in funding for Air Force Reserve Command and an end-strength of 74,000 reservists.

The fiscal 2006 request covers the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, 2005. It asks for 2,100 fewer Air Force reservists than the 76,100 authorized in fiscal 2005.

Senior Department of Defense officials announced the overall defense budget request of \$419.3 billion. The Air Force is to get \$127.5 billion.

"This budget represents the latest installment in the president's strong commitment to transforming this department to face the challenges of the 21st century," said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in a news release Feb. 7. "We continue our transition to a more agile, deployable and lethal force.

"We are a nation at war," the secretary added. "The president's budget, together with

the supplemental spending proposals the president has made, provides the men and women in uniform what they need to prevail."

In the president's budget, the Air Force Reserve requests funding for three separate appropriations - operations and maintenance, reserve personnel, and military construction.

Most of the AFRC portion of the FY 2006 President's Budget request - \$2.5 billion - is for O & M funds to train, organize and administer the command. The Reserve received \$2.24 billion in O & M funds in fiscal 2005.

In 2006, another \$1.31 billion goes to the reserve personnel appropriation for military personnel participation and training requirements.

This funding includes a military pay raise of 3.5 percent, and the addition of 390 full-time Active Guard and Reserve people. The requested reserve personnel appropriation represents a \$155.2 million decrease compared

to that received for the fiscal 2005 reserve personnel appropriation.

Requested funding for military construction in FY 2006 is \$79.3 million. These funds would pay for 14 major projects in eight states. In fiscal year 2005, the Reserve is getting \$124 million for military construction, which includes major and minor projects, and planning and design. In his fiscal 2005 budget request, the president had recommended \$84.6 million, but Congress added \$39.4 million more to fund seven additional projects.

Finally, Congress added another \$281 million to help the Reserve in fiscal 2005 - \$40 million in the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation and \$241 million in aircraft procurement with the active-duty Air Force.

After both houses of Congress approve the reconciled version of the bill, it goes to the president to be signed into law. (AFRC News Service)

440th main gate prepares for a facelift

by Senior Airman Deanne Perez

In order to more effectively manage base entry and installation security, the main gate (College Avenue entrance) will be renovated beginning in April. These improvements will lead to gate closures and limited access to General Mitchell ARS from College Avenue for about six months.

One entry lane is projected to remain open at the main gate during UTA weekends but will be closed at all other times. The Howell Avenue gate will be the main gate for the duration of the renovation project. Wing members should ensure vehicles are registered now to facilitate the flow of traffic.

Renovations include a new pass & ID visitor center, forward entry gate and an added vehicle inspection facility. During the renovations Pass and ID will be temporarily moved to the north end of building 122.

The 440th Security Forces Squadron urges patience and is asking people to be cautious throughout the process, plan ahead, register their vehicles, and know alternate routes. Vehicles should be removed from the TDY parking lot as soon as possible in preparation for construction. Temporary TDY parking will be located on the west side of the parking lot behind building 102.

Staggered UTA start times by group will be published in the near future. Airmen will be alerted to any changes and updates through base-wide e-mails and notices in the *Flying Badger*.



photo by Technical Sgt. Pat Kuminecz

The main entrance to the 440th Airlift Wing as seen today. Construction on the gate is slated to begin in April. The Howell Avenue entrance will be used during construction. The 440th Security Forces Squadron urges patience and is asking everyone to be cautious throughout the process. Access to General Mitchell ARS from College Avenue will be limited for roughly six months.

Reservists warned of Bank of America hoax

Information has recently surfaced regarding a Bank of America letter hoax. Some cardholders are receiving an official looking letter that looks to obtain vital financial information. This type of inquiry can occur at both work and also on a home e-mail account.

If cardholders receive an inquiry of this type, they are instructed to call their credit card company, bank, or the institution that is requesting the information, and ask them to verify the authenticity of the inquiry. It is also suggested that cardholders contact their APC and disregard the contents of the letter.

Contact your unit orderly room with any questions or to see a copy of the letter.

440th Airlift Wing
Office of Public Affairs
300 East College Avenue
Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station, WI 53207

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