

The Flying Badger

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photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Munsey
Kenyan and American paratroopers board a C-130 Hercules en route to a drop zone June 6. Activated 440th aircrew flew 140 Kenyan paratroopers in successful jumps during the three-day, 14-drop mission.

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BRAC proposal affects us all

by Col. Michael Pierce
440th Airlift Wing
Vice Commander

Major General David Tanzi, vice commander of AFRC, hosted a teleconference for all AFRC bases and their senior leaders in preparation for the May 13 BRAC list announcement. Two thoughts immediately came to mind as he began the teleconference. "Wow, this teleconference is working, and I hope we don't need this information."

Family Support used part of the teleconference to brief people on the emotional reactions that a base closure nomination would generate. Colonel Merle Hart, commander of the 440th, invited our Family Support staff to view this portion of the teleconference.

Two thoughts came to my mind as AFRC's Family Support staff gave their briefing. "Wow, they have this down to a science and I hope we don't need this information."

Friday morning, May 13, Lt. Gen. John Bradley, AFRC commander, was on the phone with the unfortunate news that General Mitchell Air Reserve Station is on the BRAC list. Wow! I never thought we would be on the list.

The emotional reactions began immediately: disbelief, shock and anger. These reactions ran through the entire wing staff including me. I was surprised by the accuracy of the Family Support briefing and disappointed in myself for allowing such an emotional reaction.

After a weekend of reflection, I established a three-part plan for my future with BRAC.

First, change is inevitable and brings new opportunities. Therefore, BRAC is going to bring changes that will bring opportunities for everyone involved. Also, I will avoid rumors and focus on facts to find the opportunities. This will keep me positively motivated and avoid emotional swings during the complex BRAC process.

Second, I will remain focused on my mission. If we allow BRAC to distract us from our mission, it could lead to unfavorable outcomes. Therefore, our success depends on remaining focused and safely executing our mission.

Lastly, I will proudly serve my country wherever the wing flag may fly. If our flag takes me to Afghanistan, Iraq or North



photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

Col. Michael Pierce

Carolina, I will proudly serve.

BRAC is important for the security of our country and the security of our country is my job. I will stand by the BRAC decisions and proudly serve my country for as long as possible. Yes, it is unfortunate that our Air Reserve station is on the BRAC list but change brings opportunities. I have a mission and will proudly serve wherever and whenever called to duty.

Commander's Action Line

The Commander's Action Line is designed as a tool for reservists to ask questions anonymously. Current questions focus on the proposed Base Realignment and Closure List that was released May 13.

Under the current proposal, is the Air Force Specialty Code manning affected at all? Will this be looked at as downsizing?

The proposal is the Air Force's way of thinking smart and streamlining, almost as if we were a business. As far as I know, none of the positions will be eliminated under the new proposal, but the wing will move to the new location.

What kind of response has the 440th gotten from local communities like St. Francis, Cudahy, Oak Creek and South Milwaukee?

We have seen an overwhelming amount of support from local and state governments. Our senators, representatives and local elected officials all seem unified in trying to keep the 440th in Milwaukee, regardless of party line.

Can I contact my congressional representatives and senators on this issue?

Yes – but you can't do it from a government computer, or on government time, or on a government phone. Our reservists

and civilian employees are all individual citizens when they go home at night, and as citizens we all have the right to contact our legislative leadership. The Capital Hill operator number is 1-888-762-8760.

If you have a BRAC question for the Commander's Action Line, contact the Public Affairs Office at 482-5482. All calls will remain anonymous.

The current topic is BRAC, but other areas of concern can also be addressed. The Flying Badger will publish appropriate questions that apply to the majority of the base population.

440th takes Kenya military to new heights

by Tech. Sgt. Mark Munsey
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

NAIROBI, Kenya (AFP) — As the sun rose June 6, seven Airmen wearing desert flightsuits stood outside the guarded entrance to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport waiting for their passengers.

The C-130 Hercules crew, deployed to Southwest Asia from the 440th Airlift Wing were handpicked to take several dozen Kenyan army special operations forces' paratroopers on their first airdrop in nearly three years.

"Because of the ... war on terrorism, the Kenyans haven't had access to a cargo plane in quite some time," said Maj. Keith Wesley, 95th Airlift Squadron, aircraft commander.

While the airport ground crew fueled the C-130, U.S. and Kenyan troops prepared for the first of their 14 drops over the next three days.

The Air Force was just the latest American military branch to help the Kenyans achieve their training goal. Army special operations forces had

been on the ground and in the Kenyans' classroom for a month before the C-130 arrival.

They were finally ready, but takeoff was delayed for close to an hour because of preflight preparation as well as the late arrival of a Kenyan soldier.

Before leaving the helicopter that brought him in, the uniform-clad passenger was familiar by position, if not by name, to Lt. Col. Bob Berman, a C-130 mission officer in charge.

"I'm betting this is the army general coming in to talk to his troops,"

Colonel Berman surmised.

Talk, no. Grab a 'chute, yes.

"I saw real leadership today, watching the general be the first Kenyan leading his troops off the ramp," said Capt. Brad James, a 440th Airlift Wing reservist serving as the mission co-pilot. Captain James flew the second plane full of paratroopers later that morning.

As the C-130 raced over the African terrain, a team was at the drop zone contending with a last-minute obstacle. They were clearing away

myriads of local four-legged inhabitants, among them lions, tigers and zebras.

"It's like jumping into a zoo," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Ray, a paratrooper and medic.

The "10-minute warning" soon became "two minutes to the zone." In the cargo compartment stood American and Kenyan forces eager to practice what the U.S. Army had preached in the classroom.

Soon enough the signal for 30 seconds was given. Then, faster than it seemed, the "five-second warning" motivated the 12 chute-wearing warriors to take a deep breath before plunging 1,250 feet.

One large leap for Kenyan paratroopers, one larger leap in the fight against instability and terrorism for the region, Major Wesley said.

Then he turned the Hercules to the left and circled around for the next wave of Kenyan sky jumpers.

In all, more than 140 paratroopers jumped from the aircraft.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Munsey

KENYA — Master Sgt. Dan Schmitz, 440th Maintenance Squadron, conducts a final check of a C-130 Hercules before departure June 6. More than 140 U.S. and Kenyan Army paratroopers left the Kenyan army base landing strip and made successful jumps during the three-day, 14-drop mission. While activated, Sergeant Schmitz is a crew chief with the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at a forward-deployed location.

Bone marrow program comes to base

by Liz Stoeckmann

If you had the chance to save a life, would you? Donating a small vial of blood may make it possible to save someone's life. The members of the 440th will have the chance to become a lifesaver when the wing hosts a bone marrow donor drive from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., August 20-21, in Heritage Hall, building 102.

Donors between the ages of 18 to 60, who are in good health, will have their blood tested and placed in a national registry. If the test results in an acceptable match with someone in need, a reservist might be asked to donate marrow. Because this is a blood test, anyone, even reservists who have recently deployed may register.

Major Jean Pyzyk, executive officer for the 440th Maintenance Squadron, brought the bone marrow donor drive to the wing in 1994. Major Pyzyk is still the project officer, and she is excited about the drive. "Holding the next drive during the family day picnic gives me high hopes of registering 440th members, and their family members too," said Major Pyzyk.

Donor Profile

Capt. Mike Schaefer

"Regardless of any pain that I'm dealing with, I can imagine absolutely nothing compared to what this little boy is going through," said Capt. Mike Schaefer, 440th Wing Plans. "It's a very rewarding experience being a donor," said Captain Schaefer. "It changes your perspective on life – it minimizes your problems. You realize how trivial your problems truly are in comparison to the recipient's life, whose only worry is about living."

Captain Schaefer supplied a vial of blood during a 1994 bone marrow drive at the Pentagon. He was completely caught off guard when he received a phone call from the DoD bone marrow program coordinator who explained he was a possible match for a five



year old boy in need of bone marrow.

"It was really fascinating that the bone marrow program was able to locate me after moving from different assignments since I donated 10 years ago. In October 2004, I made two trips to Great Lakes Naval Hospital for testing of five vials of blood to ensure the best match for the little boy. In January 2005, I received a call from the DoD bone marrow program coordinator saying I was the best match. I was then directed to Washington, D.C. for a full physical at

Georgetown University Hospital. I also met the doctors who would perform the procedure, draw additional blood, and evaluate my mental state. As long as there were no anomalies, I was then cleared for the donation. In February 2005 my wife and I returned to Georgetown University Hospital for the procedure of extracting the bone marrow.

The procedure took less than two hours. The bone marrow was immediately shipped to the recipient. The recovery from the procedure was the most intense pain ever. It feels like someone hit you with a baseball bat as hard as they could to your lower back and drilled through your hips. You feel the pain, but it's tolerable. After about three days, the pain starts to subside. Six months following the procedure, your body regenerates the bone marrow."

Donor Profile

Col. Bruce Fischer

"The rewards far outweigh any inconvenience," said Col. Bruce Fischer, a member of the the 440th Medical Squadron. "The most significant thing I remember about my donation was the attitude of the staff at Georgetown University Hospital.

"They consistently made me feel like a hero for the willingness to donate marrow to someone I hadn't met. However, I never really felt like a hero. The donation was to me simply something I was supposed to do."

"The staff was one of the most professional groups of people I have ever encountered. From start to finish, and through the six month and one year follow-up, they were consistent and prepared, placing high concern on my welfare. The initial notification, confirmation of blood tests and travel arrangements made my part of the donation very easy. In fact,

rather than pay the expense of having a bonded guardian care for my son, they allowed him to accompany my wife and me to Washington D.C."

"In March of 2004, nearly 10 years after my initial donation, I was contacted. I had nearly forgotten about it until I received a call at work indicating my possible match."

"The procedure was a process of harvesting stem cells from my peripheral circulation. Rather than drilling into the hip bone, this has proven to be much easier on the donor and more successful for the recipient. I was given an injection each morning for five days that would stimulate my bone marrow to produce stem cells in a greater than normal amount. Then I was free to visit the sites of Washington. The only side effect was a tired feeling and mild leg bone aches. Then on the final day, I simply had to lie in bed for six hours while blood was withdrawn from one arm, filtered through a machine that removed the stem cells, and then returned in the other arm. Recovery was

rapid, and I was ready for the return home on the next morning."

I would recommend donation to anyone in the military. In fact, I would readily donate again tomorrow if matched. The rewards far outweigh any inconvenience. And for a person facing death, what greater gift could someone give than part of themselves."



Changes affect your health

by Tech. Sgt. Melissa G. Binns
Family Support Specialist

Change can have a positive or negative effect on our lives, but one thing is certain—change is inevitable. The members of the 440th and their families are getting married, having children, watching our children graduate, getting promoted, and coming home from deployments. We are also getting divorced, going to funerals, getting laid off, and getting deployed. We worry and speculate about things that may happen, such as health problems or base closures.

Almost all changes create stress, even positive changes. Sudden and unexpected changes create the most difficult challenges. People may want to take control, and “change the change,” but it isn’t always possible. The best strategy for coping with change involves focusing on what you can control, and trying to let go of what you can’t. It may help to remember that a change even an unwanted one, can be beneficial. Change can bring unexpected rewards. These rewards can include new opportunities, the ability to be flexible, increased self-confidence, and a clearer vision of personal priorities.

Although change can be rewarding in the long run, it can be stressful at first. Depending on the nature of the change, the difficulties can last anywhere from a few days to several years.

Change can be both physically and mentally stressful. The physical and mental symptoms of stress include: headaches, depression, anxiety, fatigue, overeating, insomnia, mood swings, poor concentration, stomachaches or other digestive problems, neck- and backaches, dental problems such as grinding teeth at night, alcohol or drug abuse, eating disorders, heart trouble, and sexual problems.

There are many ways to deal with the stress of change. Tips for dealing with the emotional effects of stress include gathering information about the change, talking about personal feelings with people who can help, learning relaxation techniques, and keeping a sense of humor. To help take care of your physical health, exercise regularly, eat a well-balanced diet, get plenty of rest, and avoid the use of alcohol and drugs.

If stress is too overwhelming, consider seeing a professional counselor. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Even strong people need support and guidance when faced with tough circumstances.

For more information on the subjects of stress and change, visit the Air Force One Source at www.airforceonesource.com. You can also call the Family Support Office at (414) 482-5424 or 1 (800) 224-2744 for help locating additional information and referral sources.

440th Family Support 1-800-224-2477



photo by Airman Daniel St. Pierre

It’s all about family to Technical Sgt. Kenneth Schwingendorf, 440th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and his son, Ken Jr. Sergeant Schwingendorf recently returned from a two year activation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bundles for babies offered free of charge

The 440th Airlift Wing Family Support Office is hosting a program for reservists and their spouses who are expecting or had a baby in the last three months from 9:30 to 11 a.m., Aug. 20 in Heritage Hall. The program will offer information on infant care and handling, child development and safe sleep. Parents will receive a “baby bundle” containing blankets, crib sheet, hooded towel, wash mitts, diapers, sleep and play outfits and an Air Force Aid Society tote bag.

Contact the Family Support Office at (414) 482-5424 or (800) 224-2477 for details.

Heartlink orientation program open to military spouses

Family Support is holding a spouse orientation program on July 17, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Heritage Hall, building 102. This program is an opportunity for the spouses of Air Force reservists to get together to learn more about the Air Force Reserve while networking with other spouses. Call Family Support at (414) 482-5424 or (800) 224-2744 by June 17 to reserve a space.

Sweet Treats dessert contest

The Annual “Sweet Treats” dessert contest will be held Aug. 20 during the Family Day Celebration. Judging will begin at 1 p.m. Contact the 440th Family Support Office at (414) 482-5424 or (800) 224-2477 for more information.

Family Picnic Day Set for Aug. 20

The annual 440th Airlift Wing Family Picnic will be held Aug. 20. The picnic starts immediately after commander’s call in hangar 217. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Reservists and their families are being invited to take part in games, music and fun as well as a “Sweet Treat” dessert contest sponsored by the Family Support Office. Attendees can also cheer on fellow wing members at the wing volleyball championship game, as well as gear up to participate in a Fun Run, sponsored by Services.

Family Support hours

Full time staff are available Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information about the Family Support Office and how its programs can help you and your family, call toll-free 1-800-224-2477 or local 482-5424.

Combat Arms keep reservists safe ... without ever leaving base

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

We all know a couple of them. Maybe we are even one of them ourselves. You know, the folks who are petrified of weapons, those who can barely muster the courage to walk to the range.

Fortunately, the 440th Combat Arms team members are seasoned pros who help both the newest shooters and seasoned marksmen qualify in their weapons training.

"Our combat arms team is low profile," explained Tech. Sgt. Ian Lindauer, the air reserve technician who runs the training program. "We are here every UTA, and often in-between, making sure reservists are ready to deploy anywhere in the world with weapons expertise and confidence."

Oddly enough, the combat arms reservists never deploy themselves. Their mission relates to immediate readiness, and once reservists deploy, it is their responsibility to remember the fundamentals they learned in their combat arms class back home.

The combat arms team realizes not all reservists are comfortable with weapons.

"We look at each person as an individual," said Master Sgt. Edward Hesslau, a combat arms

specialist. "There are some folks who grew up in families that hunt, and they were shooting at a very young age. On the other hand, there are also people who have never seen a gun in their life, much less touched one."

Sergeant Hesslau said prior experience with weapons doesn't always mean a reservist will excel on the qualification course. "Sometimes the less experienced shooters are actually better because they haven't learned any bad habits," he explained.

On any given reserve training weekend, the combat arms specialists train up to 80 reservists. Reservists' weapon requirements vary based on each individual's unit of assignment and Air Force specialty code.

Reservists who fall into Category A, such as security forces, special operations and pararescue fields, face the most rigorous requirements. Category A members must qualify two times a year. They are required to qualify in shooting with an M16A2 rifle, the latest version weapon, and the 9 mm pistol. They also must complete the Tactical Rifle Qualification course, which involves shooting with a gas mask on and includes skills such as burst-fire, rapid target acquisition and night vision shooting.

Category B reservists need to qualify annually. These reservists, who include civil engineers and weapons custodians, are more likely to handle a weapon based on their job in the field.

The last group of reservists, category C, need to qualify every three years to stay current in ancillary training requirements.

In general, officers qualify on the 9 mm, and enlisted members shoot the M16 rifle. However, the changing nature of worldwide deployments has also affected individual weapons requirements. For example, some enlisted reservists must qualify with the 9 mm before deploying in support of an overseas air expeditionary flight tasking.

Regardless of the individual requirements each trainee needs, the combat arms instructors are confident they can help reservists pass with flying colors. Between the seven combat arms instructors, they can boast of more than 120 years of experience. This pays off every time a reservist walks in for training.

"We'll get you qualified," he said, pointing out that all reservists can learn from the basic marksmanship fundamentals course. "Sometimes we help people break bad habits, and other times we are teaching them how to aim better. There's always room for improvement."

The combat arms reservists describe themselves as a dedicated team. They are quick to distinguish themselves from the traditional security forces mission, which focuses on base defense. Instead, the combat arms reservists focus on training others to safely handle weapons with confidence.

"We don't see a lot of turn-over in the field," said Lindauer. "Our combat arms team has pride in its work, and I think this is why we tend to keep people."

And the question that everyone wants to ask but is afraid to Have any of the combat arms instructors ever had to use their weapon in self-defense? Fortunately, no.

Senior Airman Sarah Gamm, 440th Security Forces, reviews her target during the Tactical Rifle Qualification Course. As a Security Forces reservist, she needs to qualify two times a year.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer



photo by Tech. Sgt. Ian Lindauer

Above: Staff Sgt. Nelson Espada, 440th Security Forces Combat Arms lead instructor, maintains his weapons qualification requirements on the M249 automatic rifle at Fort McCoy, Wis. Combat arms instructors need to qualify annually on heavy weapons.

Right: Tech. Sgt. Paul Torres, 34th Aerial Port Sq. reservist, performs preventive maintenance on a M16A2 rifle after firing. The weapons qualification course requires reservists to clean their weapons after firing.

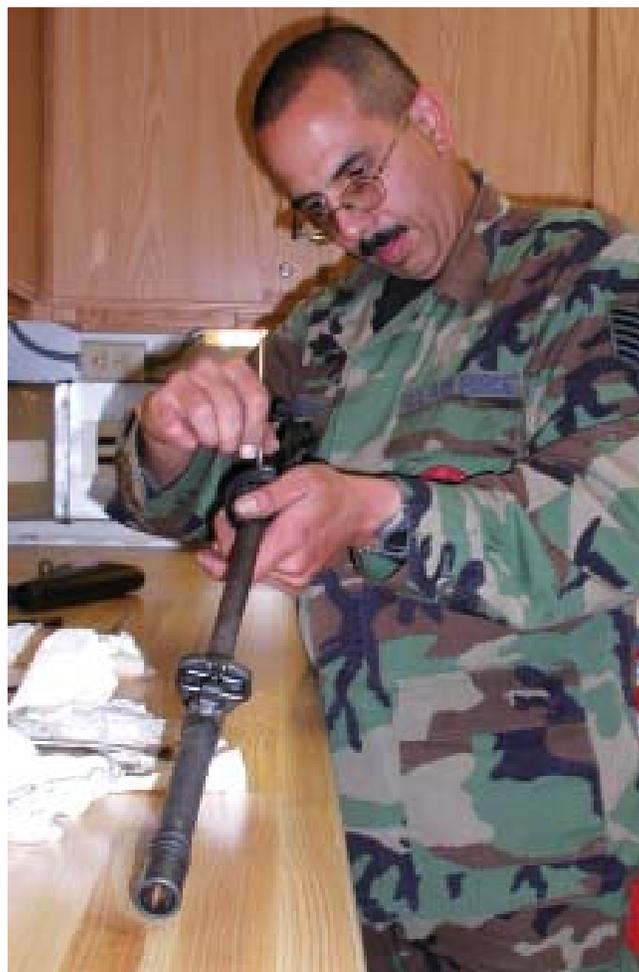


photo by Tech. Sgt. Rich Lindquist

Shooting for "Expert"

Tips to remember on the range

- SAFETY: The #1 rule in all weapons training is safety
- FOCUS: Once you have achieved proper alignment, focus only on the front sight of the weapon
- CONTROL: Maintain steady trigger control and consistent breath control.
- POSITION: Consistent body positioning helps support and control the weapon
- RELAX: Marksmanship is psychological - concentrate!



Back in the dog house

Despite illness that cut short Prince's life, memories of remarkable reunion will last a lifetime

by Senior Airman Deanne Perez

It is a tail of love found, love lost times two. Staff Sgt. Rich Pere, 440 Mission Support Group, and his dog Prince have gone through a lot together.

"He was going to be put down," Sergeant Pere said, it was thought the dog was "ungovernable, untrainable and uncontrollable."

Pere, who had worked with Doberman Pinschers before took one look at the dog in question and knew he made a friend for life.

"He just sat down without being told," Sergeant Pere said. "I knew I'd take him."

Pere's instincts were right. Prince responded well to training and while he liked to run and chase, Sergeant Pere believed everything that was said about the dog being untrainable was wrong. Overall Prince made a great addition to the family.

That ended in April of 1998, when Prince ran away and didn't come home. After six grueling months of searching shelters and veterinarians, Sergeant Pere gave up.

"Every time I'd hear a Doberman, I'd stop," Sergeant Pere said.

It took nearly two years before Sergeant Pere felt he was ready for another pet. When the time came he adopted another dog through TOPS

Canine Training Center.

"While she was at TOPS, she had a puppy," Sergeant Pere said. "I went back to see if I could get the puppy."

A familiar furry face

But what he got was the surprise of a lifetime.

TOPS was having trouble placing a dog, a Doberman Pinscher, and was hoping that Sergeant Pere would consider adopting him.

"TOPS told me that it had found a dog in Chicago," Sergeant Pere said. "As soon as I heard that, my hair stood up."

The dog up for adoption turned out to be none other than Prince.

"I collapsed and started crying and kept saying, 'Where have you been?'" Sergeant Pere said of the emotional reunion.

And did Prince remember his owner?

"Oh yeah, he peed all over the floor!" Sergeant Pere laughed.

Speculation surrounds the two years Prince was missing. Due to the extent of his injuries when Prince was discovered, it's suspected that Prince was used for underground dog fighting competitions. When his injuries got so severe, the dog was dumped in an alley.

Two fellow dog lovers found the severely injured Prince and took the dog to TOPS in Grayslake, Ill., where they knew the operators

and knew they would take care of the dog.

Prince underwent extensive surgery, rehabilitation and training before being reunited with Sergeant Pere. His story was featured on Animal Planet's "Animal Miracles," PAX TV's "It's a Miracle" series and Howard Stern.

"He gets what he wants," Sergeant Pere said. "If he wants my steak, he can have my steak."

During his rehabilitation, Prince was also diagnosed with Wobbler's Syndrome, an inherited condition in Dobermans where the dog suffers from spinal cord compression. This can lead to pain and in some cases paralysis.

Despite this, Prince was still an avid runner.

"It took us almost four hours to run him down sometimes," Sergeant Pere said about Prince's escapades.

Sad ending

Unfortunately, Prince's latest escape a few weeks ago was his last, as he had an altercation with another dog.

Coupled with increasing difficulty with progressing Wobbler's Syndrome, the decision was made to euthanize Prince. And while the decision wasn't easy, Prince spent the end of his life with the family that loved him.

"He was my buddy," Sergeant Pere said solemnly. "I'm going to miss him."

440th Maintenance Squadron Reservist earns Richard I. Bong Memorial Award

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

440th Maintenance Squadron reservist Senior Master Sgt. Bonnie Freudingner has earned the 2005 Bong Award for “exceptional leadership and community involvement” during the past year.

An assistant flight chief, Sergeant Freudingner works in the wing’s lead planning cell. Since flying squadron and maintenance group activations in 2003, she has played a critical role in helping plan the wing’s rotations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Freudingner did most of her work at the base, but also deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While stationed at one of the deployed desert locations, she supervised 90 people from eight different Reserve, active duty and Guard units.

“This was a difficult task, and Bonnie was exceptional,” said Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) Leroy Frahm, the Maintenance Squadron’s former first sergeant. “She molded these diverse group of people into a cohesive team, overcoming procedural differences and other obstacles.”

The result was a win-win situation for all, resulting in 3,038 sorties during a 90-day period. In her award nomination, the commander cited Sergeant Freudingner’s quick-thinking and

ingenuity on the flightline as key variables in keeping the planes flying round the clock.

Aircraft maintenance is not the only area that benefited from Sergeant Freudingner’s skills and talents. She continues to update and maintain a Web site for rotating reservists, providing them with up to date, accurate information through out their deployment.

She also trains deploying reservists in air base ground defense, ensuring security and safety of hundreds of troops.

Sergeant Freudingner also serves on the wing’s Human Resources Development Councils, speaks about Air Force careers at local schools, and provides outreach at special events like the Experimental Aircraft Association annual gathering in Oshkosh.

As a civilian Sergeant Freudingner works at the Medical College of Wisconsin as a biomedical engineer, specializing in physiology.

The Bong Award is given to one member of each branch of service in Wisconsin. The award was created in memory Maj Richard Bong, a native of Poplar, Wis., who was the top scoring American fighter ace in the Pacific during World War II.



photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

Senior Master Sgt. Bonnie Freudingner is a recipient of the 2005 Richard I. Bong Memorial Award.

Deployed reservists need to be “money smart”

by Senior Airman Shaun Emery
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — While deployed to a combat zone, Airmen receive many entitlements. They receive combat zone tax exclusion, \$225 hostile fire pay per month, \$3.50 per diem and for those with families, \$250 family separation allowance per month. Airmen who live in dormitories at their home station also receive basic allowance for housing.

All totaled, these entitlements can add up to thousands of dollars over the span of a deployment rotation. Airmen with deployed finance offices are here to help with financial questions, but every Airman is responsible for keeping up to date with their bills, said Maj. William McGraw, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing finance chief.

“It’s important that every person check his or her leave and earnings statement each pay period,” Major McGraw said. “If there is a

problem, the finance office will do everything it can to solve it, whether it’s calling a home station finance office or the member’s first sergeant.”

The ramifications of missing a mistake could become very serious if a deployed Airman is getting paid too much or not enough, Major McGraw said.

“If you’re getting too much in your check and finance finds the mistake, the money will be immediately taken out,” Major McGraw said. “On the flip side, if there is not as much money as someone planned, they may write a check and won’t have the funds to cover it. If you have a wife and children at home, they may not have the money to buy groceries. If you start worrying about that, you won’t be able to focus on the mission at hand.”

Along with checking to make sure there are no mistakes in their military pay, deployed Airmen also have the opportunity to participate in the uniformed services savings deposit plan.

This plan allows Airmen to deposit up to

\$10,000 and receive 10 percent annual interest on their investment. The money must be withdrawn 90 days after the end of their deployment. The finance office can assist Airmen with setting up an account.

“Most regular savings accounts offer interest rates of 1 to 2 percent,”

Major McGraw said. “If you are keeping your money in a checking account, you’re not making anything.”

One way for Airmen to stay proactive in their finances is by filling out their accrual vouchers as soon as possible. Many Airmen use their government travel card to cover expenses entering the area of responsibility, and the accrual voucher will transfer the necessary funds to their travel card, Major McGraw said.

“The balance needs to be paid,” he said. “Even though (Airmen are) deployed, they’re still responsible for paying that bill. If a person goes four months and doesn’t pay it off, (he or she) could face serious repercussions.”

440th Security Forces Squadron members elected Sheboygan VFW post officials

by Senior Airman Deanne Perez

Two members of the 440th Security Forces Squadron were sworn into office at the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wolf-Olson Post 1230, in Sheboygan on May 21.

Master Sergeant John Drossel assumed duties as quartermaster and Tech. Sergeant Matthew Wallner as commander on July 1. According to a previous post commander and former Wisconsin State Commander, Jerry Wenniger, Sergeant Wallner is currently the youngest elected commander in the state.

"I really appreciate the young men that step up," said Mr. Wenniger in his opening remarks, thanking both Sergeants Drossel and Wallner specifically.

Sgt. Wallner is grateful for those around him who are willing to teach him the ropes and feels he brings a fresh perspective to the organization.

"It's pretty cool," Wallner said about being elected youngest commander. He hopes to

encourage more young veterans to join and plans to set membership goals for his post.

"I'd like to get at least 10 more new guys this year. Liven it up a bit and let the old guys sit back and enjoy what the post can do for them," Sergeant Wallner said of his fellow members. "Let them know that we'll take care of them, that the post will be there when they are gone.

We also want the new troops to come in and show us how we can benefit them," Sgt. Wallner continued. "See what their problems are and how we [the VFW] can help out."

"I hope to gain a better appreciation of the overall scope of what the veteran's groups can do for the previous – World War II generation vets, Korea, Vietnam and so on – as well as our generation of veterans," Sgt. Drossel says about his own membership.

Sgt. Wallner joined his local VFW as soon as he was eligible. "I've always wanted to be in the VFW – kind of camaraderie between the guys who have been over [seas]. I went in and thought

I might make a difference," Sgt. Wallner said.

As an active member of the post, Sgt. Drossel knows the time commitment isn't as easy to meet with younger veterans who have families and work obligations to meet as well.

"I'm at a stage of my life where the last of four girls is out on her own, it's just my wife and I at home and I thought it was a good time to look at and get involved with it," Sgt. Drossel says of running for office, but doesn't discourage those qualified candidates from joining.

"If we're talking about the VFW, the American Legion or even the Air Force Reserve, there is strength in numbers," said Sgt. Drossel. "The more numbers the more politicians in office or those looking to run for office will listen to you."

Wolf-Olson Post 1230 is the 6th oldest in Wisconsin and its 165 members are diverse. Veterans from World War II through Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom were present at the inauguration ceremony. The post's newest member returned from Iraq just 30 days prior to the event.

African-American woman first to command flying wing



AFRC photo

Colonel Stayce Harris flies high as AFRC's first female African American commander of a flying wing.

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. – A former wing vice commander is the first African-American woman in the Air Force Reserve Command and the Air Force to command a flying wing.

Col. Stayce Harris accepted command of the 459th Air Refueling Wing on May 15.

Before replacing Brig. Gen. Richard Severson as commander of the 1,300-member wing, she was vice commander of the 507th ARW at Tinker AFB, Okla.

"I believe the Air Force and the military as a whole provides opportunities for all," said Colonel Harris after the ceremony. "I am just an example of what we can do in the military."

Colonel Harris was born in Los Angeles, the daughter of a career enlisted man. She gained an appreciation for travel and the military as the family moved from place to place.

In 1977, she graduated from 71st High School in Fayetteville, N.C. She was then accepted into the University of Southern California on an engineering ROTC scholarship.

Colonel Harris spent her first year and a half in the Air Force as chief of industrial engineering and then as the squadron section commander of civil engineering at Hill AFB, Utah.

She then attended pilot training at Williams AFB, Ariz., and became qualified in the C-141B Starlifter cargo aircraft. In August 1990, Colonel Harris separated from active duty and became an

airline pilot for United Airlines. She flies a Boeing 747-400 aircraft from the West Coast to Tokyo and Sydney, Australia. For the last 14 years, she has balanced her Air Force career with her civilian airline career. From April 1991 to February 1995, she was an air operations officer and C-141 pilot in the 445th Airlift Wing at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

She was a mobility force planner for the Air Force deputy chief of staff for plans and operations in the Pentagon from February 1995 to January 1997.

For the next three years, she served as an individual mobilization augmentee to the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon.

In February 2000, Colonel Harris returned to March ARB first as deputy commander of the 452nd Operations Group and then as commander of the 729th Airlift Squadron. From May 2002 to May 2005, she was vice commander of the 507th ARW at Tinker AFB.

"The Air Force has always been my passion," she said, "so this is the job I really enjoy keeping because of the people. This is where my heart is."

AWARDS

Awards

The following individual has been awarded a Joint Service Commendation Medal:

MSgt. John R. Drossel 440 SFS

The following individuals have been awarded Meritorious Service Medals.

Col. Edward T. Whiteley 95 AS
 Lt. Col. Joseph Rallo 34 APS
 Maj. Joseph Almodovar 440 LRS
 Maj. Robert S. Oates 95 AS
 Maj. Timothy J. Reynolds 440 ALCF
 Maj. Roger R. Stoeckmann 440 MSG
 Capt. Daniel S. Breese 440 MDS
 Capt. Todd D. Moore 440 OSF
 2nd Lt. Glenn A. Baker 440 MXS
 CMSgt. Leroy E. Frahm 440 MXS
 CMSgt. Lester F. Pfeffer, Jr. 34 APS
 CMSgt. Garry D. Plate 34 APS
 CMSgt. Edward W. Thomas 440 MSF
 SMSgt. Mark E. Button 440 MXS
 SMSgt. Melvin D. Dilley 440 MXG
 SMSgt. John T. Hammetter 440 MXS
 SMSgt. Lawrence K. Lewens 440 AW
 SMSgt. Thomas A. Yaeger 440 LRS
 MSgt. Curtis J. Baeb 440 MXS
 MSgt. Donald L. Beier 34 APS
 MSgt. Terrence R. Conway, Jr. 440 AMXS
 MSgt. Gary A. Cunico 440 MOF
 MSgt. Stephen M. Eymann 440 SFS
 MSgt. Carl H. Hermann 440 SFS
 MSgt. David K. Lemaster 440 MXS
 MSgt. Carla M. Lonski 440 OG
 MSgt. Jeffrey J. McCarthy 440 MXS
 MSgt. Demaine Milbach 440 SFS
 MSgt. Jon G. Miller 440 MDS
 MSgt. Susan J. Schneider 440 CES
 MSgt. Thomas R. Shircel 440 MXS
 MSgt. Steven M. Troson 440 MXS
 MSgt. John P. Wetzal 440 SFS
 MSgt. Michael J. Wieck 440 SFS
 MSgt. Michael N. Witchek 440 MOF
 MSgt. Steven D. Wattawa 440 SFS
 TSgt. Steven J. Beekman 440 MOF
 TSgt. Richard A. Chesrow 440 MSF
 TSgt. Timothy D. Hammond 440 CES
 TSgt. Vincent F. Hietpas 34 APS
 TSgt. Peter J. Holentunder 34 APS
 TSgt. Lyle R. Hubbard 440 CES
 TSgt. Michael R. Hughes 440 LRS
 TSgt. Robert C. Leischer 34 APS
 TSgt. Paul M. Okon 440 MXS
 TSgt. John C. Ramsey 440 LRS
 TSgt. William J. Seeger 440 MXS
 SSgt. Jeffrey A. Schoen 440 AW

The following individuals have been awarded Air Force Achievement Medal

Lt. Col. James E. Nowak 95 AS
 Maj. Patrick G. Slattery 95 AS
 Capt. Chris P. Brennan 95 AS
 SMSgt. Mark A. Koenig 95 AS
 MSgt. Andrea R. McClam 95 AS

MSgt. George Rabe 440 SVF
 MSgt. Georges B. Sanon 440 CES
 MSgt. Alan L. Schumacher 440 SVF
 MSgt. Laurence Wilson 440 MSG
 TSgt. Oscar L. Dixon 440 SVF
 TSgt. Kurt A. Herrel 440 MXS
 TSgt. Douglas A. Koch 440 SVF
 TSgt. Steve M. Koldenhoven 95 AS
 TSgt. Albert I. Marolf 440 CES
 TSgt. Steven J. Siudzinski 440 SVF
 TSgt. Cynthia S. Truesdill 440 MSG
 SSgt. Jessica L. Alfke 440 MSG
 SSgt. Harold W. Peete 440 SVF
 SrA Paul D. Brunette 440 MXS
 SrA David A. Cefalu 440 MXS
 SrA Emily M. Decker 440 MDS
 SrA Stephanie A. Lawler 440 SVF

The following individuals have been awarded Air Force Commendation Medal:

Maj. Michael S. Louer 440 OSF
 Maj. John H. Ault 440 OG
 Maj. Jean M. Pyzyk 440 MXS
 Maj. Patrick G. Slattery 95 AS
 Maj. Clifton Wade 95 AS
 Capt. Jeffrey P. Dasher 95 AS
 Capt. Anthony J. Guehlsdorf 440 OSF
 Capt. Jered M. Mies 440 OSF
 CMsgt. Kathy M. Swoboda 440 SVF
 MSgt. David S. Black 440 MXS
 MSgt. William H. Lorenz 440 CF
 MSgt. Glenn H. Lowe 440 SFS
 MSgt. Michael A. Snyder 440 SFS
 MSgt. Jeffrey G. Wenzell 34 APS
 TSgt. Joseph E. Bluver 440 SVF
 TSgt. Jason A. Drewitz 440 MXS
 TSgt. Joel A. Givens 440 AW
 TSgt. Terry L. Harper 440 MSF
 TSgt. Ian W. Lindauer 440 SFS
 TSgt. Troy J. Malinowski 34 APS
 TSgt. John M. Manion 440 LRS
 TSgt. Christopher J. Marks 440 MXS
 TSgt. Eric R. Orcholski 440 MSF
 TSgt. Anne M. Rivera 440 SVF
 TSgt. Roy R. Smith II 440 SVF
 SSgt. Kimberly A. Craddock 440 MSF
 SSgt. Ronald W. Shores 440 CF

The following individuals have been awarded an Air Medal.

Maj. David R. Banwart 95 AS
 Maj. Jerry T. Christensen 95 AS
 Maj. Michael P. Day 95 AS
 Maj. Brett C. Larson 95 AS
 Maj. Richard A. Larson 95 AS
 Maj. David C. Polacheck 95 AS
 Maj. Anthony G. Polashek 440 OG
 Maj. Timothy J. Reynolds 440 ALCF
 Maj. Patrick G. Slattery 95 AS
 Maj. Edmond V. Stack 95 AS
 Maj. Clifton J. Wade 95 AS
 Maj. Scot J. Wesolaski 95 AS
 Capt. Christopher P. Brennan 95 AS

Promotions

SMSgt. Michael Korger 440 LRS
 SMSgt. Roseanne Peterson 440 CES
 SMSgt. Thomas Poppe 440 MRS
 MSgt. Patrick Buechel 440 CES
 MSgt. James Coe 440 MXS
 MSgt. Terry Harper 440 MSF
 MSgt. Alexander Jarosz 440 MXS
 MSgt. James Kasprzak 440 LRS
 MSgt. James Zuehlke 440 SFS
 TSgt. Michael Ashby 440 CES
 TSgt. Jason Bigart 440 MXS
 TSgt. Robert Czarnecki 440 MXS
 TSgt. Alan Domagala 440 LRS
 TSgt. Mark Honn 440 SFS
 TSgt. Paul McComas 440 LRS
 TSgt. Gary Mills 440 MXS
 TSgt. Sarah Rammer 440 MDS
 TSgt. Ryan Vanderberg 440 MXS
 TSgt. Eric Zuniga 440 SFS
 SSgt. Dickson Amoah 95 AS
 SSgt. Kara Bernfeld 95 AS
 SSgt. Joshua Dorff 440 SFS
 SSgt. James Erickson 440 MXS
 SSgt. Jeremy Lemerande 440 MXS
 SSgt. Casey Madden 34 APS
 SSgt. Timothy Mitchell 440 MDS
 SSgt. Eloy Salazar 440 AW
 SSgt. Jesse Schmitting 440 MXS
 SSgt. Julie Schwebke 440 AW
 SSgt. Michael Shema 440 MXS
 SrA Navida Cross 440 MOF
 SrA Lasheray Davis 440 MOF
 SrA Andrew Lietzau 440 SFS
 SrA Matthew Moeller 440 LRS
 SrA Luke Morarend 440 CES
 SrA Jessica Nicholson 440 MDS
 SrA Ruby Rivera 440 MOF
 SrA Bryan Schmidt 440 CF
 A1C Ryan Marin 440 CES
 Amn Ashley Morgan 440 CES

Newcomers

A1C Kandice M. Chaffee 440 MDS
 SSgt Jonathan R. Chapman 34 APS
 A1C Jennifer C. Crouch 440 LRS
 A1C Nicholas P. Johnson 440 SFS
 A1C Anthony J. Kasmiski 440 CES
 A1C Shawn E. McGowan 440 LRS
 SSgt Daniel V. Porcelli 440 SFS
 SSgt Kirk Schilling 34 APS
 Amn Maria E. Shelnett 440 MDS
 SSgt Theodore R. Zywiec 440 SFS

Retirements

SMSgt. John T. Hammetter 440 MXS
 CMSgt. Garry D. Plate 34 APS
 TSgt. Peter J. Holentunder 34 APS
 TSgt. Michael L. White 440 MXS

FINAL NOTES



photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

Flag Day celebration

440th Reservists celebrated Flag Day with children at Ebenezer Child Care Center in Milwaukee. The reservists presented the children with a flag that flew on a C-130 over Baghdad. In turn, the children presented the Airmen with flags they made. Reservists (from left) include Senior Master Sgt. Patricia Dettman, 440th Medical Squadron; Lt. Col. Tom Kittler, 95th Airlift Squadron; Master Sgt. Jennifer Henderson, 95th Airlift Squadron; Maj. Chris Hammond and Tech. Sgt. Dawn Clayton, both of 440th Medical Squadron.

Operation Lighten the Load stats

Members of the 440th who are taking part in Operation Lighten the Load have lost a total of 610 lbs in May. To date, the total weight loss is 3,190 lbs. Winners of the May monthly drawing included: Master Sgt. Rodney King, Fitness Journal; and Tech. Sgt. Linder Jines earned a one hour massage.

Government Travel Card charge for foreign transactions

Foreign currency transactions made while overseas are converted to US dollars on cardholders accounts and include a one percent fee. Travelers can claim the converted rate charged to their accounts versus the amount reflected on the receipt. The travel card contractor will list the fee separately on cardholder account statements as of May 20. Travelers should claim this fee as a foreign transaction fee under "Reimbursable Expenses" (block 18) on their travel voucher. Reservists who are not sure they were charged this fee or need help pulling their account statements should see their unit APC.

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

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