

The Flying Badger

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It's all thumbs up as reservists catch ride on Blue Angels' souped-up C-130 Fat Albert

see story on page 9



From left to right, Senior Airmen Jeremy Kupsky and Noel Moreno, and Airman First Class Navida Cross are all smiles as they ride aboard Fat Albert, a souped-up C-130 Hercules that flies along with the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels.

photo by Senior Airman Deanne Perez

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Wing Commander
Col. Merle D. Hart

Director, Public Affairs
Dennis J. Mehring

Wing Chief, Public Affairs
Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

Public Affairs Staff
Capt. Keith Leistekow
Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler
Staff Sgt. Denise Quasius
Senior Airman Deanne Perez
Airman Amanda Hill
Ann F. Skarban
Liz A. Stoeckmann
JoAnn Lindner

**Flying Badger
Editorial Contact**
Melissa Kimball

Office of Public Affairs
440th Airlift Wing
300 East College Avenue
General Mitchell ARS, WI 53207

Phone: 414-482-5481
FAX: 414-482-5913
www.afrc.af.mil/440aw

COMMAND PERSPECTIVE

Employers are key to our success

by Col. Merle D. Hart
Commander, 440th Airlift Wing

Reservists' civilian employers continue to play a key role in our national security and the fight against terrorism.

I was reminded of this last month when we hosted 64 civilian employers at our annual Employer Appreciation Day. The event was much more than an orientation flight - it was sharing of information and increasing understanding of the Reserve mission.

Sharing is a terrific way to describe the role of today's Reservists. It's a win-win situation for the employers and the unit. When a civilian employer hires a reservist, that military member often brings world-class leadership skills to the work force. The military is constantly working with its people to improve their leadership and technical training -- the employee continues to grow. This synergy improves both the Air Force and civilian employer.

Reservists are loyal, dedicated and highly motivated people. Military discipline combined with our core values of "Integrity First",

"Service Before Self" and "Excellence In All We Do" does not stop at our gates.

Reservists are multi-taskers who balance their families, military duty and civilian jobs. Time management, situational awareness and prioritization are essential leadership skills. These universal leadership traits overflow into every part of our reservists' lives.

The 440th benefits greatly from its reservists who work in professional settings outside the unit. Our citizen airmen bring unique skills to the battlefield reflecting expertise learned in their civilian occupations. For example, we have engineers that fly our planes, computer experts working in the medical squadron, and plumbers, electricians and teachers in other units. Over and over again, these skills have proven to be essential during our deployments.

Employers play a key role in our success in the Reserve. When our employers are happy back home, we can better focus on our mission. Employer, employee relationship hinges on communication. Reservists need to keep their



Col. Merle D. Hart

employers informed of their military obligations, especially deployments and training requirements.

If reservists are honest and prompt in keeping their employers abreast of their military status, it makes it easier for everyone involved. We have specific rights under USERRA (federal law), but we also have responsibilities to keep our employers informed of our upcoming duty.

In closing, I salute all of your employers for their support. Without their support, we are doomed to fail.

Air Force Reserve seeks applicants for full-time duty

Air Force Reserve officials are looking for officers and enlisted people to fill full-time Active Guard and Reserve positions.

In the past 15 years, the number of slots has increased from 400 to more than 1,900 authorizations.

"We have opportunities in many specialties but a larger concentration in career fields such as security forces, combat rescue, intelligence, maintenance, space, pilot and personnel," said Maj. Dawn Suito, deputy director of the office of Air Force Reserve's AGR management office. "Currently, Air Force Reserve Command's hard-to-fill positions are in security forces,

intelligence and combat rescue. We are actively seeking volunteers for these programs."

Reservists in the AGR program serve under the authority of Title 10 of the U.S. Code and receive most of the benefits afforded to the active force. They qualify for an active-duty retirement, provided they attain career status and can serve 20 years active federal military service.

The program offers tours of duty on the Air Staff; AFRC headquarters at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; Air Reserve Personnel Center headquarters in Denver; in AFRC units; and with other major commands.

Applicants must:

Hold the AFSC (primary, duty, 2nd, 3rd) in the position they are applying

Be in the grade of position or one grade below

Have professional military education commensurate with grade

Possess at least a valid secret clearance

Be available for duty by reporting date (negotiable)
Meet active duty accession physical standards (AFI 48-123)

Information about vacancies and application procedures, as well as more details on the program, is available on the AFRC Web site under job opportunities at www.afrc.af.mil.

440th airman is here today, gone tomorrow

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Denise Quasius

A 440th Command Post controller is about to embark on an adventure to the heart of the battlefield in Southwest Asia.

Recently promoted Senior Airman Devon Brilla was looking for a chance to travel so she volunteered for an overseas assignment. She notified her civilian supervisor of her intentions on Tuesday, July 12. She received notification that there was a slot available on Wednesday, July 13, and by Thursday, July 14, she was informed that she was selected with a report no later than date of Sept. 1.

"It all happened so fast," said Airman Brilla. "I haven't even been able to tell my family."

Airman Brilla, while on annual tour, was inspired to volunteer for the assignment because of time spent with deployed units in support of Operation Coronet Oak. Coronet Oak is a continuing operation in

which Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and Air National Guard C-130 aircraft, aircrews and related support personnel deploy from the United States to Muniz ANGB, Puerto Rico, to provide theater airlift support for the U.S. Southern Command.

"I listened for hours to stories told by airmen who had spent time in Southwest Asia," said Airman Brilla. "They were so proud to have served their country and I wanted to have the chance to do the same."

As a command post controller, Airman Brilla is the eyes and ears of the wing. The command post is the primary hub for information exchange for the wing. Situational information is sent up to the commander through the command post, and conversely, instructions are passed down from the commander to base reporting agencies. Responsibilities of Airman Brilla range from advising the commander about policies and procedures, flight



Senior Airman Devon Brilla, a command post controller with the 440th Command Post, volunteered for an assignment in Southwest Asia. While on annual tour in support of Operation Coronet Oak, Airman Brilla was inspired by stories of fellow airmen recently returned from the desert.

tracking – knowing where 440th planes are and communicating with them at all times – and daily and operational reporting requirements.

"I want to know that I can do

my job and be confident that I can do it anywhere," said Brilla. "I am excited about this opportunity and I know that it will be an experience that I will never forget."

440th C-130 crew earns AF Association flying award

Airmen keep cool after plane is damaged by enemy fire in October over Iraq

Six reservists earned the 2004 Air Force Association Outstanding Reserve Aircrew Award for safely landing their C-130 Hercules aircraft late last year after it was damaged by enemy ground fire.

Maj. Rolf W. Breen and his crew from the 440th Airlift Wing saved not only themselves and their multimillion dollar airplane but also 57 Soldiers on board.

Officials at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command here announced the award July 13.

"Sounded like a thud"

It was a routine mission on Oct. 26, 2004 to a forward-deployed location in northern Iraq for the reservists assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron until the aircraft commander heard what sounded like a thud.

"I suddenly had a fire-warning light staring me in the face," said the major.

The aircraft had been hit by ground fire and was in trouble. The number one engine was a "fireball," said Master Sgt. James Grigsby, one of the crew loadmasters.

Fast action saves plane, passengers

The crew from Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station quickly assessed the damage. They had lost fuel, oil, electrical power and structural components in the blast. Fire had spread from the engine, enveloped the wing and extended beyond the wing itself.

Major Breen guided the plane away from populated areas and toward an emergency airfield located by the navigator, Lt. Col. John E. Loranger.

Meanwhile, co-pilot Capt. Jason M. Schroeder and flight engineer Staff Sgt. Daniel J. Hayes shut down the affected engine while completing emergency checklists and notifying the air traffic control tower of the situation.

In the back of the plane, Sergeant Grigsby and

the other loadmaster, Tech. Sgt. Robert Sczesny, kept the rest of the crew informed about the damage, briefed the passengers and prepared the aircraft cabin for emergency landing.

However, landing safely was not the only problem; the aircraft was still on fire.

"The fire didn't go out for (most of) the flight," said Sergeant Hayes.

"Because the fire was still going, we continued to keep an eye out for places to set the aircraft down if needed," said Colonel Loranger.

He said it seemed like an eternity before they reached the airfield.

"It only took us about 10 minutes from start to finish, but it seemed like 45."

The Air Force Association educates the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of our nation; advocates aerospace power and a strong national defense; and supports the U.S. Air Force

Francher named new command chief

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

Chief Master Sgt. Carmon Francher, a Vietnam vet, decorated flyer and family man, brings years of military experience, savvy people skills and “corporate intelligence” to his new position as 440th Airlift Wing command chief.

The former aircrew loadmaster assumed his new title July 1, and is excited about his chance to help the 440th’s enlisted corps.

“I have an open door policy and want to help our airmen anyway possible,” explained Chief

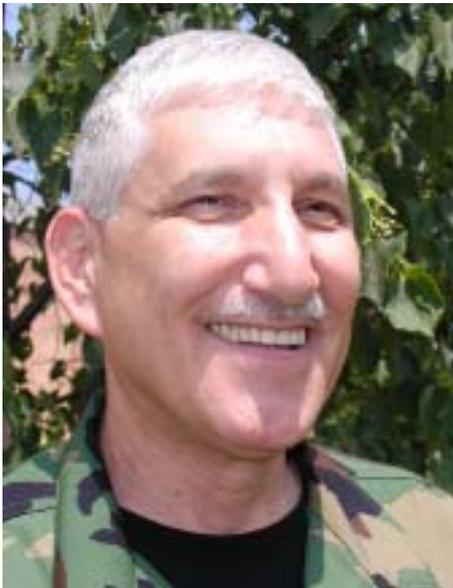


photo by Maj Ann Peru Knabe

Chief Master Sgt. Carmon Francher took over as the 440th Command Chief on July 1

Francher. “Taking care of our people is my priority.”

With 29 years of military service under his belt, Chief Francher brings a wealth of experience to the position. The chief joined the Air Force in 1967, and served four years on active duty. His first assignment was as a gunner in Vietnam on AC-130A Spectre gunships.

After Vietnam, Chief Francher took a nine year break from service before joining the 440th Airlift Wing as a loadmaster in 1980. He later upgraded to a loadmaster instructor, then evaluator, which led to his position as chief of standard evaluation in the loadmaster section. Chief Francher also served as a tactics loadmaster with the Operations Support Flight, and had the additional duty of first sergeant.

Chief Francher’s last two years of service brought additional challenges to the traditional reservist. He was activated in December of 2003, and served four rotations in the desert in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The chief also deployed in support of Joint Forge, based in Germany.

In his civilian life, Chief Francher works as Bucyrus International as a steamfitter.

The chief carefully balances his civilian job, reserve commitments and family life. His recent deployments help him appreciate the delicate balancing act so many members of the wing face, and he hopes these experiences will help him in his new position.

“My priorities fall into three categories: recognition, PEP (promotion enhancement program) and performance feedback,” said the chief. “We need to clearly communicate with our



photo by Ann Skarban

Chief Master Sgt. Carmon Francher exits a plane after his “fini-flight” on June 23. The chief’s final flight took place before he assumed his new position as 440th Command Chief.

enlisted folks, let them know what our expectations are, and help them reach their goals.”

Reservists may contact the new command chief at 482-5402.

The Command Chief’s secrets for success

- *Keep a current resume. Do yourself a favor, and put your accomplishments down on paper. Share your resume of accomplishments with your supervisor.*
- *Have a five year goal. Articulate this goal to others, especially your supervisor! This will help you keep on track, and your supervisor will be able to help you meet your goals.*
- *Work the chain of command. All good airmen solve problems at the lowest level possible. Chief Francher believes issues should be discussed with a supervisor, and then worked through the chain if they aren’t resolved.*
- *Embrace mentoring! Supervisors need to bring this subject up to the people who report to them. The right mentor can help you reach your highest level.*

General Moseley nominated for CSAF

by Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

The president recently announced his nomination of Gen. T. Michael Moseley as chief of staff of the Air Force to succeed Gen. John P. Jumper who has served in the position since September 2001.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to have been nominated to serve as the next Air Force chief of staff," said General Moseley, Air Force vice chief of staff. "This is a challenging as well as an exciting time for our service and, if confirmed by the United States Senate, I look forward to this next opportunity to continue to serve the Air Force, the 'joint team' and our great nation.

"General John Jumper has set the highest standards for our service as we've conducted operations with our joint and coalition partners in the (war on terrorism) and other contingency situations around the world," he said. "I'm committed to maintaining those same standards as we meet future challenges with the remarkably talented Airmen and civilians on our total force team."

General Moseley entered the Air Force in 1971 and has commanded a fighter weapons instructor course, an operations group, a wing and a numbered air force. He also commanded the U.S. Central Command Air Forces and served as the Combined Forces Air Component Commander for operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi

Freedom.

"I'm pleased that President Bush has nominated General Moseley to be the next Air Force chief of staff," said Michael L. Dominguez, acting secretary of the Air Force. "As his nomination is considered by the Senate, I'm completely confident that he'll lead our Airmen with the same vision and passion he's shown as a superb vice chief of staff. General Moseley is immensely talented and his leadership will help guide America's Airmen as part of the joint warfighting team. I know he will build on the extraordinary accomplishments of General Jumper, who has magnificently led the Air Force for the past four years."

Some of General Moseley's previous Pentagon assignments include serving as director of legislative liaison for the secretary of the Air Force; deputy director for politico-military affairs for Asia/Pacific and Middle East, the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and chief of the Air Force general officer matters office.

General Moseley is a command pilot with more than 2,800 flying hours, principally in fighter aircraft. He has received numerous awards for his military service including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished



AFRC photo

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley answers questions during a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel. General Moseley was nominated by the president May 16 to be chief of staff of the Air Force.

Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster and the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster.

General Moseley earned his undergraduate and masters degrees in political science from Texas A&M University. He has also completed Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and National War College.

Ultimate Warrior

**Airman thanks well-wishers
as she returns to wing
following her battle with
cancer**

by 2nd Lt. Patricia Birschbach
34th Aerial Port Squadron

Just over nine months after hearing that I have cancer, I made it to remission. It was rebirth in a way, learning more about myself and what the body can and cannot endure. How healing is really a miracle in itself and the role attitude has in it. Though I wish it was easier, the effects of the disease and treatments don't just disappear. It will take some time to get all my energy back.

Coming through the gates of the 440th again was a bit surreal, all those months envisioning a return finally happening. Feeling a part of the military family and enjoying the sights of the aircraft on the flight line made the decision to work through and trust the process all that more

special. I must admit that seeing my unit changed and faces in different roles because of our deployment was a reality check and made me feel proud of the troops [home station and deployed] that stepped up to the challenge.

One comment I often get is "I don't think I would have your courage if faced with cancer." My response to that is everyone has it within themselves to get through tough situations, it's the choices we make that determine the journey. None of us have a life guarantee. For all the prayers, words of encouragement and patience, a heartfelt "thank you".



photo by Capt. Keith Leistekow

2nd Lt. Patricia Birschbach

Still parenting after 16 years

Reservists recall the days eight new C-130 aircraft arrived here back in 1989

by Senior Airman Deanne Perez

Eight factory-fresh C-130H Hercules aircraft were delivered to General Mitchell Air Reserve station in 1989. There are 12 men still working at the 440th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron today who remember that moment like it was yesterday.

"It was the first time in my Air Force career that I got to work on or see a new airplane – everything new, everything painted," Chief Master Sgt. Robert Manske said about the new arrivals. "It smelled like a new car."

Master Sgt. Mike Bodecker was one of the members tasked with picking up the new aircraft.

"I went with the guy who was to be the crew chief on 403," Sergeant Bodecker said, calling the aircraft 403 by name. "Looked it over, got it ready to go and brought it back here. It was like going to buy a new car and picking it up off the showroom floor."

Beaming with pride

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Davis was just 19 when the aircraft were delivered and has been with the wing ever since. He feels there is a lot of knowledge and pride that gets handed down when airmen are working with the same aircraft for more than 10 years – something unheard of in the active duty realm. And with nearly 17 years of service on seven of the original eight aircraft (one was lost in a landing accident in Honduras in 1997), the condition of the aircraft is a good measure of the commitment of the team.



photo by Jo Ann Lindner

Front Row: Tech. Sgt. Matthew Davis (left), SMSgt. Anthony Schmit (right). Back row, from left, SMSgt. Danny Formanski, SMSgt. James Orze, CMSgt. Robert Manske, TSgt. Darwin Constantine, MSgt. Michael Bodecker.

"No matter where we go, no matter who we fly, we hear a lot of remarks about the condition the airplanes are in," Sergeant Davis said. "They can't believe how old they are. It's nice to hear from other units and other maintainers the amazement about the condition of our planes."

"The guys put so much effort into these planes," Senior Master Sgt. Danny Formanski said. "It's a labor of love. You can see the pride. The people are not all the same, and the planes reflect their personality...I can't describe to you what they feel."

Nursing them back with care

It's not to say the planes have not been weathered, particularly when noting the recent and frequent deployments of the wing.

"They are starting to get some age on them, especially now after sending them to the AOR," Chief Manske said. "That's been beating them up pretty good."

But after deploying, the planes always return to the knowing hands that build them back up with a good cleaning, new seat covers and fresh paint where needed.

"I usually stay on top of my airplane's needs," Master Sgt. Adrian Vuletic said. "If I see

something that needs to be fixed, I fix it the same day."

Technical Sgt. Darwin Constantine feels it is a work ethic that's echoed throughout the entire team.

"You won't find a more knowledgeable group of mechanics," he said about the wing. "The amount of knowledge is unbelievable."

"It's not just the crew chiefs, it's all the shops working together," Sergeant Formanski added.

Watching the team in the maintenance shop, one can witness interactions similar to what you'd find in a family rather than the workplace. They recall with laughter the many trips they have made; there are comments about Sergeant Davis's snack choice of the day; and they talk about the planes – past and present – almost as they would about children.

When they talk about what has changed in their years since receiving the aircraft, they note how the Air Force Reserve has changed, how their social events have slowed down and the age difference between them and the current pilots.

"It used to be that we were all younger than the pilots," Sergeant Constantine said. "Now I have stripes older than some pilots."



USAF photo

Master Sgts. Adrian Vuletic, Timothy Biermann and Richard Howells Jr.



photo by Jo Ann Lindner

Master Sgt. Ronald Noble

Hercules' 12

Hollywood may have Oceans' 11, but Milwaukee's got Hercules' 12.

The 12 airmen with the 440th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at the time of the C-130H Hercules delivery in 1989 are:

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Manske

Senior Master Sgts. Danny Formanski, James Orze and Anthony Schmit

Master Sgts. Timothy Biermann, Michael Bodecker, Richard Howells Jr., Gerald Labinski, Ronald Noble and Adrian Vuletic

Technical Sgts. Darwin Constantine and Matthew Davis



photo submitted

Master Sgt. Gerald Labinski

The 440th salutes employers of reservists

by Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Sixty-two employers visited the base last month, learning about the unique contributions their citizen airmen offer toward the 440th's mission and the defense of the United States.

The 440th Airlift Wing Commander, Col. Merle D. Hart, welcomed the employers with a mission brief. Later, the employers toured the base and flew on a C-130 orientation flight.

"Employers are a key to the 440th's success," said Colonel Hart, addressing a crowd of 440th Community Council members and employers. "It's a win-win situation; employers benefit from the skills their employees pick up in the Reserve, and the Air Force benefits from the skills citizen airmen bring to the mission."

Employers further demonstrated their support by signing Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve statements of support. Before departing the base, the group watched the Navy's Blue Angels flight demo team take-off for a practice flight.

photos by Tech. Sgt. Brady Kiel



Above: Master Sg.t Edward Ferch, an aircraft inspection mechanic with the 440th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, explains the features of the cockpit seats located in a C-130 Hercules. Lower: A group of 62 employers of 440th Airlift Wing reservists pose in front of a C-130 Hercules after an orientation flight which was part of the Employer Appreciation day activities.

Employers travel from far, wide to support reservist

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Denise Quasius

Chris Wise and Chris Parris owners of an Atlanta, Ga., based company called Security 101, came all the way from Georgia to take part in employer appreciation day activities at General Mitchell Air Reserve Station July 15.

They were not the only people who put on a few miles. Technical Sgt. Mark Carlisle, an avionics guidance and control repairman, for the 440th Maintenance Squadron, and also a Georgia resident, was here with his employers. Security 101 hired him in March of 2005. Sergeant Carlisle's affiliation with the military and his reputation within the security community were two reasons why the Wises' aggressively pursued him as a candidate for the fledgling company.

"Mark's military background gives him a level of expertise and confidence that you don't find in the average employee," said Mr. Wise. "Commitment to excellence, initiative, and discipline are traits that we value as employers and Mark exemplifies all of these."

Mr. Wise and Mr. Parris felt that the best part of the program was the ride in the C-130. They also expressed great appreciation for the level of courtesy that was paid to them during the visit.

"It was very ironic to come to the base and be treated so well and with so much respect," said Mr. Wise. "It is us who should be thanking the reservists and showing our respect for those who are defending our country and our freedoms."



Chris Parris and Chris Wise owners of Security 101 traveled from Atlanta, Ga. to participate in the Employer Day activities held here.

Deserving Airmen fly with the Blue Angels

by Senior Airman Deanne Perez

Awesome.

That one word sentiment crossed the minds of the 17 reservists who were selected to ride aboard "Fat Albert" on July 16 and 17. Fat Albert is the C-130 Hercules that supports the U.S. Navy's air demonstration team the Blue Angels. The Navy team was in town for the Milwaukee Air Expo on July 16 and 17.

"It was one of the most intense experiences I've ever had in my entire life," said Senior Airman Kenan Mayweather, "a hundred times better than Six Flags."

Fat Albert's crew unexpectedly offered rides on the aircraft to deserving 440th airmen on July 15 and a mere few hours were left to get the word out and gather for the flight. The news spread quickly and an anxious group of airmen gathered prior to take off each day.

"Excited and nervous at the same time," said a smiling Airman 1st Class Navida Cross when she was asked about her pre-flight emotions. "I just don't want to fall out!"

"It will be interesting to see exactly what it's like in the air rather than from the ground," said Staff Sgt. David Cefalu, who had seen Fat Albert perform before.

The Navy pilots and crew introduced



Junior enlisted deserving airmen of the 440th were invited to fly with the Navy Blue Angels.

themselves to the groups and briefed passengers on safety as well as what to expect while in the air.

During the air show, Fat Albert's passengers experienced 2G turns, which means they hit about two times the force of gravity. They also went through the experience of feeling weightless and flew so close to the ground that passengers saw sailboats up close over Lake Michigan.

"They did things a C-130 isn't normally supposed to do," laughed Senior Airman Bryan DeValkenaere.

Despite a few queasy stomachs, each airman left the aircraft with an experience they will not forget.

Senior Airman Jeremy Kupsy summed up the experience this way, "There are no words to explain it."

Family Care plans important to reservists

by **Master Sgt. Susan E. Lierman**
440th Airlift Wing Customer Service

Family care is a “readiness” issue. Members of the Air Force Reserve are expected to be available for the full range of military duties, including UTAs, annual tours and active duty, with little or no notice. The Air Force recognizes that single parents or military couples with children have unique responsibilities. Either situation makes a family care plan a necessity.

The family care program outlined in AFI 36-2908 describes the steps, actions, tasks and forms required to ensure care is provided for a reservist’s family if they are absent due to military duty. Plans must include all foreseeable situations that could arise during a reservist’s deployment.

The plan should include sufficient details to provide for a smooth, systematic transfer of responsibilities to a caregiver and cover all “reasonable” situations, both short and long term. All Air Force members with families are required to maintain family care arrangements. Single parents, dual military couples with dependents and members with unique family situations are required to complete an AF Form 357, Family Certification. A unique situation is where the

military member has a civilian spouse or other adult family member who is not capable of providing care for family members or for themselves. Examples are a spouse with limited English language ability, an illness, disability, or handicap, marital separation, or distance from the local area.

Although the Military Personnel Flight conducts unit inspections and provides guidance, unit commanders and first sergeants are tasked to make sure their unit members make adequate and acceptable family care arrangements. A person may become a single parent upon the birth or adoption of a child, the death of a spouse, separation or divorce. Couples are considered a “dual military couple” when both the husband and wife are members of a military service with a dependent family member in the household. Any changes to one of these situations will mean a family care plan must be accomplished.

A family care plan includes, but is not limited to, a completed AF Form 357, a power of attorney, detailed medical provisions, arrangements for finances, housing, transportation and food for short and long term care. There are no defined long or short-term time limits. It is up to each member to plan for

the care of his or her family. Reservists should tell the chosen caregivers what they do in the Reserves, why their help is needed, and ask them for input. Caregivers sign the AF Form 357, indicating acceptance of care giving responsibilities.

The responsible party can be changed at any given time by getting a new signature. The caregiver has the medical and legal power of attorney, which the judge advocate will prepare at no cost. Commanders are required to take disciplinary action if a member fails to make adequate and acceptable family care arrangements, which can include separation from the Air Force. By not making arrangements, a family may suffer if the Reservist is deployed.

A complete family care plan is more than a matter of mandatory compliance. It should also provide some piece of mind in knowing that personal affairs are in order. Family care plans are intended to benefit a family member’s welfare.

For more information on family care contact unit first sergeants, or Master Sgt. Susan Lierman, MPF Customer Service, at (414) 482-5331, Keith Heapes at (414) 482-5304, Family Readiness at (414) 482-5424 or the wing staff judge advocate at (414) 482-5213.

440 MDS named AFRC 2004 Outstanding Medical Squadron

by **Dennis Mehring**
440th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Director

The 440th Airlift Wing’s Medical Squadron was recently named the Air Force Reserve Command’s 2004 Outstanding Medical Squadron with emergency medical detachments. The award was made on the basis of leadership and performance within the unit and the command, significant accomplishments, and base and community involvement.

The Medical Squadron, commanded by Col. Laura Talbot, was singled out for this honor based on consistent superior medical, dental and immunization support to 440th reservists during UTAs and critical operation periods. The award nomination noted that 440th medical specialists successfully managed more than 130 deployment evaluations each month, an increase of 1,525 percent, and more than 650 immunizations a month, an increase of 116 percent. Medical specialists also managed to support the activations of about 500 wing members during the year. Members of the 440th were activated and deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom at Balad, Iraq, and Kuwait.

They put in thousands of hours while providing care for thousands of injured warriors

from all the service branches. Local reservists were responsible for improvements in international training programs, and innovative approaches to lab testing that eliminated duplicate tests and saved money. The optometry section of the medical squadron improved the soft contact lens and eyewear program by developing an electronic process to certify flyers thereby increasing efficiency and cost effectiveness.

During the past year 440th medical specialists processed and cleared 202 people for the critical IGX exercise in November at Savannah, Ga., and provided humanitarian assistance to indigent civilians in the African country of Chad. They also took the lead in a two-day joint exercise with the Great Lakes Naval Station and Veterans’ Hospitals in Chicago and Milwaukee where they provided expertise in patient movement, casualty management and triage.

The squadron was highly involved in two programs that have been recognized as quality benchmarks for the Air Force. The squadron was a key part of the evaluation of the AFRC Drug Demand Reduction program and the 440th also began sending mobile immunization teams to squadron locations to give shots, which resulted in less lost work time.

The award citation also noted a number of major accomplishments: shorter physical exam times, reduced no show rates, a base-wide fetal protection program, a standardized medical supply system that saved thousands of dollars, customer satisfaction ratings higher than 95 percent, superior results during the command’s unit compliance inspection, creating and organizing the wing’s Fit to Fight program, assisted the wing fire department with CPR instruction, and coordinated suicide prevention briefings for the wing.

Base and community involvement by medical squadron members with Boy and Girl Scout programs, Reserve Officer Association scholarships, unit and youth sports, teen pregnancy prevention programs, and preventive medicine education were also rated.

Colonel Talbot noted that the Medical Squadron accepted many challengers during the past year and rose to meet them all. The unit’s success is “reflected by an increase in the number of members receiving medical care, the positive feedback, and recent inspection results. The 440th Medical Squadron has clearly demonstrated outstanding dedication to our county and unwavering commitment to mission readiness.”

Special duty assignment demonstrates the highest honor

by Capt. Keith Leistekow

Americans across the United States are finding their own ways of showing support for our troops who are now deployed worldwide and fighting the war on terror: placing magnets on their cars, displaying flags outside their homes, contributing to care packages being sent to members overseas, and the list goes on.

As with any war, past or present, the loss of life becomes a harsh reality that everyone fighting for and supporting the country's freedoms must face.

"In 1999, Congress passed legislation that required all military veterans be afforded military honors upon their deaths," said Master Sergeant Al Winter, base honor guard director. "It was shortly after this announcement that 12 full-time (Air Force) honor guard areas of responsibility were created by the U.S. Air Force."

Before this requirement, the wing's honor guard was managed and supported by an all-volunteer team of air reserve technicians and traditional

reservists as an additional duty assignment (no pay), said Sergeant Winter. "Today, the Air Force Reserve Command has authorized my director's position as well as four other full-time positions for reserve members to perform on continuous mandatory orders," he said.

"Currently, there are about 1,700 military members' deaths (mostly aged veterans) per day," said Sergeant Winter. "This translates into an average of 48 funeral ceremonies per month that our local team supports covering the entire southern half of Wisconsin as well as parts of Chicago and northern Illinois."

Honor guard assignments are coordinated through an honor guard superintendent located at Scott AFB, Ill., said Sergeant Winter. Typically, local funeral directors contact the state's department of veterans' affairs (on behalf of the member's family) for all honor guard requests.

The wing's current honor guard consists of 38 part-time members; 19 serving as color guard team members and 19 as honor guard team members respectively, said Sergeant Winter. Of the 19 honor guard members, eight members are available to perform a funeral detail at any given time.

The color guard performs at most regularly scheduled military and civilian functions as well as special events throughout the year by request.

"Typically, funeral services occur almost every Saturday and every other Sunday with some exceptions to this schedule during the week," said Sergeant Winter. "Since the program started, our team has covered every assignment given to us with eight ceremonies being the most performed in one day."

Honor Guard profile:

Staff Sgt. Vicki Prescott, 34th APS

How long have you served?

Part time-two years; Fulltime-one year

Why participate?

I wanted to contribute in some way as long as I wasn't being activated.

Best part of duty?

Working with the other veterans who help support the funeral detail

Worst part of duty?

I found it most depressing when we have buried one of our own (from the wing).

Funniest moment?

Someone making the comment 'Look, it's an Air Force flyover' as a flock of geese flew over a funeral ceremony

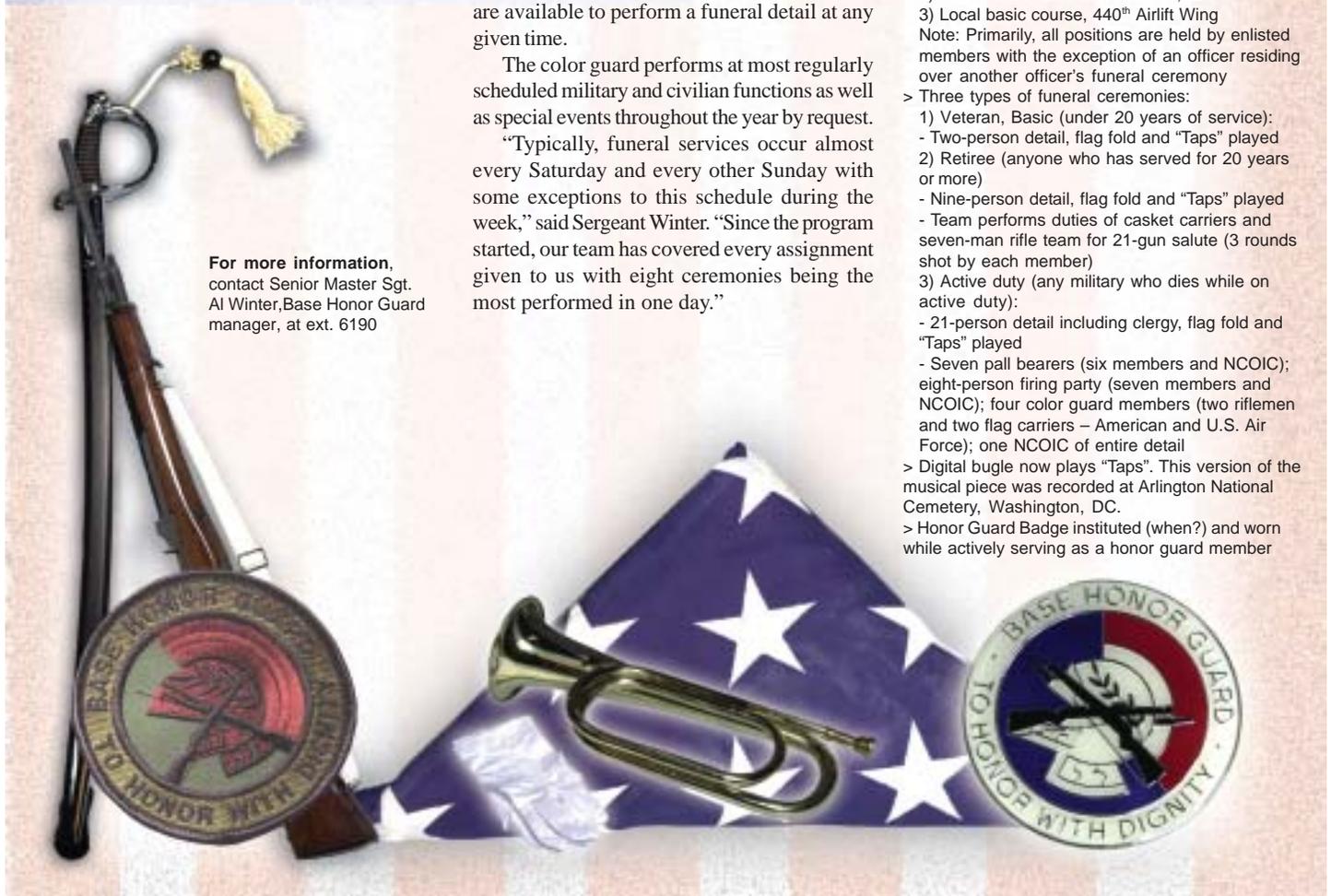
Final comment?

No two funerals are the same with paying proper respect as the only common denominator.

HONOR GUARD FACTOIDS:

- > Senior Master Sgt. Al Winter has performed 370 services to date.
- > Honor guard training is accomplished in one of three ways:
 - 1) Two-week course at Bolling AFB, VA
 - 2) One-week course at Scott AFB, IL
 - 3) Local basic course, 440th Airlift Wing
 Note: Primarily, all positions are held by enlisted members with the exception of an officer residing over another officer's funeral ceremony
- > Three types of funeral ceremonies:
 - 1) Veteran, Basic (under 20 years of service):
 - Two-person detail, flag fold and "Taps" played
 - 2) Retiree (anyone who has served for 20 years or more)
 - Nine-person detail, flag fold and "Taps" played
 - Team performs duties of casket carriers and seven-man rifle team for 21-gun salute (3 rounds shot by each member)
 - 3) Active duty (any military who dies while on active duty):
 - 21-person detail including clergy, flag fold and "Taps" played
 - Seven pall bearers (six members and NCOIC); eight-person firing party (seven members and NCOIC); four color guard members (two riflemen and two flag carriers – American and U.S. Air Force); one NCOIC of entire detail
- > Digital bugle now plays "Taps". This version of the musical piece was recorded at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, DC.
- > Honor Guard Badge instituted (when?) and worn while actively serving as a honor guard member

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Al Winter, Base Honor Guard manager, at ext. 6190



No doubt - blow out

Former flabby NCO delivers the goods on guarantee of passing fitness test score

by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

Last April, while serving a tour of duty at Aviano AB, Italy, I delivered a proclamation so profound that even the Italians put down their cappuccinos and took notice. I guaranteed a passing score on my June fitness test.

Ah, the fitness test – something that’s been my Achilles Heel for the past 15 months. Maybe the problem is that every time I took the test my Achilles didn’t seem to heal all that much.

I’d like to say that a bum Achilles is the reason why I failed the test twice last year, but that would be like blaming my sneakers for not being able to run fast enough. Unless those shoes have wheels attached to them – it wasn’t the shoes.

The reason - the *sole* reason that is - for my two failed tests last year was a Latin term called *Extremis Lazinessis*. What a shocker huh? Doing a few sit-ups and a push-up or two a few days

prior to each test last year to ‘get in shape’ certainly didn’t do the trick.

New plan of attack

That all changed back in January when I deployed to Aviano AB. During my 120-day tour I made getting in shape a top priority. I was motivated by my two failed tests, and by not wanting to fuel the stereotypical image that some active duty folks have of us part-timers being slow and slug-like in appearance. I spent six to seven days a week in the gym. During lunch time, after work, weekends, even on Friday nights while my active duty brethren sat motionless at the club, I was at the gym...and then I joined them at the club afterwards.

I came home May 8 about 10 pounds lighter and more confident than ever that the past four months had prepared me the right way to pass the test.

So did I finally pass the thing? I said back in April if there was ever a lock in the world of sports – me passing the test in June was it.

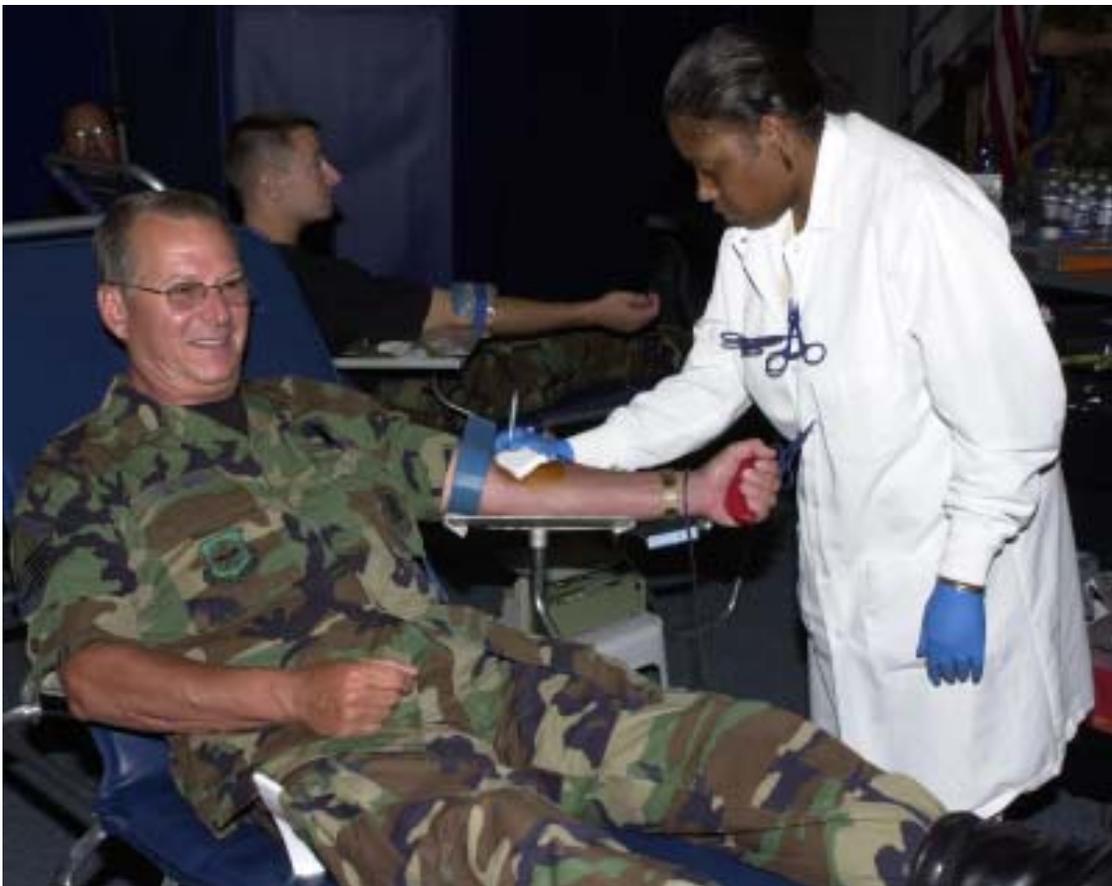
The answer is. . .

First up was waist measurement – sucked it in to a slim 36.5 inches. That’s an inch better than my previous tests, so I was off to a good start.

Previous best on pushups was in the mid 30s – this time I somehow rocked out 49. Since my goal was 40 I was feeling pretty good knowing I got nearly the maximum number of points for those 49. I knew sit-ups would be no problem as I’d been knocking out close to 60 in a minute on a daily basis since February. I did 59 and received the full 10 points.

Knowing that the run had been my trouble spot in my previous tests I had picked up my running in the past few months – and it paid off. I trimmed nearly a minute and a half off my time last year to run a 12 minute, 30 second circuit. That gave me a passing score of 80.55.

It sure felt good to sweat out the stink of failure. Now that I passed I might treat myself to something sweet. I’m just glad I don’t have to eat anything bitter...like my own words.



76 take Saturday blood drive

Master Sgt. Robert Hultgren, 440th Services Flight, squeezes out a pint of blood during the wing's blood drive, July 16, in Heritage Hall. A surge of walk-in donors helped make the blood drive a success, said Mary Savarino, coordinator of the semi-annual event. Savarino said that 76 people registered and 65 units were collected. Additionally, six donations of dual red cells were taken. The next blood drive will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3.

photo by Senior Airman Chris Hibben

Air Force changes fitness test criteria

by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

Air Force officials are making a few changes to the physical fitness test used to assess the fitness of Airmen. In January 2004, the Air Force underwent a major change in the way it looked at fitness.

As part of the Fit to Fight program, the service adopted a more stringent physical fitness assessment that measures aerobic fitness, physical strength, endurance and body composition. Now, 18 months into the program, senior leaders are ready to tweak the assessment to make it even better, said Lt. Gen. (Dr.) George Peach Taylor Jr., Air Force surgeon general.

"We have gotten together a group of scientists and done surveys asking folks if they like the assessment and are there issues with it," Dr. Taylor said. "This last year we brought an update to Corona and are now in the middle of updating a few changes to the Air Force instruction that defines the fitness evaluation."

Updates to AFI 10-248 will include a change in how body composition is measured, a new table for the running portion of the test that takes into account the runner's elevation, and a change in the number of days an Airman must wait before retesting after having scored in the marginal category. Under the original fitness evaluation, body composition scores were based on abdominal circumference only.

The updated AFI will now direct that body composition also be measured using body mass index. BMI is calculated by dividing weight in pounds by height in inches squared, and multiplying the result by 703.

Under the updated AFI, Airmen with a BMI of less than 25 will earn the full 30 points for body composition. For Airmen who score a BMI 25 and above, Dr. Taylor said the results of the waist measurement would be used to calculate their test score.

For those who score marginal, between 70 and 74.9 points, the Air Force plans to correct the time to retest at 90 days; currently, retest for marginal category is 180 days. This will be consistent with the retest time for poor scores, those less than 70. Changes to the AFI will also include adjustment for those at high-altitude installations. This applies to those at installations with an elevation of 5,000 ft. or greater.

On the run... Dahlberg keeps chasing the stars



photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

He's 60-years-old and retired from the Air Force Reserve some time ago, but that doesn't stop John Dahlberg from working out. The computer technician, who now works as a civilian on base, makes a point to run several fun runs each summer. He recently took third place in his age division at a 5-kilometer race in Burlington.

"I'm not the fastest guy," said Dahlberg. "But I like running and its a good way to keep in shape." Dahlberg plans to run a few more "fun runs" this summer, and will keep "chasing the stars" as long as his body holds up, he said.

Joncas named Firefighter of the Year by American Legion

by Lt. Col. Joseph Rallo
Commander, 34 APS

Senior Master Sgt. Peter G. Joncas, first sergeant for the 34th APS, was named the State of Wisconsin Firefighter of the Year by the American Legion in July 2005. The award is in recognition of his more than 17 years as a member of the Oak Creek Fire Department.

In addition to his regular assignments, Sergeant Joncas volunteered for many duties in support of his community. Among his activities was the initiation of an honor guard program for the department, mentorship of a high school senior in the fire science program and an active involvement in a burn camp for children. He was named as the Firefighter of the Year for Southeast Wisconsin by the American Legion in November 2004.

Although the award recognizes his many years

of service to Oak Creek, it is also a tribute to a personal challenge which Sergeant Joncas faced. On Jan. 20, 1999, while on duty at the Oak Creek Fire Department, he was burned over 33 percent of his body with first, second and third degree burns when an oxygen cylinder exploded. He spent two years in intense physical therapy and was told by his psychologist that she had never seen anyone return to work after suffering that level of injury. But with the help of his family, the Department, co workers, and many others, Sergeant Joncas was able to return to full duty as a firefighter.

As the first sergeant for the 34th APS, Sergeant Joncas continues to serve his community and nation in a position of vital importance.



photo by Jo Ann Lindner

SMSgt. Peter Joncas

Reservists need to register civilian employment information by Oct. 31

Time is running out for about 15,000 Air Force reservists in the Selected Reserve to comply with a Department of Defense directive.

Oct. 31 is the deadline for reservists who are paid for training to register information about their civilian place of employment. Some 60,000 of these Airmen, roughly 80 percent of the force, provided that information as of May.

The Civilian Employment Information Program is the first mandatory disclosure by members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve of their civilian employers into a common database. The CEI program began in March 2004.

"This past year we've made significant progress in employment-related data collection," wrote Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, in a May 9 memorandum about the program.

"Senior-leader support, commander involvement and the personnel community's effective program management have resulted in a continual and steady increase in the Air Force Reserve's compliance numbers," he said. "However, despite our collective efforts, we fell short of the established Department of Defense goal of 75 percent for the Selected Reserve by December 2004."

The Air Force Reserve fell short primarily because of system problems during the program startup, which caused inaccurate data files and an ineffective management tool for commanders.

The general and his personnel staff believe these problems no longer exist and urge reservists

to register online as soon as possible by going to <http://www.afrc.af.mil/reserveInfo.htm> and clicking on Civilian Employment Info Program. An air reserve component Web site is in development to streamline this process even more.

After clicking on the Web site, reservists enter their employment status, employer's name, mailing address, civilian job title and total number of years in their current civilian occupation.

Unlike previous military service efforts to voluntarily gather employer data, the CEI program is mandatory. Reservists who knowingly fail or refuse to provide their employment-related information, or provide false information, may be subject to administrative action. If on duty, they could face punishment for dereliction of duty under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

DOD started the CEI program to obey three federal laws:

Title 10, United States Code, section 12302 considers civilian health, safety and interest before calling up reservists.

Title 10, USC, 10149 ensures call-ups do not affect too many reservists with critical civilian skills.

Title 38, USC, 4333 tells reservists' employers about their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

About 76,100 reservists in the Air Force's Selected Reserve train on full and part-time duty – ready for immediate tasking from higher headquarters.

Bundles for babies offered free

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. The event is being held 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, print 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.

ESOH CAMP is coming!

AFRC will perform an "Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program" audit from Sept. 12 to 16.

Higher headquarters staff members and consultants will visit wing units and work areas to conduct interviews and inspections.

Wing officials are encouraging all offices and work centers to ensure that tasks routinely performed to fulfill environmental, safety and occupational health related requirements are being done and documented. Douglas Yocum, chief of the CES Environmental Flight, said that people should pay the most attention to hazard communication, hazardous materials management, waste management and general housekeeping.

Local points of contact are Doug Yocum (482-5601), Paul Heeren (x5616) and Cora Mata (x5604) for environmental questions; Larry Lewens (x5495) and Dwayne Pasternak (x5494) for ground safety; and Royal Eckstein (x5246), Dean Sydlewski (x5247) and Dick Moriarity (x524) for biological and public health matters.

Operation "Lots of Kids"

Newcomers

SSgt. Nathan J. Ahola	440 MXS
SSgt. Bunnie L. Johnson	440 CES
SSgt. Nathan M. Prodell	440 SFS
SSgt. Aaron M. Stamm	34 APS
SrA Tamara K. Clinton-Cook	440 MDS
SrA Luisa Gutierrez	440 MDS
SrA Murjani J. Law	440 MSF
SrA Cullen S. Olejniczak	440 MXS
SrA Daniel M. Olson	440 LRS
SrA Michael S. Wing	440 MDS
A1C Joshua L. Smith	440 CES
AB Ruel L. Taylor III	440 MDS

Promotions

1st Lt. Jaran Meinzen-Derr	95 AS
1st Lt. Wynn Pfeiffer	95 AS
1st Lt. Kristie Piotrowicz	95 AS
Maj. Richard Nelson	440 MDS
Capt. Jason Golenberke	95 AS
Capt. Megan Leduc	440 MDS
CMSgt. Carmon M. Francher	440 OSF
CMSgt. Daniel J. Vanhandel	440 MXS
SMSgt. Rodolfo I. Figueroa	440 MXS
SMSgt. William A. Jacobs IV	34 APS
SMSgt. Lynn M. Klapste	440 LRS
MSgt. Lisa Buth	34 APS
MSgt. Kurt Herrel	440 ALCF
MSgt. Mark Stacey	440 MXS
TSgt. Kevin Baker	440 CES
TSgt. Timothy Bensen	34 APS
TSgt. Paul Buda	34 APS
TSgt. Kevin G. Cook	95 AS
TSgt. Lisa Driggs	440 ALCF
TSgt. Jason Elm	34 APS
TSgt. Ronnie A. Glaser	440 LRS
TSgt. Tracy Gunnuscio	440 AW
TSgt. Traci Guse	440 AW
TSgt. Edward Hubbard	440 SVF
TSgt. Jeancristophe Hunt	95 AS
TSgt. Wayne Jenerou	440 MXG
TSgt. Brian McInnis	440 SFS
TSgt. Lyndon Moton	440 MDS
TSgt. Dawn Putzke	440 CES
TSgt. Raymond Steinle	34 APS
TSgt. Jeffrey Stonecipher	440 MXS
SSgt. Brian Bulg	440 SFS
SSgt. Aaron Fontageneres	440 MXS
SSgt. Carlos Herrera	34 APS
SSgt. Jose Martinez	34 APS
SSgt. Krzysztof Miszczak	440 SVF
SSgt. Kenneth Schoen	34 APS
SSgt. Christopher Volkman	34 APS
SrA Jeremy Bauer	440 AW
SrA Devon Brilla	440 AW
SrA Joshua Crouch	440 LRS
SrA Kim Meyers	440 MSF
SrA Jonathon W. Milliner	440 LRS
SrA Steven Renteria	440 AMXS
A1C Dillon Briesmeister	440 CES
A1C Kyle Kohnke	440 LRS
A1C David D. Long	440 CES



photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

Capt. Scott Uselding's family was all smiles at Operation Freedom, the Milwaukee County veterans celebration, on July 3. Wife Shawna and Captain Uselding proudly push triplets Dru, Tara, and Dayne with the help of big brothers Cameron and Ty. The Useldings joined more than 15,000 veterans and their families at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The 440th Airlift Wing Honor Guard joined honor guards from other services in a tribute to American's veterans. The 440th Honor Guard was featured in a POW-MIA table ceremony during County Executive Scott Walker's program.

Retirements

Capt. Daniel S. Breese	440 MDS	TSgt. John W. Erickson Jr.	440 CF
MSgt. Steven M. Troscon	440 MXS	TSgt. Michael R. Hughes	440 LRS
TSgt. Richard A. Chesrow	440 MSF	TSgt. Frank M. Lindenmeier	34 APS

New JAG on base

Maj. Greg Friedland is the new full-time judge advocate serving the 440th Airlift Wing during the regular work week. Major Friedland has more than eight years experience working in the Air Force legal system. Prior to becoming an attorney, the major flew UH-1 helicopters for the Army.

Although he will be working at General Mitchell Air Reserve Station, the major is actually assigned to the 951st Reserve Support Squadron. In addition to the 440th Airlift Wing, he also serves as legal counsel for the 927th Airlift Wing based at Selfridge ANGB, Mich., and the 934th Airlift Wing based in Minneapolis.

The Desert Storm veteran and his wife, Rhonda, have four children ranging in age from 2 to 8-years-old. Reservists can contact Major Friedland at 482-5211.



Maj. Greg Friedland
440th Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate

Save the date!
Aug. 20
440th Airlift Wing
Family Picnic
11:30-1:30

CFC program starts in fall

by **Capt. Michael Schaefer**
CFC Project Officer, 440th Airlift Wing

The 440th Airlift Wing will kick off its 2005 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) drive this fall. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all federal and military members the chance to improve the quality of life for all.

In the past three years, the amount raised by the 440th has steadily declined, however, this year we are working to reverse that trend. The goal of this year's CFC team is to ensure everyone at the 440th is contacted and to ensure that it is easy to sign up for a donation.

David Goff once wrote a short story as follows: A young boy saw that his neighbor's wife had died and left a lonely man.

The boy saw him sitting on the porch and climbed upon his knee, and he sat there with him in the sun. When the daylight turned to dusk

the little boy returned. His lonely friend was smiling although his heart still yearned.

"What did you two talk about?" asked the boy's mother, "Oh, nothing," he replied. "I just went and sat with him, I thought I'd help him cry..."

In this story the little boy did what he could for someone in need, isn't that something we can all do?

This year I hope everyone asks themselves what they can do. The CFC is a voluntary program, however, the impact of the programs it supports has an enormous impact on peoples lives just like the little boy had with the lonely man.

This fall when the CFC link is sent out and campaign books are passed around, please think seriously about whether you can and will help. There are many options if you choose to give and unit representatives will be available to answer any questions.

Bone marrow donor registration set for August UTA

The 440th Airlift Wing is sponsoring a bone marrow donor registration from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 20 and 21, in Heritage Hall.

Active duty military and immediate family members, DoD civil service employees, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reservists are eligible

to become a donor. All that's required is a blood sample to be entered into the registry.

For more information call Maj. Jean Pyzyk at (414) 482-5540, or call Bill Young with the DoD Bone Marrow Donor Program at (800) Marrow-3.

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

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