

# *The Flying Badger*

440th Airlift Wing, General Mitchell ARS, Milwaukee Wisconsin

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photo by Joe Oliva

A 440th C-130 flies over Lake Michigan during a training mission in July.

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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  
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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

# Wing commander discusses most recent BRAC decision

by Col. Merle D. Hart  
Commander

My heart aches when I think about the decision that nine men in Arlington, Va., made on Aug. 26 and what their decision means for the members of the 440th and their families.

At the time this is being written there is virtually no solid information in any command channel that specifies exactly what the Aug. 26th decision means for the Reservists of the 440th.

We know that the Department of Defense and the BRAC Commission both voted to move our C-130s. Because the BRAC Commission made a number of changes in the original DOD plan for C-130 moves and Little Rock AFB, Ark., the only thing we know for sure is that "the Air Force will distribute the airplanes to meet its mission requirements including the balance between the active and Reserve components."

We also have not received any information about Air Force plans for our full-time civilians, Air Reserve technicians and traditional reservists. I think the best way to look at this situation is to picture a snow globe.

DOD shook it with the BRAC list on May 13. The commission shook it up again in late August and it is still being shaken as Air Force

planners try to sort out the floating details. If that was not enough, the globe is also being shaken by the states that have filed suit in Federal court to contest the closure or realignment of their Air National Guard units.

I hope that some details will be settled, and available, when the commission presents its final recommendations to President Bush on Sept. 8.

The president has already publicly stated that he will approve the commission's recommendations, which must be presented to Congress by Sept. 23. Congress will have 45 "legislative" days to approve or reject it. If Congress takes no action, it will become law. We must be realistic and keep in mind that none of the previous BRAC recommendations have been rejected.

There are two things we can depend on. The 440th Airlift Wing is still here and our mission continues. The nation is still at war and we are a part of that ongoing effort. Our flying package is home, but our aerial porters and other specialists are serving at critical spots around the globe. I urge every unit member to concentrate on



Col. Merle D. Hart

supporting them and to concentrate on completing their part of the mission.

We are going to extend every possible effort to take care of our people as the plan for the future of the 440th becomes clear.

I have been here for a short time, but it is long enough to know the high quality of the unit's members and their commitment to the defense of this country.

You deserve to know what is going to happen and I promise that as soon as I find out I will let all of you know.

### Hurricane Katrina relief fund established

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Air Force Aid Society has established a nationwide relief fund to help those Air Force families affected by the hurricane.

Donations to the AFAS Hurricane Relief Fund will be accepted directly from individuals, corporations and organizations, both military and civilian. Monetary contributions may be made by check or credit card. Credit card donations may be made by calling 1-703-607-3073 or 1-800-769-8951 or by a secure online credit card form located on the Air Force Aid Society web site: <http://www.afas.org>. Checks should be made out to the Air Force Aid Society and reference the hurricane relief fund.

"The Air Force Aid Society's goal is to be there when you need us," said retired Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper, Jr., Air Force Aid Society chief executive officer and former vice commander of Air Education and Training Command. "Due to the overwhelming number of requests from individuals who want to help, establishing the relief fund will allow us to track contributions and disbursements donated for this purpose. At all times it is important to look out for our fellow Airmen, and at times like this it is even more crucial."

# Packed and ready to go

## ***In preparation for worldwide deployment, 34th Aerial Port Squadron Airmen hone their skills at Charleston AFB***

by Dennis J. Mehring

It may be hard to remember at this point but 79 members of the wing's 34<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron left Milwaukee for Charleston AFB, S.C. on April 10 for a one-year deployment in support of the global war on terrorism. Our aerial porters have been working alongside their active duty counterparts at Charleston and were scheduled to begin deploying to a number of overseas locations starting on or about August 25.

Just what have they been up to? Charleston AFB is one the biggest aerial port operations in the Air Force and is a major transit point for personnel and supplies headed for the AOR. Charleston is the home base of the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and its Reserve associate wing, the 315<sup>th</sup>

Airlift Wing. Both units fly the C-17 Globemaster transport.

Master Sgt. Jeff Radermacher, a training manager with the 34<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, recently told a 34<sup>th</sup> APS member here in Milwaukee that, "We load 12 or more heavy aircraft (30 or more pallets) a day. We are not considered reservists here. We have the same responsibilities and requirements as the active duty. We blend right in to the rank structure with the 437<sup>th</sup> TRK which encompasses all sections of the Aerial Port Squadron."

Technical Sgt. Bryan Nowak, an airdrop rigger with the 34<sup>th</sup>, said "as aerial delivery riggers we have been very busy preparing airdrop loads for the C-17 mission. We also support the recovery of the platforms at the drop zone."

Another local aerial porter Senior Airman Sabrina Drogos wrote "I work on the cargo floor of the aerial port and that basically means that I do not sit down for 12 hours. There is a lot of cargo that comes through, everything that you

could possibly think of. I have refreshed my knowledge from back home and learned so much more. The work is hard and never ending, but working with people from our unit and the active duty personnel has been a rewarding experience.

Senior Airman Jessica Palm also shared some of her experiences. "The work is hard, never ending, but very rewarding. We build loads for all types of aircraft from C-130's to 747's. We are working well side-by-side with the active duty people."

Senior Airmen Drogos and Palm were the first reservists ever nominated for Airman of the Quarter in May and June. Staff Sgt. Jeff Milner earned a local award for excellence in the work place - Warrior of the Quarter. Sergeant Milner is the first reservist to receive this award.

Of course work is not the only thing the deployed reservists have been up to. According to Master Sgt. Gary Wagner, the NCO in charge of the 34<sup>th</sup> APS, the deployed reservists went through their Fit to Fight test in June and averaged an overall score of 82.

## Mother, son find personal independence serving together

by Capt. Keith Leistekow



photo by Capt. Keith Leistekow

Senior Airmen Laura Renteria (mother), 34<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron cargo specialist, and Steven Renteria (son), 440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron crew chief, serve as traditional reservists with the wing.

Senior Airman Laura Renteria, 34<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, joined the active-duty Air Force almost 20 years ago. She was looking for a way to travel and to get out of her hometown, Lubbock, Texas.

Airman Renteria is now the mother of three, lives in Racine and shares a unique connection with her oldest son, Senior Airman Steven Renteria. Senior Airman Steven is a crew chief in the 440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron. She basically has a ring side seat as she watches the independence she was looking for being discovered by her son.

Senior Airman Laura spent her "first" military enlistment serving at March AFB, Calif., and Sembach AB, Germany. She met her husband and fellow airman, Richard at Sembach.

Senior Airman Laura left the active duty Air Force soon after Senior Airman Steven was born in Germany. The Renterias moved back to Racine, Wis., following her husband's decision to leave the military in 1988.

"The military became a part of me (during my enlistment) that never left," said Senior Airman Laura. "Following the 9/11 attacks and shortly after the war in Iraq broke out, I felt a calling to return to duty and began efforts to reenlist two days after Steven turned 18."

In her early 40s and still determined to find travel, a professional work environment and retirement benefits, Senior Airman Laura, a small business owner, found her way back into a military uniform when she became a member of the wing in August, 2003.

"I have always tried to set an example for my kids," said Senior Airman Laura, "by showing them who I was before I became a mother - determined and an independent thinker."

Following in his mother's footsteps who admittedly served as his 'light and door' along the way in his decision to join the Air Force Reserve, Senior Airman Steven, enlisted and became a member of the wing's 440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron in June, 2004. "I am very proud of Steven and feel he has become an extension of who I am," said Senior Airman Laura, "He represents the next generation of our military family."

A recent graduate of aircraft maintenance crew chief's school, Senior Airman Steven finds being the 'rookie' among his more senior peers a unique opportunity to grow professionally as well as personally.

"I feel the work I am doing (at the 440<sup>th</sup>) provides me with a sense of direction and allows me to stand on my own making mature decisions about my life," said Senior Airman Steven. "I am fulfilling the Air Force's needs while also serving my own."

When asked about the fact that mother and son are serving in the same unit and presently wear the same rank, both members are quick to describe their military service as simply 'people who work together - friends, peers and most importantly, equals.'

# Tuzla's Air Force of three



*photo submitted*

Lt. Col. Tim Ward (right), airfield commander of the 401st Air Expeditionary Wing's Detachment 1 at Tuzla AB, Bosnia-Herzegovina, shares the spotlight with Task Force Orion Safety NCO Robert Bruce from the California Army National Guard.

## **As his 120-day deployment comes to a close Sept. 16, Lt. Col. Tim Ward looks back at his time as commander of Tuzla AB in Bosnia-Herzegovina**

**FB:** *What is the mission in Tuzla?*

**TW:** This assignment is unusual in that I am one member of an "Air Force of three." There are only three blue-suiters among the more than 100 contractors supporting an \$8 million annual contract to operate the air base.

The only direct Air Force mission we support is Joint Forge as well as numerous distinguished visitor missions. The remainder of what we support includes U. S. Army Blackhawk operations.

United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) considers Tuzla valuable for possible future operations. It has been my job to identify issues, evaluate and bring Tuzla AB operations in line with U.S. Air Force standards where ever possible.

***"There are only three blue-suiters among the more than 100 contractors supporting an \$8 million annual contract to operate the air base."***

Lt. Col Tim Ward  
Commander, Tuzla AB

**FB:** *Why is the mission in Tuzla important?*

**TW:** Many important missions operate out of Tuzla AB, some highly classified and all working toward the long-term peace in this region. However, these missions are supported predominantly by U. S. Army and European Union Forces (EUFOR). For the time being it is worth it to the Air Force to operate Tuzla as it determines the future potential of Tuzla as a key base to leap-frog to potential hot-spots in future operations.

**FB:** *How has your view of the Balkans changed since you arrived?*

**TW:** It has been great working with so many host nation workers on base. I also get to travel around much of this beautiful region, which is divided by a very erratic border separating the Federation (mostly Muslim population of Bosnia) from the Republic of Serpska or RS (predominantly Serb population within Bosnia). Though I understand the three religious and ethnic groups that harbor century's worth of hatred in their history, I don't hear those feelings coming from many folks here.

Bosnians are some of the happiest people I've ever met. I don't think I've ever been in a more pro-American region outside the United States. They attribute the end of their war to U.S. (not NATO) involvement. I've heard many locals express the feeling that, if the U.S. were to leave now, Bosnia, even with EUFOR, would not be able to guarantee continued peace.

**FB:** *What have you enjoyed most about your deployment?*

**TW:** The chance to learn about another part of the world and better understand through my own conversations the story about the war.

Also green grass, green trees and soft-serve ice cream.

# Live from Afghanistan

## *Wing IG has strong opinions about the war on terror*

by Lt. Col. Harry Heflin  
Inspector General  
440th Airlift Wing

I have been deployed to Afghanistan since April and occasionally I am asked by friends at home, "Why are we still in Afghanistan?" With all the media attention focused on Iraq, it's easy to understand why someone might ask such a question.

Our presence in Afghanistan is important because we're taking the fight against terrorism directly to the enemy; and we're making a difference in the lives of more than 24 million people by giving them the chance to establish a stable, democratic way of life.

The war against terrorism has no distinct battle-lines; and unless the enemy is sought out and destroyed, terrorism will continue to spread and threaten the freedom enjoyed by free people throughout the world. The recent terrorist bombings in London and the recent threat against Britain and the United States by Al-Qaeda's Number two man, Ayman-al-Zawahri, serve as a stark reminder that the war on terror is still with us. We cannot let our guard down because there are those who still wish us and our allies harm. They remain committed to destroying our democratic way of life.

### First target - the Taliban

Following the terrorist attacks on 9/11, we along with our coalition partners, took the fight directly to the repressive Afghanistan Taliban government and the members of Al-Qaeda, terrorists being given safe haven in Afghanistan. Our intent was simple—to show our resolve to defend the freedoms we hold dear—not only for ourselves but also for the Afghanistan people. To this day, we continue to wage a counter-insurgency campaign against Taliban remnants and anti-coalition militia. The Afghan National Army is fighting along side us in many operations. These are Afghan nationals who have stepped forward to serve their country and are being trained by U.S. forces. However, the fight for freedom in Afghanistan is far from over and many challenges remain.

Winning the war on terrorism requires more than winning on the battlefield. The hard work

and sacrifices by those who served before us defeated the Taliban and Al Qaeda main forces. Their efforts helped set the stage for the election of a new Afghanistan government last fall. Afghan men and women will go to the polls to elect provincial representatives on Sept. 18th, and for the first time they will have the chance to elect women representatives. That is saying a lot for people who not so long ago lived under a repressive form of government where women had no rights. It was our military that helped make this possible. That is why we are here!

### Nation building

The United States and its coalition partners are working diligently to help the people of Afghanistan rebuild their nation. Rebuilding essential social and life support infrastructure is a total team effort. While not all partners have provided combat troops, they are providing critical services to the Afghani people. For example, the Jordanians and the Egyptians have established hospitals to treat the sick. Many of our partners help



photo submitted

Lt. Col. Harry Heflin

**"Winning the war on terrorism requires more than winning on the battlefield."**

Lt. Col. Harry Heflin  
440th Airlift Wing Inspector General

These projects address basic physical and safety needs, and help build confidence in the Afghan government.

Whether it is roads that link towns and villages, schools for girls, medical facilities, community water wells, irrigation for agriculture, sanitation, equipment for local police—it is the Afghan people who are giving the blood, sweat, and tears to build a future they can proudly

say they built. The Afghan government is still financially dependent on other nations, but I believe that the Afghan people will eventually build a successful, independent economy.

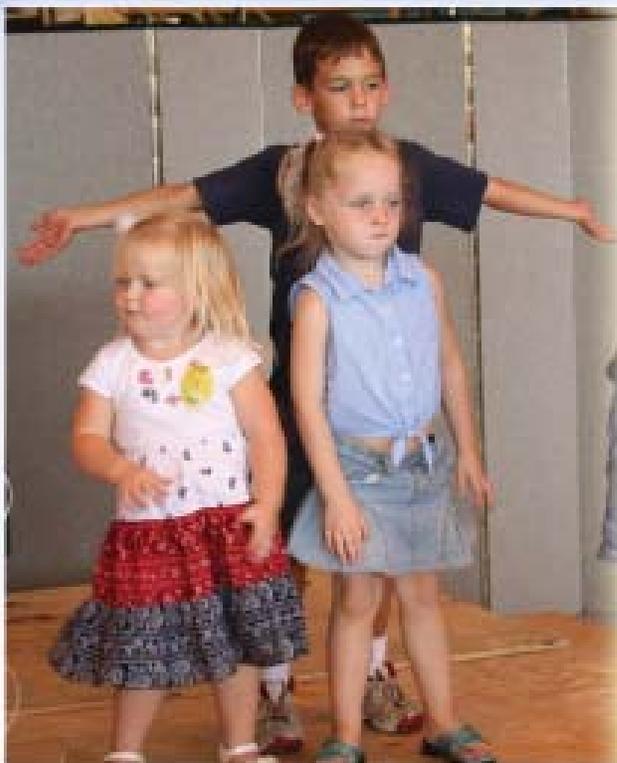
President Kennedy said 40 years ago, "...let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty..." He said that during the height of the Cold War, but it is just as applicable today in our fight against terror.

by providing security. When the people of Afghanistan feel safe to move about the country, it gives legitimacy to the Afghanistan government and helps foster more growth and development. The Germans, Polish, French, Romanians, Koreans—and the list goes on—are filling critical support roles to help the people of Afghanistan.

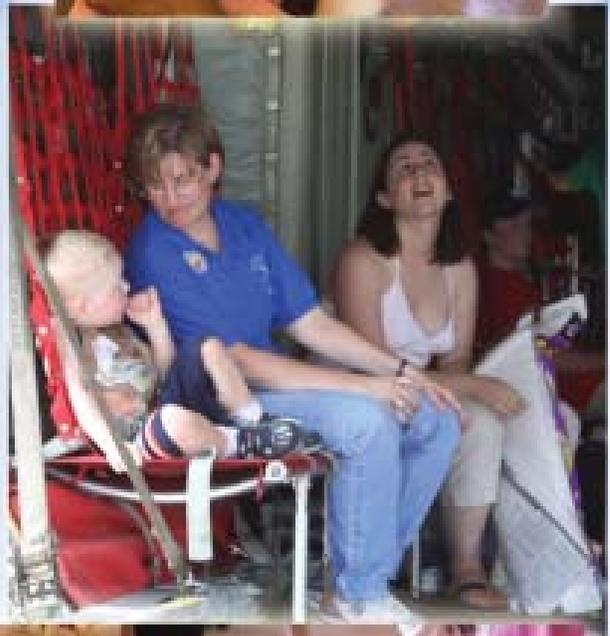
Our military men and women are also playing an important part in the development of Afghanistan. They use congressionally appropriated funds and work with local civic leaders, to identify national and local projects that will have immediate impact on the health and economic welfare of the Afghan people.

PEOPLE

# 440th Picnic 2005



PEOPLE



*layout by Master Sgt. John DeGroot*





photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

**Food for thought** - Tech. Sgt. Keith White, 440th Communications Flight Squadron, sits down to enjoy his lunch on Sunday of the August UTA. But is the food being served complementing the Air Force's Fit to Fight program?

## Food that's fit to fight?

**As the Air Force embraces its new-found culture of physical fitness, is its food holding us back?**

by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

Just how healthy are the breakfast and lunch menus being offered at the Sijan Dining Hall? The 440<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron wanted to find out, so it asked Erin Dummert.

A registered dietician with Madam Nutrition in Milwaukee, Dummert spent Sunday of the August UTA in the dining hall watching not only what was being served, but watching reservists and

what selections they were making. Her task—determine if the selections reflect the Air Force's new Fit to Fight initiative.

"People are coming here for one weekend a month promoting the Fit to Fight program, but the menu doesn't necessarily reflect that," Dummert said. "We're looking to have a menu that supports those same philosophies."

### No major changes planned

Dummert said there wouldn't be any substantial changes to the breakfast or lunch menus, but rather focus on educating reservists on the

pros and cons of the food they are choosing, and the ramifications, both positive and negative, their choices can have on them.

"One weekend a month is probably not enough time to make permanent changes in their habits," she said, "but if we can get people starting to think that way and showing them some healthy choices here, then maybe it will go a long way in teaching them good eating habits back in their regular lives."

Dummert said the meals being served look well balanced and the portions are about right size. She noted improvements could be made on the salad bar by serving more

## Eat Healthy

Here is a list of healthy foods and some of the body parts they affect.

### Boron (for bones)

Boron is a mineral that is important for calcium absorption. Boron can be found in grapes, pears, apples, peas, broccoli, peanuts and raisins.

### Vitamin C (for skin)

Vitamin C helps the body make collagen, which helps keep skin firm. It also increases oxygen flow to the skin, heals scar tissue, cuts and bruises. Vitamin C is found in broccoli, strawberries, citrus fruits and cantaloupe.

### Copper (for joints)

Copper is a mineral that is essential for the functioning of an enzyme responsible for strengthening bones and joints. It is found in liver, seafood, nuts and seeds.

### Beta Carotene (for eyes)

Beta Carotene is a vitamin that acts as an antioxidant. It breaks down cancer-causing chemicals that may damage eye tissues, and helps prevent macular degeneration and cataracts. It is found in carrots, sweet potatoes, broccoli and yams.

mamashealth.com

green leafy lettuce that has more nutritional value instead of iceberg lettuce.

Another area she said changes could occur is with ingredients that would make the food being served healthier.

Dummert said she be writing a formal report with her observations and recommendations to the Sijan Dining Hall in the next several weeks.

"Anything that will help us maintain our Fit to Fight program and enhance our readiness we are excited and all for it," said Senior Master Sgt. Laverne McCoy, Sijan Dining Hall superintendent.

# Three 440th Reservists earn ROA scholarships

by **Melissa Kimball**

The Reserve Officers Association, Chapter 45, The Flying Badgers, awarded scholarships to three 440th Airlift Wing enlisted reservists on the August UTA.

## SrA Samuel I. Keene Scholarship

Airman 1st Class Melissa L. Dirnbauer, a cargo processor with the 34<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, was named one of the recipients of the Senior Airman Samuel I. Keene Memorial Scholarship. Airman Dirnbauer is attending the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where she is pursuing a degree in mathematics education with a minor in coaching. Airman Dirnbauer joined the Air Force Reserve in July of 2004 after witnessing the dedication of the men and women who were already members. "The motivation and dedication I saw as I met airmen



Airman 1st Class Melissa Dirnbauer

in different career fields, my first time on base, was truly amazing and so deeply touching that I pushed everything aside to become an airman as well," said Airman Dirnbauer. She continued, "It was a moving experience being able to see so many people coming together to create such a well rounded team which efficiently and effectively completes tremendously important missions."

Lt. Col. Joseph Rallo, commander of the 34<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, related his experience with Airman Dirnbauer, "she has merged effortlessly into the squadron and volunteers regularly to

assist in any way she can. Clearly she will be a leader for us in the years to come."

Airman Amanda M. Hill is also a recipient of a Senior Airman Samuel I. Keene Memorial Scholarship. Airman Hill is attending technical school to become a public affairs specialist with the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. Airman Hill enlisted in March 2005 and completed basic military training in May 2005. She attends the University of



Airman Amanda Hill

Wisconsin-Whitewater and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in speech.

Airman Hill credits her training in the Air Force with helping her develop as a person. "I have learned the proper etiquette and courtesies of the military and successfully use them every day. I have an understanding of the importance of teamwork and how it affects everyday life." She also expressed the fact that the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing has allowed her to become more confident and has pushed her to succeed in all that she does.

The scholarship is named after Senior Airman Samuel I. Keene, who was an enlisted member of the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. As an enlisted loadmaster, he had a passion for flying. He was working towards a bachelor's degree while taking part in the reserves and pursuing a deserving airman commission. Keene's dreams were cut short when he died in a C-130 plane crash on April 1, 1997 in Honduras. The Samuel I. Keene scholarship is funded by the surviving Keene family along with the Chapter 45 ROA.



Tech Sgt. Ann Incrocci

## Colonel Nasiruddin Rana ROA Academic Excellence Scholarship

Tech. Sgt. Ann Incrocci, assistant chief of personnel employment, was named the winner of the 2005 Colonel Nasiruddin Rana Academic Excellence Scholarship. Sergeant Incrocci is pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in human resources at Ottawa University.

Sergeant Incrocci credits the members of the Air Force Reserve with showing her the commitment to one of the Air Force values; "Service before Self." Sergeant Incrocci said, "I cannot begin to compare any of my small sacrifices of weekend duty and annual tours to the sacrifices many of our men and women that have been deployed have made. To be part of such a selfless group of honorable men and women makes me proud to serve along side them."

Master Sgt. Terry Harmon, chief of personnel employment recounted the dedication that Sergeant Incrocci has for her work at the 440<sup>th</sup>. "She has impressed me with her relentless pursuit to complete a job and have it completed in a timely manner, above and beyond," he said.

Col (Dr.) Nasiruddin Rana served with the 440<sup>th</sup> from 1998-2003. Upon retirement in 2003, Dr. Rana began providing an annual \$1,000 scholarship for a member of the 440<sup>th</sup> that is pursuing an undergraduate college degree.

## On your mark, get set - go!



More than 40 reservists and civilians laced up their sneakers for the 440th Services Squadron's Family Day Picnic Fun Run. The course, which weaved around the base, measured just under two miles. For men, the top three finishers were: Maj. Rick Jellison, 440th FM, Capt. Michael Schaefer, 440th LRS and SrA Ryan Sandee, 440th SFS. The top three women finishers were: Maj. Therese Kern, 440th MDS, Maj. Ann Knabe, 440th AW and Col. Laura Talbot, 440th MDS.

*photo by TSgt. Steve Staedler*



## Looking Sharp

Maj. Gwen Sheppard, (center) 440th Civil Engineering Squadron commander, conducts an open ranks inspection Aug. 20 for nearly 100 squadron members. The three members closest to the camera are (left to right) Staff Sgt. Kim Craddock, Senior Master Sgt. Roseanne Peterson and Airman First Class Dillon Briesemeister.

*photo by TSgt. Steve Staedler*

### Job search seminar

The Family Support Center will be hosting a job search seminar on Oct. 6 from 9 to 11 a.m. in Heritage Hall. The speaker is a professional resume writer and career consultant with more than 25 years of experience. Bring your resume to receive a free critique. For more information or to sign up, contact the Family Support Center at (414) 482-5424 or 1-800-224-2744.

### Manufacturers coupons needed

The Air Force Sergeants Association Auxiliary 851 is looking for manufacturers coupons. Reservists are encouraged to clip them out and drop them off at the Family Readiness office or Civil Engineering orderly room. The coupons are sent to military families stationed overseas.

For more information contact Sue Metzger at (414) 353-1529 or Jeanne Sprangers at (414) 769-0889.

### Changes to AIRMAN magazine announced

AIRMAN, the monthly magazine of the U.S. Air Force, is going through some changes. The magazine will have a new look - enhanced photography, new sections, a more visual layout and it will be published quarterly (July, October, January and April). The June 2005 issue was not printed. The magazine took a cut in funding to help support the global war on terrorism.

### ROA meeting scheduled Oct. 1

Chapter #45 Reserve Officers Association will hold a meeting on Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Drop Zone.

All officers are being encouraged to come.

For more information, contact Chapter President, Capt. Mike Schmitz at 482-5545.

### Awards

*440th Airlift Wing Outstanding Senior NCO*  
MSgt. Richard C. Halls 440 AMXS

*440th Airlift Wing Outstanding NCO*  
TSgt. Donald D. Watson 440 AMXS

*440th Airlift Wing Outstanding Airman*  
SrA Deanne Perez 440 AW

### Promotions

Lt. Col. Joseph Almodovar 440 LRS  
Lt. Col. John Ault 440 OG  
Lt. Col. Anthony Chosa 95 AS  
Lt. Col. Thomas Collins 440 MDS  
Lt. Col. Jack Lewis 440 MDS  
Lt. Col. Francis Malloy 440 AW  
Lt. Col. Robert Oates 95 AS  
Lt. Col. David Polacheck 95 AS  
Lt. Col. Patrick Slattery 95 AS  
Maj. Jason Schroeder 95 AS  
Capt. Julie Beery 440 MDS

### Newcomers

Capt. Joanne L. Heins 440 MDS  
SSgt. Derrick J. Ray 440 SFS  
SrA Erika N Cervantes 440 SVF  
SrA Ryan P. Collins 440 SFS  
SrA Scott R. Frazer 34 APS  
SrA Stacey L. Gregory 34 APS  
SrA Jessica M. Norris 440 SVF  
SrA Richard N. Vanderveen 34 APS  
SrA Octavio Veliz 440 SFS  
A1C Robert J. Lapin 34 APS  
A1C Jeffrey M. Sperandeo 440 CES  
A1C Ryan J. D. Wildenhain 440 CES

### Retirements

TSgt. Wanda A. Edgerton 440 LRS  
SSgt. Donald E. Wilson II 440 LRS

## \$400,000 of SGLI coverage starts Sept. 1

Four hundred thousand dollars of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance automatically went into effect for everyone in the U.S. military Sept. 1.

If people don't want the maximum SGLI coverage, they will have to change it in writing, even if they opted for much less or none in the past. The current maximum coverage is \$250,000.

In addition, a new law now requires the services to tell spouses if servicemembers designate a primary beneficiary other than their current lawful spouse, or they turn down SGLI coverage or reduce it after Sept. 1.

To change insurance amounts or who gets it, Airmen need to visit their unit's commander support staff or military personnel flight to fill out a SGLV Form 8286. If deployed, their personnel for contingency operation team can help.

Air Force Reserve Command personnel officials here said changes on the form will not be accepted before Sept. 1.

SGLI coverage still runs 6.5 cents per month for \$1,000 of insurance, but the increments of coverage change from \$10,000 to \$50,000. If people take no action, the monthly maximum premium automatically goes from \$16.25 to \$26. Airmen can avoid the increase if they turn in a form before Sept. 30.

This change does not affect coverage of family members under the Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

Veterans can opt for more coverage under Veterans Group Life Insurance if they are covered by SGLI before separating from the service.

The increased SGLI coverage becomes retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, for survivors of servicemembers who died in a combat zone, combat operations or combat-related situations. If death

occurred between Oct. 7, 2001, and Sept. 1, 2005, survivors receive \$150,000 in transitional insurance, bringing the total maximum coverage to \$400,000.

In addition, the U.S. military's death gratuity benefit increased from \$12,500 to \$100,000 effective May 11. It too is retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001. This means that survivors of servicemembers who died between Oct. 7, 2001, and May 11, 2005, receive the increased benefits, said Col. Virginia Penrod, director of military compensation.

The increased benefits are for survivors of servicemembers who die in combat zones, combat operations and combat-related situations, she said. Combat-related situations include airborne duty, combat training, demolition duty and training exercises.

A policy designating combat areas and situations was given to the service departments in June, and each service is now reviewing cases. Payments already have begun, but the process of identifying and paying eligible survivors could take several months, the colonel said.

The increases in SGLI coverage and the death gratuity benefit came about as a result of a 2004 study evaluating the adequacy of death benefits for servicemembers. The study found that benefits were adequate but did not recognize the unique sacrifice made by servicemembers who die in combat situations, Colonel Penrod said.

"There was concern that we weren't recognizing direct sacrifice of life in service to our nation," she said. "That's how the increase was made for those particular situations." (AFRC News Service from American Forces Press Service)

### Reminder for deactivating reservists

As directed by the wing commander, all people that have been activated in support of the global war on terror since Sept. 11, 2001, must complete a demobilization survey. Surveys may be picked up in the Family Support Office or from your unit first sergeant. For more information, contact Family Support at 482-5424.

## New chaplain joins 440th team

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

First Lieutenant Carlos Herrera joined the 440th Chaplain's office during the August UTA. As a prior enlisted reservist with four years of active duty served and four years in the Reserve, Chaplain Herrera brings an understanding of the military to his new position.

"My goal is to bring spiritual awareness to the men and women of the 440th," said Herrera. "I want people to feel like they can trust me and come to me with their spiritual needs."

Chaplain Herrera was hired as a Protestant pastor, but he emphasized his door is open to people of all faiths. "We all have a need for spirituality in our lives," he explained.

The new chaplain earned his master's degree in divinity from Golden Gate Seminary in San Francisco.

Herrera and his wife, Mina, moved to Waukegan, Ill., last January to "plant a church" that would appeal to people under the age of 35. He serves as the senior pastor for his congregation which increased its membership 200 percent within the first year.

Chaplain Herrera's office is in room 102, building 102. He can be reached on UTAs at 482-5290.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

Chaplain (1st. Lt.) Carlos Herrera

## First Bundles for Babies deemed a success

Family Support hosted the first Bundles for Babies workshop on the August UTA. The program is designed for expectant parents or those with children less than three months old. Capt. Julianna Olson and Capt. Danielle Pearce of the Medical Squadron presented information on nutrition for mom and baby, infant care, car seat safety, safe sleep for babies, and day care issues.

Attendees received the Time Life Book "Your Baby's First Year" and the booklet "Questions Parents of Infants Ask." They also received a "bundle" of goodies which included an Air Force Aid Society tote bag, receiving blankets, towels and washcloths, burp cloths, bibs, and several sleep and play outfits.

The winner of a drawing was given a gift basket of bibs donated by Jane Sijan. Refreshments for the workshop were provided by the Ladies Auxiliary of AFSA Chapter #851.

Family Support is planning two more workshops. The next one will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, Dec. 3. For more information or to sign up, contact the Family Support Center at 1-800-224-2744 or (414) 482-5424.

## Security Forces and Medics seek first sergeant applicants

The 440th Security Forces and Medical Squadrons are seeking applicants for first sergeant positions. Applicants must be a technical sergeant eligible for promotion to master sergeant and have completed NCO Academy resident course or by correspondence.

Once selected, new first sergeants must attend the AFRC First Sergeant Academy no later than one year from the date of assignment.

Reservists who meet the criteria may apply by submitting a resume to Military Personnel Employment by Oct. 21. Applicants must also fill out a first sergeants package available at Military Personnel Employment. For more information contact Master Sgt. Terry Harmon at 482-5338 or Command Chief Master Sgt. Carmon Francher at 482- 5402.

## Sept. UTA airlift cancelled

The September UTA Airlift has been cancelled. For more information about flights call 482-5750.

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

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