

# FLYING

# BADGER

440th Airlift Wing, General Mitchell ARS  
Milwaukee, WI

March 2007  
Volume 59, No. 3

**Brrrrr.....**

440th shivers in  
sub-zero temps,  
but mission goes on

Read more on pages 4, 5 and 12



# Quality of Life improves at Pope

By Col. Brett Clark  
440th Airlift Wing Operations Group Commander, Det. 1 Commander



the botanical garden and the Cape Fear River Trail are some of the best opportunities for family recreation,” wrote the reporter.

Keeping pace with the city, Fort Bragg leadership is committed to improving the quality of life for Soldiers and Airmen. Army Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, 18<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps commander, said he is keenly aware of past stereotypes and perceptions that the Army provides low quality base operations support.

He intends to change that. General Austin’s intent is supported by the Army Transformation Road Map of 2004. Paragraph 5-12 of the Road Map says, “The Army’s long-term strategies to improve installations will be accomplished through sustained and balanced funding to improve Soldier and family quality of life.”

The installation improvement strategy at Fort Bragg is clearly evident. The garrison commander’s transformation office at Fort Bragg will spend about \$300 million on military construction in Fiscal Year 2007 alone. Plans for improving Soldier and Airmen base housing are impressive. Housing has now been privatized with a 50 year contract awarded to a civilian real estate group out of Rhode Island.

The new contemporary hous-

I have struggled with selecting one subject to write about for this issue of the *Flying Badger*. What important positive message or issue could I convey to our native Cheeseheads, Chicagoans, and Midwestern Flatlanders preparing to transfer to Pope Air Force Base and the greater Fayetteville community? After reflecting on my personal experiences at Pope, the answer to this question became clear. The point I want to convey is that the quality of life in the local community, at Pope AFB, and on Fort Bragg has greatly improved and is still improving.

I know many Reservists logged plenty of temporary duty time at Pope during their careers. The over-used cliché that described Pope about 20 years ago was, “No hope, Pope.” The phrase probably started due to a combination of exhausting multi-sortie missions performed by TDY crews, no frills billeting, greasy spoon dining, non-air conditioned transport, and the limited services available to TDY personnel. The city of Fayetteville had areas that attracted a “saltier” crowd.

Downtown Fayetteville has changed dramatically. The Army Community Heritage Partnership, area churches, private businesses and local government have combined their efforts to transform Fayetteville. Don Worthington, a staff writer for the local newspaper, the *Fayetteville Observer*, explained the change in a June 2005 article.

“Seven years ago vacant storefronts were the norm as downtown

was still saddled with an image of bars and strip clubs,” said the journalist. In June 1998, the last vestiges of that era — the marquees of the Korean Lounge and Seven Dwarfs Lounge — were torn down. Groundbreaking for the Airborne and Special Operations Museum followed.

The museum is now located in the heart of Fayetteville at the corner of Bragg Boulevard and Hay Sreet. The revitalized downtown features out-door cafes, posh coffee shops, trendy brew pubs and high rise condominiums.

**Each planned community has its own large swimming pool and a multi-purpose club house, youth center and gym .**

Melissa Willett, another *Observer* staff writer, reported in a November 2006 article that, “. . . the Soldiers coming to the city’s center are mostly officers and higher ranking NCOs, spending their money at places such as the Cameo Art House Theatre, Huske Hardware and Rude Awakening Coffee Shop. Complimenting the downtown development is a growing park system.

“Several long time locals suggest that Cumberland County parks,



Technical Sgt. JoAnn King, 440th Security Forces Squadron, bundles-up on a cold February day. Although temperatures dipped below zero for more than a week, the wing continued to “fix ‘em and fly ‘em.” Cold stories are on pages 4, 5 and 12.

## The Flying Badger

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Part of the Ft. Bragg improvement strategy is "Iron Mike's," which offers Airmen and Soldiers food, a brew pub, plasma TVs and a relaxing atmosphere.

photos by Col. Brett Clark

**Pope Improvements, from page 2**

ing designs boast significantly increased square footage and upgraded appliances. Neighborhoods have an appearance similar to gated subdivisions. Each planned community has its own large swimming pool and a multi-purpose clubhouse, youth center and gym. I have only scratched the surface on this subject; but let me say again, this program is crucial to improving the quality of life of our active duty military.

McKellar's Lodge and Iron Mike's are two examples of the improvement strategy at work in the Morale Welfare and Recreation arena. McKellar's Lodge is a picturesque hunting lodge overlooking McKellar's Lake, featuring a separate lounge and banquet room. I personally recommend the barbecued brisket served during Thursday's lunch. It is excellent.

Iron Mike's Brew Pub is the most recent addition to the Fort Bragg Officers Club which features a micro brewery, excellent food and sev-

eral large plasma screens to watch a wide variety of TV programming. Each table has a speaker tunable to the audio of any television. It is Det. 1's number 1 recommended post eatery. Other notable MWR options include the Stryker Golf Course which features a new clubhouse, the Rider Golf Course, and the Smith Lake Recreational Complex which offers jet skiing, boating, RV Fam Camps, and horse stables.

Rounding out this list of excellence is the Fort Bragg South Commissary. Simply put, this is the best commissary I have ever seen. The product selection and facility appearance are great and the checkouts are relatively quick. Word is that there are plans to upgrade and remodel the North Commissary in a similar fashion.

The point is that quality of life here is on the rise. I'm sure some are still skeptical and that's to be expected. I was just trying to "Pump You Up!" I tell you now. You believe me later.

## AFPC announces Airman Battle Uniform Wear Policy

The Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph AFB, Texas has released the Airman Battle Uniform wear policy.

The ABU replaces both the temperate and enhanced hot weather BDU in the clothing bag and the desert camouflage uniform as an organizational clothing and individual equipment uniform item. The mandatory wear date is October 2011. However, by June 2008 the ABU is projected to be available for purchase at Army and Air Force Exchange Service military clothing sales stores worldwide.

Clothing allowances for enlisted personnel will increase to accommodate increased expenses beginning in October 2007. Basic uniform items include:

- ABU coat (shirt)
- ABU trousers
- ABU patrol cap
- Sand colored T-shirt (alternative fabric shirts can be worn as long as they match the sand color such as moisture wicking fabrics, 100 per cent cotton or cotton/poly blends. Logos can not be visible.)
- Sand colored riggers belt
- Foliage green boot socks.
- Desert tan boots (until foliage green boots become available)
- Foliage green boots (when available about April 1 in AAFES and about December at basic military training)

ABU print name tapes with embroidered "name" and "U.S. Air Force" should be purchased from AAFES military clothing sales stores or commercial vendors. Rank and badges can be purchased at AAFES or from certified commercial vendors. Only official sources are authorized to ensure specifications, such as near infrared treatment, are accurate. A number of accessories and optional items are authorized:

- Air Force all purpose environment clothing system parka in the ABU pattern
- Black gloves, scarf, stocking (watch) cap, ear muffs are authorized (until foliage green items become available)
- Foliage green gloves and watch caps are available and immediately authorized
- Black backpacks and gym bags
- Foliage green backpacks and gym bags are available and immediately authorized
- ABU backpacks are authorized when they become available
- Personal hydration systems (camelbacks) black/tan/foliage green or ABU print when it becomes available (Mandatory phase out of the black and tan versions will be determined)
- Religious denomination insignia for chaplains
- Handbags/purses, briefcases, laptop bags and umbrella continue to be black

Reservists should check with their unit first sergeant for all of the details on this new uniform policy.

## Wing Farewell Gathering: Celebrate the Memories Saturday, April 14 UTA

**WHO IS INVITED?** All 440<sup>th</sup> members – traditional reservists, ARTs, civilians, retirees, contractors, and community supporters are invited to attend.

**WHAT TIME?** 1 p.m. Commander's Call followed by awards and recognition

**WHERE?** 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Maintenance Hangar, Building 217

**WHAT EVENTS?** Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, Chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of the Air Force Reserve Command, is the featured speaker. Refreshments and beverages will follow, with live entertainment by a Milwaukee rock 'n' roll band.

# Freezing Wisconsin temperatures

By 1st Lt. Jeff Schoen

With wind chills reaching 40 degrees below zero in early February, most of the Midwest, including Milwaukee, was paralyzed by the frigid temperature as schools closed, extra-curricular activities were cancelled and cars refused to start. It was simply a miserable week and it makes you wonder if anything ever got done outside.

“As long as there’re planes that need to be fixed, we’ll be out there,” said Senior Master Sgt. Todd Ramsey, accessories systems flight chief for the 440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron on base. “The cold weather definitely slows us down, but it never stops us.”

The cold weather slows down maintenance because of the additional precautions they need to take to ensure the safety and welfare of the maintenance crew and the airplane.

For example, when the temperature drops below 32 degrees, maintenance crews preheat the props before running the engines. According to Sergeant Ramsey, this additional step helps protect the engines from undue wear and tear due to the cold temperature.

To help keep the maintenance crew warm, heat is pumped into the airplane via an external heater, which keeps the interior cabin at a comfortable temperature.

As an additional precaution during cold weather, the buddy system is implemented to ensure that nobody works alone.

According to Technical Sergeant James Stamas, maintenance technician for the 440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, it’s also important to wear layers of clothing and take frequent breaks. “If it’s cold, we tell people not to try and



# no match for the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing

and tough it out. Personally, I did enough of (toughing out the cold) when I was in the Army,” Sergeant Stamas said.

The next time you hear on the radio or TV that the local schools are closed for the day because of cold weather, don’t assume the 440th flying schedule has also ground to a halt. Chances are that the wing maintainers are working hard to accomplish their mission and get those aircraft back in the air.



Senior Airmen Christopher Retzlaff, flight line crew chief for the 440th Maintenance Squadron, prepares a heater to be hooked up to an engine prop.

*photo by Tech. Sgt. Richard Lindquist*



# Our 440th "The Spirit of"

1st C-130H model received by



## Historic Operations

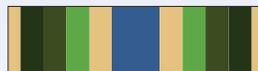
Operation Just Cause



Operation Desert Shield Desert Storm



Operation Joint Endeavor



Operations

Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom



# h Heritage f Wisconsin”

y the 440th, 27 January 1989



**Power Plant**-Four Allison T56-A-15 turboprops; 4,300 horsepower, each engine.

**Length**-97 feet, 9 inches (29.3 meters). **Height**-38 feet, 3 inches (11.4 meters).

**Wingspan**-132 feet, 7 inches (39.7 meters).

**Speed**-374 mph (Mach 0.57) at 20,000 feet (6,060 meters).

**Ceiling**-33,000 feet (10,000 meters) at 100,000 pounds (45,000 kilograms).

**Maximum Takeoff Weight**-155,000 pounds (69,750 kilograms).

**Operating Weight**: 85,000 Pounds

**Maximum Useable Fuel**: 61,364 Pounds

**Maximum Airdrop Load Weight**: 42,000 Pounds

**Normal Passenger Seats Available**: Up to 92 troops or 64 paratroops or 74 litter patients.

**Maximum Number of Pallets**: 5 plus 1 ramp pallet

**Range** 2,356 miles (2,049 nautical miles) with maximum payload;

2,500 miles (2,174 nautical miles) with 25,000 pounds (11,250 kilograms) cargo;

5,200 miles (4,522 nautical miles) with no cargo.

**Crew** Four-Five (two pilots, a navigator, flight engineer and loadmaster)

# As wing gets closer to moving to Pope



**Maj. Rick Jellison**

Major Jellison, a traditional reservist, will continue in his role as 440th military comptroller. "I am looking forward to the challenges ahead of us as we establish the 440th Airlift Wing's new home at Pope AFB," he said. "But there is a long road ahead. We understand there will be bumps ahead of us to work out, and my goal is to make the transition as painless as possible for our unit members."



**Lt. Col. Andrew Krafft**

As a traditional reservist, Lt. Col. Andrew Krafft will move to Pope with the wing as a C-130 aircraft commander. "I am looking forward to working with our active duty counterparts, but will really miss Milwaukee."



**Tech. Sgt. William Desarden**

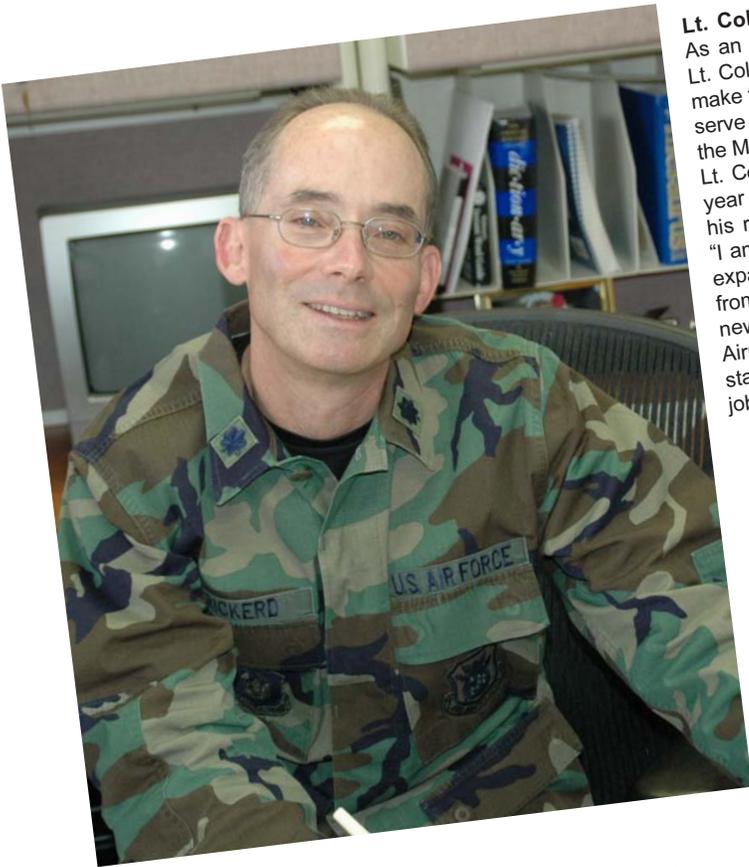
Currently serving as the 440th Medical Squadron first sergeant, Sergeant Desarden is a traditional reservist and a nurse technician. He cites solid employer relations as key to balancing work and the military throughout his Reserve career, and expects these same solid relationships will help with his transition to Pope.

"I would like to thank the community and my employers, Black Diamond and North West Asphalt, for their support to perform my reserve duties for the last 19 years here in Milwaukee," he said. "Without their support, it would be impossible."

Sergeant Desarden believes other military units may benefit through the Base Realignment and Closure on the 440th.

"We may be losing some really talented people from the wing, but they will only improve other military units across the country," he said. "As for me, I've never been to Pope, but I'm really hoping for better weather."

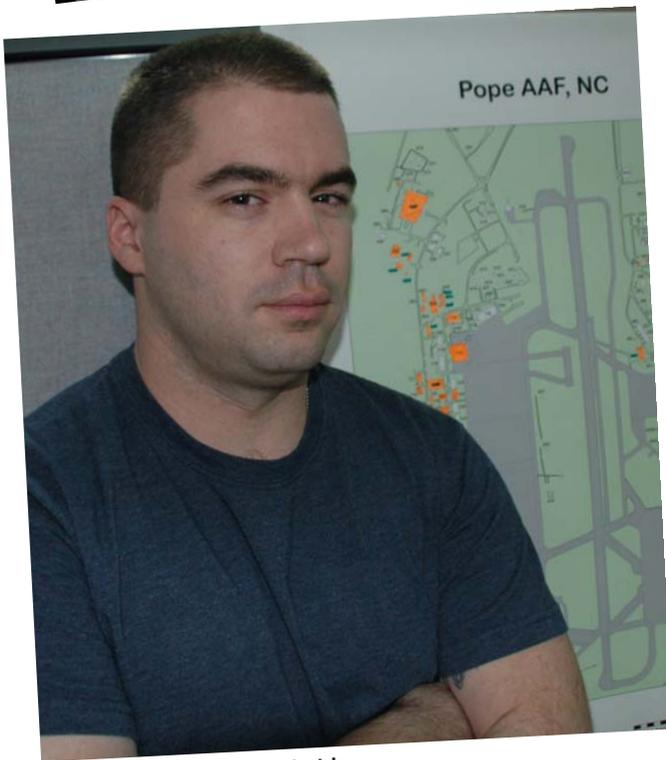
# AFB, 440th Airmen plan for the future



**Lt. Col. Scott Brickerd**  
As an Air Reserve technician, Lt. Col. Scott Brickerd will make the move to Pope AFB to serve as the commander of the Military Personnel Flight. Lt. Col. Brickerd will work one year at Pope before submitting his retirement paperwork. "I am looking forward to the expansion of the operation from the ground up; developing new programs, hiring new Airmen – and seeing the stability of new people, new jobs," he said.



**Senior Airman Lisa Taylor**  
Airman Taylor, a traditional reservist with the intelligence section will make the move to Pope AFB with two other reservists from her shop, Tech. Sgt. Christina Thums and Senior Airman Kina Noppen. Sergeant Thums will rejoin the unit after she returns from her civilian contractor job in Iraq. Airman Noppen will remain with the unit as a traditional reservist. "I look forward to some change, new challenges, a higher tempo and warmer weather," said Airman Taylor. "Obvious challenges are going to be setting up a shop while in transit with personnel and equipment. Specifically, getting to know who you are working for, and with, while getting the shop integrated, should be interesting. Personally, I'm sure many will find themselves out of their comfort zone while getting acclimated to the base, the area and the people."



**Staff Sgt. Josh Meisenhelder**  
Sergeant Meisenhelder, an Air Reserve technician, thinks the Pope facilities will be a "plus" for anyone moving. "I'm looking forward to using the gym and the club," he said. In preparation for the move, Sergeant Meisenhelder has traveled to North Carolina several times, and is shopping for his new home online.

*photos by 440th Airlift Wing and 43rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Staff*

# Air Force changes Personnel Services Delivery System to web-based application

Bob Dylan's lyric, "The times, they are a changing" may say it best for the Air Force as it attempts its biggest change in personnel service through its Personnel Services Delivery Transformation initiative.

Air Force leadership mandated the change to transform personnel services currently performed manually by technicians in the Military Personnel Flight to Web-based applications. The philosophy behind PSDT was to replace the customer's in-person contact with the MPF and thereby save time and money by having them perform most personnel functions from their home or office computer.

Currently, 10 percent of personnel transactions now occur online with 5 percent of transactions handled by phone and 85 percent handled face-to-face at the unit or by the MPF Customer Service staff. The goal of PSDT is to reverse those figures with 85 percent service on-line and 10 percent face-to-face.

"It's a paradigm shift in the way Air Force members have traditionally received their personnel services," said Senior Master Sgt. Keith Heapes, 440<sup>th</sup> Military Personnel Flight superintendent.

In response to the Air Force initiative, the Air Reserve Personnel Center has begun to centralize Web-based personnel applications on the Virtual Personnel Center-Guard/Reserve portal, known as vPC-GR. The first applications were rolled out in March of 2006, but more complex applications and capability are being added to the system.

In vPC-GR's first months, members could correct duty history online, find out and correct current points, obtain a 20-year letter re-issue, choose a Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan and sign up for Tricare Reserve Select.

In July, the Reserve automated the retirement application process so that members had the ability to apply for retirement online without visiting the MPF. Recently, an awards and decorations request page was added to the site and on the horizon; functions for separations, re-enlistments, promotions, retraining and more are planned.

"It's an evolving process," said Lt. Col. Scott Brickerd, 440<sup>th</sup> Military Personnel Flight commander. "It won't remain static since every success story leads us to consider another manual application with the potential for automation."

Colonel Brickerd encourages users to take some time and review vPC-GR. The applications are convenient time savers and, ultimately, the future of personnel service delivery. Military members should become familiar with the on-line features as they are fielded in order to keep up with the changes. Once applications go live on vPC-GR, the MPF will start weaning customers away from paper forms and redirecting them to the Web-based application.

However, the human element has not been removed from the system and members experiencing difficulties can call the vPC-GR Contact Center at (800) 525-0102, DSN 926-6528, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST), Monday through Friday and 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. MST, on the first Saturday and Sunday of each month to talk with a customer service counselor.

According to Sergeant Heapes, members

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**"In today's Air Force we are all over the world, Airmen must have a viable way to conduct their personnel business no matter where they are."**

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Senior Master Sgt. Keith Heapes

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shouldn't worry about their inquiry being lost in the shuffle, since complex questions that can't be resolved on the spot, are entered in a database that can be accessed by all the center's counselors. The inquiry is then tracked until it's resolved.

The commander's support staff, commonly known as the orderly room, takes on more responsibility under PSDT. The CSS will help the member get online, reach the contact center; assist the member in scanning or faxing documents, or whatever the case will be," Sergeant Heapes said. "For instance, the member may not know what documents they need to send in. So the CSS can really help in that regard."

The vPC-GR is a reflection of the changes in the Air Force. "In today's Air Force we are all over the world," Sergeant Heapes said. "Airmen must have a viable way to conduct their personnel business no matter where they are. They are not always going to be at their home base. The Web and call center serve to give members a way to access their records no matter where they may be in the world."

Colonel Brickerd and Sergeant Heapes agree that the biggest challenge to the new system becoming relevant to all members is to break them out of the "that's the way we've always done it" mind set comfort zone.

"There are always going to be people who like it the way it has always been done," Sergeant Heapes said, "but the intent of PSDT is to get our customers what they need, quicker and easier than they've done it before."

Most folks who've accessed the applications agree that it is easier. "Most of us 'old timers' have concerns about not being able to reach out and touch someone, but younger troops are already going on-line for most of their personal transactions anyway, such as online banking or bill paying. We think most of those initial concerns will disappear as members become more proficient," Sergeant Heapes said.

Sergeant Heapes advises members to not wait until a need arises before logging on to the system. He said it's important to become familiar with the site and avoid the frustrations on learning how to navigate vPC-GR while embroiled in a crisis.

Another step in the PSDT process is transferring the manual record to an electronic format. AFPC began scanning the Unit Personnel Records Group last year for active duty airmen and is slated to begin the same process for the Guard and Reserve, beginning in mid to late 2008. As a service to our customers, each member of the 440<sup>th</sup> was provided a copy of their personnel record last spring in preparation for shipment of the UPRG to Randolph AFB Texas. If you didn't receive your envelope, contact your orderly room staff. Members who want documents that were created after April 2006 may contact the Customer Service Section at 482-5327 or 5329 to have copies made.

At the end of the electronic transition, vPC-GR will be merged into the Department of Defense's Defense Military Integrated Human Resource System (DIMHRS), which, according to Sergeant Heapes, will eventually centralize all pay and personnel issues.

Access to the vPC-GR can be made through ARPC Web-site (<http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/>) by clicking on the vPC-GR link. Upon reaching the site, establish a new account by clicking on the "New account" link under the "Account tools" tab and following the instructions.

## Officer Promotions

Capt. Glenn Baker  
Capt. Christopher Dewitt

## Enlisted Promotions

SMSgt. Gregory Gruener  
MSgt. Kurt Wadzinski  
MSgt. Russel Kirschbaum  
MSgt. Steven Franklin  
TSgt. Kevin Wood  
TSgt. Thomas Dobbins  
TSgt. Nathan Ahola  
SSgt. Juanell Winters  
SSgt. Noel Moreno  
SSgt. Jeremy Kupsky  
SrA Nathan Thrun

## Good luck!

The 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing says goodbye to the following reservists who have retired, separated or taken another assignment:

Maj. Christopher Brennan  
SMSgt. Gerald Fox  
MSgt. Thomas Rice  
TSgt. William Meister  
TSgt. Michael Obrien  
TSgt. Rocio Resendiz  
TSgt. Kenneth Serzynski  
TSgt. Derek Thompson  
SSgt. Michael Grohskopf  
SSgt. Kenneth Schoen  
SrA Dekole Branch  
SrA Roger Case  
SrA Erika Cervantes  
SrA Venigeo Gapastione  
SrA Natasha Mathis  
SrA Shawn McGowan  
SrA Cheryl Melchert  
SrA Darren Meyers  
SrA Jessica Shaffer  
Amn Jonathan Milliner  
Amn Brent Werlein

## Homefront America offers 25K in scholarships

by **Carmen L. Gleason**  
**American Forces Press Service**

WASHINGTON (AFNEWS) — A troop-support group has launched an essay contest to award scholarships to military children in gratitude for the sacrifices they have made while their parents serve the nation.

Homefront America has joined the W. Daniel Tate family and Sara's Hope Foundation for a second year to host a scholarship contest awarding \$1,000 to 25 military family children.

The organization is a member of America Supports You, a Defense Department program designed to connect U.S. citizens' support directly to troops and their families.

"This is the launching of a huge campaign," said Mamie Maywhort, the Homefront America chief financial officer. "It doesn't matter if people only contribute a dollar; we want this to be the beginning of an endowment perpetuated every year."

Ms. Maywhort said she began the program because she saw a need due to heightened operational tempos.

"With parents being deployed so much, some of these kids might not have the role model there to encourage them to pursue further education or the resources to make going to school possible," she said.

Ms. Maywhort said she and Mr. Tate have long been passionate about encouraging youngsters to pursue higher education, especially those connected to the military.

"We are happy to have this opportunity to help our military families," Mr. Tate said. "I did not serve in the military; my children are not in the military. This is our way of serving."

"We strive to provide our military families with opportunities whenever possible," said Arthur Hasselbrink, the Homefront America president. He said the dream of providing scholarships to military dependent children has become a reality thanks to Mr. Tate's generosity.

This year's essay topics focus on patriotic and military themes. Contestants are asked to submit essays on one of four subjects:

- America ... it's a wonderful country.
- Turning challenges into opportunities.
- Why I am proud to be an American.
- My dad/mom ... my hero.

Essays are due by April 23 and should not exceed 500 words. They will be judged by independent volunteers based on content, originality, grammar and spelling. Winners will be announced in May. Full instructions and application procedures are available at the Homefront America Web site, [www.homefrontamerica.org](http://www.homefrontamerica.org).

## Det. 1 Update: 440th Airmen recruit new reservists from 3 sites

by **Tech Sgt. Mark Ulmen**  
**Det. 1, 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing**  
**Pope AFB, N.C.**

Hiring and the efforts to coordinate support for the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Pope AFB, N.C., are in full swing and accelerating as the planned May 6 transfer date approaches. Time is growing short!

Det. 1 Airmen have completed visits and presentations at Charleston AFB, S.C., Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., and at Willow Grove ARS, Pa., seeking applicants for the 440th at Pope. We are now making presentations to active duty Air Force members at Pope to see who is interested in joining the Air Force Reserve and staying at Pope. The process of hiring full-time civilians

and Air Reserve technicians is also progressing.

The third site activation task force (SATAF) convened at Pope on Feb. 27. Det. 1, 440th and 43<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing Headquarters, Air Force Reserve Command, and Air Mobility Command will all be meeting to work out as many details as possible for the new Reserve wing and its active duty associates.

Maj. Chris Bakogiannis joined Det. 1 full-time from the 913<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Willow Grove ARS, Pa., in February, along with Senior Master Sgt. Candy Chesley and Staff Sgt. Reggie Nash from Milwaukee.

Mr. Lionel Drain, a retired Air Force enlisted man at Pope recently joined the 440<sup>th</sup> as the Det. 1, and later the Operations Group, administrative assistant. We are looking forward to

having more people from Milwaukee join us and increase our ability to accomplish our vital mission at Pope.

Det. 1 has had recent helpful visits from: Lt. Col. Scott Brickerd, 440<sup>th</sup> Military Personnel Flight commander; Tech Sgt. Eric Orcholski and Mr. Terry Harmon, also with MPF; Lt. Col. Bobby Oates, Chief Master Sgt. Terry J. Studstill, Chief Master Sgt. James Tavernese, and Senior Master Sgt. Linda Dilley, all with the 95<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron; Staff Sgt. Joan Freundt and Tech Sgt. Don Watson, both with the 440th Maintenance Squadron; Staff Sgt. Dawn Watson, Communications Flight; and Col. Michael Ochs, 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force Military Personnel.

The members of Det. 1 look forward to more arrivals between May and October.

# New Generation Heaters beat the cold

by Airman 1st Class Amanda Hill

When the going gets tough, the tough get going; and when tough winter temperatures get to Wisconsin the tough members of the 440th Maintenance Group get smart and break out their “New Generation Heaters.”

New Generation Heaters are versatile. The heaters, which arrived at Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station in January 2004, can run 15 hours. The first requests for use of the heaters begin in mid-November and end around May.

They are used primarily by maintenance crews while they work. A full fuel tank holds 52 gallons of fuel. When the heaters are dispatched to the flight line they normally run for five hours. The 440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron operates and maintains 18 NGHs. Since they are fairly new, they require periodic inspections.

“We have repaired a few electrical problems. Mainly loose wires at a terminal,” said Master Sgt. Steven Grosshuesch, 440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron flight chief.

Two maintenance specialists maintain the heaters during the week. Nine reservists maintain them during UTA’s and annual tours. Reservists primarily help with the inspections and maintenance of the NGHs.

Before a heater can be used some preparatory work must be done. The oil level of the engine must be right, and, there must be enough fuel in



Tech. Sgt. Brian Groth, aerospace ground equipment technician, is one of two Air Reserve technicians that maintain the base’s New Generation heaters.

*photo by Elizabeth Stoeckmann*

the tank. Heaters must be positioned properly so the exhaust does not enter the work area or air intake of the NGH.

The heater then has to warm up. A 12-inch duct is then attached to the output. When temperatures dip below 32 degrees, they can be used

to preheat C-130 aircraft propellers. For preheating propellers, an adapter is placed at the output so 6-inch ducts can be attached.

NGHs are also used as a back up heating system for buildings if maintenance needs to be done on a building’s heating system.

## 440th Services seeking “Youth of the Year” nominations

The Air Force Services Youth of the Year Award Program application and forms are available at [www.bgca.net](http://www.bgca.net). Each base Youth of the Year will receive a plaque, a 2007 Air Force bear, and a congratulatory memo. Air Force civilians and military members’ children are eligible.

The major change in the program this year is that MAJCOM Youths of the Year will have the opportunity to attend the Presidential Classroom, Ta leadership program which will be held June 17-23 in Washington, D.C.

The Presidential Classroom students must be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in high school and must have a “B” average or rank in the top 25 percent of their class. More information about the Presidential Classroom initiative available online at [www.PresidentialClassroom.org](http://www.PresidentialClassroom.org).

440th Youth of the Year nominations are due April 6. For application forms or more information, contact 440th Services Division Chief Ron Knutson at 414-482-5708.

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*To the family of:*