

# FLYING BADGER

440th Airlift Wing, General Mitchell ARS, Milwaukee, WI

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**Bird's Eye View of  
Final Formation**

On the cover...



440th Airlift Wing reservists braved cool temperatures to pose for final photos on the flightline during the May UTA.

photo by Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer

## The Flying Badger

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## COMMAND PERSPECTIVE

# Knowledge-Enabled Airmen key to Air Force's success

by Michael W. Wynne  
Secretary of the Air Force

Airmen provide America with air, space and cyberspace dominance - the first and essential enduring requirement of a successful military operation. But such dominance is not a national right. It is the consequence of generations of innovative *Knowledge-Enabled Airmen* who have continued to learn throughout their careers, and have applied their increasing knowledge to develop and exploit new technologies and tactics.

Consider the training, skill and knowledge required to execute the following OIF mission: On 29 September 2006, Lance Corporal Justin Ping was wounded, suffering from severe burns, blast injuries, and shrapnel in a leg and his right eye. He was evacuated from the battlefield to Balad AB, where he received immediate care at the USAF hospital.

The doctors quickly determined he needed more care than the Balad medical facilities could provide. Brooke Army Medical Center, near San Antonio, was best equipped to deal with Ping's wounds, but he had to get there as quickly as possible. A C-17 at Balad, scheduled to fly to Al Udeid that night, was re-tasked for the duty, and a critical care air

transport team was assembled.

Enroute tankers from Mildenhall AB and the New Hampshire Air National Guard met the C-17 for multiple air refuelings, enabling the medical center to admit Justin into intensive care just 15 hours after he left Balad, ultimately saving the brave Marine's life.

We have all heard the phrase "flexibility is the key to airpower." I would like to add that *Knowledge-Enabled Airmen* are the key to flexibility. Take a moment to consider each of the Airmen involved in this story: air traffic and base ops controllers; maintainers; pilots, loadmasters, and boomers; the entire

**"It is possible to fly  
without motors,  
but not without  
knowledge and skill."**

~ Wilbur Wright

flying medical team; the medical personnel at Balad; the Tanker Airlift Control Center; the security forces Airmen; and the list goes on.

These Total Force Airmen all entered the Air Force either through basic military training or an officer accession source, where they established the foundation of their professional learning.

Since then they have continually expanded their knowledge at technical training schools and flying train-



ing units. They've graduated from professional military education courses such as Airmen Leadership School, Squadron Officer School, and the NCO Academy. They've honed their skills with CDCs, OJT, and continuation training. And they've prepared for combat in local exercises and at Red Flags.

Every step taken was knowledge gained and every ounce of this knowledge was required to save Lance Corporal Ping. This success is just one example of the training all Airmen receive, and how *Knowledge-Enabled Airmen* apply their knowledge and skills daily across the globe.

I encourage each of you to challenge yourself and those around you to be the most *Knowledge-Enabled Airmen*. Take advantage of every opportunity to increase your knowledge, then develop and exploit new technologies and tactics to increase the Air Force's warfighting prowess. As Wilbur Wright taught us a century ago, our Air Force won't fly without your knowledge and skill.

# 440th Airlift Wing pilot called a “vet” in more ways than one

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

The term “vet” has dual meaning for Maj. Jon Jones, a 95th Airlift Squadron pilot. The reservist who has flown with the wing for 12 years served in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom is also a licensed veterinarian.

Prior to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Major Jones treated animals on a full-time basis with veterinary practices in Muskego and Wind Lake. He gave up his full-time veterinary work when the flying squadron’s operations tempo increased five years ago. Since then, he has deployed several times to Southwest Asia to fly C-130s in the AOR.

“Even though I stopped practicing full time, I never gave up my interest in veterinary medicine,” said Major Jones. “I still keep current with required continuing medical education, and enjoy practicing part time when the opportunity arises.”

Major Jones said since he was 5-years-old, he wanted to be both a veterinarian and an Air Force pilot.

“Adults would tell me ‘you have to choose one or the other -- you can’t do both.’ But I didn’t understand why I had to choose, and remained set on doing both. Fortunately I discovered the Guard and Reserve, and serving in the Air Force Reserve has been a perfect way to fly while working as a veterinarian.”

Although Major Jones is not currently practicing his veterinarian skills full time, he still treats animals.

“I’ve kept good relationships within the local veterinary community,” he said. “My former boss Dr. James Hardekopf has been very supportive. In the last two years I’ve performed several surgeries, to include spays, neuters and bone biopsies. I’ve also done some diagnostics and routine health examinations and health certifications.”

The wing’s move to Pope AFB, N.C., also gave Major Jones an opportunity to use his skills. As 440th reservists and their families get ready to move to different states, they want to take their dogs and cats along. That’s where Major Jones’ expertise comes in.

“Different states have different health certification requirements prior to bringing in animals,”



Maj. Jon “Doc” Jones is a veterinarian in his civilian work and pilot with the 440th Airlift Wing.

he explained. “I research the requirements online and examine family pets to make sure they are vaccinated, healthy and ready to move, then issue a certificate.”

Major Jones also used his skills in the desert when he was deployed to Southwest Asia. His deployed base hosted an Army Veterinary Corps detachment commanded by veterinarian Capt. Charlie Noland. Major Jones eagerly volunteered with the humanitarian portion of their mission.

“We did a lot of vaccinations and surgeries on local animals,” said Major Jones. “A number of Americans are moving there, and they often bring their pets. While Arab countries are used to treating felines, canine pets are not as popular.”

Perhaps his most intriguing veterinary experience in the desert was a camel health inspection.

“The Army was hosting a bazaar for servicemembers, and they planned to offer camel rides,” he said. “So we inspected the camel to make sure it was healthy and didn’t pose any health hazards to humans who came in contact with it.”

Major Jones plans to continue his military service as a traditional reservist assigned to Pope AFB. He hopes to start a veterinary practice again in the Milwaukee area once the wing transfers.

## New security features added to *myPay*

ARLINGTON, Va. —*myPay* officials recently announced that a new security feature has been added to protect customers’ data on the pay account system. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has implemented the “virtual keyboard” to help protect against malicious software such as spyware, and keylogging.

The virtual keyboard began in mid-May. Each time a user arrives at *myPay* to log on, the virtual keyboard will appear on the screen. The user will type in their LoginID and will “press” the keys on the screen by clicking on them with their mouse to enter their personal identification number (PIN) instead of typing the actual keys. The virtual keyboard is to be used only for the user’s PIN. To enhance security, the keyboard layout changes or keys are displayed randomly every time the page is refreshed.

Under frequently asked questions on the *myPay* homepage (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>) customers can find more information on steps to secure their home computers.

### To Log-On

1. Type LoginID under Account Access on the homepage.
2. Next, click on the numbers and letters (if using a restricted access PIN) of your PIN using the mouse and virtual keyboard on the screen. (Each number or letter will appear as an asterisk in the textbox above the virtual keyboard.) When finished, click the “GO” button.
3. Once in *myPay* users will continue to navigate as usual.

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For more about DFAS visit <http://www.dfas.mil>

# Leaving their mark



## 440th civil engineers build better life for Hawaiians during unit's final deployment

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

Forty-four Civil Engineer Reservists recently flew to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, but the trip was far from a vacation. During a four week period, two teams of 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing reservists put their skills to work building a new elderly daycare center at Helemano Plantation on the island of Oahu.

Each day, the civil engineers drove 30 minutes to the construction site, where they worked from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

One of the electrical teams led by Senior Master Sgt. Paul Sackman, installed street lighting and conduits for the lighting circuits, and set-up wiring for the service entrances to some of the buildings. They installed more than 3,000 feet of electrical wire underground, providing electricity to the light poles. The team also troubleshot electrical problems in existing buildings, including a malfunctioning fire alarm

that kept shorting out.

"For a lot of our younger troops, the trip was excellent training," said Master Sgt. Tyler Coddington, who is an electrical lineman as a civilian, and electrical systems technician in the Reserve. "Typically we are not doing this type of training on a Reserve weekend, so it was their first opportunity for actual hands-on experience."

While the electrical teams were burying cable, structural teams poured concrete foundations and framed interior and exterior walls for the dormitory style buildings that would be used by disabled adults and senior citizens.

"We placed the wooden forms for several building floors," said Tech. Sgt. Kevin Sampson, a heavy equipment operator. "Then we tied the rebar in place and poured the concrete." Sergeant Sampson estimated the CES team laid more than 3,000 square feet of concrete for the new buildings. Seven concrete

**Above:** Reservists assigned to the 440<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron work on a concrete pad for a camp facility at Helemano Plantation in Hawaii. The humanitarian deployment involved construction of an adult daycare center for senior citizens and people with disabilities.



Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Danielle Klitzke, a plumber with the 440<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron, assists with building exterior walls on an adult daycare center.

## FEATURE

trucks were needed to complete the job.

The reservist also operated a back hoe, vibrating roller and skidsteer to prepare the foundations for concrete. The work was carefully planned around the frequent rain showers.

“Believe it or not, the weather was a challenge,” said Maj. David Phillips, a civil engineering officer and part of the structural team. “It rained on and off throughout the entire tour. At times we had wind gusts of more than 25 miles per hour. When you’re working with electrical power tools and trying to pour concrete, you have to really watch the weather.”

In one case, the electrical and utility teams worked closely together to solve an emergency situation in which a main water system broke.

“First we had to figure out what the underlying problem was,” said Master Sgt. Jack Vollriede, an electrician. “We discovered the control and safety systems weren’t working correctly, and the result was a spike in water pressure that blew the pipe apart on an irrigation system.” While Vollriede worked on correcting the electrical issue, Master Sergeants Michael Sendelbach and William (Bill) Lorenz replaced the ruptured water mains. They also installed a new relief system in the water main to avoid similar failures in the future.

“Their combined efforts saved Helemano more than \$15,000 in repairs and their water bill,” said Maj. Gwen Sheppard, 440<sup>th</sup> CES commander.

Some reservists used the deployment to step outside their comfort zone and try new roles. Such was the case for Master Sgt. Paula Trestik. Normally an information management specialist for the squadron, she helped the plumbers on the structural team, hauling lumber, pouring concrete and shoveling gravel.

“I helped out wherever they needed me,” Sergeant Trestik said. “It was a great experience because I got to serve outdoors and do a lot physical activity, which isn’t normally part of the information management career field.”



Senior Airman Christopher Schlembach (center), an electrical technician, assists Master Sgt. Joseph Brown (left), in setting anchor bolts for street lights while Tech. Sgt. William Dragolovich supervises.

Sergeant Trestik said the reservists met many of the Hawaiians who would be using the facilities.

“They were really excited to see us out there working on their new buildings,” she said. “When we left, they gave us homemade cookies and Hawaiian ornaments as a thank you.”

The six interlocking work centers on the Helemano Plantation provide the work and training sites for disabled adults, and a safe location for senior citizens to meet during the day. The program’s Chief Executive Officer Susanna F. Cheung visited the construction site every day, sharing her vision with the reservists making her dream come true.

“Mrs. Cheung was grateful we were working on this humanitarian project,” said Major Sheppard. “And our Reservists felt proud of their work. We were helping our own people in our own country. This brought our tight knit unit even closer together.”

The squadron’s first sergeant said there was a unique synergy on this deployment that he hadn’t seen in the past.



Tech. Sgt. Ryan Arnold, a carpenter with the 440<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron, smoothes concrete while Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Karrels sprinkles water over the worked area.

*Photos submitted by 440th Civil Engineer Squadron*

“We had all our AFSC’s working together. It didn’t matter if you were an information management specialist or heavy equipment operator or electrician,” said Sergeant Lorenz, who has been with the wing for 17 years. “When the concrete arrived, we all pitched in to pour the slabs, screed the concrete, and trowel finished it.”

The civil engineers also knew the deployment would be their last one as a team before the wing moved from General Mitchell Air Reserve Station to Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

# Reservists take medical care to Guatemalans

by Master Sgt. Chance Babin  
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Journeying as much as 10,000 feet above sea level, a group of 31 Air Force Reserve Command medics, including a flight surgeon from the 95<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron here at General Mitchell Air Reserve Station, treated more than 8,000 patients as part of New Horizons 07, April 14 to 28 in the mountainous region of San Marcos, Guatemala.

Maj. (Dr.) Stephen Chester called the tour a once-in-a-lifetime experience to use his skills to help people who normally don't receive regular medical care.

"It's the truest form of medicine," Major Chester said. "You don't worry about malpractice, you don't worry about patient complaints because everyone there was so grateful to have medical care. It's the most rewarding type of practice you can have."

New Horizons is a joint chiefs of staff-approved, U.S. Southern Command-sponsored joint engineer and medical humanitarian and civic assistance exercise conducted annually in Central and South America.

The purpose of the exercise is to improve joint training readiness of engineer and medical units while improving the infrastructure of the visited country.

This year's exercise in Guatemala focused on constructing clinics and water wells, as well as conducting medical readiness training exercises, called MEDRETE. The exercise often involves reservists and National Guardsmen from the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The MEDRETE team visited three different locations during the two-week deployment. The team worked out of local schools in the towns of Mavil, San Pedro and San Antonio Serchil.

"We purchased \$50,000 in medications for this mission and have exhausted our supplies due to the volume of patients that have come to receive free medical care," said Maj. Melissa Triche, a medical planner for Air Force Reserve Command International Health Specialist program who coordinated this mission. "This mission is a win-win for everyone. Not only is the local population receiving much-needed medical care, but our physicians are fine-tuning their clinical skills in an austere environment."

For the medical team members, the mission was not only a great training opportunity, but

also a chance to immerse themselves in a foreign culture. One of the big challenges was communicating with the patients, who mostly spoke Spanish.

"We had a great group of high school girls who were in a bilingual program to serve as our interpreters," Major Chester said. "We practiced our Spanish on them and they practiced their English on us. Having them was very helpful in communicating with patients."

The 11 general medicine physicians encountered more than 5,800 patients on the two-week tour, treating parasites, gastritis, muscular skeletal pain, diarrhea, upper respiratory infections and a broad range of other medical problems.

The four-person dental team saw an average of 67 patients each day and extracted more than 1,100 teeth, while a three-person optometry team screened more than 1,600 patients and fitted about 750 of them with prescription eyeglasses.

The team was also assisted by Army National Guard military police, the Army Signal



Maj. (Dr.) Stephen Chester, a flight surgeon with the 95th Airlift Squadron, poses with his interpreter.

Corps and the Guatemalan military. "Together with the Guatemalan medical team, we had over 8,000 patient encounters," Major Triche said. "Not only did we cultivate relationships with our Guatemalan medical counterparts, we are supporting the U.S. national strategy."



With the help of a student interpreter, Staff Sgt. Lisa Wallace triages a patient before the patient receives medical care during the New Horizons Medical Readiness Training Exercise conducted April 14 through 28 in the region of San Marcos, Guatemala. The medical team treated more than 8,000 patients during their stay in Guatemala. Sergeant Wallace is a medical technician with the 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Photos by Master Sgt. Chance Babin

**So long and good luck**

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

- Lt. Col. Timothy Hawkinson
- Capt. Erik Wichmann
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bethany Totten
- SMSGt. Sandra Gonzalez
- SMSGt. Donald Olsen
- MSGt. Timothy Bracker
- MSGt. Peter Jahnke
- MSGt. Phillip Tojek
- MSGt. Franklin Weiss
- TSgt. Nathan Ahola
- TSgt. Daniel Baron
- TSgt. Jason Drewitz
- TSgt. Raymond Everett

- TSgt. Dave Forchette
- TSgt. Paul Grabow
- TSgt. Mark Linday
- TSgt. Jeffrey Longsine
- TSgt. David Porter
- TSgt. Thomas Taskonis
- SSgt. Chance Biller
- SSgt. Malinda Yates
- SrA. John Olson
- Amn. Adam Schroeder

**West Gate now closed**

The West Gate to the Air Reserve Station will no longer be open on Saturday mornings of UTA weekends. A Security Forces Squadron spokesman said that there was not enough traffic to justify keeping the gate open.

**440th Base Exchange to close its doors July 27**

The General Mitchell Air Reserve Station Base Exchange will close its doors on Friday July 27 due to Base Realignment and Closure actions. One Army and Air Force Exchange Service PX will still be available in the Milwaukee area after July 27. A PX is located at the U.S. Army Reserve compound at 51<sup>st</sup> St. and West Silver Spring Rd. The PX is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Exchange phone number is (414) 438-6219. Exchange store locations and merchandise information can be found at [www.AAFES.com](http://www.AAFES.com).

**VA public site available to help reservists**

The Veterans Administration has a public Web site called the Web Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS) where Reservists and veterans can get approval information on education programs offered by colleges and universities, flight schools, correspondence schools, non college degree and on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs as well as licensing and certification programs. The WEAMS site is accessible from the GI BILL website: <http://gibill.va.gov/>.

**Active, Reserve Airmen join forces to fight fires**

photo and story by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason Segedy

A total force team of firefighters from Yokota Air Base and the 440th Airlift Wing, combined skills to extinguish flames during a live-fire exercise at the Japanese air base during the last two weeks of April.

The trip to Yokota AB worked out well for the 440<sup>th</sup> firefighters. Not only did they work side-by-side with their active duty counterparts, they also provided a valuable service by filling some openings there for Yokota firefighters who were away on an exercise.

The joint training offered an experience Yokota AB firefighters and the reservists could both learn from, most of all teaming up with a totally different group.

I think it just really showed that the Reserves and full-time Air Force can really mesh together and work well," said Master Sgt. Jeffrey Buchholz, a firefighter with the 440<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron.

The training simulation consisted of two phases. First, the Airmen had to use a fire truck's water guns to put out an aircraft fire, and the second phase had firefighters taking turns entering the aircraft in teams of two to extinguish interior fires in different locations.

"It was pretty realistic," said



From left to right: 440 AW firefighters - Master Sgt. Robert Wojczulis (standing, BDUs), Tech Sgt. John Joyce, Tech Sgt. Eugene Kangas and Senior Airman Jonathan Stevens (kneeling - lower left) pose with Yokota AB firefighters and local national firefighters.

Tech. Sgt. John Joyce, a colleague of Sergeant Buchholz at the 440th Airlift Wing. "It's very hot. The proximity suits we use protect us up to 2,000 degrees."

The folks here, the reserves and the active duty worked real well," Sergeant Joyce said. "We integrated and accomplished the mission."

"It was really nice to go there and train side-by-side with the active duty," added Tech. Sgt. Adam Henkels, a 440<sup>th</sup> AW firefighter. "If we ever got activated we could easily fill their positions or work along side them no problem. It's nice to find out that everyone was on the same page."

Many of the Milwaukee reservists work as civilian firefighters, which brought a whole new perspective to Yokota AB firefighters.

"The way they do things are different, but it is cool to mesh with that because you get to learn so much stuff," said Airman 1st Class Kenneth Tuttle, a Yokota AB fireman.

# FINAL NOTES



## Re-enlistment on hallowed ground

Maj. Gwen Sheppard, 440th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, re-enlists Senior Airman Paul Pendleton, while Master Sgt. Bill Lorenz, the squadron's first sergeant, looks on. The re-enlistment took place at the USS Arizona National Memorial during the squadron's humanitarian deployment to Hawaii.

### Personal and private property inventory reminder

As part of the mandated BRAC mission move to Pope AFB, N.C., all equipment and property on the base has to be inventoried and accounted for. All personnel are reminded that any **non-accountable government property (personal)** should be assigned a BRAC TRAC label and all **property belonging to individuals (private)** should have a separate label with individual information on it. If there is property in your area that does not have either label, please contact your building manager to identify the property and obtain the correct label. All accountable government property is being tracked under existing Air Force Systems.

**Under no circumstances can ANY property be removed from your office or work area without clearing it through your building manager or accountable equipment custodian for accounting purposes.**

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# 440th Airlift Wing On Display



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