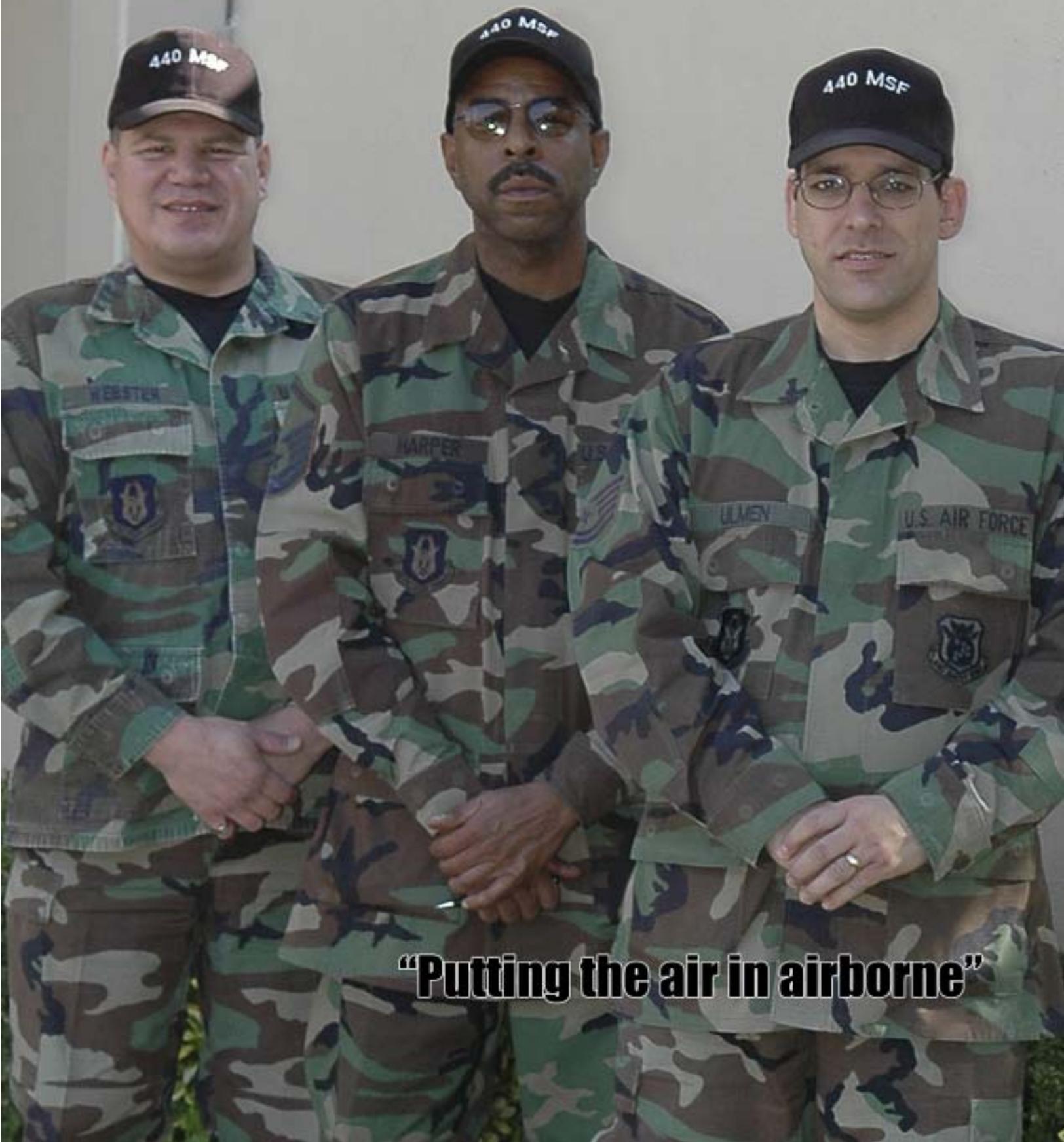


Combat Airlifter

440th Airlift Wing, Pope AFB, NC

"Vincit qui primum gerit"

February 2008 Volume 2, No. 2



"Putting the air in airborne"

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On the cover:

Tech. Sgt. Richard Webster, Master Sgt. Terry Harper and Tech. Sgt. Mark Ulmen are considered "hybrids." The three 440th Military Personnel Flight Reservists moved to Pope Air Force Base, N.C., last year to help set up the wing's new home.

photo by Master Sgt. Kevin Brody

440th starts new chapter in 2008



by Col. Harry Heflin
440th Airlift Wing Inspector General

Well here we are again—another year over and another just begun. Where does the time go? Recently, while driving listening to the radio, I just happened to hear two of my favorites back to back.

The songs were "Turn the Page" and "Against the Wind" by Bob Seger. The song titles got me to thinking. Specifically, I thought about all things that we, as Airmen of the 440th Airlift Wing, have gone through over the last couple of years; and of what the future holds for us as we begin to write the next chapter of our journey in the wing's big book of accomplishments.

Turn the Page—it's a new year and the 440th Airlift Wing has just turned another page in. Throughout our wing's history, we have answered our nation's call and have gone in harms way; we have traveled the globe and provided humanitarian assistance, and most recently—we've relocated our flag. The "wing" by itself, doesn't do anything. It's the men and women of the 440th that define the "wing" and give it character, substance, and life. As Airmen of the 440th, we have been handed a legacy that's been written with the blood, sweat, and tears of those who have gone before us.

The legacy we've been entrusted with is one of great pride, accomplishment and sacrifice. Some of us may have even been active participants as the pages were turned. Right now, the 440th is a young wing and it's time to take our newer Airmen aside and begin teaching them not only about what we do, but telling the story of who we really are. In time, and with a little patience, they will be prepared to do their part and will be ready to turn the page and once again pass along the rich and proud legacy of the 440th Airlift Wing.

Against the Wind—it never stops. In addition to the day-to-day training, there's always something else that needs to be done, whether it is a new tasking, a different requirement, or a new operational mission.

As before, the "wing" doesn't do it—it takes the collective efforts of each man and woman of the 440th to get us—together—where we need to be. *Together*, we have successfully met all challenges and obstacles that have been placed in our way, and we will continue to do so.

But we will only do so as long as we continue to take the time to coach, mentor, teach—and if necessary, discipline—those new to the 440th family. We didn't just step into our positions and automatically become successful. Someone somewhere took an interest in our individual careers. And that interest helped lead us to a path that only a team can climb.

An old Pennsylvanian wise man once said "when it comes to teamwork, there are no islands of success." *Together*, we can go against the wind to overcome new challenges and obstacles. *Together*, we will continue to write about the successes of our journey in the 440th Airlift Wing's big book of accomplishments.

And while our former coaches, mentors, teachers—or maybe even the occasional disciplinarian—may not have used these analogies, for me the message remains the same. Quite simply, when the time comes, we will turn the page and entrust the legacy of the 440th to those who follow; and until then, *together* we will strive to reach our next objective no matter what it may be—even against the wind.

And then the radio guy played "Light My Fire" by the Doors. But that's a song for future Command Perspective.



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Do you have what it takes to be a recruiter?

by Senior Master Sgt. Stevie Hunt

Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service is always looking for enthusiastic, qualified people. If you are motivated to excel, perform above the status quo, and are physically and morally fit, this could be the career move you've been looking for.

As a recruiter you will be the Air Force Reserve in the eyes of people in your community. You will represent the pride, honor and tradition of the Air Force Reserve to those you come in contact with. Being a recruiter is not your ordinary nine to five job. You are an Air Force Reserve representative 24 hours a day.

Recruiting duty involves working in your community. You will call on radio and television stations, visit high schools, network and be visible within your community. As an AFR recruiter you will help others make decisions that will affect

them the rest of their lives. The application process begins with a face-to-face interview with the local recruiter supervisor. If you meet the qualifications you will be asked to complete a packet, to include a current physical. The packet will be sent to AFRC Recruiting Service Headquarters at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., to the recruiter selection board.

Once selected, you will attend the evaluation and selection course. You will be evaluated on your potential to become a successful AFR recruiter. The five-day course is designed to introduce prospective candidates to reserve recruiting.

"During this course, candidates will stand an open ranks inspection, participate in physical training, give speeches, and complete memorization work. Challenges are progressive. The top candidates are afforded the opportunity to attend the recruiter class," said Chief Master Sgt. Dave Schoch, chief, training branch. The recruiting

course is a six week long course located at Lackland AFB, Texas.

"This is one of the most challenging technical schools in the Air Force. These six weeks will prepare you to be a mission ready recruiter," said Chief Master Sgt. Mike Bibby, recruiting service manager. Standards at the recruiting school are high. Instruction includes Air Force Reserve benefits and entitlements, program selection criteria, advertising, and promotion, community relations, speech and salesmanship.

Course emphasis is on student performance and practical application. Your initial recruiting tour of extended active duty can last up to three years. Tour extensions are reserved for those who meet or exceed the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, appearance, integrity, production and acceptance of responsibility. If this sounds like a good fit for you, please Senior Master Sgt. Stevie Hunt at Stevie.Hunt@pope.af.mil

ReserveNet revolutionizes tracking of training

by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

Picture this scene: Your unit training manager reminds you that you've been signed up for Self Aid and Buddy Care later this afternoon ... and your physical is due this month. "That's right," you think to yourself — happy birthday.

A few minutes later your supervisor tells you she signed you up to take the fitness test tomorrow, and that you're overdue on Law of Armed Conflict training. All this is on top of your regular UTA tasks ... and it's only 7:15 a.m. Saturday.

Reservists can relate to situations like this at one time or another — signing in Saturday morning and feeling as if you're already behind the 8-ball. That's all about to change, thanks to ReserveNet, an innovative program that allows reservists to better anticipate and plan their UTA weekends prior to showing up Saturday morning.

"What we're trying to do with ReserveNet is give reservists a tool that will help them plan their duty and plan their training," said Mike

Thomas, ReserveNet facilitator with the firm that designed the program. "ReserveNet allows reservists to show up on the weekend fully prepared ahead of time, instead of wasting time trying to figure things out."

Reservists can access ReserveNet from any dot-com computer Internet connection by simply providing a username and password to enter the program. In addition to reservists learning what's on tap for their UTA weekends, the program also provides leadership with a bird's-eye view of how their squadrons and units are performing in meeting training and other requirements.

Maj. Christian Bakogiannis, chief of future plans for the 440th Airlift Wing, said the program should help change the way business is conducted on base.

"What ReserveNet is going to do is transform us from an events-based operation over a UTA to an effects-based operation," he said. "It will help keep the big picture in front of you, and make all of us work toward that desired training or opera-

tional end-state. You'll know what you have to do and what you're working towards."

Master Sgt. Tim Mirocha agrees with Major Bakogiannis' assessment. As unit training manager for the 440th Maintenance Operations Flight, Sergeant Mirocha keeps tabs on his Airmen to ensure each is hitting their marks for training.

With ReserveNet, reservists will be able to continuously monitor their training progress, and other things such as checking on orders and enhanced e-mail capabilities to reservists' home computers, from any computer with a dot.com Internet connection.

"It will be a nice tool so everybody can see what they need to do on UTAs and to further their careers," he said.

The wing is aiming to have ReserveNet fully operational for reservists by late summer.

"This program is going to be a one-stop shop for everything." The wing is aiming to have ReserveNet fully operational for reservists by late summer.



Communities of Practice link reservists to 440th's mission 24/7 with the click of a mouse



photo by Master Sgt. Kevin Brody

Lt. Colonels John Gorse (left) and Mike Day talk about the latest additions to the 95th Airlift Squadron's Community of Practice. The 95th's CoP is one of the most active sites in the Air Force Reserve.

by Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

Lt. Col. Mike Day first witnessed the power of Communities of Practice two years ago at a standards and evaluation conference for flyers. Inspired by innovation and technology, the 95th Airlift Squadron navigator ran with the idea of CoPs, leading the 440th Airlift Wing into a new era.

"I've always liked technology," said the Reservist, who taught himself numerous software programs. "And the CoP seemed like a neat way to organize material and keep our aircrew informed on their computers at home."

Communities of Practice, called CoPs for short, are virtual networking sites that allow Airmen to exchange documents, hold online discussions and share other information among each other. While CoPs are accessible from home and commercial computers, Airmen have to register (and be accepted in the community) to participate.

Using Air Force Knowledge Now technology, Colonel Day first developed a CoP for the Stan-Eval section of the flying squadron. Initially, he posted text documents and pdf files for aircrew.

Interest grew among the squadron; within one year, there were separate sections online for the 95th's command section, pilots, navigators, loadmasters and other critical areas.

Lt. Col. John Gorse, 95th deputy of operations, recognized the need for a CoP at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and asked Colonel Day to implement one at the unit's new home.

"There's tremendous value in us using a Community of Practice," said Colonel Gorse. "Our reservists can access critical material from home, on their schedules, with a click of a mouse."

The 95th's CoP includes topical announcements like aircrew schedules and showtimes, computer presentations and block training.

"Most of our crews check the CoP every day from home," said Colonel Day. "I think they find it a vital link to unit activities and currency in their jobs."

Last year 301 visitors used the 95th's CoP, with more than 1,800 return visits. Between January and December 2007, Airmen viewed more than 2,100 pages and accessed more than 4,000 docu-

ments online. In total, the CoP statistics utility tracked 33,000 page views since its inception.

Colonel Day contends much of the CoP's value lies in accessibility to information.

"The CoP has been vital during our move to Pope AFB," he said. "Without it, we would have been facing constant phone calls to every single member of the unit. The CoP prevented us from monopolizing phone lines, and allowed reservists to check information 24/7 without depending on someone else to be at a phone or desk. As a result, our people are better informed, which means we have better crews."

Flying squadron leadership also noted the CoP's ability to "squash rumors."

"As with any major move, rumors abound," said Colonel Day. "Once we heard disinformation or inaccurate speculation, we could correct inaccuracies and disseminate factual information."

Taking a cue from the flying squadron, the 440th's Human Resource Development Council recently developed a CoP for information sharing. Other units and sections are expected to follow.

"The 95th AS has demonstrated how a CoP can dramatically improve the speed, reach and ease of all important processes within an organization," said Col. Tim Ward, 440th Airlift Wing vice commander. "Training schedules, requirements, regulations and much more can be accessed from anywhere. Moreover, when changes arise, all members are notified by e-mail (personal and military)."

The vice commander contends every 440th unit needs to have their CoP established by the end of this fiscal year. "This tool, along with ReserveNet, will keep unit commanders and unit members well-connected throughout the month," he said. "This will make Reserve participation much easier, improve the effective use of our limited UTA time and increase our wing's overall readiness."

Like Colonel Ward, Colonel Day is a believer in the new technology. He is eager to help other sections and units start their own CoPs. For assistance, reservists may call him at 910-644-8135 or email Michael.Day-04@pope.af.mil

Security Forces continue legacy of service

Since 9-11, 440th Security Forces Airmen have supported the Global War on Terror through extended deployments around the globe. A critical key to our nation's homeland defense, security forces Reservists have also provided homeland security under Operation Noble Eagle. The unit continues its legacy of service at its new home in North Carolina.

by Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

"We were the first unit in the wing to respond to 9-11," said Lt. Col. Kent Hansen, a Reservist who commanded the 440th Security Forces Squadron in the months following the 2001 terrorist attacks. "Our Reservists were on base within minutes – long before any recalls were implemented. They left their civilian jobs and families for a higher calling."

The 440th SFS reservists' commitment and loyalty would be called upon again and again in the

next seven years across the world to support the Global War on Terrorism, and continues today at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

In the days following 9-11, the unit mobilized under presidential order in support of homeland defense under Operation Noble Eagle. The SFS was also the first unit in the wing to deploy in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"Our specialized security teams under the Phoenix Raven program deployed in September 2001,"

said Maj. Timothy Martz, who served as the squadron's commander in Milwaukee through January of this year. "These teams supported Raven missions throughout the war theater under U.S. Central Command."

Tasked to Air Mobility Command, SF reservists supported missions in 21 countries in 14 days, providing aircraft security as the U.S. ramped up its forces.

Five SF reservists deployed in support of Operation Fundamental Justice, providing en route



Air Force archive photos

The 440th Security Forces posed for a squadron photo last fall. The unit continues to grow in numbers at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

History and Heritage



Master Sgt. Michael Wieck, 440th Security Forces Squadron, supported security forces operations in Kuwait during the summer of 2002. Like many of the unit's Airmen, Sergeant Wieck traveled the Middle East supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

security for battlefield and Taliban detainees from Afghanistan to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

As the war continued, more 440th SFS Airmen would deploy on Air Expeditionary Flight rotations in Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Iraq and other Southwest Asian countries. They also supported specialized security forces missions in Europe, South and Central America, Africa and Central Asia.

“We provided significant support to Central Command’s Joint Security Protective Detail Missions,” said Major Martz. “Our reservists provided personal protection to CENTCOM commanders like Generals Tommy Franks and John Abizaid as the leaders moved throughout the war theater.”

According to Colonel Hansen, the protective security detail teams frequently traveled beyond the Middle East to locations like Russia and Australia. “Wherever the CENTCOM commander went, our Reservists went to protect him.”

In contrast, Master Sgt. John Drossel served primarily in one location as a cadre instructor at the Iraqi Military Police Academy, Tadjji Military Training Base in Iraq.

Sergeant Drossel, a 440th Reservist with more than 27 years of service, said his 2004 assignment is particularly memorable because of the international relationships he built and unity from serving with other Americans in an overseas location.

“I became friends with a number of students at the school, and acquired a better understanding of the culture and history of Iraq,” he said. “I also gained new friendships with other servicemembers from the Naval Air Station in Fort Worth, Texas, and Kirkland Air Force Base, N.M.”

Major Martz, who deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries for more than seven months, said his most memorable experiences are working with special forces in austere locations in



Master Sgt. Bill Beauchene earned recognition for his work in Kuwait in 2002. The Reservist now wears the rank of “lieutenant”, and is the 440th SFS commander at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

History and Heritage



440th Security Forces Squadron Reservists earned top honors from Air Force Reserve Command in 2006 for their work in the Global War on Terror.



Tech. Sergeants Ivan Palaez, Joe Giambrone and Ryan Hoffman deployed to Kuwait in 2002 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Reservists also supported Operation Southern Watch enforcing the no-fly zone over Southern Iraq. Sergeant Hoffman also served on CENTCOM Commander Gen. John Abizaid's protective services detail.

Air Force archive photos

Afghanistan, and conducting major combat operations with special ops forces in Baghdad and Al Anbar Province in Iraq.

Back in Milwaukee, activated reservists conducted security operations for an unprecedented number of presidential visits.

“We received a great number of accolades for our work with the White House staff and communications agency, Air Force One, Marine One and U.S. Secret Service,” said Major Martz. The unit also provided homeland security for Air Force bases throughout the nation as active duty counterparts deployed overseas.

Colonel Hansen said SF Airmen never balked at their calling. “The response to 9-11 by 440th SF was one of overwhelming volunteerism,” he said. “As the unit’s commander at the time, I never had to ask for volunteers; I always had a long list of people committed. Our work since 9-11 validates the squadron’s mettle and intestinal fortitude. And we continue to see it evidenced today.”

Editor’s note – Lt. Col. Kent Hansen is now assigned to 22nd Air Force, and Maj. Tim Martz is now assigned to the 94th Airlift Wing. Both Reservists served as 440th SFS commanders during the last seven years. Lt. Bill Beauchene is the unit’s new commander at Pope AFB, N.C.

Small-town Airmen looked Taliban in the eye

by Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe
and Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

The Taliban man's eyes stared vacantly into space, saw nothing, but said everything. Weakened and worn down, he sank in a seat in the back of a U.S. Air Force transport plane. Destined for a detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the man was just one of twenty or so demoralized Al-Qaida and Taliban detainees leaving Kandahar AB, Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, armed and on-guard, Staff Sgt. "Arch" watched the detainees like a hawk, realizing this "high risk transport" would soon be part of history. Arch, his colleague, Senior Master Sgt. "Vainer," and other activated 440th Airlift Wing reservists, linked with U.S. security forces specialists from the four major military branches in this high-profile, high-risk mission.

Like most of the AFRC reservists selected for this mission, Arch and Vainer have a civilian law enforcement background. While activated, Arch served on Team Foxtrot, a mixed group of selected security forces specialists from the Reserve and Guard.

"Almost all of the volunteers involved in transporting detainees were Reservists with experience working in prison or police environments in their civilian jobs," Arch said. "This made them uniquely qualified for the high risk transport."

The reservists also received "just in time" training before leaving the country for their Afghanistan journey, qualifying on various deadly and nonlethal weapons as required by the mission.

Unlike a scene from the movie "Con Air", the prisoner detainee flights Arch and Vainer served on were quiet and rather uneventful.

"The prisoners did not show any animosity toward the crew," Vainer said. "None of them tried to get out of their shackles. When they had to go to the bathroom, they didn't try escaping or anything – we had no problems in that area."

Arch said many of the prisoners were injured, some severely, from wounds sustained fighting the war. Injuries ranged from cuts and abrasions



440th SFS file photo

to multiple amputations. Some of the prisoners were sedated and remained litter-bound with aeromedics keeping a watchful eye on their vital stats.

Looking into their eyes, it was easy to see how scared the prisoners were. Many of them appeared to be in their mid-teens or early 20s.

"You could see the fear," Vainer said, speaking of their apprehension. "They were shaking and it wasn't really cold. They did not know where they were going, and many of them have never been on a plane before ... they had no idea what was happening to them."

Despite the subdued atmosphere among the prisoners, a sense of urgency remained in the cabin. The planes left Kandahar in blacked out conditions. Enveloped in complete darkness, the re-

servists and detainees lifted off and became nearly vertical as the pilots sought to avoid enemy fire. The darkness added to the surreal feeling experienced by Arch.

"It was kind of a wild feeling to realize this was the 'real thing,'" said Arch. "We were making a difference ... doing the mission, not just training and supporting in the background."

Arch and his Foxtrot team made several more trips on the detainee missions as part of the quick-reaction force responding to the Afghan situation. If needed, they would all volunteer to go again. "Like all of the 440th Security Forces members, we are ready to go if called."

Editor's Note – Actual names of 440th SF members are not used in this story for security purposes.

Black History Reflections

Black History Month is a month-long remembrance dedicated to the significant people and events in African American history. To many people, Black History Month holds a deep and personal meaning. During the January UTA the *Combat Airlifter* asked 440th Airlift Wing reservists to reflect upon what Black History Month means to them. Here are a few of those snapshots...



To me, it means history, progression and heritage. I think about some of the pioneers we had, like the Tuskegee Airmen and the things they did to break down walls in the military.

*Senior Airman Christopher Wingo
440th Maintenance Operations Flight*



People like Martin Luther King and Muhammed Ali - they more or less made things possible for today that we weren't able to do back then. It's a lot easier for us to go somewhere and feel comfortable without people saying you can't be here. They made it possible for us to do things now.

*Staff Sgt. Taisha Valentine
440th Mission Support Flight*



To me Black History Month is a time I reflect on the past achievements of my ancestors and how they made America great. I have two small children, so I try to spend more time this month encouraging them and showing them things about where the African American race has come from and where we're going.

*Staff Sgt. Raniesa Gray-Johnson
95th Airlift Squadron*

People



To me Black History Month is more than just a representation of our past history, but rather our present history, because we have people making an impact on our lives today. Black History Month allows me to appreciate the great leaders of yesterday and today, and to thank God that have paved the way for us to understanding and learning about being a black woman or black man and how we can go about making a positive change in our lives.

*Airman First Class Pauline Rose-Moore
95th Airlift Squadron*



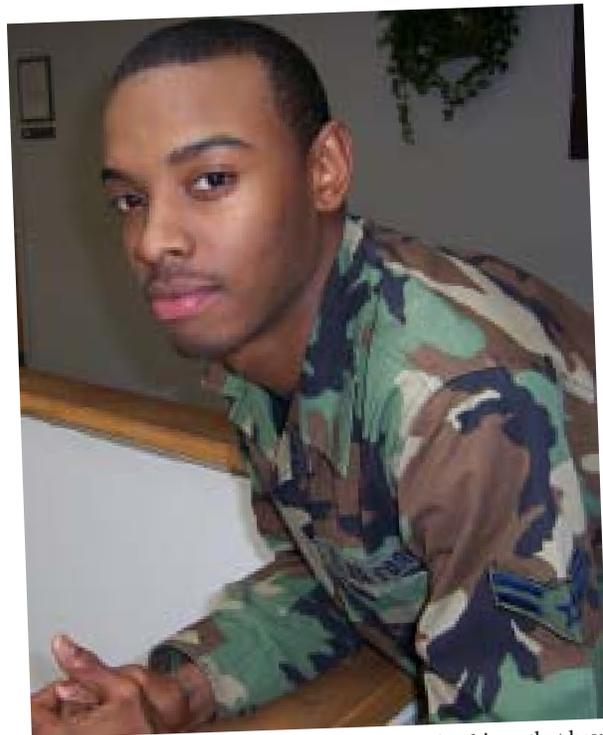
It's a time to honor our forefathers who have come before us ... it's a time for all African Americans to sit down and really take a good look at themselves and see what they believe Black History Month means to them. I never really thought race was a big issue, but unfortunately a lot of people do see a color barrier. It's my opinion that everyone should just try and get along.

*Tech. Sgt. Eva Hilmes
440th Medical Squadron*



Black History Month provides us a time that we can look back upon and recognize the sacrifices, the work and the efforts people have made that not only made life better for black people in America, but for everyone.

*Capt. Jason Bell
440th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron*



Black History Month means to appreciate the things that have gone on in the past to get us where we're at today. It's a celebration of our heritage and time a spend with family.

*Airman First Class Joseph Johnson
440th Medical Squadron*

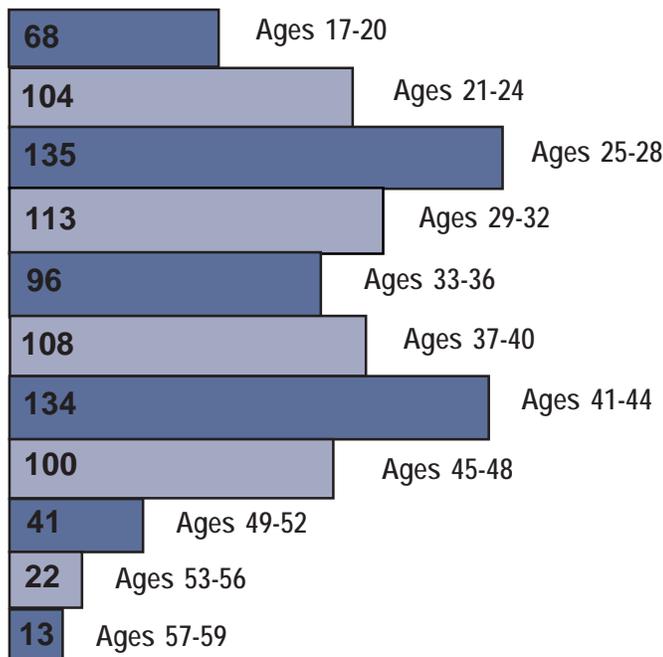
Wing composition a true melting pot

Ever wonder just who makes up the 440th Airlift Wing? Here's a glimpse into the 440th, which shows just how diverse we are as a wing.

Where We're From

North Carolina	427	Colorado	3
Wisconsin	198	Delaware	3
South Carolina	101	Tennessee	3
Illinois	78	Texas	3
Virginia	26	Iowa	2
Pennsylvania	18	Louisiana	2
Georgia	17	Missouri	2
Florida	6	Mississippi	2
Indiana	6	West Virginia	2
Maryland	5	Connecticut	1
Michigan	5	Kansas	1
New Jersey	5	Nevada	1
New York	4	Ohio	1
California	3	Oklahoma	1
		Washington	1

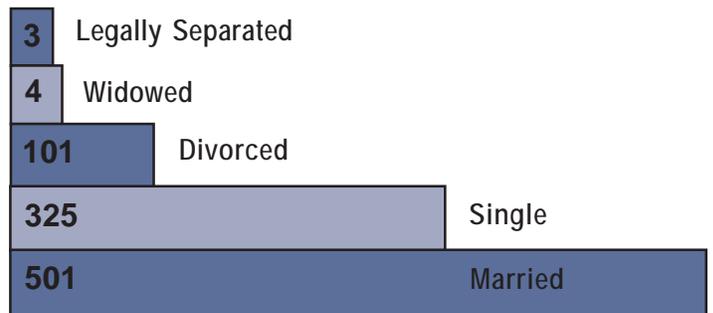
How Old Are We



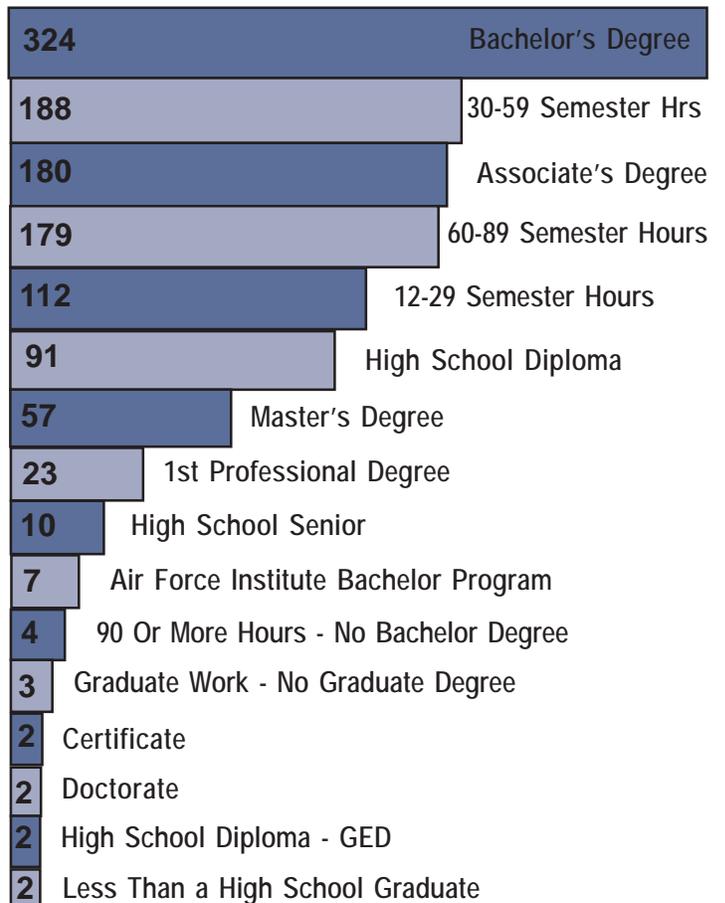
Officer vs. Enlisted



Marital Status



Our Smarts





Master Sgt. Sharon Castelli, 440th Airlift Wing Newcomers Flight commander, talks with Airmen during the January UTA. *photo by Senior Airman Susan Parent*

Newcomers Flight led by newcomer herself

by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

After spending the better part of her career as an information manager at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., Master Sgt. Sharon Castelli was looking for a new challenge.

That challenge came early last year when 440th Airlift Wing Vice Commander Col. Tim Ward and then Chief Enlisted Advisor, Chief Master Sgt. Carmon Francher called to ask if she was interested in heading up the Newcomers Flight at Pope AFB, N.C. Saying she was interested in the job was an understatement.

"I was very excited about this opportunity," said Sergeant Castelli, Newcomers Flight commander. "Being able to work with Chief Francher and Colonel Ward was something I couldn't pass up."

Sergeant Castelli joined the wing in April 2007 and got to work on setting up the Newcomers Flight at Pope AFB. Knowing the wing was moving to North Carolina in the fall, she was bracing for a large influx of people coming through newcomers. And she got it.

In July and August 2007, 15 and 25 Airmen respectively passed through her orientation. Those numbers jumped considerably to 90 in September and more than 300 Airmen in October when the first major UTA took place at Pope AFB.

"It went better than I could have ever imagined," she said of the October newcomers orientation. "That would never have gone as smoothly as it did without the help of everyone doing their part. It needed everyone to step up to the plate, and they did that."

The numbers have now dipped to a more manageable 50 Airmen a month on average. Newcomers Flight aims to educate Airmen, both fresh from technical school or seasoned veterans joining the wing, about the ins and outs of the 440th.

Airman First Class Cameron Walker, who graduated from technical school in November and is heading to work in the command post after going through Newcomers Flight during the January UTA, said the course prepped him well to hit the ground running come February.

"It definitely prepared me to go to my unit next month," Airman Walker said. "I'm really excited now about getting started."

In the past newcomers have been stretched over back-to-back UTAs. Sergeant Castelli has been working to streamline it to just one UTA. She said some web-based training items such as Law of Armed Conflict can be accomplished at their work centers.

"We're trying to do everything on Saturday, so on Sunday, they can report to their duty section and meet people in their unit," Sergeant Castelli said. "That way when they report on the next UTA, people will be ready to go to work."

Now approaching her one-year anniversary with the wing, Sergeant Castelli said it's been great seeing the entire wing grow together.

"This is an exciting opportunity because everyone is in the same boat, whether its people from Milwaukee or people transferring here from other units," she said. "I like the fact that everyone is growing together."

Flight engineers wanted

C-130 flight engineers (1A1X1) are wanted and needed. Candidates must interview with Chief Master Sgt. Terry Studstill of the 95th Airlift Squadron, pass a Flying Class III physical and have a minimum G-57 ASVAB score. Flight engineer candidates must also have a prior 5 or 7 skill level in the 1A0, 1A2, 1A3, 1A7, 2AXXX or 2M0 career field ladder or possession of a valid Federal Aviation Administration Flight Engineer certificate, FAA private pilot license or valid FAA aircraft and power plant license, or aircraft maintenance technician license. For more information, or to schedule an interview, contact Chief Studstill at (910) 394-7795, DSN 424-7795 or terry.studstill@us.af.mil

Promotions

The following Airmen have been promoted to the rank indicated:

MSgt. Gowdy G. Armbrister, AMXS
TSgt. Melanie V. Davis, MDS
SSgt. Taisha L. Valentine, MSF
A1C Shaquita D. Wright, AS
A1C Darrell D. Howell, CF
Amn Canvis D. Thomas, AS
Amn Kimberly D. Smith, APS
Amn Christina E. Gourdine, APS

Portal IM service allows Airmen, family to connect

Friends and family members can keep in touch with Airmen anywhere in the world through an instant messaging program available through the Air Force Portal. Every Airman is permitted up to five guest users through the Friends and Family Instant Messaging service. All Airmen need to do is create an account for their loved ones and they can chat whenever they have access to the Web.

To register a guest, follow these steps:

- Log into the Air Force Portal
- In the upper right hand corner, click on the My Profile tab
- Then click on the Manage FFIM tab
- Click on Add an Account
- Fill out the required information (name, e-mail address) and read the user policy
- Click on Register

Two e-mails will then be sent automatically to the friend or family member's address. The first contains the individual's username; the second will be a temporary password. The guest then has 24 hours to log into the portal and create their own unique password, which they'll use from that point on. For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123078878>.

Roll Call: Airman Battle Uniform Update

"The Airman Battle Uniform continues to evolve to meet the needs of today's readily deployable Airmen. While the mandatory wear date for the ABU is November 2011, Airmen who deploy to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as those in basic military training, are being issued the new uniform." For more information about the ABU uniform and other Airman's Roll Call, visit <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-071127-037.pdf>

Thrift investment board sets 2008 TSP contribution limits

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board here recently announced that 2008's elective deferral limit for regular TSP contributions is \$15,500, which is the same amount for 2007. In addition, contributions for the catchup plan will remain at the same \$5,000 limit set in 2006 and 2007. For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123078419>.

440th website offers stories, photos

Looking for 440th stories, photos to send to friends? visit <http://www.440aw.afrc.af.mil/>

Tax loopholes mean big dollars

by Lt. Col. Dana Davidson

The three biggest mistakes for Reservists I see are not claiming the Military Reservists Deduction, not reporting the deduction properly on page 1 of the Federal Form 1040. This may result in overpaid tax and a reduced refund or tax benefit, or simply not taking into account all the allowable categories and amounts.

The Military Reservists Deduction is a "For AGI (Adjusted Gross Income)" deduction similar in nature to a stock sale loss, a self-employed business deduction or an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) deduction. "For AGI" deductions are better than "From AGI" itemized deductions such as the mortgage interest deduction.

The key benefit to a "For AGI" deduction is that there is no deduction threshold. If you have a \$100 "For AGI" deduction there will be a tax benefit regardless. This is not the case with itemized deductions which must exceed the standard deduction threshold.

Some of the types of expenses that qualify for this special deduction are unreimbursed travel and per diem expenses which will result in a direct adjustment or offset to income. As mentioned before, the itemization of deductions is not required. The travel does need to be over 100 miles from the home of record and overnight.

For many of us assigned to Pope Air Force Base, N.C., this is not a problem. Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide, page 5 lists the general guidance of Adjustments to Income for Armed Forces Reservists. See <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p3/index.html>.

Also see Publication 463, "Per Diem and Car Allowances", Chapter 6 for an idea what expenses qualify and how they are calculated. See <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p463/index.html>. Unreimbursed air travel costs are absolutely allowable as are miles driven on a personal auto. The full benefit of the deduction is only up to the

regular federal per diem rates though. The excess is an itemized deduction or a "From AGI" deduction. As far as meal costs go, the member can deduct either actual meal costs or the standard meals and incidental expenses (M & IE) per diem costs but again only up to the regular Federal per diem rates for the best benefit. The per diem is deductible even though it is not being reimbursed.

For actual tax reporting when preparing the individual income tax return, see the instructions for Form 2106 (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i2106.pdf>). Make sure the right amount of expenses are reclassified from Form 2106 to page 1 of Form 1040 (unless you want to help reduce the budget deficit this year).

If a 440 Airlift Wing member needs further guidance, I can be reached at my civilian phone number (847) 753-9393 in addition to my on-base phone number or e-mail. Remember, file early and file often!

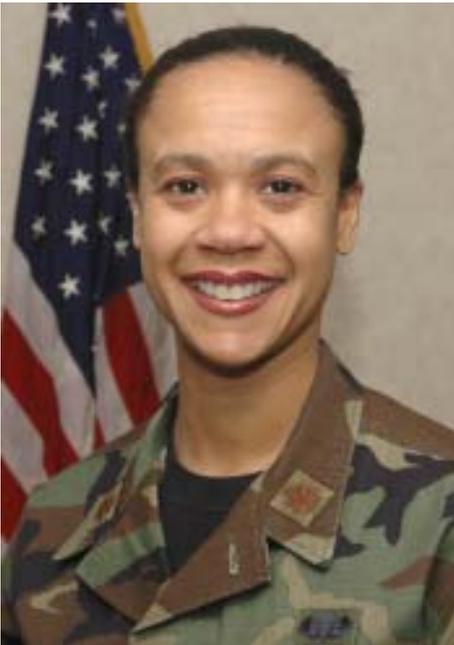


photo by Master Sgt. Kevin Brody

Promotion Punch

Chief Master Sgt. LaVerne McCoy, 440th Services Squadron, is all smiles as two friends pin on her new rank during the January UTA.

Service before Self: Featured Citizen Airman



Maj. Dion Roland Flynn, 440th Operations Group, is headed to Washington, D.C., to work as an Air Force legislative fellow for Congress. Legislative fellows receive instruction and hands-on experience on Capitol Hill through education and development activities.

The Combat Airlifter took a few minutes to chat with Maj. Dion Roland Flynn, an executive officer with the 440th Operations Group.

Civilian job: Plans Specialist in the Plans, Analysis and Integrations office for U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Bragg, N.C.

New job opportunity: Major Flynn was handpicked to serve as an Air Force legislative fellow starting in August 2008. Fellows are selected for their leadership potential and are assigned to work with a congressional staff member.

What is your education?

- 1995 Air Force Academy graduate.
- Master's in business administration from Georgia College State University in 1999.

Hobbies?

Family - Husband, John; 3-year-old son Ciaran; and 1-year-old daughter, Aoife. The family also has two dogs, Bawn and Sanford.

Chaplain's Message

Do you have what it takes to be a wingman?

by Chaplain (Capt.) Monte Kirk

In the closing scenes of the movie *Top Gun*, rival pilots Maverick and Iceman meet on the deck of their aircraft carrier after teaming up to defeat their Soviet enemies. Finally overcoming his suspicions of Maverick's good faith and reliability, Iceman tells him, "You can be my wingman anytime." Maverick's reply: "[Baloney], you can be mine."

Hollywood filmmakers may think that the wingman's job is for runners-up, but in the Air Force, we know better. Being a wingman isn't about finishing second, nor is it only for those who are too timid to lead. Being a wingman is about servant leadership, and servant leadership is what gets things done. Wingmen are leaders who are secure enough in their own sense of identity and calling that their noses don't always need to be out in front of the formation. Wingmen are servants who set aside their own personal ambitions to help their teammates develop into leaders. Wingmen are the backbone of any warfighting organization. Emphasizing the wingman philosophy is not just good management style. The wingman concept depends for its success upon particular habits of thought which can only be sustained through spiritual practice. Servant leadership, in other words, doesn't just come naturally. It takes practice. It takes work. And it takes role models.

I have always believed there is something significant in the willingness of servicemen and women to lay down their lives for their friends. We routinely celebrate those who make this "ultimate sacrifice," but we typically spend much less time thinking or talking about the mundane ways in which we are all called to set aside our own ambitions to serve others. Dying is easy: chances are, you won't see it coming, and when you do, it will all be over in short order. Living as a servant leader or Wingman—that's the hard part.

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The Warrior Spirit Lives... Be part of it, join the 440th team.

by Master Sgt. Bill Knight

The Power of One

Do you know anyone who might be a good fit for the Reserve? Do you have friends or colleagues who want to be part of a winning team? The 440th Airlift Wing is looking for professionals to serve in the Air Force Reserve in the following critical areas:

- Aerospace Maintenance
- Aircraft Loadmasters
- Flight Engineers
- First Sergeants
- Security Forces Specialists

Refer qualified professionals through the Get 1 Program. Recommendations are recognized through the commemorative coin program. For more information, call 1-877-786-2372 or visit www.Get1now.us

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