

# Combat Airlifter

440th Airlift Wing, Pope AFB, N.C.

*"Vincit qui primum gerit"*

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**On the cover:**

Col. Tim Ward takes controls of his "fini flight" on Feb. 27. The flight is his last one in the Air Force. The former 440th Airlift Wing vice commander is now serving as an individual mobile augmentee for Air Force - District of Columbia Command.

*photo by Col. Merle D. Hart*

# Vice commander says farewell

by Col. Timothy Ward  
440th Airlift Wing Vice Commander

As we push into March and April, our wing continues to change as fast as the seasons. Our wing population has expanded well past 900 reservists, almost a 130 percent growth since our first major UTA in October 2007. We have 11 of 16 C-130s on the ground, with the remaining five coming to Pope Air Force Base, N.C., very soon.

Though we are still months away from our wing's first anniversary at Pope AFB, we've overcome some significant challenges in a very short amount of time. The pace will remain fast as we are once again starting to deploy our folks and prepare for an ORI only 22 months away. As a wing, we have not known change of this magnitude in decades, if ever. Yet, perhaps the most talked-about change of all has been the pending transformation of the 440th into an active associate wing. After more than two years of talk about concepts of operations, the stand up of our active associate wing has finally arrived.

In all, more than 300 men and women from the 43rd Maintenance Group and the 2nd Airlift Squadron will move into a new 2nd AS organization containing both operations and maintenance personnel that fall under the operational direction of the 440th AW. Our maintenance personnel began the initial phases of association last fall. In January, the first cadre of active associate aircrew Airmen began training in our Reserve C-130s. These 2nd AS Airmen will continue to provide training to the remaining active duty aircrew Airmen selected to join the active associate squadron. By June the last remaining C-130 E-models will have left Pope AFB and the select group of 2nd AS Airmen will be fully integrated into the operational capability of the 440th AW. Now that's change!

Many who came from bases like Charleston or McGuire have asked how our active association differs from the traditional associate wings they know. The most obvious difference deals with ownership of the aircraft. In traditional associations, it is the active duty organization that owns the airframes. However, at Pope AFB, all 16 C-130s belong to the Reserve, but will be maintained and flown by both active and Reserve Airmen.



*photo by Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe*  
Col. Tim Ward (left) receives a photo collage from 440th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Merle D. Hart.

The second difference involves the relationship and authorities of the associating units. In traditional associations, there is usually an active duty wing, and a complete Reserve wing. Each wing has its own wing commanders, group commanders, etc. who exercise administrative and operational control over their units.

In an active association like ours, the associating active duty units no longer fall under an active duty wing with full administrative and operational control. Though the 43rd Airlift Wing will retain administrative control over the associating active duty Airmen, operational direction of the 2nd AS comes from the 440th AW commander through the 440th Operations Group commander and the 440th Maintenance Group commander. This is a very big change, and one that will take us all some time to get

## Command Perspective

use to. Without a doubt, we are the right folks to build the model for success. There is a passion in our wing to operate and integrate as one in order to maximize unity of effort. Most of us, being directly impacted by BRAC, are products of change. We've worked through the shock, moved away from the desire to resist and are now fully engaged in the desire to excel in the challenge placed before us. Keep an open mind and a humble heart as we move in the direction we've been assigned.

Change has hit me personally as well. I was "offered" an opportunity to work with the Air Force District of Washington at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., beginning March 9. This is truly a bittersweet change for me. After working the closure of Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station for so long, I was so looking forward to dive into the many things I wanted to do as your 440th vice commander. I have at least nine months of ideas for Pope AFB that I tried to finish in about three weeks. The more I get to know the new 440th,

the more I am so impressed. I am amazed at the energy, intelligence, initiative and enthusiasm that defines who we are. The challenge of standing up

**"Without a doubt, we are the right folks to build the model for success.**

**There is a passion in our wing to operate and integrate as one in order to maximize unity of effort."**

*~ Col. Tim Ward*

a new active associate wing has attracted a talent pool like I have never seen. The excitement here just keeps building, and I was looking forward to

the thrill of this new journey.

I was told that I was selected for this new job partially because of my experience in BRAC actions. So, don't be too surprised if some day you hear about the national capitol region "getting BRAC'ed". Should that happen, I will do my best to see that we move as much of Washington D.C. to Pope AFB as possible.

In closing, I need to thank Chief Linda Dilley for her wise council many years ago that kept me in the Air Force far longer than I would have on my own. To Col. Merle Hart, thank you for giving me this opportunity, and then not removing me once you realized you made an error. To Lt. Col. Jon Thorell, I wish you the very best as you take over one of the best jobs in the Air Force.

I have been with the 440th for almost 17 years, and will always call you my Air Force family. Thanks for all you have given me.



*photo by Master Sgt. Kevin Brody*

Col. Tim Ward, former 440th Airlift Wing vice commander, posed with family during his last Reserve weekend with the wing.



# Exclusive *Combat Airlifter* Interview Lt. Col. Jon Thorell

*New 440th Airlift Wing vice commander reflects back on career while looking forward to unit's upcoming ORI*

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by Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

It may not be obvious, but there is a similar connection between running a dairy farm and serving in the Air Force Reserve.

“Both take perseverance, dedication and commitment,” said the 440th Airlift Wing’s new vice commander, Lt. Col. Jon Thorell. “Without these, you simply can’t succeed.”

A pilot in the Reserve, Colonel Thorell purchased his dairy farm in Wonewoc, Wis., in 1990, after leaving active duty. But his years of military experience far exceed his time on the farm.

The vice commander joined the Army Reserve in 1982 while attending college. After graduating he served in the active duty Army from 1984-1990, initially qualifying as an infantry officer and then transitioning to the aviation branch where he flew CH-47D and UH-1H helicopters, and also fixed wing aircraft.

“Then I crossed into the blue,” said Colonel Thorell, who took a cue from his younger brother, Erik, who was already flying with the 440th. The older sibling spent a number of years flying C-130s with the unit before moving to a strategic leadership role with the 440th Airlift Control Element.

Colonel Thorell spent the last three years activated with the unit while his wife, Karen, ran the farm back home with the help of his daughters Jessica and Kelsey. Under his command, the 440th ALCE was named the top airlift control flight in 22nd Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command and Air Mobility Command.

“Jon Thorell is an amazing leader,” said Colonel Merle D. Hart, 440th Airlift Commander. “As the wing was moving across the country and the (440th) ALCE was being deactivated, this small-town farmer was still leading the ALCE to excellence. This is a testament to his leadership and commitment to the Reserve.

Colonel Thorell’s ALCE unit was deactivated in June 2007 when the wing moved to Pope Air Force Base, N.C. But the new vice commander doesn’t dwell on the past. Instead he focuses on the future.

“I’m counting the days until our next ORI (operational readiness inspection),” he said. “When you count UTAs, we only have 66 days left, and we need to ensure every unit in the wing is prepared to fly, fight and win.”

“We’re building a great wing at Pope, and the 2010 ORI is our chance to prove ourselves to the Air Force and world.”



photos by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

# All in the family

## 3rd-generation Airman named 95th Airlift Squadron Commander

by Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) Jerry Green, 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing retiree

On Feb. 2, Lt. Col. Bret Larson assumed command of the 95<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. Col. Brett Clark, 440th Operations Group commander, welcomed family and friends of Colonel Larson and members of the 95 AS.

Colonel Clark shared a brief history of the 95<sup>th</sup> AS, including the unit's rich heritage dating back to World War II. He also spoke of Colonel Larson's unique family history involving the military. Colonel Larson's grandfather was a bomber pilot shot down during World War II, and his father later joined the Air Force as a pilot. Colonel Larson's father retired with the rank of major general. Part of his career included test pilot duties at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Aidoo

“Colonel Larson will do a fine job because we have the same (first) name,” said Colonel Clark, joking with the crowd. Then he spoke about the meaning of the word “tradition” as *“an inherited or customary pattern of thought, action or behavior.”*

“The one officer who has the greatest influence over this pattern of thought, action or behavior is your commander,” said Colonel Clark. “In a sense, he is the gatekeeper of your traditions.”

Colonel Larson joined the Air Force May 1988. He earned his pilot wings at Vance AFB, Calif., in 1989, and held instructor pilot and chief of standardization positions at Vance before trans-

Lt. Col. Bret Larson is joined by his wife Lesley, his two children, and his parents after he assumed command of the 95th Airlift Squadron Feb. 2 at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

ferring to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. In May 1994 he was assigned C-130H aircraft commander duties and assumed flight commander status.

Colonel Larson became a C-130 instructor pilot and transferred to the Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., and took over instructor duties.

In October of 1999, Colonel Larson joined the 95<sup>th</sup> AS and continued with his instructor and standardization duties in the Reserve. He deployed four times in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and held a key planning role when the wing moved from Mil-

waukee to Pope AFB and set up operations at the new location.

“Without you, I wouldn't want to do this job,” said Colonel Larson. “It's been a long and difficult transition from Milwaukee to Pope, and many challenges lie ahead. Despite all this, we need to keep our culture, pride and tradition intact.”

The new 95<sup>th</sup> AS commander is married to Mrs. Lesley Larson. They have has two children, a son, Griffith and daughter, Everette.

# 440th guidance against alcohol abuse hits home for victim of drunk driving

Tech. Sgt. Joel Givens, 440th military equal opportunity specialist, hopes wing policy will help prevent injuries from drunk drivers. The Reservist from Illinois was recently in an accident caused by a drunk driver.

by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

As a civilian police officer with the Rockford (Illinois) Police Department, Tech. Sgt. Joel Givens has seen his share of drunken driving accidents.

He knows just how quickly lives can change by someone driving under the influence and simply crossing the center line, missing a turn or falling asleep at the wheel.

A few months ago, Sergeant Givens witnessed firsthand just how quick lives can change by someone driving under the influence. A motorist high on heroin and driving a car between 50 – 60 mph approached an intersection controlled by stoplights. Waiting at the red light were three cars lined up single file.

The driver in the third car was heading to work. The time was 6:51 p.m.; It was already dark outside. The car driven by the intoxicated driver approached the intersection, never once braking for the red light as the three vehicles had done seconds before.

The driver in the third car in line was focusing on the red light and never saw the headlights bearing down on him in his rear view mirror.

Sergeant Givens knows just how quick lives can change because he was the driver waiting at the red light.

“I never saw him coming,” said Sergeant Givens, a military equal opportunity advisor at the 440<sup>th</sup>

Airlift Wing at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

The crash of the impact pushed Sergeant Givens’ car into the two cars ahead of him. The Rockford Police Department’s DUI investigator told Sergeant Givens if he wasn’t wearing his seatbelt, he would have been thrown through the windshield.

“You never know when it’s going to happen, that’s why you always need to have your seatbelt on and make sure everyone else in the car is wearing theirs as well,” Sergeant Givens said. “Seatbelts save lives, it’s a proven fact.”

Drunken driving is a serious offense that base officials take very seriously. A new memorandum on alcohol guidance for 440<sup>th</sup> reservists was released in February and highlights areas all Airmen need to know regarding alcohol consumption on base.

- Airmen who drink must do so in moderation and be in control at all times.
- Any misconduct due to alcohol-related incidents can be punished by the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
- Airmen who see others becoming intoxicated to the point where they are endangering themselves or other people, must intervene to remedy the situation.
- No Airmen under the age of 21 may be allowed to drink alcoholic beverages on base. If there is doubt about a person’s age, Airmen must verify the age prior to serving, providing or making available alcoholic beverages.



photo by Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

Tech. Sgt. Joel Givens, 440th military equal opportunity advisor, is a survivor of an accident caused by a drunk driver. The Reservist said the 440th policy against alcohol abuse is a good idea.

- Reservists caught driving drunk on base are subject to losing their base driving privileges for up to one year. Airmen under 21 and caught with any alcohol in their system could also lose their base driving privileges for up to one year.
- Misuse of alcohol, drinking during duty hours, driving under the influence, giving alcohol to a minor and underage drinking will not be tolerated by base officials and will be dealt with swiftly.

Sergeant Givens, whose car was totaled as a result of the accident, said people need to buckle up in the car, whether they’re driving across country or driving to work.

“People need to wear their seatbelts,” he said. “I could have been seriously injured. You just never know when it’s going to happen.”

# 95<sup>th</sup> pilot develops web-based training program saving Air Force time, money

by Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

Using personal ingenuity and skills developed through his civilian job, Capt. Christopher Triplett is now saving the Air Force thousands of dollars.

The 95<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron pilot with web consulting experience developed an Internet version of the aircrew training period (TP) program, allowing Airmen to log their TPs from any government computer via the web. The TP program previously resided on a single computer in the squadron's headquarters at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

"With the squadron moving to Pope last year it became a priority to find a solution since many of our reservists flying C-130 training missions in the Milwaukee-area would not have access to the TP computer located at Pope," said Captain Triplett. "Since Reserve aircrew members are in positions that require constant training to stay proficient, we are given a specific amount of TPs a year so we can get paid to maintain our currency. But that doesn't help if we can't access the TP program."

Captain Triplett's web-based innovation solves that problem.

"The simple advantage of AFTPweb is that each aircrew member's TP data resides on a web-based database that is accessible from any federal government computer," he explained. "This means centralized reporting for the ARMS folks at Pope. In addition, I added some features that make it easier for squadron schedulers and supervisors to keep track of individual member accomplishments."

The Reservist said some of the functionality was available in the old program, but the 95<sup>th</sup> AS scheduler would have to physically go to the single computer to print the reports. Under the new TP program, they can access all the documentation from their work desk or through the web.

Aircrew training periods fall into two categories: aircrew flying TP (AFTP) and aircrew ground TP (AGTP). Reservists enter their TP times and event summary into the computer program. ARMS then generates a finance report listing all of the accomplished TPs from the day prior, and submit to finance for payment.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

Capt. Christopher Triplett (above), 95<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, says his new program allows Airmen to log their training from any government computer. Previously, Airmen could only use one computer designated for this purpose at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

Captain Triplett said it took about three months to design, develop and implement AFTPweb.

After he finished the project prototype, Chief Master Sgt. Linda Dilley, 95<sup>th</sup> AS ARMS superintendent, flew with him to AFRC headquarters to give a presentation to A6 seeking approval for the program.

"It turns out they were just about to start developing a web-based PT program that would be incorporated into other programs, and they were thrilled this portion of development was already done. They quickly gave us approval to use the program, and they plan to incorporate my design into the new web-based version of the UTAPS (Unit Training Assembly Participation System) finance application."

Since AFTPweb was locally developed and there is no centralized support available yet, only 440<sup>th</sup> aircrew members are allowed to use it. Once the developers at Robins AFB, Ga., incorporate the computer code into the UTAPS, it will be available AFRC-wide.

"Eventually the old TP finance report will become obsolete," said Captain Triplett. "Once AFRC goes to our program, it will become a completely paperless process."

440<sup>th</sup> senior leadership applauds Captain Triplett's innovation. "Chris Triplett and the 95<sup>th</sup> have set the benchmark," said Col. Merle D. Hart, 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander. "AFTPweb saves a tremendous amount of time and money. Chris developed the program at the lowest level with first hand operational knowledge of application requirements, and then handed AFRC a completely functional and tested program."

Normally a team of developers would spend countless hours researching project requirements, going through the lengthy pre-approval process, and months of beta testing before the first application would be available for release. At this time, AFTP is approved for 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing use only. Captain Triplett will be working with AFRC web developers as an operational liaison as the TP gets encompassed into UTAPS.

# Crew chiefs play key role in executing 440th operational missions

by Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

As 440th aircrews support critical missions around the nation, a core of low-profile maintainers keeps their planes flying high in the air.

“Right now the number one task for our TACC tasked crew chiefs is to provide aircraft support for ICMOP (Integrated CONUS Medical Operations Plan) for TACC (Tanker Airlift Control Center),” said Lt. Col. Tim Reynolds, assistant director of operations with the 95th Airlift Squadron. “Without the crew chiefs working behind the scenes, we could never accomplish these high priority missions.” Colonel Reynolds explained the ICMOP C-130 missions fly wounded soldiers, sailors,

marines and Airmen to hospitals after they arrive in the U.S. Crew chiefs are just one of the many Airmen supporting this mission.

“It’s a tremendously rewarding mission,” said Tech. Sgt. Chris Marks, a 440th Maintenance Squadron crew chief who is currently on active duty orders to support ICMOP.

“We deliver medevac patients that come home from Iraq, and get them to their home base. From there they are taken to local hospitals for further treatment.”

While they serve in the U.S., several crew chiefs supporting ICMOP are still in a deployed status because

they serve several hundred miles from home and the 440th headquarters.

“Typically, our deployed crew chiefs operate out of Scott Air Force Base (Ill.), where the deployed TACC C-130 aircrews are based,” said Colonel Reynolds. “They perform required aircraft inspections covering engines, intake and exhaust, cargo compartment and landing gear. They also complete walk-around inspections. Without them, we couldn’t fly the planes safely.”

Sergeant Marks said it’s all about “prepping” the aircraft for flight. “We’re in charge of forms and documentation for daily fuel and oxygen

loads,” he said. “We inspect all systems, and make sure that aircraft is ready to fly.”

440th crew chiefs also provide support for Patriot Badger and Patriot Pope launches and recoveries in Milwaukee. They work long hours in concert with other 440th aircraft maintenance to ensure mission success. Patriot Badger missions provide 10 monthly training lines, launching and recovering aircraft from the 128th Air National Guard base in Milwaukee.

“Patriot Badger is an important part of the overall 440th mission because it ensures aircrew members stay current and are trained to fly,” said Lt. Col. Stephen Chafe, 440th Operations Support Squadron. “The Patriot Badger crew chiefs operate using a deployed concept with limited resources. Their knowledge and experience make the mission possible. In turn, Patriot Badger provides invaluable training opportunities for Milwaukee reservists, including refueling, inspections and aircraft configuration.”

The Patriot Pope missions also provide valuable training opportunities for Wisconsin-based reservists. Patriot Pope missions take place on primary and alternate UTAs when aircrew fly back and forth from Milwaukee to homestation at Pope AFB, N.C. Crew chiefs ensure the plane is ready to go.

The Patriot Pope training missions provide transportation for reservists flying to Pope AFB. More than 60 reservists fly on each aircraft to



Tech. Sgt. Chris Marks, 440th Maintenance Squadron, preps a C-130 to receive fuel before a Patriot Badger flight.

## Mission

and from UTAs two times a month on primary and alternate UTAs. In sum, nearly 300 Airmen benefit from the Patriot Pope missions.

But the crew chiefs don't rest when their aircraft leave the ground. TACC crew chiefs fly on all ICMOP missions. Typically, this means more than 30 hours a week in the air. They also prepare the deployed C-130 for flight, arriving more than five hours prior to takeoff and staying hours later, depending on mission requirements.

Crew chiefs provide ground support in Milwaukee for Patriot Badger lines. Their day begins six hours prior to launch. They fuel, inspect the aircraft – working with unit reservists that live primarily in the Milwaukee area and others sent temporary duty from homestation. Qualified instructors train the reservists on fueling, marshalling and system operations

It's not always easy. On a Patriot Badger mission last December, Tech. Sgt. Kevin Wood and Senior Master Sgt. Bonnie Freudinger noted a liquid oxygen leak. The "fix" was to fly the aircraft to Scott AFB on the Badger training line where TACC crew chief Staff Sgt. Garrett Campbell was on duty flying ICMOP missions. He met the aircraft, serviced the oxygen system, and retorqued a loose fitting, allowing the mission to continue.

"The combined efforts of 440th crew chiefs saved 18 hours of Patriot Badger flying that week," said Colonel Reynolds. "Those missions were critical in keeping crewmembers current and qualified on the C-130."

The wing has four crew chiefs and specialists dedicated to TACC missions. The mix includes, two deployed crew chiefs from Pope AFB



photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

Air Force Reservist Senior Master Sgt. Bonnie Freudinger, 440th Maintenance Squadron, uses a laptop to troubleshoot a pressurization problem on a C-130.

for Patriot Pope and Badger lines who perform duty in Wisconsin about 12 days a month. Other traditional reserve maintainers support Patriot Badger missions. The 440th supports these three critical missions (ICMOP, Patriot Badger and Patriot Pope) with activated TACC, deployed members who all work together to keep the "herc" flying.

Colonel Reynolds recognizes the value of crew chiefs to the 440th mission.

"A good crew chief can think on the fly and fix complex aircraft problems while operating in cold weather with limited resources," he said. "They must have commitment, attention to detail, motivation and the ability to get the job done."

Colonel Chafe said experience is also key to the success of the mission. "TACC crew chiefs' experience range from five to 20 years," he said.

"Often, drilling reservists with 10-20 years of experience are available with a tremendous pool of knowledge. It's a good mix that allows for mission success. When you are on the road and run into a problem, it's this vast knowledge base that saves the day."

According to Colonel Reynolds, this winter TACC and Pope deployed crew chiefs "saved the day" four times by understanding and executing the 128th ramp snow plan.

They participated in discussions with 128th Air National Guard leadership regarding aircraft towing operations during snowstorms and when the bad weather hit they acted quickly and safely by towing the aircraft for snow removal.

"It may seem like a simple thing but, it's serious business to ensure the ramp is clear for the 128th's operations," he said. "Our own crew chiefs

skillfully moved our deployed C-130 in concert with the guard plan. In short, our guys knew what to do and keep doing what it takes to accomplish the mission."

Col. Willie W. Cooper II, 440th Maintenance Group commander, said our crew chiefs are representative of the unit's hard-charging personnel who exemplify the Air Force's emphases on smart operations and Total Force Integration.

"Their cooperation and partnership with the guard demonstrate TFI in action," he said.

"And the missions are key components of the wings overall tasking. We have been very fortunate to have unit volunteers available to make them happen. Kudos to our on-site Ops leadership and maintenance personnel who are making a difference in hundreds of people's lives every month."

# Farewell, old friend

## Retired chief reflects on final days, closing ceremony in Milwaukee

by Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) Jerry Green  
440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing retiree

Jan. 31 was the final closing ceremony for General Mitchell Air Reserve Station in Milwaukee, the former home of the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. Maj. Gen. Martin Mazick, 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force commander, and Brig. Gen. Rick Severson, assistant vice commander, Air Force Reserve Command, joined 440<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander Col. Merle Hart and Vice Commander Col. Tim Ward at the closing ceremony. The mayors from the local communities of Milwaukee, Cudahy, Franklin and South Milwaukee also attended with the 440<sup>th</sup> Community Council and Alumni Association.

This ceremony was the last to be held at GMIAP. Last summer, the wing flag moved to Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and with that, the deactivation of three key units in the wing. Last September, we celebrated the wing's last Milwaukee unit training assembly. It was an emotional time for those members who joined and served in the military at the 440<sup>th</sup>. These men and women had immense pride in the quality of this wing.

Looking back, I recall many changes at the Milwaukee location as the wing grew into the dynamic organization it is today. The base was built in 1957. It was more compact in 1966 when I joined; parking was not a problem on UTAs.

The mess hall was located on the north end of building 102. Supply was located in building 205, and all you needed to do was find John, the supply guy, and fill out the paperwork to get the new "1505" uniform.

And we marched. All wing members marched on the last day of what we used to call "summer camp." One day, while we were forming up for the march, a North Central civilian aircraft flew very low over the parade ground. The airliner had a midair collision just seconds before, and the small aircraft that was also involved, was still stuck in the side of the North Central aircraft. The fire whistle went off, and the 440<sup>th</sup> firefighters ran to their trucks. Many of us were thinking, those darn firefighters would do anything to get out of the "summer camp" parade.

The wing had so many great accomplishments over the years, and yes, some tragedies as well. There were so many decorations as a wing and many "best of" awards for the individual units, they were hard to keep track of.

What made a unit like the 440<sup>th</sup> continue to excel over the last five decades? My opinion is that its the result of the Midwest work ethic. Mix in German, Italian, Asian, Polish, Scandinavian, Danish, African-American, Slavic, French, English, Hispanic, and all the combinations that come with the mix; it all comes down to a quality work ethic. Members of the 440<sup>th</sup> had core values well before it became an Air Force key phrase.

In the six months before this final closing ceremony, we shipped a couple of

hundred truck loads of equipment to AFB and the Milwaukee detachment of the 440 AW was due to close the last week of January 2008. In the last two weeks, we noticed that some of the buildings developed water leaks due to frozen pipes, and in some locations, we noticed paper peeling off of-fice walls. Maybe it was a sign that the facility was getting old? Or maybe, it just had angry determination not to go easily.

The last day for the 440<sup>th</sup> in Milwaukee was Friday, Feb. 1. The flag was lowered for the last time. There were only 12 of us left for this event. The other 73 employees and made their last drive out the gate the day before.

During the closing ceremony, I was asked to do the invocation, and the prayer finished with a

simple request, "Lord, please protect this facility that we have know for 52 years; protect her, and keep her strong; for she has served us well."

That prayer related the feelings for all of us there. "The fondest memories last the longest;" now this Milwaukee chapter in the 440<sup>th</sup> history is closed.



photo by Joe Oliva

(Left to right) Maj. Gen. Martin Mazick, 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force commander, joins 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Commander Col. Merle D. Hart and former 440<sup>th</sup> Vice Wing Col. Tim Ward, in Milwaukee for the closing ceremony at Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station.

# 440th Services officer shoots for three-peat gold

by Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

“Hoop dreams” come true for some people.

For the fourth year in a row, Capt. Kurtis Darden, 440<sup>th</sup> Services Flight, has been tapped to play on the all Air Force basketball team. The only Reservist on the team, the services operations officer is making his fourth appearance in the Armed Forces Basketball Tournament March 23-28.

“This year I’m shooting for a ‘three-peat,’” said Captain Darden. “The past two years we (the Air Force team) won the gold in the tournament.”

Unlike the stars of the NBA, Captain Darden works a full-time “day-job” as a district manager for a North Carolina company. One weekend a month he drills with the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. The other three weekends a month he hits the local gym, shooting hoops to keep sharp.

“It’s not a complex practice session,” he said. “I simply play pick-up ball on Saturday mornings for three hours, and I try to practice early in the mornings during the week before work.”

Growing up, Captain Darden spent a lot of time with his father at the gym shooting hoops.

In college, he played “guard” at Pfeiffer University, Misenhiener, N.C. In addition to playing on the All Air Force team four years in a row, he’s served as team captain the last two years, and both times the Air Force won a gold.

Captain Darden’s said his years of basketball practice and games has paid off, and he hopes the pre-tournament training camp will lead to another gold and a spot on the All Armed Forces Basketball team that competes internationally.

“This year (2008) we’re having training camp early,” he said. “The CISM (Conseil International Du Sport Militaire) is being held in the U.S. at Lackland Air Force base and is hosted by the Air Force.”

With his eye on a three-peat, the Reservist credits his father for inspiring him. Silas Darden is a retired Army command sergeant major who still plays basketball and goes to the gym.

*photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler*

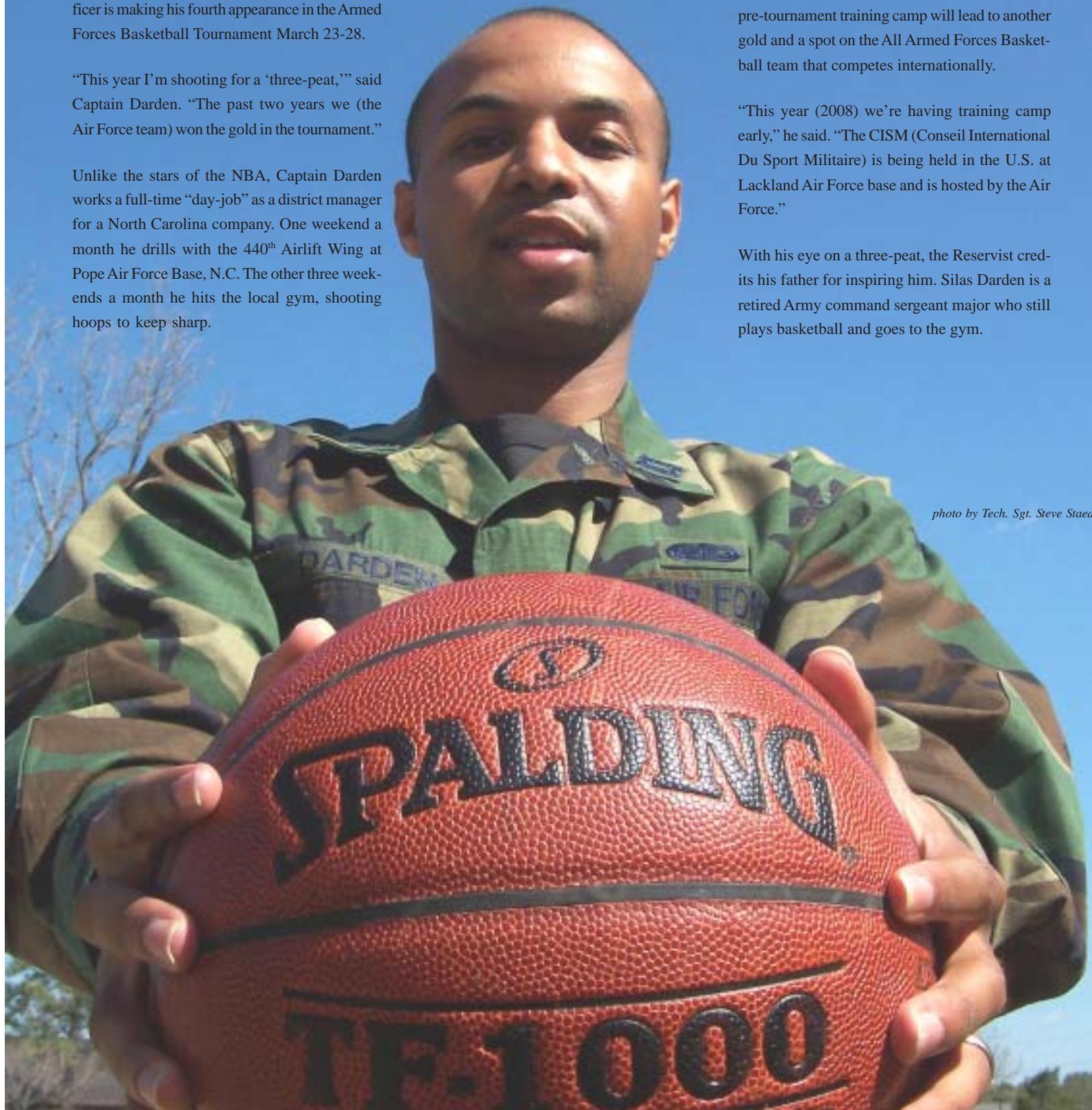




photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

Tech. Sgt. Sue Wozniak, a medical laboratory technician with the 440th Medical Squadron, handles two vials of blood just removed from a centrifuge.

## Up for the physical challenge

*440th Medical Squadron mixes skilled Airmen with new talent at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., to create a special atmosphere that meets the challenges of 2008 and beyond.*

### story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

At her previous base, Senior Airman Tara Ramsey felt her skills were getting a bit rusty. Although the medical technician knew her job inside out, she was assigned duties that often didn't include treating patients on a regular basis.

Airman Ramsey was ready for a change.

After 23 years of service, and unable to obtain a slot for a commission at his previous base, Kirk Wilcox, previously enlisted but now a captain,

called an end to his Air Force career. Still, getting his commission was always a goal in the back of his mind. Captain Wilcox was ready for a change.

Fortunately both Air Force Reservists found the right change with the 440<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron.

"I absolutely love my job," said Airman Ramsey, a medical technician with the squadron. "I love that I can help people, and I really enjoy seeing their reactions after I help them."

"I like to help people," adds Captain Wilcox, a

clinical nurse with the squadron. "You find out small little bits and pieces on people – things that you can help them out with, when you work with people. That's why we're here. It's a very rewarding job."

Both reservists who have been with the squadron less than a year, say they're excited to be on the ground level as the 440<sup>th</sup> MDS gets itself established at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

The squadron's goal is to ensure Airmen are medically qualified to deploy. A large focus of their



*photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler*

Capt. Marvin Knight, a physician with the 440th Medical Squadron, listens to the deep breaths taken by Staff Sgt. Shameka Humphrey, 53rd Aerial Port Squadron, during her recent physical examination.

work is performing annual physicals on the more than 1,000 reservists assigned to the unit.

Scheduling these physicals and getting them all done, primarily on Saturdays of UTA weekends, takes a collective effort.

“We get everybody involved in the physical examination process,” said Col. Bruce Fischer, commander of the 440th MDS. “What that means is everyone is doing something, whether they’re helping out with paperwork or directing people around the clinics or performing the examinations — everyone is involved in the process.”

Although the squadron is slotted for just more than 100 reservists, it has about 140 assigned, many of which are currently in technical school, Colonel Fischer said.

Along with the rising numbers of reservists assigned to his squadron, Colonel Fischer said one of the biggest challenges associated with the move last fall from Milwaukee down to Pope AFB has been finding enough working space for everyone.

Colonel Fischer suspects if the 43<sup>rd</sup> Medical Squadron — the active duty squadron assigned to Pope AFB — downsizes, he’ll be able to use some of their facilities for record storage and office space to accommodate all his reservists.

“We had a really nice facility in Milwaukee and I think we got spoiled a little bit,” he said. “We’re not accustomed to having the mission fail, so we’ll get it done. It’s a challenge we’re certainly willing to accept head on.”

Colonel Fischer, who has been the squadron’s

commander officially since June 2007, said he wanted to stay on and ensure the transition down the Pope AFB was a smooth one. He said the mix of Airmen who followed the squadron from Milwaukee, combined with the talents of new reservists who have joined the squadron at Pope AFB has been a terrific blend of energy and skills that’s far exceeded his expectations.

“We brought with us some outstanding players, and we’re picking up great people from other units,” Colonel Fischer said.

“I’m really impressed with the people we have in the unit. It’s a pleasant surprise after coming down here thinking we may have a lag period and getting people up to speed. That certainly hasn’t been the case.”

# 440th Reservist named top finance officer in AFRC

by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

Maj. Rick Jellison has been a man on the move.

In the past two years Major Jellison, the military comptroller for the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing has been jet-setting around the world applying his financial skills in locations such as Djibouti in the Horn of Africa, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and most recently to Pope AFB, N.C., where he served from May to November last year as the commander for the 43rd Comptroller Squadron.

The miles he's traveled and the accomplishments made at these locations certainly haven't gone unnoticed as Major Jellison has been named Air Force Reserve Command's Best Comptroller for 2008.

"I have always stepped up to the plate when asked to and I've always tried to set an example for my fellow AFRC comptrollers to follow," Major Jellison said. "I plan to share my experiences with my peers in that hope that they too

will step up to the call and support the total force mission that we in Reserve are an integral part of."

Major Jellison's military career didn't start out in blues, but rather wearing Army green. For several years he was an enlisted soldier, until being selected for commissioning as an infantry officer.

Leadership skills are a must for any military officer, but it was especially true for Army infantry officers. Major Jellison sought out leadership courses and took as many as he could, honing his skills so when the time came to guide his troops into action, he'd be ready.

However, an opportunity arose to transfer into the Air Force and enter the finance career field. The leadership skills he picked up wearing green have also transferred with him in the Air Force.

"I carry that same leadership experience into my everyday life in the Air Force and it's been well received," Major Jellison said.



photo by Master Sgt. Kevin Brody

Maj. Rick Jellison, 440th Airlift Wing, was named the 2007 top finance officer in Air Force Reserve Command

It's leadership that's helped him to build a winning team in the 440th Comptroller Squadron at the Pope AFB. His secret to success — set a good example.

"Don't expect more from your staff than could be expected of yourself," Major Jellison said. "Stay engaged with them and be familiar with what is expected of them. Also deploying in your career field helps hone those skills and provides an excellent foundation for improving them."

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## Air Force Financial Management processes to change, reservists advised to closely follow pay directions

by Capt. Jim Ivie

The way Air Force military pay and travel vouchers are processed is changing in a big way. However, the impact on most Airmen should be minimal; as long as they make sure they are careful when submitting their paperwork.

On March 14, the new Air Force Financial Services Center at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., began processing 440th Airlift Wing travel vouchers in a process known as a "cut-over." In May, military pay processing will also move to the AFFSC at Ellsworth.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Angel Ingram, superintendent of 440th Airlift Wing Financial Management, the way Airmen conduct their business with FM should not change. Airmen will still be able to submit their orders and travel vouchers to the 440th FM office, it is only the actual processing of the documents that will now be done at Ellsworth. However, due to the additional step of scanning and forwarding the vouchers and orders to Ellsworth, Airmen need to be more careful that their vouchers are filled out correctly and are legible.

Some of the steps that become even more important now when submitting a travel voucher are either typing or very carefully handwriting the vouchers, taping all receipts to a blank 8 1/2 x 11 piece of paper, ensuring all receipts are legible and not faded, including an email address on the voucher and making sure the vouchers are signed in the appropriate locations. Airmen on a long tour for 45 days or more are authorized to submit an accrual voucher every thirty days to ensure timely payment of the Bank of America travel card.

*continued on page 15*

# Getting paid...

(continued from page 14)

To ensure orders are processed correctly, Airmen should hand write "Mil Pay" on the top of one copy of their orders and "Travel" on the top of the other copy they submit. Both the front and back of the orders should be submitted. In addition, the orders should be certified by your supervisor and blocks 38-46 (38-48 if you are an Air Reserve Technician) should be completely filled in.

Airmen will have four ways to submit their vouchers, all of which still initially go to 440th FM: by fax to (910) 394-3598; by email to [finance@pope.af.mil](mailto:finance@pope.af.mil); via regular mail; or by submitting them in person to the 440th FM office. The office is open for customers from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturdays and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays during UTA weekends.

The changes will consolidate the back shop processing operations currently provided by 93 separate base finance offices worldwide into one operation at Ellsworth. The move will save the Air Force millions of dollars while still providing a high level of service. Once the AFFSC is fully up and running, Airmen will be able to access a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week contact center focused on answering customer service questions.

"Financial Management's transformation objective is to provide the Air Force 'a longer tooth and a shorter tail' by returning resources from support operations to direct war fighting capabilities," said Mr. John Vonglis, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller.

## 440th Airlift Wing announces top 2007 Airmen



**Master Sgt. Jennifer Drewitz**  
Senior NCO of the Year  
440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Operations Flight  
Logistics Manager

"I like working with the people and being able to support them and making sure they are taken care of when they deploy. It's also very satisfying working with their families and letting them know if they ever need anything they can come to us."



**Master Sgt. Barry Blevins**  
First Sergeant of the Year  
53<sup>rd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron.

Squadron first sergeant since January 2006. I like to do all the things a first sergeant does. I enjoy that piece of the job. I'd tell anyone else looking to succeed in the 440<sup>th</sup> is to follow the core values and they'll do well."



**Tech. Sgt. Stacy Beckner**  
NCO of the Year  
440<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group  
Information Management

"What I enjoy most about serving in the Reserve are the people and the challenges of setting up this new wing. Melding all the different backgrounds of the people from Wisconsin, Charleston and other areas, and getting everyone on the same page is a big challenge that I enjoy."



**Senior Airman Lewis Garner**  
Airman of the Year  
53<sup>rd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron  
Fleet Service Journeyman

"I'm more of an under-the-radar kind of guy, but I think this is the best job in the Air Force because nothing moves with aerial porters. From the very basic of fleet functions to passenger items, the airplanes will not fly without us."

### Fast 440th

- 440th Finance Fax: 910-394-3586
- 440th Finance e-mail: [finance@pope.af.mil](mailto:finance@pope.af.mil)
- Hours of operation:  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on UTA Saturdays  
1-3 p.m. on UTA Sundays

### Finance Facts

# Hot Stuff

Cooking and serving meals for more than 1,000 Airmen is no easy task. The tempting aroma you smell coming from the dining hall on UTA weekends is a testament to reservists in the 440th Services Squadron. Whether breakfast, lunch or dinner, the 440th SVS is cooking up something good!



*photos by Master Sgt. Kevin Brody*

A hungry Command Chief Cliff Van Yahres is happy to receive his lunch from Airman First Class Malisa Lewis, 440th Services Squadron, during the February UTA.



Chicken - it's what's for lunch and is being served by Airman First Class Malisa Lewis, 440th Services Squadron, during the February UTA.

## Unit Highlight



It's all systems go as A1C Lewis gives a thumbs up to start serving lunch during the February UTA.



Airmen First Class Brian Richmond and Kimberly Holmes not only put cheese on grilling hamburgers, they also say cheese for the camera!

## News & Notes

### Promotions

The following people have been promoted to the rank shown:

CMSgt. Linda A. Dilley, OSF  
SMSgt. Steven R. Grosshuesch, MX  
SMSgt. Jeffrey W. Hoffman, AMXS  
SMSgt. Shannon N. McMenemy, OSF  
SMSgt. Robert S. Wheelless, SVF  
MSgt. Michael A. Lock, APS  
MSgt. Robert W. McKinney, Jr., APS  
MSgt. David E. Passow, MSG  
MSgt. Kevin R. Speed, AW  
MSgt. Richard D. Webster, MSF  
MSgt. Erik C. Wielinga, AS  
TSgt. Sean R. Bailey, AMXS  
TSgt. Carrie A. Cacchione, MDS  
TSgt. Latasha M. Capleton, SVF  
TSgt. Joseph P. Herrmann, MOF  
TSgt. Alan J. Hunter, AMXS  
TSgt. Mark L. Kutella, AMXS  
TSgt. Murjani J. Law, MSF  
TSgt. Donette Mathison, MDS  
TSgt. Saneann N. O'Brien, MDS  
TSgt. Brent M. Piatti, APS  
TSgt. Paul M. Renken, MXG  
TSgt. Tamara A. Shaffer, OSF  
TSgt. Stephen M. Simkonis, AMXS  
TSgt. Patrick A. Taylor, MXS  
TSgt. Nikki T. Thomas, APS

TSgt. Dawn E. Watson, CF  
TSgt. Edward D. Wilkerson, APS  
TSgt. Edward C. Zanto, MOF  
SSgt. Ryan P. Collins, SFS  
SSgt. Martin Dunovsky, AW  
SSgt. Jeannette L. Hemphill, MSF  
SrA Christoph Breitbarth, LRS  
SrA William L. Bunch Jr., AS  
SrA Alicia C. Farrow, AW  
SrA Amy M. Hunt, SFS  
SrA Damon A. Page, AMXS  
SrA Talia K. Ramsey, AW  
SrA Janet M. Steverson, CF  
SrA Adrienne D. Wilson, SVF  
SrA Richard C. Spofford III, MOF  
A1C Laquan R. Brown, AMXS  
A1C Gilbert Candelaria, MDS  
A1C Courtney S. Gerald, SVF  
A1C Martin K. Landers, MDS  
A1C Kay A. Lyons Mitchell, LRS  
Amn Bettina O. Harrison, MDS  
Amn Jessica A. Lynn, CF  
Amn James C. Smalls, SFS

### Air Force strategy released

In February, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley released the Air Force's strategy entitled, "The Nation's Guardians: America's 21st Century Air Force." Read more at <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-080207-048.pdf>

### Airman "The Book" now online

"Into the Wild New Yonder" is the theme for the issue, traditionally called "The Book." The magazine is available at: [www.af.mil/news/airman/0208/pdf.shtml](http://www.af.mil/news/airman/0208/pdf.shtml)

### Air Force 'Above All'

The Air Force has a new advertising campaign to recruit the next generation of Airmen as well as better inform people about the Air Force mission: "Above All."

For more information, visit <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123087033>.

### Show your 440th pride:

#### Bring your family on April 26

Join military members and their families on Saturday, April 26, at the State Capitol Grounds in Raleigh for a day of fun, food, and friends. A parade starts at 10 a.m., followed by static displays and games for the entire family.

Maj. Christian Bakogiannis is the 440<sup>th</sup>'s point of contact and is looking for 40 volunteers to represent the wing in the parade. For more information or to sign up for the parade please call Major Bakogiannis at 910-394-1986 or email him at [panos.bakogiannis-02@pope.af.mil](mailto:panos.bakogiannis-02@pope.af.mil).

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- Chat on-line at [Get1Now.us](http://Get1Now.us)
- Send an E-mail to an AFRC Advisor
- Use your card to make a direct on-line referral

Get 1 Now cards, issued to all Reservists, are personalized, showing your user name and password. AFRC Advisors are available on-line to help with lost passwords and questions.

**AIR FORCE RESERVE**

**Submitting referrals is easy, call 1-877-786-2372 or go to [Get1Now.us](http://Get1Now.us)**



## Honorary Combat Airlifter

*photo by Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe*

Col. Merle D. Hart, 440th Airlift Wing commander, presents Congressman Mike McIntyre with an Honorary Combat Airlifter plaque during congressional visits on Capitol Hill.

## Service before Self: Featured Citizen Airman



Staff Sgt. Rebecca Aragao, 440th Airlift Wing financial management specialist, came to the unit less than a year after separating from active duty.

The Combat Airlifter took a few minutes to chat with Staff Sgt. Rebecca Aragao, a customer service technician with the 440th Airlift Wing/Finance Management.

**Civilian job:** Accounting manager with a retail construction company in High Point, N.C. She is looking to pursue a career in a vocational rehabilitation program at a local Veteran's Administration hospital.

**Career with the 440th:** Sergeant Aragao joined the unit in August 2007, after coming off active duty from Royal Air Force Mildenhall in England.

**Best part of the Reserve:** Sergeant Aragao says serving in the Reserve is a great part-time job because it keeps her military connections alive, and she likes the camaraderie of her fellow Airmen.

**Goal:** While stationed in England, she developed the travel bug and visited several countries in Europe. Her goal is to visit all seven continents in her lifetime. She also met her husband, Rafael, a native of Brazil, while stationed in England.

# IG Message

## Watching for fraud, waste and abuse

by Col. Harry Heflin  
440th Airlift Wing Inspector General

Fraud, waste and abuse—you've heard the phrase, but do you know what it means? As with matters concerning reprisal and restriction, the inspector general is granted the discretion whether to investigate fraud, waste or abuse complaints or whether to handle them through some other means.

"Fraud" is any intentional deception to unlawfully deprive the Air Force of something of value, or to secure a benefit, privilege, allowance, or consideration to which an individual is not entitled.

For example, a false expense claim on a travel voucher constitutes fraud. "Waste" is an extravagant, careless or needless expenditure of Air Force funds or the consumption of Air Force property that results from deficient practices systems controls, or decisions.

"Abuse" is the intentional wrongful or improper use of Air Force resources. Examples include misuse of rank, position or authority that causes the loss or misuse of resources such as tools, vehicles, computers or copy machines.

Abuse allegations may involve unnecessary purchases, such as disposing of newly acquired furniture and acquiring new furniture merely because the supervisor's tastes have changed. If you are aware of something that may reasonably be considered a Fraud, Waste or Abuse matter, please contact me, Col Harry Heflin, 440<sup>th</sup> AW/IG at (DSN) 424-2303, (Comm.) 910-394-2303, or (Cell) 816-665-3850. I can also be reached at < [harry.heflin@us.af.mil](mailto:harry.heflin@us.af.mil) >. And as with all IG matters, FWA matters complaints may be made anonymously.

Kids don't write these  
to just anybody...

Dear Airman  
Thank you for being  
brave in the war.  
Now I feel safe.  
your friend  
Jake

DEAR AIR FORCE SERGEANT,  
THANK YOU FOR  
KEEPING ALL OF  
AMERICA FREE!  
COME HOME SAFE HERO!  
FROM CORY

Be part of the 440th team  
immediate opportunities available for:

- Navigators
- Flight Engineers
- Aerospace Maintenance
- Security Forces
- Flight Nurses
- Loadmasters
- Services



by Master Sgt. Bill Knight

dear Soldier  
Thank you for guarding  
are country  
Come home soon  
from Connor

Dear Airmen,  
In honor of our nation, I would like  
to thank you for your service to  
our country. The thoughts and prayers are  
with you always. We recognize the sacrifices  
you make that you are making for us. Again,  
we thank you. May you be safe and well.  
We will continue to hope and pray for your  
safe return home to your loved ones. May  
God bless you.  
The Dick Family  
Mary  
John  
Connor  
John

## Breakfast with the Boss

Reservists who live in Wisconsin and are employed as civilians in Wisconsin are encouraged to invite their civilian bosses (supervisors, human resources professionals and president - CEOs) to Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's annual Breakfast with the Boss during Armed Forces week.

The complimentary event takes place Monday morning, May 12, at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee.

To nominate your boss for a personal invitation sent through the post office, please email your bosses' names, company, postal addresses and email addresses to:

Lt. John Capra at  
[john.capra@wimilw.af.mil](mailto:john.capra@wimilw.af.mil)

440th Airlift Wing  
374 Maynard St. Suite 301  
Pope AFB, NC 28308-2409

To the family of: