

COMBAT AIRLIFTER

440th Airlift Wing

"Vincit qui primum gerit"

December 2008 Volume 2, No. 7



AIRCRAFT NOSE ART DEDICATED TO 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION



Wing Commander
Col. Merle D. Hart

Director, Public Affairs
Dennis J. Mehring

Wing Chief, Public Affairs
Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

Public Affairs Staff
Capt. Lauri Turpin
Capt. Jeff Schoen
Master Sgt. Kevin Brody
Tech Sgt. Steve Staedler

Multimedia Staff
Master Sgt. Bill Knight
Tech Sgt. Cynthia Aldoo
Senior Airman Susan Parent
Senior Airman Jacqueline Pender

Office of Public Affairs
440th Airlift Wing
374 Maynard Street Suite 301
Pope AFB, NC, 28308-2409
Phone: 910.394.5455
FAX: 910.394.5459

<http://440aw.afrc.af.mil>

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military and their families. Content of the Combat Airlifter are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the Air Force. Content is compiled, originated and developed by the Public Affairs staff of the 440th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated in the photo byline.

On the cover:
The 440 Airlift Wing and the 82 Airborne Division commemorate their long standing relationship at a nose art dedication held at Pope Air Force Base
Photo Illustration by:
Senior Airman
Jacqueline Pender.

Command Perspective

Fellow Airmen of the 440th Airlift Wing:

Thank you for providing our country with invaluable assets as we fight the Global War on Terrorism. Our wing's development this past year was phenomenal. We are on a journey and success abounds as we overcome challenges. This new chapter of the wing is being written by you. This year we gained more than 1,100 Airmen, 76 percent of our unit is new. The wing expanded, adding the 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron along with our Active Association. We completed our Active Association 15 months ahead of schedule with our active duty war fighting partners: the 2nd Airlift Squadron and the 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. This past February we closed General Mitchell Air Reserve Base in Milwaukee. It seems much longer than 10 months since we locked the gates in Wisconsin. We stood up to a war time tasking, deploying on the first-ever full AFRC AEF rotation for operations. Our forces are currently deployed on that rotation;



Col. Merle D. Hart, 440 AW commander

the 440th will maintain a constant presence in the AOR for the foreseeable future. During this holiday season I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable time, please remember our Airmen in harms way. May our successes continue throughout this next year as we continue converting challenges to successes. The wing's journey is far from over, your individual efforts are essential in insuring our overall success. I thank each of you for what you do for our wing and our nation.

Air Force Reserve commander shares holiday wishes

**By Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr.
Commander, Air Force Reserve
Command**

WASHINGTON – As we look forward to this holiday season and the start of 2009, I want to express my gratitude to each of you, your families and employers for the sacrifices you make for our great country each and every day.

Much has been asked and each Reservist and family member has given of themselves for their country. You've stepped up to the challenge smartly, without hesitation.

For those who are able to celebrate this holiday season with friends and family at

home, I ask that you remember our brave men and women who are serving around the world far from family and friends.

About 2,000 of our Air Force Reserve warriors are serving overseas with incredible distinction in global operations every day by saving lives and thwarting terrorism. The entire Air Force Reserve family has you in our hearts and looks forward to your safe return.

The holiday season provides an opportunity to remind us all to set aside time for friends and family who share and support those sacrifices.

Dee and I wish you the very best this holiday season and for 2009!

Pope Command Post Training is Perfection

By Capt. Lauri Turpin

When it comes to seamless integration between active duty and Reserve Airmen, one needs to look no further than the command post at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. That's because on UTA weekends, active duty Airmen and Reservists work side-by-side accomplishing the mission to keep the base running smooth. "We don't even recognize the different units," said Master Sgt. Jeffrey D. Bello, AFRC command post superintendent. "We don't say, 'He's with the 43rd, or she's with the 440th.' We say, 'They're with the Pope command post.'" Part of that harmony includes a comprehensive training program – one that was labeled as perfect by

the Air Force Inspector General (IG) team during the Operational Readiness Inspection held last month.



"We got absolutely no write-ups on our training program," said Tech. Sgt. Angela Harris, training manager for the command post. "This is basically unheard of," Ser-

geant Bello added. "They always have at least one or two findings." Sergeant Harris and Mrs. Crystal Moore, also a training manager for the command post, developed a combined training plan that mixes together all elements of the active-duty and Reserve training into one comprehensive program. "We constructed a very integrated program following new guidance that came out in July," Sergeant Harris said. "All of our training folders look the same; all of the guidance is the same." With the new training program and the perfect score in last month's inspection, Sergeant Harris said the camaraderie between active duty and Reserve Airmen is as strong as ever. "We all work together," she said. "The bottom line is it's all about teamwork."

SPEK and Span - 440th Services Squadron Takes First Place

By Capt. Lauri Turpin

Eight Airmen from the 440th Services Flight travelled to Atlanta, Sept. 22-24, to compete in the 22d Air Force Home Station Training Competition. They contended in a variety of events, including post-attack reconnaissance (PAR) teams, command and control, mortuary affairs, search and recovery, M-16 training, vehicle transport and single pallet expeditionary kitchen (SPEK).

"We tied first-place for the SPEK event," said Maj. Anna Hill, Services Squadron commander. "This was such an accomplishment because most of our troops are young – 19 or 20 years old."

The competition is an annual event hosted by Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga., and included units from

the 22nd, 10th and 4th Air Force. The 440th team consisted of Master Sgt. William Garrison, Tech. Sgt. Deron Day and Senior Airmen Kimberly Holmes, Brian Jones, Chrystianchilla Cunningham, Ronald Mitchell, Tamika Taylor and Brian Byrd.



"The most exciting competition was the M-16 race," Major Hill said. "The team ran to their M-16 and had to disassemble, clean and reassemble it, and clear it with this huge crowd watching.

"Needless to say, we had a lot of

Airmen operating under stressful situations and they really came through."

"Out of all the events, I would say the most challenging was the SPEK," Airman Jones said. "It took the longest time and took the most effort."

Lt. Col. Christopher Cronce with the Air Force Reserve Command, said that the 440th Airmen far exceeded his expectations.

"This is a man who does not give out kudos lightly," Major Hill said. "Going in he told me that he was concerned that my troops were so young, but they proved to him they could

do it. They're fired up and ready to go back."

"I wanted to participate to see where our unit stands among other units of the Reserve," Airman Jones said, adding he plans to attend the event again next year.

TROOP CARRIER GROUPS' REUNION 2008



By Capt. Lauri Turpin

The air in the room was thick with memories. Veterans filed into the museum and their voices rang in song-like tones up to the vaulted ceiling. They came to be reunited with old friends. They came to meet other veterans. They came because they shared a unique moment of history – and they came because as a group, they could share those moments of history once more.

Nearly 100 of the Troop Carriers Group (TCG) members from World War II gathered Oct. 24 in the Airborne & Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, N.C., to kick-off the TCG's reunion weekend. As they wandered through the museum, commenting to their wives or daughters, sons or husbands, they searched out old friends and reunited with fellow service members.

As he looked over a display featuring a young pilot in full uniform, Bill Weaver, a navigator on the C-47 and a member of the 440th TCG, 97th Troop Carrier Squadron (TCS), remembered the trip overseas.

"We had multiple stops," he said. "We stopped in Puerto Rico, Central America, Brazil, Ascension Island and Liberia. We had another stop in Northern Africa before we finally made it to England."

Weaver flew 19 combat missions, but said he flew almost daily. Many of his missions included flying the wounded back to England. He is a tall, distinguished man with white, carefully combed hair. He moved through the museum slowly, and with purpose. He peered at a photograph of a C-47 in flight.

"After D-Day, we were assigned to Etley for the invasion of the southern coast of France," he said. "We returned to Orlean just about the time of the Battle of the Bulge."

Aldrae "Lilly" Nunes, a member of

the 436th TCG and the 79th TCS, was a parachute rigger during the war. She is a tiny woman with bright red hair and a glint in her eyes.

"The men would hang up the parachute and I would pack it," she said.

"I was only 80 pounds, and you had to be 100 pounds," Nunes said, recalling the day she enlisted. "The recruiter put me on a scale and gave me a gallon of water, and I drank it until I weighed 100 pounds."

Col. Merle D. Hart, 440th Air-

them pulled my rosary from my pocket and looked at me. I guess that's when he decided not to shoot me, because he told me, 'It looks like you've got God on your side.' As it turns out, he was right."

It is sometimes hard to imagine these men as they were in the 1940's. Alone, they look like someone's grandfather, someone's neighbor. But when they come together, there is a certain pride, a certain solemn understanding that pervades the space, and suddenly you remember just how much they accomplished.

The 440th Troop Carrier Group was activated for duty in July 1943. They trained with the 82nd Airborne Division in England, in preparation for their imminent deployment. In the early hours of June 6, 1944, they dropped paratroops in Normandy near Carentan. Three C-47s were lost that day, and another three on later missions. Following D-Day, the group flew C-47s to and from France, sometimes evacuating the wounded.

During Operation Market Garden in September 1944, the 440th dropped 82nd Airborne paratroopers into Holland, and while U.S. troops suffered during the famous Battle of Bastogne three months later in Belgium, the squadron continued exerting its presence by dropping supplies to soldiers trapped behind enemy lines.

Some 63 years later, the veterans continued their weekend of reminiscing by attending the C-130 nose art dedication and the alliance between the 440th and 82nd Airborne on Oct. 25 in Hangar 4 at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

"These are the people that built our Air Force," Maj. Gen. Winfield "Skip" Scott, 18th Air Force commander, said at the ceremony. "These individuals set the standard



lift Wing commander, wandered through the throng of people in the museum, shaking hands and welcoming the crowd to the weekend's events.

"We are so honored to have you here tonight and for this special weekend," he said. "The experiences of the people gathered in this room tonight are just amazing."

One of those people was George Mehling, a former radio operator in the C-47.

"It's the only plane there is," he said, smiling.

The first thing you notice about Mehling is his kindness. He speaks softly, slowly and deliberately. He tells the story of how he got shot down and captured by the Germans without pride and without embellishment. It is the matter-of-fact recollections of an old soldier.

"They were patting me down for souvenirs," Mehling said. "One of

and this is our way of thanking them, and telling them we will not let them down.”

Later that evening at the TCG banquet, Colonel Hart echoed his colleague’s words.

“We stand together today as free men and women, living in a democratic country because of the courageous and steadfast actions of the World War II veterans,” he said. “We are unable to repay the debt we owe for the sacrifices made, but we are able to offer our gratitude through our actions and heartfelt words. This evening is in dedication to all those who sacrificed during World War II.”

Harold Prince, 91, was one of the oldest members in attendance. His smile beamed across the room, and his hands punctuated the air as he talked to old friends.

“I’m just happy I can still be here to see these guys,” he said. “And I’m glad for the champagne. I always say, why go up to the pearly gates with a dry mouth!”

Prince and the others turned to watch as a video commemorating a C-47 dedication earlier this summer in France played on dual

screens at either end of the room. Featured were Gene Noble and Henry Moreland – two pilots who had flown with the 440th, who traveled to France to see one of their group’s planes dedicated into a French museum at Meriville. The room came alive with applause following the video, and Harold Prince turned back to the table.

“Those boys were heroes alright,” he said, modestly avoiding a question about his own heroism. “I was just doing my job, trying to treat my guys right and looking forward to getting home again.”

The 43d Honor Guard retired the flags for the evening, and the veterans made their way back to their rooms for the night.

“This has been one of the real grand master events we’ve had,” said Bill Welch, 440th TCG reunion president. His eyes misted up as he said what had no doubt been hanging heavy on the minds of many of the veterans. “You know, you are so thankful to be here, but you get to think about the people who didn’t come back.”

As his words trailed off, the veterans passed by. George Mehling,

who had once been a radio operator captured by the Germans; who used courage and patience to survive being held captive, and who proudly remembered a German colonel telling him after unsuccessfully interrogating him, “You’re a mighty fine soldier.”

Aldrae “Lilly” Nunes, who joined the Army to support her two kids after her husband died of lead poisoning, and who packed parachutes for the many men headed overseas.

Bill Weaver, who as a young man dropped supplies to the starving people of Holland during Operation Market Garden.

Harold Prince, who drank champagne and smiled at the gathering of old friends.

And Bill Welch, who worked many years since the war to bring his friends and colleagues back together for another round of memories.

“This is why it’s so important to us,” Welch said, his eyes brimming with tears. “It’s history being repeated. It’s our combined history, and our chance to share it with one another once again.”



Troop Carrier Groups Reunion - Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

Oath of enlistment with John Boy and Billy



By Master Sgt. Kevin Brody

As 25 new Air Force Reserve recruits gathered in a Charlotte, N.C., radio broadcasting studio, the program director signaled that they would be on the air in five, four, three, two . . .

“Gooooood morning from the Big Show with John Boy and Billy. This morning we have a special guest with us Col. Merle Hart, commander of the 440th Airlift Wing out of Pope Air Force Base,” said Mr. John Easley, host of the nationally syndicated John Boy and Billy radio show.

On Oct. 14 Senior Master Sgt. Stevie Hunt and Master Sgt. Helenka Sommers, recruiters for the 440th Airlift Wing, pulled up to the gate at the Clear Channel’s radio complex in Charlotte to meet with Colonel Hart, who would administer the oath of enlistment to the 25 recruits live on the John Boy and Billy show.

Prior to the show Colonel Hart met with the radio hosts and presented them with honorary Combat Airlifter certificates as a sign of gratitude for having them on their program. As Colonel Hart read the inscription on the certificate employees from the radio station joked about John Boy having to go to basic training and get in shape. Colonel Hart also handed John Boy his colonels’ insignia off of his hat. Colleagues say that

John Boy frequently reminds everyone in the office who out ranks who. When it came time to administer the oath, the Air Force’s newest Airmen lined up in formation in the recording studio as Colonel Hart called the room to attention.

“Please raise your right hand and repeat after me,” said Colonel Hart.

On the other side of the room John Boy and Billy also raised their hands as they joined in the enlistment. When the oath was complete the room erupted in applause as Colonel Hart welcomed the new recruits as Airmen of the United States Air Force. Wing leadership then chatted with John Boy and Billy on air about the unit, careers and how people can find out more about the Reserve.

Colonel Hart received a tour of the radio station from Mr. Tim Parker, the field operations director for the five Charlotte Clear Channel radio stations. Mr. Parker introduced the 440th to John Boy and Billy, and helped arrange the 440th’s displays at the Lowe’s Motor Speedway during the Coca Cola 600 NASCAR race in May.

The day ended with a group shot outside the radio station and more discussion about the 440th’s involvement in upcoming events.



Deployment: 440th Airlift Wing Deploys to AOR

By Jerry Green, CMSgt (Ret)

About 80 members of the 440th Airlift Wing deployed in October to Southwest Asia, marking the first major deployment for the wing since the unit moved to Pope Air Force Base, N. C. Wing Airmen from the 440th Maintenance Squadron and 95th Airlift Squadron are supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. For many Airmen in the 95th AS and 440th MXS, this is a familiar process. They are returning to the AOR after a three-year absence. Alongside these veterans are wing members who are deploying for the first time and are looking forward to duty in a different environment.

The first sergeant for the deployment is 28-year Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Roeder, who has taken part in multiple deployments in the past. Sergeant Roeder, an Oshkosh, Wis., native, is ready for the challenges of overseeing the many issues that arise during long deployments. In the past Sergeant Roeder has dealt with the Red Cross for family issues back home, and coordinated emergency leave requests when necessary. He is an avid jogger who hopes to find opportunities to get in extra running time at his deployed location.

Many of the aircrew have flown in the AOR before and look forward to implementing the procedures necessary to fly and operate safely in foreign lands. Lt. Col. John Smigla, an aircraft commander with the 95th AS, said the missions should not be viewed as business as usual because each has its own unique challenges.

Wing Airmen have to update their personnel records and other documents that are necessary for deployment before they can leave. Shot records need to be current and if necessary, Airmen can get last-minute shots in the deployment line. Proper documentation

in the Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) must be current, and emergency power of attorney documents are all part of the critical deployment process.

For Lt. Col. Christian Bakogiannis, this was his first deployment processing line as commander of the Military Support Flight. He remarked that even though there were a few minor problems leading up to event, the deployment process was smooth. His staff completed the required pre-deployment steps as part of a two-day process ensuring the wing Airmen were ready to start their duties when they arrived at the deployed location.

Col. Merle D. Hart, 440th Airlift Wing commander, Col. Willie Cooper, 440th Maintenance Group commander, and Lt. Col. William Whittenberger, 440th Operations Group commander, bid the deployed troops good-bye the morning of the departure. Colonel Hart shook each deploying member's hand and challenged them to be safe in their work and speak well of others. Colonel Cooper watched as his maintainers packed their gear in the cargo compartment and settled in for the four-day trip.

Colonel Whittenberger said that he was confident that the crews were ready for this deployment. The 95th AS crews will be available for mission tasking within two days after arriving in the AOR.

Several of the deployed Airmen will be returning in early December as others from the wing will be replacing them in the AOR. The tasking for this deployment ends in late January 2009. Currently, there are about 80 wing Airmen deployed to the AOR. Appropriately, Colonel Hart's last message to the troops was, "Be safe, and come back with all the fingers and toes you left with."



AIRCRAFT NOSE ART DEDICATED



Photos by Senior Airman Jacqueline Pender

Major General Curtis M. Scaparotti, 82nd Airborne Division commander, speaks to a group of Army, Air Force and World War II veterans during a nose art dedication sponsored by the 440th Airlift Wing at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. The nose art symbolizes the continued relationship between the 82 Airborne and the 440 Airlift Wing dating back to the early 1940s.

By Capt. Lauri Turpin

A proud tradition of the U.S. Air Force is to honor those we respect by decorating our most valuable assets with art. For the 440th Airlift Wing on Oct. 25, the nose art dedication ceremony was a particularly special event. Not only did the unit honor the 82nd Airborne by dedicating C-130, tail number 87-9282, but did it in the presence of the original members of the 440th, and other Troop Carrier Group members who served in World War II. As the veterans arrived at Hangar 4 at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., 14 members of the 82nd Airborne formed a welcome line, framing the honored guests as they stepped off their buses. The World War II veterans, now in their late 80's or early 90's, looked surprised and pleased as they noticed the awaiting crowd. Some of the veterans used canes; some rode in wheelchairs. A few of them saluted as they walked past the soldiers. Many held tight to the arms of their wives, their sons, their daughters. All of them smiled at the hundreds of guests who had joined in welcoming them to the ceremony. The 82nd Airborne All-American Chorus marched in tight formation into the hangar; their faces a study of stoicism. The chorus stood silent in two solid rows as the veter-

ans took their seats for the dedication. The chorus solemnly began the blended chords of the "Star-Spangled Banner" as the military members snapped to attention. Maj. Gen. Martin Mazick, commander, 22nd Air Force, opened the ceremony by recognizing the humble beginnings of the 440th Airlift Wing in 1943, and discussing the importance of the active association between the 43rd Airlift Wing and the 440th Airlift Wing that exists at Pope AFB today. He then spoke of the proud history of the Air Force and Army, represented by the attendees of the ceremony. He turned to the veterans in the crowd. "Today we honor our World War II veterans, and the men and women of the 82nd Airborne as we unveil the nose art of the 82nd Division," General Mazick said. He motioned toward the C-130, which has flown more than 12,000 hours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. "This is indeed a very, very special day," Col. Merle D. Hart, commander, 440th Airlift Wing, agreed as he stepped up to the podium. "This dedication ceremony strengthens the unique bond between our organizations that started back in World War II." The United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) was the military aviation arm of the United States during and immediately

TO 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

following World War II. At its strongest, the USAAF was comprised of more than 2.4 million men and women and nearly 80,000 aircraft. The need for an allied forces offensive strategy to defeat the axis powers included the enlargement and modernization of all military services, including air power. This mission was accomplished by the 2.4 million men and women who served, represented at the ceremony by the 78 veterans sitting in the audience.

These men and women had served in various capacities – radio operators and pilots, navigators and crew chiefs, parachute packers and gunners.

“What a privilege it is to share this day with the original members of the 440th, along with the other groups that are here with us today...the veterans who fought for our freedom,” Colonel Hart continued. “Today aircraft 282 will display the art that symbolizes the 440th’s

relationship between the Airborne and the 440th.” When asked what he expected from the 440th when on a mission, Sergeant Heyliger smiled and said, “A good ride and hopefully, a soft landing.”

These straightforward words encapsulate the poignancy of the ceremony Sergeant Heyliger had just witnessed. The men and women who served in World War II were heroes – but they didn’t serve their country to get recognition – they went to do their jobs and to protect their country. As George Mehling, an 87 year-old former C-47 radio operator said, “I just wanted to be the best soldier I could be.” The honorable service of the World War II veterans is what made this country great. It is the continued honorable service of the men and women serving at Fort Bragg and Pope AFB today that ensures these same freedoms exist for our sons and daughters tomorrow.



440th Airlift Wing Commander, Colonel Merle D. Hart, celebrates with soldiers from the 82 Airborne Division after a nose art dedication honoring the long relationship between the 440th and the 82nd Airborne Division. The relationship dates back to the early 1940s prior to the D-Day invasion during World War II.

commitment to the 82nd Airborne and our nation.”

As Colonel Hart turned the podium over to Maj. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division Command Group, the two men shook hands, symbolizing the joint effort of the units.

“It is my honor to accept this aircraft with the distinguished tail number of 82,” General Scaparrotti said. “Every place this aircraft goes, it will speak to the relationship we have with the 440th.” He then turned to address the veterans. “Your bravery, your courage in battle and your legacy is what made us, and what made the 440th what they are today,” he said.

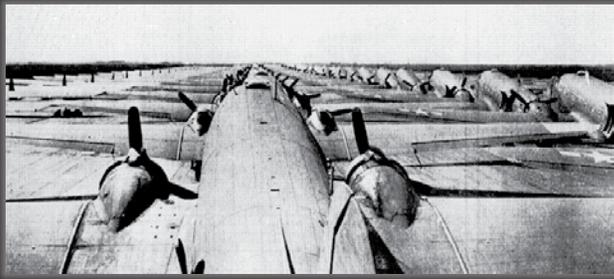
With a flourish, the protective covering was removed from the C-130 and the nose art revealed. The crowd gave a standing ovation to the World War II veterans as the ceremony drew to a close. Members of the 82nd Airborne, the 43rd and the 440th crowded around the veterans, anxious to shake hand and glean a snippet of the stories from these accomplished men and women.

First Sgt. Mark Heyliger, 82nd Airborne Division, took time out of his schedule to attend the Saturday ceremony.

“This is a very special event because of the long history it represents,” he said. “This is the first formal ceremony I’ve seen that represents the re-



Left: 82 Airborne Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel, Charles Everett Bullard, 440th AW World War II Veteran and Honorary Command Chief, Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Commander 82nd Airborne Division, Maj. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, Commander 22nd Air Force, Colonel Merle D. Hart, 440 AW Commander, Brig. Gen. William Mayville, 82nd Airborne Deputy Commanding General, Brig. Gen. William Fuller, 82nd Airborne Deputy Commanding General.



440th Troop

OPERATION "MA

The 440th Airlift Wing hosted a unique event on Oct. 25th at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. Several hundred members of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 440th Airlift Wing and World War II veterans from the Troop Carrier Groups Association gathered in Hangar Four (a pre-WWII structure) to witness the dedication of a nose art design that honors the long association of the 440th and 82nd. Tail Number 87-9282 now carries the emblem of the 82nd Airborne Division just to the left of the crew access door.

The current members of the 440th and 82nd have only the echoes of history left to remind them of what their respective units accomplished together so many years ago. A review of the 440th's unofficial history, "DZ Europe: The Story of the 440th Troop Carrier Group" tells a detailed and fascinating story of what brave men can accomplish.

The 440th was formed in Indiana in 1943 and then trained in Sedalia, Mo., and Alliance, Neb., before they flew to Pope Field, part of Fort Bragg, on Dec. 17, 1943, "in two serials, one flying direct, and the other towing gliders, remaining overnight at Scott Field. The ground echelon arrived by rail on the 4th of January."

They did not have much time to settle in. "From Jan. 3rd to Jan. 9th, 1944, together with the 438th, 439th and 441st Troop Carrier Groups, the

440th took part in combined lifts of elements of the 17th Airborne Division and 82nd Airborne Division.

"The successive missions flown were night paratroop drops and air landings at Camp Mackall . . . It was a hectic, exhausting week with a minimum of sleep permitted . . . But in spite of fatigue and the newness of such operations, the 440th came through the test with flying colors."

The air drops at Pope were the first practice the 440th Combat Airlifters had in dropping live paratroopers. The relationships built in practice at Pope were later to be tried under fire during Operation Market Garden in September 1944.

General Eisenhower approved the use of the 1st Allied Airborne Army (FAAA) in a risky operation that promised the chance of ending the war in Europe months earlier than many people thought was possible. British General Bernard Montgomery developed the idea of delivering an entire airborne army in broad daylight. Market Garden, the largest airborne operation in history, would involve more than 34,600 men of the 82nd, 101st, the British 1st Airborne Division and the Polish Parachute Brigade who would be dropped along a single major highway in Holland.

The paratroopers were to seize and hold a series of bridges at Eindhoven, Grave, Nijmegen and Arn-

hem Holland. The secure highway would provide Montgomery's ground forces a way across the Rhine River and into the north German plain. The way would be open to Berlin and an early end to the war. Eisenhower made the decision to go on Sept. 10th. The 440th's history notes

"That same evening, conferences were held at FAAA Headquarters in England and staff officers of the airborne divisions of Troop Carrier Command spent most of the next 24 hours before wall-sized maps discussing and studying the many sided tactical problems and its numerous peculiarities.

"At Ascot, England, operations were already under way at Troop Carrier Command Headquarters on Sept. 11th. Special staffs were immersed in intensive study of the terrain, the route, navigational problems, the enemy order of battle and the innumerable details, large and small, that were to go into the making of the final plan.

"As the planning and preparations continued, sand tables appeared while navigational maps, reconnaissance flight strips of the routes and huge aerial photograph maps, pieced together in mosaic fashion, were plastered about the walls, still wet from the trays of the photo-laboratory.

"Periodically the locked and guarded doors of the staff room were opened to receive hurrying messengers with



Carrier Group

MARKET" HOLLAND



bulky envelopes. Flak reports aircraft status reports, weather data, movement orders and half-hourly wireless dispatches on the order and course of battle were a few items among the incoming mass of information . . . This went on through the night.

“Early on the morning of September 12th armed officer couriers boarded waiting C-47s. Each officer carried a sealed pouch with the complete Field Order for the forthcoming mission. The orders, covering every phase of the mission extended to some 30 pages with maps, traces, timetables for assembly and delivery. Compiled during the night, printed before dawn, within a few hours later a copy was in the hands of each group commander at his own base.”

Plans called for the landing of 14,589 troops by gliders and 20,011 by parachute. Gliders would also bring in 1,736 vehicles, 263 artillery pieces, and 3,342 tons of ammunition. (Ryan, 1974). Market Garden plans also meant that the 440th Troop Carrier Group and the 82nd Airborne Division were going to be working to-

gether again, but this time under fire.

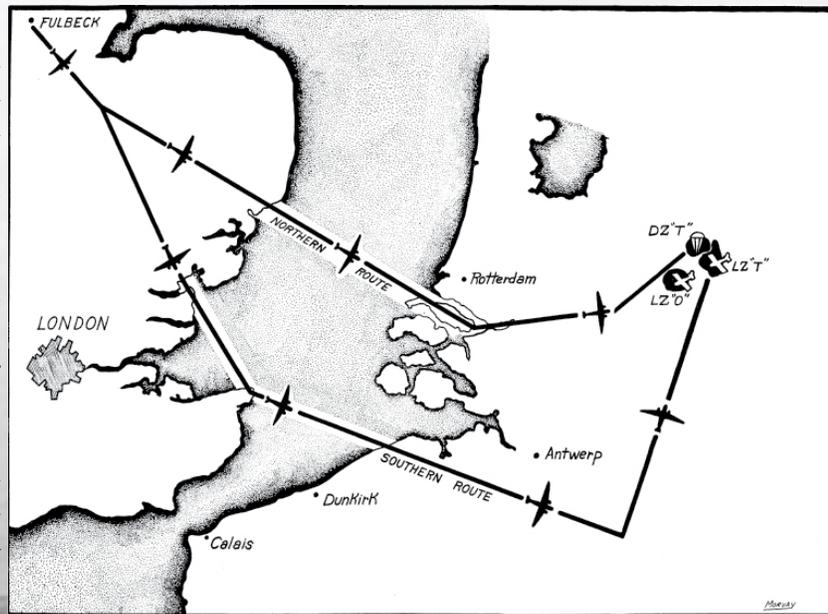
The 440th was in the middle of moving from England to the continent. Pieces of the 440th were “scattered and strung out from Exeter to Fulbeck in England and from the beaches of Normandy to the city of Rheims straggled all along the width of France . . . forward detachments were un-

would ferry them to France. Other sections were already moving off the LSTs on the Cherbourg (France) beaches and the rest were already on the roads of France. Amidst all this, Colonel (Frank) Krebs (440th Group commander) received the Command Field Order for the 440th's participation in Operation Market Garden.”

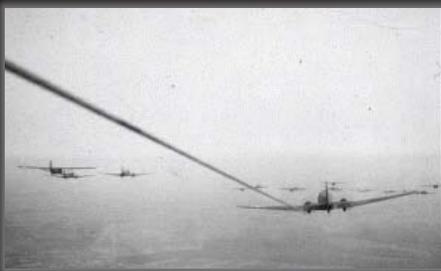
The air echelon of the 440th “scurried” back to Fulbeck, England. “For it was there that the 440th was to be based while carrying out its part in the operation.

“At Fulbeck, the men of the 440th wearily flopped upon their cots in the Nissen huts and stone buildings of the RAF base. They were exhausted by the past several days of moving, packing, loading, unloading and flying. But on the 15th the paratroops, the glider infantrymen and artillerymen of the 82nd Airborne Division began pouring into the dispersal areas around the field. These were the troops whom the 440th was to carry . . .”

“Only four days had passed since the plan was born . . . at daylight of Sept. 16th the airdrome was sealed.



loading the aircraft and piling mountains of equipment under tarpaulins on the airdrome at Rheims. Meantime the motor convoys with our heavy trucks, refueling tanks and trailers, weapons carriers, control caravans, ambulances and other vehicles were moving in sections, some readying to roll to the English Channel ports, there to board landing craft which



Hot stuff: 53rd Aerial Port holds annual chili cook-off

By Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

With the confidence of an executive chef, Chief Master Sgt. James Wangelin smiled smugly as the 53rd Aerial Port commander read off the winners of the unit's annual chili cook-off. The chief was hoping to take first place for the fifth year in a row with his Thai pepper chili. He's been making the recipe since 1994, and uses just an eighth of a teaspoon of peppers from Thailand. But Tech. Sgt. Mark Shuman's recipe steamed ahead of the chief's concoction, and the chief tied for third place. While Sergeant Shuman may be a newcomer to the 53rd's competition, he's no stranger to cook-offs. The Reservist recently completed a temporary duty assignment at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and took first place out of 18 recipes in the Andrews chili cook-off.

What's his secret?

"Beef and pork," said Sergeant Shuman, who has been cooking chili for 30 years. "The two types of meat give it just a little bit different fla-

vor. And I like it spicy, so I add lots of cayenne pepper and black pepper." Cargo specialist Senior Airman Krysta Morris's secret addition to her chili was venison. She doesn't add much more, just salt, pepper, garlic powers and



Tech. Sgt. Mark Shuman takes home the gold

stewed tomatoes. After taking second place last year, she slipped to fourth. But she didn't mind. "It's all about the fun and building camaraderie," she said. Staff Sgt. KatieBeth Byerly also en-

tered for a second time. Her "white chili" earned second place in the 53rd's competition this year. She was surprised. "Most people think of chili as spicy," she said. "I like to make mine with turkey and keep it mild. It gives people a variety to choose from. I consider it a re-education about chili – it doesn't have to be hot to be good."

Master Sgt. Edward Pate was hoping his "super hot" chili would garner some awards. He tied for third place with the chief.

"I have to admit, my chili is low on flavor and high on heat – as in spicy heat," he said. "I add cayenne pepper, black peppers and jalapenos. It's not unbearable, but it's hot." Sergeant Pate said the annual chili cook-off is a terrific for the 53rd to raise money for their own morale programs and retirement gifts for unit members.

Chief Wangelin agreed. "It's all in fun," he said. "Even if my chili didn't take first place. But we'll fix that next year.

440th MPF wins prestigious recruiting personnel award

Once Congress passed into law the recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission Air Force Reserve recruiters began looking for qualified people to fill the 1,600 positions that would make up the new North Carolina Air Force Reserve unit, the 440th Airlift Wing.

Staff Sgt. Cynthia Flaherty was hired in May 2007 as the noncommissioned officer in charge of employment at the 440th Military Personnel Flight. Her task was to find positions for each new hire into the unit. This would prove to be no small task seeing that the 440th had not received clear guidance on its manning documentation and the unit hired more than 700 new recruits over the past year. These two realities quickly created a back log of new personnel needing to be assigned to specific job positions.



Staff Sgt. Cynthia Flaherty

After receiving new manning documentation, Sergeant Flaherty single handedly sifted through the documents for the entire unit. She then contacted the individual sections within each flight and squad-

ron associated with the wing to work with them until each new recruit was assigned to an appropriate position. Sergeant Flaherty's work was a key part of the wing's completing the association of active duty and Reserve flying and maintenance operations 15 months ahead of schedule.

Sergeant Flaherty's efforts earned her the Air Force Reserve Command Outstanding Reserve Recruiting Personnel Award for 2008. The prestige associated with this award is such that Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., Air Force Reserve Command commander, wanted to personally present the award to Sergeant Flaherty at the Air Force Reserve Recruiting conference in October. Although Sergeant Flaherty was unable to attend, 440th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Merle D. Hart, at the request of General Stenner, flew to the conference to receive the award in her honor.

Clear Channel Radio takes a ride on a C-130 Hercules



By Master Sgt. Kevin Brody

The Air Force Reserve has an obligation to tell American taxpayers what the command does with the tax money that keeps its units flying and operating.

One way to do this is to invite members of the news media to report on Reserve aerial and ground operations. The best way to report on Reserve flying operations is to go flying with the Reserve.

The 440th Airlift Wing recently sent an invitation to the Clear Channel Communications radio network in Charlotte. On-air personalities and company managers from WEND, WIBT, WKKT, WLYT and WRFX were invited to take a C-130 orientation flight with the 440th on Nov. 20.

Armed with point and shoot digital cameras and video flip cameras, 24 employees from the Charlotte-based radio network reported to the 145th Airlift Wing, N.C. Air National Guard at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport ready to board a 440th C-130H Hercules transport aircraft for a media orientation flight. The anxious group gathered in the 145th's base operations conference room where they received their pre-flight briefing and media packets.

Once on board and strapped in, the flight headed due west toward Asheville and the Great Smoky Mountains. The aircrew passed over a number of small communities and mountain ridges before circling back past the historic Biltmore mansion,

America's largest private home which was built by Cornelius Vanderbilt. Before landing back in Charlotte, the Hercules did a few laps flying around Charlotte's Lowe's Motor Speedway.

During the flight people took turns visiting the cockpit and listening in on the air crew's conversation courtesy of an extra set of head phones. The flight ended with smiles and laughter as everyone gathered around the ramp of the C-130 for a group photograph.

As the flight crew prepared to depart the Clear Channel employees expressed their thanks for an "awesome" experience.



Sarah Lee Owensby, promotions director for 96.1 The Beat, and Ryan Dokke, 96.9 the KAT music director, smile for the camera during their the media flight.



Cookie Eddings, of the John Boy and Billy Radio Network, enjoys the view from the C-130 while Morgan Bohannon, Clear Channel market manager, discusses future event plans with Col. Hart, commander of the 440th Airlift Wing.



Left: Jennifer Byrum, morning show host for Lite 102.9, and Amy Mann, Clear Channel sales manager, move about the aircraft enjoying the sites below.

Airman's Manual Test

These questions have been taken from the Airman's Manual to help you prepare for the upcoming ORI. Please be familiar with these questions and review your Airman's Manual. (excerpt from the Carolina Flyer).

Section 2: Deploy

- The dry chemical fire extinguisher is used to extinguish what types of fires?
 - ABCD
 - Ordinary combustions, Flammable Liquids, Electrical Equipment
 - Combustible Metals
 - A and B are most correct
- Collection points for contaminated waste should be how far from facilities?
 - At least 10 feet and downwind from facilities
 - At least 10 feet and 45 degrees upwind from facilities
 - At least 10 feet and 30 degrees upwind from facilities
 - At least 10 feet and 30 degrees downwind from facilities
- The three primary methods of contaminated waste disposal are _____.
 - Burning
 - Buying
 - Open Storage
 - All of the above
- The mess kit must be submerged a minimum of ____ seconds and should completely dried before repacking the contents.
 - 10 seconds
 - 20 seconds
 - 30 seconds
 - 45 seconds
- Sign out highly pilferable items on an AF _____.
 - AF 1297
 - AF 1530
 - AF 1132
 - AF 4710
- The dry powder fire extinguisher is used to extinguish what types of fires?
 - ABCD
 - Ordinary combustions Flammable Liquids, Electrical Equipment
 - Metal and metal alloy
 - A and B are most correct

ANSWERS:

1. B 2. A 3. D 4. C 5. A 6. C

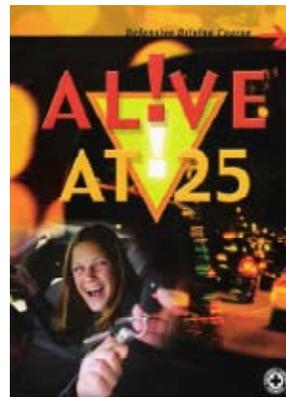
What is "ALIVE AT 25"?

By Mr. Rich Burns

What's a great way to reduce auto accidents among drivers in the 16-24 age group? How can I possibly avoid points on my driver's record if I get a ticket, get a ticket dismissed or obtain reduced insurance rates?

Here is the answer. A new program is underway at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and available to military personnel and family members 16-24 years of age. The program is a defensive driver course called "ALIVE AT 25," which is designed to be an early intervention program to help prevent traffic violations, collisions, and/or fatalities. The focus is to help young drivers adopt safer driving practices, take responsibility for their behavior in various driving situations and to be aware of many of the typical driving hazards.

"ALIVE AT 25" is a highly interactive four-hour program encourages young drivers to take responsibility for their driving behavior. Skill practices and on-the-driving tech-change dar-when behind Drivers under are four times be involved in tor vehicle ac-older driv-shows this is or a combi-tors such as,



spot defensive niques helping attitudes the wheel. the age of 25 more likely to a serious mo-cident than ers. Research a result of one nation of fac-lack of aware-

ness of the consequences of risk-taking behavior, inexperience with the complexities of driving, impaired driving and cell phone use while driving. Currently, the North Carolina Department of Insurance does not require insurance companies to offer reduced rates for completing defensive driving courses. However, several other states do and a few insurance companies offer reduced rates for individuals who attend and acquire a certificate of completion. Better yet, "ALIVE AT 25" is offered to our military personnel and family members free. Classes are held 8 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, and noon to 4 p.m. Thursdays in the Military Training Facility of building 560.

Classes are also held on Saturdays for age groups 14-24 depending on number of request received. To get your dependant into a class call the safety office at 394-8370/86. 440th Airmen are allotted three personnel per class. Call Mr. Rich Burns. 394-8386 to schedule your personnel.

Dantes-Clep-Excelsior Program

The United States Air Force has always recognized the positive effects of education on Air Force personnel. One of the most notable programs is the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF). In an effort to help Airmen obtain their CCAF degree at a faster rate, programs such as CLEP, DANTES and Excelsior are available. For further information or questions and concerns, please contact the Wing Education Office. Commercial: 910-394-4027

Graduate School Tuition Increase

Air Force Reservists can now obtain more money to pursue a master's degree. Air Force Reserve Command's Masters Degree Tuition Assistance Rate increased from 75 to 100 percent Oct. 10. That means a Reservist can receive \$250 per semester hour instead of \$187.50 and \$166.66 per quarter hour. Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, signed a memorandum on that date. The new rate is not retroactive. The fiscal year cap, per member, remains at \$4,500.

New Air Force Resource Website

The Air Force has created a new website to house online resources that provide Airmen and their families with access to information on topics like relocation, employment, education for military children and financial planning. Effective Oct. 1, these resources will be located at Air Force Community, replacing the current Air Force Crossroads site. The new site (<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>) is streamlined and enables users to access information "round-the-clock" from either their military or personal computer.

Nominate your boss for Employer Day

Employer Day allows your boss, CEO, president or human resources manager to see what happens in the Air Force Reserve at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. The day includes a welcome from the commander, base tour, informational briefings, lunch and a C-130 orientation flight (subject to weather and maintenance considerations)*. Nominated employers will receive a written invitation and reporting instructions for this exciting day.

Tricare Reserve, Guard family benefit now permanent

Eligible families of activated National Guard and Reserve members will continue to save up to \$300 in annual deductibles now that a Tricare "demonstration" program is a permanent benefit.

For more details go to: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123118042>



Dreams do come true. And for Airman First Class Kay Lyons-Mitchell, her dream came true Oct. 23 when she became a United States citizen. Airman Lyons-Mitchell, who works in vehicle management with the 440th Logistics Readiness Squadron, joined more than 40 other service members from all four military branches in becoming United States citizens during a naturalization ceremony at the base theater on Pope Air Force Base, N.C. "For me, this is a dream come true," said Lyons-Mitchell, who is Jamaican. "Now I can vote and own a home — it's the American dream, and it came true for me."

Airman Lyons-Mitchell received her naturalization certificate from Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, and Jonathan Scharfen, director, U.S. citizenship and immigration services. She enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in May 2007 and joined the unit six months later in November. Airman Lyons-Mitchell is married and has two children.

Legal assistance

Although legal assistance is available to Reservists and their dependents whenever on active-duty orders, a mobilized Reservist is eligible for continued legal assistance after demobilization. This entitlement is available when mobilized for more than 30 days and provides legal assistance to Reservists and dependents after release from active duty, for not less than twice the length of active duty, subject to the availability of legal resources. See 10 U.S.C. § 1044, as amended P. Law 110-181, section 541; 122 Stat. 114.



COME FLY WITH US

AIR FORCE RESERVE

1 8 0 0 2 5 7 - 1 2 1 2

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