

# COMBAT AIRLIFTER

440th Airlift Wing

"Vincit qui primum gerit"

March 2009 Volume 3 No. 1



**HOME AT LAST!**

440th AW Returns Home from Deployment

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**On the cover:**

Captain Jon Bergman, assigned to the 95th AS, is greeted by his son Hayden upon the return of the 440th from a four month deployment in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

## Fellow Airmen

Our journey continues. At least 85 percent of our active association tasks and responsibilities are identified. Our progress toward the end state is slow and not always steady, but always forward.

The majority of our wing members are in their inaugural year. Our rapid growth is not without challenge. Upgrade training challenges abound as we establish our association, processes and programs. It takes each of us working together to reach a base line of excellence. This year we will grow stronger, our training statistics are improving each month, our programs are steadily improving.

We will focus this year on "back-to-basics." Since most of you joined our Air Force after 9/11, you never experienced the "basics." I suspect the basics experienced before 9/11 will never be seen again during your career. Our new line of "back-to-basics" will focus on improving core training levels and proficiency well beyond the minimum. At no time since our inception has the 440<sup>th</sup> experienced such growth. These are exciting times. You are in the midst of establishing our solid foundation that will serve us for many years. Our programs should set new standards of excellence and our facilities should be clean, orderly and safe.

We are here for the long haul and many of you will remain in our unit for decades. The majority of the wing lives within 150 miles of the base. This is your wing and commitment to excellence for yourself and others is paramount. There is always room at the top. Excellence requires diligence, purpose and the resolve to get through the challenges ahead; whatever it takes. Anything of extreme value and worth requires sacrifice and hard work.

This past year has been a watershed of accomplishments and challenges. As the first active association between Air Mobility Command and the Air Force Reserve, the enormity of our accomplishments cannot be understated. In the short period of time that the 440th has been at Pope Air



Col. Merle D. Hart, 440 Airlift Wing Commander

Force Base our unit has grown from little more than 50 people to almost 1,200. We deployed the 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron 90 days after its creation at Pope AFB. We stood up the first integrated command post and created a comprehensive training program that the Air Force Inspector General labeled as, perfect. And the wing completed a mass deployment to the Southwest Asia area of responsibility almost two years ahead of our scheduled AEF rotation. In the wake of these accomplishments, we will remain faithful to our purpose, to serve our nation as unrivaled wingmen. Each of us should reflect from time-to-time the honor we have to serve our country and provide good to so many.

Our journey is far from over. We need to focus everyday on the good things of life and work to improve our wing. Safety is always paramount, stay ever vigilant. May we enjoy a year without accident or incident, you never know when an opportunity to break the chain and prevent a mishap will occur. In time this transition shall pass and in a few years our current challenges will be long past and forgotten by most. The future is indeed bright for the 440th Airlift Wing. Our efforts will prevail, keep a strong spirit in your heart and the fire burning in your belly as all things work for good. I am extremely proud of all you have done. Keep focused, keep safe and encourage each other.

## 440th Airlift Wing welcomes new Vice Commander

Col. William H. Edwards is the new vice commander of the 440th Airlift Wing. Colonel Edwards, who joined the unit in January 2009, succeeds Col. Jon Thorell, who was hired by the emergency management office of the Wisconsin state government. Prior to joining the unit, Colonel Edwards was commander of the 315th Operations Group at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

His military career began in 1984, after graduating from the Citadel. He served on active duty as a KC-135 pilot at Grissom Air Force Base, Ind., until 1991 when he transferred to the Air Force Reserve.

As a civilian, Colonel Edwards has been a pilot for American Airlines since 1992 where he currently flies the Boeing 777.

During the January UTA Colonel Edwards sat down with a member of the Combat Airlifter staff to share his thoughts on joining the unit and his upcoming goals for the 440th Airlift Wing.

Combat Airlifter: What interested you in the job of vice commander with the 440th Airlift Wing?

Col. William H. Edwards: The challenge of helping to establish the first "reverse associate" wing for the AF Reserve. This is a new concept that I think is overdue for the Air Force. I think it's something that will work well here and I'm very excited about being on the ground floor. Now that the 440th has been here for more than a year, we're at a point where we can start putting all of our plans into action, and that's going to be a hugely rewarding process as it unfolds.

CA: What are some of your short-term goals for the wing?

WE: One of my main goals in the next few months is to meet as many people in the wing as I can. When you have this many people continuing to "commute" from Milwaukee to Fayetteville once a month (or more), combined with nearly 1,000 new 440th members from all areas of North Carolina and neighboring states, that tells me we have a group of people that "want" to be here--and be a part of everything that this unit is about to undertake.

My secondary goal is to keep the Human Resource and Development Committee (HRDC) alive and vibrant. I have seen some of the tremendous benefits that come from an active and effective committee and I consider

***It will be an opportunity to "blaze the trail" in the direction we want it to go.***

*Colonel William H. Edwards*

HRDC a very important part of any Reserve wing. It's something I believe in and I'm looking forward to finding new ways to keep a strong focus on the people that are the 440th Airlift Wing.

CA: What are some of your long-term goals for the wing?

WE: I intend to be an active participant in making the 440th Airlift Wing the premier wing in Air Force Reserve Command -- as far as operational efficiency and leading-edge technology run by a motivated workforce. The concept of placing a Reserve unit in the lead role at a base where the ac-



Col. William H. Edwards Vice Commander

tive-duty is "attached" is going to provide its share of challenges. However, at the same time, I see this as an exciting venture for everyone involved. It will be an opportunity to "blaze the trail" in the direction we want it to go. That being said, we need to be the best at everything we do because our level of performance will become the benchmark for other units to follow down the road.

CA: How do you balance family life with your commitment to the Reserve?

WE: I realize it's a very complicated balancing act for all Airmen to try and find an acceptable/equitable division of their time between family, civilian job and the Reserve. For me, my family always has been and always will be my number one priority in life -- and every job I have serves the single purpose of allowing me to provide the best for them. I know that we often ask a lot of our Reservists; some things are simple, tolerable - and maybe even fun; but I also realize that some of the tasks required of us are far from simple and fun. I know it's not always easy being in the Reserve - especially in these times, but I also know that a "citizen airman" is a unique individual whose service to our country is much more of a calling than a job.

# The Inspector General - 101: The mission of the IG

**By Col. Harry Heflin:  
440<sup>th</sup> Inspector General**

The 440th Airlift Wing is well into its second year at Pope Air Force Base and the pace of efforts to become a fully manned and operational “reverse associate” wing shows no sign of letting up. In the short time the 440<sup>th</sup> AW has been at Pope AFB, we’ve have gone from 11 reservists to 100 to more than 1,200. Many of our shops are manned one deep. Approximately one-half of our members are first-term airmen, and more than 75 percent of our members are new to the 440<sup>th</sup>.

We closed General Mitchell Air Reserve Station just one year ago. We’ve had three of our units deploy during the past year with several more possibly deploying in the not too distant future—and not to mention the many individual member deployments that have take place over the past year.

In other words—each member within the wing has been mission focused. “It can’t be done” is a foreign phrase to the men and women of the 440<sup>th</sup> AW, and with that backdrop, I’d like to briefly share with you my mission—the mission of the Inspector General. The primary charge given to every

inspector general is to “sustain a credible Air Force IG system by ensuring the existence of responsive complaint investigations as well as a fraud, waste and abuse (FWA) program characterized by objectivity, integrity and impartiality.”

*So how does the IG office fulfill its charge?*

The IG system used throughout the total force is based on the concept that the IG’s primary role is to serve as an extension of the commander by being alert to issues that affect the organization.

Additional roles include: keeping the commander informed of potential areas of concern by analyzing complaint data; functioning as a fair, impartial and objective fact-finder and honest broker in the resolution of complaints; educating all members about their rights and responsibilities in regard to the Air Force IG system; and by assisting commanders in preventing, detecting, and correcting fraud, waste, abuse and gross mismanagement.

To put it more simply—the IG ensures the concerns of all complainants and



Col. Harry Heflin - 440th Inspector General

the best interests of the Air Force are addressed through objective fact-finding. Fairness, impartiality, and trust are at the heart of the IG system.

I will address the other parts of the IG program in future issues of the Combat Airlifter specifically; complaint resolution, improper mental health referrals, and fraud, waste and abuse issues. Remember—you always have the right to communicate with your IG--or congressional representative for that matter—without fear of reprisal or retaliation.

of Air Force resources. Examples include misuse of rank, position, or authority that causes the loss or misuse of resources.

Gross Mismanagement -- A management action or inaction that creates a substantial risk of significant adverse impact on the organization’s ability to accomplish its mission. It is more than mere, trivial wrongdoing or negligence. It does not include management decisions that are merely debatable, nor does it mean action or inaction that constitutes simple negligence or wrongdoing. There must be an element of blatancy.

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# Here’s to a slim and trim New Year!

**By Capt. Christi Logan - 440th Nutrition Specialist**

“Weight creep” refers to the seemingly harmless weight gain of about 1.5 – 2 pounds per year. Look around and you can see it. You may even have experienced it this past year! Weight creep, left unchecked, contributes to the conditions of overweight and obesity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 64.5% of the U.S. adult population is either overweight or obese. The very existence of overweight and obesity conditions, with their associated complications, contributes not only to higher health care costs and loss of productivity but also costs lives. Alarming, each year in the United States alone, approximately 400,000 adult deaths may be attributed to obesity (diet and inactivity). That’s just a fraction behind tobacco use as the leading cause of death (435,000 deaths).

Active duty AF members experience weight creep at a rate similar to that of the nation. The implications of this extra body weight extend into all areas of life—health, fitness, overall wellness and force readiness.

Frequently at the holiday season, weight creep takes a quantum leap. In fact, half of all weight gained during the year takes place during the holidays. As can be expected, many individuals formulate New Year’s resolutions that involve losing weight and getting in shape. While most New Year’s resolutions begin with good intentions, without the right tools, motivation wanes so it is difficult to get the job done.

Many times, New Year’s resolutions include the words “never, always, immediately, must”. Those absolutes may be setting you up for failure! This year, rather than establishing resolutions without a planned approach, get involved with your base Nutrition Clinic and learn practical, safe tips and tools to help you get a handle on your

weight. Here are a few points to help you set realistic goals to achieve and maintain a healthy weight:

- Think small and be specific. Only make one or two serious resolutions. Rather than saying you will “lose weight”, indicate the amount of weight and the time period.
- Try to make small, gradual changes, not drastic makeovers to your lifestyle patterns. This approach can help you achieve sustainable improvements. Remember, regular exercise along with a sensible diet is key to weight management.
- Take your resolution seriously. Take some time to think about it and commit.
- A slip is not a fall. Keeping a New Year’s resolution is not an all-or-nothing proposition. Don’t blame or punish yourself.
- Develop a plan of action. The more prepared you are, the better chance for success.

Remember...Unwanted weight gain can be prevented by consistently applying and using positive lifestyle behaviors such as healthful eating and physical activity! be informed!!! It’s up to you!!!



Captain Christi Logan



## Biography



Capt Christi Logan has been a registered dietitian for seven years. She has received two bachelor of science degrees, nutritional sciences and dietetics, from Michigan State University. She completed her dietetic internship at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She began her career as an Air Force dietitian in 2001 and served on active duty for six years. Her first duty station was in Florida at Eglin Air Force Base where she served as the chief of Clinical Dietetics. Her second assignment was Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska, where she was the element chief for Clinical Dietetics. She was selected as the Pacific Air Forces’ Company Grade Dietitian of the

Year in 2004 and 2005. She was also instrumental in developing the Soar into Shape Program, a 12 week nutrition and fitness challenge which was recognized as a healthcare innovation by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense earning the Military Health System’s Most Innovative Health Promotion Program award by the Assistant Secretary of Defense. Additionally, Capt. Logan is a board certified specialist in Sports Dietetics. Capt. Logan is a GS employee at Fort Bragg, serving as a clinical dietitian at Womack Army Medical Center for US Army soldiers, retirees and their families. She has recently been assigned to the 440th AW at the 440th MDS where she is ready to serve as your nutrition expert.

# Enlistment of youngest McKnight culminates Wisconsin family's Air Force tradition

By Master Sgt. Bob Reeve (USAFR Ret.)

The 440th Airlift Wing, even though it is based here at Pope Air Force Base, has members in dozens of states. It is not unusual to have more than one family member in a Reserve unit and the 440th is no exception to that rule.

The McKnight family of Kohler, Wis., is truly unique, and is clearly dedicated to the cause of national defense. Four

Reservists with the 440th. Son Robert, 20, is on active duty, stationed in Japan. Son Allen, 19, just left for basic training and will also be serving on active duty. Gregory (a.k.a. Dad) served on active duty from 1984-'90 as a helicopter crew chief, attaining the rank of sergeant.

Before joining the Reserve in 1992, Janet served on active duty from 1982 '85 at Tyndall AFB, Fla., where Greg was

must be willing to persevere and have a lot of "get-up-and-go." Once a month on a Friday, Janet and Brandon drive 65 miles to Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport, board a 440th Airlift Wing C-130 transport plane with other Reservists, and make the three-hour, 950-mile flight to Pope AFB. They perform their duties on Saturday and Sunday, then reverse the process: fly to Milwaukee, drive to Kohler and get home about 8 p.m. Sunday. They



Photo: Keith Leistikow

From Left: Allen, Rob, Brandon, Greg and Janet McKnight

members of the family are Air Force members and the fifth is a former member. Interestingly, only one of the four works on airplanes, and Mom has the most service time.

stationed at the time. They met, their relationship took flight, and they wed in 1986. Greg was later reassigned to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, which became the McKnight boys' birthplace.

also have to serve two weeks of active duty each year, not necessarily at Pope or even in the U.S., and are virtually on 24/7 alert status.

Janet and her son Brandon, 22, are

A Kohler-based Air Force Reservist

Janet and Brandon are both assigned to the 440th Medical Squadron.

Janet is a master sergeant and a medical laboratory specialist. Brandon, a senior airman who enlisted in July 2005, is a biomedical equipment journeyman. Janet's civilian job is ACL Histology supervisor with Aurora Health Care in West Allis. Brandon is a biomedical equipment technician with Universal Hospital Services in Madison. He's also a part-time volunteer fire fighter intern with the Bloomington Grove Fire Department.

"I enjoy the small successes of rebuilding the 440th at Pope," Janet said. "I dislike leaving home every month to go there, but it's been more than a year now so it's getting easier and feeling more like a home away from home. There are good people there who I enjoy working with."

Master Sgt. McKnight is still a mom though: "I'm also able to see Brandon and I am proud to see him build a strong reputation for himself. He's really quite impressive in his work."

"It has been difficult to balance family, full-time work and a successful military career," McKnight said. "When away working with the Air Force, I'm engaged and enjoy the challenges. I know that my work is appreciated. But there's always stress leaving my civilian job, expecting a challenge to catch up when I return. There's been some guilt that has come from leaving Greg and the boys every month for all these years," she said of her 16 years in the Reserve. "But they became very self-sufficient and independent."

"I wasn't ready to settle into the college life," Janet said of her 1982 enlistment after graduating from high school. "I had a desire to leave Wisconsin and see the world. The Air Force gave me that opportunity while learning a trade and deciding what career path I wanted to take. Fortunately, it gave me the foundation for the (civilian) work that I still do today." She'll be eligible to retire from the Reserve in less than a year, but said her plans are not defi-

nite. Robert (a.k.a. Rob) and Allen are the new kids on the McKnight Air Force block. Rob enlisted last January, hoping to become a pararescueman. He injured a shoulder early in training but it did not sufficiently heal for him to continue. He was transferred to the aircraft maintenance field and taught to be a turboprop/turboshaft engine mechanic and aerospace propulsion technician. He is assigned to Yokota Air Base in Japan.

He's seeing a lot of the world at a young age. An airman first class, Rob said via e-mail that his unit is deployed for temporary duty to Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Guam, Korea and the Philippines as the need arises.

Like his father, Rob has taken a bride while in uniform. Rob returned to Kohler on Nov. 20 and the next day married Alissa Brock of Sheboygan. Three days later the newlyweds left for Japan. "Who wouldn't want a honeymoon in Japan?" Janet said.

Allen, who graduated from Kohler High School like his brothers before him, left on Dec. 2 for eight weeks of basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas. He will then spend 13 weeks training, also at Lackland, to be a Security Forces specialist. He said he's leaning toward a civilian law enforcement career.

How influential were mom and dad in that all three sons joined the military and opted for the Air Force? All three said their parents were a factor.

Brandon: "The fact that my parents were involved with the military introduced me to the idea of enlisting . . . their experience made it much easier for me to compare and contrast serving in the military with other options after high school."

Rob: "Always hearing the positive talk about the military at home was huge. Growing up with my mom in the Air Force and a prior-service father . . . joining the service just seemed like the

right thing to do."

Allen: "I'm sure that having everybody else in my family in the Air Force had something to do with it."

There were other factors. All three said their perception of high quality technical school training tipped the scale in favor of the Air Force. They figured that skills acquired and lessons learned in their chosen fields would be transferable to the private sector. The GI Bill, travel opportunities, and patriotism also made the military look attractive.

"I joined because I wanted to help other people, assist in protecting our country and our rights, and to become a better person overall," Brandon said.

Rob: "I like the respect people give me for serving my country. Someone has to do it and I'm proud that I decided to."

How do Janet and Greg see it? "I don't have any reservations about my boys serving their country," Janet said. "It's an opportunity for them to learn and grow into young men who will have a sense of pride . . . They will experience ups and downs and see firsthand the reality of our country at war. But I have concerns as all parents do for their children's safety."

"I always have concerns but the positives outweigh the negatives," said Greg, 47, a native of St. Petersburg, Fla., and plant manager in Milwaukee. "I think that it (military service) is a great opportunity and it's given me the life that I have today. I hope the boys get as much out of it as I did. I don't regret any of the time I spent in the service."

*(Editor's note: Bob Reeve is a 24-year veteran who retired from the the 440th in 2004. He and his wife live in Broomfield, Colo. permission was granted by the The Kohler Villager to run this story.)*

# 440th Airlift Wing welcomes back unit members

By Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Green (retired)

More than 80 wing members from the 440th Maintenance Group and 95th Airlift Squadron deployed to Southwest Asia, taking part in the first mass deployment for the 440th Airlift Wing since the unit began operations at Pope Air Force Base in Oct. 2007.

The deployed unit was the 746th Expeditionary Squadron which stood up as a total force squadron in February 2008. The squadron consists of active and Reserve personnel from six separate squadrons, five wings and three major commands. The squadron operated

three different mission design series C-130's each having separate and distinct crew qualifications.

During the months of October 2008 through January 2009, the squadron flew 1,728 sorties totaling 3,130.7 hours of flying time, and transported 34,761 passengers, 2268 tons of cargo, 1,640 pallets, 572 patients and 118 distinguished visitors, said Col. Bret Larson, commander of the 95th Airlift Squadron. As a result of these efforts, the 746th hauled more passengers and cargo, and flew more sorties and hours than in any quarter since the unit stood up, according to Larson.

For Capt. Jon Bergman, a pilot and aircraft commander in the 95th AS, it was his first time returning to the AOR

as a pilot. Prior to this deployment he was a flight engineer with the 179th Airlift Wing, Air National Guard, in Mansfield, Ohio. Captain Bergman's perspective on flying changed dramatically since moving into the front seats of the C-130.

Although the aircrew was wary of entering hostile conditions when flying in Iraq and Afghanistan, the threats to the C-130 were much less than in 2005, said Bergman.

Lt. Col. John Smigla, an aircraft commander with the 95th AS, who claims to be a seasoned veteran of the Southwest Asia CENTAF mission agreed.

There were fewer incidents and threats in Iraq, but Afghanistan was still a dangerous territory and the crews had to be ready for threats, Smigla said. There are fewer C-130s in the AOR than the last time Smigla deployed, which required the extension of duty hours on several missions.

The reduced number of available aircraft kept maintenance personnel busy with checks, prop and engine changes and routine repairs necessary to meet the operations schedule, said Colonel Smigla. This required personnel to perform 17 to 18 hour duty days, Smigla added. As with all aircraft maintenance work, it is either very busy or you are waiting for the next day off, he added.

Having a day off at meant trips to the gym, pool, and theatre, said Maj. Greg Colby, a pilot with the 95th AS. He base had grown in size with more activities for service men and women to participate in. There are three dining facilities on base, an upscale coffee shop, and the "The Bra." Named for its odd shape, "The Bra" is an open air community where military members meet for an occasional beer and

soda while stationed there. Upon arriving in Southwest Asia, Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Roeder, first sergeant for the deployment went right to work arranging for billeting. Participating in his third tour as a first sergeant, his experience gave him insight into priority issues that needed to be resolved at the deployed location.

As the end of the rotation neared, preparations began for the return to Pope AFB. A redeployment plan was started that included tool and equipment inventories, baggage pallet requirements, process diplomatic clearances and develop flight plans for the return trip home.

After the crew and duty passengers departed their first scheduled stop was in Bucharest, Romania. Next stop of the return flight was in Scotland, then an overnight stay at St. John's in Newfoundland before the final leg to Pope AFB.

Upon arrival at Pope AFB and after clearing customs, returning members were greeted by Col. Merle Hart, 440th Airlift Wing commander,

Col. Willie Cooper, Maintenance Group commander, and Lt. Col. Bill Whittenberger, Operations Group commander, and family members and friends. The next stop was the out-processing line and medical assessment. Within two hours of landing, all out-processing requirements were completed and personnel were granted leave.

As wing members departed the base Colonel Hart commented "the best part of this cold rainy Sunday was seeing all wing members back home safe and sound."

# OPERATION TOY DROP



**FORT BRAGG, N.C. (USACAPOC (A) News Service, December 2, 2008)** — The Randy Oler Memorial Operation Toy Drop, an annual toy drive for North Carolina families in need, kicked off Dec. 5 and continued through the following week. A staple to the Fort Bragg holiday season for 11 years, Operation Toy Drop is an opportunity for reserve and active components of the Army and Air Force to combine efforts and give back to the families and communities that support them throughout the year.

The operation centers collected toys from paratroopers participating in an airborne jump supervised by foreign military jumpmasters. This is a rare experience, especially on U.S. soil, that offers valuable training as well as a special award for each Soldier's resume: that jumpmaster's host nation airborne wings.

In 2008, with the support of Fort Bragg units such as the XVIII Airborne Corps and the 82nd Airborne Division, as well as Pope Air Force Base's 440th Airlift Wing and dozens of North Carolina's civilian social service organizations, USACAPOC(A) and Operation Toy Drop collected 3,000 toys to help deserving children enjoy the holiday season. Over 2,000 active and reserve paratroopers had the opportunity to earn either Irish or German jump wings in the process.

Throughout the morning, Fort Bragg Soldiers with games, stuffed animals and action figures filed into an open-bay building off of Pope Air Force Base's

airfield, handing their toys off to staff workers, who sorted the gifts for distribution to one of dozens of local service organizations. In exchange, each paratrooper drew a number for the day's drawing, which continued into the afternoon. In the Army tradition of selfless service, all of the men and women in uniform were honored to give back to their community.

"It's all about the kids," said Army Capt. Mark Flynn of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne). Flynn is the project officer for Operation Toy Drop. "If we make a difference in one child's life, it's all worth it." Flynn is a five-year veteran of the program, and has worn several hats in the project's leadership over the years. He is now at the head of the operation.

"This is a Reserve command," Flynn said, emphasizing that all of USACAPOC(A)'s Soldiers are warrior-citizens living and working throughout America. "As the Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, this event is a Civil Affairs operation. Coordinating logistics, supplies and resources to give back to a community. That is what Civil Affairs does."

With the support of reserve and active components in the Army and Air Force, USACAPOC(A) has planned and run Operation Toy Drop from start to finish since one of its own Soldiers, then-Staff Sgt. Randy Oler, developed the original Operation Toy Drop in 1998. When Oler suffered a heart attack and passed away in 2004, the event that he'd dreamed up and managed for

six years was named in his honor.

Many Soldiers in USACAPOC(A) remember working with Oler, and continue his work by helping Operation Toy Drop grow each year. Sgt. Claudia Arceo, who worked under Oler before he passed away, is managing the distribution of toys to social service organizations across North Carolina. "This is Randy's dream, right here," she says, amidst oversized cardboard boxes labeled "Infants", "Boys: 1-3 yrs.", "Girls: Teenagers" and every age group in between. Every box is overflowing with toys.

Operation Toy Drop is expected to collect over 3,000 toys in 2008, which will be distributed to approximately 30 service organizations such as hospitals and orphanages, as well as to individual soldiers' families in need. Over 2,000 paratroopers will either German or Irish airborne wings, with over half of them having done so during operations on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The operation was supported by the Air Force Reserve's 440th Airlift Wing, based at Pope Air Force Base, and the North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing, based at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. The 440th Airlift Wing provided two C-130 Hercules transport aircraft and the 145th provided one C-130.

All of the paratroopers jumped from one of these

three aircraft.



## Unit training managers attend workshop

By Chief Master Sgt. (Retired) Jerry Green

New members of the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing continue to arrive each month, so the process of developing and managing a quality training program becomes increasingly important for the wing's progress. Unit training managers (UTM) are responsible for managing the training program for their unit and reporting the training status and qualifications of assigned people to the commander.



Staff Sgt. David Albright and Tech. Sgt. Dawn Watson take notes during UTM training.

UTMs use the AF Form 623, On the Job Training Record, to guide trainees through their training while achievements, goals, and qualifications are documented. The UTMs monitor their progress and keep records in line with required Air Force Instructions.

Recently, trainers from the 440<sup>th</sup> wing training office conducted classes for

unit training managers. Following the structure in AFI36-2201, UTMs were instructed in the intricacies of the training programs. Through the use of sample 623s and a lot of detailed, hands-on instruction, the 11 attendees became better qualified and fully capable in their UTM roles.

One of the instructors and course developers was Technical Sgt. Kimberly Beecher. She explained that the course was designed to streamline the UTM program by creating a standardized program that would be easier to implement and monitor.

The feedback was valued and favorable by all attendees, said Beecher. In most units being a UTM is an additional duty and she complimented wing members who accept the responsibility.

For further information concerning the UTM program please contact:

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Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Beecher

## The 440th AW supports the Computers for Learning Program

By Chief Master Sgt. Gerry Green (retired)

The 440th Airlift Wing took part in the Computers for Learning Program on Jan. 30, when it donated 25 surplus computers to the Spring Lakes Middle School located in Fayetteville.

The Computers for Learning Program, created by the Defense Reutilization and Marketing System, provides government agencies an avenue to transfer surplus computer systems to schools and educational nonprofit organizations serving grades pre-K through 12.

The program helps to bridge a gap between technology in the classroom and the homes of students, said Mr. James Ellerbe, principal of the Spring Lakes Middle School.

During the year deserving students draw their names from a hat to see who will receive a computer system for their home, said Ellerbe. The computers will also be used to support the five computer labs that the school maintains, Ellerbe added.

The Computers for Learning Program is an ongoing process, said Master Sgt. Gregory Dzurainin, a computer technician for the 440th Communications Flight. As more

computers come to the end of their life cycle the communications flight will prepare the systems for distribution to local schools who participate in the program.

Master Sgt. Dzurainin explained that Spring Lakes Middle school was one of three schools to receive computers that day.



Master Sgt. Gregory Dzurainin delivers surplus computers to local schools in support of the Computers for Learning Program.

## 53rd Aerial Port celebrates 30 years at Pope AFB

By Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

The 53rd Aerial Port Squadron, otherwise known as the "Red Hats," turned 30 in January, and they are showing no signs of slowing down. Not only did the unit celebrate its 30th anniversary as a squadron on Jan. 1, the date marked 30 years of being based at Pope Air Force Base.

"If anyone knows Pope, it's the 53rd APS," said Chief Master Sgt. James Wangelin, superintendent of transportation for the 53rd.

For most of the past three decades the 53rd had the unique distinction of being the only Reserve unit based at Pope AFB. The official term is geographically separated unit. Its headquarters unit was the 622nd Regional Support Group located at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. The geographically-separated unit also received logistical and administrative support from the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, another Reserve unit based at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. This long-distance separation meant Airmen often had to figure out things for themselves and rely

on each other to get their jobs done. "We've always had to stay focused to accomplish the mission, and I think that's a unique characteristic that separates us from other units," Chief Wangelin said. "Keeping our eye on the ball is the key to our success."

The 53rd APS officially joined the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Pope AFB in October 2007, and today has grown to nearly 130



assigned people. The 53rd Aerial Port Squadron's roles are to provide responsive global cargo and passenger movement operations while cultivating combat-ready airmen. A few of these roles include: processing airmen and their personal items, preparing air cargo and load plans, rigging for airdrops, packing parachutes, and provide training and supervision for units engaged in aircraft loading and unloading operations.

Through the years the squadron has been called upon to serve in exercises and operations around the world, including Bold Eagle, Provide Promise, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and most recently Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Participating in these real-world operations has given squadron Airmen the experience and knowledge to make the 53rd APS a leading aerial port squadron in the Air Force Reserve. "We've attracted NCOs and SNCOs from other units to come here and apply their expertise, and help create the squadron we have become today," said Lt. Col. Jack Gibson, 53rd APS commander. "Our time of being a geographically-separated unit has made us stronger and we learned to control our own destiny."

The squadron had many highlights in 2008, including deploying Airmen throughout the Middle East in support of the global war on terror; completing an annual tour at Ramstein Air Base, Germany; and Senior Airman Edward Wilkerson earned the Airman First Class John Levitow Award – the first for a 53rd APS Airman - while attending airman leadership school at Charleston AFB.



The 53rd Aerial Port Squadron celebrates their 30th anniversary as a squadron and 30 years of service at Pope Air Force Base.

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LTC Deborah H Dukeman, 440 Mds  
LTC Todd C Mottl, 95 Als  
LTC Anthony R Smith, 440 Aw Hq Ele  
LTC David L Tarter, 95 Als  
CMS Alice J Harsheybischoff, 440 Amxs  
CMS Anthony J Trombley, 440 Mxg  
MSgt Gary D Robbins, 440 Mxs  
MSgt Norma D Terrier, Fjyt  
MSgt Tommy L Thompson, 440 Sfs  
TSgt Katrine E Guinn, 440 Aw Hq Ele  
TSgt Adam J Reichwald, 440 Sfs  
TSgt Waylon D Westbrook, 440 Mxs

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SMSGt John L Barnes III, 53 APS  
MSgt Christopher J Marks, 440 MXS  
MSgt Derrick Mccray, 440 MXG  
TSgt Terrence L Battle, 440 MXS  
TSgt Michael R Bitz, 440 MXS  
TSgt Amber K Mccauley, 440 LRS  
SSgt Brandon M Croghan, 440 MXS  
SSgt Guy Powell Darden Jr, 440 MXS  
SSgt Flinttrell B Hamilton, 95 ALS  
SSgt Maria I Silaojohnson, 440 SFS  
SSgt Lisa M Taylor, 440 OSF

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Capt Shary C Acevedo, 440 MSF  
SMSgt Dennis D Swanson, 36 AES  
MSgt Duane A Burton, 440 MXS  
MSgt John L Fowler, 53 APS  
MSgt Bret R Rakfeldt, 53 APS  
TSgt Frederick E Abakah, 440 SVS  
TSgt Dante D Armour, 440 MDS  
TSgt Crystal Y Mccray, 440 SVS  
TSgt Dionna C Payne, 440 MDS

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Capt David P Gentile 95 ALS  
SMSgt Mitchell D Head 440 CF  
MSgt Hugo L Gamarra 440 OSF  
MSgt Robert T Henretty 440 MDS  
TSgt Jeremy M Ledford 440 SFS  
TSgt Nicole L Mason 440 MDS  
TSgt Christopher J Menapace 95 ALS

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SMS Robert R Poole, 53 APS  
MSgt Robert L Rothove, 440 AMXS  
TSgt Gregory H Boyd, 53 APS  
TSgt Duwane A Brown, 440 CF  
TSgt Janine L Coaxum, 53 APS  
TSgt Nicole Luel Dunovsky, 440 OSF  
TSgt Tavis J Kennedy, 53 APS

SSgt Sandro A Cardona, 440 Amxs  
SSgt Michael A Foster, 440 Mxs  
SSgt Stephen G Johnson, 440 Amxs  
SSgt Jesse R Rogers, 440 Mxs  
SrA Brian L Byrd, 440 Svs  
SrA Joel C Caesar, 440 Mxs  
AIC Jamar D Blue, 440 Mxs  
AIC Megan C Haaf, 440 Mxs  
AIC Nathan R Horton, 95 Als  
AIC Seth D Norris, 440 Mxs  
AIC William R Perkins, 440 Mxs  
AIC Kyle W Ragay, 440 Mxs

SSgt Alexis V Wallace, 440 OSF  
SrA Martin K Landers, 440 MDS  
SrA David L Mills Jr, 440 MXS  
SrA Ambriel B Ravenell, 440 SVS  
SrA Brandon C Robinson, 440 MXS  
SrA Sean A Taylor, 440 MXS  
SrA Cameron B Walker, 440 CP  
SrA Christopher R Resio, 440 LRS  
SrA Sheila J Jenkins, 440 SVS  
SrA Christian N Jones, 440 SVS  
SrA James R Baker, 440 SVS

TSgt Joshua D Sharpe, 53 APS  
TSgt Ollivia M Sinclair, 440 MDS  
SSgt Renea M Johnston, 95 ALS  
SSgt Laawah A Souh, 440 LRS  
SSgt Kimberly D Vallance, 440 SFS  
SrA Elizabeth A Dillon, 440 MDS  
SrA Jamal R Dingle, 440 SVS  
SrA Salote Jones, 440 MDS  
SrA Nekeshia G Simmons, 440 MDS

SSgt Matthew R Dono 440 MDS  
SSgt Trevor L Luke 440 OSF  
SSgt Cortney M Williams 36 AES  
SrA Gilbert Candelaria 440 MDS  
SrA Christianna J Demyan 53 APS  
SrA Theresa C Jackson 440 MSF  
SrA Antronius T Marsh 440 MXS

TSgt Richard A Merchant, 440 MDS  
TSgt Dedrick T Robinson, 440 LRS  
TSgt Monte D Simpson, 53 APS  
SSgt Wendy Y Brown, 440 MDS  
SSgt Daniel Heininger, 440 LRS  
SSgt Anthony J Swiercinsky, 440 CF  
SrA Dustin P Absher, 440 CF

AIC Deborah L Smith, 440 Mxs  
AIC Sierra B Thompson, 440 Mxs  
AB Samuel Ii Burnett, 440 Sfs  
AB Michael P Chirichello, 440 Mxs  
AB Gerita M Glenn, 440 Sfs  
AB Darien K Herbin, 440 Sfs  
AB Robert L Little, 440 Lrs  
AB Phylcia R Lomax, 53 Aps  
AB Rasheed M Smith, 440 Mxs  
AB Michaela N Vess, 53 Aps

SrA Malisa M Lewis, 440 SVS  
AIC Steven D Allen, 53 APS  
AIC Edward W Knighten, 440 MXS  
AIC Alyx M Leonard, 36 AES  
Amn Derek J Booker, 440 SFS  
Amn Cazavia O Henley, 440 SFS  
Amn Dominique J Smith, 440 MDS  
AB Shermel S Russell, 440 SFS  
AB Kaira L Osgood, 440 SFS

SrA David C Wright, 440 SVS  
AIC Krystal M Alston, 440 LRS  
AIC Joshua L Reddish, 53 APS  
AIC Quentin M Griffin, 53 APS  
AIC Courtney E Martinez, 440 MXS  
AIC Jesse Z Childress, 53 APS  
AIC Guadalupe D Granados, 53 APS  
AIC Keana L Reed, 53 APS  
AIC Nathan V Reed, 53 APS

SrA Nicholas T Dudley 440 MXS  
SrA Larry T B Jenkins 440 MXS  
SrA Letricia L Whitfield 440 MDS  
AIC Christopher S Atkinson 53 APS  
AIC Joshua T Case 440 OSF  
AIC Gabrielle C Shaw 440 OSF  
Amn Gurpreet K Dhaliwal 36 AES

SrA Rajvir S Dhaliwal, 440 MDS  
SrA Adam Grant Hobbs, 440 SVS  
SrA Kay A Lyonsmitchell, 440 LRS

### Cash Form Lite

In light of the recent travel voucher transformation, the 440th FM is highly recommending that all customers file vouchers using the new Cash Forms Lite system. This system walks the member through the voucher step by step and can be accessed on a non-government computer. By using this system, finance will be able to improve the overall processing time for your GTC and personal travel claim payments. The FM is making plans to make this system mandatory for all 440th members.

If you have any questions please contact your local Finance Customer Service Team. The CASH FORMS URL is: <https://www.hqpacaf.af.mil/fm/cash%20forms%20cac/home1.asp>

### AFPC launching new 800 number

The Air Force Personnel Center is launching a new customer service 800 number in mid to late February that will handle personnel issues for all airmen — active duty, Guard and Reserve — according to a notice on the AFPC Web site. The new Total Force Service Center will serve centralized personnel actions for all airmen, according to the notice. The center also will handle personnel issues for civilian employees of the Air Force Reserve.

The new call center number will be 1-800-525-0102, replacing the old Air Force Customer Service Center number.

### Don't buy your own uniforms and expect a refund

The 440th Airlift Wing Finance Office is reminding Reservists that they must not go out and purchase replacement uniforms on their own and expect reimbursement. Finance will not accept any SF 1164, Request for Misc Reimbursement, for military clothing or sewing. Reservists must go through the proper process with their RPA Clothing GPC Cardholder. Each Group has at least one cardholder to make these purchases. For more information call the Finance Office at 394-1330.

### Understanding your LES

This link below is a helpful guide to reading and understanding military LES statements.  
[http://www.ade.af.mil/health-safety/cnp/nspl/parentforms/2006-2007/How\\_To\\_Read\\_Army\\_Navy\\_AF\\_LES\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.ade.af.mil/health-safety/cnp/nspl/parentforms/2006-2007/How_To_Read_Army_Navy_AF_LES_Guide.pdf)

### Military Compensation: Pay and Allowances

<http://www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/pay/>

### CBRNE Survival Skills classes

Two CBRNE classes are held from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., every UTA Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and every UTA Sunday. Beginning in March, the Emergency Management staff will offer a mid-week class every Wednesday afternoon at 1 p.m. POC: Senior Master Sgt. Randy Koontz, 440 AW EM program manager at (910) 394-5469.

### Teen Leadership Summit information

Two Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summits will be held in 2009. Command Chief Master Sgt. Clifford Van Yahres, and unit first sergeants, have more information on the teen leadership summits. The application deadline is April 6. Application rules and criteria are located at [www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeenSummit](http://www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeenSummit).

- July 13-17 - Wahsega 4-H Center, Dahlonega, Ga.

(site of the 2008 Summit)

- July 27-31 - Jekyll Island 4-H Center, Jekyll Island, Ga.

The AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summits are open to all 15-18 year old dependent teens of current Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard members. Applicants will be required to complete the 2009 AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit application to include essay questions and Code of Conduct.

Anyone with questions should contact Ms. Stacey Young, [Stacey.young@afrc.af.mil](mailto:Stacey.young@afrc.af.mil), 478-327-0971, DSN 497-0971 or Ms. Brandi Mullins, [brandi.mullins@afrc.af.mil](mailto:brandi.mullins@afrc.af.mil), 478-327-2090, DSN 497-2090

### When Tragedy Struck the 440th

Twenty-four years ago on Jan. 22, 1985, tragedy hit the 440th Tactical Airlift Wing when a wing C-130A aircraft crashed while attempting to land at an airfield on the east coast of Honduras. The seven-man crew assigned to the 95th Tactical Airlift Squadron departed Howard Air Force Base, Panama, in the early morning of Jan. 22. Loaded with six tons of cargo and 14 duty passengers the aircraft was scheduled to drop off cargo at Trujillo Airfield, Honduras, in support of the Volant Oak rotation.

As the aircraft approached the coastal airfield at Trujillo the morning fog obscured the aircrews view forcing them to abort their initial landing approach. Witnesses on shore watched as the crew proceeded to initiate a go-around. Suddenly the aircraft turned and crashed into rough seas about 900 meters east of the airfield.

The flight crew who were assigned to the 95th AS at General Billy Mitchell Field, Milwaukee, Wis., consisted of Maj. Michael Durante, pilot; 2nd Lt. Paul Cocks, copilot; Maj. Gary Schei, navigator; Master Sgt. David Guile, flight engineer; and Tech. Sgt. John Oettinger, loadmaster. The crew chiefs, Senior Master Sgt. Harry Keys and Staff Sgt. Ronald Wachter were assigned to the 927th Tactical Airlift Group at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan. The 927th TAG was one of three groups that made up the 440th Tactical Airlift Wing in 1985.

In honor of the deceased crew members, a military memorial service was held on Feb. 24, 1985 at the 440th Tactical Airlift Wing. The service was attended by more than 1,000 people consisting of wing members, city and state dignitaries, family, and friends.

The image to the right has been identified by Citibank as a phishing e-mail and is in full circulation within the Government Travel Card community on the DoD networks. Air Force Operational Security officials have said that it has even hit some personal e-mail addresses as well.

If you do not remember what a phish-



ing e-mail is here is a definition:  
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criminal>>

Any obvious phishing email should be sent to: [submitphishing@citi.com](mailto:submitphishing@citi.com) for their security team analysis.



440th Airlift Wing

**WANTED: Men and women to inspect, repair, modify, and service C-130 aircraft systems, components, and assemblies, on and off aircraft. Medical and educational benefits included. Equal Opportunity Employer - Work Weekends - Start Immediately. For more information call your local Air Force Reserve Recruiter 1 800-257-1212**

