

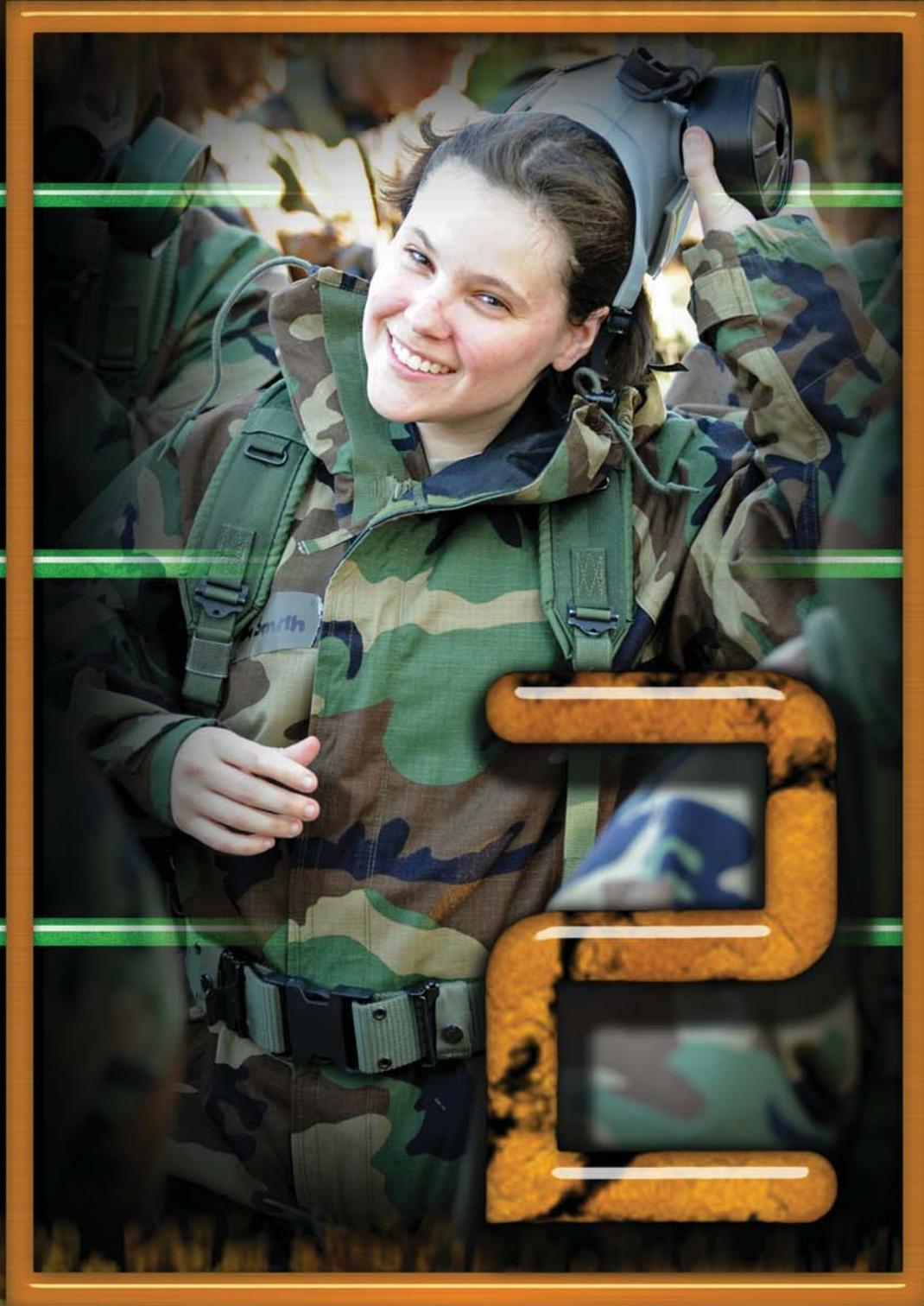
COMBAT AIRLIFTER

440th Airlift Wing

"Vincit qui primum gerit"

January 2010 Vol. 4, No. 1

ORTP



Command Perspective

New Year - New Goals

The wing is starting a new year and the future is bright for us as we move into 2010. It is my sincere hope that your holiday season was joyous and safe. The holiday period allows us the time to reset our focus on family and friendships. The Air Force has launched "Year of the Air Force Family." Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley promote this event as a yearlong focus on Air Force programs highlighting the importance and commitment to the entire Air Force family: all airmen, spouses, children, Air Force civilians, and retirees. In his message introducing the "Year of the Air Force Family" Gen. Schwartz said, "The strength of the nation's Air Force is not the platforms we operate or the technologies we employ, as good as they are, it is our Airmen and their families. The Air Force is a great place to work, live and play. Our intent is to make it even better." (<http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp>)

Looking back over the past year, we continued to build as a wing and develop our relationship with our active-duty associates. The wing supported multiple 120 day deployments to the AOR in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 2nd airlift Squadron continues to deploy crews and support staff on continuous rotations to overseas duty locations providing an important link in the war on terrorism.

On a weekly basis, the wing assigns crews to support the Tanker Airlift Control Center (TACC) mission moving wounded military members from east coast bases to various locations in the United States. These ongoing missions combined with local training requirements have kept the 440th Airlift Wing very busy.

In less than 13 months, 51 training days, the wing will have its first Operational Readiness Inspection since relocating to Pope Air Force Base. This will require a lot of work to be accomplished in a short period of time. To that end, I hope everyone has a better perspective about the ATSO environment after receiving assistance from the Volk Field Cadre during the November UTA. I want to thank every one of you for stepping up to the plate demonstrating the "can do" attitude that is needed to pass an ORI. It has been years for most of us since we were last involved in that type of training, so I'm asking you to stay focused as we train. According to the IG; "Attitude makes a difference between passing and failing." Most of us have never failed in anything that we have attempted. Let's keep the streak alive and prove to ourselves, we can be successful.

In January, a group of wing members are deploying to Gulfport, Mississippi for ORTP3.



Lt. Col. John Gorse
440 AW Operations Group Deputy

This training will assist wing leadership to gain firsthand knowledge of the ATSO environment. During the February UTA, the unit will perform Task Qualification Training. This will require members to perform their specific jobs while wearing their chemical suits. In April, the wing will participate in an ATSO Rodeo that will consist of different stations designed to train on specific ATSO tasks. These training sessions will help prepare the wing for ORTP 4 being held at the Volk Field Wisconsin training facility. The cadre at Volk Field will critique the way each task is being performed and will then provide feedback. Then in October, the wing will deploy back to Gulfport for an Operational Readiness Exercise before the actual ORI in January, 2011. So buckle up sports fan, we have got some work to do!

As I finish up this column, the after-action report about Operation Toy Drop is complete. The numbers show that more than 1200 Army paratroopers jumped out of C-130s over the Sicily drop zone on Fort Bragg over the December UTA. I want to send my thanks to our friends at the 145th Air National Guard over in Charlotte, North Carolina and our sister wing the 910th from Youngstown, Ohio for supporting this event.

At the end of my work day after the dust has settled from my flight suit, I can honestly say, I am proud and thankful for each and every one of you regardless of whom you work for or who pays you. We are building a proud tradition here at the 440th; one that will last for the next generation of airmen.

UPCOMING ORI EVENTS

ORTP 3 Jan 19-24:

- Deployed Command and Control Combat Lab (Gulfport)
- Practice C2 systems on location
- CADRE creates virtual wing
- Wing Participants – ICC, EOC, CP, MOS, IN, Shelter Mgt Team + alternates – 70+ per wing

February UTA ORI EVENTS:

- Unit Level-- Unit Task Qualification Training (Work one hour in chemical gear)
- Unit Level- FIRST DRAFT of unit specific annex to the employment plans
- Unit Level- MOPP 1-4, practical exercise up to unit CCs

CHIN STRAP BUCKLED

USAF RANK
FIRST/LAST NAME



FULL CANTEEN

REFELCTIVE BELT
- WORN 24/7

Right Leg Pocket
- Airman's Manual
- M-291 Kits
- M-295 Kits
- Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK)

Mask Carrier:
- Antidote Treatment Nerve Agent Autoinjector (ATNAA)
- Convulsant Antidote for Nerve Agent (CANA)
- Pyridostigmine Bromide Tablets (P-Tabs)

Personnel indentification: Use O.D. green duct tape on front and back of helmet and right breast pocket of body armor.

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January 2010
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Col. Merle D. Hart
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Dennis J. Mehring
Reserve Chief,
Public Affairs
Capt. Lauri Turpin
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Capt. Jeff Schoen
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On the cover:
The 440 AW prepares for an Operational Readiness Inspection
Illustration created by Senior Airman Jacqueline Pender

After Fort Hood

by Chaplain (Capt.) David Fink

"I am going to do God's work."

These are the last words spoken by Army Maj. Nidal Hasan to a neighbor on the morning of Nov. 5, several hours before he walked into an Army processing center at Fort Hood and opened fire on his fellow soldiers, killing 13 and injuring many more.

Our picture of the events leading up to that day remains incomplete, but investigators are hard at work looking for answers. Was Hasan merely a troubled individual, acting alone, or was he part of a larger network of radical extremists? Were there warning signs that could have tipped off his fellow soldiers that something was wrong? Was he the victim of discrimination because of his Muslim faith, as he claims, or did his radical ideology set him apart from his fellow soldiers?

Whatever the answers to these questions turn out to be, the events at Fort Hood have raised once again the troubling issue of religious violence and reminded us that this is *not* simply a problem in foreign cultures and in other parts of the world. It's a problem that exists right here in our midst, and just a few days ago it claimed the lives of 13 comrades-in-arms.

If you're wondering whether Fort Hood can happen here, or what impact these events might have on the mission of the 440th Airlift Wing, let me encourage you to keep a number of points in mind.

First, there is no inherent connection between religion and violence, or between extremism and any particular religious faith. Terrorists come in all shapes and sizes, and they are motivated by a wide range of religious, non-religious, and even anti-religious ideologies. Timothy McVeigh, who killed 168 people in the most deadly terrorist attack on American soil prior to Sept. 11, 2001, and Scott Roeder, who earlier this year murdered Dr. George Tiller at point-blank range, were both driven by radical reinterpretations of Christianity. But religious people aren't the only ones shooting people and blowing things up—witness the carnage wrought by the Basque separatist group ETA in Spain, or the Marxist-inspired FARC in Colombia, or by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, the troubled teens who shot up Columbine High School in 1999. Religious beliefs may sometimes be a contributing factor in acts of violent extremism, but they are never the sole cause of violence. The mere fact that a person identifies as Christian, Muslim, atheist or indifferent tells us *absolutely nothing* about whether that person may be on a path to terrorism or murder.

Second, while there may not always be clear warning signs that a particular individual is meditating an act of violence or terrorism, there are ways we can make our work environment more or less conducive to extremism. People do not usually decide to become terrorists on their own. Historically, radical groups have arisen within Western societies primarily among immigrant populations who feel isolated from mainstream society due to their differing cultural and religious values. These groups often identify themselves even more strongly with the religious beliefs and moral values of their home traditions as a way of coping with the difficulty of being outsiders. In the United States, where we have traditionally embraced the idea

of assimilating these cultures in the "melting pot," this effect has been much less pronounced than in Europe, where immigrant communities often maintain their own national and ethnic identities indefinitely.

The rise of the internet, however, has created new opportunities for individuals to network and form communities of common interest, and this may work to threaten the American "melting pot" system.

While many of the details are still unclear, investigators have reported that Major Hasan had developed ties with radical Muslim extremists via the internet. This "self-radicalization," as some experts are calling it, is a type of terrorism that is rapidly spreading and has law enforcement officials concerned, precisely because it is so difficult to detect. These individuals have no direct ties to foreign terrorists, they do not live in immigrant enclaves, and they seem in many respects to be fully integrated into American culture. Like Major Hasan, many are highly educated and have achieved positions of respect and responsibility in their professions. But because this kind of terrorism is so difficult for law enforcement agencies to track, it is all the more important for individual military members to be on the lookout. But what exactly should we be looking for?

If the Fort Hood case is at all typical, this "self-radicalization" goes hand-in-hand with an increasing alienation both in the workplace *and* in the religious community: Major Hasan was estranged from his colleagues in the Army and wanted out, but he was also a stranger to virtually everyone in his mosque. Although he regularly attended prayer services, he reportedly formed no lasting friendships. This should have been a warning sign to someone—but who knew enough about him to put all the pieces together? As military members serving in a diverse force, it is in our own best interests to provide an atmosphere of respect and support that makes this kind of alienation and radicalization less likely to flourish. This isn't about any sort of mealy-mouthed political correctness—it's about knowing and supporting our troops. People are far less likely to turn to the internet for community if they can find it closer to home.

I've been in the military for 15 years now, and it's always been like a second family for me—maybe that's why this crime seemed so shocking and unthinkable to me. Clearly not everyone feels this way. Maybe the most effective thing we can do as individual members is to remember the ties that bind us together in support of a common mission and bear in mind the words of the Airman's Creed: "I will never leave an airman behind." Those words don't just apply to the battlefield; they apply with equal force to the kind of community we're building on a daily basis as we work and train together. Now, more than ever, we need to remember that we are family. And everyone has a place at the table.



Chaplain David Fink
440th Airlift Wing

440th Maintenance Group serves a Thanksgiving luncheon

by Chief Master Sgt. (ret) Jerry Green

The 440th Airlift Wing's Maintenance Group carried on the tradition established several years ago with the "Feed the Troops" pre-Thanksgiving luncheon. More than 200 wing members of the 440th and 2nd Airlift Maintenance Squadrons joined in the annual event feasting on a traditional meal of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, corn, and gravy, followed by the traditional pumpkin pie for dessert.

With deep fryers and large grills surrounding him, luncheon coordinator Captain Steven Keenan, 2nd Airlift Squadron Maintenance Officer, explained that this luncheon was a way for wing leadership to show their gratitude to the hard working maintenance troops, many who will not be home for the Thanksgiving holiday. A native of Charleston, South Carolina, Keenan said, "The officers and senior NCOs contributed by purchasing the hams and turkeys that are being served today. Without them we would probably be cooking hamburgers."

Nearby, volunteers were carving and stacking the fresh cooked meats on serving trays. Standing close by were the "cooking assistants" ready to transfer the food to the serving line. One of those ready to help out was California native, Senior Airman Chris Campos. Campos has been in the Air Force for three years and has been stationed at Pope AFB for two and one-

half years after graduating from tech. school. "This is really great getting everybody together for this meal, and the food is excellent", said Campos. When asked what his duties at the carving table were, Campos said, "I make sure the food tastes okay."

When not carving food Airman Campos is an analysis technician, monitoring the aircraft maintenance process and trend analysis.

Enjoying the meal with the aircraft mechanics and specialists from MXS, were personnel from other sections on base. Security Forces and Firefighters gathered their meals in "to-go" containers to be delivered to wing members on duty.

Serving the spuds was Lt.Col. Ed Ruth, 440th Maintenance Officer, who took over serving duties from Chiefs Formanski and Houston explaining, "They were not serving right, so I had to take over."

The "Feed the Troops" luncheon will be a tradition at the 440 MXG as long as there are C-130s based at Pope AFB and deserving airmen working on them. Thanksgiving Day is traditionally a time to give thanks for the year's achievements and express gratitude to those who deserve it. Many of the airmen will spend their Thanksgiving Holiday at home station away from friends and family. While the "Feed the Troops" luncheon does not replace the holiday, here at Pope Air Force Base it is a measure of the leadership's gratitude for a job well done by the units who put the "Air in Airborne."



Senior Airman Paul Gutierrez enjoys an afternoon in the sun as he prepares deep-fried turkey for the annual Maintenance Group Thanksgiving luncheon held at Pope AFB, N.C. Airman Gutierrez is an electronic counter measure specialist with the 2nd Airlift Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photograph by Master Sgt. Kevin Brody)



With serving utensils in hand officers and chiefs from the 440th Maintenance Group prepare to dish out a Thanksgiving-day meal to the troops at Pope AFB.



Captain Steven Keenan, 2nd Airlift Squadron Maintenance officer, operates the grill for a Thanksgiving-day luncheon held by the 440th Maintenance Group. Captain Keenan was the coordinator for the event.



Resolutions That Can Really Make a Difference

Do New Year's resolutions really do any good? It depends on what they are and whether you can keep them. Studies show that people who follow the federal nutrition guidelines closely have a lower than average incidence of cancer.

Dietary Guidelines for Americans, released by the federal government and aimed at overall good health, and the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) Diet and Health Guidelines for Cancer Prevention, together form an excellent basis for resolutions that can make a real difference in your life. Consider these guidelines goals to work toward; make resolutions about specific behavior changes that will help you reach them.

The first two Dietary Guidelines for Americans are, "Aim for a healthy weight" and "Be physically active each day."

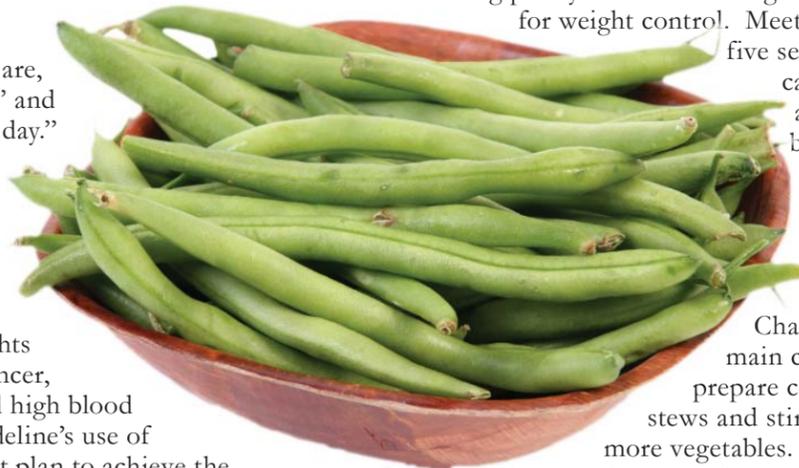
These messages are also key points in the AICR guidelines. These goals are included in dietary guidelines because more than half of U.S. adults are now at unhealthy weights that put them at risk of cancer, heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure. The federal guideline's use of "aim" means you shouldn't plan to achieve the goal overnight, but change behaviors gradually over time. To "maintain" a healthy weight is not to drop weight on a fad diet and regain it, which is typical, but permanently change eating and lifestyle habits to reach and stay at a healthy weight.

To get there, AICR emphasizes the importance of portion sizes appropriate to your body's real needs. That means considering a resolution to avoid supersized portions. AICR's "New American Plate" approach to eating emphasizes that besides portion control, healthy eating also means a balanced, mostly plant-based diet in which grains

(preferably whole grains), vegetables and fruits make up two-thirds (or more) of our plates and animal protein one-third (or less). A recent report in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition emphasizes that eating only low-fat foods is not the key to weight control; balanced eating, with plenty of high-fiber foods, is also important.

Both sets of dietary guidelines talk about the importance of being active every day. AICR encourages accumulating an hour of moderate activity each day, and an hour of vigorous activity sometime each week. You can make these goals achievable by breaking up active time into 10- or 15-minute blocks at lunchtime and before and after work. Or make activity a fun part of your day by setting walking goals using a pedometer, or finding co-workers who enjoy a sport or activity that you can share.

Both sets of guidelines also emphasize making whole grains, vegetables and fruits the main focus of our meals. Eating plenty of fruits and vegetables is not just important for weight control. Meeting the minimum goal of



five servings a day could lower cancer risk up to 20 percent, and provide other health benefits, too. Consider a resolution to include a fruit or vegetable (or both!) at lunch each day, to have fruit for a snack or dessert at least once daily.

Change the proportion of your main course. One tactic is to prepare combination dishes, like stews and stir-fries, with less meat and more vegetables. Try switching from refined breads or cereals to whole-grain products.

Moderation in alcohol (no more than one standard drink daily for women, or no more than two for men) is part of both guidelines, too. Try switching to sparkling water or cider, or a tangy tomato juice. Guidelines to avoid foods high in fat and salt offer plenty of other opportunities to make resolutions that will improve the quality of your eating. Perhaps the best start might be a resolution to stop taking your health for granted.

Reprinted with permission from the American Institute for Cancer Research

Having Problems with Your Civilian Employer?

by Lt. Col. Karen Hecker

For some reservists, the following scenarios are all too real: -"Welcome back from reserve duty, Bob. While you were gone, we moved you to the night shift and you're no longer in a supervisory position."

-"I heard you volunteered to deploy for six months. I don't know if there will be a job here for you when you get back."

-"No, you can't go to your UTA this weekend as we need you here at the office. You don't have military orders so I don't have to let you go."

Fortunately, Congress has enacted a statute that is specifically designed to prohibit discrimination against employees because of their service in the Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard. The federal law: the *Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)*, was strengthened considerably after September 11, 2001. Most employers who violate this law do so unknowingly so it is important that you understand your rights and know how to seek assistance in exercising them if problems arise.

Bottom line, USERRA prohibits an employer from denying any benefit of employment on the basis of an individual's membership, application for future membership, performance of service or obligation for military service in the United States of America. Like wise, an employer must not deny initial employment, reemployment, retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment to an individual on the basis of his or her membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service or obligation for military service. USERRA also protects the right of veterans, reservists, National Guard members, and certain other military members to reclaim their civilian employment after an absence due to military service, testing or training.

USERRA potentially covers every individual who has served or will serve in the military and applies to all employers in the public and private sector including federal employers. The law seeks to minimize disruption to the lives of service members by ensuring that they are able to retain their civilian employment and benefits while serving their country, and by providing protection from discrimination because of their service. USERRA protections apply to *all* military service, whether voluntary, involuntary, on orders or during UTAs.

People are most familiar with the "reemployment" rights granted by USERRA. There are four basic entitlements that must be provided by the employer: prompt reinstatement, accrued seniority during your absence, training/retraining or similar accommodations upon your return and special protection against discharge, except for cause.

However, USERRA also protects reservists under other more common scenarios. For example, if you miss work while you perform military service, your employer is not obligated to reschedule you to make up the time lost. However, if employees who miss work for non-military reasons are afforded opportunities to make up the time lost, you must be treated in the same manner. Further, you cannot be required to find a replacement worker for the shift(s) you will miss as a condition of being given the time off by your employer to

perform military service. Federal law allows you the option to use earned vacation while performing military service, but you cannot be required to do so. You are also entitled to, in most circumstances, maintain your civilian health insurance during your absence.

USERRA provides that a denial of employment or an adverse action taken by an employer is unlawful if a member's connection with military service is a

motivating factor (not necessarily the only factor) in the denial of reemployment or other adverse action, "unless *the employer* can prove that the action would have been taken in the absence of such membership, application for membership ... or obligation."

Remedies to a claimant under the law may flow from two different processes. The first is the administrative route (handled by the United States Department of Labor, VETS). The second is the litigation route (handled by the U.S. Attorney General or the Office of Special Counsel). Remedies may differ depending on which route is chosen. Remedies available through the administrative route can include return to a position, back pay, restored benefits, restored promotional opportunities and other remedies designed to restore the service member to the position he/she should have been in.

Most USERRA situations can be resolved short of litigation or a claim. If you are having problems with your civilian employer that you believe are related to your military service, please contact the Legal Office for assistance. We also recommend that you contact the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). This organization has established an Ombudsman Services Program to provide information, counseling and mediation on issues related USERRA. They staff a customer service center specifically to answer phone calls and e-mails involving USERRA questions. Specially trained Ombudsmen are available to assist members of the Guard and Reserve in resolving disputes with their civilian employers related to military service through mediation. ESGR Ombudsmen are volunteers located throughout the United States and U.S. territories. Their website (<http://esgr.org/userra.asp>) contains information on this program and detailed information on USERRA. The Department of Labor also has a website dedicated to USERRA issues and provides on-line advisors to help employees and employers understand their rights and responsibilities (<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm>).



Lt. Col. Karen Hecker
Reserve Staff Judge Advocate

ORTP2



Operational Readiness Training Plan 2



by Master Sgt. Steve Staedler
photographic illustration by Senior Airman Jackie Pender

Senior Airman Meagan Hunt and Airman First Class David Sledge were the unlucky ones. The two 440th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Airmen were outside at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., when it came “under attack” Nov. 8. A short while later a post-attack reconnaissance (PAR) team came upon the injured duo, sitting together on the sidewalk in front of building 753 with their faces ashen from exposure to a chemical agent.

After identifying the extent of their injuries, PAR team members summoned more help for the two airmen and continued searching the building’s perimeter for more casualties and unexploded ordnances.

Of course the two airmen weren’t really injured; they were just sporting some light white paint over their faces to simulate the chemical exposure. What they were doing was preparing, along with the rest of the base populace, for the upcoming operational readiness inspection (ORI) scheduled for January 2011.

Much of the November UTA was devoted to ORI prep. Activities actually began a day earlier, on Friday, as base leadership brought instructors in from other Reserve and Guard bases to provide instruction to Airmen during the weekend of events.



Wing airmen spent much of the day Friday cleaning their gas masks and donning their chemical warfare suits, ensuring they had everything they would need to survive a chemical attack.

“This has been very well organized and I’m learning a lot more than I thought I would,” Airman Hunt said. “It’s good that we’re putting on our gear and making sure it’s all there. Once we do this a few times it gets easier. This is good practice.”

On Saturday and Sunday instructors walked airmen through a series of scenarios they would be evaluated on during the ORI, including PAR team training and self-aid and buddy care.

“We’re showing them the basic concepts of dealing with big traumatic injuries and the ability to take quick steps in providing first aid,” said Master Sgt. Rusty Scott, medical NCOIC at Volk Field ANGB in Wisconsin. “For a lot of these people, they’re not in the patient-care business. So a lot of them will ask ‘how do I check his airway?’ And I tell them ‘why are you talking to me – you should be talking to him.’ But as a layman administering medical care can be a hard thing to grasp, but once they do grasp it they’ll catch on real quick and do a good job at the ORI.”

Donning the chemical gear and walking through the various scenarios was particularly helpful to Staff Sgt. Cary Fowler.

“I haven’t received any training like this before,” said sergeant Fowler, 53rd Aerial Port Squadron. “If I get into a situation like this I think I’ll be better prepared for it. Even though this is just an exercise, this could be real-world stuff one day. It’s very practical and meaningful I think.”

A group of airmen from the 440th Airlift Wing are planning a “fly-away” to Mississippi for three days prior to the January 2010 UTA weekend to continue their ORI training and practice more in-depth scenarios.

“Everyone has a great attitude and they’re picking up the pace and running with it,” Master Sgt. James Hartzog, 622nd Emergency Management, Dobbins ARB, Ga., said while instructing 53rd APS Airmen. “The key is motivation and attitude. As long as you’re motivated and show a positive attitude inspectors will see that.”

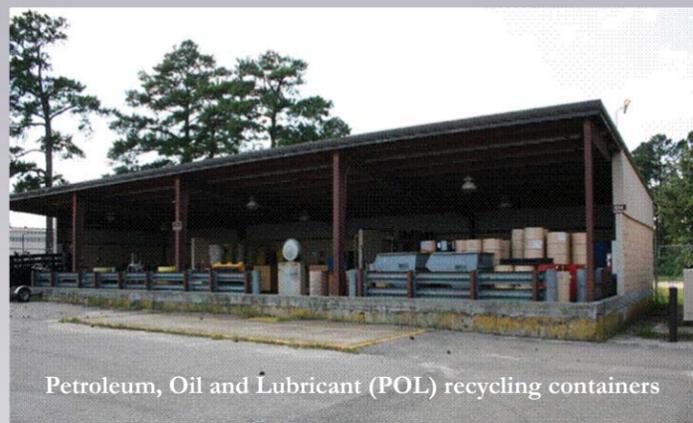


New Base Environmental Policy

by 2nd Lt. Nicole Warner
Environmental Management Systems Coordinator

The 43d Civil Engineering Squadron's Environmental Flight is committed to providing the guidance and oversight to ensure Pope AFB's impact on the environment is kept to a minimum. However, environmental protection and compliance is the responsibility of all members of the Pope community. A person working in an office who recycles paper, aluminum cans, and plastic bottles is just as vital in helping protect the environment as the airman on the flightline who properly handles jet fuel and oil. Although most of these actions are part of routine procedures for those conducting them, there is an underlying reason for their importance.

Shortly after taking command of the 43d Airlift Wing, Col. James Johnson signed a new environmental policy letter for Pope AFB. This new policy is being implemented as part of Pope's continuing efforts to satisfy the requirements of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001,



Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant (POL) recycling containers



JP-8 recycling containers

the Plan-Do-Check-Act frame work that all federal agencies use to manage their environmental programs. All personnel are required to be aware of the new policy and do their part to ensure the seven primary commitments are met. The commitments made in Pope's Environmental Policy are:

- Continue to implement our Environmental Management System (EMS)
- Set and review environmental objectives and targets
- Promote conservation and sustainable use of materials
- Comply with legal and other requirements like AFI's
- Continually improve environmental performance
- Integrate pollution prevention practices
- Promote environmental awareness.

Proper procedures for implementing these commitments are already in place in most base shops, but continued awareness and emphasis on their importance ensures Pope's operations will continue to have minimal impact on the environment.

The full policy letter can be found under Policy Letters on the 43 AW Homepage ([https://eim.amc.af.mil/org/43aw/PolicyLetters/EnvironmentalPolicy\(5Jul2009\).pdf](https://eim.amc.af.mil/org/43aw/PolicyLetters/EnvironmentalPolicy(5Jul2009).pdf)).

If anyone has questions related to this policy or their role in supporting the Pope AFB EMS, please contact your unit environmental coordinator or the base EMS coordinator, Ms. Omega Weeks, 43 CES/CEVP, 394-1639.

The Homeowner's Assistance Program (HAP) has been expanded by the ARRA of 2009. The Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act was modified to provide temporary expansion of HAP to respond to the mortgage foreclosure and credit crisis. A total of \$555 million in appropriated funds were provided to finance this expansion.

The expanded HAP provides some monetary relief to service member (including Coast Guard) and federal employee (including non appropriated fund) homeowners who suffer financial loss on the sale of their primary residences. The program assists wounded members of the Armed Forces (30% or greater disability), surviving spouses of fallen warriors, and wounded DoD civilian homeowners reassigned in furtherance of medical treatment or rehabilitation or due to medical retirement in connection with their disability; Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 impacted homeowners relocating during the mortgage crisis; and Service member homeowners undergoing Permanent Change of Station (PCS)

moves during the mortgage crisis.

The Army is the Executive Agent for implementing the HAP and uses the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to implement the program. The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics has overall responsibility and oversight for this program.

We need your help to ensure Air Force members and their families are made aware of the expanded HAP and potential assistance. Please provide this information, the attached briefing, expanded HAP brochure, and the list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) to your Housing Offices and request they publicize using all available means. Members should be encouraged to access the US Army Corps of Engineer website (<http://hap.usace.army.mil/homepage.html>) for detailed program information, including application process, points of contacts, benefits, etc., and to seek assistance, as needed, from the local Housing Office in applying.



<http://hap.usace.army.mil/>

440th Airlift Wing participates in JFEX exercise

by Chief Master Sgt. (ret) Jerry Green

Pope Air Force Base, N.C. - Despite overcast skies and intermittent rain, more than a dozen community, civic, and business leaders, including Katherine Southard, Miss North Carolina 2009, attended a Joint Forcible Entry Exercise (JFEX) on Fort Bragg's Sicily Drop Zone.

After arriving at Green Ramp located on Pope Air Force Base, the DV's were shuttled to the PAX sheds where they were briefed by the XVIII Airborne Corps about the JFEX exercise they would observe that afternoon.

Col. Gregory C. Kane, director of operations, G3, XVIII Airborne Corps participated in the briefing. Col. Kane said, "Much like what we did with the JFEX by building relationships with 19th and 18th Air Wings, we are also building relationships with the community leaders and our Air Force counterparts."

After the briefing instructors from Fort Bragg's Advanced Airborne School demonstrated various components of airborne operations that airborne paratroopers would perform during the day's exercise. The civic leaders then took their turns getting fitted with the same equipment that the soldiers would be using.

Obviously impressed with the procedures, Fayetteville native Don Price, owner and president of Lafayette Ford said. "I appreciate the military and the professionalism, and the job they do for us every day," said Price. "I'm having a great time-I would say I wish I could go out there and jump, but I think I'll have to pass on that!"

After boarding the C-130 aircraft the civic leaders watched as the aircrew completed their preflight duties and soldiers checked their jump gear. As the engines roared to life the anticipation of the mission was evident as the jumpmasters checked the jumpers to make sure they were buckled in.

Dodging light-rain showers, the aircrew guided the C-130 to the initial turning point notifying the loadmaster to alert the jumpmasters. Less than 10 minutes from the jump, the soldiers waited as the loadmasters opened the paratroop doors. The jumpmaster took over the door space checking to see if the drop zone was clear to drop. After several minutes of waiting



Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Reyna, a platoon sergeant from 1st Battalion, 325 Airborne Infantry Regiment, Company C, waits for his jumpmaster to clear him as he readies to jump over Sicily drop zone October 27 for a Joint Forcible Entry Exercise. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Eric Guzman, 50th Public Affairs Detachment)

for the green light and two passes over the DZ, weather conditions deteriorated to the point that the drop had to be scrubbed.

Watching from a safe seat on the aircraft, North Carolina native Katherine Southard said, "I was actually here at Fort Bragg on the 4th of July, so it's neat to come back and see this side of the airdrop instead of watching from the ground."

After the aircraft landed and the engines had stopped the passengers and paratroopers exited the aircraft greeted by a steady rain. It was a "No Drop" day, but the demonstration was a success.

If the JFEX exercise had good weather the plan was to proceed with a Joint Forcible Entry Exercise at the Sicily Drop Zone, dropping more than 1,300 paratroopers and their equipment.

The JFEX exercise was scheduled over a four-day period involving airborne units from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Tennessee and South Carolina National Guard units, and joined by an Air Force fighter wing and three airlift wings.

Ever the optimist, Col. Merle "Mad Dog" Hart, 440th Airlift Wing commander told Don Price "keep the parachute handy, we can use it tomorrow." Not convinced with that suggestion, Price, with a big smile on his face, shook Hart's hand as he told him that he didn't think that was necessarily a good idea.

The 440th Air Force Reserve wing has more than 1400 men and women assigned to the wing supporting missions around the world and supplying airlift for U.S. Army airborne forces stationed at Fort Bragg.



Local civic leaders line up in formation at Pope Air Force Base during a parachute demonstration, Oct. 27, 2009. The local leaders visited the Pope AFB and Fort Bragg areas to witness some of the key capabilities of XVIII Airborne Corps during a joint forcible entry exercise at Fort Bragg, N.C., Oct. 27 through 30. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Eric Guzman, 50th Public Affairs Detachment)

OPERATION TOY DROP 2009



Operation Toy Drop: Everybody knows that Santa is a Paratrooper

by Capt. Lauri Turpin

photographs by Senior Airman Peter Miller

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen. But on Dec. 6 at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., it was not a team of reindeer, but Maj. Jeff Dasher a navigator in the 95th Airlift Squadron who guided the mission for the 440th Airlift Wing's C-130 that flew a group of soldier Santas across the morning sky. You might say he was born for this mission.

"It's the name," Major Dasher said, laughing. "I had to be on this flight."

His flight was a part of the 12th annual Randy Oler Memorial Operation Toy Drop, a program sponsored by Ft. Bragg, N.C., and Pope AFB providing toys to needy children in the Fayetteville area. The toys, donated by the participating service members, are delivered to children in time for Christmas.

More than 1,200 Army paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division and 18th Airborne Corps suited up in their jump gear to be a part of the charity event that brought participants from as far away as Germany.

Col. Merle D. Hart, 440th Airlift Wing commander, greeted the paratroopers as they checked their gear, and marched toward the flight line to board Maj. Dasher's C-130.

"I'm proud that the 440th can be a part of this operation," Col. Hart said. "This is a great outreach that our soldiers can provide and a token of our support to the children of other military members and the local community."

This year, the 440th Airlift Wing, in conjunction with the 145th Air National Guard Airlift Wing from Charlotte, NC, and the 910th Air Force Reserve Airlift Wing from Youngstown, Ohio, provided airlift for the day's event.

Since its inception 12 years ago, the program has become so popular that Army paratroopers have to win a lottery in order to participate. To enter the lottery, each individual must buy a toy for one of the many needy area children. Though only 1,200 lucky winners actually jump, far more choose to participate and bring donated gifts to Ft. Bragg.

"They have a massive wrapping session," said Lt. Col. William Whittenberger, 440th Operations Group commander. "A lot of the wives and families help out; it becomes a big party." Lt. Col. Whittenberger who was mission commander for this year's Toy Drop also piloted one of the C-130s.

"We've got 1,200 troops to drop in a fairly short time frame, so we're doing a parallel runing course that's 17 miles long, and it is about 12 minutes from take off to drop," he said. "Our

goal is five minutes between each air frame."

For Private First Class Caleb Wood, a 20-year old soldier stationed at Ft. Bragg, it would be only his sixth jump. Pfc. Wood, along with other members of his chalk, waited in the PAX 3 shelter on the Pope AFB flight line as other soldiers methodically yanked on parachute straps, tugged on helmets and ran expert hands over their gear.

"It's my first year doing this," said Pfc. Wood, who looked impossibly young, seated among the scores of older, more experienced paratroopers. "I bought a tricycle to support the event."

As Pfc. Wood stood in line for his turn, 1st Lt. Judith Wood, 126th Transportation Co., 82nd Sustainment Brigade waited for her turn to climb inside the fuselage of a C-130 for her turn to jump.

"I enjoy this because it's a rush, and it's great for the kids," she said. "I hope I'm here again next year. They tell you not to look down, but

when you're there you can't help it. We ask ourselves why we're doing this, but when we jump it's all worth it."

Seated on the bleachers set out in the red sand against the stark-winter blue sky, family members waited alongside the Sicily Drop Zone located on the far side of Ft. Bragg for their loved ones. As the C-130 approached, they held up their hands to shield their eyes against the glare of the sun. The plane flew in smoothly, and one by one the dark silhouettes of the soldiers dipped out of the plane and snapped straight as one after another their parachutes ballooned into perfect mushrooms. The



Free military benefits handbooks available

The Airman and Family Readiness Center sent out a notice to all wing members last month that announced the availability of free military benefits handbooks at this web site <http://www.militaryhandbooks.com>.

The handbooks cover benefits for retired military members, veterans and dependents, paying for college, what to do after leaving the military, veterans' healthcare, and military children's scholarships.

ARCNet

ReserveNet has a new name and a new mission. After a year of coordination between Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard officials, ARCNet was established Sept. 1 to provide ReserveNet capabilities to Air Guard members.

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123167801>

Spinal injuries up among troops

Air Force Reserve Col. Paul Dwan, a neurosurgeon here, held up his forefinger and thumb in the shape of a flattened letter "C" illustrating how the service member's back is affected by the blast inside the MRAP. "They're getting clammed up, they're getting scrunched down," Dwan says. Insurgents are "using bigger IEDs (improvised explosive devices). We're seeing the nature of the injuries change."

http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-11-03-afghanistan-ieds_N.htm

More ROTC instructor jobs

Air Force Reserve captains, majors and lieutenant colonels can now apply for more Air Force ROTC instructor positions. These jobs are available under the AFROTC Limited Period Recall Program. Information and job applications are available online at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil> by clicking on "Voluntary Officer Return to Active Duty" under the Military Quick Links section and selecting the "AFROTC LPRP Detachments" link and the "AFROTC Limited Period Recall Program" link.

File travel and pay documents on line

Send your travel vouchers to: popefinance@pope.af.mil
Send mil pay documents to: 440.finance@pope.af.mil
Reservists can also file in person at the Comptroller building, building 315 between 1 and 3 p.m. during UTA weekends.

For more information call the Finance Office at: DSN: 424-1330 or (910) 394-1330.

"People do not decide to become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things."

— Sir Edmund Hillary (1919 – 2008), explorer and humanitarian; in 1953, he and Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers known to have reached the summit of Mount Everest

Executive order bans feds from texting while driving

In an executive order issued Oct. 1, President Barack Obama banned federal employees from text messaging while behind the wheel on government business.

Text messaging, or "texting," encompasses more than simply sending a text message via a handheld communication device. It also includes reading from any handheld or other electronic device, including for the purpose of SMS texting, e-mailing, instant messaging, obtaining navigational information, or "engaging in any other form of electronic data retrieval or electronic data communication," the order said.

The order defines driving as "operating a motor vehicle on an active roadway with the motor running." This includes the time the vehicle is temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic light, stop sign or other cause.

While the order applies specifically to federal employees, it also asks contractors to follow suit and encourages civilians to adopt the same measures while operating their own vehicles.

C-130 dedication honors soldiers in Afghanistan

Air Force officials at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, dedicated a C-130 Hercules Oct. 5 to the soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division deployed to the airfield. The transport was originally dedicated Oct. 25, 2008, in North Carolina at Pope Air Force Base to Fort Bragg's entire 82nd Airborne Division.

Tail No. 79282 from Air Force Reserve Command's 440th Airlift Wing at Pope AFB has official nose art prominently displaying an American eagle in flight surrounding the iconic 82nd Airborne's insignia wings on the aircraft's fuselage. The plane also sports "Bragg-Pope" on its tail flash, showing the close relationship between Fort Bragg and Pope AFB.

Accepting applications for 1st. Sergeant positions

Applications are now being accepted to fill several first sergeant positions in the 440th Airlift Wing. First sergeants exercise general supervision over enlisted members and are the focal point within a unit for all matters concerning enlisted members. First sergeants must be knowledgeable about Air Force and Reserve Command missions, policies and personnel programs, with emphasis on personnel, administration and counseling techniques.

Applicants must submit a complete package no later than March 1. Interested NCOs who want more information on the application requirements and process should contact their unit first sergeant or the 440th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Roeder by e-mail: jeffrey.roeder@pope.af.mil, DSN 424-5036, (910)-644-5036 or Master Sgt. Mark A. Honn, (910)394-3952, DSN 424-3952, E-mail: mark.honn@pope.af.mil

Prerequisites for eligibility include: the ability to speak and write distinctly; be in the grade of master sergeant or eligible for immediate promotion to master sergeant; hold a current seven level in any AFSC; have a minimum physical profile of PULHES 333231, minimum ASVAB scores of 41 Administrative or 62 General; must be in good physical health; good physical appearance and military image; must have completed NCOA prior to application and must attend the three week Air Force First Sergeant Academy within 12 months from the date of appointment. This requirement will not be waived. Successful applicants must complete Senior NCO Academy within 18 months upon graduation from the First Sergeants Academy.

440th Yellow Ribbon Program retreats to Myrtle Beach

by Capt. Joshua Parsons

Yellow Ribbon Program Coordinator

photographs by Senior Airman Jackie Pender

The 440th Airlift Wing Yellow Ribbon Program kicked off its first family retreat on November 21, 2009, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina with over 80 attendees from Seymour Johnson and Pope Air Force Base. Fourteen military support agencies from Pope and Seymour Johnson were present to answer questions and provide seminars on services available to deploying members and their families. There were plenty of free information packages handed out and the City of Myrtle Beach showed their military appreciation with gift bags and local discounts.

The Yellow Ribbon program is command driven and designed to bring tailored services to members and their families during deployment rotations. The program has successfully laid the ground work to facilitate family services throughout the entire deployment cycle starting with the first mobilization notification and continuing through the deployed, demobilization and

reconstitution phases.

Airmen and their family members are provided information directly from the source to include health care, finance and pay, education benefits, youth programs, civilian employment, legal rights, and other relative information specific to reserve units.

The strategy behind the family retreat is two-fold: it allows for the distribution of helpful information and resources through various informal seminars and it gives families the time to reintegrate in a relaxing-upbeat environment. Retreats range from 1 to 3 days and include meals, lodging, transportation, and childcare at no cost to service members and their families.

The Yellow Ribbon Program strives to ensure that family members are well taken care of while their loved ones are deployed.

Servicemen deploying or returning from a deployment lasting 90 days or more who would like more information please contact your 1st Sergeant. We look forward to serving you at our next event planned for February 2010. Please contact Captain Joshua Parsons at e-mail: joshua.parsons@pope.af.mil.



Senior Airman Tamika Taylor and her mother Ann Danzy enjoy a day of arts and crafts while attending the 440th AW Yellow Ribbon Retreat Weekend at the Crown Reef Resort located in Myrtle Beach, S.C.



Tech. Sgt. Kevin Wood looks on as his family assembles a snow globe during an arts and craft demonstration while attending the 440 AW Yellow Ribbon event in Myrtle Beach, S.C., November 11, 2009.



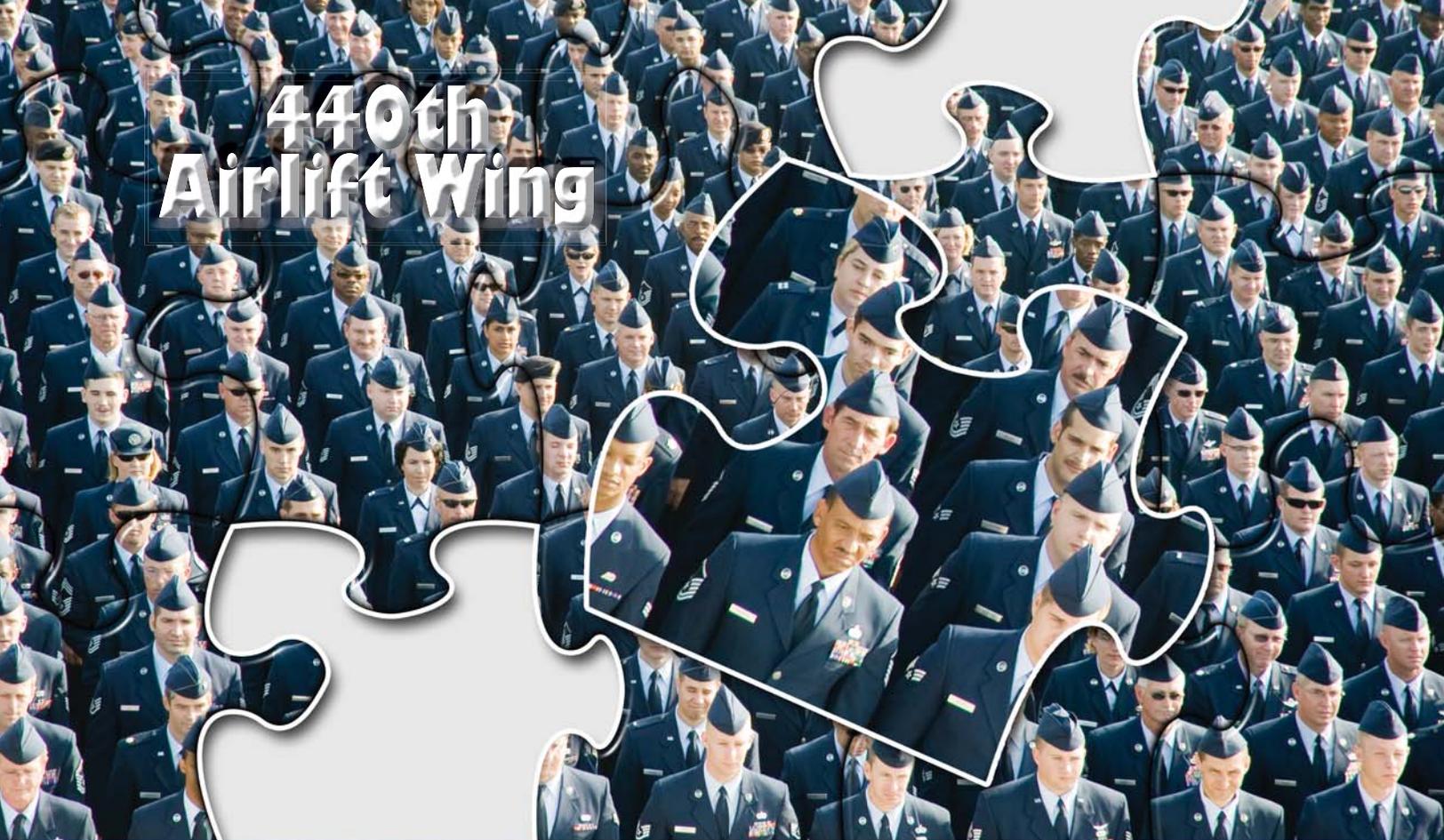
While attending a 440th AW Yellow Ribbon Retreat weekend at the Crown Reef Resort in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Tech Sgt. John Battaglia and his son Andrew spend some family time together.

Promotions November 2009

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----|-------------|---------|-----|-----------|----|----------|----------|
| SMSGT Thomas | E. | Doyle | 440 MX | SRA | Brandon | L. | Bullock | 440 MXS |
| MSGT Scott | A. | Zane | 95 AS | SRA | Stefan | T. | Mabry | 440 SFS |
| TSGT Natalie | A. | Schaubroeck | 440 MXS | SRA | Cody | D. | Stoll | 440 AMXS |
| TSGT Robbie | L. | Harrell | 95 AS | SRA | Kelsey | P. | Walsh | 440 LRS |
| TSGT Christopher | S. | Humphrey | 53 APS | SRA | Robert | D. | Walters | 440 MXS |
| TSGT Natalie | N. | Mcfadden | 53 APS | A1C | Hillari | L. | Burgess | 440 SFS |
| TSGT Joy | P. | Wiggs | 440 MDS | AMN | Derry | | Brown | 440 MSF |
| SSGT Steven | L. | Collazo | 440 SFS | AMN | Christian | S. | Izzard | 53 APS |
| SSGT Timothy | H. | Dawson | 53 APS | AMN | Sarah | A. | Mayernik | 440 MSF |

Promotions October 2009

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|-------------|---------|------|-----------|----|-----------|----------|
| SMSGT Michael | J. | Dederich | 440 SFS | SSGT | Michael | G. | Hughes | 440 MXS |
| SMSGT Jada | L. | Holland | 440 SFS | SSGT | Brian | M. | Weller | 440 MXS |
| SMSGT Patrick | J. | Kortsch | 440 SFS | SSGT | Bryan | M. | Rudy | 440 AMXS |
| MSGT Michael | J. | Brofka | 95 AS | SSGT | Christina | M. | Butler | 440 OSF |
| MSGT Aurora | J. | Broughman | 440 SFS | SRA | Deborah | L. | Dickman | 440 MXS |
| MSGT Tracy | D. | Cornett | 440 LRS | SRA | Travis | B. | Johnson | 440 MXS |
| MSGT Derrick | J. | Ray | 440 SFS | SRA | Sharad | R. | Lindsey | 440 SFS |
| MSGT Barry | R. | Satterfield | 440 MDS | SRA | Justina | A. | Gilliam | 53 APS |
| MSGT Arnita | | Tunstall | 440 MDS | SRA | Donnell | C. | Highsmith | 440 SFS |
| TSGT Barbara | B. | Jones | 440 OSF | SRA | Tara | L. | Riggins | 440 MXS |
| TSGT Jackie | W. | Lawson | 440 MXS | SRA | Gabrielle | C. | Shaw | 440 OSF |
| TSGT Russell | P. | Thompson | 440 SFS | SRA | Rashad | V. | Wise | 440 AMXS |
| SSGT Senna | M. | Bennett | 36 AES | AMN | Samuel | | Burnett | 440 SFS |
| SSGT Stephen | D. | Carroll | 440 MXS | AMN | Tanika | R. | Ballard | 36 AES |



440th Airlift Wing

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