

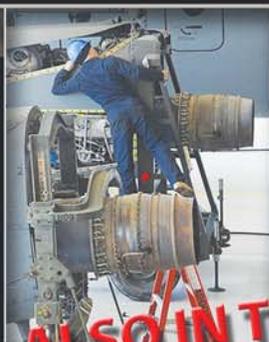
# COMBAT AIRLIFTER

440th Airlift Wing

“Vincit qui primum gerit”

May 2010 Vol. 4, No. 3

## 440 MXG Completes Four-Engine Swap



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# From Private to Colonel – Reflections of an Unlikely Journey

## May 25, 1977, Parris Island, SC

It was raining fairly hard outside our squadron-bay window; in fact it seemed like it had been raining all week on the island. We were forced to take our graduation indoors to the base theater, but that would not dampen our excitement of graduating from Marine Corps boot camp. Our drill instructors, who had been our worst enemies 13 weeks earlier, and we their problem children, were now bursting with pride as they marched us into the theater in perfect alignment. Nearly an hour later with a thunderous cheer, myself and 42 other platoon members, were officially dismissed as new Marines. I had no idea where my military journey commencing that rainy day on Parris Island would take me.

## Feb. 20, 2010, Pope Air Force Base, NC

I looked at the clock on the wall, it was exactly 2:30 p.m. one hour away from my pin-on ceremony to colonel. I was busy typing emails to my squadron commanders and group staff. I had to change into my service dress uniform, pick up my family at lodging and get to building 900 by 3 p.m. The 440th Mission Support Group staff wanted to conduct at least one rehearsal of the ceremony that was scheduled to start at 3:30 p.m., so I needed to hurry. As the wing commander entered the auditorium the room was called to attention. The promotion order was published and 32 years, eight months, 26 days, and five hours after I graduated Marine Corp boot camp, I became a full-bird colonel in the United States Air Force.

It has been an unlikely journey and I thought I would share with you a few things learned along the way. Remember, a smart person learns from his or her mistakes, a wise person learns from someone else's mistakes. Below I have listed a few thoughts, lessons and opinions gained over the years.

### Attitude - too much of the wrong kind may set you back

I remember arriving to my first duty station and thinking "this is the Corps?" It was 1977, the Vietnam War had only been over for four years and it showed. There was a great deal of drug use, alcoholism and racial tension found in the ranks. I had a senior non-commissioned officer basically tell me to stay away from the African Americans. Instead of trying to rise above the situation, I let it define me and subsequently my attitude. I was angry and disappointed, and I didn't do a good job of hiding it. I should have focused on what I could do to make myself a better contributor, learn my job well and work at being a knowledgeable Marine. Because I had a poor attitude, I was never advanced in position or responsibility despite being constantly told by leadership that I had the poten-

tial to excel and become a good leader.

I learned that a bad attitude overshadowed my better qualities. Now as a senior leader, I see people who complain all the time as part of the problem and those who make positive and constructive recommendations part of the solution. The right attitude helps establish trust and confidence with those you lead and serve. While you will encounter difficult and frustrating times, stay positive and don't focus on the rearview mirror. Don't dwell on what is behind you. Look forward to spot the curves ahead and figure out how you can make things better for everyone. Bring attitude to the game, but make sure it is all good attitude and your chances of being successful will be much greater.



Colonel Joseph Almodovar  
MSG Commander

### Knowledge – the great equalizer

Master your job, be technically and tactically proficient and propose solutions to problems. Do those things and you will overcome biases and prejudices you encounter in your career. When I became really proficient at my job, I was known as "the go-to guy." I focused on getting things done right and presented solutions to problems; people at all levels noticed, which gave me good standing within the organization.

Do not limit your knowledge to your military occupation. Effective leaders are well rounded and typically well read. As you rise through the ranks, you will move from leading the people to leading the institution, and your skills and knowledge will need to become more operational and strategic based. That knowledge will help provide you a more level playing field as you progress through your military career.

### It's all about the people

"Mission first – people always." How many times have you worked with someone in the military who solely focused on the mission first and didn't care or remember the people? How many people have you encountered that believed "it's all about me"? I certainly have, and surprisingly, I learned a great

*Continued on page 3*

### \*\*\* Save the dates \*\*\*

- May UTA, Prepare for ORTP 4
- May 14-16, ORTP 3- ICC, EOC, UCC personnel only
- June 1-10, ORTP 4, All ORI participants
- August 7- Wing Picnic- ALL
- Oct 15-23- ORE, All ORI participants
- Jan 30- Feb 6, 2011- ORI, All ORI participants

### \*\*\* ORTP 4 – Basic Info \*\*\*

- June 1-10 Annual Tour, Volk Field, Wisconsin
- June 1-2 - Unit assembly/ packing
- June 3 - ADVON Deploys
- June 4 - Main Body Deploys
- June 5-6 - Training/Setup Days
- June 7-8 - Exercise
- June 9 - Main Body Redeploys
- June 10 - ADVON Redeploys

### ORTP-4 What do you need? Anything you would need if you were deploying!

Orders, mobility folder, updated family care plan, JLIST suit, web belt, canteen, Airman's Manual, UTC Equipment, know your MISCAP/METS, checklists, medicine/11 days of prescription medicine, toiletries and multiple PT uniforms including sweat pants.

**What else?** Flip charts, office supplies, or anything else you need to be successful in your job, and a positive attitude!

*Continued from page 2*

deal from them. I learned first-hand when you don't care for the people, don't help mentor and develop them, don't guide them when they have taken a misstep, or simply seem uninterested in them they will stop caring and quit putting their best effort forward. When people stop caring, the mission will ultimately be negatively impacted. Taking care of people is critical to the mission, but it is also simply the right thing to do.

### One job at a time

When I came back to the Air Force Reserve from the Army Guard, I transferred into finance. Quite honestly finance, a critical and important function, did not appeal to me. However, I worked very hard at being a good finance officer despite not being happy in the career field. Years later a couple of group commanders noticed me and offered the opportunity to be a squadron commander. If I had let my unhappiness impact my performance in finance and my desire to become a squadron commander distract me from doing my finance job, I can say with all certainty that I would have never been offered the command opportunity. Focus on the job you have, work hard at being the best you

can be and the next job you desire will come easier to you. One job at a time!

### Chill out!

I remember reading an account of General Ulysses S. Grant that has stayed with me all these years. Grant's army was in a pitched battle and would ultimately lose the fight that day. During the battle as reports bearing bad news arrived at headquarters, he simply sat calmly chewing on his cigars and chilling under a nearby tree. He never once displayed feelings of panic or fear. I am certain his calm demeanor encouraged his officers and men despite the bad news and ultimately helped them remain united enough to defeat the confederates the next day. It is OK to feel emotions over a situation but that is different from being emotional.

Airmen, or anyone else for that matter, prefer leaders who are the calm during the storm, who remain even-keeled despite the chaos surrounding them, and who can make decisions under pressure. The tougher the times the more calm you need to be in order to be an effective leader. So keep your chill pills handy and be like General Grant calm, cool and collected.

**Editor's note:** Misprint in the March 2010 Combat Airlifter commander's comments article reference to "The Little Blue Book" AETC publication Jan. 1, 1997. Paragraph should have read: "The Little Blue Book" elaborates that these "are much more than minimum standards. They remind us what it takes to get the mission done. They inspire us to do our best at all times. They are the common bond among all comrades in arms, and they are the glue that unifies the force and ties us to the great warriors and public servants of the past."

<p><b>Volume 4</b> <b>No.3</b> <b>May 2010</b></p>	<p><b>Wing Commander</b> Col. Merle D. Hart <b>Chief, Public Affairs</b> Capt. Torri White <b>Editor</b> Master Sgt. Kevin Brody</p>	<p><b>Public Affairs Staff</b> Capt. Jeff Schoen Master Sgt. Kevin Brody Master Sgt. Steve Staedler Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Pender Senior Airman Peter Miller Mr. Gerald Green</p>	<p><b>Office of Public Affairs</b> <b>440th Airlift Wing</b> 374 Maynard Street, Suite 301 Pope AFB, NC, 28308-2409 Phone: 910.394.5455 FAX: 910.394.5459</p>	<p><b>About The Cover</b> The integrated 440th Maintenance Group simultaneously swapped out four T-56 turbo-prop engines and replaced them with engines fitted with oil augmentation systems.</p>
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# 440th Airlift Wing gives “second chance at life” to heroes abroad

by Senior Airman Peter R. Miller

It was early in the morning when the hospital received word four injured Marines had arrived from a remote combat outpost. Battered by an improvised explosive device, their injuries were severe. Within an hour, the blood laboratory’s supply was exhausted.

“Where’s my blood?” the surgeon asked. “If these Marines don’t get transfusions within the next five minutes, they’re going to die.”

Five minutes pass.

“I need my blood Captain Treviño,” the surgeon demands harshly as he stares at a vacant helipad.

“Where’s my blood?”

Fifteen minutes later, the aircraft arrives.

After Army Capt. Javier Treviño gives the blood an initial inspection, surgeons quickly and efficiently transfuse the traumatically injured Marines. Under expert care, their injuries stabilize. The four Marines are eventually transported to Germany, alive.

Captain Treviño’s experience as a blood laboratory manager in Abu Ghraib Hospital, Iraq, illustrates the importance of local blood drives. “This program has saved a lot of lives,” said Captain Treviño, now chief

of blood services at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, N.C. “The blood we are collecting here for the Armed Forces Blood Program can be saving troops downrange in seven days.”

Captain Treviño patiently surveyed his staff of Army laboratory technicians and field medics, and

their civilian counterparts as they calmly pinned and extracted gallons of life-saving blood from 440th Airlift Wing volunteers during the March 6 blood drive at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

“Surgeons want the freshest blood possible, because it gives them the best possibility of saving someone,” Captain Treviño continued. “What is important to know is that the blood we gather is only used to treat members of the military.”

Captain Treviño’s team harvested 38 units of blood from the Airmen this day.

“Three to four injured troops may require 100 units of blood in an hour and a half if they suffer from severe traumatic injuries,” said Captain Treviño. “All Department of Defense personnel need to participate, because our troops downrange are depending on us.”

Members of all U.S. military branches work together as a team to make the Armed Forces Blood Program a success the same way we fight as one to win wars, said Army Master Sgt. Jamie Bowen, mobile blood drive officer-in-charge. It is one big mission to gather the blood and transport it wherever it is needed.

“I’m glad they’re here today,” said Air Force Master Sgt. William Desarden, a 440th Airlift Wing Medical Squadron nurse technologist. “It makes it a lot easier to give blood.”



Air Force Master Sgt William Desarden elevates his arm after having his blood drawn at an Armed Forces Blood Program mobile blood drive outreach at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., on Apr. 6, 2010. All blood donated through the Armed Forces Blood Program is used to save the lives of U.S. military members overseas and in stateside military hospitals. (Official U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Peter R. Miller)



Army Sergeant Robert Spicer, a medical lab technologist with the Womack Army Medical Center mobile blood collection center, prepares skin before drawing blood at an Armed Forces Blood Program mobile blood drive outreach at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., on Apr. 6, 2010. All blood donated through the Armed Forces Blood Program is used to save the lives of U.S. military members overseas and in stateside military hospitals. (Official U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Peter R. Miller)

*“The blood we are collecting here for the Armed Forces Blood Program can be saving troops downrange in seven days.” said Capt. Javier Treviño, chief of blood services, Womack Army Medical Center*



Army Staff Sergeant Collin Green, lab non-commissioned-officer-in-charge of the Womack Army Medical Center mobile blood drive, observes his patients during an Armed Forces Blood Program mobile blood drive outreach at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., on Apr. 6, 2010. All blood donated through the Armed Forces Blood Program is used to save the lives of U.S. military members overseas and in stateside military hospitals. (Official U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Peter R. Miller)



# TAKING CARE OF OUR WOUNDED

## 36TH AND 43D'S MEDICAL TEAMS TRAIN FOR REAL WORLD DUTIES

Story and photographs by Mr. Jerry Green

During the morning of March 19, 2010, the pre-mission briefing begins when medical team members are seated with notepads ready. The lead medical crew coordinator reads critical information about the first of many patients expected on today's aero-medical evacuation flight. Patient number one: 23-year-old male stepped on a land mine, partial right ankle broke and shrapnel in lower body. Need movement ASAP. Received four units of blood. Patient number two: 26-year-old female, sustained multiple gunshots to the chest and right foot. Chest tube removed, no pneumo/hemothorax, being transferred to LRMC for long-term rehab. Patient number three: 30-year-old male, severe psychiatric disorder, saline pump, monitor, restraints.

This scene plays out every day when members of Air Force medical units fly missions providing medical care to wounded soldiers anywhere in the world. Today's mission is a very real training flight from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., to Kelly Field, Texas. The 23 members of the 36th and 43d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadrons based at Pope AFB, are training for real-world situations that can

occur in war zone environments and humanitarian relief missions.

Once the clinical information is read, medical technicians and nurses review each patient's vital signs and discuss any questions about the upcoming flight configuration. Tech. Sgt. Kristin Cooper, the instructor and flight examiner for today's mission, explains, "We need to be aware of the medical condition of our patients and special equipment that will be required for their life sustainment during this four-hour flight."

Keenly aware there were more pre-mission checklist items to complete, Lt. Col. Deb Saltmarsh, the medical director for today's flight, reviews the required aircraft emergency procedures. She asks, "What is the

bold face for smoke and fumes elimination?" The team is quick to respond, "Oxygen on/100 percent, all." Satisfied with the responses and the other emergency procedures required of the flight crew, Colonel Saltmarsh directs the team to gather their professional gear and proceed to the assembly area.

Maj. Mary Hayes, the flight operations scheduler for the 36th AES, explains that a pre-brief is very important before each mission. "Each member on the team needs to know their responsibilities to the patient and to each other."

*"The coordination between the 36th and 43d AES team members demonstrates the medical team's dedication to our patients. We work together well. Our goals are the same; taking care of our patients." said Maj. Mary Hayes, 36 AES*

A Texas native with 23 years of experience as an emergency room and intensive care unit nurse, Major Hayes explains that today's flight is a joint-integration mission for the active and reserve squadrons. "The patient's comfort and life sustainment is our only responsibility during the mission," says Major Hayes. "The coordination between the 36th and 43d AES team members demonstrates the medical team's dedication to our patients. We work together well. Our goals are the same; taking care of our patients."

The C-130 for today's training mission is Pope aircraft #87-9282, displaying its distinctive 82nd Airborne Division nose art. Crews flying this aircraft in the AOR have completed numerous "med-evacs" since the wing's first Southwest Asia deployments started in 2003. Capt. Grady Dieckert, 440th operations officer, is the pilot for today's "turnaround" flight. While waiting for the next patient upload, Captain Dieckert said, "The mission for the aero-med is going to be a little rough. There are numerous "Texas thermals" and they have bounced us around, and I am sure it will not be easy to walk in the back." Captain Dieckert, a native of Texas, knew the bumpy air would continue during the rest of the flight and would make work in the back of the aircraft difficult.

Off to one side of the tarmac were the dummy patients on litters. Quietly waiting their turn to be loaded, they showed no concern for the upcoming flight. These "patients" were missing legs and limbs, but weighed more than 150 pounds, simulating real world litter weights that the "med-techs" handle during engine-running offloads.

Standing in the middle of the ramp, the noise from the aircraft engines makes it almost impossible to hear. To compensate for the noise, the medical director uses hand signals to direct the loading team's movement of the litters

into support stanchions located throughout the aircraft. A full-litter configuration for the C-130 can be as many as 74 litter spaces with two attendants, but today's training flight uses the "inside-litter configuration" with 16 litters and eight ambulatory care patients aboard.

Resembling a traffic cop directing traffic, Captain Constance Marsh coordinates the next litter to enter the aircraft. "My role is directing the orderly upload and offload of patients. We want the movement of patients to proceed smoothly, but at the same time as quick as possible."

Captain Marsh, a native of Woodstock, N.Y. is getting her "Stan/Eval" check on this trip. The Standardization and Evaluation check is the term used to grade performance as an aeromedical-flight nurse. Scattered among these experienced professionals is the next generation "aero-meds." Carrying their share of the workload, these Airmen are on two-year training profiles. The "med-techs" must have a 5-level and six months experience before they are eligible to deploy. Senior Airman Nicole Caldwell has been on the job training for almost two years and will get her "Stan/Eval" check in two weeks. Senior Airman Gurpreet Dhaliwal, is a student pursuing a Master's Degree at Campbell University and a "med-tech" in training. Senior Airman Michael Peters, is another next generation aero-med. Airman Peters manhandled the 150 pound litters into the stanchions positioning the litters and properly securing the patients for the flight.

Many members from these two squadrons will deploy next month for extended tours of duty. They will use the skills they practiced during this weekend training exercise to provide care to our wounded.



# Four Engines – Two Days - Mission Complete

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Kevin Brody

On the evening of March 4, Airmen assigned to the integrated 440th Maintenance Group at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. began executing a carefully orchestrated plan designed to simultaneously swap out four T-56 turboprop engines on one of their C-130 aircraft. The replacement engines were outfitted with oil augmentation systems that allow the aircraft to idle at lower engine temperatures when operating in high temperature environments increasing the engine's life span.

In preparation for the multi-engine swap the aircraft was defueled before being towed into the isochronal hanger. Once inside, crews stabilized the aircraft with wing and tail supports, and added ballast to the front end to compensate for the shift in weight when the engines are removed.

"It has taken me over twenty years of service to see this," said Tech. Sgt. Tapu Sitagata, flight chief for the 2nd Airlift Squadron propulsion shop. "Many of these Airmen are getting to see this very early in their careers and they should be very proud of what they are doing."

Prior to the engine swap, supervisors and section chief's spent five days designing a contingency plan to combat any problems they might encounter.

"It normally takes us around a day to change one engine

requiring two shifts to assemble equipment, parts and manpower," said Chief Master Sgt. Danny Formanski, 440th Airlift Wing maintenance supervisor. "By completing all special inspections prior to hanging the engines, the process was not slowed down, and we were able to accomplish the mission in two days."

The success of the mission also depended on the organization, supervision and detailed instruction that Airmen received throughout the process.

"The objective was to break the mission down into small

tasks so the troops could see the bigger picture," said Sergeant Sitagata. "We had the Airmen look over the job guides so they knew the entire process from start to finish."

"When I originally went into this it did not seem like a big deal because we swap engines on a weekly basis," said Airman 1st Class Emmanuel Wilds, aircraft maintenance specialist with the 2nd Airlift Squadron. "Once we were half way through, I realized

the bigger picture of what we were doing. I learned in 24 hours what I probably would have in about six months."

When swapping out an aircraft engine, especially four at the same time, safety is a key factor to consider.

"A major step in the process is to place warning tags to ensure safety," said Senior Airman Emmanuel Perez, an air reserve technician with the 440th Airlift Wing propulsion

*"It has taken me over twenty years of service to see this. Many of these Airmen are getting to see this very early in their careers and they should be very proud of what they are doing," said Tech. Sgt. Tapu Sitagata, flight chief 2AS.*



shop. "Making sure the aircraft has safety wires installed and that the fuel and oil valves are properly shutoff is a very important step."

Once the engines were removed from the aircraft Airmen from metal technology, electro-environmental and non-destructive inspection shops began to inspect the engine compartments as they went through their inspection check lists.

"The metal technology shop checks the engine mounts for serviceability," said Chief Master Sgt. Formanski. "NDI perform eddy current inspections checking truss-mounts for cracks as electro-environmental set up electrical connections and inspect the overheat detector system prior to hanging the engines."

After all inspections were completed, Airmen from the engine propulsion shop began the process of re-installing the new engines, double checking that all fittings, valves and hoses were secure, and that all nuts and bolts were properly torqued according to specifications.

The final step of the four-engine swap was an

operational check to ensure all components are functioning within required limits.

"The aircraft is towed onto the flightline, chocked and brakes applied," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Pennebaker, propulsion flight superintendent. "Each engine is run through a full-operational check including a run up to full power. This is performed one engine at a time."

By the end of the mission, in spite of two long days of work, personnel were upbeat and positive about their accomplishment.

"With deployers coming and going and three 7-levels gone, Airmen with 3-skill levels stepped up to the challenge," said Sergeant Sitagata. "They did an outstanding job."

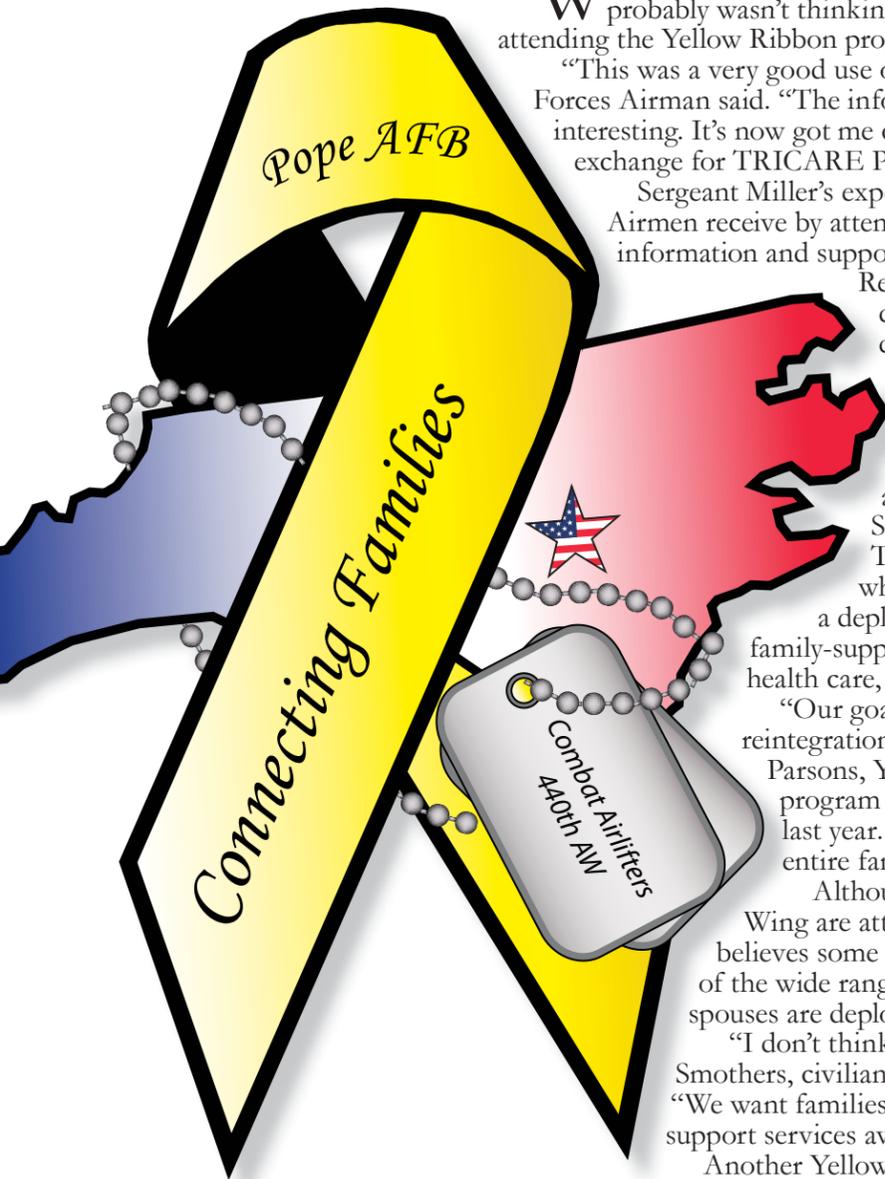
"Seeing these four engines being completely replaced in 24 hours is a big pride thing. The planning was immense and thorough," said Airman Wilds.

"Doing this job every day can become routine, but when you are part of something like this... the big picture comes into play," said Sergeant Perez, "You realize that lives rely on you, and that is an immense feeling of satisfaction."



# Yellow Ribbon - Myrtle Beach, S.C.

by Master Sgt. Steve Staedler



While recently deployed to Iraq for six months, Tech. Sgt. Tracy Miller probably wasn't thinking much about health insurance costs. But after attending the Yellow Ribbon program earlier this year – he is now.

"This was a very good use of our time," the 440th Airlift Wing Security Forces Airman said. "The information on health insurance was very interesting. It's now got me considering dropping my current carrier in exchange for TRICARE Prime. That would almost cut my costs in half."

Sergeant Miller's experience is exactly what organizers hope that Airmen receive by attending Yellow Ribbon, a program aimed at sharing information and support opportunities to National Guardsmen and Reservists and their families throughout the deployment cycle. The Air Force defines the deployment cycle as the time Airmen begin preparations at home station to deploy until about 45 days after they return home.

Held Feb. 5 - 7 in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Yellow Ribbon attracted about 160 Airmen and their families from North Carolina's Seymour Johnson and Pope Air Force Bases. The three-year-old program provides Airmen who are deploying or have recently returned from a deployment onsite one-on-one visits with various family-support agencies and briefings on key topics such as health care, finance and education.

"Our goal for Yellow Ribbon is to assist in family reintegration before and after deployment," said Capt. Joshua Parsons, Yellow Ribbon program coordinator. "The program has grown quite a bit from when it started just last year. Yellow Ribbon truly is for the benefit of the entire family."

Although the 440th Airlift Wing and the 916th Airlift Wing are attached to active-duty bases, Elizabeth Smothers believes some family members of Reservists aren't fully aware of the wide range of services available to them while their spouses are deployed. "I don't think a lot of Reservists know that we are here," said Smothers, civilian community readiness consultant at Pope AFB. "We want families to know that we are here for them and there are support services available to help during the deployment."

Another Yellow Ribbon program is already planned for May 7-9 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Charlotte.

### Helpful Links:

- Department of Veterans Affairs: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)
- Military OneSource: [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve: [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org)
- Department of Labor: [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov)
- U.S. Armed Forces Legal Assistance: [www.legalassistance.law.af.mil](http://www.legalassistance.law.af.mil)
- Military HOMEFRONT: [www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil)
- USA.GOV: [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov)
- American Red Cross: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
- Yellow Ribbon: [www.yellowribbon.mil](http://www.yellowribbon.mil)

# Has your gas mask been fit tested?

by Master Sgt. Steve Staedler

Anyone who has deployed knows the checklist to out-process is long and filled with visits to different units throughout the base.

One of those visits is going to be with Senior Airman Dominique Smith.

As a bioenvironmental engineer apprentice with the 440th Medical Squadron, Airman Smith is the wing's gas mask fit tester. Everyone who is deploying must have their mask fit-tested prior to leaving, even if they deployed within the last year a new test is required for each deployment.

"A group of us are heading to Iraq in April, and getting our masks tested is just one of the things on the checklist to check off," said Tech. Sgt. Josh Sharpe, 53rd Aerial Port Squadron. "I'm looking forward to going over there; it's what we've trained to do. Getting the mask fit test done is one less thing to do now."

Three qualifiers that necessitate a gas mask fit test are Airmen deploying overseas, a weight gain or loss of more than five pounds that affects the overall shape of the face and a new mask. Since many wing Airmen are receiving new masks in preparation for the upcoming operational readiness inspection in January 2011, they will need to visit Airman Smith to get their mask tested.

Tests take about seven minutes to complete. While wearing their masks Airmen are hooked up to a machine that checks for particulate counts. Airmen are instructed to turn their heads side to side, up and down while breathing normally to see if the seal holds true. To simulate exposure to a particulate or chemical agent, Airman Smith waves smoke from a lit match in

front of the mask to check its integrity.

One of the main reasons a mask fails the fit test is because it isn't properly sized to the face. Airman Smith said many people choose a mask that's too big, which doesn't seal properly because the mask and face don't match up. He also said many of the older masks fail because the seal has become dry and has lost its elasticity to provide an adequate seal.

Current regulations state new gas masks only need to be tested once, unless an Airman is deploying or has experienced weight gain or loss. Under the old rules, gas masks had to be tested every three years.

"Most people don't think they need a fit test because of the unit they are assigned to, but all masks need to be tested at least once," Airman Smith said. "I'd advise people to just come in and get their masks tested as soon as possible. If you're deploying, this is a quick thing to check off."

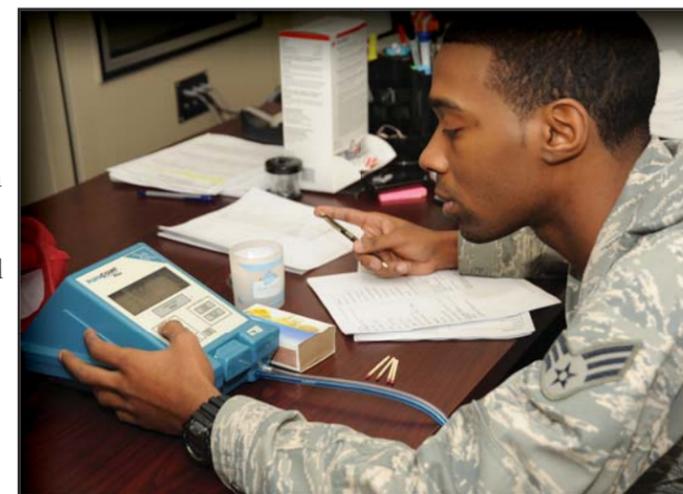
During UTA weekends, Airman Smith devotes much of his Saturdays testing gas masks designed to combat chemical and biological agents.

On Sunday, he tests respiratory protective gear used by special personnel assigned to the medical, maintenance and environmental sections on base. Medical personnel that treat patients suffering from tuberculosis have to use a specially designed mask and hood combination to shield them from pathogens. Other base personnel that use paint and chemical products must have their masks outfitted with filter devices designed to combat varying size particulate matter. Airmen with these more specialized AFSCs must check the functionality of their masks yearly.

Gas mask fit testing is performed at the 440th MDS in room 119, building 399. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call Airman Smith at (910)394-1682.



Air Force Tech. Sgt. Joshua Sharpe moves his head up and down testing the seal of his gas mask at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., February 20, 2010. Tech. Sgt. Sharpe is preparing for an overseas deployment and a gas mask fit test is an imperative part of pre-deployment preparation. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jacqueline Pender)



Senior Airman Dominique Smith of the 440th Airlift Wing Medical Group annotates the results of a gas mask fit test in his office at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., February 20, 2010. Senior Airman Smith is a Biological Technician; his job is to administer gas mask fit tests and ensure that troops are deployed with a mask that will protect them against biological threats. On a UTA weekend Senior Airman Smith stays very busy administering up to 30 tests, all of which can take between six and seven minutes per test. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jacqueline Pender)

## We're hiring Combat Airlifters!

More than 200 civilian, Reserve and Air Reserve Technician positions are currently open at the 440th Airlift Wing. The available positions range from administrative support to jet engine mechanic, offering something for everyone. The positions cover a wide range from student hire opportunities that require no experience to openings for highly skilled veteran mechanics or operators. Whatever your experience or career field, there may be a position for you or someone you know!

The open positions will help the 440th AW maintain operational readiness for the airlift of tactical and airborne units, personnel, supplies and equipment into any area by landing or airdrop. The 440th AW is dependent on ARTs and civilians working side-by-side with active duty's 43rd Airlift Wing to operate, maintain and support 16 C-130 H2 aircraft. The close proximity to Ft. Bragg also offers Combat Airlifters the unique opportunity to serve as a joint force partner, providing air transportation for the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division and XVIII Airborne Corps.

The wing includes about 1200 traditional Reserve, Air Reserve Technician and civilian positions. The majority of the 440th AW is made up of traditional Reservists, members obligated to work one weekend a month and 2 weeks a year for annual training. The wing currently has over 100 open traditional Reserve opportunities. About 20 percent of the positions at the 440th AW are "ARTs", or Air Reserve Technicians. Reservists serving in the ART program carry dual status, working as full-time civil service employees Monday-Friday and as military members performing the same job for an additional one weekend a month and two weeks a year. Over 45 ART and 100 straight civilian positions are or will be open in the next few months. The straight civilian positions with the 440th AW also serve as support for the Reserve mission.

Both the ART and civilian positions provide day-to-day continuity for Reservists and are essential to the success for the Reserve mission. More information about the open traditional Reserve, ART and civilian positions can be found below.

### Full-time ART opportunities

Go to [www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com) and enter 28308 as the location. Select a radius in the top right hand corner of 10 miles. Refine your results; click AGENCY on the right hand side of the page. Select the Department of the Air Force to see open positions at Pope AFB, NC. For additional information contact Master Sgt. Scott Soucie, Pope AFB ART recruiter, at 478-953-1919 or email [scott.soucie@us.af.mil](mailto:scott.soucie@us.af.mil). Open positions change frequently. Check the website for the most current information.

#### Operations

C-130 pilot/flight instr./navigator/  
loadmasters/Operations Flight Clerk/  
Technician,

#### Support

Administrative Support Specialist, Command Post Technician/Financial Management Specialist,  
Human Resource Assistant, Mission Support Officer, Executive Officer,  
Services Specialist.

#### Maintenance

Aircraft Fuels Systems Mechanic, -Aircraft Hydraulic Systems Mechanic, Aircraft Mechanic,  
Aircraft Machinist/Welder,  
Aircraft Structures/Corrosion Control Mechanic, Aircraft Engine/Propeller Mechanic,  
Electronic Integrated Systems Mechanic, Ordnance Equipment Mechanic.  
Aerospace Ground Equipment

### Part-time Combat Airlifter

Know someone interested? Visit: [www.get1now.us](http://www.get1now.us). Some Reserve positions offer bonuses of up to \$20,000! To find out more about the qualifications, enlisted and officer openings, training and pay in the Air Force Reserve at Pope A.F.B. visit [www.afreserve.com](http://www.afreserve.com) and click on the link for Pope AFB or call 800-257-1212 to speak to an advisor. For additional information about traditional Reserve positions contact Master Sgt. Tommy Vitone at 910-394-2657 or email [tommy.vitone@pope.af.mil](mailto:tommy.vitone@pope.af.mil).

Aerospace Maintenance  
Aerospace Medical Service  
Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems  
Aircraft Fuel Systems  
Aircraft Hydraulic Systems  
Aircraft Loadmaster  
Aircraft Metals Technology  
Aircraft Systems  
Command Post Controller  
Flight Engineer  
Ground Radio Communications  
Medical Officers  
Navigator  
Pilot  
Services  
- Vehicle and Vehicular Equipment Maintenance  
Vehicle Management and Analysis  
Accounting/Budget Personnel  
Administrative Assistant/ Secretary

### Civilian Positions

Go to [www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com) and enter 28308 as the location. Select a radius in the top right hand corner of 10 miles. Refine your results; click AGENCY on the right hand side of the page. Select the Department of the Air Force to see open positions at Pope AFB, NC. For more information contact Lt. Col. Christian Bakogiannis, 440th Airlift Wing Civilian Manpower Liaison, at 910-496-6669 or email [panos.bakogiannis-02@pope.af.mil](mailto:panos.bakogiannis-02@pope.af.mil). Open positions change frequently. Check the website for the most current information.

Air Traffic Control Specialist  
Air Traffic Controller  
Airfield Management Specialist  
Airfield Manager  
Budget Analyst  
Clinical Social Worker  
Computer Assistant  
Electronics Technician (ATCALS)  
Environmental Health Technician  
Host Aviation Resource Mangm. Specialist  
Industrial Hygienist  
Internal Control Analyst  
IT (Telecommunications, Security and Specialist)  
Powered Support Systems Mechanic  
Supervisor, Air Traffic Controller  
Supervisor, Airfield Management Specialist  
Voucher Examiner  
Weather Advisory Specialist  
12 student hire positions are also available!

## Major's Band "Band-Aid" Rocks the Stage for Charity

by Capt. Torri White

It was a windy, cold and rainy evening in Spartanburg, S.C., but despite the weather the Upstate Performing Arts Center at the University of South Carolina sold out! The event was "Docs Who Rock," and Maj. Heleno Souza, a medical doctor with the 440th Airlift Wing Medical Squadron, represented the wing front and center with his band called "Band-Aid."

Over 400 people gathered in the arts center to support "Docs Who Rock" Saturday, March 13, which proved to be an evening of fun and entertainment presented by Spartanburg area doctors. Proceeds from the ticket sales were given to Spartanburg health related non-profit organizations.

Maj. Souza's band, "Band-Aid" was made up of five members from Lebanon, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Germany and the USA. Band-Aid added their own unique twist to the song "Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weenie Yellow Polka-dot Bikini" by taking turns performing versus in their native languages. In addition to English, they also sang rock and roll songs by Elvis Presley, The Beatles and Los Lobos in Spanish, Portuguese and German.



Maj. Heleno Souza demonstrates some physical therapy techniques during the April drill at the 440th Airlift Wing, Pope AFB, N.C. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Peter Miller)

"I feel gratified when I am able to serve America or a foreign population while in the Air Force uniform or as a civilian," says Maj. Souza. "Events this size help us raise money that benefit an uncountable number of lives. That reflects the core values I try to live by."

This year "Docs who Rock" generated over \$ 21,000 which will be donated and distributed to Spartanburg health-related nonprofits including St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic, T.O.T.A.L. Ministries, Ellen Hines Smith Girls' Home, Safe Homes - Rape Crisis, Children's Shelter of the Upstate and the Alice Ruth Folk Medical Scholarship.

Maj. Souza has been playing instruments since age 12 and currently plays the acoustic and electric guitar and the tambourine. He's involved with other volunteer work in South Carolina for the Civil Air Patrol and the Scottish Rite Clinic for Childhood Language Disorder. He's been a member of the 440th Airlift Wing since January 2009, when he transferred from the Air National Guard in Knoxville, Tenn. As a civilian, he is a

doctor with BMS Rehabilitation in Spartanburg, S.C. and Greenville Hospital Systems and University Medical Center in Greenville, S.C.

## 2010 AWARDS & METALS

### Meritorious Service Medal

*Capt TyEshia King, AW*

### Air Force Achievement Medal

*SrA Amy Libera 36 AES*

### AFRC Outstanding Grd Safety Civilian - Yr

*Mr. Mike Baron, AW*

### Aircrew Flt Equip Small Prgm - Yr

*440 OSS*

### Aircrew Flt Equip Amn - Yr

*SrA Christina Butler, OSS*

### Aircrew Flt Equip NCO - Yr

*SSgt Alexis Wallace, OSS*

### Airman of the Half, 2nd Half

*SrA Shaun Wallace, 95 AS*

### NCO of the Half, 2nd Half

*TSgt Craig Schwinden, 95 AS*

### SNCO of the Half, 2nd Half

*MSgt Janet McKnight, MDS*

### Airman of the Year

*SrA Shaun Wallace, 95 AS*

### NCO of the Year

*TSgt Craig Schwinden, 95 AS*

### SNCO of the Year

*SMSgt Neil Garrett, 53 APS*

### First Sergeant of the Year

*MSgt Steven Wiltberger, 95 AS*



# New Legal Website Available for Airmen

by Lt. Col. Karen Hecker

Have questions about family-law issues? Need a will worksheet? Visit [www.aflegalassistance.com](http://www.aflegalassistance.com) As of Feb. 1, 2010, you now have the ability to receive assistance in these and many other areas through the Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps' new legal assistance web site

It is designed to provide information and assistance to active duty and reserve component members, retirees and dependents. The Web site was created to increase efficiency and track client satisfaction with the Air Force legal assistance program. Because it is a public site, you can access it without a common access card.

It contains short fact sheets on common legal issues and links to other internet sites containing valuable information on a variety of topics. For example, you can retrieve information on deployment readiness, disaster assistance, family law, immigration, bankruptcy, consumer fraud, identity theft, planning for retirement, military benefits, real property, taxation and voting. You can also download online questionnaires for wills, living wills and powers of attorney covering a variety of legal matters such as: banking transactions, business transactions, selling of

real estate and personal property. The Web site provides secure online worksheets enabling you to gather information at home or from other family members, prior to meeting with the legal office. After a worksheet is completed, the Web site will issue you a unique ticket number. This ticket number is used to access the secure data when you meet with the legal office. While the Web site increases convenience for clients, you should be aware of the following caveats. Information on the Web site is for educational and informational purposes only. The Web site does not replace consultation with your local JAG, and military members should never rely solely on the Web site when making decisions involving legal matters. You will not have the ability to print a legal document (will, power of attorney, etc.) from the Web site, and you will need to visit the legal office and provide the appropriate ticket numbers to access the legal documents.

The JAG Corps and our office hope you find this website helpful. We encourage each of you to visit the Web site and see what it has to offer although you are not required to use the Web site prior to visiting the legal office.

For in-person assistance, please visit our office in Building 306, Suite 309, during UTA weekends.

## March Promotions

<b>MSGT Frank Mason</b>	<b>95 AS</b>	<b>SRA Keana L. Reed</b>	<b>53 APS</b>
<b>TSGT Donald G. Morris</b>	<b>MXS</b>	<b>SRA Jason M. Rowell</b>	<b>53 APS</b>
<b>SSGT Benjamin K. Croke</b>	<b>53 APS</b>	<b>SRA Dennis Robertson</b>	<b>MXS</b>
<b>SSGT Alicia L. Harper</b>	<b>36 AES</b>	<b>SRA Erick D. Robinson</b>	<b>MXS</b>
<b>SSGT Raymond Schlesner</b>	<b>AMXS</b>	<b>SRA David A. Sledge</b>	<b>MXS</b>
<b>SRA Curpreet Dhaliwal</b>	<b>36 AES</b>	<b>SRA Sierra B. Thompson</b>	<b>MXS</b>
<b>SRA Melissa D. Granados</b>	<b>53 APS</b>	<b>SRA David C. Wiley</b>	<b>53 APS</b>
<b>SRA William R. Perkins</b>	<b>MXS</b>	<b>SRA Lisa C. Williams</b>	<b>95 AS</b>
<b>SRA Joshua L. Reddish</b>	<b>53 APS</b>	<b>A1C Rasheed M. Smith</b>	<b>MXS</b>

## April Promotions

<b>MSGT Sean R. Bailey</b>	<b>AMXS</b>	<b>TSGT Sandro A. Cardona</b>	<b>AMXS</b>
<b>MSGT John W. Daniel</b>	<b>OG</b>	<b>SSGT Jacqueline M. Pender</b>	<b>AW</b>
<b>TSGT Cynthia A. Flaherty</b>	<b>MSF</b>	<b>SSGT Michael P. Dutery</b>	<b>OG</b>
<b>TSGT Matthew B. Marschall</b>	<b>AS</b>		

## NEWS & NOTES

### Military families gain access to free online tutoring

Defense Department officials launched a free, online tutoring service for servicemembers and their families. The site -- <http://www.tutor.com/military> -- offers round-the-clock professional tutors who can assist with homework, studying, test preparation, resume writing and more.



### Tricare University

If you are new to Tricare and want to learn about health care benefits or someone who just wants to know the latest changes, Tricare University is the place to go. At Tricare University, you can register for certified classroom and online training or just browse basic Tricare information. <http://tricare.mil/tricareu/>



### Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

As a uniformed service member you have rights under the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). For more information contact ESGR at: 1-800-336-4590 [WWW.ESGR.MIL](http://WWW.ESGR.MIL)



### The 440th Public Affairs wants you!

The 440th Public Affairs shop wants to provide the best products to there customer - YOU. Let us know what you would like to see in the newsletter and website including the new facebook page (440th Airlift Wing). Become a Public Affairs Representative for your section and be the eyes and ears for your Airmen. If interested contact the PA shop at (910) 394-5455/3219/2619, or stop by the office in building 306, suite 301.



### The 3rd Annual Pig Picking Barbecue



Sponsored by the 440th Airlift Wing Chaplain's Office  
When: Saturday, May 1 from 3-6 p.m.  
What: Barbecue, Pork & Chicken.  
Where: Pope Park  
Events: Live blue grass music by "Frank Mason & the Lonesome Few", dunk tank, bouncing castle.

### Be a star - fill out a hometown news release

Have you recently been promoted, won an award or relocated with the unit here to Pope Air Force Base? If you've done something that's newsworthy - then share it with the world. Fill out a hometown news release today. It's fast, easy and only takes a few minutes. Visit <https://440aw.afrc.af.mil> - Select hometown news release on right side tab.

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

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**LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE?**



**U.S. Air Force Reserve**

**800-257-1212**