

# *The Flying Badger*

440th Airlift Wing, General Mitchell ARS, Milwaukee Wisconsin

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photo submitted by 130th West Virginia Air National Guard Visual Information

Lt. Col. Kevin Shomin, Assistant Chief of Legal Services, hones his sand-bagging skills during the November IGX. For more IGX coverage, see page 10.

## The Flying Badger

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# New commander proud to lead 440th

by Col. Merle D. Hart  
Commander, 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing

I am excited to be here and thank you for making me feel welcome. A few minutes after taking command the inspector general exercise (IGX) briefings started and we have been on a marathon pace since.

While many of our people are deployed fighting the global war on terrorism, the folks here in Wisconsin generated four aircraft, aircrews to fly them and nearly 200 support specialists that joined with Guard and Reserve members from 37 units for a weeklong IGX in Savannah, Ga.

Your hard work and dedication insured our success and we passed with many glowing remarks. General Bankers, 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force commander, asked me to express his thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

We accomplished the IGX while busily working to support our folks who are in the AOR or are preparing to deploy. The pride, attitude and integrity of the 440<sup>th</sup> again came through. Thank you.

We've got close to 200 people

overseas supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Operating conditions are not always ideal but our operations and maintenance specialists are managing a 95 percent mission capable rate. Few units manage that rate in peacetime, so my hat is off to all the people that make that happen. A few weeks ago the bad guys scored a hit on a C-130 flown by a 440<sup>th</sup> crew that forced them to make an emergency landing. (See the story on pages 4-5.) The crew's actions were truly heroic; they did the right thing at the right time and saved many lives.

Leadership is not exercised from behind a desk so don't be surprised when I visit your office or shop. The part that makes our Air Force work is you, the individual working as a team. I met many of you and at some point will meet all of you. We are the 440<sup>th</sup> team and there are no insignificant people or jobs in our wing. I want my officers and NCOs to get out from behind their desks also. Solutions to the problems posed by the global war on terrorism and the IGX have given the members of this unit plenty of work to do, and we won't always



Col. Merle D. Hart

find solutions showing up on our computer screens. Excellence is what I'm looking for from myself first and then from you.

The unit pride I have seen thus far gives me a greater appreciation for the honor of having been selected as your commander. I could not be prouder, and I offer my sincere thanks to each of you for your hard work and dedication. Your continued efforts will ensure continued success throughout 2005 and for many years to come.

## Health care benefits improve for reservists, families

WASHINGTON - Reservists and Guardsmen are getting improved family health care for fighting the war on terror.

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2005 makes other reserve Tricare options permanent. Last year's defense bill temporarily authorized these benefits.

The president signed the act into law Oct. 28. "Our reservists and Guardsmen who are called to duty and their families deserve these great new benefits for their service to their country," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

Congress wanted to make it easier for military people in Air Force Reserve Command and the other reserve components to get health care.

In the past, reservists and their families could use Tricare for up to

90 days before the reservists were activated if they were scheduled to go on active duty for a contingency for more than 30 days. The new law makes this option permanent.

In addition, the Transitional Assistance Management Program became permanent. The program offers 180 days of transitional health care after reservists deactivate.

Under the Reserve Family Demonstration Project, families don't have to pay Tricare standard and extra deductibles if reservists must be on active duty for more than 30 days.

The law permits Tricare to pay nonparticipating providers up to 115 percent of its maximum allowable charge.

The project started Sept. 14, 2001, and was to end Nov. 1. Now, it ends Oct. 31, 2005. People called up after Sept. 11, 2001, who served

or will serve continuously in a contingency for 90 days or more, may buy standard healthcare coverage for themselves or the entire family after they demobilize. Coverage begins when the 180 days of transitional care ends.

To qualify, people must agree to serve for one year or more in the Selected Reserve after their active duty ends. They get one year of coverage for every year of commitment. If they got off active duty before Oct. 28 or get off within 180 days of that date, they have one year to sign up for the program.

Congress ordered the new Tricare standard enrollment program to start by April 26, 2005.

More information will be posted on the reserve affairs Web site at <http://www.defenselink.mil/ra>. (AFRC News Service from a Defense Department news release)

# AF unveils updated test utility uniform

by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Responding to Airmen's feedback, Air Force leaders unveiled an alternative utility uniform color scheme and pattern Nov. 2 as part of the ongoing wear-test that was announced in August 2003.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray are now wearing the latest test version of the utility uniform during visits to Airmen serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The most striking change in this version is the switch from a deep blue, gray and green color scheme to a more subdued mix of tan, blue and two shades of green. And the tiger-stripe pattern is now pixilated.

This test version includes design changes incorporated in September based on feedback from Airmen.

More than 700 people at 32 installations are wear-testing the first test uniform. These Airmen participated in scientific surveys and focus groups. Their feedback was instrumental in making these most recent adjustments. The original plan called for only 300 testers, but uniform board officials decided to increase the number of testers to get more exposure and collect more test data. A select group will test the newest version.

Data showed that a service-unique appearance was very important to Airmen.

"Ninety-one percent of the Airmen responded in favor of a distinctive Air Force utility uniform," Chief Murray said. "Airmen take great pride in serving in America's Air Force. Having a distinct uniform that presents a professional appearance to the public and our sister services,

when we are at home station or deployed, is important."

A unique Air Force-designed uniform has another big advantage.

"Our new utility uniform incorporates a unique fit tailored for men and women, and a variety of realistic sizes beyond just small, medium and large," the chief said. "More than 20 percent of our Airmen are women, and we continually received feedback on how the male uniforms they currently wear do not fit well. Fit and comfort are important for all Airmen to project a professional military image."

Officials said they are reaping additional benefits of this particular uniform wear-test process.

Air Force Clothing Office officials took detailed measurements of as many body types as possible and recorded them into a database for future uniform design studies. Since the last such measurement in the 1960s, officials discovered that the average Airman now has a more athletic build.

Not only are Airmen more fit to fight; they are deployed more often and for longer periods than ever before. There is no time to fuss over finicky uniforms, officials said.

"The wash and wear uniform will be easier and cheaper to maintain," said Senior Master Sgt.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski

WASHINGTON — The Air Force utility uniform's revised colors include tan, blue and two shades of green in a pixilated tiger-stripe pattern. Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray are wearing the updated utility uniform during visits to Airmen serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski)

Jacqueline Dean, uniform board superintendent. "The permanent-press treatment eliminates the need for ironing, and home washing can save an Airman from \$180 to \$240 in laundry costs over the course of a year."

Sergeant Dean oversees the wear test and leads the uniform board's campaign to display the uniform as much as possible in a variety of locations.

"The wear test allows Airmen around the world to see the uniform in work places and to give feedback on its appearance, comfort, function and maintenance," Sergeant Dean said.

## Pay, benefits increase for reservists

WASHINGTON — Military people will receive a pay hike. If they qualify, they'll get larger re-up bonuses.

Reservists activated for 90 days or more can apply for extra money for college and continuing family health care.

These and other benefits are in the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act. The president signed the \$421 billion defense bill into law Oct. 28. The bill OK'd \$2.24 billion for Air Force Reserve Command to train reservists and run the command. A 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise starts Jan. 1.

Bonus authority goes up for people to enlist and reenlist in the Reserve. For example, people with no previous military service who qualify for

a six year enlistment bonus may receive up to a maximum of \$10,000. The same bonus in 2004 was \$8,000. Other examples of the changes are available in the Selected Reserve 2005 Enlistment/Reenlistment Bonuses chart. Reservists can take a lump sum payment or installments.

People who go to college full-time using the current Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill draw a max of \$288 a month. That's equal to 29 percent of the active-duty program's \$1,004 per month.

Reservists activated to fight the war on terror can get more. Full-time students draw \$402 a month for 90 days to a year of service, \$602 for one to two years and \$803 for more than two years.

The act makes early and transitional health care permanent for reservists activated for contingency support.

People called up for more than 90 days can earn eligibility for Tricare standard family health care. For each 90 days of contingency support since Sept. 11, 2001, they are eligible for a full year of coverage if they stay in the Selected Reserve.

Reservists no longer need to serve their last six years in the Air Force Reserve to qualify for a non-regular (Reserve) retirement. Although Reserve retirees can shop at commissaries and base exchanges as soon as they retire, they don't start drawing retirement pay until age 60. (*AFRC News Service*)

# Deployed aircrew reacts, saves lives

By Capt. Aaron Burgstein  
386th AEW Public Affairs

It was a bright, clear day when the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing C-130 took off from an airfield in northern Iraq bound for home, with 57 Soldiers aboard. Out of nowhere pilot Maj. Rolf Breen heard a distinctive thud.

"I suddenly had a fire-warning light staring me in the face," said Major Breen, an aircraft commander with the 386th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

Loadmaster Master Sgt. James Grigsby had a harrowing view, "I saw a fireball on the number one engine...I wasn't sure what had happened, but the number one engine had exploded..."

## C-130 hit by enemy ground fire

The aircraft was in trouble. The number one engine had been hit and was on fire. In addition, the strike also appeared to affect the other three engines. The aircraft had been hit by ground fire.

"We're at a few hundred feet...and I hear Major Breen say that the remaining engines were acting up," said Sergeant Grigsby.

The crew quickly sprung into action; they had trained for this and the training kicked in like autopilot.

"We didn't really think about it, we just went into the emergency procedures," said Staff Sgt. Dan Hayes, himself a newly trained flight engineer.

Major Breen, as aircraft commander, relied on his fellow crew-members.

"I saw that the engine instruments were going crazy, but the co-pilot and (flight engineer) said it was just an indication problem. (Sergeant Hayes) flipped some switches and the engines stopped acting crazy, but we still had a problem."

The crew's primary concern was to put the aircraft down quickly and safely.

That problem involved not only finding somewhere for the aircraft to land but letting someone know what had happened.

"As soon as we were hit and we'd finished the emergency procedures and I knew the aircraft was under control, I made contact to let people know what happened and alert other aircraft," said Capt. Jason Schroeder, co-pilot. "In the meantime, we had to figure out where to go."

"Our mindset was to get away from the threat, so I asked the navigator for a distance and heading to a divert field, which he gave me almost instantaneously," said Major Breen.

"I made the recommendation to go to an alternate airfield, instead of returning to the departure airfield," said Lt. Col. John Loranger, navigator.



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Aaron Burgstein

Maj. Rolf Breen, a C-130 aircraft commander with the 386th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, looks out the window of his C-130 during a sunset over Iraq. The major is a reservist with the 440th Airlift Wing.

"We didn't have any (navigation) info on the field...but luckily, we'd been there just a few days prior so we knew it could safely handle us."

## Emergency landing

The airfield they chose was not a regular airfield. It was an emergency divert field with minimal facilities. However, landing safely was not their only problem.

"The fire didn't go out for (most of) the flight," said Sergeant Hayes. So the crew quickly turned their attention to putting out the blaze as best they could.

"Once we completed the initial emergency-procedures we used a second fire bottle and continued going through the procedures," continued Sergeant Hayes.

"Because the fire was still going, we contin-

## FROM THE FRONT

ued to keep an eye out for places to set the aircraft down if needed," said Colonel Loranger, who said it seemed like an eternity before they reached the divert field. "It only took us about 10 minutes from start to finish, but it seemed like 45."

The fire burned for about seven of those 10 minutes. About eight miles from their divert field, the fire finally went out. The crew wanted the plane down quickly, but there were still concerns.

"We couldn't take the plane in too fast, in case there were problems with the wing," explained Sergeant Hayes. As the crew slowed the aircraft down, they ran through their checklists.

However, there were hazards outside the aircraft.

### Engine shutdown -- the only option

"The concern with the runway was that about half of it had been cratered during the war," said Major Breen. There was also another concern on the field. "I'll never forget the sight of the people working on one end of the runway waving at us as we passed overhead."

Even with all commotion, both the co-pilot and navigator agreed on one thing.

Major Breen "not only had to land with an engine shut down and an unknown fire status,

but land over the runway repair equipment onto the open half of the runway and he did it perfectly," said Captain Schroeder.

Once the aircraft was on the ground the two loadmasters, Sergeant Grigsby and Tech. Sgt. Robert Sczesny, took over.

"When we landed it was like a weight coming off my shoulders," said Sergeant Sczesny. "I was thankful we were on the ground, but now we had to get the passengers off the plane quickly and safely."

As soon as the plane was hit, Sergeant Sczesny had briefed the soldiers on what had happened and the emergency procedures. Now he gave them the emergency egress plan and helped the passengers off the plane.

"The briefing, and unloading the 57 Soldiers, took about a minute," he said. Sergeant Sczesny and Major Breen then met in the middle of the aircraft to ensure everyone was off and joined up with the rest of the crew and passengers.

"The soldiers had lined up in formation and were applauding us as we came off the aircraft," said Sergeant Grigsby.

However, the mission didn't end there. Being an unexpected arrival, Major Breen had to flag down a passing Humvee to get to the command center.

"Once we got to the command post, and they got over their shock of seeing us there, they went out of their way to help us," said Major Breen. "They made calls, let people know we were safe and found our passengers and crew a place to rest."

"We spent about four hours on the ground before another aircraft was able to pick up all of the soldiers, cargo and crew," continued Major Breen. "We came back home and those soldiers all made their flights back to the States."

Major Breen credits the entire crew with the success of the mission. "It wasn't the work of any one individual but the collective efforts of the group, the way we worked together, that allowed us to safely land the plane," he said.

"Everyone did what they were supposed to do," added Sergeant Grigsby.

"These men (the crew) did a fantastic job," added Capt Schroeder, "but the main reason 57 Army soldiers are home today and we're here is by the grace of God."

The crew of Chrome 32 flew their next mission just four days later. Their destination: the same airfield.

## Checking the props -- all systems go!



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Aaron Burgstein

Staff Sgt. Marco DaSilva checks the oil in a C-130 Hercules engine at a forward-deployed location in the Central Command area. He is assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron. Sergeant DaSilva is deployed supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom from the 440th Airlift Wing.

More than 60 Maintenance Squadron reservists are still activated in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 440th's rotation plan allows some to be home for Christmas or Thanksgiving, but more than half of the activated members will remain overseas during the holidays.

# Base heating plant demolished

by Steve Lavey  
Base Engineer

Where are Kaiser and Tojek? This was a question that might have been asked by some wing members in the early 1970s. The correct answer to this question was “at the heating plant.”

When Airman Kaiser, now Senior Master Sgt. Mike Kaiser of the 440<sup>th</sup> CES, and Airman Tojek, now Master Sgt. Phil Tojek of the 95<sup>th</sup> AS, first joined the 440<sup>th</sup>, they were heating specialists assigned to Civil Engineering.

Because of this, it was not uncommon to find either man “at the heating plant” during a UTA. Now the question will be “Where’s the heating plant?” For the past 47 years, the heating plant (building 215, the building west of Hangar 217) provided steam heat to base facilities until individual furnaces and/or boilers were installed in each building.

## First building constructed in 1950s

The heating plant was the first building constructed in the late 1950s at General Mitchell International Airport-Air Reserve Station. This plant was constructed to provide steam heat to the aircraft maintenance hangar (217) which was the second facility to be constructed. As the base expanded, so did the heating plant. The infrastructure of the heating plant was expanded so that it could provide heat to these additional facilities.

With the advent of high efficiency furnaces and smaller “package” boilers, it was no longer practical to have a centralized system that provided heat to the base. By the end of 2003, all buildings had been equipped with individual heating units, so the heating plant was no longer necessary.

## Demolition

Last month, the heating plant was demolished. The only thing that remains is a vacant lot, an area that seems almost out of place among the cluster of near by buildings.



*Photos submitted by Steve Lavey*

The heating plant was a long-standing building on base. The top photo was taken Jan 18, 1957. More than four decades later, the steam plant walls came tumbling down after high efficiency furnaces and smaller boilers made the plant unnecessary.



# New pin available for reservists' spouses

Reservists have been able to honor their employers and parents with Air Force supplied lapel pins since the global war on terrorism began. Reservists can now honor their spouses with lapel pins from the Your Guardians of Freedom program.

The pins were inspired by service flags with blue stars that have been displayed in the homes of armed forces members since World War I.

As part of the Your Guardians of Freedom program, many Airmen have already created computer profiles that allowed them to order pins, a contemporary adaptation of this wartime tradition, for their parents or employers.

This program was introduced to help thank the parents and employers of more than 400,000 Airmen and Air Force civilians for their continued support during the war on terrorism.

The newest area of this program is the addition of the spouse pin.

The spouse pin is comprised of

a blue star cradled in the Air Force symbol.

Because of this program, these pins are available at no cost to the parents, spouses and employers of Airmen and Air Force civilians. These pins are not automatically sent to the spouses of these individuals.

The Air Force is simply providing a resource to those wishing to recognize their spouse. Once ordered, these pins are shipped to the address listed on the website. As long as the shipping address is correct, the pin will be received in three to five weeks and can then be presented at a promotion, awards or retirement ceremony or can be given to the spouse at any time.

Any Airman who is active duty, Guard or Reserve is eligible to take part in this program, as well as any Air Force civilian employee. After creating a profile online, a spouse pin can be ordered. From this profile, parent pins can also be ordered.

*(AFRC News Service)*

**Recognize your spouse  
Order their free spouse pin at  
<http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com>**



*photo by Senior Airman Chris Hibben*

Chief Philip Dibb presents his wife Mary with a "Spouse Pin" during his retirement ceremony. During his 33 years of service at the 440th Airlift Wing, Dibb served in the 440th Civil Engineering Squadron, Medical Squadron, Command Chief and was an assistant to the wing Vice Commander. He served 3009 UTA's. Throughout the years, Mary was a most supportive spouse.



*photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe*

Chief Brian L. Magonigle oversees the award winning fire department.

## 440th firefighters named best in Air Force Reserve

Unit earns Chief Master Sergeant Sanborn Award

The 440th Fire Department has earned AFRC's highest honor, the Chief Master Sergeant Ralph E. Sanborn Award. This annual award honors Chief Sanborn, who dedicated his 44-year career from 1943 to 1987 to improving Air Force fire protection capabilities.

The award recognizes the Fire Protection Flight (winner and runner-up) that achieves the highest degree of excellence in base mission support and fire protection management. The winner of this award is the Air Force nominee for the Department of Defense (DOD) best Fire Department of the Year award. The fire department was recognized for its outstanding work and professionalism.

# 440th firefighters' "cholesterol challenge" leads them to healthy hearts

by Ann Skarban

It started as a simple conversation in the 440<sup>th</sup> fire house kitchen. Now, eight 440<sup>th</sup> fire fighters are on their way to healthier lifestyles and hopefully healthier hearts.

On Oct. 20th the 440<sup>th</sup> fire fighters played host to a local television news photographer who was waiting for former 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Commander Col. Michael L. Smith to complete his final C-130 flight before his retirement, and to see him get the traditional "fini-flight hose down" by the 440th fire department.

During the wait, the firefighters offered the local news photographer a warm place to stay and the friendly hospitality found in most fire houses. They talked about current events, their favorite TV personalities and the fire fighters jokingly asked how they could be on TV. The Public Affairs escort gave her business card to the photographer, and remarkably, the next day, television reporter Portia Young called the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office inviting eight fire fighters to take part in the November Cholesterol

Challenge. The television station thought the fire fighters would be an interesting group to follow as fire fighters are typically in good physical condition, but as Assistant Fire Chief Jay Kula pointed out, "metabolically is another story."

440<sup>th</sup> Fire Chief Brian Megonigle agreed to allow eight of his fire fighters to participate – Assistant Chief of Training Jay Kula, Captains Will Wheat and Pat Haefele, Lieutenants Matt Ellis and Don Taylor and Fire Fighters Dane Fish, Mike Boulding and Garrett Duffy. The eight fire fighters were divided up into four color-coded teams of two.

The fire fighters quickly picked up a few television techniques and enjoyed being regulars on the Channel 12 morning news on Wednesdays and on the weekends throughout the month of November. They became accustomed to talking into the microphone, arranging camera shots and as they jokingly put it, "smiling with their eyes." Early wakeups and report times – as early as 3 a.m. were not easy, but receiving personalized attention and information on their cholesterol and how to help themselves was well worth it.

"It has definitely been a positive experience," said Fire Fighter Matt Ellis. "It makes you aware of what you are eating and made me eat better. I knew some facts (about cholesterol), but I never paid attention to them," he added. Matt said he now tries to eat healthier food, and smaller portions. He cited being able to sit down and talk with a registered dietitian as a great help.

"It was an all-around worthwhile project, said Assistant Chief Jay Kula. The cholesterol challenge was challenging. To regiment your diet is always a hard thing to do and to shop for groceries that are healthier for you is not as easy as it seems. Getting back into the workout was easier than the diet," he added.

The first week of the cholesterol challenge the volunteers' blood was drawn to determine their cholesterol levels and each man met with a registered dietitian to learn about the types of food and portion sizes that would help them improve their cholesterol levels. They also received pedometers to help them assess their activity level. It was recommended they walk at least 10,000 steps a day – or five miles.

"I was surprised at my cholesterol level," said Capt. Pat Haefele. "I learned HDL helps keep your LDL down. Exercise and diet help increase the HDL. I knew you probably should watch what you eat and exercise. I probably won't be as strict as I was this month, but the workout, 30 minutes a day was a good thing," said Capt. Pat Haefele.

"I was surprised at my cholesterol level said Fire Fighter Garret Duffy. "We learned quite a bit from the dietitian. Our food portions were too large and that was our biggest problem," said Fire Fighter Garret Duffy.

Week two involved a visit by Dr. Ismail Quryshi from St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center. He brought the fire fighter's first cholesterol test results and helped them understand what those results meant. Seven of the eight fire fighters had cholesterol levels over 200, which is considered high and a risk for developing heart disease. The fire fighters had the opportunity to sit and talk with the doctor and he offered a healthy course of action to each fire fighter. Dr. Quryshi noted the fire fighters were at higher risk being male, fortunately, the fire fighters range in age from 25-45, a great time said the doctor, to make changes and begin healthier life styles to improve their health and prolong their lives.

"Meeting with Dr Quryshi was by far the best aspect of the cholesterol challenge. Dr Quryshi was the absolute best. He was not in a



Portia Young interviews William Wheat, a 440th Airlift Wing firefighter.

*photos by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe*



Garrett Duffy



Dane Fish



William Wheat



Matt Ellis



Jay Kula



Pat Haefele



Donald Taylor



Mike Boulding

hurry once. He sat and talked and went in depth. That was very educating. He was very positive, reviewing his strategies and philosophies on handling cholesterol and aging — things you never have time to talk about with your own doctor,” said Assistant Chief Jay Kula.

Week three was about exercise and how to get the most out of their workout and how it helps increase HDL, the “good” cholesterol. The fire fighters met in the base fitness center with a physical therapist to make the most of their workouts.

Week four, which was the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, included learning how to cook a low cholesterol Thanksgiving meal.

Week five, the final week of the cholesterol challenge, their cholesterol was tested one last time to determine if a month has helped.

Dr. Quryshi brought their new results, and, overall, the fire fighter’s cholesterol levels all dropped from one month of healthy eating and exercise. The fire fighters were glad their efforts paid off and all said they are looking forward to

continuing their newly established healthy eating and exercise lifestyles. Reporter Portia Young has promised the fire fighters a follow-up visit in February to see how they are doing.

“I think this was a good experience. Everyone is working out and eating healthier. Hopefully it will carry over and they will keep it up.” said Fire Chief Brian Megonigle.

# We went to Savannah... We saw... We kicked...

As in all professional sports, a team's success lies in the talents, depth and strength of its players. Planning, training and executing will either lead a team to victory or defeat.

During the first week of November, a team made up of 37 Air Force Guard and Reserve units huddled up as the 501<sup>st</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing in Savannah, Georgia, for two intense days of battling an inspector general's war.



**PLAYER:**  
Senior Airman Jannet Catalan  
**TEAM:**  
440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing/Command Post  
**POSITION (IGX):**  
Command Post controller  
**CAREER:**  
First IGX; former ORI player

**REVIEWING THE GAME FILM:**  
"It was a positive experience. I left saying to myself, 'I didn't know I could do that.'"

The inspection was a great opportunity for me to see what a real-world deployment would be like and the responsibilities I would be given.

I found myself getting the word out as the Giant 'Voice' communicating to the masses. It was important to me and everyone else that I be prepared for all the "what ifs" that might occur. The Command Post staff worked well together as a team ... and buddies."



**PLAYER:**  
Senior Airman Rocio Resendiz  
**TEAM:**  
440<sup>th</sup> Services Flight  
**POSITION (IGX):**  
Mortuary Affairs  
**CAREER:**  
First IGX

**REVIEWING THE GAME FILM:**  
"I didn't know what to expect. A big adjustment was working with the other units. In a short time, we had to learn about each other, our strengths and weaknesses, as well as work habits.

We had to stop focusing on our jobs back home (ie dining hall, recreation and fitness, etc.) and instead think outside the box, finding ways to communicate as a team with each other at all levels.

I think everyone should do this, even newcomers, to understand what we're doing here as members of the wing."



**PLAYER:**  
Senior Master Sgt. Tom Safer  
**TEAM:**  
440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron  
**POSITION (IGX):**  
Production Superintendent/  
Flightline Expeditor  
**CAREER:**  
First IGX; former ORI player; recent real-world deployments

**REVIEWING THE GAME FILM:**  
"The inspectors challenged us to go beyond the "just get it done" mentality by taking a closer look at our book knowledge. It made me realize that there is always something else to learn, personally and professionally.

The combination of a short timeframe to prepare and a meshing of all participating wings together offered everyone a unique challenge. It required us to learn and operate very quickly to people's talents and experiences."

## Countdown to IGX 2008: Here are a few tips to help you prepare for the next IGX

- Convince your civilian co-workers they can save an extra minute of time each day by speaking in acronyms.
- Impress your neighbors by mowing lawn in MOPP 4.
- Start hydrating your body now for next IGX by eliminating all alcoholic products.
- Wear chemical suit everyday to protect yourself from surprise attack.
- Lobby your city mayor to install Giant Voice as a way to communicate important instructions to the townsfolk.
- Impress your civilian employer by heating his or her coffee with the mini heating system from your MRE.

# Three enlisted Reservists earn Chapter 45 Reserve Officer Association scholarships

by **Melissa Kimball**

Three enlisted reservists earned Chapter 45 Reserve Officer Association scholarships in 2004. "The Flying Badger ROA chapter is proud to give back to the wing," said Chapter 45 President Capt. Scott Jones. "It's a lasting legacy that will remain with the recipients forever."

## Colonel Nasiruddin Rana Academic Excellence Scholarship

Senior Airman Janelle Herek of the 34<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron was recently named the winner of the 2004 scholarship. Herek has been a member of the 440<sup>th</sup> for the past two years and is now pursuing a degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Colonel (Dr.) Nasiruddin Rana served with the 440<sup>th</sup> from 1998-2003. Upon his retirement in November 2003, Dr. Rana announced his intent to fund an annual \$1,000 scholarship to benefit the members of the 440<sup>th</sup> who are pursuing an undergraduate college degree. Doctor Rana's generosity helps an enlisted member of the 440<sup>th</sup> who is in good standing, and currently pursuing an undergraduate degree. Interested applicants complete an application packet that includes a one page essay, proof of enrollment and their most recent high school or college transcript.

## Senior Airman Samuel I. Keene Scholarship

Senior Airman David W. Olson and Tech. Sgt. Anne Rivera have been named as the recipients of the 2004 SrA Samuel I. Keene Scholarships. Olson is the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship, and Rivera is getting a \$500 scholarship. Olsen is a lab technician in the 440<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron. His performance at the medical squadron has



*photos by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe*

2004 ROA Scholarship winners: Tech. Sgt. Anne Rivera, Senior Airman David Olson and Senior Airman Janelle Herek.

contributed to the overall medical readiness of the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing.

He is pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing at UW-Parkside. He has served at Sheppard AFB, Texas, Carswell AFB, Texas, Malmstrom AFB, Mont., Minot AFB, N.D. and General Mitchell International Airport-Air Reserve Station.

Rivera is a member of the 440<sup>th</sup> Services Flight, and is the supervisor of the Sijan Dining Facility at the 440<sup>th</sup>. She also oversees lodging, fitness and recreation and wartime mortuary affairs.

She has been a member of the 440<sup>th</sup> for the past eight years. She was a volunteer when the unit was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

She received an associate of applied science degree in business management in 2002. She is enrolled in classes at Cardinal Stritch College.

Senior Airman Samuel I. Keene was an enlisted member of the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Air Force reserve. As an enlisted loadmaster, he had a pas-

sion for flying. While serving in the unit, Keene displayed the Air Force Core Values in all he did: excellence in all we do, service before self and integrity.

He was working toward his bachelor's degree while taking part in the Reserves and pursuing a Deserving Airman commission. Keene's dreams were cut short when he died in a C-130 plane crash on April 1, 1997 in Honduras.

The Samuel I. Keene scholarship is funded by both the surviving Keene family and Chapter 45 Reserve Officers Association.

Interested applicants must be enlisted members of the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing working toward a bachelor's degree and must be in good standing with the wing.

The application packet includes the application form, one page essay, proof of enrollment in a bachelor's degree program and most recent high school/college transcripts.

## Commissary scholarship opportunity open to children of reservists, retirees

Applications are now available at commissaries and online for \$1,500 academic scholarships for children of active-duty, Guard and Reserve servicemembers and retirees. The application window for the 2005 Scholarships for Military Children program closes Feb. 16. The goal is to award at least one \$1,500 scholarship at every commissary location. Eligibility requirements and other information are also available at the program Web site at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org)

# Top Cop

## Drossel earns AFRC Security Forces Award

by Melissa Kimball

Master Sergeant John R. Drossel, 440<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron training manager, was recently named the AFRC Outstanding Security Forces of the Year Senior NCO. The award recognizes top Security Forces members. Maj. Kent Hansen, 440<sup>th</sup> SFS commander, said, "I am delighted to nominate MSgt. Drossel for this award. MSgt Drossel far exceeds the standards of an outstanding Airman. His military bearing, superior job knowledge and esprit de corps are invaluable to our unit, the wing, and the United States Air Force."

### Desert deployment

Drossel was chosen to deploy early in 2004 as an Iraqi Military Police training instructor for the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at Taji Military Training Base in Iraq. Drossel did not have a wealth of resources. He had to clear broken glass and debris in order to establish training areas, entry control points and military operations on urban terrain where no facilities had previously existed. His efforts helped turn a war-torn environment into an operating military police academy within two weeks of his arrival. He graduated the first 102 Iraqi soldiers from this academy, playing an integral role in training soldiers on building searches, searching and handcuffing, entry control and the use of force.

He was redeployed to Baghdad and the Iraq Ministry of Defense with 45 Iraqi military police soldiers to perform on-the-job training. His assessment of physical security requirements made it possible for security forces to rapidly detect, detect and respond to incidents. He was recognized by the Iraqi Minister of Defense, his staff and the Coalition Provisional Authority for his exceptional work in training Iraqi citizens to defend their country. He combined Iraqi soldiers with contract security to process and search more than 4,000 vehicles and personnel.

He also teamed with instructors to train 38 of Iraq's sharpest officers and NCO's on military police responsibilities training and supervisory roles.

### Dangerous duty

Even though the school was regularly hit by small arms fire, mortar and rocket attacks, Drossel facilitated the transition to an all-Iraqi training, which was instrumental in establishing the first Iraqi Armed Forces Military Police Mobile training team. He traveled the country to train more than 130 Iraqis and quickly organized and responded to several confrontational incidents to calm Iraqi forces and local citizens. He secured the area when 70 people protested after being ambushed enroute to Fallujah. This attack left one American soldier and one Iraqi soldier dead.

Drossel helped execute an airtight security plan for the military commander of the Coalition Provisional Authority and a top Iraqi general. His attention to detail was key in establishing an impenetrable security ring that ensured tight security while traveling in the most hostile region of Iraq. His effort was vital to locating improvised explosive devices and small arms fire from insurgents.

Drossel also worked in the tactical operations center, to provide a vital communication link to coalition forces patrolling the perimeter of Taji, Iraq and ensured that there was no delay in dispatching quick reaction forces. He helped solve a chronic 50 percent shortfall in training aids and supplies. He called upon the 440th Security Forces to deliver 22 boxes of equipment which ensured better training for Iraqi soldiers. He effectively trained forces despite the "April Offensive" where he underwent 18 consecutive days of mortar attacks. This attack included 21 separate mortar and 24 rocket attacks that left 10 soldiers dead and many injured.

Drossel's professionalism and job knowledge aided in laying the foundation for the future success of the Iraqi Armed Forces and police personnel. He has an extreme commitment to excellence.



Photo and Background Illustration by Senior Airman Chris Hibben

He is now enrolled in the Senior NCO PME course and the Community College of the Air Force pursuing his security administration degree. He continually takes classes and seminars to enhance both his civilian and military job knowledge.

### Back on the homefront

He is primarily responsible for the squadron's outstanding inspection rating. He is an instructor for the USAF Hazardous Materials Awareness program, an active member of the First Reformed Church in Oostburg, Wis., a lifelong member of the Air Force Sergeants Association and organized and implemented a five day Individual Skills Training course for transportation specialists in the 440<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron who were deployed in support of Iraqi Freedom.

He also runs Security Forces augmentee training for the wing and is the Senior Vice Commander for VFW Post #1230 in Sheboygan, Wis.

# Lookin' sharp and feeling good!

*Reservists teach Cub scouts the basics of wearing a clean, pressed uniform with pride*



*photo by Tom Weber*

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Sampson (left), Sen. Master Sgt. William Rheingans and Senior Airman Danni Hetrick conduct uniform inspection for Cub Scout Pack 599. Pack Leader Tom Weber said it was the first time the group had uniform inspections performed by military members. "The kids really enjoyed it," said Weber. "They are still talking about it a month later, and now they know what it means to keep a uniform neat and presentable." The scouts also learned about different Air Force uniforms, including Sampson's special "blues" that he wears for honor guard duty. Hetrick showed the scouts how to wear a chemical warfare suit. To have a reservist speak at a scout group or school, contact Public Affairs at 482-5481. Public speaking engagements and presentations are part of the wing's community relations program.

## WI ANG troops duty done at Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station

by Melissa Kimball

A brief ceremony at the 440th Security Forces Squadron on Nov. 29 marked the last day of duty for Wisconsin Army National Guard troops that have been augmenting the wing's Security Forces Squadron here at General Mitchell Air Reserve Station since February 2003.

The Army troopers were volunteers from Guard units around Wisconsin known as Task Force Red Arrow. Major Tim Martz, operations officer for the 440th SFS, said that 19 Army Guardsmen had served as part of the wing's base security forces for the past two years.

Martz said that the Army troops were welcome reinforcements for the Security Forces Squadron which has been deploying SF members to security assignments around the globe since 9/11.

"We'd like to thank all of the Guard members who've been part of our base security operations in these past two years. Their efforts here in Milwaukee allowed the Wing to meet installation security requirements and made it possible for our people to contribute to the global war on terrorism at numerous locations around the globe."

The departure of the Army Guard troops means that the 440th SFS will need a limited number of volunteers from other units within the wing to fill some of the now vacant base security slots.

Reservists in the ranks of E-6 and below interested in filling those slots should submit a military resume and a letter of recommendation from their unit commander to Maj. Kent Hansen, 440th SFS commander.

# 440th AW selects Outstanding Airmen

by Melissa Kimball

The wing's semi-annual outstanding enlisted members are Master Sgt. John R. Drossel, Tech. Sgt. Scott A. Zane, and Airman First Class John Sundara.

Tech. Sergeant Scott A. Zane was recently named the Outstanding Wing NCO. He is an aircraft inspection mechanic. Zane was chosen to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His advanced knowledge of aircraft systems contributed to the 386<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Wing's ability to generate more than 400 sorties a month, maintaining a better than 90 percent in commission rate.

As inspection section lead mechanic, Zane supervises, trains and mentors maintenance teams. Under his direction, maintenance actions are completed with quality, ahead of schedule and are correctly documented. Zane routinely supervises the isochronal inspection section in the absence of the flight chief.

As production inspector, he has the final look before quality assurance inspections. When state-side, he assures that all aircraft parts that are "due in for maintenance" are tracked and processed within 10 days. Zane is a senior inspector at an FAA licensed repair station with Derco Repair Services. While taking part in Operation Shining Hope, he was a maintenance expeditor and crew chief and also flew several missions into Skopje Macedonia. His efforts helped maintain a better than 80 percent fully mission capable rate.

As a training manager, Zane established a unique training program which has eliminated the overdue training status of newly assigned personnel. This program aides in the upgrade training of seasoned mechanics.

He is now training to obtain a commercial pilot's license.

Airman First Class John Sundara was recently named the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's Outstanding Airman. He is the loadmaster superintendent at the 440<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron.

He was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was awarded an Achievement Medal for outstanding service. He was also recognized as an Expeditionary Operations Group Outstanding Airman out of a group of 470 people.

Sundara led an information assurance program for almost 500 deployed members, verifying that all members were trained and current on using the network. He also coordinated the set-up of more than 40 Niprnet and 30 Siprnet accounts. Sundara stepped in to fill a key 440 OSF role, maintaining a highly efficient orderly room, where he took an active role in almost half of the unit's programs while most OSF members were preparing to deploy or had already deployed.

He finished all of his five-level CDC's in under three months, which made him one of the most technically skilled and assertive information systems managers in the 440<sup>th</sup> Operations Group. He has volunteered to assist with the organization and execution of numerous local events and fund-raisers.

Master Sergeant John R. Drossel, 440th Security Squadron unit training manager, earned the Outstanding Senior NCO. For more information about Drossel's accomplishments, see page 7 of this month's Flying Badger.

Upper right Technical Sgt. Scott Zane. Lower right Airman First Class John Sundara.



photos by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

## 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing closes environmental restoration program

The environmental restoration program (ERP) has been completed at the 440th.

The ERP is required at all Department of Defense installations where past hazardous waste management practices and associated contamination potentially threatened human health and the environment.

Initial ERP studies began in the mid 1980s. These studies identified four geographic sites that posed potential threats. Two of the sites needed no further action because no actual threats were determined to exist.

Two others sites associated with the fire training area and the petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) area required further investigation

to determine the true nature of the problems and risks.

The 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's environmental restoration efforts evolved into a program made up of 10 sites that required investigation and, if warranted, cleanup.

Detailed investigations were conducted in the mid to late 1990s at several sites to determine if there were any risks to human health and the environment that required further action.

Throughout the process, selected alternatives were presented in decision documents for each site and submitted to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for review and eventual approval.

Concurrent with restoration actions, long-term monitoring of groundwater was conducted on a routine basis to observe and document trends in subsurface conditions that may have been impacted by the ERP sites.

The monitoring program was completed in 2003 after sampling results consistently indicated that groundwater on and off the installation was no longer threatened by the sites.

The ERP achieved completion in 2004 when WDNR approved the closure of the last two monitoring sites following the review of closure packages that were submitted late in 2003.

# PEOPLE

## Newcomers

*The 440th welcomes the following reservists to the wing:*

2nd Lt. Glenn Baker	440 MXS
2nd Lt. Kristie Piotrowicz	95 AS
SSgt. Michael Haupt	34 APS
SSgt. Taunika Huebbe	440 AW
SSgt. Kevin Long	440 SFS
SSgt. Paul McComas	440 LRS
SSgt. Dave Mercado Jr.	440 MOF
SSgt. Rickey Pere	440 CES
SSgt. Sarah Tills	95 AS
SrA Sean Piggott	440 SFS
SrA Thomas Schiller	440 CF
SrA Todd Schneider	440 CES
SrA John Shackelford	440 AW
SrA Jonathon Walters	440 SFS
A1C David Lasheray	440 MOF
A1C Ashley Morgan	440 CES

## Awards and Decorations

*The following individual has been awarded the Legion of Merit:*

Col. Michael L. Smith

*The following individuals have been awarded the Air Medal:*

Capt. David K. Belfiore  
Capt. Anthony P. Chosa  
MSgt. John L. Grutzmacher

*The following individual has been awarded the Aerial Achievement Medal:*

Capt. David K. Belfiore

*The following people have been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal:*

Lt. Col. Thomas P. Hall (1st oak leaf cluster)  
Lt. Col. Harry E. Heflin, Jr. (1st oak leaf cluster)  
Lt. Col. Mark R. Hunsader (2nd oak leaf cluster)  
Maj. William P. Gamble  
Maj. James C. Murtha  
Maj. James E. Nowak (2nd oak leaf cluster)  
CMSgt. Leroy J. Fleischmann  
CMSgt. James J. Knauff  
CMSgt. George J. Kuzma (2nd oak leaf cluster)  
SMSgt. David K. Firgens  
SMSgt. William B. Jankowski  
SMSgt. Eugene L. Polaski  
SMSgt. Brian D. Walker  
MSgt. Kenneth G. Carpenter  
MSgt. Stephen J. Kolodij  
MSgt. David W. Otis  
TSgt. Patrick J. Buechel  
TSgt. Daniel R. Fleming  
TSgt. Edward O. Pearson  
TSgt. Elizabeth I. Schell  
SSgt. Willis E. Nelson

*The following people have been awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal:*

Capt. David K. Belfiore  
Capt. David R. Phillips  
Maj. Gwendolyn M. Sheppard  
SMSgt. Miguel A. Rodriguez  
SMSgt. Peter C. Ruzicka  
MSgt. Terry R. Harmon (1st oak leaf cluster)  
MSgt. Amy J. Jobelius  
MSgt. Michael A. Johnson  
MSgt. Gregory M. Karrels  
MSgt. Herman G. Kremkau  
MSgt. Roseanne M. Peterson  
MSgt. Georges B. Sanon  
MSgt. Kristopher L. Schafbuch  
MSgt. Mark A. Tranel  
TSgt. Joseph R. Brown  
TSgt. Kenneth W. Erickson  
TSgt. Joseph M. Gaca  
TSgt. Jeffrey D. Grigg  
TSgt. Timothy D. Hammond  
TSgt. Lyle R. Hubbard  
TSgt. Robert J. Klein  
TSgt. Nancy D. Leidgen  
TSgt. Michael D. Mattias  
TSgt. Brian K. Proffer  
TSgt. Paul J. Sackmann  
TSgt. Michael J. Sendelbach  
TSgt. Craig S. Smith  
TSgt. Jack B. Vollriede  
SSgt. Harold K. Almas  
SSgt. Ryan L. Arnold  
SSgt. Richard C. Brockmann  
SSgt. Warren A.B. Wruck  
SrA James J. Schneider

*The following people have been awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal:*

Lt. Col. Michael W. Boomgarden  
Maj. Kevin R. Shomin  
MSgt. Mary L. Clark  
MSgt. Jessica L. Johnson  
MSgt. William J. Dragolovich  
TSgt. Frank P. Greenan  
TSgt. Nestor E. Hinojosa  
TSgt. Anthony Jackson  
TSgt. John C. Niespodziani  
TSgt. Ronald F. Szutowicz  
SSgt. Julie K. Amundson  
SSgt. Michael R. Ashby  
SSgt. William R. Colby, Jr.  
SSgt. James C. Foster  
SSgt. Dean J. Regazzi  
SSgt. Brian A. Schumacher  
A1C Gonzalo P. Lopez, Jr.

## Retirements

Lt. Col. Liesa Roelke	440 MXG
SMSgt. Suzanne Kuzma	440 MDS
MSgt. Donald L. Beier	34 APS
MSgt. Dana G. Ishman	34 APS
MSgt. Robert R. Reeve	440 AW
TSgt. Dewayne Q. Brice	440 CES
TSgt. Joseph E. Bluver	440 SVF
TSgt. Martin G. Holtz	95 AS
SSgt. James Popp	440 LRS

## Promotions

Lt. Col. David Devogel	440 OSF
Lt. Col. William Gamble	440 MXS
Lt. Col. James Nowak	95 AS
Lt. Col. Charles Osum	95 AS
Lt. Col. Kevin Shomin	440 AW
Lt. Col. Phillip Whipple	95 AS
Capt. Wilson Aguilar	440 MDS
MSgt. John Niespodziani	34 APS
MSgt. Richard Weyer	440 LRS
MSgt. Paul Zenner	95 AS
TSgt. Mark Greger	440 CES
TSgt. Christina Krug	440 OSF
TSgt. Stephen Staedler	440 AW
TSgt. Karrie Stern	440 AW
SSgt. Jeffrey Baumberger	440 MXS
SSgt. Emily Decker	440 MDS
SSgt. Alice Harston	440 LRS
SSgt. Meah Hesse	34 APS
SSgt. Tiffany Jones	95 AS
SSgt. Matthew Kennedy	440 OSF
SSgt. Kevin Mortier	440 MXS
SSgt. Brian Shinkus	440 MXS
SrA Eddie Aponte	440 MDS
SrA Jennifer Carpenter	34 APS
SrA Roger Case	440 MXS
SrA Christopher Hibben	440 CF
SrA Lien Smith	440 MXS
SrA Elizabeth Saltigerald	440 SFS
A1C Joshua Crouch	440 MXS
A1C Kim Meyers	440 MSF
Amn David Long	440 CES
Amn Ryan Marin	440 CES
Amn Chris Schlembach	440 CES

## Writer / public affairs specialist needed

The 440th Public Affairs office is seeking a writer to serve on the Flying Badger staff. The enlisted position also entails community relations and media relations. The ideal candidate needs strong interpersonal communication and writing skills. In addition, the writer needs to be independent, motivated and customer-service oriented. Interested individuals should submit a resume and cover letter to Maj. Ann Peru Knabe at [Ann.Knabe@generalmitchell.af.mil](mailto:Ann.Knabe@generalmitchell.af.mil)

on the outside

# looking in

A monthly column for military spouses and family

## **Can family members (dependents) of 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Reservists use the base gym?**

Yes. The base gym, run by 440<sup>th</sup> Services is open for use by Reservists and their dependents, ages 16 and older. There are a variety of cardiovascular machines and weight machines. The wear of workout clothes and gym shoes is required.

The gym is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and primary UTA weekends Saturdays 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Lockers (bring your own lock) and showers are available for use while using the gym.

Reservists and family members must bring their military identification cards for entrance to the gym. The phone number for the base gym is (414) 482-5706.

## **Is there a comprehensive checklist or guide to help a Reserve family prepare for deployment?**

Yes. Family Readiness has a pre-deployment planning kit available for all Reservists to help prepare for the absence of their military member.

The kit includes checklist items including how to care for your home, vehicles and preparing a will or power of attorney, data worksheets, budget worksheets and everything a family would need to manage military and household responsibilities during a member's deployment.

If you would like to request this kit, call the Family Readiness Office at (414) 482-5424.

Family support sends a hearty thank you to all reservists and civilians who donated toys for Operation Angel Tree. The program was a great success, and many families were touched by the 440<sup>th</sup>'s generosity.

\*\*\*\*\*

**On the outside - looking in** is created for families of reservists. The column answers questions submitted by family members. Please submit your questions to Family Support Director Susan Knauer at (414) 482-5424 or 1-800-224-2744, or e-mail Susan.Knauer@generalmitchell.af.mil

## Civil Engineering members and spouses recognized for Operation Iraqi Freedom overseas deployment



photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

Tech. Sgt. Jack Vollriede's son, Jack, proudly wears his Stars and Stripes ribbon.

Forty -six Civil Engineering reservists were awarded Meritorious Service Medals, Air Force Commendation Medals, Army Commendation Service Medals and the Air Force Achievement Medal during the December UTA.

In a unique twist during the awards ceremony, reservists' family members, friends and other supporters were awarded the Stars and Stripes ribbon. Civil Engineering is the only unit to use the Stars and Stripes ribbon to recognize outstanding supporters.

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Kaiser came up with the idea to award supporters the ribbon. The reservists were asked who they would like the ribbon to go to. In some cases it was a family member; in some cases it was a friend or co-worker who helped reservists' families or showed courage while the member was deployed.

Tech. St. Josesph Gaca and Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Grigg earned the Army ribbon because they were tasked to support Army operations, and the Army unit they were assigned to recommended they receive the ribbon.

440th Airlift Wing  
Office of Public Affairs  
300 East College Avenue  
Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station, WI 53207

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