

# FLYING BADGER

440th Airlift Wing, General Mitchell ARS, Milwaukee, WI

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**"Operation Shoe Box"**

*440th Reservists assist  
with  
humanitarian mission*

# Challenges ahead with move, success still our only option

by Col. Merle D. Hart  
440th Airlift Wing Commander

Thank you for your continued exceptional performance throughout the wing. We are accomplishing great things and continue to win awards and recognition throughout our command. Great job!

We are now undergoing the most radical change in our unit's history. These dynamic changes affect each of us differently. Challenges as we transition are not all clearly apparent and some will only become clear in time. Recognizing challenges is important as we transition into a new chapter in our lives. The challenges of change are often accompanied by opportunities. Recognizing opportunities is not always easy because the stress of transition helps cloud our

vision. We need to embrace the changes that are occurring now and be optimistic about the opportunities of the future. When opportunities arise, embrace them and prepare for another chapter in your life. While the future is uncertain, our past successes will act as a base line to guide us to future success.

The efforts of our BRAC teams at AFRC, General Mitchell and Det. 1 at Pope AFB are well underway in establishing our transition to Pope. Many hours of work and rework are required to get the best mix in standing up the first active associate relationship and ensure our Total Force integration is right. Recent financial constraints changed our initial timelines, but did not reverse BRAC and the reality of our base closing next February. Success is our only option

as the planning teams remove obstacles in our path to a successful new beginning. So many folks are working extremely hard and I appreciate your extensive efforts at all levels in our path to success.

The recent Flying Badger inserts have captured moments of our unit history and our time at General Mitchell. Recognizing past accomplishments and our rich heritage will leave us with fond memories and a strong sense of accomplishment while establishing our base line of expectations for the future at Pope. Each of you contributed to our legacy, some more than others, but each of us played a part.

Thank you for your contribution to our wing and service to our nation, and may God bless all of us throughout our transition.



## On the cover...

Senior Airman Lisa Taylor, 440th Operations Support Flight intelligence specialist, repacks boxes of shoes that are part of a Denton Humanitarian mission headed to Afghanistan. 440th OSF reservists were joined by 440th Airlift Control Flight and 34th Aerial Port Airmen who also volunteered their time to help.

photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

## The Flying Badger

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**Wing Commander**  
Col. Merle D. Hart

**Director, Public Affairs**  
Dennis J. Mehring

**Wing Chief, Public Affairs**  
Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

**Public Affairs Staff**  
1st Lt. Jeff Schoen  
Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler  
Staff Sgt. Erica Neubauer  
Airman 1st Class Amanda Hill  
Liz A. Stoeckmann

**Office of Public Affairs**  
440th Airlift Wing  
300 East College Avenue  
General Mitchell ARS, WI 53207

Phone: 414-482-5481  
FAX: 414-482-5913

<http://www.genmitchell.afrc.af.mil/>

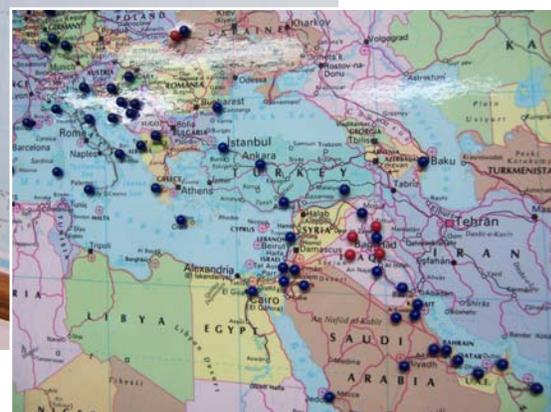


Col. Merle D. Hart, 440th Airlift Wing commander, in the navigator's seat on a recent 95th Airlift Squadron flight.

# ‘Midwestern work ethic’ earns 440th ALCF top 22nd AF award



Master Sgt. Lisa DeLeon, 440th Airlift Control Flight, pushes in yet another pin on the map that records 440th ALCF deployments. Sergeant DeLeon and other ALCF Airmen traveled to the Middle East last year to participate in Exercise Juniper Stallion.



## Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

If there ever was a question as to whether or not the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight ever deployed, one look at the world map hanging inside their office gives the answer.

“We’ve been to Germany, Croatia, Thailand — all over the world,” Senior Master Sgt. Bradley Goard, superintendent of the 440<sup>th</sup> ALCF, said while pointing out location after location on the map. “There are so many opportunities for people here to do the job and see the world. The unit has a good reputation.”

That good reputation hasn’t gone unnoticed. For the third time in the past eight years, the unit has been named 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force Airlift Control Flight of the Year. The unit, which won the award in 1999 and 2000, now takes its impressive resume to the Air Force Reserve Command level to compete against a unit from 4<sup>th</sup> Air Force. “I

think collectively we’ve always had a good reputation within the system,” Sergeant Goard said of why he thinks the unit was recognized this year.

“We’re a Midwestern unit with a good Midwestern work ethic. We’re not fancy or flashy, but we get the job done.”

Lt. Col. Jon Thorell, 440<sup>th</sup> ALCF commander, says the award is a direct reflection on the Airmen in the unit.

## 440th ALCF - One Outstanding Year

**47 percent** of unit deployed for 13 days to the Middle East to take part in Exercise Juniper Stallion.

**19 percent** of unit deployed for 55 days to Canada to take part in Exercise Maple Flag.

**2 Airmen** deployed for 268 days to Rota, Spain, as stage managers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**1 Airman** earned 440th Ops Group NCO of the Quarter

“We do the job very well,” he said. “We have a lot of tremendously motivated people who know the job and have been doing it for several years.”

The 440<sup>th</sup> ALCF manages Air Mobility Command assets when they arrive at a forward operating location or exercise site, Colonel Thorell said. “We’re not the first people on the ground, but we’re there very shortly after,” he said.

“We’re like the middle man, the broker. We identify the requirements and type of airlift needed to get the mission accomplished.”

When fully staffed, the unit has about 25 Airmen. However, with the base closing due to BRAC, the unit has about 15 Airmen remaining.

“I’m really proud of my people,” Colonel Thorell said. “They’re stand-up kind of folks.”

# 440th Maintainers perform last

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe  
Wing Chief, Public Affairs

From the tiniest screw to a large propeller, Airmen examine every part of a C-130 during an isochronal inspection. Nothing is left to chance.

“Our maintainers don’t leave a single screw unturned,” said Lt. Col. Larry Gamble, 440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group commander, referring to the periodic maintenance overhaul of an aircraft. “ISOs are critical for our aircrews’ safety and an aircraft’s lifespan of use.”

As the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing prepares to move to Pope Air Force Base, N.C., maintainers performed their last isochronal inspection in March. The annual aircraft inspection is more than an exercise in dismantling a C-130 – the ISO section finds problems before they become serious or even catastrophic.

“Preventive maintenance and inspection prolong the service life of aircraft by decades,” explained Master Sgt. Edward Ferch, 440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron flight chief. “The ISO inspection program for C-130s consists of four parts which constitute a complete cycle and is based on 600 annual flying hours, and is based on daily utilization. Isochronal inspections are scheduled at equal intervals throughout the total inspection cycle. So the more an aircraft flies, the fewer calendar days (there are) between inspections.”

Last year the 440<sup>th</sup> MXS’s annual inspections averaged 50.5 days per plane. The days represent the time of an aircraft’s last flight prior to ISO inspection, and its first flight after.

“We were number one in Air Force Reserve Command for units with eight assigned aircraft,” said Sergeant Ferch, expressing pride in the accomplishment. The number of Airmen needed to perform a



Tech. Sgt. George Peterson, 440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron aircraft electrician, changes a fog deicing duct under an aircraft panel on the flight deck of a C-130. A traditional Reservist, Sergeant Peterson helped perform the last ISO inspection on C-130 #402 in Milwaukee.

# “ISO” inspection in Milwaukee

complete ISO inspection varies from aircraft to aircraft. During an ISO, maintainers remove panels to access hidden wires, instrumentation and other hard to reach equipment. They also remove and inspect flight deck seats, stanchions and other removable equipment, parts of the plane that require maintenance, repair or servicing.

Although most of the inspection and maintenance is done on the aircraft, some parts are removed and taken to shops for more extensive or intricate repairs. At the end of the “fix phase,” the aircraft is put back together and rolls out of the docks for a post-dock check.

Personnel changes associated with the wing’s upcoming move to Pope AFB have affected the time it takes 440th maintainers to complete an ISO. This spring two retired annuitants are assisting four Air Reserve technicians during inspections, and two traditional

reservists work mandays to get the job done. Two student hires also help maintain the hangar and clean aircraft parts.

“The reductions in staff have really affected us,” said Sergeant Ferch. “Every shop in the 440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group takes part in the inspection and maintaining of our C-130H2 aircraft. This really became evident since the (base realignment and closure) announcement. As our technicians move to new assignments or retire, we have fewer people to work on the aircraft, so aircraft 402 will be our last ISO in Milwaukee.”

Colonel Gamble says that MXS Airmen will continue their high standards following the move to Pope AFB.

“The maintainers assigned to the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing are second to none,” he said. “And they’ll continue their legacy of excellence for decades to come.”



Master Sgt. Richard Deitche, an aircraft engine mechanic assigned to the 440th Maintenance Squadron Propulsion Shop, inspects a C-130 engine prior to oil change. The oil change is part of an isochronal inspection. In the Air Force, ISO inspections are based on calendar days.

# Don't fall through the cracks!

Check with your 1st Shirt / Commander and make sure you aren't on the list

The 440th Airlift Wing leadership wants to take care of its people, so every effort is being made to ensure Reservists have taken appropriate steps to manage their future.

"Whether a Reservist is going to another unit, planning to stay in Milwaukee through September of 2007 or going to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), they need to make sure the 440th Military Personnel Flight has their intentions on file," said Col. Timothy Ward, vice commander.

"If they don't, they could fall through the cracks."

If Reservists fail to fill out the appropriate paperwork, they will be involuntarily processed for reassignment to the IRR as early as May. **Once the process starts, an individual's ability to earn pay and points at General Mitchell ARS will end.**

Wing leadership is concerned some reservists may have assumed they could stay with the wing until September and automatically transfer to the IRR.

"This is not the case," said Colonel Ward. "They still need to meet with MPF representatives, or they will be transferred from the unit involuntarily.

"It's imperative Reservists go to Military Personnel and follow the appropriate processes," said Colonel Ward. **Wing reservists who will be displaced by base realignment and closure actions must choose between taking another Reserve assignment or electing retirement, if eligible, by April 15 or they will be involuntarily moved into the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR).** Reservists have four steps to follow if they are being displaced:

## Four steps to avoid falling through the cracks

(1) **Reservists who have not received an effective date for a position with a unit at another base should go to the Military Personnel Flight (MPF, building 101) between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday of the April UTA.**

When an offer from another base is extended Reservists are required to come into the MPF to sign an acceptance of that assignment. Reservists who believe they have an assignment, but have not been asked to sign an official notice of assignment in the MPF, should visit MPF Relocations to determine their status.

(2) **Reservists who have not applied for retirement must go to the MPF between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday of the April UTA.** When a Reservist starts the retirement application process via the vPC-GR (Air Reserve Personnel Center Web site), they will receive notification that their application has entered the coordination process. After ARPC sends notification of an approved retirement date the Reservist will be scheduled for a future out-processing.

(3) **Reservists who have not finished their IRR package must go to the MPF at 8:30 a.m. on Satur-**

**day of the April UTA.** The wing career assistance advisor will finalize applications for coordination by unit career advisors and unit commanders at that time. Once the application is approved by the unit, the application will be taken to the wing commander for final approval.

(4) **Reservists who have not taken any actions at all must go to the MPF between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday of the April UTA and start the paperwork for voluntary reassignment to the IRR.** Reservists who have not yet accepted or received an offer from another unit (other than Pope) should voluntarily sign up for the IRR at the MPF. This action will give a person time to continue looking for a job without having their pay and points stopped. Assignment to the IRR can be canceled at any time between now and Sept. 15 if a Reservist finds a participating position in another National Guard or Reserve unit, or another service component.

If you haven't visited the MPF, now is the time to visit & state your intentions

The following units are identified with the number of Airmen who still need to visit Military Personnel on or before the April UTA:

34<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron - 55 Airmen  
 95<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron - 69 Airmen  
 Airlift Control Flight - 8 Airmen  
 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron - 16 Airmen  
 Airlift Wing - 19  
 Civil Engineering Squadron 55 Airmen  
 Communications Flight - 5 Airmen  
 Logistics Readiness Squadron - 19 Airmen  
 Medical Squadron - 59 Airmen

Maintenance Operations Flight - 10 Airmen  
 Mission Support Flight - 7 Airmen  
 Maintenance Group - 1 Airmen  
 Maintenance Squadron - 62 Airmen  
 Operations Group - 6 Airmen  
 Operations Support Flight - 11 Airmen  
 Security Forces Squadron - 39 Airmen  
 Services Flight - 10 Airmen

**Enlisted promotions**

SSgt. Sabrina Drogos  
 SSgt. Erica Neubauer  
 A1C John Hermans

**Good luck!**

The 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing says goodbye to the following reservists who have retired, separated or taken another assignment:

Lt. Col. Marvin Schaitel  
 Maj. Mark Crudo  
 Maj. Spiros Fafalios  
 Capt. Tim Kerrigan  
 Capt. Erik Wichmann  
 1st Lt. Patricia Birschbach  
 1st Lt. Tarkeshwar Singh  
 SMSgt. Gerald Fox  
 SMSgt. Fred Froeber  
 SMSgt. John Szydel  
 MSgt. James Balling Jr.  
 MSgt. Kenneth Campbell  
 MSgt. Jerry Johnson  
 TSgt. James Armstrong  
 TSgt. Keith Battles  
 TSgt. Alan Domagala  
 TSgt. Robert Johnson  
 TSgt. Karl Lechowicz  
 SSgt. Fredi Barroso  
 SSgt. Raymond Chiavetta  
 SSgt. Kevin Grissman

SSgt. Rusty Lison  
 SSgt. Aaron Riddell  
 SSgt. Mike Shema  
 SSgt. Harold Wilson  
 SrA Vincent Benton  
 SrA Darren Reid  
 A1C Ryan Chapman

**Montgomery G.I. Bill users must request waiver if going into IRR**

Reserve members who are still serving their first six year obligation and have been drawing education benefits from the Montgomery G.I. Bill program and are either voluntarily or involuntarily being reassigned to the Inactive Ready Reserve due to base closure, must request a waiver from the 440 Airlift Wing Education Office to ensure that the benefit money does not have to be returned to AFRC.

Members are eligible for a waiver if they live more than 100 miles from the nearest Air Force Reserve location, or if they live within 100 miles of an Air Force Reserve location, entered the clearing house, (must have a valid confirmation sheet) and did not receive a job offer. A valid offer is determined from a member's place of residence, not the member's current

assignment. Determining who is eligible for a waiver will be evaluated on an individual basis. Contact Staff Sgt. Kimberly Beecher in the Education Office (building 101), or call her at 482-5315.

**Creative ideas sought for new wing image**

When the wing moves to Pope Air Force Base, N.C., there will be two C-130 flying units. The 95th Airlift Squadron (Reserve) will maintain its "Flying Badger" identity, and the 2nd Airlift Squadron will maintain its "Deuce" identity. The wing, however, will need a replacement for its Flying Badger identity. If you have a creative name or logo for the wing, E-mail Timothy.Ward@generalmitchell.af.mil or call 482-5402. Emblems must not be offensive or derogatory in nature.

**No courtesy rides to airport**

The 440<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron will not give courtesy rides to and from General Mitchell International Airport for unofficial or official business. Exceptions to this policy can be made for official business, but the request must go through unit commanders or a unit's

senior Air Reserve technician. Direct all requests for exceptions to 1st Lt. William Beauchene at 482-6967.

**440<sup>th</sup> gets gold for CFC**

The 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing received the Gold Award for its contribution to the Combined Federal Campaign of Eastern Wisconsin.

The Gold Award is given to agencies that reach their contribution goals established by the CFC.

The 440<sup>th</sup> achieved its goal of \$17,000 despite a significant loss of Airmen and civilians. The 2006 CFC coordinator thanks all the 440th members who donated to the campaign.

**Like the C-130 print in the Badger?**

**Buy an original, signed 440th AW C-130 Lithograph**

Signature, numbered lithographs featuring a 440<sup>th</sup> C-130 are available for sale for \$15 from Chapter 45 Reserve Officers Association.

Friends and family of 440th members can purchase the lithographs at building 200, room 118B. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Bill Beauchene at 482-6967.

**Promotion & NCO induction ceremony covered by TV**

Master Sgt. Jessica Johnson answers Channel 12 WISN-TV reporter Cary Edward's questions following the March NCO promotion and induction ceremony.

"It's a bittersweet event," said Command Chief Carmon Francher. "Promotions are always an exciting time in servicemembers' careers, but this will be the last one in Milwaukee."

A dozen Airmen pinned on new rank in the ceremony that celebrated their new move to greater responsibility and leadership. The event was hosted by the 440<sup>th</sup>'s "Top 3" group who represents the top three enlisted ranks of Airmen who mentor junior enlisted.

Event organizer Senior Master Sgt. Steve Koetter said the wing plans to continue the NCO induction ceremony at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.



# Ouch!

Newly promoted Master Sgt. Jim Litscher is all grins as Senior Master Sgts. Sandra Gonzalez and Matthew Knight give his new stripes the traditional punch to make sure they don't come off. The unofficial punch took place after the March NCO Promotion and Induction ceremony.

*photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe*



## Wing Photo OP

### Bring your blues in May!

Be a part of the last wing formation picture in Milwaukee. Reservists are asked to wear their blues (class A, service dress) for the photo.

The "photo op" is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, with a rain date of May 6.

Show your Flying Badger pride & be a part of history!

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

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