

# MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

WHITMANAFB

**442nd CES  
Firefighters**

**The  
gun**



*Be careful out there*

## Those critical days of summer are upon us

By Senior Master Sgt. Steve Smith,  
442nd Fighter Wing ground-safety  
manager

The 101 Critical Days of Summer 2007 campaign began at 4 p.m. May 25 and ends at 7 a.m. on Sept. 4.

During Last year's campaign the Air Force experienced 18 fatalities compared to 29 during 2005.

As in past years, motor-vehicle fatalities accounted for most of those losses – seven to auto mishaps and another four to motorcycle mishaps.

Some of the factors in these mishaps included speeding and not using seatbelts or helmets. Alcohol was a

factor in two of the motor vehicle mishaps.

This Air Force-wide campaign has ran annually since the early 1980s and was developed to counter the traditional increase in Air Force mishaps and fatalities, which occur during the summer months.

Campaign efforts attempt to increase personal awareness of risk and thereby reduce the number of summer mishaps and fatalities.

Traditional efforts include; messages by senior leadership, mass briefings by commanders, weekly supervisory briefings, as well as pre-trip, travel and departure briefings.

As we focus our campaign efforts to target local hazards, we must continue to manage the risk associated with our activities- both on and off duty.

Each member of the 442nd Fighter Wing is an irreplaceable resource in the continuing war on terrorism.

The Citizen Airmen of the 442nd Safety Office hope each of you enjoys your summer with family and friends, it is well deserved. But please, do so safely.

Use common sense, plan ahead and be prepared. Our nation needs each of us, our families need us, and the Air Force needs you to help meet the challenges our nation is asking of us.

## As Airmen, we're dedicated to profession of arms *We fly, fight and win wars*

By Gen. T. Michael Moseley,  
Air Force chief of staff

We are a Nation at war. As a Service, we've been in continuous combat for over 16 years. The strain is taking a toll on our people and our equipment, yet Airmen persevere, going above and beyond the call of duty every hour of every day. We have answered the Nation's call to defend America, its interests and ideals.

As Airmen, we have a unique war-fighting perspective, shaped by a century-old quest to gain the high ground. The association between Air Force and flying is universal, inherent and undeniable. Yet, over the years, we have become so technically proficient and specialized that we have sometimes drifted from our core essence and let our functions override our mission-focus and war-fighting orientation. We must never forget that our Air Force isn't just a conglomeration of diverse specialties, skill sets, or jobs. Ours is the *profession of arms*. We are Airmen Warriors - dedicated to *flying, fighting, and winning*.

As the youngest of America's five Services, our battle traditions are just 100 years old. Nevertheless, we are heirs to a proud heritage. The Airman Warrior tradition was built by heroic visionaries and practitioners - such as Mitchell, Arnold, Chennault, Doolittle, LeMay and Schriever - who

charged us to believe in and advocate the value of air power for the Nation. They left us a spirit that fosters initiative, innovation, and forward thinking. They left us an institutional belief in leading by example, from the front, and assuming the full measure of risk and responsibility. They left us a heritage of valor, honor, service and sacrifice. This legacy - the contrails they left behind - defines who we are, shapes what we do, and sets the vector for our future. We stand on the shoulders of giants.

Since becoming chief a year and a half ago, one of my top priorities has been to reinvigorate the warrior ethos in every Airman of our Total Force. To me, our warrior ethos is the war-fighting focused *culture, conviction, character, ethic, mindset, spirit, and soul* we foster in all Airmen. It's the pride in our heritage, the recognition that our Nation depends on us to dominate air, space and cyberspace, and our willing acceptance of the burden of those immense responsibilities. We're duty-bound to imbue our newest Airmen with these warrior virtues during basic training and foster them throughout every Airman's career.

As Airmen, we wage and win our Nation's wars, all the while fulfilling invaluable and unique roles and missions in peace, crisis and war. As Airmen, we build on our rich combat heritage while reaching toward an infinite horizon. And, as Airmen, we fly, fight, and win. Don't you ever forget it!

# MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

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## Tip of the Spear

**MASTER SGT. GREGORY WALKER**  
**442ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON**

As the 442nd CES noncommissioned officer of supply, Sergeant Walker has the huge responsibility of inventorying, kitting, and ordering thousands of pieces of equipment to keep the 93-person squadron ready to deploy at a moment's notice. Exemplifying service before self, Sergeant Walker deployed for four months to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, as the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron chief of supply two weeks after returning from a three-month deployment to Germany. Under his leadership, his team processed 420 purchase requests valued at \$7 million for materials and services that improved the base infrastructure and Forward Operating Base Warrior. This quantity of purchase requests was the most seen since the beginning of the war. He supervised the largest self-help store on the installation for more than 1,000 U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and contractors every month. He recognized the need for his self-help facility to be open 11 hours a day, seven days a week due to the large demand of personnel wanting to check out materials needed to make quality of life improvements to their facilities.

Sergeant Walker's contribution to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM is easily seen in the hundreds of improvements made across the combined installation. But just as important to him was his contribution to a young U.S. Army soldier who just wanted a brush and can of paint to lighten up his sleeping quarters to take his mind off work and all the dangerous activities he encountered outside the wire that day.

[www.442fw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.442fw.afrc.af.mil)

June 2007  
Charge-of-quarters



**SENIOR MASTER SGT. ERNIE FERGUSON**  
**303RD FIGHTER SQUADRON**

Call the CQ from on-base at 99-1 (660) 238-7428. From a local off-base number (i.e., Concordia, Warrensburg, Sedalia etc.), dial (660) 238-7428. To call toll free from off-base, dial (800) 260-0253 and press seven after the prompt.

**COVER PHOTO: A 442nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter is suited up for a fire fighting training exercise. See related story on pages six and seven. (Photo by Maj. Anne Yelderman)**

## MOHAWK

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# MEO

## Standing up for you

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

A good compass points people in the right direction. The three-person staff of the 442nd Fighter Wing's Military Equal Opportunity office hope they can be a compass for the wing's Airmen, their families and retirees.

If Capt. Lisa Gaines, 2nd Lt. Pat Chevalier or Tech. Sgt. Amber Ross can't solve a customer's problem, they will at least try to find that person some assistance.

"Because of the name (MEO) itself, people assume we only deal with sexual harassment. But it's broader than (that)," said Captain Gaines, the wing's MEO chief. She noted that the office works with issues involving discrimination with regard to "national origin, race, religion and gender."

Captain Gaines and Sergeant Ross, MEO non-commissioned officer in charge, said one of their primary jobs is to keep 442nd Fighter Wing commander, Col. Steve Arthur, and other unit commanders up to date on the wing's climate through assessments, as well as through questions and observations they receive.

"We are the outside eyes that can give an objective opinion about what's going on," Sergeant Ross said. "Every year, we do a wing climate assessment. We do it more on a unit level so commanders can get a picture of the environmental climate as far as human relations. We do a survey form and interpret data, talk to various people and report back to commanders, and we offer suggestions."

"(Issues) come down to the commander's decision," Sergeant Ross said. "We recommend a lot of stuff. We have a trained mediator in our wing and the Air Force promotes facilitation. The parties have ownership of the solution. We try to stress, 'What's the solution look like to you? What do you want?' If we can't talk this out, (the parties) can file a complaint."

When working a problem, Captain Gaines said she and her staff go "the extra step" to clarify what happened.

Sergeant Ross noted that the MEO staff wants to find "the underlying causes" in situations. "Is it a training issue? What are the steps someone needed to do to get to where they needed to be? We want to find out why something happened, not so much what happened and who did what to whom. We want to find out why something didn't get resolved."

Captain Gaines and Sergeant Ross noted that MEO fights a bit of an uphill battle in that there is a perception that they are the "politically-correct police," in Sgt. Ross' words.

She said the MEO staff does not want people to have the attitude of, "'MEO just walked in. Don't tell any jokes'. I'm not the politically-correct police. I know when I can say things and when I can't. Perception is reality in every situation and it's very difficult to quash those perceptions."

Educating wing members about who and what MEO is and does is the key to fighting such perceptions, Captain Gaines and Sergeant Ross said, an effort that falls squarely on MEO's shoulders.

"It's up to us to educate the wing to let them know we're here," Captain Gaines said. She and Sergeant Ross said they do this primarily through casual conversations and the wing's newcomer's program. Both said that while this education process can be a struggle, headway is being made and both stated that they and Lieutenant Chevalier are more than willing to help any Airman.

MEO is "a safe place to stop and ask a question," Captain Gaines said. She and Sergeant Ross said issues often involve more than the immediate party or parties. Captain Gaines said her staff is more in the business of "clarifying" versus "investigating."

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON  
**The Military Equal Opportunity office includes, Capt. (then 1st Lt.) Lisa Gaines, Tech. Sgt. Amber Ross and 2nd Lt. Patrick Chevalier.**



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. WILLIAM HUNTINGTON

**Lt. Gen. John Bradley, chief of the Air Force Reserve, speaks to Citizen Airmen in the 442nd Fighter Wing 5-Bay Hangar May 5.**

## **AFRC commander honors 442nd Airmen during visit**

*Stories by Staff Sgt. Tom Talbert*

At a ceremony May 5, Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, the top general in the Air Force Reserve, presented the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award to 442nd Fighter Wing members who were deployed from May until mid-September 2006 in Afghanistan as part of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing.

The general, who once commanded the 442nd in the 1980s, was quick to note in his remarks that even though more than 300 wing members deployed and received this award, the entire wing was responsible for the exceptional recognition.

"In the over 200 hours of flying time it took to get your planes from here to Bagram Airfield, you didn't have a single glitch," said the chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

"That tells us one very impressive thing," he said. "These airplanes were in great shape when they left and the entire 442nd made that happen. Your support is what made those jets get there code 1."

After congratulating the entire wing, General Bradley went on to speak about the difficult mission of those deployed and how they stood out among their peers.

"We had 40 percent of the airplanes at Bagram and we (the Air Force Reserve) flew 60 percent of the combat missions," the general said. "That means our airplanes were in better shape."

General Bradley went on to recall his visit with members of the 442nd while deployed to Afghanistan.

"I drove out on the flight line and down the taxiway to where the airplanes were parked and half a mile away I knew which planes were ours because they look just like they do here today – painted and washed – a big difference from the others," he said. "We've got fabulous professionals with years of experience that truly set us apart."

General Bradley pointed out in his remarks that while members of the 442nd were at Bagram, their Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployment set records in weapons employment, dropping several times the amount of ordnance in Afghanistan that was dropped during the same period in Iraq.

In presenting the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award, General Bradley thanked the members of the 442nd and called on them to remain steadfast.

"Stick with us as we ask to you to do more in the years to come," he said.

The general ended by reflecting on his past with the 442nd and look toward the future.

"The last few years, we've asked more from our reservists than in the entire forty years I have been in our Air Force and I couldn't be more proud of any outfit than I am of this one," he said. "I still believe you are the best wing in the Air Force."

## **Conversation with Lt. Gen. Bradley**

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, answered a few questions during his visit to the 442nd Fighter Wing May 5.

**Mohawk:** Currently the Air Force relies on the volunteerism of its Citizen Airmen to support Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) deployments. Do you think that volunteerism will continue to satisfy the needs of the AEF commitment or will we see more mobilizations in the future?

**General Bradley:** I think for the most part, units like the 442nd are still going to rely on volunteerism. I don't think we need to mobilize people. To me mobilization is a last resort and my boss (Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. T. Michael Moseley) agrees with that too.

We want to use volunteers. That's the right way to do this business. We have a lot of people who want to volunteer for us. If we're ever in a pinch and we have to mobilize then we do it, but I think we won't need to do that as long as we're permitted to rotate our people and make this a reasonable cycle.

People will continue to volunteer because they think this is important. Volunteerism is the answer and that's the way we will continue doing business.

There are some specialties, like security forces, where we have to keep people over for long periods of time, in those cases we will have to do mobilizations, but our first response will always be volunteerism.

**Mohawk:** Do you see AEF deployments moving to six months instead of four?

**General Bradley:** No! I haven't heard a word about that and as far as I know, it hasn't been discussed at Air Force level. Deployments are going to remain four months.

**Mohawk:** We've heard it said that the Air Force is looking at the 442nd Fighter Wing becoming a Reserve associate unit in the future. Are there plans to make the 442nd another Reserve associate unit?

**General Bradley:** No, not currently, there are no plans to do so. What could happen in the future is we may have some active folks associated with us, but there are no discussions to make the 442nd an associate unit. You are still going to be the same unit-equipped wing you've always have been.

Air combat command may look at trying to do some associate business with us in some areas. They have not discussed Whiteman (Air Force Base) with me at all.





## 442nd firefighters know the meaning of hot

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

Out of sight, out of mind. That's how some of the firefighters of the 442nd Civil Engineer Squadron describe their 24-man team at Whiteman Air Force Base.

But 15 of their members were anything but out of sight or out of mind during their 120-day tour of duty from September 2006 to January at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Citizen Airmen left a lasting impression at Kirkuk and, in turn, their efforts and experiences left a lasting impression on them, as they took care of their primary duties and helped other civil engineer units, medical personnel, wounded troops and civilians. The benefactors go on and on.

"The commanders there loved us," said Staff Sergeant Mike Booker, fire protection journeyman.

Bringing a wealth of civilian and military experience to their Operation Iraqi Freedom mission, the Citizen Airmen were more than willing to help where needed.

"Everything in a contingency environment is the mission," said Senior Master Sgt. Ralph Loar, fire protection assistant chief. "On a rest cycle, you may be stringing concertina wire, helping the rest of the civil engineer squadron, helping a mechanic repair a truck. It's different from peacetime. But in Iraq, we're trying to turn stuff over to the Iraqis and the Iraqi Air Force. We don't want to be there for the next 15 years."

Fortunately, the Airmen didn't have to tackle much actual firefighting, but Sergeant Loar said fast-moving grass fires, fueled by high winds, posed a constant and significant threat to the base.

"We had one fire in a weapons storage area that was caused by someone shooting at us during daylight hours. While most everything is protected, there are still expeditionary assets. That fire, for example, could have burned through a communications cable that controls a commander's radar. You have to limit the risks," he said.

Of all the jobs the Airmen helped with, the one that affected them the most was helping medical troops with their work.

"We did a lot of medical dust-offs where we'd help unload wounded patients and get them into the hospital," said Master Sgt. John Esser, fire protection crew chief. "Some of the helicopters had a hard time landing. I saw one almost veer off. There were 40-, 50-, 60-mile an hour winds hitting it.

"Many of our EMTs (emergency medical technicians) and paramedics would assist in mass casualty events. We'd have 20 or 30 patients at a time coming in. We even had guys helping in surgery suites, maybe holding down a leg or an arm. It was pretty eye opening."

"It was basically controlled chaos," said Staff Sgt. Angela Doughty, a fire protection craftsman. "They treated more than our guys. There were Iraqi civilians, EPWs (enemy prisoners of war), Iraqi soldiers, kids, adult, whoever got wounded. The medical group was awesome."

"They provided for our fire department, helping to spin up our EMTs, so we could help them," Sergeant Esser said.

"One EOD (explosive ordnance device) guy got shot in his butt and it came out his stomach," Sergeant Esser said. "That was his sec-

ond purple heart in theater. Seeing those things gives you more emphasis on training so we can be more efficient and hopefully do more for the wounded the next time we see them.

"That was quite a deal as far as our personnel working with the medical folks," said Sergeant Esser, a state trooper with the Nebraska State Patrol. "It was chaotic as far as people running around, civilians running around, Army troops, interpreters, medical folks and my fire department guys. One guy they brought in had been wounded in an explosion, but his bodyguard took the brunt of it. I couldn't tell you to this day if he lived."

The Airmen said they saw major and minor injuries being treated. Some people lived, but some, unfortunately, did not.

"You're happy you get them stable so they can fly out," Sergeant Doughty said. "But I remember watching them carry one casket out. I felt a tear running down my cheek and I wiped it away. I felt so bad that I dropped my salute to wipe the tear away."

Even though the Airmen were working and living on a military installation, they said they had to practice the virtue of prudence 24-7.

"You have to go off your gut feelings," Sergeant Booker said. "If it doesn't feel right, it's probably not right."

"You have to get rid of your prejudice," said Staff Sgt. Josh England, a fire protection journeyman. "Not everyone's with the insurgency and wants to blow you up. But you never know who's going to do what.

"You'd see kids coming toward you taking their backpacks off (to show they weren't laden with explosives) hoping we'd throw them candy or a bottle of water," he said. "Maybe some cans of Spam. It's sad to see that. Most of that stuff we'd hand to the chaplain and they'd distribute it.

"There's a lot of shepherding out there and we'd see them get close to the fence," Sergeant England said. "Then we'd be taking fire and we'd find out later that it was from the same guy who was shepherding."

The Airmen's efforts pleased but didn't surprise Chief Master Sgt. Bob McChan, chief of resource fire protection.

"We have people who are firefighters in Columbia, Kansas City, Lees Summit," he said. "There are people who are students, factory workers, workers at Wal-Mart and K-Mart, the whole gambit. It doesn't make a difference, though, because when we're here, we all do the same training.

"We have people who take this profession seriously, who know what needs to be done and are ready to do their job," Chief McChan said. "We have to do the same training the active duty does and they have 365 days a year to do theirs. If you add up the hours, with all the ancillary training, there aren't enough hours in the day. But we have to get it done."

The Citizen Airmen's time at Kirkuk gave them much to think about regarding themselves, each other and their families.

"It helped our department," Sergeant Booker said. "We got to do our job. You knew he's going to help me and I'm going to them him."

"You find out what you're capable of and how well we meshed as a team," Sergeant England said.

"I'd only been gone for four months, but when I got home and looked at my family and friends, I realized how much I missed out on," Sergeant Doughty said. "I'm trying to be more positive and appreciative of what I have here."





PHOTO BY MAJ. ANNE YELDERMAN

# Older than the jet itself 'the gun' m the business end of the

*"I've got a firm policy on gun control. If  
gun around, I want to be the one contr*

*— Actor Clint Eastwood as Harry Callahan in the movie "*

*By Staff Sgt. Tom Talbert*

**I**t might surprise you that the biggest guns in the U.S. aviation arsenal are housed right here with the 442nd Fighter Wing and more specifically on each of the A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft.

Those entrusted with keeping these killer-cannons maintained work in the 442nd armament shop. They know the gun and take great pride in their mission.

"This is the first time in history a plane was designed around a gun and not the other way around," said Chief Master Sgt. Greg Wetzel, 442nd armament flight chief.

"Whoever designed this gun really did a fantastic job," he said. "From a maintainer's point of view, it's really reliable and extremely simple. It holds together really well."

The GAU-8/A Avenger, the 30-mm, seven-barrel, Gatling-type rotory cannon mounted on the A-10 Thunderbolt II, is the largest, heaviest and

most powerful aircraft cannon in U.S. military history. The capable crew responsible for maintaining these frightful, fear-mongering firearms for the fighting 442nd loves the gun and the job maintaining it.

"It's the biggest, baddest system in a fighter aircraft in the entire world, what's not to like?" said Tech. Sgt. Sigmund Gross, who transferred to the 442nd after the New Orleans base closing last year. "I've worked on the 20mm guns on the F-16 and this is more fun because you know it does lots more damage to the enemy."

The shop employs the resources of 10 full-time and 15 traditional reservists to keep these 26 A-10 guns running in tip-top shape. Once a gun is brought in for servicing it takes about five days for the entire shop to do the gun's service work.

"Most of these guns were manufactured in 1977 or before, so we can't complain about reliability," Chief Wetzel said. "Every 24 months, or 25,000 rounds, whichever comes first, we will pull the gun and go

through it from top to bottom. At 250,000 rounds the gun actually gets replaced and the old one sent off to be completely rebuilt and restored."

"The Avenger is a joy to work on compared to other guns," Chief Wetzel said. "With other guns, everything had to be perfectly timed and in place. These guns are so incredibly reliable, forgiving, well manufactured and are remarkably powerful."

Tech. Sgt. Toby J. McCord, 442nd armament specialist who transferred from F-16 Fighting Falcons at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., concurs. "The mechanism is incredible. It can go backwards and forward. The guns I've worked on in the past could not go backwards or it would break the system."

"Regardless of the fun we have working on the weapon, the security of the job is kind of nice as well," Chief Wetzel said. "For a while I thought the A-10 wouldn't be around much longer, but due to this weapon's reliability, this will be along long after I retire -- well past 2020."

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# remains A-10

there's a  
rolling it."

"Dirty Harry"

## GUN FACTS

In 1970, when General Electric produced the GAU -8/A 30- mm aerial mounted cannon for the U.S. Air Force, who could have imagined the gun and plane built around it would play a key role in its air-assault arsenal for so many years to come?

This incredible weapon, the heart of the A-10 Thunderbolt II, is the largest, heaviest and most powerful aircraft cannon in the United States military. The Avenger was designed for the anti-tank role and fires 62 very powerful rounds a second.

The A-10 was designed around the gun and not vice versa, the opposite of most aircraft weapons systems. Both the A-10 and GAU-8 entered service in 1977 and the incredibly powerful gun represents 16 percent of the aircraft's weight.

Another unique feature is the gun's placement -- slightly off center in the nose of the plane with the main landing gear positioned to the



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON





Wright Brothers image from "100 Years of Flight" by Ezequiel Martinez

# Wright

## Aviation program

By Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

Following a tradition established by now-retired Col. Dewayne Burgess, the 442nd Fighter Wing's Human Resources Development Council continues to sponsor the Wright Flight program at area schools.

Wright Flight is an aviation-themed youth mentoring program that uses some of manned flight's notable pioneers, such as Orville and Wilbur Wright, and others, as role models for students to use as to establish and reach goals.

Wright Flight's origins are with Air Force Reserve pilot Robin Stoddard who noticed the effect aircraft had on youth. He decided to use that as a positive influence on them to help motivate them to do better in school.

Starting in 1987 in Tucson, Ariz., Stoddard developed the program and organized volunteers to teach the program.



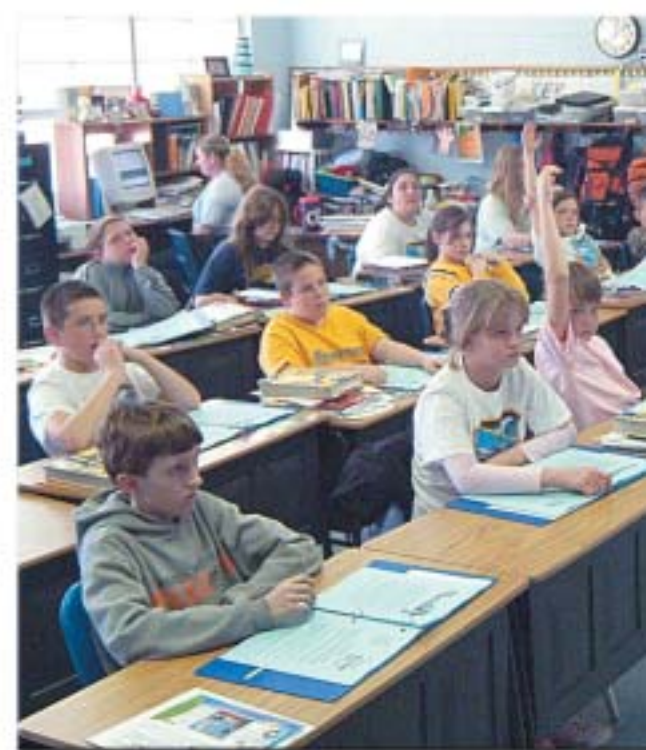
PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

On behalf of the Wing's Reserve Officers Association, 1st Lt. Terrell Eikner and Col. Tony Johnson present a "check" to Master Sgt. Claudia Spooner for Wright Flight.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

Some Wright Flight students took to the skies as area pilots converged on the Carrollton airport to provide them a chance to fly over central Missouri.



Master Sgt. Claudia Spooner, 442nd Mission Support Squadron, visits Hardin Central school near Richmond.



# Wright Flight soars

## Program takes youth to new heights

He also got pilots to provide a flight in private aircraft to students as a reward for successfully completing the course.

Wright Flight's mission from the outset was to use the inherent motivational power of aviation as a stimulus for students to set and achieve higher goals in their educational and personal development. We teach students, grades 4-12, that through commitment and hard work they can achieve the highest goals, including the opportunity to pilot a light aircraft."

The program grew, and now has chapters in North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Kansas, Florida, Massachusetts as well the 442nd's here in Missouri.

The 442nd Wright Flight volunteers teach classes at inner city and rural schools and, through donations from organization such as the wing's Reserve Officer Association chapter, provide class materials.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

**Rory McGraw, a sixth-grade student at Hardin Central School climbs into a plane at Carrollton for his flight at the culmination of this year's Wright Flight program.**



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

**1st Lt. John Tice, teaches a Wright Flight class to students at**



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. CHRISTINA SURATOS

**1st Lt. John Tice, a pilot with the 303rd Fighter Squadron, answers a Genesis School student's questions about the A-10.**



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
442ND FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
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## TO THE FAMILY OF:

*Below: Members of the 442nd Civil Engineer Squadron, who deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, for four months from September 2006 to January will also receive the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award for their deployment to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. During the deployment, they programmed and worked on more than \$4.25 million in infrastructure projects to improve the base and airfield, as well as ongoing maintenance projects such as road repair.*



## Civil engineers receive Meritorious Unit Award

**"I still believe you are the best wing in the Air Force."**

**-- Lt. Gen. John Bradley,**

**Chief of the Air Force Reserve**