

# MOHAWY

442nd Fighter



**Munitions flight  
awaits new buildings**



## Air Force Reserve officials seek to minimize effects of H1N1 virus

by 2nd Lt. Joe Simms  
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.**—Air Force Reserve Command is taking a more active role this year in preventing influenza-like illnesses, including the new H1N1 strain.

“The first line of defense is understanding how the disease is transmitted,” said Lt. Col. Tim Bennett, AFRC public health officer.

The flu and the H1N1 strain spread from person to person by small droplets formed from a sneeze or cough. These droplets pass to uninfected people when they shake hands, kiss or touch something recently touched by an infected person and then touch their face.

People can reduce their risks by frequently washing their hands and covering their faces or turning their heads when coughing or sneezing.

“A second defensive weapon in our armament is a new FDA-approved vaccine that is specific to the H1N1 strain,” Colonel Bennett said.

Public health officials say this new vaccine should be available in late October. If offered, the new vaccine can be given at the same time as the traditional seasonal vaccine.

In the near future, Air Force Reserve Command will ask supervisors to track workplace absenteeism due to confirmed H1N1 and influenza-like illness, Colonel Bennett said. Tracking the rate of absenteeism will help determine if more

preventative measures are necessary.

A third defense is the practice of social distancing to reduce the spread of disease by increasing the space between people.

“This is the best way to sustain the mission while protecting the force,” Colonel Bennett said.

Faced with significant absenteeism and possibly local school closures, supervisors may be directed to implement alternate work schedules, minimum manning, telecommuting and virtual meetings or other arrangements that keep personnel from working in close quarters.

Symptoms do not always identify a particular disease, Colonel Bennett said. However, they can indicate when an individual has a transmissible disease such as influenza.

Symptoms to be aware of, outside of the normal cough and sore throat, include body aches, nausea and a fever of 100.5 Fahrenheit or higher that lasts several days or doesn’t immediately respond to fever reducers. Officials at Headquarters AFRC encourage units to recommend members not report to their unit training assemblies if they have influenza-like symptoms.

“Everyone should maintain a healthy lifestyle and take steps to protect the workforce and community,” Colonel Bennett said. “By monitoring personal and family health, reservists can spot illnesses earlier and

halt the chain of infection.” (*Air Force Reserve Command News Service*)



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KASEY ZICKMUND

**Senior Airman Megan Knutson, a medical technician at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., fills a syringe with a vaccination. Air Force Reserve Command officials are encouraging reservists to be immunized this flu season.**

# MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

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## 2009 Charge-of-quarters



## MASTER SGT. BLAINE EDWARDS, 442ND CIVIL ENGINEER 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:** Senior Airman Pat Williams, right, and Staff Sgt. Randy Benedict of the 442nd Munitions Flight, part of the 442nd Maintenance Squadron, wire an inert MK-82, 500-pound bomb, fused for air burst during the October unit training assembly. The munitions flight is eagerly awaiting construction to be completed on three new buildings that will enhance their contribution to the wing's A-10 mission. For more, see the story on pages 6 and 7. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tom Talbert)



# T 442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

## MASTER SGT. CRAIG BURTON, 442ND FIGHTER WING COMMAND POST

Master Sgt. Craig Burton is the command post's NCOIC of Console Operations.

He has been instrumental in ensuring the command post console is manned with highly trained and certified controllers.

He is also the fighter wing staff security manager, and has maintained a flawless security manager program for the wing staff for several years. Sergeant Burton played a key role on the 442 FW exercise and evaluation team in preparing the wing for its operational readiness inspection. He also set up the command post section and secure communications in the installation control center.

He is a superior example of the core values integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do.

## MOHAWK

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# 442nd SFS members hard at work in Iraq



Above: Staff Sgt. Michael Hall, left, and Tech. Sgt. Van Swearingin provide counter-sniper support during a detainee release at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq. Both men are deployed there along with other members of the 442nd Security Forces Squadron.



Left: Master Sgt. Mitch Dorl, holds a position during the same detainee release at Kirkuk. The 442nd Security Forces Squadron reservists are deployed for a six-month tour to the base and are currently part of the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

Below: The 442nd SFS first sergeant, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Smith, stands in front of the Kirkuk welcome sign. The Citizen Airmen of the 442nd SFS deploy more than any other unit in the 442nd Fighter Wing. *(All photos courtesy of Maj. Dan Diercks)*





## Speech to Air Force Association

# General Stenner: Keep AF components in sync.

by Master Sgt. Paul Dean  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – “We are not interested in a tiered readiness level,” said the chief of the Air Force Reserve Sept. 15 during the Air Force Association’s 2009 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition held at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md.

“We are a seamless partner. We must turn challenges into opportunities, and opportunities into measurable objectives as we continue to improve the way the Air Force Reserve feeds the fight,” said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., the chief of Air Force Reserve and commander, Air Force Reserve Command.

The key priorities of Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz are interwoven into the major command goals and objectives of the Air Force Reserve, General Stenner said. However, the management of Citizen Airmen and their resources often detours him as he works toward the same destination.

The general’s first challenge and opportunity is to provide and maintain a strategic reserve force that can be, and is, used around the world. This strategic force must also be sustainable, General Stenner said.

Obstacles in the path of a sustained strategic force include the ongoing high operations tempo, whereby if the force is overused in its entirety “or if any component of it is overused, the whole thing breaks,” General Stenner said.

Working toward solving potential threats to the integrity of a sustainable strategic reserve, General Stenner said he is using hard data, proven management tools, feedback from his nine partnered major commands and application of sound military judgment.

The primary focus of sustainability is an analysis of low-density, high-demand jobs, comparing today’s toolset to current and potential threats, and trying to anticipate shortfalls, the general said.

“Look to the future, (then) program to fix it,” he said. “We are all getting together with all of the combatant commands and asking ‘What do you need? What will you need?’

“We have to know what we will need to fight the fights,” General Stenner said, “because when the system is stressed there are only two options: the tempo goes down – not likely – or the talent pool has to increase, which takes a lot of time.”

Any increase to the talent pool, which Reserve officials will undertake Oct. 1 because of an (adjustment) to their end strength cap, means more people will assume “triad” responsibilities: balancing family life, military life and civilian work obligations.

Command officials are collecting data designed to help make sure programs are in place that make the triad easier to



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DESIREE N. PALACIOS

**Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr. speaks about the Air Force Reserve challenges Sept. 15 at the 2009 Air Force Association Air and Space Conference held at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md. General Stenner is chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.**

manage and also to allow open communication with political leaders who are asking how to build stronger bridges between the Reserve and civilian employers.

The general commissioned an independent survey to look for answers about the military leg of the triad, why people join and what keeps them in. The survey revealed that the most important things to Citizen Airmen are a sense of patriotism and the chance to earn a retirement. This information will help with recruiting and retention.

General Stenner is now ready to ask employers to verify his suspicions about their greatest needs: predictability in knowing when an Airman will deploy, an understanding of why “their” Airman is needed, a true sense of how long the Airman will be gone and information about when they will have to go again.

Addressing the family balance leg of the triad, the general said he is committed to using best practices from any branch or component that can be helpful to Citizen Airmen.

The third of General Stenner’s current challenges and opportunities is acquisition, one of Secretary Donley’s and General Schwartz’s key priorities.

This challenge is also markedly different for the Reserve, General Stenner said. The budget and appropriations process does not work the same for the Air Force Reserve as it does for the active-duty component.

“But we must not do things one component at a time,” General Stenner said. “We are doing things as one Air Force. We have to rebuild and modernize. We must also synchronize.”

Synchronization is the key to any challenge facing the Air Force, General Stenner said.

“This is all about getting the most capability in the most effective and efficient manner. We will work together through the details, then as an Air Force we will continue to win.”



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. TOM TALBERT

Tech. Sgt. Eric Sampson, a munitions technician in the 442nd Maintenance Squadron's munitions flight, inspects an umbilical cable on a AIM-9 air-to-air missile Oct. 3. Three

building projects are currently underway to expand the storage capabilities of the flight so it's better able to provide for the 442nd Fighter Wing's explosives requirements.

# Building-boom for the BOO

## Munitions flight hopes new construction will enhance mis

By Staff Sgt. Kent Kagaris

The 442nd Maintenance Squadron's Munitions Flight is looking forward to the completion of three new buildings, which flight members believe will enhance their ability to provide the 442nd Fighter Wing with all things explosive.

The 442nd Munitions Flight, located on the East side of Whiteman's runway, is preparing to expand its real estate with two new munitions-storage igloos and a three-bay maintenance facility once construction is complete.

The Air Force Reservists in the flight, also known as "ammo" troops, supply the wing's A-10s with the ordnance required to take out ground targets and protect the airplanes in combat. Flight members supply ordnance on a daily basis for the 303rd Fighter Squadron's training sorties. This is in addition

to explosives needed by other units within the wing.

"Basically we're going to supply everything for the mission from bombs, missiles and even explosives for the security-forces dogs to sniff out while training," said Chief Master Sgt. Russ Rackers, assistant flight chief.

"Anything that goes boom, goes through us," he said.

Munitions personnel can be seen frequently on the flight-line transporting bombs for loading onto A-10s but there is a lot of preparation that may not be visible unless one makes the journey to the 442nd Fighter Wing's Munitions Storage Area on the other side of the base.

"Storage, handling and building the bombs are our issue too, so having more space will help us store more net explosive weight," said Chief Master Sergeant Jeffrey Schneider, one of the flight's section chiefs.

The new storage buildings will allow the ammo troops to double their storage from 3,000 pounds to 6,000 pounds.





PHOTO BY MAJ. DAVID KURLE

A-10 Thunderbolt II from the 442nd Fighter Wing drops a K-82, 500-pound, high-drag practice bomb over Cannon Range near Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. Members of the 442nd Munitions Flight build, handle and store the ordnance used by the wing's A-10 pilots.

*“Anything that goes boom, goes through us.”*

**- Chief Master Sgt. Russ Rackers, assistant flight chief, 442nd Munitions Flight**

# M builders

mission effectiveness

At this point in time we don't store any live bombs but in the future we might be able to handle them,” Chief Rackers said. “We have to order things and get them directly to the line where we don't have a place to store them.”

Another obstacle for the munitions flight is the number of people they have in their rapidly-growing unit.

“I remember a time when we had 69 people here, but now we're up to 109 Airmen, which makes it difficult to get them the time they need to train on a computer,” said Capt. Lisa Rackers, the officer in charge of munitions.

“There's a lot of new people here who are fresh out of tech school and they can't work alone until they get their 5-level,” Chief Rackers said. “It will be nice to have a new building with lots of space so we can get them the quality training they deserve.”

With so many new faces, the 442nd Munitions Flight will have new spaces to help them serve the wing, and the Nation more efficiently.



PHOTO BY SENIOR SER. TOW TAUBER

Above, Senior Airman Adam Grossman changes a tire on a munitions trailer during the October unit training assembly. Below, Senior Airman Rindi Randolph from the munitions flight's maintenance-control section, updates a trailer status board during the October unit training assembly.



PHOTO BY SENIOR SER. TOW TAUBER





2009

## Recruiting Report



Lt. Col. Charles French, 442nd Mission Support Group deputy commander, administers the oath of enlistment Oct. 9 to the first seven Air Force Reserve recruits at Whiteman Air force Base for Fiscal Year 2010 in the 442nd Fighter Wing's conference room.

# Whiteman recruiters exceed goal again

## Garner 186 new reservists in FY 2009

By Maj. David Kurle

For the fifth straight year the Air Force Reserve recruiting team at Whiteman exceeded its goal for generating new Citizen Airmen for the 442nd Fighter Wing and Air Force Reserve Command.

Whiteman's recruiters signed up 186 new reservists in Fiscal Year 2009, surpassing by 69 the team's goal of 117.

While Air Force Reserve recruiters are not assigned under the 442nd, the majority of those 186 new Airmen came into the wing and the majority of those became members of the 442nd Maintenance Group, according to Senior Master Sgt. John Shaffner, the Whiteman Operating Location's senior recruiter.

Recruiters for the Air Force Reserve work under AFRC's recruiting service, headquartered at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. The recruiting service, in turn, is divided into regional recruiting squadrons and the team at Whiteman is part of the Central Recruiting Squadron.

"Ninety percent of our success is because of our great, great recruiters," Sergeant Shaffner said. "The other 10 percent is the great, great support from the 442nd Fighter Wing."

Sergeant Shaffner, in his tenth year recruiting for AFRC, credits everyone from the wing commander to the wing's military personnel flight for part of his team's success.

"Referrals from inside the unit are a big part of our recruiting success," he said. "In '09, 45 percent of recruits came from referrals."

The top recruiter at Whiteman for Fiscal Year 2009 was Master Sgt. Clark Gilleo, who brought in 93 people and accounted for half of the Whiteman Operating Location's recruits for the year.

"This year, he broke every single record here at Whiteman in terms of percentage and the raw number of people recruited," Sergeant Shaffner said about Sergeant Gilleo, who was a military training instructor for new Airmen at Basic Training for six years.

Sergeant Gilleo credits his success to what he calls "perpetuation."

"I just take care of my applicants and they, in turn, refer people to me," Sergeant Gilleo said.

Major Andrew Davis, the Central Recruiting Squadron commander from Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Ft. Worth, Texas, agreed with Sergeant Shaffner that the success of Whiteman's recruiters is due, in part, to support from the 442nd FW.

"Recruiting is a team effort and when the wing is involved, along with our recruiters, everybody wins," Major Davis said.

The major is also quick to credit his recruiting team at Whiteman.

"We have a senior recruiter there who takes a real hands-on approach in mentoring and taking care of his recruiters," he said. "I'm extremely excited about our Whiteman team, and extremely excited they exceeded their goal."

Sergeant Shaffner's mission for Fiscal Year 2010 is to lead his five recruiters and the team's administrative assistant in exceeding Whiteman's goal for the sixth year in a row.

However, that may prove to be more of a challenge as Whiteman's goal increased to 183, due primarily to an increase in the authorized end strength for all of Air Force Reserve Command.

"We're going to have a big challenge this year with the higher goal but I'm confident we'll achieve 110 percent," Sergeant Shaffner said.

He encourages reservists in the 442nd to keep referring potential recruits and to take advantage of AFRC's "Get One" program, whereby reservists can earn rewards based on the number of referrals turned into the recruiting office.

"The Get One program has been phenomenal for us," Sergeant Shaffner said. "This wing has really, really supported the Get One program."

The recruiting office started Fiscal Year 2010 already working toward their 183-person goal with a mass enlistment ceremony for its first seven recruits Oct. 9 – which leaves the team with only 176 more to go.





# AIR FORCE RESERVE

## Whiteman's 2010 Recruiting Team



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Whiteman AFB  
Senior Recruiter  
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PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. KENT KAGARISE

**Tech. Sgt. Allen Haas and Senior Master Sgt. Cindy Roller inside the chaplain's tent during the wing's operational readiness exercise Sept. 18. Both are chaplains' assistants assigned to the 442nd Fighter Wing's Chaplaincy. While part of their mission during wartime is to provide armed**

**protection for the chaplain, they both agree that sensitivity and compassion are part of the job. The wing has three chaplains' assistants total – the other being Staff Sgt. Randy Chambers, as well as two commissioned chaplains – Maj. James Buckman and Capt. Ben Hayden.**

## Chaplains' assistants temper cold steel with

By Staff Sgt. Kent Kagarise

**W**hile the 442nd Fighter Wing's chaplains don't walk on red carpets surrounded by paparazzi snapping pictures, they do have assistants and those assistants could be called upon to ensure the safety of the clergy members – somewhat similar to bodyguards.

Spend any time with the chaplains' assistants discussing their job and it's easily discovered there is much more to assisting the chaplain than maintaining their safety.

"We assist in all types of roles such as scheduling counseling and set-up for services – we are the eyes and ears for the chaplain and pretty much make sure ministry happens," said Tech. Sgt. Allen Haas, 442nd FW chaplains' assistant.

Senior Master Sergeant Cindy Roller was a superintendent of nursing during 20 years of Air Force service before changing her job to chaplains' assistant two years ago.

"It's a must that we have a career field before becoming chaplains' assistants," Sergeant Roller said. "We are selected for our job as opposed to thrown into it. I've always been a non-combatant so it was a bit different to go through weapon qualifi-

cations in preparation for protecting the chaplain."

Most jobs require training that allows workers to perform at an optimal level but chaplains' assistants, although they train, have certain qualities that are not teachable.

"You've got to have a good heart, be sensitive and tender-hearted as opposed to simply being spiritual," Sergeant Haas said. "I'm a Christian but we are here for all faiths and we're receptive to all religions."

"I don't know how anybody could work in this career field and not be more conscientious of other people's beliefs," Sergeant Haas said.

Chaplain, Maj., Jim Buckman is very grateful for the people he has working under him and is quick to speak about all they do to add to the chaplaincy, as well as the spiritual well-being of the wing.

"They do all the training expected of Airmen and still the communion is set up, they communicate with the wing, bring Power Point when necessary and they even lead Bible studies when we aren't available," Chaplain Buckman said.

"We are really blessed to have the non-commissioned officers we have in our shop," he said. "They have faith and that's what is most important, but they also go above and beyond what



# The Wing Chaplaincy

## Life throws curveballs, pitches chaplain in new direction

By Staff Sgt. Kent Kagarise

**T**he 442nd Fighter Wing's junior chaplain, Capt. Ben Hayden, had a passion for baseball from the age of six up to his junior year in college – and was following his dream as a college pitcher until his life went in a different direction.

"I was born and raised in a Christian home but my love was baseball," Chaplain Hayden said. "My turning point came while I was climbing an average flight of stairs and my lung collapsed."

A youth pastor had a tremendous impact on Chaplain Hayden's life while he was in high school. It was the pastor's many words of encouragement, as well as family and friends who visited him in the hospital, that began to weigh heavy on Chaplain Hayden's heart.

"I realized who my friends were or who I thought my friends were," Chaplain Hayden said. "A hospital can be a very quiet place and I realized I wasn't a very happy person and some changes needed to be made."

"I asked God to change my motives and desires, and God led me into ministry," he said.

Chaplain Hayden continued to play baseball as a pitcher while attending college at Mid-America Nazarene in Olathe Kan. It was there he met an Air Force Chaplain recruiter who enlightened him to a possible career that would allow him to serve God and country.

"At that time I was thinking I might become a missionary," Chaplain Hayden said. "God has opened all doors, I walk through them and if it's not what God wants—he'll close them."

Chaplain Hayden graduated with his Bachelor's degree, received a commission as a second lieutenant and became a chaplain candidate. He did this for four years while studying for his Master's in divinity.

"This is a really good way for a person to evaluate the Air Force, as well as allow the Air Force to evaluate them," Chaplain Hayden said. "If you don't think the Air Force is God's plan for your life, you can get out before becoming an actual chaplain."

When not in uniform, Chaplain Hayden works for North Care Hospice in North Kansas City and has approximately 30 patients he tends to on a regular basis in either their homes or assisted-care facilities. The main goal of hospices is to keep a patient as comfortable as possible during their last days.

"It's a very interesting job and filled with challenges because we minister to all faiths," Chaplain Hayden said.

The demands of the job can be stressful and emotionally taxing, so Chaplain Hayden takes advantage of his time off by spending time with his wife, who is an assistant pastor herself, and his 18-month-old son.



**Chaplain, Capt., Ben Hayden during September's exercise.**

## warm hearts to accomplish wartime mission

is needed."

"The wing wins because of their desire to serve," Chaplain Buckman said.

Their desire to serve is a reflection of their civilian lifestyle. Sergeant Haas recently completed his first year of seminary. Sergeant Roller is very active in her local church and a third member of the team, Staff Sgt. Randy Chambers just completed technical school to become a chaplains' assistant and is attending seminary as well.

"It's reinforced my involvement in my church," Sergeant Roller said. "I get to serve my God and my country and get paid for it."

"Amen," Sergeant Haas said. "What I do here is simply an extension of what I do in the civilian world."

Most Airmen realize when they see the chaplains' assistants in the field wearing a side-arm, the main priority for them in combat is to ensure the wellbeing of the chaplain. This is a duty taken very seriously within the chaplain's office of the 442nd FW.

"We did war scenarios where we had to protect a chaplain in our training," Sergeant Haas said. "You hope that situation never arises, but if it does you have to believe protection is sec-

ond nature and ultimately survival instincts take over."

Chaplain, Capt., Ben Hayden doesn't know how to shoot a weapon so he puts trust in his assistants. Chaplain Hayden also gives credit to his assistants for helping him get to know people within the wing.

"We have a unique team mentality," Chaplain Hayden said. "If I'm walking around without Sergeant Haas, folks ask me where he is and being fairly new here that's helped introduce me to a lot of people."

Both Sergeants Haas and Chambers could be commissioned officers as chaplain candidates due to their enrollment in seminaries but have chosen not to.

"Sure I could be commissioned, but my goal is to represent my denomination in Christ," Sergeant Haas said. "I enjoy my job, and having been enlisted I'll always have a heart for enlisted personnel."

"That says a lot about their attitude," Chaplain Hayden said. "Especially when you consider the fact that it's very difficult for chaplains' assistants to move up in rank."

Many Air Force reservists have civilian careers that complement their Air Force training. For the Airmen of the chaplaincy it's a lifestyle as well.



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Capt. Lance Orr, 303rd Fighter Squadron A-10 pilot, adjusts his field radio Sept. 16 during a class designed to refresh fighter pilots with the skills needed to survive if their aircraft ever went down behind enemy lines. (Photo by Senior Airman Kenny Holston, 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs)

## TO THE FAMILY OF:



**“We are a seamless partner. We must turn challenges into opportunities, and opportunities into measurable objectives as we continue to improve the way the Air Force Reserve feeds the fight.”**

**-- Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, Jr.,  
Commander of Air Force Reserve Command and  
Chief of the Air Force Reserve**