

Special edition: ORI 2010

Mohawk MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing



**Wing passes ORI,
looks to future**



Beyond the ORI

..... After nearly two years of exercises and inspections, Airmen can finally look ahead

By Col. John Hoff

442nd Fighter Wing vice commander

How would you sum up the last nine months in one word? My word choice.... ADVERSITY (ad•ver•si•ty) – an extremely unfavorable experience, hardship or suffering.

We all experience adversity in our family, personal and work lives. From adversity comes strength, depth of character and confidence. I witnessed those qualities in every member of the 442nd Fighter Wing during the operational readiness inspection phase II retake. Your hard work, dedication and commitment to duty are overwhelming and again proved the 442nd FW can fly-fight and win. To say “Thank you”, the human resources development council is sponsoring two events during the August and September unit training assemblies.

The Wright Flight golf tournament in August is a charity and social event. Money collected from donations and the entrance fee will directly impact our disadvantaged and at-risk youths in the local community. Many 442nd FW alumni will return to participate in the tournament. The fee is \$40 per person, which includes food, drinks and a small donation.

The family day barbecue is the yearly get together for all wing members and their families. The Fishnet Securities barbecue team will cater this event with ribs, chicken, and brisket. This year’s coordinator, Capt. Keith Yersak, 442nd FW executive officer, has planned many activities. These include a chip-over-the-pond contest and longest drive competitions, a car show, a volleyball tournament, kid’s games and paddle boats. I hope to see many of you at the picnic and to meet your families.

Starting in late August, the aviation package will deploy three times to practice new combat skills and exercise the ca-

pabilities of our A-10C Warthogs. Six aircraft, 15 pilots and 45 maintenance personnel will deploy to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, from Aug. 27 to Sept. 2. For the first time, unit maintainers will build and load and pilots will employ live GBU-38 500-pound GPS-guided bombs. Pilots will also drop laser-guided bombs and cluster munitions.

The 303rd Fighter Squadron will deploy all its pilots and six A-10s to Key West, Fla. in November for water survival and air combat training. A small maintenance package will accompany the 303rd FS.

In late January, the aviation package will participate in Red Flag at Nellis AFB, Nev. This large-force exercise demonstrates our ability to integrate in multi-ship high- and low-threat environments. Red Flag is a “right of passage” for every fighter pilot.

The next six months are challenging and the operations tempo is high. Extra vigilance toward safety and operational risk management is warranted.

Following Red Flag, a new inspection cycle begins. Lt. Col. Steve “Chappie” Chappel, 442nd Operations Support Flight commander, will prepare the wing for our Air Combat Command operational readiness phase I inspection. The aviation package will demonstrate the wing’s ability to generate, deploy and regenerate. The ACC team will evaluate all aspects of “getting out of town” to include mobility bags, personal readiness folders, and pallet buildup. Colonel Chappel will publish a detailed training schedule for the August inspection.

I am proud to be a member of the 442nd FW. I am ready for the next year and look forward to the challenges ahead.

Upcoming Events:

- Wright Flight Golf Tournament Aug. 7
Wing picnic and family day Sept. 11
- Clergy day Sept. 11
See Chaplain (Capt.) Benjamin Hayden for details
HRDC food drive Sept. 11
- Wings over Whiteman airshow Sept. 18-19
- Operational readiness inspection: Phase I, 2011

See page 10 for more about WOW

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

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August 2010
Charge-of-quarters



TECH. SGT. WILLIAM BRYANT
ACTING FIRST SERGEANT OF 442ND CIVIL ENGINEERS 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: Airmen in the 442nd Medical Squadron work to save a victim during the operational readiness inspection July 9. (Photo by Senior Airman Carlin Leslie, 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs)

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T 442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

SENIOR AIRMAN TRACY BROWN
442ND FIGHTER WING

Senior Airman Tracy Brown, former A-10 Thunderbolt II weapons loader, is a recent cross-trainee into the 442nd Public Affairs office. Airman Brown worked mandays in public affairs, manning the shop single-handedly for two months while the chief of PA was deployed and the deputy chief of PA was on maternity leave.

Although she had not had the official technical training for the position yet, she eagerly learned how to run the office on a daily basis. She worked closely with the 509th Bomb Wing, acting as a liaison for the 442nd FW and worked to incorporate the wings through total force integration. Throughout the two months Airman Brown coordinated A-10 flyover requests, static displays, aircraft complaints and media inquiries on a daily basis and handled them with the utmost professionalism. She represented the PA office and the 442nd FW at wing staff meetings, basewide PA meetings and the Base Community Council. She not only manned the shop alone during that time, but continued to work with the 509th Public Affairs office to learn her job as a public affairs broadcaster and prepare for her upcoming technical training. After her two months in the public affairs office, she continued to volunteer for mandays to support the operational readiness inspection. Throughout that time, she searched for opportunities to deploy and support the 442nd FW mission.

Her eagerness to deploy, dedication to her military service and professionalism make her this month's Tip of the Spear.

Taking care of Airmen

First Sergeants work to boost morale during operational readiness inspection

Story and photos by Senior Airman Danielle Wolf

Despite the heat and humidity during the July operational readiness mini-exercise and inspection, one group of Airmen could be seen smiling even through the chemical gear – the first sergeants.

Throughout the wing exercises and inspections the 442nd Fighter Wing first sergeants had one goal: To boost morale. To do this, they loaded up a van full of snacks, coffee and water and headed out to the play area.

“When we started this last year, we didn’t have a van so we just walked around and talked to the Airmen,” said 1st Sgt. (Senior Master Sgt.) Kenneth Koyles, 442nd Maintenance Squadron. “We passed out some hard candy too.”

Back then, it was much harder for the first sergeants to make their way around the entire play area on foot. In July however, they were given a van, which they used to their full potential. They took snacks and smiles to the flight line, deployed medical facility, services tent, civil engineers squadron and S-6 – where security forces, emergency operations center (EOC) and the installation control center (ICC) were located.

In many ways, the first sergeants didn’t know what they were providing to the troops, many of which were flight line maintainers hoping for a quick break between preparing jets for sorties and



Tech. Sgt. Nick McRoberts, 442nd FW crew chief, chooses a snack offered by the first sergeants during the operational readiness exercise July 8.

performing routine maintenance. For these maintainers, a few minutes to grab a snack, some cold water and a quick conversation provided the boost they needed.

Chief Master Sgt. Steve Brazeal was in a work vehicle with two other supervisors when the first sergeants approached them during the exercise July 8.

As the chief stepped out of the truck, he began to smile.

“When you’re stuck out of the flight line, there’s not a coffee pot anywhere nearby, so it was nice to have some hot coffee that morning,” he said.

Despite the morning pick-me-up, Chief Brazeal said he knew the first sergeants had a bigger, more important purpose than to just provide snacks and drinks to the hard-working Airmen.

“They were looking out for us,” he said. “They provided fresh water to the facilities; it kept Airmen refreshed and kept them going.”

Col. Mark Clemons, 442nd FW commander, agreed when he said the first sergeants exemplified the spirit of the 442nd FW.

“On their own fruition and beyond their call of duty, the first sergeants provided a service that you cannot put a dollar figure on nor calculate the impact,” he said. “They took the initiative to provide for their folks – their family.”

Taking care of Airmen is an important

aspect of the first sergeant philosophy.

“(This) set a positive example for taking care of your people,” Chief Brazeal said.

Passing out snacks and visiting with Airmen 24 hours a day during the exercises and inspections boosted the morale and welfare of Airmen, said Command Chief Master Sgt. Allan Sturges.

“During the ORI, our first sergeants did exactly what they would do if we were truly in combat,” Chief Sturges said. “They took care of our Airmen, and just like the rest of the wing, they did a phenomenal job.”

While driving through the flight line during the exercise, Sergeant Koyles and 1st Sgt. (Master Sgt.) Donald Butler, 442nd Fighter Wing, made it a point to let Airmen know that they appreciated their hard work.

“They’re the ones doing the real work – not us,” Sergeant Koyles said.

Col. Clemons said he didn’t exactly agree though.

“I heard so many stories of how the ‘Shirts’ navigated through the ORI war to boost the morale with little more than some sustenance and words of encouragement,” the colonel said. “This provides an example to all what just a few popsicles, snacks and encouragement can provide for the troops. They were a definite impact on this inspection.”



Master Sgt. Robert Reeves, 442nd SFS, drinks a cup of coffee and chats with 1st Sgt. Kenneth Koyles during the exercise July 8.

The first shirt's purpose...

Chief Master Sgt. Tim Storms, longtime first sergeant for the 442nd Maintenance Squadron, steps down from his position, pins on chief and accepts a new reserve position at Moody AFB — a geographically separated associate unit.



By Senior Airman Tracy Brown

A first sergeant has many duties and many different meanings to our Air Force leaders, our squadron commanders, our Airmen and our families.

The title “first sergeant” can be broken down into two definitions. “First,” meaning being before all others with respect to time, order, rank and importance and “sergeant,” meaning to serve. When we combine these two definitions we end with a servant acting before all others.

Previously, the Army awarded the first sergeant the top position, and because of the leverage this gave him, he was responsible for representing the concerns of the enlisted force to senior leadership. In return, he enforced the decisions of senior leadership. Because of these duties, the first sergeant was affectionately known as the “top kick” or “top.”

George Washington’s general, Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, wrote of the responsibilities of the members of the Continental Army in his “Blue Book” of regulations. General Von Steuben spent the most time writing of the responsibilities of the first sergeant. The first sergeant was responsible for making sure the noncommissioned officers were performing their duties, he ensured training was conducted properly and at the end of the day he was responsible for accountability. First sergeants ensured good conduct and ensured that troops obeyed orders.

In 1847, uniform regulations authorized the wear of the chevrons on the jacket for noncommissioned officers. At that time, the diamond was authorized to designate the first sergeant.

In 1947, the Air Force became a separate service and with this, the first sergeant faced some changes. First sergeant became a position rather than a rank; this is one of the reasons “top kick” did not carry over to the Air Force.

Although the terms used for a first sergeant have varied throughout the years, their duties still encompass general supervision over all assigned enlisted personnel.

No matter how you look at the duties of a first sergeant, it will always be clear that a first sergeant is in the business of helping people.

It is said the only payment required for a first sergeant’s labor is a smile or heartfelt words of appreciation.

Did you know?

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN DANIELLE WOLF

Responsibilities of the first sergeant include keeping good order and discipline and encouraging high morale.

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With any time in the service you may have heard the first sergeant referred to by many names whether it is “first shirt,” “shirt,” “top kick” or just “the top.”

We can trace “top kick” or “top” back to Army roots. It was customary in the Army for the first sergeant to hold the highest enlisted rank in a company or platoon. The first sergeant was the leader – the one who maintained control of the unit.

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The term “first shirt” can be traced back to the Indian wars in the 19th century. During that time, the supply wagons would find soldiers after they were in the field for months at a time. The first sergeant was in charge of inspecting all the supplies as they were unloaded. He would then receive the first new shirt to replace the tattered and torn one he had been wearing.

The first sergeant, by any name, has always held duties throughout history that demand a high amount of responsibility.

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A first sergeant will deal with troubled Airmen, stubborn NCOs, uncooperative SNCOs, families in crisis, insubordination, suicide, deployments, short-notice deployments and countless meetings. Their duties demand that they maintain professionalism and that they are courteous and caring. They are required to give their full attention to their Airmen while knowing there are a thousand other things needing their immediate attention.

ORI

442nd photo album

WING PASSES INSPECTION

By Staff Sgt. Kent Kagarise

Indication of battle ready training was evident at Whiteman Air Force Base during the 442nd Fighter Wing's July operational readiness inspection.

Crews from around the wing worked diligently to save moulage victims, load bombs onto aircraft and maintain situational awareness and readiness at all times.

While medical personnel treated victims with missing limbs and covered in shrapnel, weapons load crews combined passion and skill to load bombs onto the A-10 Thunderbolt II.

Tech. Sgt. Butch Portell, 442nd Maintenance Squadron weapons loader painted a picture of when his crew had to work one-man-short due to simulation input from an inspector and how the crew functioned while in full mission oriented protective posture.

"They sent us another guy who we weren't familiar with to help out since we were down a man," Sergeant Portell said. "He didn't know our body language, which made it difficult because when your team knows each other it's possible to communicate in MOPP 4 without talking."

Tech. Sgt. Dennis Jensen, weapons load crew chief, is an Airman with ample time under the aircraft and worked as a leader to guide his crew during the ORI.

"Time is our greatest obstacle," Sergeant Jensen said. "At a lot of jobs you can back track if you've made a mistake — here we only have so much time to load and check weapons systems in order to turn jets."

Time is not the only obstacle these weapons loaders face.

"No doubt about it, this can be a dangerous job," said Tech. Sergeant Michael Hafkey, weapons loader. "We can lose fingers really easily if we aren't careful. If we don't do our job right, bombs may not detonate when they are supposed to, or maybe not at all."





MEDICAL SQUADRON

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN CARLIN LESLIE
509TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Medics work to save an ORI "victim" who has lost an arm and is going into shock. During the exercise, Airmen put their self-aid and buddy care skills to work as well as their technical skills to ensure career proficiency.



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN CARLIN LESLIE

SECURITY

Tech. Sgt. Stacey Edwards, 442nd Medical Squadron, provides entry control security at the deployed medical facility.



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN CARLIN LESLIE

LITTER

Maj. William Triplett, 303rd Fighter Squadron flight medic, assists in carrying an injured "victim" on a litter during the ORI.

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN DANIELLE WOLF

SORTIE

Staff Sgt. Don Johnston, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and Lt. Col. Michael Bever, 303rd FS A-10 pilot, shake hands after completing a sortie during the exercise July 7.





ATTACK

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN DANIELLE WOLF

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin McMenemy, 442nd Maintenance Squadron egress technician, lifts a "victim" onto a litter after an attack on the flight line. (Flight line badges blurred for security.)

LOADERS

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. KENT KAGARISE

A 442nd AMXS weapons loader selects tools to assist with effectively loading munitions .



MOULAGE

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN CARLIN LESLIE

Capt. Andreas Staver and Staff Sgt. Callie Brockman, 442nd MDS treat an ORI "victim" for shock after losing an arm.

Wings over Whiteman 2010

Wings Over Whiteman 2010 is scheduled for Sept. 18 and 19 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. This free, family oriented event is expected to draw spectators from all over the region.

Although still in the planning stages, the schedule already features the US Air Force Thunderbirds and the US Army Golden Knights, world class performers, dozens of static displays, exhibition aircraft, vintage and modern war birds and much more. As plans progress, additional aerial acts will be added.

"It's my pleasure to invite the public to attend Wings Over Whiteman 2010 to get an up close and personal look at the professional personnel and capabilities that help our Airmen carry out missions across the globe," said Brig. Gen. Robert Wheeler, 509th Bomb Wing commander. "This year's headliners, the United States Air Force Thunderbirds and Army Golden Knights, are set to deliver killer performances designed to showcase the way we fly and fight. This event is dedicated to the local community and the support and partnerships that enable each of us to serve to the best of our abilities on a daily basis."

Along with the aerial demonstrations and static displays, all aircraft that call Whiteman home, to include the B-2 Spirit, T-38 Talon, A-10 Thunderbolt II and AH-64A will be available for viewing. Also, the United States Air Force Band will entertain spectators throughout the event.

Featured civilian performers include: The Lima Lima flight team, P-51, MiG-17 and the PT-17 aerobatic teams.

For updated listings, visit the featured acts page on the official Web site, www.wingsoverwhiteman.com

The public should be aware that higher security measures will be in place. A full list of prohibited items, security protocol and other important information will be available on the Web site.

The gates open at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENNY HOLSTON



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. STAN COLEMAN



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENNY HOLSTON



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. KENT KAGARISE

442nd civilian retires after 27 years of service

By Senior Airman Danielle Wolf



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN DANIELLE WOLF

This month the 303rd Fighter Squadron will lose one of its most valued civilian employees to retirement – Kathi Welch of flight management.

For the last 27 years Ms. Welch has provided the 442nd Fighter Wing with records management and daily flying tasks that keep the jets in the air.

“She runs all of the records for the pilots and keeps us flying legally,” said Lt. Col. Brian Borgen, 303rd FS commander. “The 442nd has a lot of people with important jobs, but if we don’t get the jets off the ground, we haven’t fulfilled our mission; she makes it possible to get the jets in the air.”

Ms. Welch has also seen numerous changes throughout the wing.

“Kathi has been a member of the 303rd FS since it converted from C-130s to A-10s in October 1982,” said Chief Master Sgt. Carol Tripp, 303rd FS chief of aviation resources management.

Chief Tripp, who met Ms. Welch in 1989 said the 303rd is filled with “dedicated, driven and passionate professionals.”

“She is such an integral part of the daily flying operation,” she said. “It is difficult to imagine life without her come September.”

Not only do the Airmen and civilian employees of the 303rd FS know Ms. Welch well for her hard work and dedication, but others throughout Air Force Reserve Command look to her for guidance, Colonel Borgen said.

“When other units have questions, they ask her,” he said. “They petition her opinion because she is a meticulous individual who represents the 442nd extremely well.”

Ms. Welch is responsible for obtaining and displaying take-off and landing data, weather and current airfield conditions. She also schedules airspace and coordinates range scheduling.

“When I got to the unit in 2000, Kathi was already an iconic figure within the unit,” said Lt. Col. Stephen Chappel, 303FS

director of operations. “Once I was able to decipher that heavy Jersey accent, I realized she was a good source for answering many broad questions that I had with regards to squadron practices. Most pilots have leaned on her job skills to keep their flying schedule and flight pay straight. As a brand new pilot and subsequent scheduler, I greatly depended on Ms. Welch to assist me with my scheduling tasks – especially at a time that our full-time pilot force was less than 50 percent manned.”

Working with fewer full-timers is something Ms. Welch knows all about by now.

“(Kathi) has ‘manned the fort’ during countless squadron deployments and always cheerfully accepted the additional workload demands in our absence,” Chief Tripp said.

The chief is not the only one who has noticed Ms. Welch’s cheerful dedication to the 442nd FW “We have pilots coming (to celebrate her retirement Aug. 6) from

New York, Virginia, Indiana, Texas and Nevada to include a former wing commander, several vice wing, group and squadron commanders,” Chief Tripp said. “There isn’t a pilot in this wing’s A-10 history who hasn’t been personally supported by Kathi Welch, and I’d venture to say every last one of them consider her a friend.”

For Colonel Borgen, Ms. Welch’s retirement signifies the end of an era – but certainly not the end of a friendship.

“I will miss her because she really makes me laugh,” the colonel said. “She answers the phone and I start laughing. I talk to her every morning; she will be sorely missed.”

Chief Tripp agreed.

“She has had a significant and positive impact on the flying operation of this squadron for 28 years,” Chief Tripp said. “She will be missed more than I can adequately express in words.”

Colonel Chappel said he hopes to see her retire in a warm climate, void of snow and to enjoy her much-deserved time off.

“She’s such an integral part of the daily flying operation. It is difficult to imagine life without her come September.”

- Chief Master Sgt. Carol Tripp
303rd FS chief of aviation
resources management

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Technical Sergeants Kenneth Portell, Michael Hafkey and Dennis Jensen, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons loaders prepare an A-10 Thunderbolt II for a training mission. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Kent Kagarise)

TO THE FAMILY OF:



Out of every fruition of success, no matter what, comes forth something to make a new effort necessary.

- Walt Whitman

442nd Fighter Wing Online - www.442fw.afrc.af.mil