

# Mohavee

442nd Fighter Wing

Vol. 57 No. 1

2015

— Base



**MSG ramps up  
ORI preparation  
... see pages 6 & 7**



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## Customs, courtesies part of AF life



*Notes from the Command Chief Master Sergeant*

By Chief Master Sgt. David Isaacson

Most military customs and courtesies evolve from long-standing traditions, or have some historical significance, and generally are manifested in certain behavior extended to a person or thing that honors them in some way. For example, the salute is a respectful greeting exchanged between members of the same profession. Ancient knights used the gesture of raising the face visor on their helmets as a greeting. This move signified friendship and confidence as it removed the sword hand from the weapon and provided vulnerability in the suit of armor.

The position of honor has always been to the right. This originated from the medieval swordsmen who always wore their weapons on the left side and drew them to their right. The strongest and most experienced warriors were given the place of honor to allow them easy access to their weapons. Additionally, this practice has carried over to today in relation to saluting. To allow ease of saluting, the senior person walks on the right. Always give the senior person, enlisted or commissioned, the position of honor when walking, riding, or sitting with him or her. The junior person should always take the position to the senior's left.

At all bases, military members (as pedestrians) are required to salute staff cars when there is an occupant inside the car. There is no need to salute an unoccupied staff car. As a rule, staff cars are painted Air Force blue and marked with an eagle, indicating the rank of Colonel, or one or more stars, indicating the rank of a general officer, on a placard on the vehicle's front bumper.

Unless told otherwise, rise and stand at attention when a senior official enters or departs a room. If more than one person is present, the person who first sees the officer calls the group to attention. However, if there is an officer already in the room who is equal to or has a higher rank than the officer entering the room it is not required to call the room to attention. Unless the officer directs otherwise, stand at attention when speaking to an officer. If in a parked vehicle, always get out before speaking to or replying to a senior who is not in the vehicle.

When reporting to an officer indoors, if not under arms, knock once and enter when told to do so. Upon entering, march to approximately two paces from the officer or desk, halt, salute, and report in this manner: "Sir (Ma'am), Airman Smith reports as ordered," or "Sir (Ma'am), Airman Smith reports." When the conversation is completed, execute a sharp salute and hold it until the officer acknowledges it, then perform the appropriate facing movements and depart.

These are just a few of the common acts of courtesy among all Air Force personnel that aid in maintaining discipline and promoting the smooth conduct of affairs in the military environment.

Each of us has a responsibility to ensure such practices are adhered to. When courtesy falters within a unit, discipline ceases to function and accomplishing the mission is endangered.

### Mohawk



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**On the cover: A 442nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter works to manually open an A-10 canopy in an attempt to "rescue a pilot" during the August UTA. The training was part of the 442nd Mission Support Group annual bivouac. For more, see pages 6 and 7. (Photograph by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)**

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For more information, call public affairs at commercial voice number: (660) 687-3842 or fax at: (660) 687-2985. DSN:975-3842/3844, or fax: DSN:975-2985. E-mail submissions or questions to: [william.huntington@whiteman.af.mil](mailto:william.huntington@whiteman.af.mil)



# 442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

**Master Sgt. Linda Price**

Master Sgt. Linda Price, a traditional reservist assigned as non-commissioned officer in charge of the 442nd Maintenance Group orderly room and a civilian employee with the 509<sup>th</sup> Security Forces, is a true life saver. She is a volunteer driver for the 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing's Airmen Against Drunk Driving. During the month of July, the volunteer drivers saved 23 lives. Sergeant Price was the top driver for the month saving 15 lives.

Volunteerism is synonymous with Sergeant Price. Her name is first on the list for volunteer assistance in the wing. She has designed kids' craft activities, cooked for Airman and NCO annual awards dinners, supported major wing functions in setup and cleanup, and much more.

Sergeant Price has devoted herself to formalizing the structure and organization of the 442nd MXG orderly room. She has dedicated countless hours to the personnel security program, processing electronic personnel security questionnaire packages, and helping maintenance personnel accomplish fingerprinting and package submission. The groups' success in complying with periodic reinvestigation requirements is due in large part to Sergeant Price and her willingness to help unit personnel.

Sergeant Price is a true professional, providing tremendous service to Airmen in the 442nd Maintenance Group and the 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ANGELA BLAZER

### Two former CMSAF visit

Former Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force Paul Airey and Sam Parrish visited Whiteman AFB, Aug 11, and took time to meet with 442nd Fighter Wing members in the five-bay hangar.

Chief Airey was formally installed by Gen. John McConnell as the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force on April 3, 1967 and Chief Parrish served from August 1983 to June 1986 as the eighth CMSAF.



# Recruiters serve with success

By Staff Sgt. Angela Blazier

“We don’t look at people as numbers; we look at people as people.” That is the philosophy of the 442nd Recruiting Service according to Master Sgt. Teneuss Land, lead recruiter.

The goal or quota of signing-up new recruits into the Air Force Reserve is set each year by Air Force Reserve Recruiting headquarters. The goal for Air Force Reserve Command is 9,600 new recruits for this year. The 442nd



recruiters, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Gardner, Sergeant Land, Tech. Sgt. Ryan Noorlander and Staff Sgt. Robert Fuller, have already surpassed their goal of recruiting 119 new members by 20.

Sergeant Land believes there are

many reasons for their success.

“We don’t focus on the quota, but on the people,” Sergeant Land said. “We make sure we put the right people in the right places...and that this is the best option for the individual.”

Sergeant Fuller, who is new to the unit and will work in the Springfield, Mo., office, is excited about joining the team.

“I am anxious to get started,” Sergeant Fuller said. “...to get out there and get my feet wet.”

The support received by AFRR is also critical for their success, said Sergeant Land.

“Reserve Recruiting has extremely dedicated management from the top down,” he said. “They make sure we have the tools we need to get the job done.”

Each recruiter sees their role in a different light.

“I saw this as a way to impact lives,” Sergeant Land said. “... I am in a position where I can help people.”

Sergeant Fuller’s motivations are similar.

“It is a great honor to bring people aboard – to help themselves and our country,” he said.

“It is not always easy, but we do the best we can,” Sergeant Land said.

## AFRC exceeds recruiting goal for 5th consecutive year

By Senior Master Sgt. Elaine Mayo

Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** – For the fifth consecutive year, Air Force Reserve Command has exceeded its recruiting goal. This year is the earliest the command has achieved its annual requirement. The recruiting year ends Sept. 30.

AFRC Recruiting Service met its 2005 recruiting year goal Aug. 11 when it accessed its 8,800th recruit, and the numbers continue to climb.

As of Aug. 22, recruiters reported a record 9,048 accessions, moving the command closer to meeting its congressionally mandated end strength of 76,100 by the

end of September.

“It’s a tough recruiting environment for all the military,” said Col. Francis M. Mungavin, AFRC Recruiting Service commander. “We’ve been able to overcome the challenges and meet the requirements. I’m very happy we were able to make goal and will continue to work toward 100 percent end strength.”

In a congratulatory memo, Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, AFRC commander, wrote, “You continue to amaze me with your accomplishments as the Best Recruiting Force in the Department of Defense – the first force (active and reserve) to achieve annual goal and one of only two reserve recruiting components on target to make goal by year’s end.” (AFRC News Service)

## FY ‘06 UTA schedule – Just clip, fold and save

### FY ‘06 UTA schedule\*

<b>2005</b>	<b>March 4-5</b>
<b>Oct. 15-16</b>	<b>April 8-9</b>
<b>Nov. 5-6</b>	<b>May 6-7</b>
<b>Dec. 10-11</b>	<b>June 10-11</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>July 8-9</b>
<b>Jan. 7-8</b>	<b>Aug. 5-6</b>
<b>Feb. 4-5</b>	<b>Sept. 9-10</b>

These dates apply to the 442nd Fighter Wing, the 710th Medical Squadron and the 610th Intelligence Operations Flight

**442ND  
FAMILY  
SUPPORT** 24/7  
(800) 260-0253



## \$400,000 of SGLI coverage starts

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** – Four hundred thousand dollars of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance automatically went into effect for everyone in the U.S. military Sept. 1.

If people don't want the maximum SGLI coverage, they will have to change it in writing, even if they opted for much less or none in the past. The previous maximum coverage was \$250,000.

In addition, a new law now requires the services to tell spouses if servicemembers designate a primary beneficiary other than their current lawful spouse, or they turn down SGLI coverage or reduce it after Sept. 1.

To change insurance amounts or who gets it, Airmen need to visit their unit's commander support staff or military personnel flight to fill out a SGLV Form 8286. If deployed, their personnel for contingency operation team can help.

Air Force Reserve Command personnel officials here said changes on the form will not be accepted before Sept. 1.

SGLI coverage still runs 6.5 cents per month for \$1,000 of insurance, but the increments of coverage change from \$10,000 to \$50,000. If people take no action, the monthly maximum premium automatically goes from \$16.25 to \$26. Airmen can avoid the increase if they turn in a form before Sept. 30.

This change does not affect coverage of family members under the Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

Veterans can opt for more coverage under Veteran Group Life Insurance if they are covered by SGLI before separating from the service.

The increased SGLI coverage becomes retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, for survivors of servicemembers who died in a combat zone, combat operations or combat-related situations. If death occurs between Oct. 7, 2001, and Sept. 1, 2005, survivors receive \$150,000 in transitional insurance, bringing the total maximum coverage to \$400,000.

In addition, the U.S. military's death gratuity benefit increased from \$12,500 to \$100,000 effective May 11. It too is retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001. This means that survivors of servicemembers who died between Oct. 7, 2001, and May 11, 2005, receive the increased benefits, said Col. Virginia Penrod, director of military compensation. The increased benefits are for survivors of servicemembers who die in combat zones, combat operations and combat-related situations, she said. Combat-related situations include airborne duty, combat training, demolition duty and training exercises.

A policy designating combat areas and situations was given to the service departments in June, and each service is now reviewing cases. Payments already have begun, but the process of identifying and paying eligible survivors could take several months, the colonel said.

The increases in SGLI coverage and the death gratuity benefit came about as a result of a 2004 study evaluating the adequacy of death benefits for servicemembers. The study found that benefits were adequate but did not recognize the unique sacrifice made by servicemembers who die in combat situations, Colonel Penrod said.

(AFRC News Service from American Forces Press Service)

## The road to the ORI 'Airman's Manual' trivia quiz

**1. Personnel should be aware of host nation sensitivities by researching the following information prior to traveling aboard.**

- a. AFOSI and Legal Office
- b. Public Affairs Office
- c. <http://www.state.gov>
- d. All of the above

**2. Sandbag wall construction consists of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. Headers and Footers
- b. Headers and Closers
- c. Headers and Slopes
- d. Headers and Stretchers

**3. At night, which of the following can be used to read M8 and M9 paper?**

- a. Chemical light sticks
- b. White light
- c. Black light
- d. All of the above

**4. Audible bugle call-to-arms with accompanying red flag (blue in Korea) indicates what type of alarm?**

- a. Alarm Red/Blue; your location has been overrun, everyone must retreat
- b. Alarm Red/Blue; your location is under missile attack, aircraft attack or an attack will begin in minutes
- c. Alarm Red/Blue; your location is under ground attack
- d. None of the above

**5. If the sign/countersign number of the day is eight, what is the correct response if you are given a sign of two?**

- a. Four
- b. Five
- c. Six
- d. Seven

Answers available on page 10.

SUBMITTED BY 1ST LT. JASON WEISER, 442ND MAINTENANCE GROUP





# BIVOUAC

## 442nd Mission Support Group takes ORI prep



**Background photo:**

The 442nd Mission Support Group convoy, including firefighting apparatus, pauses en route to the annual bivouac training exercise during the August Unit Training Assembly. The exercise, held at Whiteman's Cobra site on the east side of the base, focuses on areas the Airmen will face during the wing's upcoming Operation Readiness Inspection. (All photos by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)

**Clockwise from lower left:**

Master Sgt. Morris Findley, 442nd Civil Engineer Squadron, adjusts the chemical protective overgarment hood of fellow CES member Senior Airman Mark Lamoree, during a familiarization training exercise.

Master Sgt. Leroy Doering and Staff Sgt. Joshua Harms repair a malfunctioning heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit. The units provide environmental control for the tents the Group members occupied.

As the 442nd MSG convoy approaches the Cobra site, sweep team members, Master Sgt. Feaster Williamson and Tech. Sgt. John Manning, 442nd CES, scout the area ahead for potential threats.





# DUAC

## Support Group Preparation to field



*Above right:*

Master Sgt. Rick Schober, 442nd CES, and his sweep team discover an anti-personnel mine (see inset photo) as they scour the area around the MSG encampment. The team had just spotted a more obviously placed mine further up the road and the mine pictured was at a point along the road where their attention would be focused on the more obvious threat. The goal of setting the two mines so close together would be to distract the team as they approached the first device's trip wire had it been placed across the road.

442nd CES Readiness Flight member, Senior Master Sgt. Roger Proffitt, deployed multiple training aid devices in various settings around the site to give group members a realistic understanding of how they are used. The inert devices included firearms, booby traps, improvised explosive devices, land mines and other threats Airmen may encounter when deployed.

*At right:*

Tech. Sgt. Paul Tichelkamp, 442nd CES firefighter, in processes at the bivouac site with PERSCO member, Tech. Sgt. Nicole Ludrick, 442nd Mission Support Flight, as Master Sgt. Robin Smith, 442nd CES looks on. PERSCO also processed group members from the 442nd Communications and Services Flights.







PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

**Tech. Sgts. David Lawson, Eddie Norton and Chantay Thomas, 442nd Services Flight, assemble the framework of the flight's new single palletized expeditionary kitchen, or SPEK, which replaces the mobile kitchen trailer.**

## Services tries out new tent kitchen

By Maj. David Kurlle

The 442nd Services Flight got a sneak peek at the future of feeding hungry Airmen during the 442nd Mission Support Group's bivouac during the Aug. 6 and 7 unit training assembly at Whiteman's "Cobra Site."

Services flight members erected part of a new kitchen the Air Force has adopted to replace the mobile kitchen trailer, or MKT.

The new kitchen, called a single palletized expeditionary kitchen, or SPEK, is based on the "temper tent" that anyone who has been deployed to Middle East is familiar with.

The temper tent is similar in shape to the old Quonset huts and is held together with a light-weight metal frame and utilizes a slick-to-the-touch material that resembles a cross between rubber and plastic instead of the traditional canvas material on older tents.

"The MKT is really obsolete and they are supposed to be for training only," said Senior Master Sgt. Earl

Goulas, 442nd SF superintendent.

The new SPEK has several advantages over the MKT, according to Sergeant Goulas.

The new kitchen system is easier to transport because of its smaller size, it's safer to operate and, most importantly, it is designed to feed troops a lot more quickly.

The SPEK is designed to prepare unit group rations, or UGRs, which come in trays big enough to feed several people and just need to be heated in order to serve them, Sergeant Goulas said.

"The UGRs come in tray packs and you can get a hot meal off quicker," he said.

"The advantage of UGRs is that you don't have to worry about storing food with refrigeration," said Maj. Trenton Blair, 442 SF commander.

The SPEK is run using diesel fuel instead of the unleaded gasoline needed to heat food with the old MKT system, Major Blair said. That makes the SPEK much safer for the services

people who have to set it up and prepare food.

The SPEK facilities will have the capacity to feed 500 people, according to Major Blair. The main reason the Air Force has decided to use the new kitchen is its ease of transport.

"If you were a C-130 crew, what would you rather transport, a palletized tent, or a large trailer that requires a vehicle to move it on and off the aircraft," he said.

For most of the services Airmen in the 442nd, the bivouac provided the first opportunity to set the SPEK up and understandably there was some learning involved as the structure took shape.

It's important that services flight Airmen practice using the SPEK as it will be the system they are evaluated on during the 442nd Fighter Wings operational readiness inspection, scheduled for October 2006, Major Blair said.

"At this time next year this thing will go up in a half hour or less," he said.



# 442nd CF 'jumps' into training



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

**Tech. Sgt. Greg Knauff, 442nd Communications Flight, adjusts a tent support at Exercise Jump Start 2005 held at Duke Field, Fla., in May.**

By Staff Sgt. Angela Blazier

Twelve members from the 442nd Communications Flight deployed to Duke Field, Fla., last May and delved into some of the newest communications technology the Air Force has to offer as part of Exercise Jump Start 2005.

Due to a restructuring of Air Force Reserve communication squadrons and flights, many members must retrain and adapt to their new mission of deploying within an active-duty unit. Exercise Jump Start, in its first year, provided some of this training.

"This training will make us more valuable to the active duty," said Maj. Charles Cornelius, commander of the 442nd Communications Flight. "We are now using (the same equipment) that active duty is using."

Flight members handle varying types of communication, including voice and data communications.

Their training also included construction of tents similar to those used in deployed locations. Learning to work in such a small area was another aspect of the training, said Master Sgt. John Davison, non-commissioned officer in charge of computer networking systems.

"It gave us a feeling that if you can work in that small of a space, you can do it anywhere," Sergeant Davison said.

Although this is the first year of this exercise, many 442nd members may find themselves returning next year.

"This could become a recurring training requirement," said Tech. Sgt. Gregory Knauff, computer networking systems technician. "This was a test case to see if it was beneficial ... which it was."

"This deployment ... gave us the tools to do our job effectively," he said.

## How accurate should our data be?

By Master Sgt. Terry Johnson  
442nd Military Personnel Flight

It's no secret that 442nd Fighter Wing members pride themselves on their unit's rich history of accomplishments. The wing's military personnel flight is adding to that history, as their technicians have achieved a 99.75 percent data accuracy rate in the Reserve Components Common Personnel Data System (RCCPDS), leading the rest of 10th Air Force for calendar year 2005.

With that success, the MPF maintained the wing's portion of Air Force Reserve Command's commitment to exceed the Department of Defense's goal of a 98 percent data accuracy rate.

With the assistance of the De-

fense Manpower Data Center, RCCPDS data items are compared with known data requirements and an error listing is produced on a monthly basis. The MPF receives the error listing via Headquarters AFRC and corrects data items in the Military Personnel Data System (MILPDS), which then updates the RCCPDS.

The majority of RCCPDS errors occur because the report is generated before a member is gained by the wing. Otherwise, errors are miniscule. For more than 1,150 wing members, only three items were in error in July 2005.

According the Department of Defense Instruction 7730.54, "the RCCPDS is the automated information system and associated database established as

the official source of statistical tabulation of RC (reserve component) strengths and related data for use throughout the Department of Defense, other Agencies, the Congress and for applicable public release by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs."

Understanding the importance of data accuracy is crucial, as Congress addresses reserve component funding, end-strength, entitlements and deployments. Data must be accurate to portray the reserve component stature in the total force picture.

For more information about RCCPDS, the automated information system used as the official source refer to DOD Instruction 7730.54.



### September pay dates

The September pay dates are as follows: Sept. 7, 9, 15, 16, 21, 23, 27 and 29.

The Sept. 10 and 11 Unit Training Assembly pays Sept. 21.



### Annual Combined Federal Campaign kicks off

#### RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE,

**Texas (AFPN)** — The 2005 to 2006 Combined Federal Campaign began Sept. 1 and will run six consecutive weeks through Dec. 15 for bases within the continental United States.

Exact dates and campaign goals are established in each geographic area by the local federal coordinating committee and are available through the installation CFC project officer.

The CFC was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country.

This annual fall fund-raising drive allows nearly 4 million federal employees and servicemembers to contribute to thousands of local and national non-profit organizations.

Last year, federal employees and servicemembers donated a record-setting \$257 million to the campaign. Contributions can be in cash, check or by payroll deduction.

On average, one in four federal employees or their dependents will benefit from the campaign charities this year, CFC officials said. Donors may designate which charity, or charities, receives their money by filling out a pledge card.

For more information, people can contact their local campaign project officers or visit the CFC Web site at [www.opm.gov/cfc](http://www.opm.gov/cfc).

(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

### 442nd Fighter Wing Deserving Airman Commissioning Board to convene

The 442nd Fighter Wing will hold a Deserving Airman Commissioning Board (DACB) Sept. 27 to fill an officer vacancy in the 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron. Wing officials also announced that the DACB to fill another officer vacancy in the military equal opportunity office will be postponed until a later time.

For Airmen interested in the 442nd LRS opportunity, the board will take place in the wing conference room, building 48.

Airmen should plan on an entire day to complete the process and are reminded to wear their service dress uniforms, according to Capt. Robert Fritts, 442nd Fighter Wing executive officer.

Commissioning packages are due to the Career Enhancement section of the 442nd Military Personnel Flight no later than Sept. 12. For answers to questions, call the career enhancement section at (660) 687-3317.

### ARPC supports one-stop service

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials recently released the Virtual Personnel Center Guard Reserve, a Web-based personnel service portal program. The new service is already getting some valuable use from Air Force reservists and Air National Guardsmen.

The portal has been online since April, but was recently given a new look. Within hours, changes can be made to a servicemember's records and his questions answered.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123011196>

### DOD launches deployment health, family readiness library

Servicemembers, their families and their health-care providers have a new online Defense Department resource for deployment health issues.

The DOD's Deployment Health Risk Communication Working Group and the Joint Task Force for Family Readiness Education on Deployments have joined together to create the Deployment Health and Family Readiness Library.

The online library includes fact sheets, guides and other products on a wide variety of health topics.

The topic listing was based on feedback from servicemembers, their families and health-care providers. Information will be added to the site as new topics and areas of concern emerge.

The Deployment Health and Family Readiness Library is located at:

<http://deploymenthealthlibrary.fhp.osd.mil/home.jsp>

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123011278>

### Welcome

#### 442nd Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Baughman

Tech. Sgt. Steven Powers

#### 442nd Aircraft

#### Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Mikkell Freeman

Airman 1st Class Cecil Brushwood

#### 610th Intelligence

#### Operations Flight

Airman 1st Class Monique Doherty

#### 442nd Medical Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Kehrlé

#### 710th Medical Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jerrod Sell

### Airman's Manual trivia quiz answers

1. D

2. D – Sandbag wall construction: Turn sandbags inside out so that stitching is not exposed; fill ¾ full with earth or dry soil cement mixture; Tuck in bottom corners after they are filled; Place tied off ends and seams away from the threat; Lay the first course as a header; build the wall with alternating stretchers courses.

3. B – Use only white light to read

4. B

5. C – Six - The number of the day must be between 2 and 10, so if the number of the day is 8 and you say 2, the correct corresponding number would be six, making the sum of 8.





# September training planner

What (# to call for info)	When	Where	What (# to call for info)	When	Where
<b>09 September 2005, Friday</b>			<b>10 September 2005, Saturday (cont.)</b>		
Executive Working Group	1100	Wing CC office	Sign Out	1630	Assigned Units
Pre-UTA staff meeting	1430	Bldg. 48, Multi-purpose room	<b>11 September 2005, Sunday</b>		
First Sergeants meeting (3522)	1700	5-bay hangar, Conf. room	Protestant Service (3827)	0645	Bldg. 1117, Conference room
<b>10 September 2005, Saturday</b>			Sign in	0700-0730	Assigned Units
Sign In	0700-0730	Assigned Units	CBRNEDT Refresher (3333)	0830-1130	Bldg. 705, DP classroom
CBRNEDT Refresher (3333)	0830-1130	Bldg. 705, DP Classroom	Catholic Mass (3652)	0900	Base Chapel
QNFT fit test available (3950)	0900-1130	Bldg. 604, Bio-Environ. Eng.	QNFT fit test available (3950)	0900-1500	Bldg. 604, Bio-Environ. Eng.
<i>Must schedule appointment first</i>	1300-1500	Base Hospital	<i>Must schedule appointment first</i>	1000-1100	Bldg. 705, Comp. Training room
Immunizations (4304)	0900-1100	Immun. Clinic	Admin Training (3355)	1030	Bldg. 48, Multi-purpose room
ROA meeting	1200	Missions End	SORTS Mtg/ Executive Wrap-Up	1230	Bldg. 48, Room 117
Legal Assistance	1000-1200	Bldg. 48, Room 115	Computer Based Testing (3350)	1330	Bldg. 48, Wing Chapel room
Computer-based testing (3350)	1230	Bldg. 48, Room 117	<i>Schedule through unit training manager</i>		Assigned Units
<i>Schedule through unit training manager</i>	1700	Base Chapel	Protestant Service (3827)		
Catholic Mass (3652)			Sign Out	1630	

## DANTES payment delays easing

By Staff Sgt. Leo Brown

There's some good news and some bad news regarding tuition assistance for Air Force Reserve members.

First, the bad news.

Due to a backlog in processing TA forms at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Pensacola, Fla., Airmen are sometimes waiting up to 12 weeks from the time they submit their TA paperwork to the time money gets in their pockets.

Now, the good news. That wait time should start decreasing, at least according to one DFAS official.

Dave Gagon, DFAS director of vendor pay, said a few factors contributed to the current delay.

"There was a combination of a lot of things going wrong at the same time. We were backed up for quite a while back in March when we started a new imaging system (to process forms). We've lost a half dozen people since the initial (Base Realignment and Closure Commission) list came out May 13 and we lost three days (in July) when Hurricane Dennis hit."

The storm of delays, however, should be calming, Gagon said, as their new processing system is now in place and they recently went to "mandatory

overtime and enlisted some help from some other locations."

"We appreciate the patience of the people who've waited so long and we apologize for any inconveniences. From this point forward, things should move a lot more smoothly," Gagon said.

Locally, Tech. Sgt. Ron Watkins, an education and training technician with the 442nd Mission Support Flight's Education and Training office, said there are many items members need to keep in mind when using the TA program.

"If you use tuition assistance, have another source of income – a student loan or your dad or whatever," he said. "Do not expect TA to pay out timely and have that money for the next semester's courses. Due to the hurricane and the backlog, it's not going to happen."

Watkins also stressed staying within the chain of command when making inquiries into turnaround time. Jumping to agencies beyond his office "is absolutely going to get you nowhere. They're going to tell you to contact the Education Service office (his office). Because they have to take time to talk with you, they have less time to do their job," he said.

Watkins also said members ensur-

ing their forms are accurately completed before submitting them to him saves much time and headaches.

"If someone gives me a TA form and it doesn't match what the school sends, I have to contact the member. I have to marry everything – the receipts, the schools' paperwork – it all has to jive," he said.

When things don't match up, "it's a vicious cycle and I have to reinvent wheel. Every school is different and they won't break down the costs of each class. I need stuff broken down per semester hour and people need to know that it's just tuition (that can be submitted) – no fees, no texts. The ultimate thing is that it's the student's responsibility. It's their money."

Watkins also said some members are not reading the "statement of understanding" and have not been "following guidelines of timely submission. They're not giving me grades within the 60-day window. From the course completion date, (DFAS) does not have to pay you. Folks are not reading this stuff and not filling out the TA forms (properly)."

For more information about tuition assistance, contact Sergeant Watkins at (660) 687-3353 or at ronald.watkins@whiteman.af.mil.

## Charge-of-Quarters

**Master Sgt.  
Charles Roller  
442nd Medical  
Squadron**

Call the CQ from on-base at 99-1 (660) 238-7428. Local off-base number; (i.e., Concordia, Warrensburg, Sedalia, etc.) dial (660) 238-7428. To leave a message for the CQ from off-base dial (800) 260-0253 and press seven after the prompt.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
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**TO THE FAMILY OF:**

## FAMILY NEWS



# Preparing for a healthy family vacation

Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Calvin Acklin  
442nd Family Support Office

When planning a trip or vacation, it is important to plan for the health needs of all family members using the following tips.

- Pack a first-aid kit with Band-Aids, pain and fever reducers, antiseptic, and prescription and non-prescription medications. Pack more medications than is necessary in case some become damaged or lost or the trip are prolonged. For a complete list of what a first-aid kit should include, go to the American Red Cross Web site at <http://www.redcross.org>.
- If traveling by air, pack an extra supply of medications in a carry-on bag in case checked luggage is lost or delayed.
- Always check the expiration dates of medications.
- Be familiar with how to handle minor and major emergency medical situations.
- Bring all telephone numbers needed to reach a health-care provider from home should a family member become ill. Phone numbers of hometown physicians and pharmacists may be helpful to emergency health care providers.
- Remember to travel with health insurance information, including contact phone numbers in for emergency care. Bring additional paperwork such as immunization records for children and adults, especially the dates of last tetanus shots.
- If a family member has medication allergies, bring clear documentation about the name of the medication and type of reaction.
- Consider obtaining medical identification bracelets for individuals with chronic health care concerns or medication allergies.
- Bring health records for travelers with complicated medical histories. Letters from physicians may also be helpful to provide more information about complicated diagnoses. If traveling in a non-English speaking country, consider having medical information translated prior to travel.
- Plan around the needs of family members with health problems or disabilities. People with disabilities can travel almost anywhere today with some planning. Think about the needed services and plan accordingly. Information may be

available on the Internet about accessibility. If special meals or rooms are necessary, be sure to specify when booking travel arrangements. Prior to leaving, confirm these special arrangements, for example a non-smoking room for a person with a respiratory disease. If flying, be sure to let the airlines know about health care needs as well.

- If a family member or traveler needs any special medical or health equipment, be sure to bring this along. Bring inhalers or a nebulizer with appropriate medication if a family member has asthma or lung disease, even if the disease has been stable for some time.
- Pack sunscreen and insect repellent, and plan to use them.
- Pack antibacterial alcohol solution or hand soap. These may come in handy, particularly for food stops or emergency bathroom breaks in inconvenient places.
- Anticipate what safety gear will be necessary for special activities and determine whether it could be brought, rented or borrowed.. This should include (but not be limited to) helmets, wrist guards, knee and elbow pads, and flotation devices for non-swimmers.
- Bring your children's car seats. Although a car seat may be provided with the rental car, children will most likely be comfortable in their own seat. Furthermore, a parent will be more familiar with installation and certain of the seat's quality. Car seat requirements vary from state to state, but most safety experts believe that children should be in a child restraint seat until they weigh 60-80 pounds. If travel plans include flying with younger children, check with the airlines to see if they may ride in their car seat on the plane.
- If traveling to another country, anticipate what immunizations or medications suggested or required. Such information is available from travel medicine clinics or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

The Family Support Office can provide many safety tips for business or personal travel. Stop by to learn about military discounts on airlines and hotels as well.

Master Sgt. Vickie Chambers and Tech. Sgt. Calvin Acklin are located in building 48, room 1102 and can be reached at (660) 681-73530.