

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

**Wing's OEF
commitment
continues**

**Commander
thanks wing,
bids goodbye**

Thanks for the memories

By Col. Pat Cord

This is my last commentary as the commander of the 442nd Fighter Wing and I would like to begin with a huge THANK YOU!

Mary and I have had the best three years of our Air Force Reserve career here as part of the best fighter wing in the Reserve. You adopted us into your family from day one and showed us how professional you all are. It has been a pleasure being part of such an outstanding organization.

I will always have a soft spot in my heart for the men and women of the 442nd Fighter Wing and I will always keep track of your future accomplishments.

The 442nd has always led the pack and if you continue, as I know you will, to follow your three simple precepts of “Stand Tall; Stand Proud; Stand True” this wing will always be “best seen to date.”

As I said when I took command “success is a journey, not a destination” and the 442nd FW is on a long and wonderful journey.

Thanks for letting us ride along for the last three years!

Pat and Mary



Col. Pat Cord



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

Col. Pat Cord, 442nd Fighter Wing commander, salutes 303rd Fighter Squadron pilots following their return from Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. During Colonel Cord's command, the 442nd was the first U.S. Air Force fighter unit to base and operate out of occupied territory since World War II. Colonel Cord commanded the wing since September 2002.

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

'inside * inside * inside * inside'

July 2006
Charge-of-quarters

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MASTER SGT. CODY ELLETT 442ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

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Warrensburg, Sedalia etc.), dial (660) 238-7428. To
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press seven after the prompt.

COVER PHOTO: A 442nd Fighter Wing A-10 Thunderbolt II readys for take-off at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. For more on the wing's deployment to that country see pages 6 - 8. (Photo by Maj. David Kurle)

442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

**MAJOR TAMRA BUETTGENBACH
442ND MEDICAL SQUADRON**

Major Tamra Buettgenbach joined the 442nd Fighter Wing in 2002 after serving more than seven years on active duty. She is a registered nurse assigned to the 442nd Medical Squadron and is responsible for the Dental Clinic, Radiology, Laboratory, Optometry and Pharmacy.

For the more than three years Major Buettgenbach has been with the 442nd, she has filled the role of assistant chief nurse and director of clinical services. As director of clinical services she has been instrumental in decreasing the dental class four percentages from 70 percent to below 10 percent in the wing.

Shortly after Major Buettgenbach joined the 442nd she was assigned the task of designing and implementing a program to educate all new wing members on the role that TRICARE plays with reservists when serving in different capacities. With her extensive TRICARE knowledge from her civilian job, Major Buettgenbach was the ideal person to take on this role.

Major Buettgenbach is a dedicated Air Force officer and nurse. She is an Airman that is willing to take on any project and puts forth a 110 percent effort. She sets the example to her troops with her dedication and is an outstanding mentor. These qualities and more make her this month's Tip of the Spear.

MOHAWK

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NEW COMMANDER FOR 442ND

Colonel Robert S. "Steve" Arthur takes command of the 442nd Fighter Wing in July.

Colonel Arthur received his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps after graduating from Arizona State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

He entered pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, Ariz., in 1978 and has since logged more than 4,000 hours as a command pilot.

Before coming to Whiteman AFB, Colonel Arthur commanded the 926th Fighter Wing, at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, La.



WRIGHT FLIGHT

The Wright Flight youth mentoring program landed at Whiteman Air Force Base recently and middle school students from three Kansa City area schools toured base aircraft as well as a variety of demonstrations and displays, including firefighter apparatus, at left.

The "Top Gun" graduates from the three schools were:

***Melcher Elementary School
Daneshia Morgan --
girls' class
Laeroc McCray -- boys' class***

***St. Monica's Elementary
School
Dakota Sears-Suber***

***McCoy Elementary School
Edgar Ortiz***



303rd Airman earns Levitow award at ALS

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

You get out of something whatever you put into it. Senior Airman Jennifer Ianno is living proof of this age-old piece of wisdom.

Airman Ianno, a personnel specialist, with the 303rd Fighter Squadron, graduated from Whiteman Air Force Base's Airman Leadership School (ALS) on May 25 with the school's John L. Levitow and Leadership Awards in tow.

"It was explained to us that if you won the Leadership Award, you don't get the Levitow Award," she said. "They give everybody a shot to win them. They announced me for the Leadership Award and I thought, 'Great!'"

"Oh gosh, when I sat down after they announced me for the Leadership Award, I was just kind of resting easy, and I was sitting back in my chair drinking some water. They announced that the Levitow Award goes to the 303rd Fighter Squadron and I about dropped out of my chair."

Airman Ianno, who spent 2001-2004 on active duty before joining the 442nd FW, and who was the only reservist in her ALS' 27-member class, had to leave her husband, Senior Airman Jonathon Ianno, 509th Communications Squadron, at home for the five-week course.

She also had to take "incompletes" in her classes at Central Missouri State University, where she is majoring in criminal justice. She has since made up her classes' final tests, but has had to delay her graduation from this December to May of 2007.

At ALS, she served as an academic monitor, often ensuring



Master Sgt. Brad Plante, 509th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant, presents Senior Airman Jennifer Ianno, 303rd Fighter Squadron, with the Whiteman Air Force Base Airman Leadership School's John L. Levitow award during graduation ceremonies at the school.

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN LAUREN PADDEN

her peers' homework was up to par before focusing on her assignments.

While Airman Ianno's awards may have surprised her, they did not surprise others.

"We ask a lot of you guys, but throughout the entire process, you always had a smile and you never left anyone behind," Master Sgt. Darla Rush, ALS flight chief told Airman Ianno at the graduation. "You never complained."

Airman Ianno is quick to put any accolades in context.

I just did what I was supposed to do. If we had a failure, I wasn't doing my job as an academic monitor. Sometimes, I didn't do my homework until I'd check everyone else's stuff. One classmate told me, 'I don't know anyone who's more deserving of this.'"

Airman Ianno said she learned valuable lessons about time-management skills and communication.

"We learned how to appropriately approach certain topics with people. To tell people, for example, they did a good job. You have to be on the look out when to approach people at the right times. (ALS) is a little bit of a head game. Everything they teach you connects together and you don't see that until the end."

No doubt, Airman Ianno will put to good use these and other lessons as her civilian and military career unfolds.

"As soon as I graduate, I would like to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Drug Enforcement Agency. My husband is active-duty, so I'm a little bit at the mercy of where he goes. If we stay here, I'll work in local law enforcement. I would like to stay in the Reserve, too."

"I didn't come (to ALS) to win anything," Airman Ianno said. "I came here to be a good supervisor, so when I got back to my shop, I'd know what to do."



Sgt. John L. Levitow, is the lowest-ranking Air Force member ever to earn the Medal of Honor. Levitow was cited for valor as an AC-47 gunship loadmaster during a mission on Feb. 24, 1969. Flak had severely damaged his aircraft and peppered him with more than 40 shrapnel wounds. Seeing a smoking magnesium flare amid a jumble of spilled ammunition, Levitow threw himself on the flare and hugged it close as he dragged himself to an open door despite loss of blood. As he hurled the flare through the door, it ignited white-hot, but harmlessly outside the aircraft.

Afghan action



With it's A-10s busy supporting ground operations, wing approaches half-way point on deployment to Bagram Airfield

Tech. Sgt. Tammy Kjos, an A-10 crew chief signals an A-10 pilot to hold before taxiing.

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Col. Tony Johnson, 442nd Operations Group commander takes off in an A-10 Thunderbolt II June 14. Photos by Maj. David Kurle



clockwise from above: Maj. Steve Nester inspects an A-10 Thunderbolt II prior to a mission over Afghanistan.

Tony Johnson, an A-10 pilot from the 442nd Fighter Wing, prepares to fly an A-10 Thunderbolt II on a combat mission over Afghanistan.

Sgt. Roderic Ventresca, left, and Staff Sgt. Mitch Rice, load 30mm bullets into an A-10 Thunderbolt II, using an ammunition loading assembly.





BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Master Sgt. Jimmy Armor surveys the flightline here. Sergeant Armor was named the senior NCO of the month for the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group here for the month of May.

442nd master sergeant honored in Afghanistan

Story and photo by Maj. David Kurle

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — A master sergeant from the 442nd Fighter Wing was named the senior NCO of the month for the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group here May 31.

Master Sgt. Jimmy Armor, a logistics planner, deployed here in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, managed the airlift plan for more than 80 reservists from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., and 32 tons of equipment from Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, to Bagram.

“We would have never gotten our people here or our equipment bedded down if it weren’t for Jimmy,” said Chief Master Sgt. Steve Brazeal, Sergeant Armor’s supervisor in the 455th.

Sergeant Armor is a traditional reservist, whose job is to provide logistics support to the maintenance group.

In addition to arranging airlift for Citizen Airmen and equipment, he traveled to Manas to prepare for 442nd members arriving from Whiteman.

He built and issued 56 chemical protection bags, arranged for 56 sets of individual body armor and saved more than 168 man-hours in getting 442nd maintenance people to Bagram, according to the nomination form for the award.

“It felt good because I worked hard, worked long hours and put a lot of sweat equity into it,” Sergeant Armor said of the award. “If we didn’t get the folks down here, the maintenance group would have been very short handed putting jets back together.”

MISSOURI GOVERNOR VISIT

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Governor of Missouri, Matt Blunt (civilian clothes, center), poses for photos with the Missouri state flag with members of the 442nd Fighter Wing, May 26. The governor toured the US Central Command area of responsibility meeting Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines from his state along the way. With Governor Blunt are (left to right) Maj. David Kurle, Senior Master Sgt. Melissa Spawn, Chief Master Sgt. Steve Brazeal, Lt. Col. John Hoff, Senior Master Sgt. Mark Mock and Tech. Sgt. John Walton. (Courtesy photo)



422nd stands-up for Stand-down

Wing members rally to aid homeless vets in KC

Story and photos by Master Sgt.
Todd Sieleman
442nd Fighter Wing Safety

He “lives” in what he calls an “Abando-loft” near downtown Kansas City, Mo. His two blackened eyes and broken arm were the result of being attacked recently as he slept in his impromptu residence.

Military records verify his claim; he was a military veteran and had served his nation honorably as a U.S. Navy Seal.

On a recent Saturday morning – a day of the week highly-valued by reservists, considering UTA commitments – more than forty 442nd Fighter Wing members provided needed assistance to this former Navy Seal and other area homeless military veterans by volunteering for the Kansas City Veterans Stand-down, June 3, at the Manual Training Center just east of downtown Kansas City on Truman Road.

Stand-down is the military term for rest and comfort, in a secure location, away from the stresses of battle. This time, the battle is addiction, mental illness, or perhaps just the street.

Unit members were there in numbers to selflessly give a small measure of thanks and support to those who have proudly served in uniform before them

and now make their home on the streets of Kansas City.

The annual event provides medical care, showers, haircuts, clean clothing, counseling, guidance regarding Veterans Affairs benefits and programs, a hot meal and even music, provided free, by a local band.

Art Fillmore, a Kansas City attorney and Army lieutenant in Vietnam, helped organize the first event in 1993. That year, the number of homeless veterans served was around 75.

In recent years, though, the program has grown to nearly 700 and, as can be imagined, a large volunteer force is needed to manage an assistance program of this scope.

Enter the 442nd. Chief Master Sgt. Steve Kottman, Master Sgt. Cody Ellett and Master Sgt. Todd Sieleman formed a committee to work in conjunction with Stand-down planning members, including the Vets Center, the VA hospital and area charitable organizations to bring the 442nd FW volunteers on-board.

“We were able to supply needed support, in a practical fashion, and involve unit members in a meaningful community service opportunity,” Chief Kottman said.

Many volunteers brought family members, adults and kids, to assist. Mas-

ter Sgt. Tammy Eddings, 442nd Mission Support Flight, brought her eleven-year-old daughter.

“I wanted her to learn the benefit of giving to others and to recognize that not having an in-ground pool doesn’t make you poor”, she said.

A big part of the day was legal assistance which would not have been successful without the help of 442nd Security Forces Squadron members. Many veterans had legal challenges as a result of charges ranging from shoplifting to vagrancy.

Chief Master Sgt. Alyn Brown and Senior Master Sgt. Ron Meade provided numerous volunteers which oversaw the transportation to area courtrooms where a volunteer judge meted out community service as payment in full.

The 442nd cops then provided escort duty as the vets were ferried to locations to conduct litter collection.

Clothing issue was also a big draw with 442nd FW members alternately providing security or assisting vets through the gauntlet of tables piled high with duffle bags, sleeping bags, recycled battle dress uniforms, new underwear, socks and boots.

“If only a single veteran were assisted today the entire effort would have been worth it,” Sergeant Ellett said.

For the vets, the reward was measurable. A particularly noticeable vet arrived that morning needing all manner of physical services.

By day’s end, he left showered and clean shaven with a new haircut. He had also donned fresh clothing and had duffle on his back packed with more.

Although his mannerisms and movements were abnormally slow, he seemed to visibly swell with pride. He attempted to hide a boyish smile when he asked a question and was answered by one of the 442nd volunteers, “Yes, your haircut looks nice.”

Then, as he shuffled down Truman Road, in no apparent direction or with particular place to go, many in the group watching him leave sadly wondered when he had last been paid a compliment.



Tech. Sgt. Tami Goodhart, 442nd Maintenance Operations Flight, was one of nearly 40 wing members giving aid to homeless veterans in Kansas City at the Veterans Stand-down.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

Tech. Sgt. Andrew Canfield, a pararescueman with the 304th Rescue Squadron, Portland IAP, Ore., searches for survivors in a flooded New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina last year. Each 442nd Fighter Wing member is responsible for ensuring the unit is kept up to date with their status following a natural disaster or similar crisis.

When storm clouds threaten ... Personnel accountability imperative during natural disaster, crisis

**By Capt. Joe Walter
442nd Military Personnel Flight**

Personnel accountability is paramount to successfully meeting mission objectives.

As a result of the aftermath of last year's destructive hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the impact it had on Air Force bases, the Air Force Reserve Command realized it did not have adequate plans to account for its personnel. With this, the Command developed accountability procedures for future disasters or crises.

The 442nd Fighter Wing is in the beginning stages of implementing these procedures. As they are developed, adherence to them will give us better visibility of wing members and their families so ben-

efits and entitlements can be given and the well-being of those impacted can be ascertained.

Unlike recall procedures utilizing an alert roster where members are notified and given instructions, accountability during a natural disaster or crisis will begin with each member.

Regardless of the size of the event and even if it only affects you; you should call in to the Wing so that assistance can be provided. This can be due to a tornado, fire, fallen tree, earthquake, terrorist activity, vandalism, etc.

A new telephone reporting systems called Communicator NXT is expected to be implemented in the 442nd in the near future. This will allow for the call-in and tracking of multiple individuals simulta-

neously. Until this new system is activated wing member are to utilize the wing's toll free number, (800) 260-0253, to report to their supervisor, unit or command post.

Some things to be expected in the future are a request for secondary contact information, adjustments and standardization of the alert roster across the wing with the inclusion of personnel accountability procedures, wallet-sized cards containing reporting information, Crisis Action Team (CAT) contact information at our Number Air Force and the activation of the new communication system.

Again, if you and your family are affected by a natural disaster or crisis, it is imperative to contact the unit or someone who can relay your situation to the unit.

442nd crew under fire during 'Tet truce'

RESERVISTS HAVE FRONT ROW SEAT TO OPENING SHOTS OF NOW-INFAMOUS TET OFFENSIVE

Editor's note: The Tet Offensive began on Jan. 31, 1968, during the 36-hour Tet holiday, lunar new year, truce. Attacks were launched on five of the most important cities in South Vietnam, thirty-six provincial capitals, sixty-four district capitals, and fifty hamlets. In well-coordinated attacks in the capital of Saigon, three U.S. military barracks, the Presidential Palace, the city radio station, Ton Son Nhut Air Base, and the recently constructed U.S. Embassy were all attacked. (Source: U.S. Army History Office) The following article is reprinted from the March/April 1968 issue of the Mohawk.

It was about 3:30 in the morning when Tech. Sgt. Jerome Hoffman, a flight engineer for the 303rd Military Airlift Squadron, peered through the top hatch of a 442nd (Military Airlift Wing C-124) Globemaster being on-loaded at Ton Son Nhut AFB, near Saigon, South Vietnam.

"Mortar!" (Sergeant) Hoffman yelled to warn three loadmasters (working with him on the aircraft) that the base was under attack. The men scurried from the aircraft and sprinted 100 yards to protective bunkers.

The loadmasters, Master Sgt. William Harrigan, Tech. Sgt. Richard Grzebinski and Airman 1st Class Jerry Raeder, found safety in a bunker for maintenance personnel. Hoffman found refuge in a bunker for air command post personnel, joining the rest of the (442nd) crew, Lt. Col. Walter Oades, aircraft commander; Lt. Col. Edmund Russell and Capt. James Slocomb, navigators; Major John Gerant, co-pilot; and Tech. Sgt. Ernest Jarvis, flight engineer.

This mission was one of 32 flown by the 442nd during January and February (of 1968) to support military overseas airlift activities. Other Reserve units, also using voluntary crews not on extended active duty, flew more than 175 missions.

Immediately after the base was attacked, a siren screeched, and all lights went out. The enemy lobbed mortars and fired rockets. Some burst within 100 yards of the (442nd C-124.) "Ol' Shakey."

"The first mortar hit the jet aircraft area about 300 yards from us," (Sergeant) Hoffman explained. "We were in a cross fire. They were coming at us from two sides."

Sergeant Hoffman said the concussion of the mortars that landed within 100 yards of the aircraft rocked the Globemaster.

"As we waited in the bunkers, we were wondering how good the perimeter defense was," Colonel Russell explained. "We didn't have any weapons, helmets or flack suits. If the enemy had broken through the defense line, we might have been taken prisoner or killed."

From the sand bag and steel bunkers, the crew could hear the repeating boom of allied artillery which struck at the elusive enemy. Two enlisted men were perched atop one bunker with M-16 weapons watching keenly for the enemy.

About 6 o'clock, after the base had been secured, the crew hurriedly finished loading the cargo. By 6:45, in the misty, gray dawn, the Kansas City-based Globemaster was loaded and on the runway.

"We didn't waste any time getting out," Colonel Oades explained.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

Safely back at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, 442nd aircrew members discuss their experiences during a mission to Ton Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, when the base came under attack during the 1968 Tet Offensive. Seated (left to right) are Maj. John Gerant, Lt. Col. Walter Oades, Lt. Col. Edmund Russell, Capt. James Slocomb, and Airman 1st Class Jerry Raeder. Standing (left to right) are Master Sgt. William Harrigan and Tech. Sgt. Jerome Hoffman.

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TO THE FAMILY OF:

With the Missouri state flag flying in the foreground, Spangdahlem and Whiteman A-10s share the ramp at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Photo by Maj. David Kurle



***"As I said when I took command, 'success is a journey, not a destination' and the 442nd Fighter Wing is on a long and wonderful journey."
-- Col. Pat Cord***