

# **MOHAWK**

*442nd Fighter Wing*



**442nd deploys to  
Afghanistan**

**101 Critical  
Days**

## Members 'superb' as Wing deploys

By Col. Pat Cord

Thanks to everyone in the wing for our successful AEF deployment this last month. It took effort from every shop in this wing to pull this off and you did it in the standard 442nd way – SUPERBLY! For this AEF we will be doing 30 and 40-day rotations. Each of these rotations is like a mini deployment and redeployment, so I will say thanks in advance for everyone's help as we execute each rotation in fine 442nd fashion.

While our Airmen are gone this summer, please help our Family Support Office take care of those that are left here on the home front. If you hear of anyone that needs assistance please let them know. We have been lucky and will be able to have someone in the family support office during the entire deployment, so please don't hesitate to take advantage of their services.



US AIR FORCE PHOTO

**Col. Pat Cord**

Speaking of families, we are planning a Family Day picnic during the August UTA. 1st Lt. Keith Yersak, 442nd Operations Group, has volunteered to be the wing project officer and I know he is looking for interested individuals to help in the planning and execution of this event. We hope that all the families of our deployed Airmen can attend.

If you haven't heard, we are having an air show this year. The "Wings Over Whiteman" air show will be held on the 17th and 18th of June. We hope everyone can come out and enjoy the event. Capt. Cathy Roberts is the 442nd air show chairman and she has done a great job in setting up this year's air show.

The manpower changes caused by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission decision to move nine of New Orleans (926th FW) aircraft up to the 442nd are pretty much complete. We have started to hire as many of the 926th folks as we can, both full timers – ARTs – and traditional reservists.

So, I ask that you keep an eye out for new faces and when you see one, please go out of your way to introduce yourself and welcome them to the 442nd family.

Thank you for your service and to your spouses and families – thank you for your support! We could not accomplish our mission without you!

## Diversity fuels organization's vitality

By Chief Master Sergeant David A. Isaacson  
442nd Fighter Wing  
Command Chief

When most of us attempt to define diversity, race is probably one factor that first comes to mind. However, while race is a key element in what makes us different, diversity is about much more than race alone.

Our differences can be as obvious as the color of one's skin and gender or more intrinsic, such as our religious beliefs, or politics. Each of those elements defines who we are, and as part of a changing culture, it is inevitable that we will cross paths with people who are unlike us in many aspects of life, including our military profession.



US AIR FORCE PHOTO

**Chief Master Sgt.  
David Isaacson**

The word heterogeneous means a compound, mixture, or other such object that consists of many different items, which are often not easily sorted or separated, though they are clearly distinct. America has been called the melting pot.

That term, "melting pot" is a metaphor for the way in which heterogeneous societies develop, in which the ingredients in the pot (iron, tin; people of different backgrounds and religions, etc.) are processed until they lose their discrete identities and yield a final product of uniform consistency and flavor, but which is quite different from the original inputs. The demographics within our military community are rapidly changing. In the U.S., populations that are today's minorities are growing at rates that may make them the emerging majority in years to come. According to the 2004 U.S. Census, the Hispanic population will increase from 36 million to 103 million by 2050, the Asian-American population from 11 million to 33 million and the African-American population from 36 million to 61 million. With this growth, come differences in language, culture, values and beliefs—all factors in how we do business. These factors will directly affect the work environment within the military.

Diversity is an incredible asset, provided we can glean from it

See 'Diversity' page eleven

# MOHAWK

442ND FIGHTER WING

*' Inside ' Inside ' Inside ' Inside '*

June 2006  
Charge-of-quarters

Commentary ..... page 2



### NEW CMSAF

Chief Master Sgt. Rod McKinley selected as next CMSAF

PAGES 4

### DEPLOYMENT

Wing pilots, maintainers deploy to Afghanistan

PAGES 6 & 7



### DEPLOYED GROUP COMMANDER

Col. Tony Johnson commands deployed group

PAGE 8



Orders go on line ..... page 8  
101 Critical Days of Summer ..... page 9  
Heritage to horizons: 442nd D-day remembered ..... page 10



### MASTER SGT. JOHN DAVISON 442ND COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT

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: BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Lt. Col. Stephen Chappel, an A-10 pilot deployed to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing here, performs a walk-around inspection of an A-10 Thunderbolt II May 13 in preparation for a mission over Afghanistan. (Photo by Maj. David Kurle)**



## 442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

### MASTER SGT. VICKIE CHAMBERS 442ND MISSION SUPPORT FLIGHT

Master Sgt. Vickie Chambers moved into the 442nd Family Support office as NCOIC in May of 2005. Selecting her best successes since she arrived is as difficult as picking out your favorite piece of candy from the basket in the 442nd Family Support office. There is such a wide variety and they are all good.

Sergeant Chambers has strengthened the bond with the 509th Family Support office to ensure the 442nd is able to operate seamlessly with the active duty. She participated with the 509th when they ran a processing line for the dependent children of active-duty members preparing to deploy. The children gained firsthand knowledge of what their parents were about to experience. Sergeant Chambers has plans for a similar line for the 442nd dependent children next fall.

Similar to the active duty's Key Spouse program, Sergeant Chambers developed a Family Support Representative program for the 442nd. She revived the Family Lifeline newsletter to keep members and their families connected while away, which complements the numerous letters her office sends to members during deployments.

The list of accomplishments and future plans for the 442nd Family Support office goes on, thanks to Master Sgt. Vickie Chambers. This more than makes her the Tip of the Spear for the 442nd Fighter Wing

## MOHAWK

Vol. 58, No. 6  
June 2006

This funded Air Force Reserve newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Mohawk are not necessarily the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 442nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, 931 Arnold Ave., Whiteman AFB, MO 65305-5070.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadline for article submission is 12:30 p.m. Sunday during the unit training assembly preceding the desired month of publication.

COMMANDER, 442ND FW  
Col. Pat Cord

CHIEF, PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
Maj. David Kurle

PA NCOIC/EDITOR

Master Sgt. Bill Huntington  
PA STAFF

Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown  
Staff Sgt. Greg Frost

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)

This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.

# Chief McKinley looking forward to new job

By Louis A. Arana-Barradas  
Air Force Print News

**SAN ANTONIO** (AFP) — Command Chief Master Sgt. Rod McKinley admits he is a bit nervous about becoming the 15th chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

But it is not because the job will be too tough or that becoming the Air Force's top enlisted leader intimidates him, he said. It is the fact he will be the next chief in the long line of those he calls "the great chiefs of our past" that humbles him.

"I just hope that I can live up to half of what they have accomplished in our Air Force," he said.

The chief, from Mount Orab, Ohio, assumes the post July 1 from Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray, who is retiring after four years on the job. Chief McKinley and his family discussed the move before he took the post. He is ready for the challenge, he said.

"I'm always real comfortable about any job I have in the Air Force," the 32-year veteran said. "And I've lived by a simple philosophy: Whatever job the Air Force gives you, just to do the very best that you possibly can."

So the chief goes to his new post with an open mind. He does not have any firm plans on how he will do his job. And he does not have a list of changes he wants to make. And though he has gotten a lot of advice on what to do from a host of people, the best advice he received came from Chief Murray, he said.

"Chief Murray's advice to me from the very beginning is: 'Rod, just go be yourself,'" he said.

The chief said he has been himself since he joined the Air Force in 1974 with two of his hometown buddies. After basic training, they each went their separate ways. The chief went on to become a medic. After a break in service, he rejoined the Air Force and today is the only one of the trio who made the military a career.

Did he or his friends ever think one day he would be the top enlisted Airman?

"Heavens no," the chief said. "I was just trying to be a good Airman."

The chief admires good Airmen. They make the Air Force as good as it is, he said. He was at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, May 17 and 18, sitting on the board that selects the next Air Force 12 outstanding Airmen and first sergeant of the year. He was in "awe of the incredible Airmen" under consideration for the honors, he said.

One of the main reasons the chief agreed to take the new post was the prospect of getting to meet Airmen like them, he said. That is what motivates him most about going to the Penta-



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

**Chief Master Sgt. Rodney J. McKinley will assume his new post as the Air Force's 15th top enlisted leader July 1. He is the current command chief master sergeant for Pacific Air Forces.**

gon and then going on the road to meet Airmen on the job around the globe.

"To get out there and shake their hands and look 'em in the eyes and tell them how much I appreciate what they're doing, fighting this war on terrorism and upholding the freedoms and democracy for our country," he said. "To look Airmen in the eyes and just say thank you."

Chief McKinley takes on his new role as the spokesman for the Air Force enlisted corps at a critical time in the service's history. That fact is not lost on the chief, who likes to come across as a self-professed "country boy from Ohio." But one conversation with him dispels that image. He is an Air Force professional who knows what he must do

to help the Air Force achieve its three top priorities.

"That's wining the war on terrorism, taking care of our Airmen and recapitalizing our inventory," he said.

To achieve those goals will take Airmen living the Air Force core values, learning to accept change and getting back to some of the basics that have defined his career, he said.

"I'm very much on discipline. I'm very much on standards, customs and courtesies," he said. "That is what has built our military to be so great."

The chief knows he has a tough job ahead of him. And he knows he joins Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley at a critical stage in Air Force history — a time of transition and redirection.

But a stint as a medic will help him do his job, the chief said. Having worked in a hospital emergency room as a young Airman has given him an appreciation for the life-and-death situations Airmen face each day on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

"You had to remain calm in those situations," he said. "I don't get excited."

Those are good traits to take into a job that, at times, can be like working in a pressure cooker. But the chief said he does not worry about what may come. He knows he has a great responsibility representing Airmen — a task he does not take lightly.

Along the way, Chief McKinley will have to help Airmen accept and adapt to change, which he said is good for the Air Force.

"Change is good because as we change we evolve," he said. "What we want is not a new Air Force — just smaller. An Air Force that's going to be more capable for the future."

When he returns to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, to begin his transition to the Pentagon, the chief will have to pack up for yet another move. But this move will define his Air Force career. And he is ready.

"In the end, I will give my best," Chief McKinley said.



## 442nd warriors ensure smooth arrival

**Above: An A-10 Thunderbolt II, flown by pilot, Maj. Mark Ernewein arrives at its deployed location with the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing at Bagram Airfield May 13.**

**Below: Staff Sgt. Christine Nicewander, left, and Staff Sgt. Mitch Rice, both munitions loaders deployed to the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron here, remove chaff and flare boxes from the wing tip of an A-10 Thunderbolt II May 13 shortly after its arrival at Bagram Airfield.**



*Story and photos by Maj. David Kurlle*

### **BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**

— As members of the 442nd Fighter Wing's advance team settled in at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, after their arrival here May 6, they ensured a smooth transition for the main body of Citizen Airmen deploying here from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

The base here is located in a valley in central Afghanistan surrounded by 20,000-foot mountains, which still have last winter's snow on them. But members of the 442nd are not letting the somewhat idyllic scenery mask the importance of their mission.

"I think the maintenance mission is very important," said Lt. Col. Alan Priest, deployed from the 442nd, he is the aircraft maintenance unit officer in charge for the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group here. "The other day we bombed some bad guys and that tends to get our maintenance people pumped up, especially when an airplane comes back empty."

Bagram Airfield is run by the Army, which conducts daily missions on the ground throughout Afghanistan. One of the reservists' missions will be to provide close air support and eyes in the sky for the Army Soldiers on the ground. Despite the relative security of the airfield, 442nd reservists know they are still in a combat zone and to expect the unexpected.

"I think, generally, everyone feels secure at this location," Colonel Priest said. "But you can't become complacent; I think most people realize that."

The conditions here tend to run on the dry side, dirt, dust and gravel are a way of life. Deployed Airmen sleep in B-huts, six- to seven-person dormitories made from plywood. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service runs a PX, Burger

King, barber shops and other amenities and is also in charge of the dining facilities.

"It's great, absolutely wonderful, to come to an AEF location and find several dining facilities and even BX's," said Chief Master Sgt. Steve Brazeal, the AMU chief for the 455th EMXG here.

"The dining facilities actually serve pretty good food," said Senior Master Sgt. Marian Simmons, a munitions production supervisor with the 455th EMXG. "I don't see anyone over here losing a tremendous amount of weight."

The current state of Bagram Airfield is vastly improved over the first time the 442nd deployed here in 2002 when maintenance operations were conducted out of two tents, according to Chief Brazeal.

As for flying operations, the A-10s fly daily missions in support of military operations throughout the country. Lt. Col. Stephen Chappel, a deployed A-10 pilot from the 442nd, now flying for the 355th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron has already flown sorties over Afghanistan and expects flying operations to remain busy throughout the deployment.

"The majority of the sorties are in support of Army ground operations," Colonel Chappel said. "It's a mixture of close air support, reconnaissance, and pre-planned operations."

The importance of deploying to Bagram Airfield and the reminder that this is still a combat zone hit home for Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen here when almost the entire base lined up on the airfield, May 8, to pay tribute to six fallen soldiers who were taking a last flight to the United States.

"We are aware of why we are here," Sergeant Simmons said. "We are here to keep the people responsible for why we're here from ever attacking our country again."

# On the road



## Wing returns to



*Members of the enroute support team load their personal gear aboard a C-17 Globemaster III before their June 6 departure to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.*



*Tech. Sgt. Paul Hanson, 442nd Maintenance Squadron, inventories and packs his chemical warfare gear in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan.*

*By Maj. David K...*

Approximately  
the 442nd Fighter  
A-10 Thunderbolt  
Air Force Base in  
month deployment  
Afghanistan, in su  
Enduring Freedom

The majority of  
be directly involve  
A-10 aircraft or fly  
addition, the 442nd  
bat support person

Bagram Airfield.

This is the sec

# again

## to Afghanistan

urle

y 100 reservists from  
Wing, along with six  
t IIs, left Whiteman  
May for a four-  
t to Bagram Airfield,  
upport of Operation  
n.

of the reservists will  
d in maintaining the  
ying in combat. In  
d is providing com-  
nel to help maintain

ond time the 442nd

has deployed to Bagram with a complement of A-10 aircraft to provide close air support for Army units operating in Afghanistan to secure that country and further U.S. efforts in the Global War on Terror.

This is the third major deployment for the wing since 2001. In 2003 the 442nd became the first U.S. fighter unit to secure and operate from an enemy airbase since World War II as the unit supported ground forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom from Tallil and Kirkuk Air Bases inside Iraq.



**Staff Sgt. Lanny Rex, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, turns from his family to board a bus to a waiting C-17 Globemaster III aircraft as he departs for Afghanistan May 6.**

## **442ND COLONEL TAKES COMMAND OF DEPLOYED GROUP**

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Col. Tony Johnson, right, takes command of the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group from Brig. Gen. Chris Miller, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, here May 13.**

**Colonel Johnson is an Air Force reservist deployed here from the 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.**

**He will be oversee a deployed A-10 squadron, C-130 squadron, an aeromedical evacuation squadron and other operational units here to support the Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.**

**(US Air Force Photo by Maj. David Kurle, 455 AEW/PA)**



## **Orders now available on line with AROWS**

**By Senior Master Sgt. Tim Storms  
442nd Fighter Wing Budget office**

The 442nd Fighter Wing converted to a new orders writing program Air Force Reserve Order Writing System (AROWS) May 3 and the program allows members to print orders once they have been processed and certified in the system.

With the older system now obsolete, orders will no longer be copied for members or distributed, as in the past. However, the voucher submission process is still the same, as what was recently put out using the checklist. (See the corrected voucher submission graphic in this month's Mohawk Yellow Pages insert)

Members can now print orders off any computer that has Internet access, once the orders have been pro-

cessed through AROWS. Computers must be able to go to secure sites so printing can occur.

Members can log on to AROWS by going to <https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/AROWS/>. Should there be trouble accessing that site, another login location is at <https://arowsr.afrc.af.mil/arows-r/>

Once this site has been reached, click on AROWS-R-Login. Members must then enter their social security number (with no dashes) as a login, and birth date (as shown with the slashes) as his password (YYYY/MM/DD) and click enter. This will bring up a prompt to change that password. Again, the old password will be the birth date the way it was previously entered it.

The member fills in a new password and answers the questions at the bottom

of this page and hits enter. It is important to remember the newly-created password.

While on the site, it is also important to use the site's navigation tabs, buttons, links and menus. Clicking "back" on the web browser will cause the user to exit the site.

Once here, click on the drop down menu at the top left corner of the screen and select member. Click on approved orders and print the order.

One final note of critical importance, when printing orders with the new system, the site will generate a two-page order. If printers are not set to print the front and back of each sheet, members will need to attach both pages of the order with their vouchers. If both pages are not present, the voucher/orders package will be returned to the member for correction.





By Senior Airman Heidi Davis  
1st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va.** (AFPN) — Each year, the Air Force stresses the importance of zero mishaps during the 101 Critical Days of Summer through PowerPoint slides, commander’s calls and safety briefings. For the most part, Airmen do their part to put safety at the forefront.

But, what about those safety issues that tend to fall through the cracks, such as salt deficiency, ticks, mixing alcohol and energy drinks, or driving while talking on a cell phone?

#### **CELL PHONES AND DRIVING**

You see it every day while driving: that one driver weaving in and out of traffic, tailgating vehicles and rolling through stop signs because he or she was busy talking on a cell phone instead of paying attention to the road.

Here are a few tips to avoid being “that guy:”

- Never talk on a cell phone while driving on military installations unless you want three points added to your driving record
- When available, use a hands-free device
- Suspend conversations during bumper-to-bumper traffic and hazardous driving conditions
- Position your cell phone within easy reach

#### **HYPONATREMIA (SALT DEFICIENCY)**

As the weather warms, outdoor sports like football, soccer, running and beach volleyball become favorite pastimes. With each sport comes a risk — not just a muscular injury or broken bone, but a risk of sodium depletion.

Each time an athlete sweats, he or she is losing water and salt. If the salt is not replenished with a sodium-enriched snack or sports drink, the athlete runs a risk of hyponatremia. Symptoms include nausea, muscle cramps, disorientation, slurred speech, confusion and inappropriate behavior. If the condition is not treated, it could progress to seizures, coma or death.

To prevent hyponatremia, remember to hydrate an hour before working out or engaging in sports, and hydrate frequently while active. Sodium-rich foods include pretzels, saltines and wheat crackers.

#### **TICKS**

When camping or hiking in the woods this summer, wear long pants and take along a can of tick-and-insect repellent. Ticks prefer to inhabit long grass, fields, wooded areas, weeds and brush and attach themselves to small pets and people.

Be sure to inspect all family members and pets after returning from a tick-infested area and promptly remove any ticks with a pair of tweezers. Be sure to pull at the base of skin to avoid leaving the head attached to the skin. Wash the skin, apply

antibiotic and cover with a bandage to avoid infection. Be cautious when entering potentially tick-infested areas. Some ticks are known to carry Lyme disease. While most symptoms of Lyme disease mimic the common flu, the most obvious is a circular or oval-shaped red rash in the area of the bite. Bite victims should consult a doctor immediately if they incur any of the above symptoms.

#### **ALCOHOL, ENERGY DRINKS**

The summer weather can mean long days at the beach and parties into the early morning. Some may think about adding a kick to their alcoholic beverage to keep them from dozing off too early. Energy drinks seem to be a mix of choice for some. However, mixing alcohol with energy drinks can make for a life-threatening cocktail. Each of the drinks was designed to produce a very different effect. Alcohol is a depressant and impairs judgment, while energy drinks are designed to improve reaction time and performance.

When mixed and consumed, the combination can impair motor coordination, silence inhibitions and make one think the alcohol does not affect him or her.

In fact, medical sources say that when any alcoholic beverage is mixed or chased with caffeine, alcohol is processed quicker, and the effects are intensified. So, consumers should avoid any activities requiring motor coordination, such as driving and operating machinery, until the alcohol has passed through the system.

# Remembering the 442nd's D-day

By Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

June 6 marked the 62nd anniversary of the allied invasion of France during World War II. That day, D-day, the Allies struck back at Nazi Germany in what many have termed as the beginning of the end for Adolph Hitler's conquest of Europe.

Early that morning, as thousands of ships churned across the English Channel to deliver allied warfighters to the Normandy beaches, an air armada took off from airfields all across England laden with paratroopers and gliders destined for drop zones and landing zones in the French countryside.

Forty-five C-47s of the 442nd Troop Carrier Group's four flying squadrons, the 303rd, the 304th, the 305th and 306th Troop Carrier Squadrons, carried paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne bound for drop zones around St. Mere Eglise, France.

"We flew (across the English Channel) at 1,500 feet until we reached the Cherbourg peninsula, at which time we dropped down to 500 feet" said then 1st Lt. Robert Carr, a C-47 pilot with the 303rd TCS. "We were set to get signal lights from the lead (aircraft) of each unit – white, twenty minutes out, red, two minutes out and green at the drop point."

In a 305th TCS plane Staff Sgt. Arthur Toth kept watch over the paratroopers in his plane.

"We (had) helped the paratroopers through the door," Sergeant Toth said. "They got in, laughed and kidded around a while, and when we hit the coast they quieted down."

Ivan Harvey, a radio operator with the 305th recalled one paratrooper.

"There was this big kid with a baby face who loaded on our plane," he said. "He was exchanging some good-natured banter with (the crewmembers.) He looked at my pilot and said, 'Well Captain, if we live through this night we'll live forever.'"

That flight was the last time Harvey saw the soldier.

Dave Walling, a 442nd navigator, had prepared self-address stamped envelopes to give to a couple of paratroopers on his plane that night. He wanted them to let him know how close they had actually made it to the drop zone.

Despite meeting stiff anti-aircraft and small-arms fire, the

Group's C-47s pressed on through the dark with their human cargo and as they approached their designated drop zones the signal as given to jump.

"The troops were ready," Lieutenant Carr said. "We could feel them leaving the plane. I remember seeing tracer bullets going by but I was thinking about other things."

In Sergeant Toth's plane a similar scene was repeated.

"They (the paratroopers got the signal to jump)," Sergeant Toth said. "I started to count off the men and the fourth man looked like he had already been hit by flak because he fell out. You could see the flak all around us but none seemed to hit us. The seventeenth man was out ... we headed for the deck and home."

"After we dropped our troops our instructions were to fly straight for one minute, turn 90 degrees left and go down to terrain plus 50 feet," Lieutenant Carr said. "When we came out over Utah Beach, the masts of our ships seemed awfully close. We flew back to our base (at Fulbeck, England), were debriefed, had breakfast and went to bed."

Not all of the 442nd's C-47s and their crews made it safely back to base that day. Six were killed and three of them were never found. 1st Lt. Samuel Williams Jr, is buried at the American military cemetery at Colleville Sur Mer which overlooks Omaha Beach.

Later that same day the 442nd was flying para-drop re-supply missions. On June 8, 442nd planes landed at near Cherbourg to deliver re-supply on ground the Germans had controlled just 48 hours before.

Walling heard back from the two paratroopers who had gotten the envelopes.

"To you and your plane crew ... thanks a million for a swell jump," wrote Cpl. Gilbert McKnight. "Really and truly it was the best jump I made in a long time."

McKnight and his fellow soldiers had landed within 400 yards of their drop target.

For its efforts during the Normandy invasion the 442nd Troop Carrier Group earned a Presidential Unit Citation, an award still carried today by the 442nd Fighter Wing.



**305th Troop Carrier Squadron C-47s carry para-pack bundles on a June 6, 1944 resupply mission over France.**

Read about how space-based capabilities are helping fight the Global War on Terrorism, travel alongside a joint convoy mission through Iraq, follow the struggles of the Air Force family's tiniest members as they receive live-saving care at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Wilford Hall.

These features and more highlight the first quarterly issue of Airman magazine, now available in print and online at <http://www.af.mil/news/airman/>.

Airman magazine is also available at the 442nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs office in building 48, room 209.



#### Lifeline to the warfighter

Space was once the stuff of science fiction. Not today. The need for real-time information on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan has brought space operators into the forefront of the Global War on Terrorism.

#### Sleep Hollow no more

Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, is shaking off its bed-and-breakfast image, replacing it with an expanding mission that has the eyes of military leaders looking toward it to maintain regional stability in the Pacific.

#### Road warriors

It's a nontraditional mission the Air Force hasn't carried out since Vietnam, but when demands for the Army's services exceeded capability, Airmen responded. As Airmen continue providing security throughout Iraq, one unit prepares to go home.

#### New program combines total force

A Vermont Air National Guard unit opens its brotherhood to include 12 active-duty Airmen in a test program. The Guard provides the mission, while a local community takes care of their housing, food and entertainment needs.

#### A hospital wing and a prayer

At a time when hundreds of thousands of military members are focusing on defeating enemies at home and abroad, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Wilford Hall Medical Center goes to great lengths to ensure military families have peace of mind.

#### Civic Duty

Airmen on the Civic Action Team are as busy as bees, not Seabees mind you, on the easy-going island of Palau – providing islanders with construction and health needs.

## 'Diversity' from page two

the positive attributes it brings to our particular organization. Regarding diversity in the military, Dr. Sheila Widnall, former Secretary of the Air Force, stated, "We don't see things as they are; we see them as we are. If we're all of like mind, we'll never see the flaws in our arguments. Since diversity guarantees criticism, because of differing opinions and viewpoints, it fuels the vitality of an organization."

Private organizations are increasingly using diversity initiatives to develop an environment of cooperation and communication that encourages members to value and express differing ideas and viewpoints.

From this perspective, valuing diversity is not merely recognizing the legitimacy of differences, but relying on these differences for competitive advantage. Elizabeth Pathy-Salett, president of the National Multicultural Institute notes that, "As our nation

becomes more culturally diverse, we are presented with a series of opportunities and challenges for the future.

"Can we capitalize on the strength that emanates from our differences? Can we create a work environment that draws upon the talents of all our workers? Can we attract a diverse market, serving a variety of tastes and interests? Our ability to meet these challenges will have an enormous impact on worker productivity, management strategies, and organizational success."

By adopting and capitalizing on diversity we are likely to experience the following benefits: improved morale, improved quality and acceptance of decisions, increased efficiency and productivity, and more effective teamwork.

The adage, "Variety is the spice of life," applies appropriately to the issue of diversity. We are an effective team because of all the different attributes we collectively bring to the table, and those differences are what make us the most effective military force in the world.

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD,  
Aghanistan -- An A-10  
Thunderbolt II from the  
442nd Fighter Wing,  
Whiteman AFB, Mo., flies a  
combat mission for  
Operation Enduring  
Freedom over Afghanistan  
May 18. 442nd A-10s are  
deployed to the 455th Air  
Expeditionary Wing and are  
flying combat air support  
missions for U.S. and  
Coalition forces on the  
ground. (Photo By 1st Lt.  
Jeff Bellenski**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
442ND FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
931 ARNOLD AVE.  
WHITEMAN AFB MO 65305-5070**

**TO THE FAMILY OF:**



**"Vantage, range, precision, lethality, speed, persistence --  
these are the things that an Airman brings to the joint table,  
and brings those combat capabilities and the ability to derive  
those desired effects to a combatant commander."**

**-- Air Force Chief of Staff General T. Michael Moseley**