

A-10s arrive in March - OIF vets awarded ribbon - MXG/CC recognition

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

**Life Support
gives pilots
breath
of life**



**Wing named
outstanding unit**

2005 proved to be 'outstanding'

Make 2006 better by being a wingman

By Col. Patrick Cord

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING!

For the fifth time in its history, the 442nd has been named an Air Force outstanding unit.

We were officially notified Feb. 5 that the wing received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for 2005. This is due to the hard work, professionalism and laser-like focus of every member of this wing. Whether you are in the mission support group, operations group, maintenance group or the medical squadron you are all to be commended.

You are the wing's greatest asset, and you accomplish the mission with unwavering dedication and expertise. What a great achievement to finish out 2005.

As this good news comes to us from Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, we find ourselves quickly switching gears from preparing for an inspection to preparing for a significant Aerospace Expeditionary Force commitment this summer.

In February we said "goodbye and God speed" to a handful of our security forces members who have answered the call to arms and will soon find themselves overseas. These brave volunteers were mobilized for an entire year and will be serving the needs of the Air Force, away from their families and civilian employers. As if that weren't enough, almost half of these folks were previous volunteers for a deployment to Iraq that ended in November.

Tragically, we also said goodbye to Senior Master Sgt. Bob Brickner in January, who recently retired from the 303rd Fighter Squadron's Life Support shop. Sergeant Brickner passed away and I would imagine that his family appreciated the support of all the wing members who attended his funeral. Our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones. We will all miss him terribly.

During the upcoming unit training assembly we will bid



Col. Patrick Cord, 442nd Fighter Wing commander



a fonder farewell to one of the most senior (in rank and time in service) members of the 442nd. Col George D. "Farmer" Burgess, the 442nd Maintenance Group commander, will retire after 33 years of Air Force service to a grateful nation. While Colonel Burgess' quick wit and outstanding efforts on behalf of the 442nd will be missed, this will not stop us from having a good time during his roast following the Saturday UTA, March 4.

The successes we have enjoyed in this wing are not due to the efforts of any one individual, but are the result of outstanding teamwork. And, good teamwork includes taking care of one another.

It is very important that each and every one of us serves as a wingman to our fellow Airmen as we carry out the tasks necessary to conduct our mission. In addition to an on-duty wingman, we need to watch each others' backs off duty as well. General John Jumper, our former chief of staff, said it best; we need to act as a wingman to protect others from danger in peacetime just as we act as wingmen to protect each other in combat.

The job of a wingman is to step in and get someone to think about the consequences of an impending action anytime that action could be considered dumb, dangerous or different from proscribed procedure.

Please watch each others' backs.

Every Citizen Airman and civilian in our wing is uniquely qualified for their specific job in getting the mission done. Losing just one person spreads their work load to any number of other people. In

this time of tight budgets and a shrinking number of people, it's vitally important that we take care of one another and to preserve our number one resource, which is you.

In the coming months we will be installing upgrades to our aircraft, accepting nine additional A-10s and getting ready to deploy to a combat zone. We will need every available person to further the long history of success in the 442nd Fighter Wing.

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

'Inside * Inside * Inside * Inside'

March 2006
Charge-of-quarters

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SENIOR MASTER SGT. MELISSA SPAWN 442ND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE 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.

COVER PHOTO: Senior Airman Julie Hicks, 303rd Fighter Squadron life support specialist, inspects a pilot's flight helmet following a mission. For more on the 303rd's Life Support section see pages six and seven. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Blazier)



442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

Tech. Sgt. Justin Johnston 442nd Fighter Wing

Tech. Sgt. Justin Johnston is a Safety Specialist with the 442nd Fighter Wing safety office. In his two years with the wing he has immersed himself in its organizational activities. A Missouri State Highway Patrolman as a civilian, he organized a demonstration of the Patrol's "Roll-Over" simulator during the wing's family picnic, demonstrating the importance of seatbelts. He also was hand-selected to be a wing staff fitness monitor after scoring two "excellents" on the Air Force fitness program.

Sergeant Johnston volunteered for the recent "Operation Bonefish" deployment, a pilot water-survival training exercise, where he traveled with the advance team to ensure safety preparations were established and then maintained throughout the deployment. His safety experience, coupled with his expertise as a Highway Patrolman, has laid the foundation of prominent professionalism within his career field. He earned a 92 percent grade point average at Ground Safety technical school, spearheaded efforts in creating a new self-inspection checklist and skillfully revamped Local Conditions and Operational Risk Management training. The training is recognized as a paramount presentation during newcomer's orientation. Additionally, his direct involvement in developing and implementing various wing-wide safety programs were instrumental when the wing safety office earned outstanding results during the recent Headquarters Program Evaluation, which Air Force Reserve Command inspectors still describe as the "best seen to date".

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New Orleans first BRAC closure for AFRC

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY JOURNALIST 2ND CLASS STEPHEN P. WEAVER RELEASED BY NAVY VISUAL NEWS SERVICE

In the first Base Realignment and Closure move for the Air Force Reserve Command, nine A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from the 926th Fighter Wing will be transferred to the

*By 2nd Lt. Dustin Doyle
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs*

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. –Air Force Reserve Command’s 926th Fighter Wing at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans will be the command’s first wing affected by the most recent Base Realignment and Closure and the 442nd Fighter Wing will be among the first recipients to be affected by the move.

Moved up a year, resources from the 926th will begin realigning to four bases – Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.; Nellis AFB, Nev.; Whiteman AFB, Mo.; and Barksdale AFB, La. – with the first A-10s moving to Whiteman and Barksdale March 15, depending on acceptance procedures.

The A-10 moves will remain temporary until environmental impact assessments are completed.

Headquarters AFRC officials here announced the realignments Jan. 20.

While the timeline for realigning the 926th is earlier than many expected, the officials stress that an early move is necessary because Hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage to the New Orleans base.

“The timeline for moving aircraft and closing the 926th Fighter Wing is based on two key factors – the need to transform the military and the way we do business, and taking care of our personnel,” said Maj. Gen. Charles Stenner, director of plans and programs at Headquarters AFRC.

“In order to promote the readiness of our flying wings, re-

442nd Fighter Wing March 15. The earlier move came as a result of hurricane damage sustained by Naval Air Station New Orleans Joint Reserve Base, La., the 926th FW’s home.

sources from the 926th must shift to other bases,” General Stenner said. “Mission demands dictate that timeline.”

After assessing the damage done by the hurricane, it was determined that the unit would not be able to maintain wartime readiness past a certain point.

“Moving the A-10s to two of our other bases will increase overall mission effectiveness,” the general said.

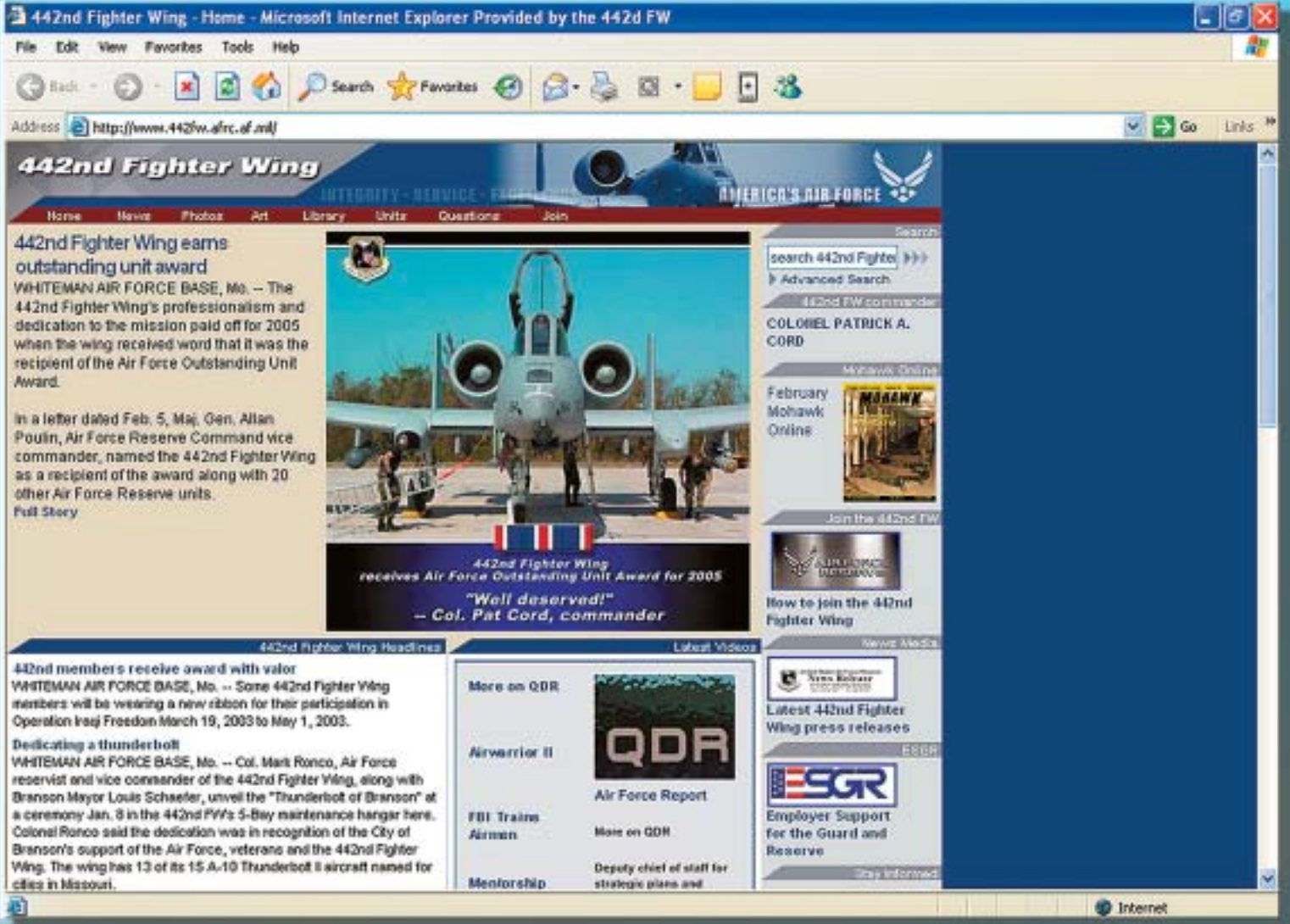
Before the moves are considered permanent, the units receiving the BRAC additions, including the 442nd Fighter Wing, must successfully complete environmental impact evaluations over the next few months. In addition to the aircraft and equipment moves, the realignment is scheduled to move about 840 people from New Orleans by Sept. 30.

“It is never the easy or desirable course of action to displace men and women who have devoted their lives to defending our nation,” General Stenner said. “People are our most valuable asset, and we’ll do everything possible to assist every member of the unit – traditional reservists, technicians and civilians – in finding new jobs.”

While closing the New Orleans wing early in the BRAC process will help meet mission demands, it will also provide displaced members with a head start on making long-term plans.

“Our people will be given the first shot at job positions created by this move,” said Col. Steve Arthur, 926th FW commander. “I feel confident that anyone who wants a job will have opportunities.”

The 926th is just one unit of many military units that will be affected by BRAC. In AFRC alone, BRAC will affect more than half the command in the next five years. (AFRC News Service)



442nd public Web page online

Wing's 'window to the world' highlights 442nd accomplishments

By Staff Sgt. Angela Blazier

The 442nd Fighter Wing has a new resource for the public to find out more about the wing, the Air Force Reserve and the Air Force.

The first-ever public Web site dedicated to the 442nd FW went on-line Feb. 2 and will be updated and managed through the wing's public affairs office.

The Web site is aimed primarily at the general public and is formatted in the style of Air Force Link, the official public Web site for the U.S. Air Force.

"While the new Web site is geared for the average citizen who wants to know more about the 442nd Fighter Wing, I believe many of our reservists would find the site useful," said Maj. David Kurle, 442nd FW chief of public affairs. "We will strive to keep the site as up-to-date as possible with publicly releasable news stories and photos about the wing and its activities."

The new site features news stories about the wing, electronic copies of *The Mohawk* magazine, fact sheets, biographies of the wing's senior leaders, as well as photo and art galleries specific to the 442nd.

"This is a great way for families and employers to stay abreast of information about the 442nd Fighter Wing," Major Kurle said. "I would encourage reservists to direct their civilian employers to the site, especially if they are scheduled for a deployment, as any releasable news stories and photos about that deployment will be posted there."

The 442nd is one of the first units in the Air Force to transition to the new Web site in the style of Air Force Link. All Air Force public Web sites will be required to transition to the same style of Web page in the future.

"Master Sgt. Bill Huntington (the public affairs superintendent) and I took a class at Headquarters Air Force Reserve

Command to learn how to manage the site and public affairs will be in charge of all the content presented there," Major Kurle said. "One of the stipulations the Air Force is making is that we don't conduct official Air Force business on a public Web page, so the site will not contain training schedules, UTA information or anything reservists can get by logging on to our secure Web site through the Air Force Portal."

One of the features unique to the 442nd Web page is links for employers to ESGR and a link to 442nd FW-specific recruiting information, according to Maj. Kurle.

"In the near-future I would like to get a page done for every group, squadron and flight in the wing," he said. "We just need to establish a policy for the content and procedures for designating people in each unit to produce the content."

The new 442nd FW public Web page can be accessed at www.442fw.afrc.af.mil.

Insurance provide

Life support ensures a safe



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

(Above) Staff Sgt. Barrett Anderson, life support specialist in the 303rd Fighter Squadron, checks for leaks on an anti-G suit, using a Scot-1 mask and G-suit leak detector. The Airmen in life support are the last people pilots in the 303rd FS see before going to the squadron's A-10 Thunderbolt aircraft. (Below) Sergeant Anderson inspects an anti-G suit during the Feb. 5, unit training assembly.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ANGELA BLAZIER

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

A good life insurance policy gives great peace of mind and providing such insurance is the job of the 303rd Fighter Squadron's life support shop. "Basically, our job is to get (pilots) to the ground safely after they have to eject and then get them home," said Senior Master Sgt. Joe O'Daniel, life support superintendent. "Our motto is, 'Your life is our business,' we're like insurance. Some people relate it to that and think you're not really needed because you are. You have to have it. Our pilots here really respect it. We have a good rapport with the pilots. We're the last people they see before they step to their jets."

The eight-man life support shop has drawn rave reviews from its customers, evidenced by Maj. John Rogler, 303rd Fighter Squadron pilot.

"I can say this is the best run (life support shop) I've ever seen," he said. "Just down to the quality of where we hang our equipment, the professionalism, the cleanliness. I've never had anything not work. Stuff just doesn't fail."

"There's zero tolerance in (making errors)," said Tech Sgt. Rob Safley, life support non-commissioned officer in charge. "There's no room for error. You can jeopardize the mission, the aircraft and the pilot's life."

"That's where integrity and excellence comes in," said Senior Airman Julie Hicks, a life support specialist. "It has to be perfect."

"One pilot just came back and had a pinhole in his oxygen hose," said Staff Sergeant Lisa Adamson, a life support specialist, during the February unit training assembly. "I had no idea he had it, but I found it. You learn to find little things."

Attention to detail is critical, as the shop's Airmen inspect parachutes, inspect helmets, oxygen masks, harnesses, survival kits and Anti-G suits, along with a host of other responsibilities.

"We're a little bit of operations and a little bit of maintenance," Sergeant Safley said. "We're not specializing in one job. We work with the hospital, with contracting, with munitions, with the cops. It keeps it fresh, especially with young troops. We get to do (combat search and rescue) and see everything come together."

"Our motto is 'Your life is our business,' we're like insurance -- Senior Master Sgt. Joe O'Daniel, life support superintendent, 303rd Fighter Squadron."

ers -- return



Sergeant O'Daniel said the capability to help pilots get home safely after going down "is just unbelievable. Even from the first Gulf War to now is just unbelievable."

Members of the shop helped pilots in combat survival training as they deployed to Florida in January to work with the Navy conducting live helicopter pick-ups in the waters off Key West.

"We were instructing the pilots," Sergeant O'Daniel said "and sometimes, in combat survival training, we're the adversaries. When the helicopters picked them up, (the pilots) had salt-water beating them in their faces from the rotors. It was quite an experience."

Sergeant O'Daniel, an air reserve technician with 25 years

of experience in this career field, described his Airmen as "a pretty diverse group."

Tech. Sgt. Safley, the shop's non-commissioned officer in charge, with 17 years of experience and Tech. Sgt. Pete Fillis, a life support specialist with 22 years of experience, are also ARTs. Their exper-

tise combines with the talents of Staff Sgts. Adamson, Barrett Anderson and Matt Jobe; and Senior Airmen Hicks and John Gibson, all traditional reservists, to make a smooth running shop.

"Adamson came off active duty right before we went to Iraq in 2003 and she deployed with us," Sergeant O'Daniel said. "Jobe just cross trained from fuels a little over a year ago. Anderson was in life support for nine years from '91-'99 and came back in November of '04. "Hicks came in in 2003 and Gibson came in shortly after her."

Sergeant O'Daniel said the foundation for the shop's consistency was largely laid by Senior Master Sgt. Bob Brickner, who retired in 2005 and recently passed away.

"I attribute a lot of that to Brickner," Sergeant O'Daniel said. "He ran this shop for 18 years and I was his assistant for 16 years."

Now under Sergeant O'Daniel's leadership, the staff continues to live up to its reputation of excellence.

"Anybody who's been doing this very long takes great pride in their work and in their job," he said. "It's just great job satisfaction. You're working right there (with the pilots) and providing (them) life saving equipment. You just feel your job's really important."

**s, 'your life is our
e're like insurance."
ster Sgt. Joe O'Daniel,
superintendent,
r Squadron**



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ANGELA BLAZIER

(Above) Staff Sgt. Lisa Adamson, life support specialist, 303rd Fighter Squadron, closely examines the wires of an oxygen mask assembly during the Feb. 5 unit training assembly. (Below) Senior Airman Julie Hicks, life support specialist, inspects a parachute harness.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ANGELA BLAZIER



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. TERRY L. BLEVINS

Wing's OIF vets awarded ribbon

Ribbon includes 'V' device

By Staff Sgt. Angela Blazier

Some 442nd Fighter Wing members will be wearing a new ribbon for their participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom March 19, 2003 to May 1, 2003.

The 442nd Fighter Wing, 303rd Fighter Squadron and more than 20 other units have been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor for their deployment to the U.S. Central Command Air Forces Area of Responsibility, Iraq, in 2003. However, only individuals who deployed overseas are entitled to the award.

"The 303rd Fighter Squadron received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor, which is given to Air Force numbered units who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly sets them above and apart from similar units," said Lt. Col. David Zeh, deputy director, USCENTAF Manpower and Personnel. "A bronze 'V' device is used to denote combat or direct combat support, and the statement 'with V device,' if the award is for meritorious service or outstanding achievement in a combat area."

More than 300 Fighter Wing members deployed to Iraq from March to November 2003.

Those members who were in-country at least one day from March 19 to May 1, 2003, are entitled to the award.

In addition, members that deployed for 90 days or more from May 1, 2003 to April 30, 2004 in support of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing were awarded the Meritorious Unit Award.

"Anyone that was eligible would show up on the Virtual MPF as having received the award," said Staff Sgt. Sandy Rougeau, customer service chief, 442nd Military Personnel Flight.

The 442nd's military personnel flight recommends members check the status of their records by logging onto the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/>.

For questions on eligibility, contact the MPF at (660) 687-3500.

Master Sgt. Jay Haas prepares a Maverick missile for repacking. It was unloaded from an A-10 that returned from a combat mission over Iraq. Haas is a weapons loader with the 442nd Mission Support Group. Members of the wing deployed to Tallil and Kirkuk Air Bases in Iraq in 2003. Air Force Reservists who were on this deployment were recently awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with a Valor Device.

Wing receives 2005 AF outstanding unit award

By Maj. David Kurler

In addition to those 442nd members who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the entire wing was the recipient of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for 2005.

In a letter dated Feb. 5, Maj. Gen. Allan Poulin, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, named the 442nd Fighter Wing as a recipient of the award along with 20 other Air Force Reserve units.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce the Reserve units selected as recipients ... for 2005," General Poulin said. "Members of these organizations should be extremely proud

of their many achievements and contributions resulting in this prestigious award."

"Well deserved," said Col. Patrick Cord, 442nd Fighter Wing commander. "This is an award for the entire wing and everything we've done.

"I'm just ecstatic that we got this award to recognize our outstanding people," he said.

After Headquarters AFRC finalizes the award elements, information on the presentation of awards will be forthcoming, according to General Poulin.

This is the fifth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the 442nd Fighter Wing.

Colonel Burgess' Wright Flight leadership recognized

KANSAS CITY -- Gloria Eurotas, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance, reads the inscription on the Spirit of Partnership Award, which was presented to Col. Dewayne Burgess, 442nd Maintenance Group commander, in recognition of his service in Kansas City through the Wright Flight program for youth at a ceremony here Jan. 20.

Wright Flight is a youth-mentoring program designed to foster development of youth using aviation history as its core theme.

Col Burgess was only the fifth recipient of the award since its inception in 2003.

"Wright Flight has been a huge success in some of our neighborhood schools," Ms. Eurotas said. "The award was to recognize Colonel Burgess for his leadership role in making Wright Flight the success that it is."

Colonel Burgess will retire from the Air Force Reserve Mar. 4 after 33 years of service.



COURTESY PHOTO BY DEWAYNE BRIGHT



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. LEO BROWN

PERFECTING PROCESSING PROCEDURES

Members of the 442nd Mission Support Group lined up in the building 705 deployment center during the February Unit Training Assembly to ensure each member's personal data was current. The exercise helps keep the group ready to deploy.

In memorium

**SENIOR MASTER SGT. (RET.)
ROBERT W. BRICKNER**

Recently retired Senior Master Sgt. Robert W. Brickner, 55, passed away at his home in Lone Jack, Mo., Saturday, Jan. 21.

Born Dec. 27, 1950 in Clarksburg, W. Va., Sergeant Brickner had a 34-year career with the U.S. Air Force. Prior to retirement in 2005 he served as the superintendent of the 303rd Fighter Squadron's Life Support section.

A Vietnam veteran, Sergeant Brickner's long history with the 442nd Fighter Wing included participation in Operations Deny Flight, Decisive Edge, Decisive Endeavor, Northern Watch, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom; as well as numerous training deployments with the 303rd Fighter Squadron.



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN WILSON

ON DEFENSE

Ron Clark, 442nd Fighter Wing, (left) defends against Robert Schlatweiler, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, during the Whiteman Air Force Base Over-30 intramural basketball championship Feb. 8 at the fitness center. The 509th LRS won the game 45-40, ending a three-year championship reign by the 442nd Fighter Wing's team.

AIR FORCE ASSISTANCE FUND CAMPAIGN BEGINS

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas—This year's Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign, running through May 5, will provide Airmen the opportunity to contribute to any of the four official Air Force charitable organizations. Now in its 33rd year, 100-percent of designated AFAF contributions will benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Air Force people, surviving spouses and families.

Airmen need look no further than the aftermath of the hurricanes that devastated portions of the southern United States to understand the benefit the fund provides the Air Force community. Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley addressed this recently in a joint memorandum for the Air Force Assistance Fund:

"Last year, hurricanes Katrina and Rita vividly demonstrated the need for rapid and reliable emergency assistance. Our four AFAF charities – the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widows' Fund, Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation – provided immediate financial and housing assistance to our active-duty, Reserve, Air National Guard and retired Air Force members," the memo said.

For more information, visit <http://afassistancefund.org> or the Air Force Personnel Center's Voting and Fundraising Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund>.

POSITION-VACANCY PROMOTIONS CHANGE FOR RESERVISTS

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Air Force Reserve Command is changing the way it determines the number of early officer promotions, known as position-vacancy promotions.

"Starting with the February Air Force Reserve major-promotion selection board, we will link position-vacancy promotion quotas to mandatory promotion board quotas," said Col. Shaun Kelleher, chief of the force management policy division of the Air Force Reserve. "But, position-vacancy promotions will still not be at the expense of the mandatory board promotions."

To obtain the number of position-vacancy promotions, the Air Force Reserve will take a percentage of its mandatory board quotas. For lieutenant colonel it will be 20 percent of the mandatory board quota, and 30 percent for major.

In the past, the Air Force Reserve applied a percentage to the number of position-vacancy nominations submitted to determine how many people were promoted. There was no way to predict the number of officers submitted for consideration, so there was no way to predict the number of resulting promotions until the board actually convened.

Analysis shows the number of officers submitted for position-vacancy promotion consideration increased almost 70 percent in the past five years. For promotion to major, the number grew from 107 nominated to almost 180. For promotion to lieutenant colonel, the number climbed from 273 to more than 450.

As a result, the number of officers promoted early to major and lieutenant colonel increased, with no means to accurately predict the number of position-vacancy promotions in the future. This created a major obstacle in the promotion-planning process.

Under the new policy, the number of position-vacancy promotions will decrease and become more predictable. (Courtesy of Air Force Reserve Command News Service)



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

'CONTAMINATION' CLEAN UP

Senior Airman Christopher Brockway, 442nd Logistics Support Squadron vehicle operations, decontaminates a vehicle door handle for a decontamination training exercise during the February 2006 Unit Training Assembly.

Shields reflect varying missions of 442nd

By Tech. Sgt. Mike Morrison
442nd Fighter Wing historian

While researching the 442nd Fighter Wing's history on the Air Force Historical Research Agency's (AFHRA) Web site there exists an article titled *A Guide to Air Force Heraldry*, written by William M. Russell of the United States Air Force Historical Research Center and revised by Julian C. Godwin of AFHRA.

The subject of the study was how the symbolism of the past reflects the traditions of today's Air Force. Applying the study to the 442nd, there is some interesting material on the wing's most recognizable and prevalently used symbolism on its shields.

Modern heraldry has at its roots, the heraldic traditions of the middle-ages when, according to Russell, symbols distinguished friend from foe during times of warfare.

During the late 12th and early 13th centuries, knights used identifying symbols and devices painted on their shields and embroidered on cloth banners. These symbols were passed from one generation to the next and eventually became representative of noble families and served as personal signature devices.

Air Force heraldic emblems evolved for many of the same reasons the knights used symbols. During World War I, Brigadier General Benjamin D. Foulois, Chief of the Air Service, American Expeditionary Forces, established the first policy regarding the use of insignia for aerial units. The purpose of Foulois' policy was to afford fighting units a simple way of recognizing each other. In fact, General Foulois allowed squadrons great latitude in the design of the insignia provided that "... the design should be simple enough to be recognizable from a distance." Perhaps the most recognizable insignia from this era is the ringed top hat of the 94th Aero Squadron.

During World War II hundreds of both official and unofficial Air Corps insignia appeared. A new War Department policy directed that only approved organizational emblems would be allowed. When the Air Force gained its full independence from the Army in 1947, its leaders authorized the establishment of a heraldic program to avoid the use of unauthorized emblems. Ironically, to this day, the Air Force must have any and all heraldry approved through the United States Army Office of Heraldry.

Today, units of the Air Force Reserve Command submit requests for modified or new shields and discs to the Office of the Air Force Reserve Historian. This office ensures that any proposed changes meet the color and significance requirements of the heraldic program including the mandatory use of Air Force yellow

and blue in all shields.

The history of the 442nd Fighter Wing reflects the use of four distinct shields since its constitution as the 442nd Troop Carrier Group in 1943.

The first emblem to grace the uniforms of the early members of the 442nd was an adaptation of the blue Airborne patch worn by Army Airborne troops. The emblem was enhanced by the addition of the groups' numbers in a scroll applied on the bottom edge of the patch. Thus, nearly identical Airborne patches were worn by Troop Carrier Groups with the only difference being each group's designation added to the patch.

Another prominent shield was used by the 442nd Troop Carrier Wing during the 1950s and 1960s. This shield closely resembles the classic shield shape worn on Air Force uniforms today.

According to an early description of the shield, "The emblems used inside the shield include a silhouetted parachute with a target base. An elongated arrow pointed on the target with a silhouetted Airman with head uplifted toward a stylized aircraft."

For many years, while the 442nd was in the airlift business, the wing's third shield included a stylized globe over a blue and red background with three stars above the globe. The three stars symbolized the three flying squadrons under the 442nd at the time the shield was approved. Two of the squadrons, the 304th and the 305th, would later be transferred to other units with only the 303rd remaining with the 442nd.

Another version of a shield is the current design worn by members of the 442nd Fighter Wing today. The emblems of the current shield were adopted when the 442nd Tactical Airlift Wing was re-designated the 442nd Tactical Fighter Wing in November 1983.

The significance of the current wing shield is reflected in the following description:

"The blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The silver background of the shield and the inner ring of the gun barrel allude to faith in unit personnel and its mission. The shield, gun barrel, scroll background and stylized eagle accents are white, representing that unit members strive for perfection in the performance of their duties. Black, as used in the gun barrel and eagle's body, reflects determination to respond when needed to complete the Air Force mission."

The emblems of the wing shields and squadron discs of the 442nd Fighter Wing both historical and modern remind us of the *esprit de corps* and symbolic identification that unites all members of the wing both past and present.



Below: Tech. Sgts. Tyler Bane, Aaron McRoberts and Harry Blunt recover an A-10 Thunderbolt II from the 442nd Fighter Wing's 303rd Fighter Squadron as it arrives at Key West Naval Air Station, Fla., Jan. 10, for the squadron's annual water survival training. The 442nd FW received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for 2005 on Feb. 5. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Steven Smith)

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

TO THE FAMILY OF:



**442nd Fighter Wing
receives Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for 2005**

**"Well deserved!"
-- Col. Pat Cord, commander**