

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

442nd FW Family Day fun

**A-10
upgrades**

Wings of valor

By General T. Michael Moseley,
Air Force Chief of Staff

It was an honor to dedicate the Air Force Memorial at Arlington, Virginia, Oct. 14 — a proud moment for the men and women of the United States Air Force, thousands of devoted professionals who are serving now or have served this great nation. This next year marks the 60th anniversary of an independent Air Force. It is altogether fitting for the Air Force Memorial to be located at Arlington, since Fort Meyer was the site of the first military flight, and also, unfortunately, the location of the first military casualty from an airplane crash — Lt. Thomas Selfridge, buried in Arlington. In the intervening 100 years, we've marveled at the courage of generations of airmen. In this time of war, it is appropriate to reflect upon this legacy of self-sacrifice of Airmen who, like the towering jet contrails represented in the memorial, climbed into the heavens on wings of valor.

Fourteen French villagers witnessed the wings of valor of an American Airman in September 1918. As they recounted: "We watched as an American aviator, while pursued by an escadrille of Germans, burned three German balloons, shot down two German aircraft, and killed 11 Germans on the ground with hand bombs and machine gun bullets. Though seriously wounded he landed his disabled aircraft in a field, and emptied his revolver before being killed by a German patrol." The aviator was 21-year-old 2nd Lt. Frank Luke, Jr.

Aircrews witnessed wings of valor during air battles in World War II — where the Air Force lost more men over central Europe than the Marines lost throughout the entire war. Uncommon valor was witnessed by the crews of 161 B-24's over the Ploesti oil refineries — an engagement in which five men were awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism — the most ever for a single engagement. Attacking the facility meant facing more than 230 antiaircraft guns, some 400 enemy fighters and suffering over 30 percent losses. Nearly 500 airmen died in this one raid.

Ground crews and hundreds of British onlookers witnessed wings of valor when 2nd Lt. Walter Truemper and flight engineer Sgt. Archibald Mathies attempted to land a heavily damaged B-17 on Feb. 20, 1944. The B-17 was attacked by a squadron of enemy fighters; the copilot was killed; the pilot was unconscious; the radio operator was wounded and the plane severely damaged. Nevertheless, the remaining crew managed to recover from a dive, fly for hours back to their home station, with frigid air blowing through the open cockpit, fighting off enemy fighters, even downing one. Upon return — after observing the distressed aircraft from another plane — their commanding officer ordered them to abandon the damaged plane and parachute to safety. Truemper replied that the pilot was still alive and they would not desert him. They gained altitude to enable the rest of the crew to bail out. The plane crashed in an open field in a third attempt to land. Sgt. Mathies and Lt. Truemper died, but the wounded pilot lived — only to perish later.

Ground troops in contact witnessed wings of valor during the battle at Sniper Ridge, Korea. Outnumbered, they watched Major Charles Loring take severe hits during a bomb run against entrenched enemy positions. They expected him to nurse his battered jet over friendly territory for a certain bailout. Instead, he continued the attack, in a deliberate, controlled maneuver. Even though he could have flown to safety, he dove directly into the active enemy gun position, destroying it at the cost of his life.



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. COHEN YOUNG

WASHINGTON - The Air Force Thunderbirds flew over the new Air Force Memorial in the "Missing Man" formation officially closing the Air Force Memorial commemoration weekend, Oct. 15.

Army and Vietnamese Rangers witnessed the wings of valor of Captain Hilliard Wilbanks on Feb. 24, 1967, as he flew the 105 mph Cessna O-1 Bird Dog over the Central Highlands supporting the Rangers. Wilbanks spotted a large enemy force waiting in ambush. As Wilbanks radioed a warning to the Rangers and called for fighter support, he fired a smoke rocket to mark the center of the Viet Cong position. Hoping to gain time for the Rangers, Wilbanks dove three times through automatic weapons and small-arms fire, each time dropping a phosphorous rocket on the enemy. Out of rockets, Wilbanks picked up an M-16 automatic rifle and began a series of strafing attacks from an altitude of 100 feet, firing through the open side window and reloading between passes. On his third strafing run, Wilbanks slumped over the controls. An Army advisor ran to the plane and pulled the unconscious Wilbanks from the wreckage. Finally, a flight of F-4s roared in to strafe the enemy while a chopper picked up the wounded Wilbanks. He died en route, but he had given the Rangers time to move to safety.

Grieving widow Teresa Cunningham understood the essence of wings of valor when she tearfully read a letter written by her 26-year-old husband, Jason. Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, an Air Force "PJ," was killed during the battle for Roberts Ridge in Afghanistan in March 2002. He gave his life moving 10 wounded soldiers out of direct enemy fire, even as he was mortally wounded. He wrote — as if anticipating his fate — he said: "I'd die a happy man doing the job I love." His wife, an AFROTC cadet with 2 infant daughters, vowed to continue his legacy through her own Air Force service.

These stories are just a sample of the legacy of honor, valor and devotion. The memorial commemorates the service and ultimate sacrifice of Airmen, extending skyward to reflect boundless spirit and limitless future. This memorial is anchored in the same Arlington soil that has become the final resting place of so many of our fallen comrades. It is a fitting tribute to each of the 54,000 airmen who have preceded us into the heavens on wings of valor.

This article was from an opinion/editorial General Moseley wrote for the Washington Times.

MOHAWK

442ND FIGHTER WING

'inside' 'inside' 'inside' 'inside'

November 2006
Charge-of-quarters

Commentary page 2

FAMILY DAY

Fun and
GREAT food
PAGES 6 & 7



QUARTERLY WINNERS

AMXS sweeps
competition
PAGE 9

WRIGHT FLIGHT

Mentors
wanted
PAGE 11



AF memorial dedicated page 5
A-10 upgrade page 9
Cyber Command page 10



MASTER SGT. ROBERT SMITH
442ND SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

Call the CQ from on-base at 99-1 (660) 238-7428. From a local off-base number (i.e., Concordia, Warrensburg, Sedalia etc.), dial (660) 238-7428. To call toll free from off-base, dial (800) 260-0253 and press seven after the prompt.

COVER PHOTO: Wing members and families gather at Skelton Park for annual Family Day activities. For more see pages 5 - 7. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)



442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

STAFF SGT. MATTHEW DECKER
442ND MEDICAL SQUADRON

Staff Sgt. Matthew Decker is among the 442nd Medical Squadron's finest NCOs! An active example of the Air Force's core value of "excellence in all we do," Sergeant Decker graduated from the Medical Material Apprentice School as the distinguished graduate in July.

Here at Whiteman, Sergeant Decker has been instrumental in the implementation of the new process of updating the chemical masks for the 442nd Medical Squadron ensuring that fellow squadron members are equipped with up-to-date protective gear.

Shouldering the mantle of a dedicated and caring mentor, Sergeant Decker has instructed young airmen on the procedures and processes in the squadron's medical logistics section.

With his thoroughness and his great attention to detail, he has also been a great asset in revising and updating the processes in the six part folders for the medical logistics section.

Sergeant Decker has played an integral role in maintaining accountability of all parts of the medical logistics section and, as a result, he is an essential part of the overall success of the medical logistics section, the 442nd Medical Squadron and the 442nd Fighter Wing.

MOHAWK Vol. 58, No. 11
November 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. Steve Arthur
CHIEF, PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Maj. David Kurle
PA NCOIC/EDITOR
Master Sgt. Bill Huntington
PA STAFF
Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown
Staff Sgt. Tom Talbert
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

This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. GOWEN YOUNG

On behalf of all American citizens President George W. Bush accepts the Air Force Memorial during a dedication ceremony at its Arlington, Va. location overlooking the Pentagon on Saturday, Oct. 14,

2006. Looking on are, from left: Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley and Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne.

President, military leaders dedicate AF Memorial

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFP) — On behalf of a grateful nation, the president of the United States accepted the Air Force Memorial in a dedication ceremony here attended by military leaders of the past and present, political and business representatives and thousands of ordinary citizens and Airmen alike.

“A Soldier can walk the battlefields where he once fought,” said President George W. Bush. “A Marine can walk the beaches he once stormed, but an Airman can never visit the patch of sky he raced across to defend freedom. And so it is fitting that from this day forward, the men and women of the Air Force will have this memorial.”

The ceremony was the highlight of a daylong open house event that attracted thousands of people from around the country to the south parking lot of the Pentagon. Huge screens were put up which allowed the visitors in the parking lot to view the dedication ceremony, which took place at the base of the memorial.

The dedication also marks at the beginning of a year-long series of commemorative events leading up to the Air Force’s 60th anniversary, Sept. 18, 2007.

The memorial is meant to honor the millions of men and women who have served in the Air Force since it was created, Sept. 18, 1947. It is also meant to commemorate the contributions of those who served in the many predecessor

organizations that were combined to create the Air Force. Those organizations include the aeronautical division and aviation section of the U.S. Signal Corps; the Secretary of War’s division of military aeronautics; the Army Air Service; the U.S. Army Air Corps; and the U.S. Army Air Forces. In all, more than 54,000 individuals have died in combat while serving in the Air Force and the organizations that were combined to create it.

The memorial honors the memory of those individuals, the service of Airmen today, and the service of Airmen in the future.

The Air Force Memorial, while not inside the District of Columbia, is within walking distance of both the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery. From the memorial site, visitors can see the Pentagon, the Washington Monument, and the dome of the U.S. Capitol Building. The Memorial’s spires can be seen on the horizon from miles away.

Designed by the late James Ingo Freed the memorial with its three soaring spires inspired by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds bomb burst maneuver, pays tribute to and honors the patriotic men and women of the U.S. Air Force and its predecessor organizations.

An open house ran near the Pentagon in conjunction with the dedication ceremony and featured performances by the U.S. Air Force Band, the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard drill team, and culminated with a concert featuring country music performer LeeAnn Womack.

Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez contributed to this story.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

Picnic perfection

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

“Build it and they will come.” Everyone knows that line from the movie “Field of Dreams”, but “cook and they will come” was a fitting phrase for the 442nd Fighter Wing’s Unit Training Assembly, Oct. 14.

Almost 1,000 wing members and their families turned out on that day for the 2006 “Welcome Home and Family Day”, which featured mountains of food and “Operation Home Front Hero,” an initiative to help wing members’ children understand what their parents go through in preparing to deploy.

When all was done, project officer 1st Lt. Keith Yersak said the day was a huge success and wanted to say thanks for all those involved.

“The good food, the good music, the weather; everything just fell into place,” Lieutenant said. “We had a great turnout. This is one of the first picnics we had people stay past sign out. There were still people there at 5 p.m. It couldn’t have been a better day for a picnic.”

While the finishing touches were being put on the food and drinks, 151 children, ages five to 18, went through deployment lines featuring, among other things, briefings as well as fake immunizations, identification cards and dog tags.

Master Sgt. Vickie Chambers, non-commissioned officer in charge of the 442nd family support office, said the four-hour operation helped “educate our children and dependents on what their family members go through in preparing for a deployment.

Tom Henderson and Steve Frerichs were among the volunteers cooking food at 3:30 a.m. for the 442nd Fighter Wing Family Day picnic later that day.

“(Tech. Sgt.) Calvin (Acklin, of the family support office) did a great job rehearsing with them for standing at attention when (wing commander) Col. (Steve) Arthur came in the room. (Master Sgt.) Mitch (Dorl, 442nd Security Forces Squadron) was decked out from head to toe for his force protection and intel briefing. He was super,” she said.

“When the “deployees” got to the picnic, the security forces squadron had a night vision tent set up so they could use night vision goggles,” Sergeant Chambers said.

Once people made their way to the food tent, they were treated to ribs, baked beans and a host of other foods, prepared largely by area “barbecue hobbyists.”

Tech. Sgt. Kevan Taylor, 442nd Maintenance Squadron, who befriended the hobbyists, including Rock Loose, of Kansas City, recently and when he told Loose that his unit was having its annual picnic, Loose volunteered to help out.

Loose gathered individuals and companies to donate time and supplies for the event, and helped make the day what it was.

The volunteers, who began working the day before the picnic, were treated, among other things, to a Wing mission briefing by Col. Mark Ronco, 442nd FW vice wing commander, and saw the A-10 simulator. Lieutenant Yersak said the volunteers felt so welcomed they were talking Friday about coming back for the next picnic.

“It’s nice to know patriotism is out there,” Lieutenant Yersak said. “It’s good to see someone doing something about it. It’s a nice way to say ‘thank you’”



Clockwise from upper left: Col. Steve Arthur, 442nd FW commander, gathered in the Whiteman AFB deployment Center. The event was organized by the 442nd FW Family Readiness Center to help families understand what their parents go through in preparing to deploy. Activities included dog tags, simulated immunizations and a picnic.

Children of 442nd FW members took advantage of the deployment center equipment and other amenities, to work off the stress of deployment.

Food in abundance, including barbecued pork and chicken, was served to all who came to Whiteman to help the 442nd FW celebrate their recent Operation Enduring Freedom deployment.

Almost 1,000 wing members and their families took advantage of the time to relax, enjoy the company of friends and family.

The picnic committee and the Warthog Booster Club provided a "face painting, golf ball chipping, music and more" for the attendees.



Family Day 2006



42nd Fighter Wing commander, addresses more than 150 children in building 705 for Operation Home Front Hero. Home Front Hero's office as an initiative to help wing members' children understand deploy. The "deployment" included briefings, a deployment line, ID bus ride to the flightline to get a closer look at 442nd FW A-10s.

of the agreeable weather, as well as Ike Skelton Park's playground food provided at the Wing's annual picnic.

and brisket, filled wing members plates and was served by volunteers celebrate Family Day and the safe return of fellow wing members from combat to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

turned out for the 2006 Family Day and despite the long line for food, enjoy the pleasant fall weather and visit with others.

Club arranged for fun activities for young and old such as the "moon and dancing.



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON





PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

With the Air Force's precision engagement program, A-10s, including those belonging to the 442nd Fighter Wing, will undergo extensive upgrades to vastly improve the aircraft's ability to detect, identify and destroy targets.

A-10 upgrade effort transforms Warthog capabilities

By Chris McGee
Aeronautical Systems Center Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio —

The A-10 Thunderbolt II, also nicknamed the Warthog, is sharpening its teeth with a \$168 million upgrade effort for the entire fleet.

Managed by the 642nd Aeronautical Systems Squadron at Aeronautical Systems Center here, the A/OA-10 is in the early stages of a five-year upgrade for all 356 aircraft.

Known as the precision engagement program, the massive modification encompasses multiple enhancements that will provide the aircraft with all-weather capability to detect and strike targets from greater altitudes and distances using precision-guided weapons. The improvements represent a significant leap in operational capability for the Warthog.

Under precision engagement, the A/OA-10 is being modified to employ the Joint Direct Attack Munition and the Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser. The program is integrating advanced sensors, a datalink and the LITENING AT and Sniper XR targeting pods onto the aircraft, which will boost pilot situational awareness, targeting capabilities, survivability and communication with other coalition ground and air elements.

An aircraft modified with the Precision Engagement kit is designated as an A-10C.

"The A-10C program effectively takes one of the most lethal air-to-ground platforms ever designed and significantly upgrades its ability to precisely detect, identify and destroy targets while increasing situational awareness and standoff capability,"

said John Boker, A-10 Program Manager with the 642nd AECS.

As part of the upgrade effort, the A/OA-10 fleet is receiving advanced, integrated cockpit controls and displays; improved pilot vehicle interface using two new multifunction color displays and a new central interface control unit with three state-of-the-art computer processors to provide stores management — the control of weapons release and pod employment — and overall avionics systems integration.

A/OA-10 pilots will enjoy hands-on-stick-and-throttle control of weapons, targeting pods and navigation systems, simplifying their duties considerably.

"Simply put, in the C model, we will have 10 times the information available, from both on- and off-board sources, and the ability to process and act on that information significantly quicker," said Mr. Boker. "Even for a simple laser-guided-bomb delivery, what took roughly 14 cockpit switch changes now takes four with the C model. Just imagine what will happen when we combine machine-to-machine datalink technology with the lethality of the Hawg."

To date, 21 aircraft have been modified at Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill AFB, Utah; 356 total aircraft are to receive the upgrades, constituting the entire fleet, including active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard Warthogs.

The Air Force awarded the Precision Engagement development contract to Lockheed Martin in 2001. Lockheed Martin received the production contract in February 2005, with the first production kits delivered to Hill AFB in March 2006.

Kit production will run to 2008 with kit installation scheduled to go to 2009.



**442ND FIGHTER WING AIRMAN OF THE QUARTER
SENIOR AIRMAN KIMBERLY BYERS
442ND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON**



**442ND FIGHTER WING NCO OF THE QUARTER
STAFF SGT. KEVIN BALANDRON
442ND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON**

Invest in your marriage



442ND FIGHTER WING MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WORKSHOP

NOV. 18 AT MISSIONS END CLUB

**A safe environment to get
some tools to help enrich
your marriage**

**Licensed, experienced counselors
One night's lodging provided
Free continental breakfast
and buffet lunch**

OPEN TO FIRST 50 AIRMEN

ENGAGED COUPLES ALSO INVITED

**To sign up, email Master Sgt. Chiquita
Wilson at chiquita.wilson@whiteman.af.mil
Workshop provided by the 442nd Fighter Wing Chaplain's office**

November 2006

Air Force leaders meet to discuss new 'Cyber Command'

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force leaders planned a gathering in early November to discuss plans for creation of a new command, one chartered with flying and fighting in cyber space.

Cyberspace became an official Air Force domain, like air and space, Dec. 7, 2005, when Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley introduced a new mission statement.

In a letter to Airmen, they said the new mission was to “deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in air, space and cyberspace.”

Now, Air Force leaders are planning to stand up a new “cyber command,” responsible for fighting in that domain, General Moseley said.

“To deliver the full spectrum of effects we will evolve a coherent enterprise, with war-fighting ethos, ready to execute any mission in peace, crisis and war,” the general said. “We will foster a force of 21st century warriors, capable of delivering the full spectrum of kinetic and non-kinetic, lethal and non-lethal effects across all three domains. This is why we are standing up an operational command for cyberspace, capable of functioning as a supported or supporting component of the joint force.”

Air Force leaders begin planning for the new cyber command Nov. 16 at the Cyber Summit. During the summit, Air Force leaders will chart a way ahead for the Air Force’s role in cyberspace, also called the cyber domain, said Dr. Lani Kass, director of the Air Force Cyberspace Task Force.

“The chief of staff of the Air Force is going to gather his senior officers and talk about the new domain, in which, according to our mission, we are going to fly and fight,” she said. “Our objective is to come out with a course — a vector — that will set us up for transforming our Air Force, to get us ready for the fight of the 21st century.”

According to Dr. Kass, cyberspace is neither a mission nor an operation. Instead, cyberspace is a strategic, opera-

tional and tactical war-fighting domain — a place in which the Air Force or other services can fight.

“The domain is defined by the electromagnetic spectrum,” Dr. Kass said. “It’s a domain just like air, space, land and sea. It’s a domain in and through which we deliver effects — fly and fight, attack and defend — and conduct operations to obtain our national interests.”

In the United States, Americans depend on the cyber domain for nearly everything they do. The cyber domain is the “center of gravity” for all aspects of national power, including economic, financial, technical, diplomatic and military might, Dr. Kass said.

“Cyberspace is something on which, as a technologically advanced nation, the United States is hugely dependent,” Dr. Kass said. “You use your ATM card, you use your cell phone and you go to an Internet cafe. If somebody is pregnant, they go have a sonogram. If they are sick, they have an X-ray or an MRI. All those things are in cyberspace. Our life has become totally bounded, dependent on cyberspace. Therefore, the importance of that domain is not only for how we fight, but also for our way of life.”

Failure to control and dominate the cyber domain could be catastrophic, both at home and on the battlefield, Dr. Kass said. An enemy who wanted to inflict damage on the United States could use the cyber domain to penetrate any number of online systems. Once they have gained access, they might be able to delete or manipulate information to create an effect.

“Picture for a second that you are trying to fix an aircraft and all the information in your computerized manuals has been corrupted and you begin to put things together backward,” Dr. Kass said.

The attacks of 9/11 illustrate another kind of effect that can be inflicted through the use of the cyber domain. The terrorists responsible for the attacks used global positioning system receivers to guide planes into the towers in New York. They trained on aircraft simulators, they used the Internet to recruit participants, and they transferred money to fund their activities electronically.

In Iraq today, America’s enemies are using the cyber domain and improvised explosive devices to inflict damage on

American Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen.

“Enemies who cannot match us on land, at sea, in the air, or in space, are exploiting the fact that in cyberspace you have a very low entry cost,” Dr. Kass said. “Low cost is what makes that domain extremely attractive to nations, criminal and terrorist organizations who could not possibly attack the United States symmetrically. All you need to do is buy a laptop or a cell phone.”

Until recently, the Air Force had not named cyberspace as a separate war-fighting domain or said it would fly and fight there. But now that the Air Force has recognized cyber as a war-fighting domain, it will begin specific planning on how it can conduct both defensive and offensive actions there.

“What I see in the future is true cross-domain integration, to deliver effects, like we deliver in air and space, where the commander has at his disposal, truly sovereign options, as stated in our mission, which is the ability to do whatever we want, wherever we want, whenever we want, and however we want — kinetically, and non-kinetically and at the speed of sound and at the speed of light,” Dr. Kass said.

The Air Force is still working on what exactly it means to fight in the cyber domain. While the Air Force knows some of what it wants to accomplish — things similar to what it is doing already in air and space, for instance — there remain challenges to working in the new domain.

Like in other domains, the Air Force will probably conduct more than just defensive operations. Fighting in cyberspace also means conducting offensive operations. It is unclear now exactly what will constitute an offensive cyber operation, but it is likely the effects the Air Force will eventually bring to bear upon America’s enemies will look much like the effects America’s enemies bring to bear upon America.

“Imagine, hypothetically, if I could substitute — instead of the picture of a beheading on a terrorist Web site, a picture of Captain Kangaroo or an MTV show,” Dr. Kass theorized. “Maybe I could break that cycle of recruiting more guys that want to come to our home and kill us.”

Wright Flight needs volunteers with 'right stuff'

By Major Christina M. Abbott Marks
442nd Mission Support Group

Do you have what it takes to be a part of the Wright Flight? Ever thought you could make a difference in the life of a child? These questions can be answered by being a 442nd Fighter Wing Wright Flight instructor for one of four Kansas City inner-city elementary schools, a school in Hardin, Mo., or a school in Norborne, Mo.

For the children, the 442nd instructors are not only some one they can look up to but also a role model they can count on.

"All of us in uniform are role models, and to inner city kids, some of whom have never been outside of their neighborhood, we have a tremendous, positive impact," said Col. Mark A. Ronco, 442nd FW vice commander. "As part of HRDC, it is our number one community outreach program, and it allows the 442nd Fighter Wing to bring aviation history and Air Force values to their community."

For most inner-city children, reality is drugs, early pregnancy, dropping out of school and other events that make the news. These are events that parents hope never happen to their children, but unfortunately they often do, and more so in the inner-city.

Wright Flight volunteers strive to break that paradigm and make a difference.

"If we plant the seeds with these children early, we can be successful in changing the mindset of those children who have the will and the dreams to become something or someone other than a drug dealer, a criminal, a teenage parent or a statistic, which in turn will change the face of our communities," said Larry Washington, Wright Flight Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance coordinator and 442nd Mission Support Flight first sergeant. "With the Wright Flight program, if we were to save one child from those things, we as instructors or we as the 442nd Fighter Wing would be a true success."

But whether the child is from the city or the country, the Wright Flight program does just that. It challenges them. It makes them know that they can be more than what they think. Nothing is given; hard work and learning are expected, and it's a goal that's achievable.

"We should be encouraging the kids that they can make good decisions," said Ms. Hersticene Marshall, a Melcher Elementary School teacher. "When kids have dreams we must help them believe they can and will reach those dreams if they put forth the effort."

And that's one of the Wright Flight program goals. By using the Wright brothers as an example, the students learn that the Wright brothers had a dream, a goal and the desire and discipline to achieve their dream. They weren't special or rich. People thought their idea odd ... to some even crazy ... but with determination and discipline, they reached their dream. By doing what the Wright brothers did, these kids can too.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ANGELA BLAZIER

Col. Dewayne Burgess, now retired, gives Columbia, Mo., Wright Flight students an A-10 tour here last year. Colonel Burgess was a prime mover in developing the Wright Flight program within the wing.

Not only does this program make a difference to the students, it also enriches the volunteer as well.

"The most rewarding thing about it (Wright Flight) is the knowledge that my involvement with the students makes a difference in the way these kids see the world," said 1st Lt. Terrell Eikner, 442nd Maintenance Squadron officer. "If only one child's life is changed because of the Wright Flight program, then it is all worth it."

The Wright Flight coin states, "helping kids reach new heights; commitment, achievement, success," and for the 442nd volunteers, that's one child at a time.

If you would like to volunteer your time and would like to be a 442nd Wright Flight instructor, there are two training classes offered, Nov. 5, and Dec. 3, from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m., in the wing conference room.

Master Sgt. Chiquita Wilson, 442nd Fighter Wing Chaplain's office, can also answer questions about the volunteer program by calling her at (660) 687-3829.

Col. Steve Arthur, 442nd Fighter Wing commander, awards Master Sgt. Bob Jackson, 442nd Maintenance Squadron, the Airman's Medal at the September UTA commanders call. The citation for the award said that Sergeant Jackson "distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life" while serving in Iraq. The December Mohawk will provide a more in-depth look at Sergeant Jackson and the award. Photo by Master Sgt. Christina Suratos

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

TO THE FAMILY OF:



**"I see Airmen who represent America at its best:
its honor, valor, courage and devotion, in the skies over
America, and anywhere our Nation needs us."**

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