

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter

**Working in
the belly
of the
beast**

**The
"shot"
is back**

442nd FW meeting challenges, receiving honors

By Col. Steve Arthur
442nd Fighter Wing commander

The 442nd Fighter Wing keeps getting more added to its plate every month, and I'm pleased with how the Citizen Airmen in our wing lean forward and meet each new challenge.

I am grateful and proud of the way everyone prepared for the 10th Air Force staff assistance visit, which ended during our April unit training assembly.

From the feedback I received prior to writing this, our wing did very well, but there is still some polishing that needs to be done before the Air Force Reserve Command inspectors arrive July 31 for our unit compliance inspection.

The intention of the SAV is to help us prepare for the UCI/HIS/MSEP by spotlighting areas that may need improvement, as well as noting procedures and programs we are doing well.

The next step in UCI preparation is to fix what needs repair and continue to do the things that we do well already.

As if we need to be reminded, the preparation for our operational readiness



Col. Steve Arthur,
442nd Fighter Wing
commander

inspection in April 2008 is still ongoing and will move into full swing when our UCI is complete. I am also proud of the members of the wing who deployed last summer to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, as well as everyone in a support role who made this deployment possible.

Everyone who served there will receive the Air Force's Meritorious Unit Award for being a part of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing.

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations for the award and my thanks for a job well done.

Our maintainers, pilots, intelligence specialists, life-support technicians, operations support Airmen and public affairs officer deployed to a combat zone for four months to support our Nation's war against terror and exceeded everyone's expectations.

While our wing members were deployed, Brig. Gen. Christopher Miller, 455th AEW commander, would call frequently to thank the entire unit for outstanding service, and to let me know how highly he regarded their performance.

I am honored to command such outstanding men and women.

Reservists receive Meritorious Unit Award

By Staff Sgt. Tom Talbert

The 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, the wing Air Force reservists from the 442nd Fighter Wing were assigned to while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, has been awarded the Meritorious Unit Award for its performance in Afghanistan.

The award recognizes Air Force active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard units for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding achievement or service in direct support of combat operations for at least 90 continuous days during the period of military operations against an armed enemy of the United States on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

According to criteria set in Air Force guidelines, "the unit must display such outstanding devotion and superior performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart and above other units with similar missions."

"I think it's highly fitting and applicable based on what our folks did over there," said Col. Steve Arthur, 442nd Fighter Wing commander. "Look at what they accomplished – integration with active duty after a last minute notification. They got up, deployed and then set records over there for munitions expenditures. They are highly-deserving and should feel proud."

The award was first created in 2001 and replaced the Outstanding Unit Award as the United States Air Force's equivalent

of the Army and Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation.

The decoration is the unit equivalent to the Legion of Merit, one of the military's highest honors. Squadrons, groups and wings may be recommended for the award.

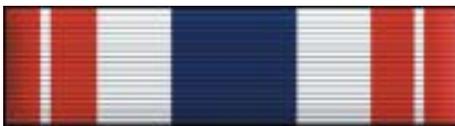
The distinction can't be presented to any unit or component previously awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award or unit award from other service components for the same act, achievement or service.

"Those who deployed from the 442nd and were part of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing have earned and are entitled to wear this award," said Senior Master Sgt. Cesar Ortiz, 442nd Military Personnel Flight superintendent. "The verifying official is the unit commander and, if in doubt, something as simple as presenting a travel

voucher would be significant enough proof you are eligible to wear the award."

More than 300 Citizen Airmen from the 442nd, including maintainers, pilots, intelligence specialists, operations support Airmen and a public affairs officer were assigned to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing and are eligible for the award.

"A considerable number of our people were in supervisory positions over there," Colonel Arthur said. "Colonel Tony Johnson was the Expeditionary operations group commander. The whole wing, everyone who deployed and participated, did a wonderful job and I think it's very appropriate."



The Air Force Meritorious Unit Award

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

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May 2007
Charge-of-quarters

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DoD restarts inoculation program
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MASTER SGT. DERMOTH HIGGINS 442ND LOGISTICS READINESS 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: Under the watchful gaze of Senior Airman Pete Young and Tech. Sgt. Rob Exendine, 442nd Maintenance Squadron structure shop, Airman Bradley Dalton, inserts a drill bit into a power drill as he works to replace a badly-corroded floor panel in aircraft 237. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)

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T 442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

MASTER SGT. AARON MCROBERTS 442ND MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

An exemplary NCO, Sergeant McRoberts authored comprehensive, dynamic aircraft generation and regeneration plans, providing detailed guidance on job task, time and sequence requirements, expediting the processes. His effort was instrumental in reducing the wing's generation flow time by 2.2 hours.

Sergeant McRoberts was a key manager in the unit's January phase one exercise when he coordinated and supervised the maintenance effort for the entire maintenance group allowing for the successful generation of eight and the regeneration of six aircraft. In addition, he provided command and control for 16 different maintenance teams, assuring a unified effort in the execution of the wing's generation and regeneration plans.

Sergeant McRoberts conducted pre-exercise planning briefings to provide optimum continuity, which was instrumental in the success of the exercise. Afterward, he conducted timely hotwashes to refine our generation and regeneration plans, assuring quality and application of both plans.



On-line poll asks: **Are employers reluctant to hire reservists?**

By Maj. David Kurle

As reservists and guardsmen across the country continue to fight battles in the Global War on Terror, they might find getting hired for civilian employment could be a battle in and of itself.

An unscientific poll, conducted on-line by Workforce Management Magazine at its Web site, www.workforce.com, may be an indication of reluctance on the part of some employers to hire members of the Reserve and National Guard.

"If you, as an employer, knew that a military reservist or National Guard member could be called up and taken away from their job for an indeterminate amount of time, would you still hire a citizen soldier?" the poll asks.

Of the 409 respondents, as of April 4, 52 percent answered "no," 32 percent answered "yes," and 17 percent answered "I don't know."

"It's an unscientific survey," said Robert Scally, senior on-line editor for Workforce Management and [workforce.com](http://www.workforce.com). "You can't put too much stock in it.

"However, I think it's definitely something people in the

Guard and Reserve should be concerned about," Mr. Scally said. "I'm kind of surprised you haven't seen this story in the general press, but I think you will."

In Missouri, the case load for ombudsmen, trained by the Department of Defense's Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve organization to mediate disputes between reservists and their employers, has risen for the past three years, according to statistics compiled by the Missouri Committee for ESGR.

"At least for the Missouri Guard, we went from 3,000 deployed to 500 (from 2004 to 2006), so the deployments are way down, but the number of (ESGR) cases are up," said Steve Vanderhoof, Missouri's ESGR Program Specialist, who's also an officer in the Missouri Army National Guard.

In 2004, Missouri ESGR ombudsmen handled 80 cases, which climbed to 98 in 2005, but soared in 2006 to 251 – 40 of which were classified as discrimination complaints.

Members of the Reserve and Guard are protected in their civilian careers under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on an individual's membership in the armed forces.

But even ESGR admits that discrimination can't be substantiated in some cases, especially in hiring.

"It is hard to prove," Mr. Vanderhoof said. "Except that the way the (USERRA) law is written, the burden of proof is on the employer as to whether a person didn't get a job because of their military service."

Air Force Reserve Maj. Robert Palmer, chief of strategic communication for the National Committee for ESGR in Washington, agreed.

"The trouble with discrimination is that it's hard to prove," he said. "There's no law that says an employer cannot ask a potential hire if they are a member of the Guard or Reserve.

"The issue is whether there is discrimination because of the answer," Major Palmer said.

He also said the Defense Department has not conducted a valid scientific survey on the issue of hiring discrimination.

However, Major Palmer does offer some advice to reservists who might be trying to get hired for civilian employment.

"They should be honest, but not offer any information that is not required in the interview or on the application," he said and stressed again that reservists should "be honest" if asked about their military affiliation.

However, because the military endows its guardsmen and reservists with valuable skills and training, a member's affiliation with the Guard or Reserve would probably show up on a resume.

Mr. Vanderhoof recommended reservists who suspect hiring discrimination contact ESGR before filing a formal complaint with the Department of Labor.

"Often times, a phone call from us can fix it," he said. The Missouri ESGR committee has contacts among many companies' upper management who can bypass decisions made by lower-level managers who might be hiring for a certain position.

He also recommended that reservists seek out "military-friendly" employers, which can be found through Web sites like *VetJobs.com*.

"Those resources are out there," Mr. Vanderhoof said. "There're hundreds, if not thousands, of employers who cherish their military employees.

"Most employers get a pretty good employee when they

hire a military person," he said.

"I think a guardsman or reservist needs to be a model employee," Major Palmer said. "If they're not, it reflects poorly on all of us."

Being a good employee includes letting a civilian employer know, with as much notice as possible, about unit training assembly schedules, drill periods, annual tours and deployments, he said.

Sprint-Nextel Corporation, the country's third-largest wireless voice and data communications company, with its operational headquarters in Overland Park, Kan., claims approximately 3,300 of its 64,500 employees are members of the Guard and Reserve, according to Miles McMillin, a Sprint spokesperson.

He said that increased deployments since Sept. 11, 2001, have not adversely affected the company's manpower or its hiring policies toward guardsmen and reservists.

The company's Web site devotes a page toward recruiting military members to work at Sprint.

"In 2003, Sprint was recognized for outstanding practice in the hiring of military veterans by being named the second-most military-friendly company for Fortune 500 companies," Mr. McMillin said.

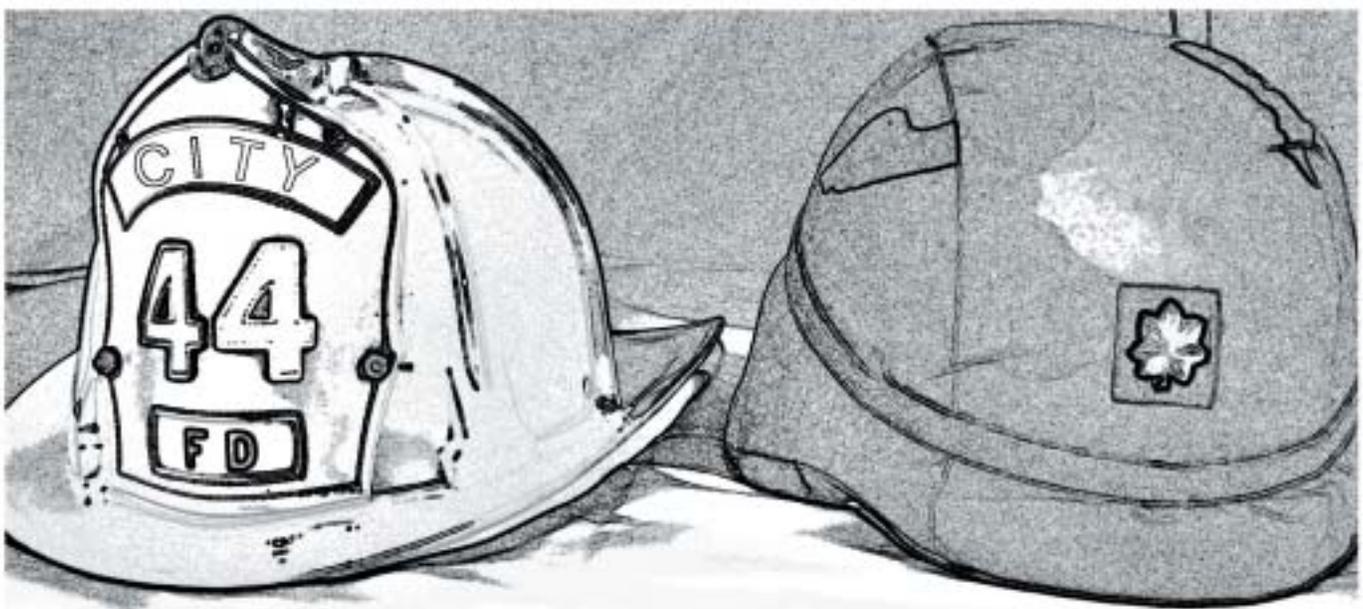
"Employees who are deployed stay 'whole' as far as salary is concerned," he said. "Sprint makes up any difference between what the employee's military pay is and what his or her regular Sprint salary is.

"Additionally, while many employers have a limit on how long they provide benefits to an employee who is deployed, Sprint has no time limit," Mr. McMillin said.

Mr. Scally, from Workforce Management magazine, said he believes larger employers, like Sprint, are better able to absorb the temporary loss of its Guard and Reserve employees than smaller companies.

"I think it's generally something of an issue in smaller businesses where they have a harder time with it," he said.

In the meantime, more Citizen Airmen are supporting worldwide missions through volunteerism than at any time in the history of the Air Force Reserve, and, as of March 21, 80,373 guardsman and reservists from all branches were serving on active duty.



To combat corrosion deep in a Warthog main

The belly of th

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

It's amazing what an Airman can do with a little time and material.

When Airmen of the 442nd Fuel Cell shop discovered severe corrosion in a fuel cell on aircraft number 237 in late February, the wing's structure shop was faced with manufacturing and installing a floor in the cell, a repair job that had never been done at this wing.

This work is normally done in the A-10 depot at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, but once the Citizen Airmen looked deeper into the problem, they discovered Hill would not be an option.

"Once you open that cavity and determine the fuel cell is bad, then you have a situation of 'is the aircraft flyable?'," said Master Sgt. Brian Bass, an aircraft structural maintenance supervisor with the eight-man structure shop. "It was determined by upper management that the (repair) needed to be worked here."

"We've had similar cases in the past, but not quite to this extent," said Tech. Sgt. Rob Exendine, an aircraft structural mechanic.

These troops and their co-workers, then, have been on a month-long voyage into an unknown realm in the world of repairs. Sergeant Exendine said, however, that the "piece-meal" work, at least as of mid-April, is going well.

First, approval was needed for the work to be done at Whiteman, and that was granted in early April. Second, the 442nd troops needed to get the floor – or at least the material with which to manufacture one.

"It's (Hill's) job to provide us the part, unless we can manufac-

ture it faster," Sergeant Exendine said. "They couldn't (provide the part) and this floor isn't manufactured anywhere, so we're going to manufacture a new piece."

The material for the floor was then ordered and received in early April. But the Airmen faced some very detailed work that required precision and patience.

Making the floor is "a complicated trial and error," Sergeant Exendine said. He and his fellow Airmen made six floors and tested them to see which would fit, he noted. This involved great precision, as the Airmen "to get every hole within the tolerance (diameter) allowed," he said. "If you're off when you drill a hole, then the part is scrapped."

When the six floors were made, they were taken to the depot at Whiteman. The Air National Guard's 139th Airlift Wing in St. Joseph where the 139th's Whiteman troops used a power roller to get a needed roll, on the other side of the floors.

"Our shop isn't manned to be doing depot-level repairs, but we're doing eight-week repairs," Sergeant Bass said. "Those take us away from the flying mission."

He and Sergeant Exendine were quick to point out, though, that time and money are saved by doing the repair here.

"They're short three floors at Hill. If this aircraft went to Hill, it wouldn't be there for six months," Sergeant Bass said. "There isn't a shop at Hill that can't do. It's just a means of what it takes to get there."

"(We're) saving the unit a lot of money, instead of having to send a team from depot (to do the work)," Sergeant Exendine said. "It's about all we need."



Containers must work in the beast

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Counterclockwise from right: Using a sheet metal roller at the 139th Airlift Wing at Rosecrans Memorial Airport near St. Joseph, Mo., Staff Sgt. Jim Lutes, 442nd Maintenance Squadron structure shop, shapes a metal panel to replace a badly corroded and cracked floor removed from A-10 Thunderbolt II number 237. The 442nd Fighter Wing did not have a roller large enough to accomplish the task and the 139th invited the Whiteman reservists to come to the Missouri Air National Guard unit to use theirs.

Airman Bradley Dalton and Tech. Sgt. Rick Jones, 442nd MXS structure shop, clamp a template to a corroded floor panel with temporary fasteners which ensure the template doesn't move during the drilling process.

Inside the cramped confines of aircraft 237, normally filled with a fuel cell bladder, Airman Dalton and Sergeant Jones line up the template's screw holes with its counterpart's to verify an accurate fit for the replacement floor panel fabricated by the structures shop.

Focused on the task at hand, and with the assistance of Sergeant Jones, Airman Dalton drills a screw hole in the floor panel template. By the time the job is finished, Airman Dalton and the others will have to manually drill hundreds of screw holes to complete the job.

PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON



Maximum effort

How 442nd reservists scored 100

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

Everyone has moments of revelation in their lives. These epiphanies sometimes come from other people, but sometimes they come from within the person themselves.

That's what happened to two 442nd Fighter Wing members regarding their health, and their realizations have led them to membership in an elite group of 18 Citizen Airmen in the wing who have scored 100 percent on their Air Force Fitness Assessment.

In February 2000, Tech. Sgt. Eddie Smith, 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, was in the Navy Reserve working shore patrol in New Orleans during Mardi Gras when he said he "started noticing age was coming around and I didn't have the stamina I wanted."

Sergeant Smith, 42, said he was "by no means overweight." However, he said he remembered how good he felt when he was in a regular exercise routine two decades ago.

He restarted that same simple routine, which has been part of his life for seven years.

"It doesn't have to be an overwhelm-

ing part of your lifestyle," he said. "I do (the workout) in my basement. I have two, 20-pound free weights and work my upper body and lats (chest muscles) for 20 minutes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. I run on a treadmill on Tuesdays and that's it.

"I try to tell people that it's simple," Sergeant Smith said. "I'm proof of that. I run a mile and a half and I'm done. I'm not a runner. I don't care to run. It's not that big a deal. It's all about finding your comfort zone."

He said he does not take any breaks during his workout, focusing on his upper body, then his upper and lower abdominal muscles. He said he knows what he has to do to score the test's maximum points.

"That's what I do in my workouts," Sergeant Smith said. "I do 40 push-ups in a minute, I do 44 crunches and I know I have to run the mile and a half in 10 minutes and 20 seconds."

He simply shoots for those numbers in every workout. It's a philosophy that's hard to argue with – he has scored 100 percent on his last three tests, including running the mile and a half in nine minutes and 40 seconds during his last test – 40 seconds faster than his required time.

"People have asked about my routine," he said. "You just have to do it. You feel so much better. It just leads to such a healthy lifestyle. When people feel good, it makes other people feel good.

"As far as my eating habits, I try to eat three fruits every day," Sergeant Smith said. "I love fried foods, but (that's) not healthy for you. To have a bag of potato chips and sit down in front of the TV – there's nothing more I love than that.

"I believe people can eat anything if they eat in moderation," he said. "When my family and I go on vacations, we don't go to buffets anymore. We sit down and order and eat what we get. The key ... is moderation."

Another wing member who's chalked up perfect scores on the last three tests is Senior Master Sgt. Mark Mock, fabrication chief in the 442nd Maintenance Squadron.

Sergeant Mock said his road to perfection began when he filled out a questionnaire prior to a fitness test in May 2004 and was required, based on his answers, to see a health-care professional before testing.

"That kind of motivated me," he said, along with looking at some problems in

More tips for fitness test success

Compiled by Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

Some of the Citizen Airmen of the 442nd Fighter Wing who scored 100 percent on their Air Force fitness tests offered their advice on how to score well.

■ **Master Sgt. Michael B. Bannon, 442nd Maintenance Squadron Avionics Flight shop-chief:** "People should try not to focus on the total 100 score. They should put more focus on the 70 points that they have the most control over. Genetics has given me a slender waist. I didn't use some weight-loss program or potion to get my current waist size – it's just a family trait. But the hard work practicing the sit-ups, push-ups and running to get my time down ... those are things that I can take credit for and other people should also. They might not be able to get the 100 (percent) score because their bodies won't let them have a small enough waist, but they can still be proud of how many points they achieved in the categories they had direct control over."

■ **Master Sgt. Warren T. Best, 442nd Security Forces Squadron squad leader:** "The only thing I'd recommend people

do to increase their scores is to not wait until the last minute to prepare."

■ **Staff Sgt. Denver R. Long, III, 442nd Civil Engineer Squadron structural journeyman:** "Carbonated drinks hinder your ability to perform at peak levels, replacing carbonated beverages with sports drinks and water will fight off fatigue and cramping."

■ **Airman 1st Class Zachary V. Hulm, 442nd Maintenance Squadron hydraulic systems technician:** "Don't allow laziness to become part of your daily lifestyle. Park further away from the supermarket entrance and take the stairs instead of the elevator. Always be conscious about what is good for your body, whether it be food intake or physical activity."

■ **Staff Sgt. Catherine A. Dunham, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft mechanic:** "The biggest key to achieving 100-percent success is deciding to remain physically fit and consistently work toward this goal through daily exercise, which includes weight training and cardio workouts."

100 on AF fit test

his family's health history.

Sergeant Mock, 47, noted exercise can help prevent health problems and encouraged wing members to look into their family's health history as a motivator to exercise regularly and ensure oneself a passing grade on the fitness test.

"I was eating Ho-Hos and Ding Dongs and got up to 205 pounds in May 2004 with a 36-and-a-half-inch waist," Sergeant Mock said. Now, he weighs in at 180 and trimmed an inch-and-a-half from his pant's size.

Like Sergeant Smith, Sergeant Mock's workout philosophy stresses simplicity.

"You just have to exercise regularly," he said. "You just can't get 100 percent and not go out and exercise. You have to make it part of your life."

Sergeant Mock, who said he exercises about an hour each day, mainly by running, said having a workout partner can help ensure an Airman stays on track with workouts.

"Once you start missing workouts, it's easy to go back to old habits," he said. Members should always eat breakfast and should not eat after 8 p.m. He also noted that members should first focus on obtaining the minimum points needed to pass the test and build from there.

"The big thing about the fitness test is that it's here to stay," Sergeant Mock said. "It isn't going away. It's getting more important to pass it, so get on that calculator and see what you need to pass it. I just got mad at the Air Force and I just decided I was going to show them I could do it."

"If you feel you want to be a part of this organization," Sergeant Smith said, "I would say to you, 'This is what we're about. We didn't have to do this way back when, but we do now. Get yourself in gear and do it.'"

People have the power to change their lifestyles if they're not happy with them, Sergeant Mock said. "You have an entity (the Air Force Reserve) that's willing to help you work with that."

In addition to Sergeants Mock and Smith, the other Citizen Airmen who have logged 100 percent on their latest fitness exams are: Lt. Cols. Karen Barrett and Sherry Howard, 442nd FW Staff; Maj. Paul Amey, 303rd Fighter Squadron, and Michael Leonas, 442nd Operations Group; Master Sgts. Michael Bannon and Mark Lewis, 442nd Maintenance Squadron, and Warren Best and Robert Reeves, 442nd Security Forces Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Gould, 442nd Mission Support Flight; Staff Sgts. Catherine Dunham, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Denver Long and Daniel Romine, 442nd Civil Engineer Squadron; Senior Airmen Joanna Bedgood, 442nd Medical Squadron and William Raymond, 303rd FS; and Airmen First Class Zachary Hulm and Jonathan Keehart, 442nd MXS.



Senior Master Sgt. Mark Mock, 442nd Maintenance Squadron, jogs at Whiteman to stay in shape. He, along with 17 other Citizen Airmen from the 442nd Fighter Wing, has scored a perfect score on the Air Force fitness test.

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON



Support group finds creative solution to training turbulence

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

As commanders and first sergeants struggle to keep their Citizen Airmen up to date on ancillary training, leadership from the 442nd Mission Support Group recently established “Ancillary University.”

The two-month-old program, which features classes en masse versus individual and small-group training, is designed to meet the sometimes seemingly overwhelming training requirements and could potentially save thousands of man-hours.

According to the Air Force Audit Agency’s “Ancillary Training Audit Report,” issued March 15, there were 89 ancillary training courses Air Force-wide, as of August 2006.

The audit also notes that “142 (70 percent) of 203 members, reviewed at eight organizations, either did not accomplish training by the due date or did not have certificates of completion on file to support one or more required deployment-related training courses.”

“There’s little doubt that there’s exploding requirements for ancillary training,” said Col. Mark Culbertson, 442nd MSG commander. “It’s a problem recognized across the Air Force – the Guard, the Reserve and active duty. It’s acute in the Guard and Reserve because of the limited time we have.”

“What the active duty gets done in 30 days, we’re compressing into 16 hours,” said Mr. John Hickman, 442nd MSG training manager. Part of the problem is the wing doesn’t have near the number of computers in its work centers to accomplish the training on an individual basis.

The lack of time and computers prompted a discussion between Colonel Culbertson, Mr. Hickman and several others, including Col. Mark Ronco, 442nd Fighter Wing vice commander, Lt. Col. Charles French, the group’s deputy commander, Capt. Joe Walter, 442nd Military Personnel Flight commander and Senior

Master Sgt. Wendy Bannon, 442nd Newcomers Training Flight superintendent.

From these talks, Ancillary University was born.

“If we pool our resources and try to centrally teach these classes, we’ll minimize the number of trainers we have to provide,” Colonel Culbertson said. “(Ancillary University) started in February but we didn’t advertise it very much. We had some ‘hiccups,’ but we think we fixed them. We had a better response in March.”

The colonel and Mr. Hickman said they hope the “university’s” enrollment continues to increase.

“We encourage people to get training this way,” Colonel

Culbertson said. “We encourage commanders to send people and we encourage people to tell us how to make this better. This is not cast in stone. It’s a work in progress.”

Col. Culbertson and Mr. Hickman noted that there is a fine line to walk on how one looks at ancillary training.

“Most of this is serious training,” Colonel Culbertson said. “It requires proper motivation from people. But could (the training) be held just if you’re mobilizing? Could it be something less than an annual requirement? It’s about finding the right fre-

quency and the right place. Is (the training) more important than learning how to fuel an aircraft or how to drive a bulldozer or how to shoot a gun?”

“Even though people think the training is just busy work, it’s important,” Mr. Hickman said. “It’s relevant. Don’t blow it off, because it could be important to you one of these days.”

“(AU) is just an option for the wing,” Colonel Culbertson said. “(Airmen) don’t have to be signed up (for classes) in advance. Please use it and please tell us how to do it better.”

Ancillary University’s courses, offered in Bldg. 705 each unit training assembly, will be listed in the Mohawk Yellow Pages each month.

“We encourage people to get training this way. We encourage commanders to send people and we encourage people to tell us how to make this better.”

-- Col. Mark Culbertson, 442nd Mission Support Group commander



Anthrax Immunizations

The Department of Defense announced that it will resume vaccinating U.S. military members against Anthrax. The

Food and Drug Administration approved a new source for the vaccine and determined that it is safe and effective.

'The Shot' is back

Anthrax vaccinations mandatory for some wing members

By Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

The Deputy Secretary of Defense recently announced the resumption of the mandatory anthrax vaccine immunization program for selected military members, including members of the 442nd Fighter Wing slated for deployment to certain locations.

Airmen with orders to, or currently in, specific high-threat areas, such as the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility or the Korean peninsula, are affected by the mandate and are directed to initiate, or in some cases resume, the anthrax inoculation regimen.

"The vaccine is here," said Tech. Sgt. Jamie Fierro, NCOIC of flight medicine and physical exams. "Members who were already on the series, no matter where they stopped, can pick up where they left off. They don't have to start the series over."

The AVIP program was temporarily suspended following a court order in October 2004 when the company then contracted to produce the vaccine came under scrutiny.

Following an extensive evaluation, the Food and Drug Administration has approved a new source for the vaccine and, in December 2005, determined that the vaccine is safe and effective for the prevention of anthrax regardless of the mode of exposure.

To provide the best possible protection, the anthrax vaccine requires an initial series of six shots over the course of 18 months and a booster shot each year after that.

The inoculation program is also available to those who voluntarily choose to resume the series.

"As it stands right now (members) are highly encouraged to come in and volunteer to continue their series," Sergeant Fierro said. "But, there isn't any mandate right now for 100 percent coverage."

Members should have started the series at least 60 days prior to deploying or arriving in the high-threat area.

"Most people tolerate anthrax vaccination without significant reactions," said Col. Tim Bennett, command public health officer for Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. "As with most vaccines, some may experience temporary pain and swelling in their arm at the site of the injection. If they have any concerns about a reaction, they should talk with a health-care provider."

Sergeant Fierro, just back from intensive training on the program, doesn't see any problems with the vaccine and wants to put anyone with misgivings about it at ease.

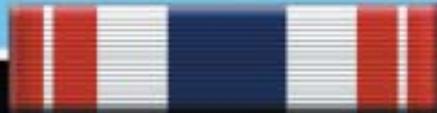
"We wouldn't give you anything that isn't safe. We wouldn't," Sergeant Fierro said. "Everyone here in the medical squadron has had the anthrax series and we're okay. If you do have any questions or concerns, feel free to call us. We'll be more than happy to help you."

For more on the AVIP go to www.anthrax.mil. Sergeant Fierro can be reached at (660) 687-3950.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
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An A-10 Thunderbolt II from the 442nd Fighter Wing maneuvers over the Barry M. Goldwater Range, Ariz., Feb. 26 as part of the wing's "Patriot Rattlesnake" exercise, which involved building and dropping live ordnance. (Photo by Master Sgt. William Huntington)

TO THE FAMILY OF:



Wing reservists receive Meritorious Unit Award

**"I am honored to command
such outstanding men and women,"**

-- Col. Steve Arthur, 442nd Fighter Wing commander

442nd Fighter Wing Online - www.442fw.afrc.af.mil