

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing



**Crew chiefs keep
Wing's A-10s flying**



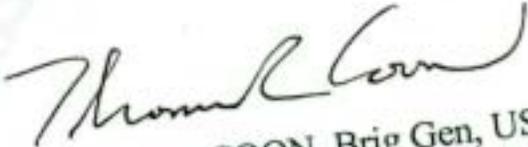
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20 February 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR 442 FW/CC

SUBJECT: Letter of Congratulations

1. Please extend my congratulations to each member of the 442d Fighter Wing for earning the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The dedication and hard work toward mission accomplishment are indicative of their top-notch caliber. It is a distinct pleasure to have a group of professionals with such remarkable ability on the Tenth Air Force team.
2. Again, please congratulate all the members of the 442d Fighter Wing on a job well done!


THOMAS R. COON, Brig Gen, USAFR
Commander

MOHAWK

442ND FIGHTER WING

' Inside ' Inside ' Inside ' Inside '

April 2008
Charge-of-quarters

Commentary page 2

AWARD WINNING JOURNALIST

PA member named
AF Journalist of the Year
PAGE 4



THE BCC
Community group
supports Whiteman, wing
PAGES 8-10

CREW CHIEFS
Specializing in care
and feeding of 'Hawgs'
PAGES 6 - 7



New CC at Bagram..... page 5
Doolittle raider passes away..... page 11
CENTAF now AFCENT page 11



MASTER SGT. ANGELA BRYANT
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: Airman Ty Lewis, one of the 442nd Fighter Wing's more than 60 crew chiefs, stows the A-10's retractable ladder as he finishes work for the day. For more on the Wing's crew chiefs, see pages six and seven. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)



442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

TECH. SGT. MICHAEL PRICE
442ND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

Sergeant Price is assigned to the 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's Specialist Flight as an avionics technician.

When the squadron was recently tasked with a time-sensitive job to upgrade aircraft and assist in aircrew achieving mastery of the new Beyond-line-of-sight (BLOS) Airborne Radio Communications 210 System, he stepped up to the plate – in a big way – to ensure the Wing's success.

Sergeant Price researched the system requirements and technical specifications, and communicated these findings to both maintenance technicians and pilots. Before any formal training or documentation was available, he began to identify weaknesses and develop action plans to ensure a seamless integration of the new system within our existing flying and maintenance protocols. Troubleshooting both hardware and software problems, he laid the groundwork for the system to operate in the secure network environment necessary to function. This was done in addition to his normal duties supporting the flying schedule and performing routine aircraft maintenance.

As a result of Sergeant Price's efforts, the 442nd FW is the first Air Force Reserve Command A-10 unit to install the ARC 210 BLOS System and bring it to full functionality. Once again, through the efforts of Sergeant Price and his dedication to duty, the 442nd has stepped to the front of the fighter community just in time for our next opportunity to serve this nation in the War on Terror.

MOHAWK

Vol. 60, No. 4
April 2008

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.

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This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.

Bagram Air Base welcomes new commander



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DEMETRIUS LESTER

Col. Mike Holmes, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, speaks to the troops after accepting command here March 10. Colonel Holmes pinned on brigadier general March 12.

*By Tech. Sgt. James Law
455 Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs*

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Col. Mike Holmes took command of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing from Brig. Gen. James Hyatt during a change-of-command ceremony here March 10.

Colonel Holmes pinned on brigadier general March 12.

Lt. Gen. Gary North, 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central Commander, presided over the ceremony and presented Colonel Holmes with the 455th AEW guidon, officially making him the wing's seventh commander since the wing activated at Bagram.

"Your background (and) your preparations (have) prepared you perfectly for the command time ahead," said General North. "It's with great assurance and great expectations of success for the wing that I pass you the flag."

After thanking General North for the opportunity to serve with the best people America has to offer, Colonel Holmes addressed approximately 500 Airmen, Soldiers and coalition forces in attendance.

"I am honored to be here with all of you who have left your home, family and friends to come here and help the people in Afghanistan," Colonel Holmes said. "Men and women of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, this opportunity to work with you is truly a dream come true for me. Your exploits in the skies, on the flightline, in the bases and across the mountains and plains of Afghanistan are writing a new page in history and you are literally my heroes."

"If we are going to continue to set the standard for employing expeditionary airpower, and we are, we'll need the best efforts of everybody on this total force team...military and civilian, active duty and reserve component."

Colonel Holmes entered the Air Force through Officer Training School in 1981. He has commanded a fighter squadron, a specialized undergraduate pilot training group and a fighter wing, and has served on the United States European Command and United States Air Force staffs.

General Hyatt, who received a Bronze Star Medal for his leadership of the wing during the past year, will serve at the Pentagon as the Senior Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Small UAV helps protect Airmen at Kirkuk AB

*by Senior Airman Eric Schloeffel
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs*

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq — To an outsider, an RQ-11 Raven unmanned aerial vehicle may be easily mistaken for an unorthodox version of a model airplane.

However, Airmen here aren't flying these aircraft for sport during a Sunday afternoon at the park.

Despite weighing in at less than five pounds, the Raven plays an important role in securing the base and surrounding neighborhoods.

"UAVs play a very significant role in the Global War on Terror; we provide another line of defense for troops accomplishing the mission outside the wire," said Senior Airman Jacob Galindo, 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Raven operator. "Instead of sending U.S. troops out blindly, UAVs ensure the area is safe for them to operate."

The Raven is operated from the ground via a remote-control unit, which can send the aircraft 10 kilometers away at speeds up to 60 miles per hour. Cameras attached to the aircraft transmit to hand-held devices and computers allowing operators to see events on the ground from miles away. The Raven can be controlled manually or set to a kind of "auto-pilot" mode and sent

on a pre-planned route.

"Our part of the mission falls into integrated airbase defense, as we patrol areas both inside and outside the confines of the base," said Senior Airman Glenn Gerald, 506th ESFS Raven operator. "Our team operates outside the wire in a sense, because we use the UAV as our eye. Through the eye of our UAV, we have our sights on the perimeter which provides an important role to base defense."

Though the current team of UAV operators arrived to Kirkuk at the beginning of March, recent successes have shown how valuable these advanced "model airplanes" can be to the U.S. mission here.

"The UAV operators who just left saw people placing Improvised Explosive Devices on the side of a nearby road," said Staff Sgt. Boyce Carter, 506th ESFS Raven operator. "They called in the report, and within a short amount of time a response team was on-scene to check out the situation. Just knowing the fact that we have the power to save lives is a great benefit to working with the Raven."

"It's a great piece of equipment because even though it's valuable, there is no loss of life if it gets shot down," he said. "Very few aircraft have the capability to save lives without endangering life."



COURTESY PHOTO

Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown, a public affairs specialist with the 442nd Fighter Wing, was named the Air Force Journalist of the Year for 2007. While researching his World War II

prisoner of war series, Sergeant Brown pauses for a photo at the site of the POW-dug "Harry" escape tunnel exit at Stalag Luft III near Sagan, Poland.

Brown named AF Journalist of the Year

By Maj. David Kurlle

Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown, a 442nd Fighter Wing public affairs specialist, has been named the Air Force's top journalist for 2007, in addition to winning the award for the best Air Force series.

After being named the Air Force Reserve Command's top journalist in February, Sergeant Brown was announced as the Air Force's winner March 7.

"This doesn't surprise me a bit," said Master Sgt. Bill Huntington, non-commissioned officer in charge of Public Affairs and Sergeant Brown's supervisor. "Leo is an outstanding writer and a great NCO. The depth of thought, caring and journalistic excellence he puts into his articles is impressive by anyone's standards. I won't be surprised if his Prisoner of War series earns him his second (Department of Defense-level) Thomas Jefferson award."

Sergeant Brown, a high school teacher in his civilian occupation at St.

Thomas Aquinas High School in Overland Park, Kan., won the best series for 2007 in the Air Force's media contest for his four-part story on prisoners of war during World War II.

The series appeared in the 442nd Fighter Wing's monthly magazine, *The Mohawk*, and is still on the wing's public Web site. He previously earned a DoD-level Thomas Jefferson award in 2002 for his literary contributions to the Wing's retrospective, "The 442nd - A Heritage Series."

Several of the 23 stories written by Sergeant Brown in 2007 were judged at the Secretary of the Air Force's Public Affairs office in order for him to earn the title of Air Force Journalist of the Year.

For the POW series, Sergeant Brown visited several World War II POW camps in Germany and Poland. At a POW reunion in Kansas City last year he interviewed several veterans who had been interned at the prisons.

Sergeant Brown has been in the 442nd Fighter Wing's public affairs office since joining the Air Force Reserve in 2001 and is most visible to wing members in his frequent role as master-of-ceremonies during commanders' calls, retirements and other events. While on active duty from 1989 to 1992 he was a public affairs specialist at the then-Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y.

"This is really very humbling," Sergeant Brown said when told about the awards. "I know this sounds like a cliché, but everyone in our public affairs office - Maj. (David) Kurlle, our public affairs officer, and Master Sgt. Huntington, and everyone else have really helped me be a better writer. This is an individual award, but I have to give credit to a lot of people."

Sergeant Brown's World War II Prisoner of War series, as well as back issues of all of *The Mohawk* for 2007, can be found on-line at the Wing's public web site at www.442fw.afrc.af.mil.

Crew chiefs keep Wing's



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOHN VERTRESE

Staff Sgt. Kevin Belandron marshalls an A-10 into a parking spot on the flight line.

Background photo: Wing crew chiefs recover an A-10 following a local mission. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)

By Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

It was the Greek historian, Herodotus, who in 500 B.C., coined the phrase, "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these courageous couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." He said this in reference to the Persian

mounted postal couriers who, without fail, carried out their dangerous tasks during war.

Had Herodotus been on the flightline during A-10 operations he could have easily applied the adage to the crew chiefs and added another laudatory sentence or two.

In every condition, in every climate imaginable – all over the world – crew chiefs can be found plying their trade ensuring Air Force pilots take to the skies in the best prepared aircraft in the world.

It's the crew chief who launches, recovers, services and inspects the aircraft. It's the crew chief who makes sure larger maintenance needs are addressed and, in short, it's the crew chief whose focus is to keep the jet and all of its systems fully mission capable.

"What makes the job unique is the vastness of opportunities to get experience," said Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Samson, now a flight chief and a crew chief with more than 20 years experience on F-4 Phantoms and A-10 Thunderbolt IIs. "I'm talking about the entire spectrum of the aircraft. You get experience in airframes, engines and hydraulics.

"When I was crewing jets, nothing happened on the airplane without me knowing about it," he said. "That's it. You really get to know the airplane because you put your heart and soul into it."

A crew chief's job is to make sure the aircraft is serviced and ready for flight; then launch and recover it to get it ready for the next flight.

Airman 1st Class Samantha Lane, a crew chief with seven-months experience and a student at the University of Central Missouri studying to be a commercial pilot, knew when she enlisted that the experience as a crew chief would be beneficial to her aviation career.

"After asking me what I wanted to do, (my recruiter) said, 'we've got office jobs, we've got munitions ...,'" Airman Lane said. "(I told him) I need to get my hands on the aircraft. I need to get as close to the aircraft as I can and learn more about the systems and how things work."

He told her he had just the ticket ... to be a crew chief ... and after receiving a brief tour before going to basic training she knew it was the right decision for her. Her experiences in technical school, during the follow-on training and working on the flight line have only reinforced that conclusion.

"It has been more than I expected," Airman Lane said. "When you are in tech. school they tell you when you get to your duty assignment you probably won't get to do much hands-on stuff right away, you know you have to work your way up before they'll let you handle the jet. When I got back here everyone was really nice and helpful. They wanted me to get in there, get my hands dirty and learn."

According to Sergeant Samson, learning continues throughout a career.

"To me, a crew chief never stops learning," he said. "If (a crew chief closes) the book on learning then, personally, they are no good to me anymore. I've been on A-10s since 1984 and I still learn something about those airplanes. Never stop learning."

It's a job that takes perseverance, dedication and a willingness to do just about anything to accomplish the mission. According to Sergeant Samson, a crew chief must have a desire and a



A-10s flying

dedication to aircraft maintenance ... someone who likes working on the airplanes ... who doesn't seek the pat on the back but does it because of personal pride and a sense of purpose. It has to be "a person that doesn't mind getting wet, a person that doesn't mind getting bloodied, dirty or greasy."

The job can be a bit consuming and the aircraft often exhibits a "personality," which forms an emotional attachment for the crew chief.

"I've always called my jets 'she' or 'old girl.'" Sergeant Samson said, "but my A-10 was (aircraft tail number) 123 and I called her 'Luck of the Irish.'"

"My F-4 was tail number 161 but we used to call it 'One Dog One' because it was one sorry dog. It was a high-maintenance airplane. I can't really say what we called my A-10 at (RAF) Bentwaters. You'll curse them, you'll want to kick them in the rear end but there is something about them that just makes you want to get up in the morning and give her everything you have. They do take on a personality."

There's visible proof of the dedication of 442nd FW crew chiefs that's most easily seen when the wing deploys, especially with another A-10 unit. To the untrained eye, an A-10 is an A-10 is an A-10.

However, when a 442nd A-10 is parked next to another unit's aircraft, the differences in cleanliness, maintenance and pride are striking.

It's something noted, often with disbelief, by their counterparts in other wings.

"I've had pilots (from other units) say, 'wow man, that jet looks like it just came out of the factory.'" Sergeant Samson said. "When I was pro-super over in Afghanistan, their pro-super came up to me and said, 'how come your jets look so much better than ours? You don't fly them during the week. There's no way you can.' You can really see the difference, the pride."

For the pilot's who fly the 442nd jets (every day of the week incidently) this translates into trust and confidence. According to Sergeant Samson, among wing crew chiefs it's by design.

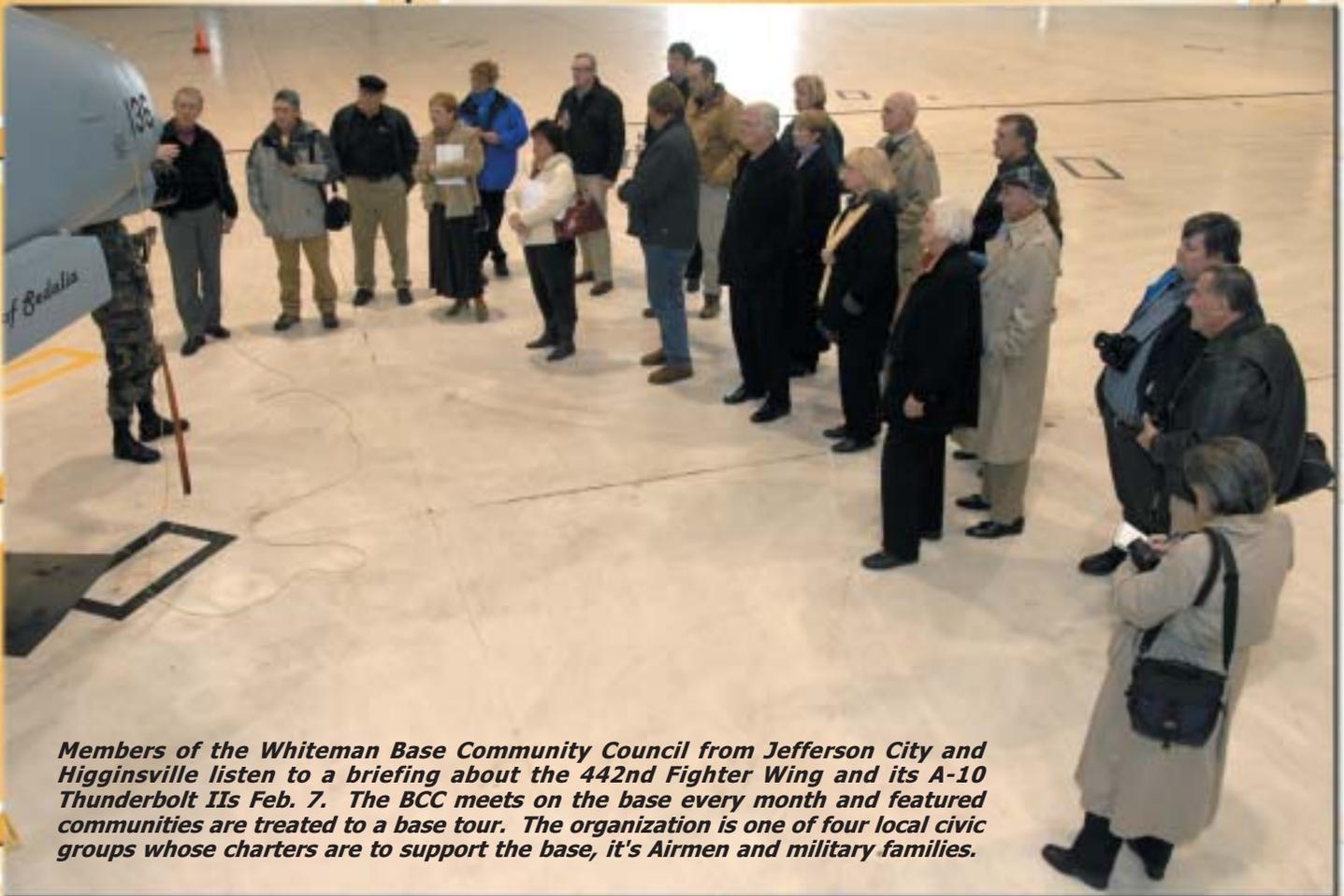
"A pilot must have respect for their crew chief and the crew chief must have respect for the pilot," Sergeant Samson said. "The pilot gets in that seat every day and I'm sure that there is an unspoken trust that whoever worked on this airplane ... whoever signed off the preflight ... did it with integrity and thoroughness. I tell these guys, 'Look, the pilot is putting his life in your hands.' When they step up to that airplane they are trusting that everything is right."



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

With an eye toward keeping the aircraft clean, Airman 1st Class Samantha Lane wipes up excess oil inside an A-10's wheel well.





Members of the Whiteman Base Community Council from Jefferson City and Higginsville listen to a briefing about the 442nd Fighter Wing and its A-10 Thunderbolt IIs Feb. 7. The BCC meets on the base every month and featured communities are treated to a base tour. The organization is one of four local civic groups whose charters are to support the base, it's Airmen and military families.

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. WILLIAM HUNTINGTON

Solid Gold Support

Civic groups essential to mission accomplishment

By Maj. David Kurle



Storm Walker, BCC member and Cole Camp police chief discusses an upcoming fund raiser.

As Airmen here work daily to provide airpower for America – whether it’s the close-in firepower of the A-10 or the global strike capability of the B-2 – there are Americans in Missouri wielding their own power to support Team Whiteman.

These Americans don’t wear uniforms, but they’re dedicated, effective and they’re organized.

“Everywhere I’ve been in my Air Force career, there’s been community support,” said Col. Steve Arthur, 442nd Fighter Wing

commander. “But not at the level seen here in Missouri.”

Whiteman enjoys the support of four organized civic groups: The Warrensburg and Sedalia military affairs committees, the Whiteman Base Community Council and the Whiteman-Area Leadership Council, which formed in 2005 as a response to the Base-Re-alignment and Closure process.

Mr. Joe Scallorns is a retired banker from California (the city in Missouri, not the state), who is a member of both the Base Community Council (BCC), where he served one year as its president, and the Whiteman-Area Leadership Council (WALC).

“(The four organizations) have different constituencies and different interests but a lot of the same people belong to the different organizations,” Mr. Scallorns said. “The groups really do compliment each other.”

For example, while the focus of the BCC and the military affairs committees is on supporting Airmen at Whiteman, the WALC’s focus is on economics, according to Mr. Scallorns. The other three organizations are made up of individual civic leaders while the WALC includes entities such as cities and counties, not just community and business leaders.

The WALC works with government officials at the state and Federal levels to advocate for the base, he said.

“By a conservative measure, Whiteman AFB has an annual economic impact of \$500 million and Fort Leonard Wood is three times that amount,” Mr. Scallorns said. “The State of Missouri has a big stake in its military installations and therefore should have a big interest and more support.”

One of the issues tackled by the WALC was the possibility of future encroachment around Whiteman. During the 2005 BRAC, the WALC raised money and hired a consultant who pointed out the lack of zoning laws on lands surrounding the base.

“Encroachment is prevented by proper zoning around the base,” Mr. Scallorns said. “We didn’t have a big encroachment issue but we also didn’t have any mechanism to prevent future encroachment.”

As a result of the WALC’s efforts, a state law was passed to put a “collar of zoning around the base,” he said. Other accomplishments include the establishment of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission, which works under the governor to advise Missouri lawmakers about issues pertaining to military bases in the state.

While military units are practically forbidden from impacting the political process, civilian organizations can voice their concerns directly to elected officials at all levels of government.

“These community leaders interact with our Congressional leaders,” Colonel Arthur said. “When these community leaders know what our requirements are, those get communicated to members of Congress.”

As the WALC meets only occasionally with base leaders, and then only to present plans of action, the Warrensburg Military Affairs Committee, Sedalia MAC and the BCC meet monthly with Airmen where they learn about the base’s missions and requirements.

“These organizations are typically made up of city leaders,” Colonel Arthur said. “These community leaders are making decisions on business, local-government policy and the social make-up of these towns.

“To have these leaders take an active part in our military missions has a huge impact,” he said. “In our monthly meetings we sit down with them and they talk about what’s going on in their communities and we tell them what’s going on with the base.”

Dale Buckingham is the president of the Whiteman Base Community Council, a retired command chief master sergeant from the 509th Bomb Wing and a member of the Warrensburg MAC.

“The sole mission of the BCC is to support all the military units at Whiteman AFB and their missions,” Chief Buckingham said. The BCC was formally organized in the 1980s from all the communities contained in what was then Whiteman’s missile field.

Left to right, Mr. Frank Sprinkles, Whiteman Base Community Council member from Sedalia; Mr. Bob Wasson, mayor of Sedalia; and Mr. Michael Kramer, BCC member from Lexington, listen to a report by Ms. Betty McDaniel, BCC member from LaMonte, March 6. The BCC Executive board meets monthly at Whiteman Air Force Base to support Airmen and their families.

The BCC expanded when the 442nd FW moved to the base in 1994, he said. “The 442nd had its own community council at Richards-Gebaur (AFB), which joined with the Whiteman BCC and that’s when the Kansas City connection was established.”

The BCC’s interest in supporting Airmen at Whiteman goes beyond economics, according to Chief Buckingham.

“Our largest focus is to support and provide a connection to the base and its functions,” he said. “We’re all part of an integrated society and our role is to assist and support endeavors the base may not be able to do on its own. It’s giving us the opportunity to give something back to the people who are protecting us.

“There is also the support people from the base provide to the communities by being involved in civic groups,” the retired chief said. “That’s a huge resource for communities to tap.”

Among its support activities, the BCC raises money through membership dues and an annual golf tournament, slated for April 19 at Whiteman’s Royal Oaks Golf Course, which directly benefits Whiteman’s Airmen.

The BCC plans to spend more than \$16,000 to support Whiteman in 2008. The 442nd Fighter Wing’s family-day picnic in October 2007 was funded by a generous donation from the BCC.

“When we pack up and go to battle, we know the community is going take care of our families,” Colonel Arthur said. “This is the no. 1 thing organizations like the BCC do.

“Having the leaders of the communities where our families live show a strong interest in Whiteman AFB translates into strong support for our families,” he said.

Probably the oldest base-support organization is the Sedalia Military Affairs Committee (MAC), which formed in 1943 to support Sedalia Army Airfield, later re-named after Lt. George Whiteman in 1955.

“We consider the base a great economic engine,” said Sedalia Mayor Bob Wasson. “But we have also worked hard to make our community offer quality of life options for Whiteman

Continued, next page ...

PHOTO BY MAJ. DAVID KURLE





PHOTO BY MAJ. DAVID KURLE

Whiteman Base Community Council president, Dale Buckingham, asks a question during a BCC executive board meeting March 6 at Whiteman Air Force Base. The BCC is one of four primary civic organizations that support the base, its mission, Airmen and military families. The other three are the Whiteman-Area Leadership Council, the Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee and the Sedalia Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee. The mission of all four groups is to support Whiteman Air Force Base, and by extension, the 442nd Fighter Wing.

Airmen and their families.

"The Sedalia MAC is actually intended to meet the changing needs of Whiteman," he said. "We try to meet the needs socially and otherwise for personnel at the base."

Like the Sedalia MAC, the Warrensburg MAC is part of its chamber of commerce. Among its activities, the Warrensburg MAC helps sponsor appreciation events for Whiteman's military members at University of Central Missouri football, basketball and baseball games.

"Warrensburg has always recognized that Whiteman AFB is a special part of our community," said Judge Robin Crouch, chairman of the Warrensburg MAC. "The military families are our friends and neighbors and we understand the importance of the personal relationships between the military and civilian communities and everything that flows from those relationships.

"We focus on making people feel welcome and at home here," he said.

"All of these organizations are an integral part of the 442nd Fighter Wing," said Chief Master Sergeant Allan Sturges, the 442nd FW's command chief. "They're out there directly helping Team Whiteman."

The support provided by civic leaders is so strong that Colonel Arthur considers these community groups essential to

the wing's mission accomplishment.

"We routinely, in the A-10 business, use local communities to aid in our training," Colonel Arthur said. "We set up training scenarios over the top of those communities and we create lots of noise and when these community leaders know what is happening in the 442nd, they can better inform the citizens in their communities."

Civilian base supporters have also been recognized nationally. In January, Mr. Scallorns was appointed by Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. T. Michael Moseley, to the Air Force Civic Leaders Group.

"This is a group of civilian advisors to the senior leaders of the Air Force," Mr. Scallorns said. "As informed individuals we can write letters to the editor or make statements about what's happening in the Air Force."

Mr. Scallorns' appointment came after years of local- and state-level service in support of Whiteman.

"The folks we meet in the military are our neighbors and the military just happens to be their full- or part-time job," Mr. Scallorns said. "These are highly-trained, well-educated, nice people and that adds to the social fabric of the community.

"People in the community want to support our nation's military because it's the right thing to do," he said.

Member of Doolittle's Raiders passes away

SAN ANTONIO — Retired Staff Sgt. Jacob DeShazer, 95, one of the famed “Doolittle Raiders,” who helped boost American morale in the early days of World War II with a surprise air attack on Japan, died March 15.

Born Nov. 15, 1912, in Salem, Ore., Sergeant DeShazer graduated from Madras High School in 1931. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1940.

Sergeant DeShazer, then a corporal, was the bombardier of Crew No. 16 flying the “Bat Out of Hell,” the last of the 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers to launch from the USS Hornet April 18, 1942, on the famous bombing run over Tokyo. Led by legendary aviation pioneer Lt. Col. James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle,

the raid is one of the most studied and talked about missions in the history of aerial warfare.



Staff Sgt. Jacob DeShazer, a member of the famed Doolittle Raiders, was the bombardier of Crew No. 16, the last of the 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers to launch from the USS Hornet April 18, 1942, on the famous bombing run over Tokyo.

All 16 bombers made it to their targets. However, they were forced to ditch or bail out over or along the Chinese coast because the task force had been spotted by Japanese picket boats, and Colonel Doolittle had decided to launch early — more than 600 miles from the Japanese mainland and 200 miles farther out than planned.

Sergeant DeShazer and the rest of his B-25 crew were forced to parachute into enemy territory

over Ningpo, China, when their B-25 ran out of fuel. The entire crew was captured by the Japanese the next day.

During his captivity, Sergeant DeShazer was sent to Tokyo with the survivors of another Doolittle crew, and was held in a series of prison camps in Japan and China for 40 months, 34 of which were in solitary confinement. During this time he was subjected to unbelievable cruelty, including being forced to watch helplessly while one of his friends died of slow starvation.

“My hatred for the enemy nearly drove me crazy,” he said. “My thoughts turned toward what I had heard about Christianity changing hatred between human beings into real brotherly love. I begged my captors to get me a Bible, and when the emperor of Japan told them to treat us better, I got one.”

Sergeant DeShazer was able to read the Bible for only three weeks. Still, its message had a lifelong impact on him. After his release, he attended college and then seminary in preparation to become a missionary.

Sergeant DeShazer returned to Japan in 1948, where he spent 30 years preaching and teaching Christianity.

He leaves behind his wife, Florence, and five children.

Deploying to CENTCOM?

Central Command Air Forces rearranges its name

SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. — As members of the 442nd Fighter Wing prepare to deploy, they might want to take note that the name of their gaining command there has changed.

What used to be United States Central Command Air Forces, or USCENAF, is now United States Air Forces Central, or USAFCENT.

On January 1, 1983, USCENAF was activated as the air component of the United States Central Command. Twenty-five years later, in a ceremony here March 3, 2008, it took on a new name, United States Air Forces Central, and an enhanced way of employing forces in war.

The official date of the change is March 1, and Lt. Gen. Gary North, USAFCENT and 9th Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony.

The ceremony also included the inactivation of the 609th Air Intelligence Group, Air Intelligence Squadron, Combat Operations Squadron, Combat Plans Squadron, Air Support Squadron and the Information Operations Flight; the redesignation and as-

sumption of command of the 609th Air Operations Group to the 609th Air Operations Center, which forms the core of the Combined Air and Space Operations Center and the 609th Air Operations Center, Detachment 1; and the activation and assumption of command of Detachment 5, U.S. Air Forces Central.

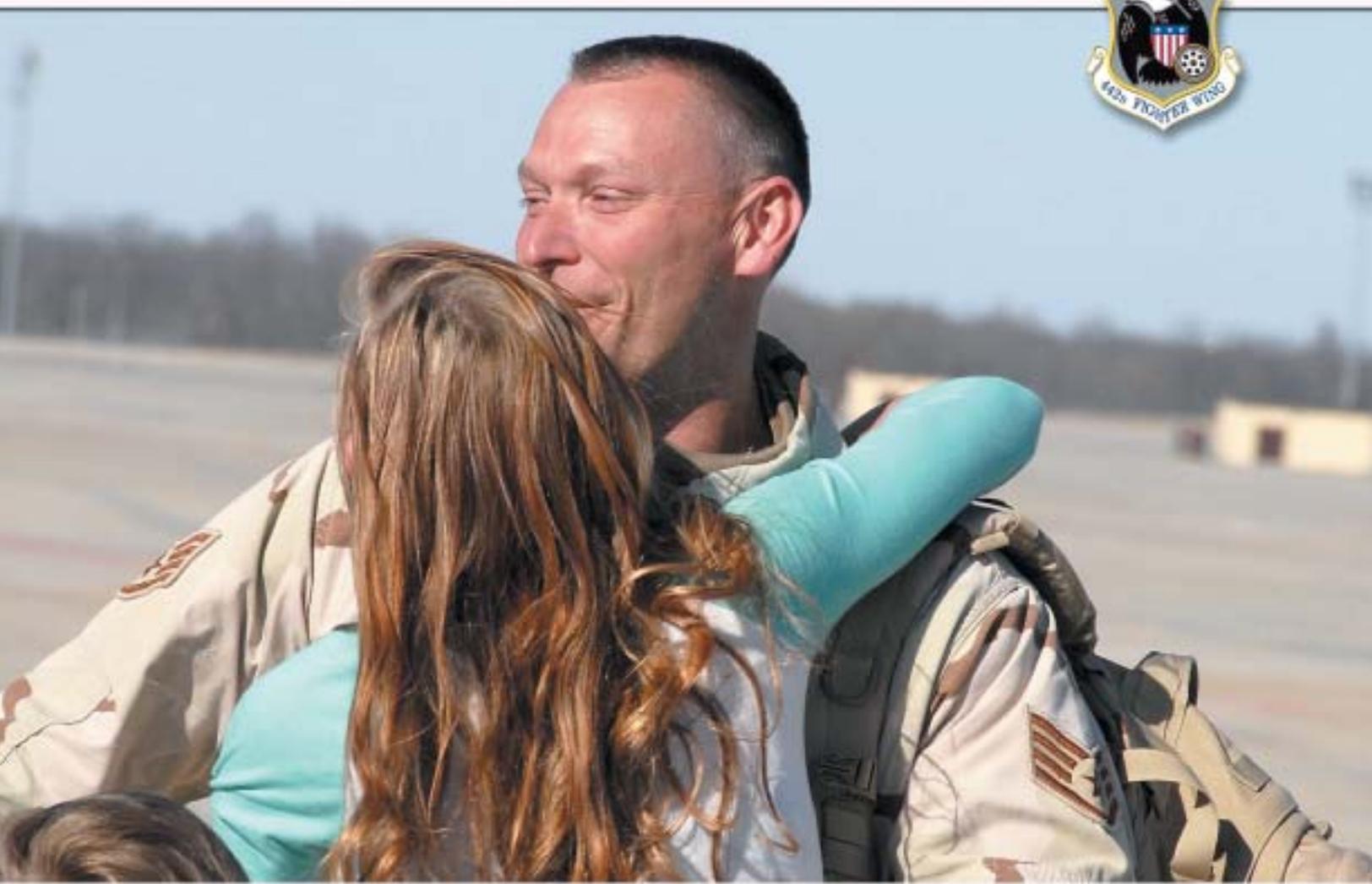
This redesignation effort marks the implementation of the chief of staff of the Air Force’s direction to establish an Air Force component organization that is structured to operate and train every day in its wartime configuration. Warfighting organizations are being stood up around the globe to enhance the operational level support, planning, command, control, and execution of air, space and information operations capabilities across the full range of military operations.

USAFCENT is responsible for air operations, either unilaterally or in concert with coalition partners, and developing contingency plans in support of national objectives for USCENAF’s 27-nation area of responsibility in Southwest Asia.

Staff Sgt. Eric Boxberger, 442nd Security Forces Squadron, is greeted by family members after his return from a six-month deployment to Iraq. Sergeant Boxberger returned home Feb. 29, 2008, along with approximately 30 other squadron members and Citizen Airmen from the 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

*DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
442ND FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
931 ARNOLD AVE.
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TO THE FAMILY OF:



We simply could not accomplish today's dynamic mission without the Total Force integration of our Guard, Reserve and Active Duty force. Gone are the "strategic reserve" days of the Guard and Reserve.

-- Honorable Michael W. Wynne, Secretary of the Air Force

442nd Fighter Wing on line -- www.442fw.afrc.af.mil