

Mohawk

TCTO reaction: Inspecting the Wing's A-10s

**Also inside:
Hogfest 2008**

442nd Made Hawgsmoke 2008 a Success

My sincere thank you to the men and women of the 442nd Fighter Wing for your outstanding efforts to make Hawgsmoke 2008 a huge success. Without the support of every member of the 442nd, Hawgsmoke 2008 could not have happened.

The 442nd is now a part of the Salina community. You will forever have our support on all of your future missions at home and overseas.

Your service to our country is appreciated more than you'll ever know. As a result of your commitment to duty, honor and service, all citizens enjoy our American freedoms.

The best of luck in preparing for next year's operational readiness inspection. The 442nd will again demonstrate excellence in performance.

Best Regards,



Timothy F. Rogers, A.A.E.
Executive Director
Salina Airport Authority



MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

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

December 2008
Charge-of-quarters



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the benefits
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A-10s to flight
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HOGFEST 2008

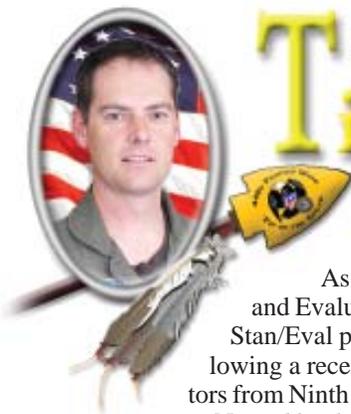
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MASTER SGT. BLAINE EDWARDS
442ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON
Call the CQ from on-base at 99-1 (660) 238-7428.
From a local off-base number (i.e., Concordia,
Warrensburg, Sedalia etc.), dial (660) 238-7428. To
call toll free from off-base, dial (800) 260-0253 and
press seven after the prompt.

COVER PHOTO: Staff Sgt. Micah Gaches, an aircraft structural technician in the 442nd Maintenance Squadron, inspects the wing of an A-10 Thunderbolt II for cracks Nov. 9 in the 442nd Maintenance Group's 5-Bay Hangar. For more on the Wing's response to an A-10 grounding order go to pages six and seven. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)



442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

LT. COL. MICHAEL LEONAS
442ND OPERATIONS GROUP

As the 442nd Operations Group Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, Lt. Col. Michael Leonas' oversight of the Group Stan/Eval program resulted in an overall outstanding rating following a recent formal inspection conducted by a team of evaluators from Ninth Air Force.

Named by the inspectors as a "Superior Performer," Colonel Leonas scored outstanding ratings in every category under his direction. This was an amazing accomplishment and becomes even more impressive after considering this inspection occurred on the heels of his return from an Afghanistan deployment this summer. Colonel Leonas is currently the Exercise Evaluation Team Chief for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection. His vision and insight have been exceptional and his Operational Readiness Exercise training scenarios are steering the Wing in the proper direction for the inspection. He is the Group's Patriot Excalibur specialist and continues to enhance productivity with this automated tool.

He is an experienced A-10 flight examiner and instructor pilot with nearly 2,000 A-10 hours, including some 100 sorties and 275 hours in Global War on Terrorism operations. Colonel Leonas' superb performance and sustained drive rank him as one of the Air Force's finest Stan/Eval chiefs.

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Volunteer vs. Mobilized

What Air Force reservists need to know about benefits

Provided by the Air Force Reserve Directorate of Strategic Communications at the Pentagon

Since Operation Desert Storm, the Air Force has increasingly relied on Reserve and Guard forces to meet combatant commander requirements. Demand for forces dramatically increased after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The Air Force initially met this demand primarily through partial mobilization of forces. Although Reserve and Guard forces are still being mobilized — particularly in stressed career fields like security forces, civil engineering and operations — the Air Force Reserve has subsequently strived to meet these requirements through volunteerism.

To accommodate this greater reliance on Reserve and Guard forces, Congress and the Department of Defense have revised law and policy, improving benefits in some cases and outlining accessibility to Reservists in others. The range and conditions of benefits — when they apply, when they don't — can be confusing: Does a Reservist get a particular benefit when he or she meets a contingency requirement by volunteering as opposed to being mobilized?

For the most part, the answer to this question is yes. However, there are some cases where the benefits for volunteers as opposed to people who are mobilized are different.

As Reservists are only mobilized in support of contingencies, this article examines the applicability of benefits for volun-

teers only in the context of contingencies. Moreover, since mobilizations in almost all cases last longer than 30 days, this article does not address the applicability of benefits for volunteers in situations involving 30 days or less.

This article focuses on 30 benefits or categories of benefits available to Reservists and Guardsmen that include pay, allowances and leave, retirement, health care, legal protections, education, insurance, survivor benefits, privileges, and small business support.

Of the 30 benefits or categories of benefits reviewed, 25 are the same for both volunteers and people who are mobilized. Five are different, depending on whether a Reservist is placed on active-duty status by way of volunteerism or mobilization for greater than 30 days. These five are legal assistance, income replacement, the 1095 rule, post-deployment/mobilization respite absence and follow-on mobilization. Following is a brief explanation of these five differences:

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Although legal assistance is available to Reservists and their dependents whenever on active-duty orders, a mobilized Reservist is eligible for continued legal assistance after demobilization. This entitlement is available when mobilized for more than 30 days and provides legal assistance to Reservists and dependents after release from active duty, for not less than twice the length of active duty, subject to the availability of legal resources. *See 10 U.S.C. § 1044, as amended P. Law 110-181, section 541; 122 Stat. 114.*

INCOME REPLACEMENT

In order to qualify for income replacement of up to \$3,000 per month, a Reservist must be involuntarily mobilized (not on voluntary orders) for any full month following the date on which the member (a) completes 547 continuous days of active duty under involuntary mobilization order; (b) completes 730 cumulative days of active duty under an involuntary mobilization order in the previous 1,826 days; or (c) is involuntarily mobilized for a period of 180 days or more within 180 days of release from a period of 180 days or more of active duty.

This income replacement is only the difference between the member's average civilian income and the total military compensation, when the member's civilian pay was more. This entitlement is not applicable to federal employees and is set to expire at the end of the 2008 calendar year. *See 37 U.S.C. § 910, as amended, P. Law 110-181, section 604; 122 Stat. 145.*

THE 1095 RULE

Reservists may serve on active-duty orders for 1,095 days (three years) of the previous 1,460 days (four years). If Reservists serve in excess of this limitation, then they must be counted against active-duty or active Guard and Reserve end-strength limits, unless these Reservists serve on active duty under certain excluded categories.

Days spent on mobilization orders are excluded, as are days on annual tour, days spent as an AGR, duty performed before first entering the Selected Reserve and certain training tours.



Senior Airmen Ulisses Cortez and Timothy Miller lead a line of Citizen Airmen from the 442nd Maintenance Group up the stairs to a waiting aircraft at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., May 6, 2008, enroute to Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom. Maintenance deployments often rely on volunteers.

While the secretary of the Air Force may waive certain Reservists to count against active-duty or AGR end strength according to established criteria, waiver is not guaranteed.

These criteria, in order of priority, are members deployed to the area of responsibility; members directly supporting Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom or Noble Eagle; members supporting approved contingencies; members on operational-support orders; and members backfilling for active-duty members who are forward deployed in support of OEF, OIF or ONE. In the past year, more than 2,200 Reservists applied for waiver, while more than 1,600 were approved. *See 10 U.S.C. § 115, as amended, P. Law 110-181, sections 403(h), 416(b), 417; 122 Stat. 87, 91, 92.*

PDMRA

Secretary of defense policy establishes the post-deployment/mobilization respite absence (PDMRA) benefit. Department of Defense and AFRC guidance further delineate the policy. Essentially, PDMRA provides for paid days off after extended time spent deployed (minimum of one cumulative year within the last 72 months).

When mobilized, all time is credited toward PDMRA, whether deployed inside or outside the continental United States. By contrast, for volunteers, the benefit applies only when serving in certain designated locations and only if the member is subsequently mobilized within the next 72 months. *See Secretary of Defense Memorandum, 19 Jan 2007; OSD/PR Policy Letter, 15 Mar 2007, as amended 18 Apr 2007 and 24 May 2007; and HQ AFRC/A1 Policy Letter, 21 Feb 2008.*

FOLLOW-ON MOBILIZATION

Another difference between volunteering and being mobilized that could affect most Reservists is a secondary or follow-on mobilization. Current policy strives to minimize the disruption to a member's commitments outside the military.

Accordingly, the secretary of defense has established a desired ratio of time Reservists spend mobilized to time not mobilized. This ratio is currently 1 to 5, which means that a Reservist who spends a period of time being mobilized should expect five times that period at home station, not being mobilized.

A member who volunteers does not establish a new dwell period at home station by virtue of volunteering for a contingency. He or she can still be mobilized upon his or her return from voluntary duty, per the established ratio, based on his or her last mobilization.

It is also important to point out that this dwell rate is a planning objective and, as such, can be changed by the secretary of defense when the needs of the military require. *See Secretary of Defense Memorandum, 19 Jan 2007; OSD/PR Policy Letter, 15 Mar 2007, as amended 18 Apr 2007 and 24 May 2007; and HQ AFRC/A1 Policy Letter, 21 Feb 2008.*

SUMMARY

In order for the Air Force Reserve to continue fulfilling combatant commander requirements by way of volunteerism, while minimizing the disruptive effects of mobilization, it is imperative that Reservists have the facts.

The fact is a large number of benefits are the same, regardless of how the Reservist is placed on active duty. Where differences do exist, in most cases the benefits only become available after extensive time on mobilization orders or time spent in designated countries.

However, volunteerism may offer the Reservist greater flex-



Tech. Sgt. Craig Gall, a 442nd Security Forces Squadron fire-team leader, is silhouetted by the setting sun while on duty in Iraq. Security Forces is one of a number of high-demand career fields familiar with the rigors of mobilizations to support combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since these career fields deploy so often, the Air Force Reserve uses mobilizations to fill Aerospace Expeditionary Force taskings.

ibility and control since orders will be produced and amended (if necessary) locally. References are available to help clarify any misunderstandings about Reservist benefits.

Since benefits for Reservists are always subject to change, Reservists should keep abreast of the latest information available on the Web at <http://www.defenselink.mil/ra>.

BENEFITS: SAME OR DIFFERENT?

In the areas of retirement, health care, legal protections, education, insurance survival benefits and small business support the benefits for volunteering or being mobilized are identical. The differences lie in the areas of privileges and pay, allowances, leave and accessibility as shown below.

Privileges

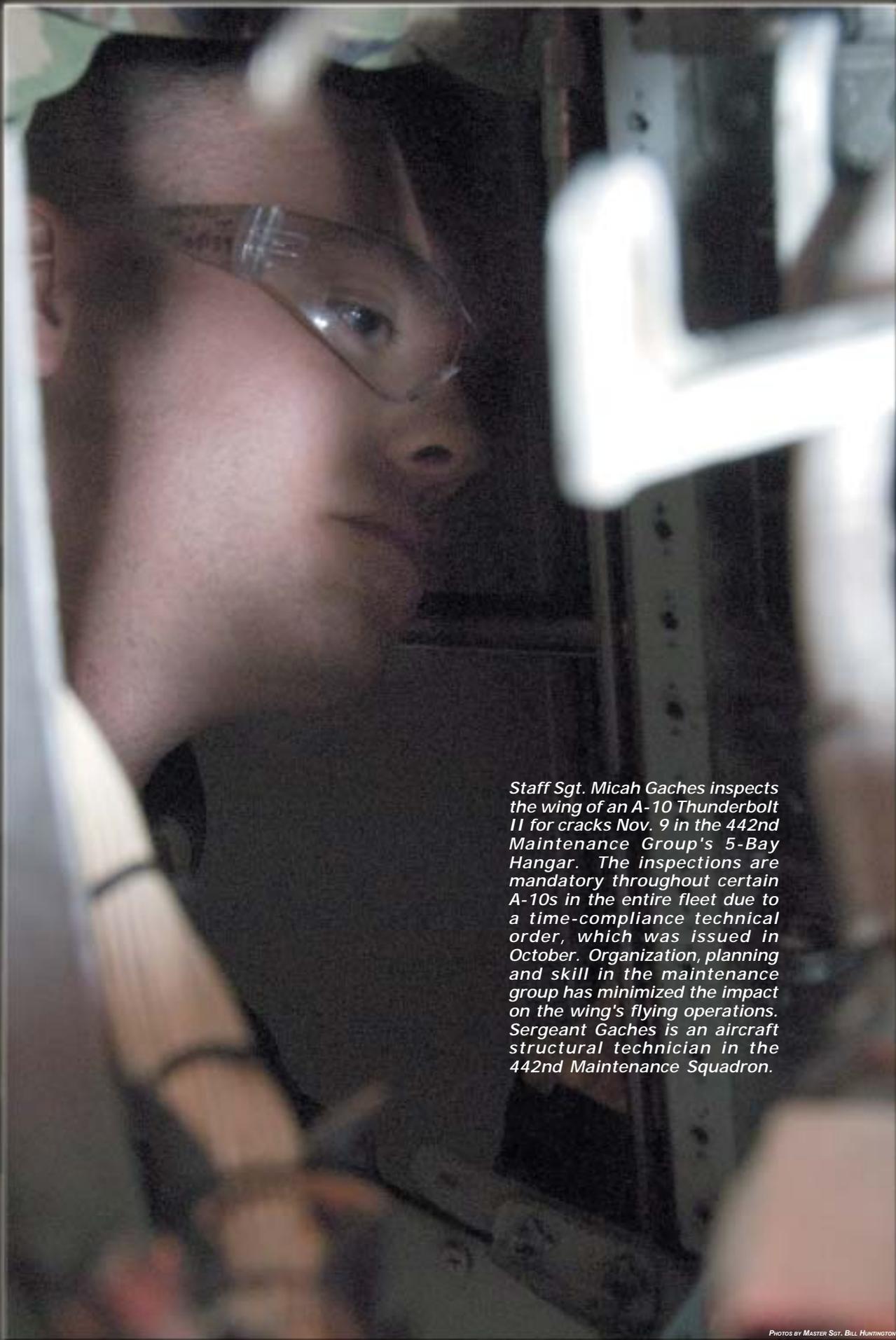
Pay, Allowances, Leave and Accessibility

SAME

Basic Pay
Basic allowance for housing (BAH)
Basic allowance for subsistence (BAS)
Special and incentive pays
Tax benefit for combat zone
Family separation allowance (FSA)
Hostile fire/imminent danger pay
Hardship duty pay (HDP)
Payment for unused leave (in support of contingency)
Leave accrual
Post-deployment reconstitution
Base privileges (commissary, BX, MWR services)
Space-A travel

DIFFERENT

Income Replacement
PDMRA
Follow-on mobilization
1095 Rule
Legal Assistance



Staff Sgt. Micah Gaches inspects the wing of an A-10 Thunderbolt II for cracks Nov. 9 in the 442nd Maintenance Group's 5-Bay Hangar. The inspections are mandatory throughout certain A-10s in the entire fleet due to a time-compliance technical order, which was issued in October. Organization, planning and skill in the maintenance group has minimized the impact on the wing's flying operations. Sergeant Gaches is an aircraft structural technician in the 442nd Maintenance Squadron.

PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

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By Tech. Sgt. L

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Juggling Act

Maintenance and operations groups cooperate to complete A-10 inspections

Leo Brown

Members in the maintenance and operations groups are becoming heroes these days. With an Air Force-issued time-compliance technical order from the 442nd Maintenance Group is inspecting and repairing fasteners and cracks in 11 of the unit's 27 A-10s. Most of the affected aircraft are "original" wings, installed during original manufacture. The Air Force, roughly 130 A-10s are affected by the order.

A firm date for when the work is completed, immediate reporting – ending. Mandatory combat current phase inspections – needing to be done for cooperation between maintenance and operations has never been higher. Requirements, however, are meet-

ing and maintenance work. The 442nd Fighter Wing's John Hoff, 442nd Operations commander. "There's no issue. I've been here. I think it's the best relationship between the Air Force. There's cooperation on both sides and everybody."

They give us their requirements of missions – and we have a lot of aircraft we have available. Melissa Alexander,

operations scheduler with the 442nd Maintenance Operations Flight. "More than half your fleet and ops has been working with us to get it done."

"A couple sorties here and there," she said. "Things happen. We're juggling everything and still maintaining what we can. We don't want all the aircraft coming in for phase (inspections) at the same time. It's the crew chiefs and the sheet-metal guys and the reclamation guys – they're making the mission happen. We're proud in what we're doing."

Getting the opportunity to assess the severity of a crack can be a relief, according to Senior Master Sgt. Cary Brown, inspection flight

chief for the 442nd Maintenance Squadron.

"You have to remove the aft landing pod assembly," he said. "Just to inspect it is a day's work and that includes work from several shops. Once we have everything removed, it's pretty simple. (The) structures (shop) removes some fasteners and NDI (non-destructive inspection) puts in their probe to look for cracks. We'll then put in an engineering assistance request and give the information we find to the A-10 depot at Hill (Air Force Base, Utah). They'll send us back information on what we need to do next."

The coordination between various shops – fabrication, repair and reclamation, metals, structural maintenance, and the crew chief's community, among others – and the dedication of the Airmen involved have brought praise from several wing leaders.

"Our maintainers are the best in the world," said Col. Mark Clemons, 442nd Fighter Wing commander. "They've taken the initiative on something that looked like dire straits for us and turned it to where we're in the best position of any A-10 organization right now. Everybody knows what's going on and they have a game plan for the rest of our wing's fleet. We're doing things smart and it's a testament to what Gen. (John) Bradley and Gen. (Charles) Stenner have said – we have the best maintainers in the world here."

General Bradley, who recently retired as chief of the Air Force Reserve, led the 442nd Fighter Wing from 1989-1993. General Stenner assumed command of AFRC in June. He commanded the 442nd Fighter Wing from 1997-1998.

"Our wing has Airmen who have so much talent," said Lt. Col. Anne Yelderman, 442nd Maintenance Squadron commander. "They are truly master craftsmen. It's absolutely incredible to watch them as they gather and feed-back information as they're teaching and learning. They're at the heart-beat of how to solve this problem, which has far-reaching implications across the entire fleet."

Regardless of what happens at other A-10 units, confidence is sky-high that 442nd Fighter Wing Airmen will keep doing what they've been doing, according to Colonel Vander Linden.

"We're here to produce safe, flyable airplanes to get the mission done and we'll keep on doing that," he said.



Staff Sgt. Micah Gaches checks the rivets on a 442nd Fighter Wing A-10 as part of a mandatory inspection across the Air Force's A-10 fleet to look for very small cracks in certain airplanes.



Staff Sgt.
Devin Willis
Kansas area
Line Recruiter

Master Sgt.
Bob Shaffner
Whiteman AFB, Mo.
Senior Recruiter

**442nd Fighter Wing
Recruiting Team
1-800-257-1212**

Tech. Sgt.
Clark Gilleo
Whiteman AFB, Mo.
In Service Recruiter

Tech. Sgt.
Brad Grimmitt
Missouri area
Line Recruiter

442nd Fighter Wing recruiting excels again as AFRC announces top recruiters for 2008

By Staff Sgt. Kent Kagarise

For the second consecutive fiscal year, 442nd Fighter Wing recruiters have won the Top Outstanding Team Achievement Award given out by Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service.

The members of the Whiteman recruiting team are: Senior Master Sgt. James Frizen, Master Sgt. Jerry Hancock, Tech. Sgt. Clark Gilleo, Tech Sgt. Brad Grimmitt and Staff Sgt. Devin Willis.

For Senior Master Sgt. James Frizen this is the second time in his career he has had the privilege of winning this prestigious award back-to-back. He is very proud of his current team and their rare accomplishments.

"To get the team award means we all have to be the best of the best," he said. "Our goal is to always do better. This year we blew everybody out of the water. To be able to achieve this two years in a row is unheard of. I'm amazed!"

To put into perspective the 442nd Fighter Wing recruiters' achievements, in 2007 they exceeded their original goal by 180

percent. For 2008 the goal was exceeded by 215.2 percent. The closest competitor was the 908th Airlift Wing recruiters at Maxwell Air Force Base, which reached 168.9 percent, nearly a 45 percent difference.

The newest face to the wing's recruiting office at Whiteman Air Force Base is Tech. Sgt. Clark Gilleo who made his presence known by taking home the Top Rookie Recruiter Award, The Century Award and the Most Non-prior Service award (for the Central Recruiting Squadron).

"I knew recruiting wouldn't be easy, but I am very competitive. I don't like to lose, and my recruits reap the benefit of my work ethic," Sergeant Gilleo said.

To attain the Century-Club award a recruiter must exceed their original goal by 150 percent. This is an accomplishment that usually takes four to six years. Sergeant Gilleo shows no signs of letting up.

"My original goal for this month was four," he said at the end of October. "As of tomorrow I will have put nine new Airmen into the wing."



PHOTO BY MAJ. DAVID KURLE

New MDS commander

Col. Jerry Fenwick, right, accepts the flag of the 442nd Medical Squadron from Col. Mark Clemons, 442nd Fighter Wing commander, during a change of command ceremony Nov. 9 in the Whiteman Air Force Base Clinic.

Colonel Fenwick, who is on the clinical staff at Cox Health Hospitals in Springfield, Mo., and is a former active-duty Army physician, took command of the medical squadron during the event. The 442nd Medical Squadron maintains the health and welfare of approximately 1,200 Air Force reservists in the 442nd Fighter Wing.



ALL PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

Staff Sgt. Sarah Bower receives the 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's Junior Enlisted Member of the Year award from Lt. Col. Alan Priest, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander. Sergeant Bower was later named as the 442nd Maintenance Group's overall Junior Enlisted member of the Year for 2008.

Maintainers honor winners at Hogfest 2008

OVERALL 442ND MAINTENANCE GROUP
JUNIOR ENLISTED MEMBER OF THE YEAR
Staff Sgt. Sarah Bower

OVERALL 442ND MAINTENANCE GROUP
SENIOR ENLISTED MEMBER OF THE YEAR
Tech. Sgt. Michael Price

442ND MAINTENANCE SQUADRON JUNIOR ENLISTED MEMBER
Senior Airman Kyle Brown

442ND MAINTENANCE SQUADRON SENIOR ENLISTED MEMBER
Tech. Sgt. Robert Kjos

442ND MUNITIONS/ARMAMENT FLIGHT JUNIOR ENLISTED
MEMBER
Staff Sgt. Michael Harris

442ND MUNITIONS/ARMAMENT FLIGHT SENIOR ENLISTED
MEMBER
Tech. Sgt. Fred Hagar

442ND MAINTENANCE GROUP/MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS
FLIGHT JUNIOR ENLISTED MEMBER
Staff Sgt. Brett Koca

442ND MAINTENANCE GROUP/MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS
FLIGHT SENIOR ENLISTED MEMBER
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hinote

442ND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON
Junior Enlisted Member
Staff Sgt. Sarah Bower

442ND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON
SENIOR ENLISTED MEMBER
Tech. Sgt. Michael Price

442ND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON
ASSISTANT CREW CHIEF
Senior Airman Jessica Womrath

442ND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON CREW CHIEF
Tech. Sgt. Lanny Rex

442ND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON LOAD CREW
Master Sgt. Ken Temple
Tech. Sgt. Harold Stocking

Senior Airman Ashley Womack
442ND MAINTENANCE GROUP

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Staff Sgt. Don DeMarco

442ND MAINTENANCE GROUP
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Master Sgt. Pat Rogers

Running for the Reserve

Offutt intel. reservists complete 86-mile race

By Staff Sgt. Hillary A. Stonemetz
55th Wing Public Affairs

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. — Eight Citizen Airmen from the 610th Information Operations Flight participated in a grueling 86-mile relay race Oct. 11 from Omaha's Old Market to Lincoln's Hay Market.

The race, the inaugural Market to Market Relay, was the first long-distance relay race in Nebraska.

The relay was composed of 150 teams of six to eight people. The route snakes across the countryside along existing trail systems and back roads.

"We initially looked at the relay as a fundraising event for the flight's 25th birthday this month," said Lt. Col. Brad Hyndman, 610th IOF commander. "However, it morphed into more of a teambuilding and fitness event, as well as a potential Air Force Reserve recruiting event and a chance to put the Air Force Reserve in the public eye."

The 610th OIF, part of the 610th Intelligence Squadron, is an Air Force Reserve unit organized under, but geographically separated from, the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

According to Market to Market Relay organizers, the route was broken into 24 stages with each runner completing either three or four stages depending on the number of people on a team. Each stage varied in difficulty and length.

To prepare for the relay, some 610 IOF team members ran four to eight miles two to three times a week over a six week time period. Other team members ran marathons and other smaller races.

"The relay was a great way to get out and get moving while working on a teambuilding event with my unit," said Staff Sgt. Guillermo Rosas, 610th IOF intelligence analyst and team captain.

Each person on the team ran between six to 12 miles throughout the relay.

The relay was a fun day on the road with other runners, getting exercise and a close-up view of the area between Omaha and Lincoln, said Eric Miller, National Geospatial Intelligence imagery analyst.

"I enjoyed the camaraderie and encourage people to get out and participate in this relay next year," Sergeant Rosas said.

The 610th IOF team ran a total of 12 hours and 27 minutes and placed 102nd out of a total of 153 teams.

The team members were Colonel Hyndman, Sergeant Rosas, Tech. Sgt. Dave Woodcock, Mr. Miller, Airman 1st Class Christopher Patton, Senior Airman Matthew Decker, Senior Airman John Charles Horton and Staff Sgt. Shawn Bell.

For more information on the Market to Market Relay, visit www.markettomarketrelay.com.

SrA Chris Patton, Supply Management Technician for the 442nd Fighter Wing's 610th Intelligence Squadron, runs for a five mile stretch on one of the trails in the Market to Market Relay race from downtown Omaha to downtown Lincoln, Neb.



A pilot from the 442nd Operations Group's 303rd Fighter Squadron fires an A-10's 30-mm cannon over the Smoky Hill Range, Kan. The group recently scored an "outstanding" on an inspection of its standardization and evaluation program.

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON



Operations group flying high after stan.-eval. inspection

By Staff Sgt. Kent Kagarise

The 442nd Operations Group scored an "outstanding" rating on their standardization and evaluation inspection conducted Aug. 25 to 27 by a formal inspection team from Headquarters 9th Air Force.

The Standardization and Evaluation Program is a tool designed to maintain and monitor pilot qualifications in the A-10 and validates squadron training programs every four years.

A large part of the Ninth Air Force Formal Stan/Eval Visit consisted of individual pilot flight evaluations, during which evaluators ensured 303rd Fighter Squadron pilots were qualified in the A-10 and all its missions. In addition, the evaluators reviewed the unit's standardization and evaluation program, to include all documentation pertaining to each pilot's prior performance and qualifications in the weapons system.

The Ninth Air Force team administered 23 flight evaluations and eight simulator evaluations. Half of the 303rd Fighter Squadron pilots and all of the unit's own evaluators were inspected. Half the inspection grade was based on how well pilots performed, while the other half was based on how well the current program was executed and documented by the 442nd Operations Group.

"Our pilots and Standardization and Evaluation Program are at the highest level. I've never heard of anyone doing this well," said Lt. Col. Michael Leonas, chief of the Standardization and Evaluation Program here.

Colonel Leonas noted that the Stan/Eval Program is executed on behalf of Col. John Hoff, 442nd Operations Group Commander,

and Lt. Col. Mark Ernewein, 303rd Fighter Squadron commander, and pointed out much of the credit goes to the maintenance group, pilots, and especially Capt. Adam Ratican, 303rd FS pilot who spent many pain-staking hours checking publications and documents.

"One of the many aspects of the Stan/Eval program is to achieve a full confirmation in all aspects of flying," Colonel Leonas said. "The last couple of years the program has been tailored toward sorties in Afghanistan and now it's up to a higher threat for the up-coming Operational Readiness Inspection tasking."

"The wing should be very proud of this accomplishment," said Lt. Col. Kim Thein, Deputy Chief of 9th Air Force Stan/Eval and Team Chief for the Formal Visit. He went on to say, "These grades say a lot about the unit. I personally have never seen a flying organization score this high, although my team claims they saw one a couple of years ago...at any rate, this easily puts them in the top two."

The pride of the Wing is best expressed by Col. Mark Clemons 442nd FW Commander, "to have been Chief of Stan/Eval and now a wing commander, I've never seen an inspection as great as this one – bar none! It's a tribute to the men and women of the 442nd FW to perform with such high professionalism and attain such a result."

The score "OUTSTANDING" which is written in bold lettering on the front of the Ninth AF Stan/Eval inspection report is defined as: "Performance and procedures in effect were error free and far exceeded all requirements. Program serves as a model others should emulate."

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442ND FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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Chief Master Sgt. Al Sturges, 442nd Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, addresses a gathering at the American Legion Hall in Sunrise Beach, Mo., to commemorate Veterans Day Nov. 11. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)

TO THE FAMILY OF:



"As we look forward to this Holiday Season and the start of 2009, I want to express my gratitude to each of you, your families and employers for the sacrifices you make for our great country each and every day.

Much has been asked and each reservist and family member has given of themselves for their country.

You've stepped up to the challenge smartly, without hesitation."

- Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr.,

Commander, Air Force Reserve Command

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