

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing



**ROVER provides
pilot's-eye view
to ground forces**

Take some time for your family in 2008

By Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley

Some lasting memories I will always cherish from my Air Force career are the tarmac reunions of loved ones and our returning Airmen warriors. Witnessing spouses, parents and children with tears of joy running down their cheeks simply leaves one speechless and reminds us what is truly important in life. Those who sit on the other side of the dining room table from us, our Air Force families, are an essential element of our Air Force and we owe them a great debt of gratitude.

Our nation is at war. During this critical time, our Airmen are accomplishing incredible feats in the Global War on Terror fight. We are busy, both our deploying Airmen and those Airmen left behind to carry on the home station mission.

We all know being part of a military

family isn't easy. From frequent moves and unpredictable duty schedules, to missed birthdays, anniversaries and holidays, we ask a lot of our families. Their willingness to stand strong in the face of these demands is vital to our success and inspires us to achieve greater things – to go the extra mile.

We would like for things to become easier. The reality is, we continue fighting terrorism and defending freedom. Our nation and our way of life depend on completing these important missions.

For victory, we will need our families to stand beside us and provide the confidence, love and unwavering support necessary to finish the tasks that

lie ahead of us.

Set aside time to honor spouses, children, and parents for providing the rock-solid foundation on which our great Air Force has stood for more than six decades. Serving our nation takes desire, dedication and determination. We see these qualities every day in our Airmen and their families. Our families then go above and beyond and provide inspiration, comfort and support. We should all take the time to recognize our family's selfless sacrifice and offer our heartfelt thanks.

So I ask this of all Airmen – be there for your family. Take the extra time to attend your son's or daughter's sporting event, school play or parent and teacher night. Get home on time when you can and enjoy some family fun time. Contact your parents and let them know how you are doing.

Be there for your family, because they have been there for you.



Try new ingredients in your 'diversity cake'

By Maj. Jennifer Burgett
442nd Military Equal Opportunity office

Have you ever tasted something homemade that tickled your taste buds to the point of requesting the recipe?

Then, when you make it for yourself, it just doesn't have the same appeal?

You have fallen victim to the oldest trick in the cookbook.

The cook will leave out an important ingredient in order to keep anyone else from making that special dish.

Living in a world without diversity is like getting a recipe without those special ingredients. The different nationalities and cultures that make up our world are exactly what are necessary to bring flavor to our cake.

Typically, we as humans are afraid

to taste something we have never seen before, but we can overcome that fear with a little more information.

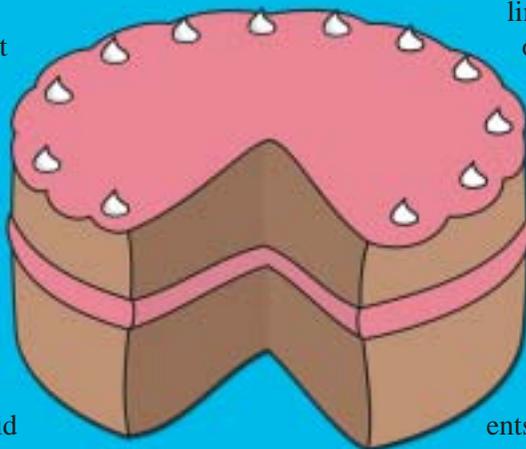
Some cultures may not appear to be what we want a steady diet of, but it is important to become more knowledgeable of why they taste the way they do. This allows us

to make an informed decision on how much to limit the amount of that culture we add to our cake.

Do not limit yourself to the ingredients passed down through the centuries inside your particular nationality or culture. You will be putting yourself on a diet similar to unsalted crackers.

Instead, take time to learn about the cultures and nationalities that you've been afraid to taste.

You may find all the right ingredients to make your perfect Diversity Cake.



MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

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January 2008 Charge-of-quarters



MASTER SGT. LARRY WASHINGTON 442ND MISSION SUPPORT FLIGHT

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: An A-10 Thunderbolt II from the 442nd Fighter Wing flies over Missouri Nov. 3 off the wing of a KC-135 Stratotanker. An enhancement to the wing's LITENING-AT targeting pods enable A-10 pilots to broadcast live video to ground forces during combat operations. For more about ROVER, see pages six and seven. (Photo by Master Sgt. William Huntington)

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442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

TECH. SGT. ROBERT FISCHER

Tech. Sgt. Robert Fischer is the 442nd Security Forces Squadron's Assistant NCOIC of Combat Arms.

Known as a quiet professional, he goes about the business of ensuring that every member of this wing is ready to answer the call and take the fight to the enemy. An integral part of Sergeant

Fischer's job is to inspect more than 400 weapons and assist in the qualification of more than 650 Airmen annually. He consistently demonstrates an imaginative teaching style geared toward getting the most out of vital training time. He's been commended on numerous occasions by both superiors and students for presenting weapons training in a way that allowed students to easily understand the key concepts in shooting, and how to focus and successfully implement those concepts during battle conditions.

Sergeant Fischer is always eager to take on added responsibilities for CATM beyond his normal duties. He was selected to be the 442nd Fighter Wing's weapons inspection program NCOIC. He ensured that more than 1,000 weapons were inspected, inventoried and stored properly. He was recognized by inspectors for outstanding managerial skills and his areas were lauded as the best seen to date.

During the Wing's recent Unit Compliance Inspection, Sergeant Fischer played an intrinsic role. Due mainly to his hard work, his section was recognized by inspectors as being a "flawless" organization, earning them the "Safety in Action" award for superior UCI results. His positive attitude, mentoring skills and hands-on approach to teaching are at the core of what makes him the ultimate team player.

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GRAPHIC BY TECH. SGT. JOHN VERTRESE

Enlisted promotion changes take effect

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

A few changes are on the horizon concerning promotions for enlisted Airmen. Specifically, eight changes took place January 1, 2008, which affect all enlisted ranks.

Directed by Air Force Reserve Command and its A1, or personnel directorate, one of the changes that affects first-term Airmen includes promoting E-1s through E-4s on their promotion eligibility date, versus waiting until the first day of the following month to promote them.

"Under the current system, if 'A1C Jones' was eligible for promotion on Nov. 15 – if he was not in IADT (initial active duty for training) status – he'd have to wait until Dec. 1 to get promoted. Now, he can get promoted Nov. 15," said Captain Joe Walter, 442nd Mission Support Flight commander.

Only Airmen who are in Basic Military Training School or the technical school following BMTS are considered in IADT status.

"All promotions are important," Captain Walter said. "But the ones from E-1 to E-4 are especially important – emotionally and financially – for young Airmen. It's all about retention, especially with our operations tempo. This change, hopefully, will positively affect retention."

Senior Master Sgt. Al Sturges, who became the wing's command chief Jan. 1, 2008, agreed that this change was good news for young troops.

"They're not 'penalized' for anything and they're being rewarded immediately for that promotion," he said.

One change affects technical, master and senior master sergeants. They need to have at least 24 months left on their enlistment before being considered for promotion to E-7, E-8 or E-9. Under the current system, there is no such requirement.

"The Air Force Reserve wants to make sure they're getting more bang for their buck," Captain Walter said. "If we're promoting to those higher ranks, we want to ensure it's worth it."

Another change affects senior master sergeants who have been selected for chief master sergeant. These reservists must attend the regular component of the Chief Leadership Course or the reserve component of the Chief Orientation Course prior to sewing on the chief's stripe.

"Chiefs used to have to go to a chief leadership class within two years after being promoted," Sergeant Sturges said. "Now

they have two options, but it must be done before they get promoted to chief."

Another change affects members who have unexcused absences from their reserve duty. Airmen with just one such absence within a 12-month period from their promotion-effective date are ineligible for promotion.

The current policy allows for promotion consideration for members with nine or fewer unexcused absences.

"This is a no-brainer," Sergeant Sturges said. "We're holding our Airmen accountable."

Under the new instruction, promotion enhancement program (PEP) boards will be reduced from two per year to one. The promotion effective dates for members promoted under PEP will be Oct. 1.

"It's very important for supervisors to be ready if they're going to nominate someone for a PEP promotion," Captain Walter said. "They have to make sure paperwork and EPRs (enlisted performance reports) are in line."

Other changes include:

- Deleting the requirement for Active-Guard-and-Reserve (AGR) Airmen to serve at least 90 days before they are considered for promotion. After meeting promotion eligibility requirements, enlisted AGRs will be promoted on the first day of the following month.

- Air Force Instruction 36-2502 will no longer allow promotion consideration to take place within 12 months of a BRAC, a unit deactivation or other programmatic actions.

- The new posthumous promotion policy allows promotion for members who have been selected for promotion, then die before the effective date.

"Most of these changes are not really major shifts," Sergeant Sturges said. "They are just a 'house cleaning' of sorts. They bring a little more consistency."

"These changes give our Airmen opportunities and a level of training that our active-duty counterparts have," Captain Walter said. "They're another step toward integrating with the active duty and toward becoming a total force."

"The changes are creating benefits, but they're also putting more teeth into promotions," he said. "You have to do things to get promoted. It's all about meeting the mission."

"All promotions are important, but the ones from E-1 to E-4 are especially important – emotionally and financially – for young Airmen."

— Capt. Joe Walter, 442nd Mission Support Flight

LEGISLATION HELPS HOLD DOWN TRICARE COSTS

By Staff Sgt. Dan Lanphear
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Starting Jan. 1, civilian employers were longer allowed to offer their Tricare-eligible employees incentives to use the government plan instead of their company's group health plan.

By law, this ruling applies to all employers, including state and local governments with 20 or more employees.

The 2007 John Warner National Defense Authorization Act prohibits employers from offering these incentives after evidence showed employers attempted to shift their group health plan costs to Tricare.

Tricare is the Defense Department's healthcare plan for military members, retirees and their families. Medical and dental services come through a worldwide network of providers, military treatment facilities and clinics. More than 9.1 million people, including Air Force reservists, are eligible beneficiaries.

DOD officials urge people to look closely at all available health care options from Tricare and their current employer to decide what is best for them and their families. Eligible persons, including traditional reservists, can enroll in TRICARE without taking employer incentives if desired.

Employers can still offer "cafeteria plans" to Tricare-eligible employees if the plans are offered to all employees, including those not eligible for Tricare. Cafeteria plans are "fringe benefits" under which, employees may choose from various options to fit their healthcare needs, up to a specified dollar value.

More information about Tricare is available online at <http://www.tricare.mil> (Air Force Reserve Command News Service from a Tricare news release)

GETTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT IS EASY WITH TRICARE

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFP) — Tricare officials want non-active-duty beneficiaries to know that if they need help, there is no reason to hesitate.

Non-active-duty beneficiaries may make their first eight outpatient behavioral health care visits per fiscal year — Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 — without a referral from a primary care manager or prior authorization from their managed care support contractor.

Family members sometimes avoid getting treatment because they fear it could reflect poorly on the servicemember.

To avoid the 50 percent cost share for behavioral health visits, Tricare Prime beneficiaries must seek care from a Tricare network provider, and Tricare Overseas Program beneficiaries must seek care from an overseas partnership provider. Tricare Standard beneficiaries are encouraged to seek care from a Tricare authorized provider to reduce their out-of-pocket expenses.

Beneficiaries may seek help from the following Tricare authorized behavioral health professionals: psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, certified psychiatric nurse specialists, clinical social workers, and certified marriage and family therapists.

After the first eight visits, the beneficiary must obtain authorization from his or her MCSC for additional visits.

An anonymous behavioral health self-assessment aid is available at www.militarymentalhealth.org/chooselang.asp. The Military One Source Web site is also useful for resources and information on behavioral health.

For more information about treatment options, providers or prior authorization requirements, visit the Tricare mental health and behavior Web page.

Wing announces quarterly, annual award winners

First Sergeant of the year
and
the second half of 2007

Senior Master Sgt.
Tim Storms,
442nd Maintenance
Squadron



Senior NCO of the year
and
the second half of 2007

Master Sgt.
Michael Bannon,
442nd MXS



NCO of the fourth quarter

Tech. Sgt.
Craig Burton,
442nd Fighter Wing staff



NCO of the year

Staff Sgt.
Jennifer Ianno,
303rd Fighter Squadron



Airman of the year
and
the fourth quarter

Senior Airman
Darren Hardt,
442nd Civil Engineer
Squadron





RO

By Maj. David K

Flying TV station

In addition to better communication and coordination between A-10 pilots and ground controllers, ROVER can be used as a "non-traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance" tool. The enhancement to the wing's LITENING-AT targeting pods turns the A-10 into a kind of flying television station, able to broadcast live video imagery to troops on the ground equipped with the proper receivers.

Eye in the sky

The remotely operated video enhanced receiver, or ROVER, is an enhancement to the 442nd Fighter Wing's LITENING-AT targeting pods, which allows A-10 pilots to use the pod's cameras to capture and transmit video imagery to troops on the ground. While the pilot looks at video of a target on a display in the cockpit, the same imagery can be broadcast and looked at by ground forces.

A picture – or when it comes to the mission carried by the port mission.

The enhancement receiver, or simply by 303rd Fighter Squad ground during combat.

“The most difficult ground describing a FW commander and tally different than v see a picture.

“It really clarified said.

ROVER is not a replacement before but has and Enduring Freedom combat.

Now, new ROVER pilots will once again be sent to Afghanistan.

ROVER makes the pod, which boots

What the receiver of JTA



Enhanced communication

Traditionally, close air support has been an exercise in properly identifying a target based on two different perspectives, one from the ground and one from a fast-moving aircraft. In the past, "talk-ons" to targets could be difficult because ground controllers and pilots were seeing the action from two different points of view. With the ROVER modification to the 442nd FW's LITENING-AT targeting pods, the pilot can broadcast his or her point of view to the controller on the ground so they both operate from a common perspective. Future plans for ROVER include a device that will allow ground controllers to "paint" symbology on the video imagery, like a "tele-strator" during the broadcast of a football game.

GRAPHIC BY MAJ. DAVID KURLE

ROVER: This dog will hunt

Curle

...t, in this case a video – really is worth a thousand words
...es to an enhancement on the LITENING-AT targeting pod
...e 442nd Fighter Wing's A-10 aircraft for its close-air-sup-

...ent, known as the remotely operated video enhanced re-
...its acronym, ROVER, lifts some of the fog of war and allows
...dron A-10 pilots to transmit real-time video to troops on the
...bat missions.

...cult part of close air support was having a guy on the
...target to a guy in the air," said Col. Steve Arthur, 442nd
...d veteran fighter pilot. "What he sees on the ground is to-
...what you see at 10,000 to 15,000 feet. It's so much easier to

...ies the discussion between the pilot and the ground," he

...new to the 442nd. The wing was in possession of the modifi-
...d to give them up to units deploying to Operations Iraqi
...om. In fact, the wing's pilots have flown with the system in

...VER kits for the wing's targeting pods are arriving and 303rd
...n continue training with ROVER in preparation for a deploy-
...n next spring.

...es use of the existing imagery system in the LITENING-AT
...asts day-light, as well as night-time infrared video cameras.
...ROVER does is process the video then transmits it to a re-
...on the ground carried by a joint terminal attack controller, or
...AC, who is responsible for coordinating air strikes and advis-
...ing ground commanders about when and where to employ
...air power in the heat of battle.

"When the signal from the pod hooks up with
the JTAC, he can see on his display exactly what
I'm seeing in the cockpit," said Maj. Tony
Roe, an A-10 pilot and tactics officer in
the 303rd FS. "So, all the things we
see for target talk-ons, he sees
right there on his video
screen."

Talking an aircraft
onto a target has

traditionally been done through verbal radio communication between a pilot
and the JTAC in an Army unit on the ground. These "talk-ons" could take a lot
of valuable time before both the pilot and JTAC were confident they were both
seeing the same thing.

"Talk-ons could be long and painful," Major Roe said. "ROVER has the
capability to hasten finding the target, resulting in faster bombs on target."

Before an aircraft can execute an air strike during a close-air-support mis-
sion, the pilot receives permission from a JTAC or commander on the ground to
ensure minimal collateral damage and avoid injury to friendly forces.

Senior Airman Zach Laird is a JTAC with the 10th Air Support Operations
Squadron, based with the Army's First Infantry Division at Ft. Riley, Kan. He
used ROVER to coordinate air strikes and advise ground commanders during a
deployment to Iraq.

"ROVER definitely makes it safer because it gives everyone on the ground
a 'warm-fuzzy' about what the pilot in the aircraft is seeing," he said. "I could sit
there with ground commanders and see exactly what the pilots were seeing."

JTACs like Airman Laird operate the ground stations that receive the video
from the LITENING-AT pods slung underneath Air Force strike aircraft. The
whole set-up consists of a receiver with an antenna to receive and process the
digital video, which then displays on a rugged version of a lap-top computer.

"The only downfall to it is that you're not going to put it in your pack and
hump it somewhere," Airman Laird said. JTACs usually set the system up in a
tactical operations center or a vehicle.

In addition to close air support missions, the ROVER has also turned the A-
10 into a "non-traditional intelligence and surveillance" platform, according to
Major Roe.

"In other words," he said, "the JTAC can be miles away and looking at real-
time video of activity at another 'named area of interest.'"

If ground forces are located elsewhere, they can, by looking at video trans-
mitted from ROVER, keep an eye on what is happening in a location they have
visited previously or will be visiting at a later time, Major Roe said.

The airborne component of ROVER is actually a video link module, a black,
metal box, a little smaller than a shoe box, which fits neatly into an existing
space in the LITENING-AT targeting pod. The ROVER then transmits through
a small, round antenna that sticks out about an inch from the bottom of the pod
and has the diameter of a silver dollar.

"As long as the LITENING pod is ROVER-capable (meaning it is equipped
with the antenna) all we do is insert the box," said Master Sgt. Daniel Thessen,
an avionics technician in the 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's Specialist
Flight. "It works with the LITENING pod's existing cameras, they just ran a
video line and tapped off of the existing video to transmit it."

"LITENING is constructed in modules, so it's designed to be 'plug-and-
play,'" said Master Sgt. Daniel Abrams, also an avionics technician. "As long
as the pods are configured for ROVER, we don't have a problem updating
them."

Both master sergeants agreed that the biggest impact to maintenance
would be switching the few ROVER-equipped pods in the 442nd inventory be-
tween aircraft each day so more A-10 pilots could train with it.

As the global war on terror evolved into counter-insurgency op-
erations, the importance of hyper-precise air strikes and minimizing
collateral damage demonstrated the need for a tool to aid in the deci-
sions to release weapons from aircraft, Colonel Arthur said.

That tool is the ROVER-equipped LITENING-AT pod.

"I think ROVER got funded just because of the nature of what we're
doing," Colonel Arthur said. "When you look at battles like Fallujah, it's
door-to-door combat and being able to better coordinate with forces on the
ground is crucial."





Lt. Col. Eric Vander Linden, 442nd Maintenance Group commander, presents the Group's Junior Enlisted Member of the Year award to Senior Airman Donald DeMarco, 442nd Maintenance Squadron, at the 2007 Hogfest's Mardi Gras-themed celebration held at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Dec. 1.

Hogfest 2007 award winners

**442nd Maintenance Squadron
Junior Enlisted Member of the Year**
Senior Airman Donald Demarco

**442nd Maintenance Squadron
Senior Enlisted Member of the Year**
Tech. Sgt. Geary Rose

**442nd Munitions/Armament Flight
Junior Enlisted Member of the Year**
Airman 1st Class Jacob Santos

**442nd Munitions/Armament Flight
Senior Enlisted Member of the Year**
Master Sgt. Leroy Williams

**442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Junior Enlisted Member of the Year**
Senior Airman Donald Johnston

**442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Senior Enlisted Member of the Year**
Master Sgt. John Kuiper

**442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Assistant Crew Chief of the Year**
Staff Sgt. Kevin Balandron

**442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Crew Chief of the Year**
Tech. Sgt. Tyler Bane

**442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Load Crew of the Year**
Master Sgt. Robert Holtshouser
Tech. Sgt. Dennis Jensen
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth "Butch" Portell

**442nd Maintenance Group/Maintenance
Operations Flight
Junior Enlisted Member of the Year**
Staff Sgt. Caleb Mitchell

**442nd Maintenance Group/Maintenance
Operations Flight
Senior Enlisted Member of the Year**
Tech. Sgt. Tami Goodhart

**442nd Maintenance Group
Junior Enlisted Member of the Year**
Senior Airman Donald Demarco

**442nd Maintenance Group
Senior Enlisted Member of the Year**
Tech. Sgt. Tami Goodhart

**2007 Outstanding
Community Service Award**
Staff Sgt. Chris Hinote

2007 Outstanding Achievement Award
Master Sgt. Charles Cousins



442nd SFS On guard in Iraq

Tech. Sgt. Jeff Bousman, 442nd Security Forces Squadron, (above) mans a perimeter defensive position while fellow 442nd SFS member Staff Sgt. Bridget Lund, (left) patrols the perimeter of Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

Sergeants Bousman and Lund, along with more than 20 other 442nd SFS members are currently deployed to Iraq to provide base security and conduct other combat operations. According to Lt. Gen. John Bradley, commander of Air Force Reserve Command, nearly 95 percent of SF personnel at the base are Air Force reservists. (Courtesy photos)

In memoriam ***Senior Airman*** ***Spencer Knapp***

442nd Maintenance Squadron

July 17, 1988 - Nov. 25, 2007



Senior Airman Spencer D. Knapp, 442nd Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight, lost his life in a single car accident while traveling through the state of Idaho Nov. 25.

Airman Knapp, age 19, was survived by his parents and two sisters.

Airman Knapp was a member of the very first graduating class at Lee's Summit West High School and a member of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program there. It was a group that he kept close ties with. Even after attending basic training, Airman Knapp would still return to visit the JROTC instructors and students on a regular basis. The Lee's Summit AFJROTC has instituted the Spencer Knapp Memorial Scholarship for a graduating cadet every year in Spencer's memory.

Airman Knapp's mother, Pam Lobell, reflected on his life. "If I dare say it, Spencer truly loved basic training and cherished his career in the Air Force Reserve," she said. "His desire was to win the war on terrorism and carry the God advantage of his faith in that battle. He frequently discussed with me his desire to go to Afghanistan because he was single and didn't have any children. He didn't want to see mothers and fathers torn from their families. He thought if he went to defend

his country at least one person with a family would be able to stay home.

"Spencer wanted to be in the military since fourth grade and he accomplished it. He wanted to fight the war on terrorism and he made the list to go to Afghanistan. He wanted kids to have more books and learn to read and even today children are still receiving books in his name. He wanted to bull ride and last summer he did. He gave all he had and lived life to the fullest. What he would want more than anything is for people to pause and think about what they will do with the time that they have left."

Members of the 442nd Fighter Wing have established a memorial fund in Airman Knapp's name. Those interested in donating to it should contact Senior Master Sgt. Tim Storms, 442nd Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, at (660) 687-3522 (weekdays), (660) 687-7752 (UTA weekends), (660) 909-3911 (Blackberry), (660) 233-2870 (Cell Phone), via email at timothy.storms@whiteman.af.mil or visit him at either his First Sergeant's office in the 5-bay hangar during the UTA or in the Wing's building 48 Budget Office during the week.

AF officials set new course in future support operations

By Richard Salomon
Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)— When it comes to people programs, community support and quality of life, there will soon be one organization on base that will handle it all — the force support squadron.

The new organization is the result of an ongoing Air Force-wide merger of mission support and Services Squadrons and is expected to be completed in about two years.

The new squadron will help streamline processes, maximize customer service and cut costs associated with maintaining separate organizations, said Col. Mike Gamble, the deputy director of strategic, plans and programs at the Pentagon.

"Because we're a leaner force, we need to focus on getting our people and organizations to operate at maximum efficiency," Colonel Gamble said. "This reorganization puts our manpower, personnel and services capabilities under one leadership 'hat,' which reduces overhead and gives our people in the field the flexibility to be more responsive to customers' needs."

The new FSS includes five flights: force development, manpower and personnel, Airmen and family services, sustainment services and community services. The new structure combines similar functional areas that already work closely together. For example, the sustainment services flight contains the food operations, fitness and wellness, and lodging branches.

"This is basically a behind-the-scenes change and should appear transparent to most Airmen," said Capt. Ronald Bell, the

chief of personal services delivery operations at the Air Force Personnel Center. "If someone needs to go get an ID card or go to the Airman's Attic, in most cases, that person will still go to the same location they're familiar with today. What we'll have, however, is a more effective force structure in place to better support our Airmen in the long run."

In January 2007, Air Force bases across six commands were selected to test the new squadron model. The test bases helped establish where specific responsibilities and processes should be placed within the organizational structure and how they should be set up.

Lt. Col. Carleton Hirschel, the 90th FSS commander at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., cited the new force development flight as an example. "The new force development flight commander is responsible for all education, training, the library, professional development and professional military education," he said. "It's advantageous for the wing to have one person overseeing and integrating the learning opportunities for the installation."

The merger is also advantageous for the careers of future force support officers and civilians.

"This reorganization opens up career opportunities that we haven't had before," Colonel Gamble said. "With our training plan in place, our people will be able to gain valuable experience across different functional areas. We've also created a new position, the operations officer, that will be open to officers and civilians."

For more information on the new FSSs, call AFPC's Military Future Operations Branch at (210) 565-4334, DSN 665-4334.

COINED

With a hand shake and a smile, Senior Airman Matthew Brown, 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, receives a coin from Brig. Gen. Burton Field, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, in recognition for his accomplishment of being the Wing's Airman of the Quarter at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq. Besides being recognized for his accomplishments on the job, Airman Brown was also lauded for volunteering to support the expeditionary medical squadron and for donating blood for wounded soldiers following attacks on the base. His timely donation was credited for saving the lives of wounded soldiers.



COURTESY PHOTO

AFRC commander visits 442nd

By Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

Lt. Gen. John Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander, Air Force Reserve Command, spoke to 442nd Fighter Wing Air Reserve Technicians about the future of AFRC during a brief visit to Whiteman AFB, Dec. 17.

As he addressed the group, he recounted his years as the Wing's commander and praised the Wing for its long and distinguished record of leadership and professionalism.

"You worked your heart out for me," General Bradley said of his nearly four years as the 442nd's Wing commander, "and I think I worked my heart out for you. I'm still trying to." He further emphasized the Wing's importance to him personally when he added, "(Because of you,) I would not be where I am today."

General Bradley spoke of the Reserve's expanding contribution to the Air Force and the Global War on Terror, noting that nearly 95 percent of the Security Forces at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, were reservists. Using Kirkuk SF troops as an example of Air Force Reservists' level of commitment, he said although the SF members had been mobilized for the deployment, most were volunteers.

"I fight hard for this Wing and I fight



Lt. Gen. John Bradley

hard for this Command," General Bradley said. "You guys have some great airplanes out on that ramp that have a fabulous combat capability and those airplanes would have been almost irrelevant if we hadn't fought hard to get some things for them like our new interim solutions," he said, referring to several recent upgrades in the aircraft.

General Bradley talked of more exten-

sive modifications to the aircraft when the Wing returns from its scheduled deployment next year and, for just over the horizon, he spoke of replacing the aircraft's engines, giving them more power to keep them flying to the end of their projected 2028 lifespan. Further on, he sees the possibility of the Wing replacing the venerable A-10 with the F-35 Lightning II.

On the personnel side of the equation, General Bradley talked of other gains for reservists. "We fight hard for benefits for you," he said. "We fight for pay raises, we fight for retirement pay. We've got (a bill) now that the President is ready to sign into law and they are reducing the age where you can start receiving your military retirement pay." The general was referring to a new law that will permit Reservists to lower the age when they receive retirement according to how much time they spend mobilized or deployed on active-duty orders.

Referring to the way the AF Reserve will do business in the future, General Bradley said the associate program will become more prevalent. Noting that much of the airlift side of the AF Reserve has been associate for some time with great success, he believes associations will be the trend with the fighter community including the 442nd.

Tech. Sgt. Ken Portell, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, drives a jammer into place under an inert AGM-65 Maverick missile on an A-10 weapons station Dec. 19. Master Sgt. Jim Kirksey, Airman 1st Class Shane Dunn, and Senior Airman Nathan Kern, from the 442d AMXS, verify the bracket is lined up with the missile before the jammer arm is lifted to make contact. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Samuel A. Park)

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TO THE FAMILY OF:



"Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

- Vince Lombardi, professional football coach

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