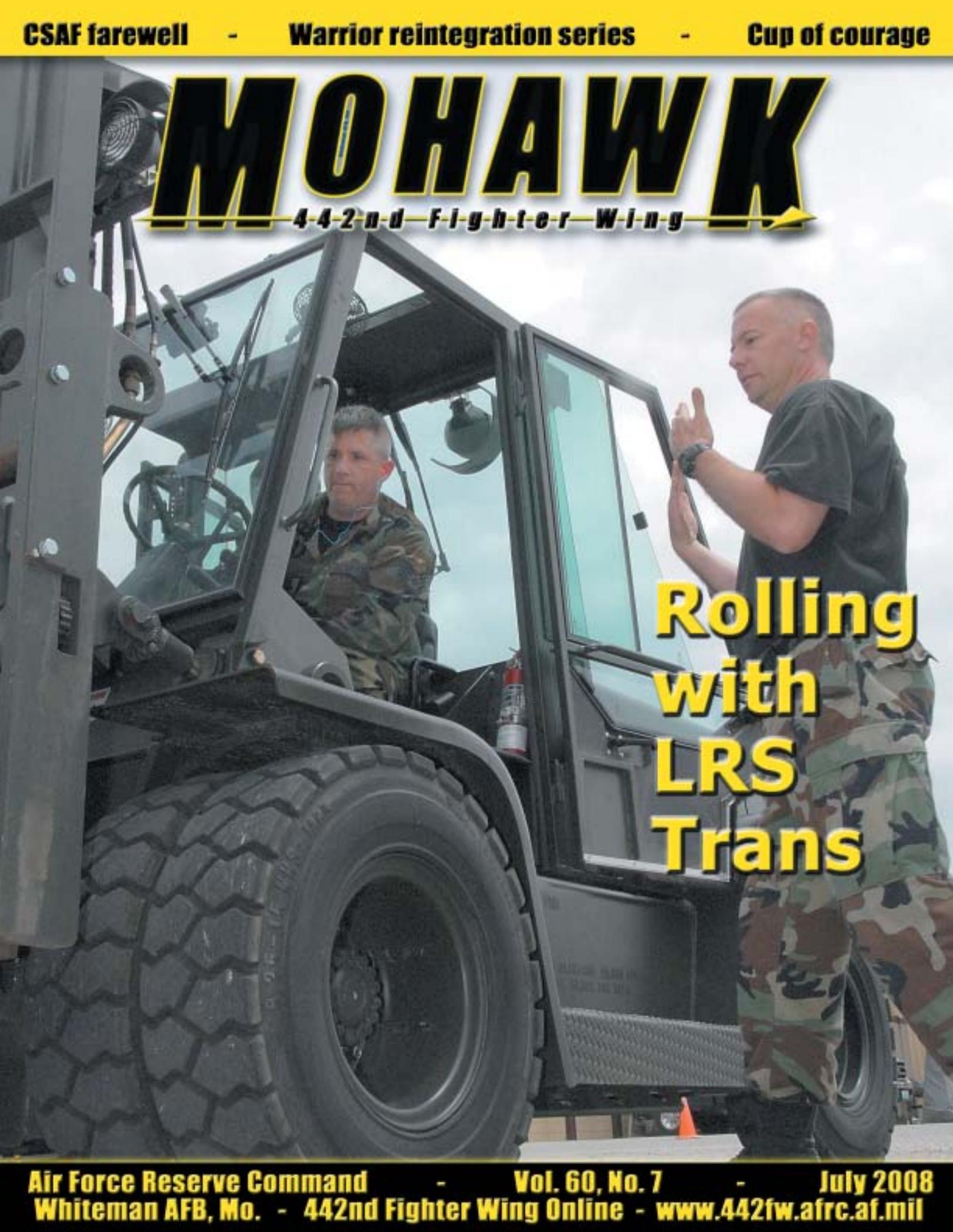


MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing



**Rolling
with
LRS
Trans**

Former chief sends last 'letter to Airmen'

By Gen. T. Michael Moseley
Former Air Force Chief of Staff

It has been my highest honor to serve our great country as an Airman for almost 37 years. In peace and in war, I've had the privilege of serving alongside countless outstanding men and women — Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines — who have pledged themselves to our country's defense.

I was honored and humbled to be appointed the Air Force's 18th chief of staff and have been proud to serve our Airmen, their families and the American people in that role. Upon taking the oath of office, I committed myself to Secretary Wynne and to the Air Force to ensure we provided the right forces at the right time so that our nation and its allies are victorious in the Global War on Terror and ready to meet future challenges.

Working to fulfill that commitment and do the right thing for America and its Airmen, at a crucial point in history, has been the most rewarding experience of my life.

Given my pride in our service and its distinguished history, you can imagine how it pained me to read the recent report concerning lapses in the control of nuclear-related assets. The profession of arms is demanding, and the expectations are as high as the stakes of national security.

As our service's senior uniformed leader, I take full responsibility for these events that have hurt the Air Force's reputation and wrongly raised questions about our commitment to our core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do. The nation places a sacred trust in its Airmen, and I have a deep personal belief that I am accountable for that trust. There-

fore, the honorable thing for me to do is to step aside at this time. Secretary Gates has approved my request for retirement.

You are the strongest and finest Air Force the world has ever known. And you will do whatever is necessary to make the Air Force even stronger. Most importantly, you will continue waging and winning today's fight as part of the joint team, even as you take care of our Airmen and prepare for tomorrow's challenges.

Before I depart the fix with an unceasing admiration of your devotion to our country, let me thank you one last time for all you do every day for the Air Force and our great nation. Jennie and I are immensely proud of having served with each and every one of you, and our hearts remain with you and our Air Force. I am an American Airman, and I always will be.

Fly, fight and win, now and forever!

Meeting educational goals helps Airmen, Reserve

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Morrison
Wing Historian

Leadership programs taught in schools of management and public administration in universities and colleges across the nation focus on how to operate an organization in the most efficient and economic way without sacrificing its mission or goals. The Air Force Reserve is no different.

Today, we are tasked with meeting unprecedented demands for Total Force Integration coupled with a high operations tempo. Individually, these demands can be factored down to little more than conducting our business differently today than how it was done when the Air Force Reserve stood up in 1948.

However, taken together, these demands force a paradigm shift in how we, as a reserve force, view our mission and what we have to do to meet the requirements placed before us.

One way the Air Force Reserve is responding to our increasing global mission is through attracting the best and

brightest to become Citizen Airmen. This is being accomplished, in part, by offering not only the opportunity to serve our fellow citizens but also by providing many benefits of membership, such as the educational benefits available through the Guard and Reserve.

Moving the Air Force Reserve from "weekend warrior" status to full-force partner requires smart decision making and the ability to reward those involved in the transformation — from the seasoned veteran to the newest recruit.

The reserve education benefit is a tool that does that. By providing a generous allotment of education benefits our Airmen can pursue formal education whether it's in a growing technical field or a classic academic setting.

The Air Force Reserve stands ready to provide for its members' education. In return, the Reserve gets Airmen willing to use their education to further the Air Force Reserve mission.

This is a program that not only benefits the individual Citizen Airmen, but allows the Air Force Reserve to meet its mission goals without sacrificing efficiency.

MOHAWK

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MASTER SGT. ROBERT SMITH
442ND SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

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

COVER PHOTO: Staff Sgt. Aaron Kincheloe, left, receives forklift operation instructions from fellow 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron transporter, Staff Sgt. Craig Alexander. For more see pages six and seven. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)

MOHAWK

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This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.

T 442nd Fighter Wing
Tip of the Spear

TECH. SGT. MELISSA ALEXANDER
442ND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS FLIGHT

Sergeant Alexander is responsible for development and publication of maintenance schedules in the Plans, Scheduling and Documentation Section to include scheduled and unscheduled repair actions, time-sensitive inspections or modifications, component time-change replacement, and aircraft or system inspections. She also coordinates with higher headquarters and depot facilities on all unit aircraft depot requirements for scheduled or unplanned depot-level maintenance actions.

Sergeant Alexander hit the ground running upon her arrival to the 442nd. Her superb management skill and job knowledge were displayed when she meticulously and accurately tracked all 30-millimeter rounds fired from 27 aircraft into the integrated maintenance data-system. Her flawless maintenance skills and efforts were instrumental in developing a user-friendly "quick glance" product utilized to monitor parts and postured maintenance and operations for success.

Sergeant Alexander epitomizes the Air Force's core values. She is self-motivated and consistently performs quality work, always willing to take on more responsibility. When the need arose, she eagerly volunteered to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She is a consummate professional with tremendous initiative and energy and the flight is proud to have her on board.



PHOTO BY CAPT. TONI TONES

Lt. Gen. John Bradley unclasps a watch for Lamia, a 10-year-old Afghan girl he met last winter during a humanitarian aid drop to her village. Jan Bradley, wife of General Bradley, spearheaded a donation drive that

collected several boxes of supplies specifically for Lamia and her village of Shakal and were presented here May 30. General Bradley is the Air Force Reserve Command commander.

AFRC/CC brings gifts to Afghan girl, village

*By Capt. Toni Tones
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs*

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Representing a group of Americans who want to assist in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, the commander of the Air Force Reserve Command presented several boxes of donated items to a 10-year-old Afghan girl and her village here May 30.

Lt. Gen. John Bradley, on behalf of his wife Jan, presented housewares, clothing, shoes, toys and toiletries collected specifically for Lamia and the residents of Shakal Village, located near Bagram.

General Bradley met Lamia this past winter while delivering humanitarian aid to her village.

"She (Lamia) came up to me, pointed at her feet and said she wanted boots," he said. "I remember her face being chaffed...my heart went out to her...she is a very special little girl."

General Bradley and his wife took a special interest in Lamia and began sending items to her and her village, including a pair of boots. Mrs. Bradley also sent a personal letter to Lamia encouraging her to do her best and her desire to meet her one day.

Mrs. Bradley has spearheaded several donation drives collecting thousands of pounds of supplies destined for refugee camps, orphanages and hospitals throughout Southwest Asia.

"There are many people, including me, who wish they could do more," General Bradley said. "Please accept these items and share them among the villagers."

Lamia, Brig. Gen. Abdul Khalil Zaiee, Parwan chief of police, and an elder of the village thanked the general, and reciprocated with a gift.

Since January 2008, more than 90 tons of humanitarian aid has been delivered to the people of Afghanistan who were affected by the worst winter in the last 30 years. But for Lamia and the Shakal villagers, there's a small group of Americans providing them a little extra assistance.

**Technical Sergeant
Guy A. "Bert" Spaulding**

**Oct. 11, 1957
to May 27, 2008**



An Air Force captain from the Arlington National Cemetery Honor Guard in Virginia presents the flag of the United States of America to Stephanie Spaulding on the occasion of her husband's interment there.

PHOTO BY SARAH SPAULDING

IN MEMORIUM

Tech. Sgt. Guy A. "Bert" Spaulding, retired, passed away on May 27, at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan. following a lengthy battle with cancer.

Sergeant Spaulding, a native of New York, was a 1976 graduate of Cornwall Central High School in New Windsor, N.Y.

An Egress Systems Technician with the 442nd Maintenance Squadron, Sergeant Spaulding had also been stationed at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., Hahn A.B., Germany, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and Barksdale AFB, La.

During his career he participated in Operations Deny Flight, Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Spaulding, a Windsor, Mo., resident, is survived by his wife Stephanie, daughter Sarah, son Eric, all of the home, and his daughter Rachel and son-in-law Airman 1st Class Jarod Petry of Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Camdenton students support SFS troops

Edited by Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

What goes around comes around.

Some students at Camdenton Middle School were reminded of that lesson in May at an assembly, as they received awards and heartfelt thanks from Citizen Airmen of the 442nd Security Forces Squadron.

Staff Sgt. Bryan Byler, 442nd SFS, and some of his squadron-mates returned home in late February after deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His sister, Leslie Luttrell, is a communication arts teacher at the school.

The students wrote to Sergeant Byler while he was deployed, and, to return the favor, the sergeant and some of his comrades, including Capt. Bradley Bingham, Master Sgts. Mitch Dorl and Tiffany Burtorf, and Tech. Sgt. Jeff Bousman visited the students to present them with Home Front Hero Award certificates.

Captain Bingham began the event by explaining how important it is for troops overseas to get mail from people at home to keep morale up. He encouraged the students to support troops in any way possible.

Students were then presented with the certificates and a flag that had been flown over Jefferson City, the Missouri capital.

After the presentations, Sergeant Byler thanked the students for corresponding with him while he was in Iraq. He, too, appealed to the students to find a way to support troops, stressing how his and his comrades' morale lifted when they

received letters while overseas.

Sergeant Byler then presented the students with "Battle Bracelets." Known also as "Warrior Wristbands," the sergeant made them out of "550" parachute-cord and buttons from his uniform. The bracelets are made by troops to remember past and present military members.

Along with the bracelets, Sergeant Byler shook hands with the students, exchanging a salute with one student who saluted him first. The sergeant then asked veterans in the audience to stand. One of the veterans was Sergeant Byler's grandfather, C.A. Byler, 86, a World War II veteran. Recognizing his grandfather by name, Sergeant Byler and the rest of the crowd gave the veterans a standing ovation.

The Citizen Airmen then saluted the students to show their gratitude and respect. The students who had written Sergeant Byler exited the gym to take pictures with the troops and to speak with them. The Airmen said the experience was very moving and they hoped it would inspire students to remember the troops who ensure freedom around the world.

Several students had tears in their eyes and one said, "It made me feel so proud to be awarded by these guys. I felt like I really had done something special."

"No matter what people think about the war or the efforts we are making over there, people should at least support the troops regardless of their opinion, and that's what these kids did," Sergeant Byler said.

(Information for this story was provided by Ms. Luttrell.)

Rolling

Transporters keep

Story and photos
by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

There is a saying among the truckers of America that if it's on the store shelves, it's a safe bet that a driver delivered it.

It's also a safe bet that the 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's drivers, in partnership with the squadron's vehicle mechanics, have transported most members of the 442nd Fighter Wing.

Whether it's delivering personnel by bus to a waiting aircraft on the flight line to carry them overseas for deployment, training wing members on operating tractor-trailers, performing scheduled periodic vehicle maintenance or repairing special purpose vehicles, these Airmen play an important role in the operation of the Wing.

Indeed, without them, Wing operations would soon come to a grinding halt – literally and figuratively.

Sharing facilities and equipment with their 509th LRS counterparts, in what both units call "Team Trans," the LRS drivers and mechanics often work shoulder-to-shoulder with their active-duty hosts. In some instances, because of wartime taskings, 442nd Airmen are picking up the difference on a daily basis by serving on mandays.

Senior Master Sgt. D.J. Collins, 442nd LRS Vehicle Maintenance superintendent, has been running the shop for the past nine years. The pride he has in his people is evident as he speaks to his mechanics' level of experience.

"One guy comes to us with 20-years' experience with the Army and he's doing real well," Sergeant Collins said. "I've got two guys on full-time orders with the 509th, backfilling. One of them has been on orders for the past three years and the other for the last year and right now (Tech. Sgt. Adam Lambert) runs the (general purpose) shop and (Tech Sgt. Clifton Briggs) runs the body shop. That says a lot for the Reserve and our working relationship here."

Sergeant Collins was especially impressed with Sergeant Briggs' ability to adapt to, what for him, was a new situation working in a body shop.

"It was kind of a new thing for him when he started out here," Sergeant Collins said. "He took it and he ran with it



Senior Airman Carnell Alford, a 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle operator, checks the fluid level on a special purpose vehicle. The squadron's drivers are trained to operate a wide variety of vehicles to provide support for all of the Wing's ground transportation needs.

Tech. Sgt. Adam Lambert, a general purpose vehicle mechanic repairs an air conditioning drain on a surrey bus used for transporting distinguished visitors.



With LRS Trans ep wing from grinding to a halt

and now he's running the whole thing."

He's also quick to point out that the two are part of a very talented team.

"We've really got a great crew here," he said, "they're the best I've had in a while."

Still fairly new to the Air Force, Staff Sgt. Chancy Mudd, a General Purpose mechanic, works on sedans, busses, pickup trucks and other vehicles used for most transportation needs around the base. She said that despite coming to the shop without previous vehicle maintenance experience she was welcomed as one of the crew.

"They are a good group," Sergeant Mudd said of the other mechanics. "Most of them are mechanics (in their civilian jobs), and they do (vehicle maintenance) every day. I can learn more from them than the (Career Development Courses)."

The mechanics refer to general purpose vehicles as the "blue fleet" because they are typically painted the Air Force's familiar strata-blue color. The "green fleet" includes the special purpose vehicles such as material-handling vehicles, including forklifts, and construction vehicles. Other areas of vehicle maintenance focus on fire trucks and refuelers.

The 442nd LRS drivers and maintainers are scheduled to deploy to Aviano Air Base, Italy, and Sergeant Mudd, anticipating her first overseas deployment, says she's excited to go with her fellow vehicle-maintenance troops.

"I deployed previously to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and it was good," she said, "but I'm excited about the chance to get to go somewhere different, especially overseas."

On the vehicle-operations side of the house, LRS drivers hone their skills on those same vehicles the vehicle maintenance troops keep in top running shape.

When they first come into operations, drivers typically operate vehicles in the blue fleet but most are eager for the challenge of operating the base's many special purpose vehicles.

Although he previously served as a vehicle mechanic in the Army, Staff Sgt. Josh Burr also learned to operate a tow truck there.

"I enjoyed driving the tow truck then," Sergeant Burr said. "So when I went to the Air Force recruiter, he told me I had a wide selection of what I could do. I

asked which one had the tow truck and he said 'vehicle ops.'"

The choice was easy for him and, since coming to the 442nd, he's also tried his hand at tractor-trailer operations. He said it has even given him some chances to drive "over the road."

"When they shut down the Air Force Reserve unit at New Orleans, I drove a tractor-trailer down there twice," he said. He made a similar trip to MacDill AFB, Fla., with some replacement parts for one of the Wing's A-10s.

Back at home station, the drivers also train Wing members on operating different vehicles. Their skills as drivers are matched by their skills as instructors as they teach and evaluate student drivers in the safe operation of a wide array of equipment.

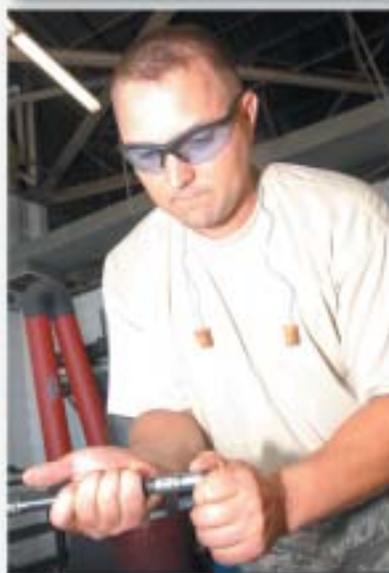
Deployed to Iraq in 2004, the drivers have faced operating vehicles in a combat zone while providing "in-lieu of" support to the Army. The six drivers logged several thousand miles driving the length and breadth of Iraq, often coming under fire. A mortar round exploded fifteen feet from Master Sgt. Mitch Reifschneider's vehicle and now-retired Tech. Sgt. Brian Quinn's truck was hit by an improvised explosive device wounding him and his passenger.

Five LRS drivers recently returned from another deployment to Iraq, this time to Kirkuk Air Base, where they supported base operations there. That story was chronicled in the June *Mohawk*.

"I have an outstanding group of young NCOs and Airmen," said Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Thomas, Vehicle Operations superintendent. "Anything we need and ask of them, there is no hesitation. They are on it."

Tying Vehicle Operations and Vehicle maintenance together is the Wing's Transportation liaison, Mr. Jim Boyle who works closely with Whiteman's host unit, the 509th Bomb Wing in communicating the 442nd's needs. Sergeant Thomas characterized Mr. Boyle's value to both of these shops.

"He is absolutely the glue that holds us all together," Sergeant Thomas said. "Jim has such a great personality that he has built a great rapport and relationship with our 509th counterparts."



Top: Staff Sgt. Andrew Carrender and Tech. Sgt. David Arnold monitor a diagnostic computer hooked up to a car they are repairing.

Middle: Staff Sgt. Clay Hudson adjusts a fitting on an air conditioning repair job.

Bottom: Staff Sgt. Josh Burr, marshall's Senior Airman Carnell Alford as he backs a vehicle in the transportation compound.



Warrior Reintegration

Part 2: Turning to help

"Repeatedly, he warned readers their sons and husbands were changed men, that what they had endured was inconceivable to an outsider, and that patience and understanding must be the hallmarks of their homecoming."

– from David Nichols' introduction to Ernie's War, a collection of correspondent Ernie Pyle's World War II dispatches.

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

It's no military secret that Airmen coming home from Iraq or Afghanistan face a host of adjustments. Combat situations to peacetime activities, fellow combatants to spouses and children, disturbing sights and sounds of battle to peaceful evenings and quiet weekends.

It's also no secret that the Airmen, while they may bring themselves back in seemingly good shape, can harbor difficult memories and uncertainties about how to readjust to their former lives. These and other aspects of PTSD – post-traumatic stress disorder – are all too real and are claiming casualties among American troops, including reservists, as they renew their normal lives again.

But thanks to a new program recently initiated by 442nd Fighter Wing commander Col. Steve Arthur – “Warrior Reintegration” – the wing's Airmen and their families have more than a few resources at their disposal to help make returning home happy and healthy.

On a local level, the program draws together Airman & Family Readiness, the chaplain and the 442nd Medical Squadron's mental-health expert to identify and deal with short- and long-term issues.

On a wider level, wing professionals may refer Airmen and family members to the Department of Veterans Affairs, especially the VA Medical Center in Kansas City.

Glenna Greer, the center's public affairs officer, said the staff there is more than happy to help meet the returning reservists' needs.

“We're actively recruiting reservists,” she said. “If they've served in combat, they're eligible for most VA benefits. They may have to pay a small co-payment after that, but all they have to do is show a DD (Form) 214 that they were serving in a combat area or bring in a pay slip that shows combat pay. We want them big time.”

Veterans have five years after their orders end to sign up for benefits, she said.

Maj. Edward Cullumber, a clinical social worker with the 442nd Medical Squadron's mental-health office, said he would

not hesitate to refer an Airman and his or her family to the Kansas City VA.

"I did my MSW (Master of Social Work) internship at the center in Kansas City and I think very highly of it," he said. "The center focuses on stress disorders and they're a really good resource for other issues for folks."

"VA is ramping up (the mental health program) like you wouldn't believe," Ms. Greer said. "It's the hottest program in VA right now. We're trying to get vets, especially reservists, past that stigma (associated with visiting a mental health provider). PTSD is very real and very common."

"I talked to a lady the other day who told me her son, who's deployed, told her that he's having nightmares and that he's 'done terrible things and seen terrible things.' She said the son sleeps with his gun and I just told her that when he finishes his tour, we'll talk with him."

Major Cullumber and Ms. Greer stressed that the sooner someone seeks help, the better, especially for mental health questions, regardless of perceptions about how that might affect one's career.

"If you can identify problems early on, people may not compensate for them with alcohol and other things," the major said. "A word of advice I'd have to Airmen who've been in stressful situations is that it's normal for people to have reactions to events."

"The military has elements of confidentiality in it, but there can be that perception of 'What I say isn't confidential,'" Major Cullumber said. "If a situation involves safety, obviously, we have to take that into consideration. I try to explain the limitations of confidentiality and that gives people a choice, and I do that on the civilian side, too."

Major Cullumber said mental health professionals are better equipped than ever to help troops get the help they need. The trick, however, is finding the professionals.

"We're identifying PTSD issues better now than we were in the past," he said. "Part of that came from Vietnam and understanding secondary trauma and trauma itself. Resources can always be a challenge and the availability of civilian and military providers who understand these issues – that's the challenge."

However, Major Cullumber and Ms. Greer said VA staff members are willing to meet veterans' needs and get them and their families to proper providers.

"My experience with the Kansas City VA – when I've been in contact with them trying to get geared up for folks coming home – has been great," the major said. "They'll do whatever it takes – working on weekends or whatever. I highly recommend them."

Ms. Greer said one story comes to her mind when she thinks about the staff's dedication.

"One patient advocate was dealing with a vet. in her region who had PTSD so bad that he would hardly leave his bedroom,"

she said. "He'd do everything on his computer. To eat, he'd go out at night and get soup at a 7-11."

"One day – a really cold day – she went to his home and knocked. He wouldn't answer and she said through the door, 'I'm going to knock until you answer.' This lady continued working with him, bought food for him and cleaned his house and helped get him some furniture."

"There was a veterans' biker group who told her that they'd help her move furniture in for that vet.," Ms. Greer said. "That's how far our staff will go, even if it's just a phone call to talk. I can say that with 100 percent confidence."

Whether the need be physical or mental, Ms. Greer said she hopes returning reservists, especially younger troops, take advantage of the Kansas City center or one of five area-clinics, located in Belton, Cameron,

Nevada, Warrensburg, and Paola, Kan. More information on the clinics is available via links in the "Outpatient Clinics" and the "Community Based Outpatient Clinic Information" sections at

www.kansascity.va.gov.

"We're finding that veterans below 35 years of age, particularly the 20-somethings, have an attitude of 'I don't need to go to a VA hospital. I survived combat in Iraq or Afghanistan and I'm not physically sick. I don't need it,'" she said. "That may be true, but that vet. may need us down the road, so he or she needs to get enrolled in our system."

Once enrolled, Ms. Greer said everyone will be seen as quickly as possible.

"We are mandated to meet timeframes on ap-

pointments," she said. "What that means is that if you are enrolled in our system and require an appointment, we have so many days to get you seen. If a VA doctor has determined that you need to see a neurosurgeon, for instance, we'll send you to the local (medical) community if we have to. Eligible veterans who need an appointment will get an appointment."

"Anybody who has qualms or questions about this hospital can contact me and I personally will help give them a tour," Ms. Greer said. "We'll talk with them and ease their minds."

For more information about the Kansas City VA center, call (816) 861-4700 or visit www.kansascity.va.gov.

"Thousands of our men will soon be returning to you. They have been gone a long time and have seen and done and felt things you cannot know. They will be changed. They will have to learn how to adjust themselves to peace ... You must remember that such little things as that (an electrical storm American soldiers thought was gunfire) are in our souls and will take time."

– from the last chapter of Ernie Pyle's Brave Men, written from France in August 1944.

Cup of Courage

Munitions NCO pictured with one of his heroes on AF Reserve 60th Anniversary commemorative

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

It's not often you get to travel all over the country with one of your heroes. But that's what Master Sgt. Bob Jackson, a munitions craftsman with the 442nd Maintenance Squadron, is getting to do.

Well, sort of.

Sergeant Jackson's picture is making a national tour, alongside a picture of one of his heroes, actor Jimmy Stewart, who retired as an Air Force Reserve brigadier general and who passed away in 1997.

General Stewart and Sergeant Jackson are featured on 10,000 32-ounce plastic cups being distributed to the 10 Air Force Reserve Command-owned bases around the country.

The cups recognize the Air Force Reserve's 60th birthday by linking current and past reservists, stressing that service before self is alive and well, and always has been.

In August 2003, Sergeant Jackson was helping dispose of 300,000 pounds of Iraqi munitions at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, when he noticed a smoking, 120-mm, white-phosphorous mortar shell.

According to the Airman's Medal citation he received later, Sergeant Jackson grabbed the 30-pound projectile, ran with it roughly 100 yards and dumped it in a pond, which extinguished the phosphorous and potentially saved his comrades' lives.

Sixty years earlier, Stewart began a string of 20 combat missions over Europe, piloting B-24 Liberators. He eventually received the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, The Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

Sergeant Jackson said he admires the humility of Stewart's characters and he tries to make that a part of his own life.

The sergeant has been in the Air Force Reserve for more than 23 years, said two of his favorite Stewart movies are "It's a Wonderful Life," made in 1946, and 1954's "Rear Window."

"I think the cups are really cool, but it's kind of embarrassing," he said. "Jimmy Stewart is one of my favorite actors. He was always real calm and the roles he played were really significant.

"So many troops today are risking life and limb, and losing life and limb," Sergeant Jackson said. "They should have those guys on the cups. They're the ones who've paid dearly."

"I've always felt that we are 'one team-one fight,'" he said. "No matter what branch you're in or what you do in the Air Force Reserve, we're all in this together. We have to look out for each other. Do your job right or don't do it at all."

According to Lt. Col. Bob Thompson, director of public affairs for AFRC at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., the idea of linking current and past reservists on cups started when Phyllis Link, the marketing manager of Services for AFRC, saw cups at a local sandwich shop sporting pictures of civilian fire fighters, honoring their work.

"She struck the fire that started all this," Colonel Thompson said. "She thought we should be able to do that with reservists."

Ms. Link's idea became a reality as she contacted Colonel Thompson and, eventually, representatives of several military agencies and Coca-Cola met and brought the idea to fruition.

"Coca-Cola was great to work with," Ms. Link said. "They invited us to their headquarters in Atlanta and we got together and brainstormed about what the cup should look like, and talked about the past and present idea."

Colonel Thompson said there was "a lot of consternation" about who would be pictured on the cup. The military and Coca-Cola brain trust looked at the Air Force Chief of Staff's "Portraits in Courage," a collection of stories about Airmen and their heroic acts, to help make the decision.

"It was a huge vetting process to make that cut," the colonel said. "You obviously have to be an outstanding and exceptional reservist to be our representative in that book and (Darren "Jake" Jacobson, a Coca-Cola representative) figured Sergeant Jackson was our role model."

"I thought the 'past and present' idea was brilliant," said Mr. Doug McAlister, the group director of world-wide military sales for Coca-Cola North America.

Mr. McAlister said this venture, which began in late 2007, is another example of cooperation between Coca-Cola and the military, a relationship that dates to the 1940s.

"We've had an emotional tie to the military since World War II when Robert Woodruff, the chairman of the Coca-Cola Company for most of the 20th century and (Gen. Dwight) Eisenhower were good friends," he said. "Ike said to him, 'I've got all these young soldiers here in Europe who would like a memory of home' and Mr. Woodruff said, 'We'll make sure that soldiers can buy Coke for a nickel and have a taste of home.' That was the start of

"So many troops today
are risking life and limb,
and losing life and limb.
They should have
those guys on the cups.
They're the ones
who've paid dearly."

- Master Sgt. Bob Jackson



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

Cups commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force Reserve feature Master Sgt. Bob Jackson from the 442nd Maintenance Squadron, as well as retired Brig. Gen., and actor, Jimmy Stewart.

our international business.

"I would like people to see or feel a connection with the Coca-Cola Company in that we are committed to the military and to the Air Force Reserve. It's more than just a buyer-seller relationship," said Mister McAlister, whose father was a World War II veteran.

"I hope people realize that Coca-Cola is a huge supporter and very appreciative of the military, especially in these difficult times of the Global War on Terrorism," he said.

Colonel Thompson, Ms. Link and Mr. McAlister noted that Mr. Jacobson, Coca-Cola's senior national account executive and export manager, was instrumental in this project.

"Jake works directly with Air Force Services," Mr. McAlister said. "He grew up in the military in Germany and he has a lot of emotional ties to this partnership. He has a tremendous passion for Coca-Cola and for the Air Force, so he tries to develop business plans with the Air Force and he's always looking for opportunities to do so."

"Jake is one of the best," Ms. Link said. "We've been working together for years and I called him to ask him what he

thought about this idea. He was all over it."

The cups are available at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.; Duke Field, Fla.; Grissom ARB, Ind.; Homestead ARB, Fla.; March ARB, Calif.; Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minn.; Niagara Falls ARS, N.Y.; Pittsburgh International Airport ARS, Pa.; Westover ARB, Mass.; and Youngstown ARS, Ohio.

"I feel like reservists don't get proper recognition sometimes," Ms. Link said. "So I hope the message that's sent with these cups is that we appreciate our reservists and honor them, and we don't want to forget that."

Sergeant Jackson, when asked what he thought Jimmy Stewart would say to him, knowing that they're both reservists, that they are together on the cups, replied, "He'd probably say, 'Why in the hell is someone so ugly on my cup?'"

"Then he'd probably say, 'You know, nothing has changed throughout the years as far as dedication to our country,'" he added. "Systems change. Politics change. Ideas change. But one thing that hasn't changed is the American drive to serve our country and keep it safe. That hasn't changed."

An A-10 Thunderbolt II from the Idaho Air National Guard flown by a pilot from the 303rd Fighter Squadron moves into position to receive fuel May 29 from a KC-135 Stratotanker during a mission over Afghanistan. Air Force Reserve pilots and maintainers from the 442nd Fighter Wing deployed to Afghanistan in May and June and shared the deployment with Idaho and Pennsylvania Air National Guard A-10 units. (Photo by Master Sgt. Andy Dunaway)

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TO THE FAMILY OF:



**"If you are seeking a model for volunteer service --
look to the Air Force Reserve."**

**-- Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley,
Chief of Air Force Reserve and
Commander, Air Force Reserve Command**

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