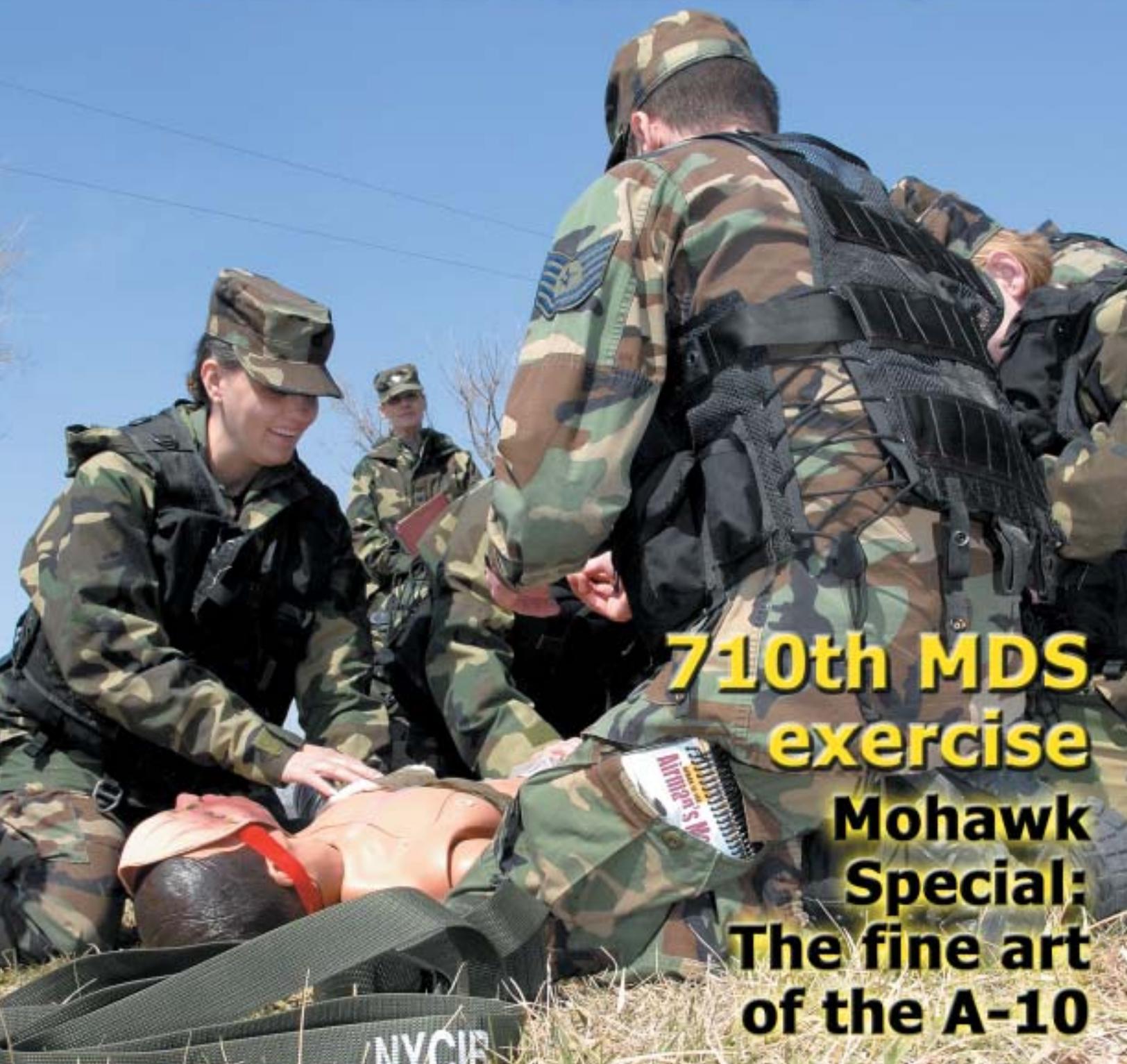


# MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing



**710th MDS  
exercise**

**Mohawk  
Special:  
The fine art  
of the A-10**

## Lt. General Bradley notes 60th birthday, future of Air Force Reserve Command

by Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley  
Commander of Air Force Reserve Command

WASHINGTON — The Air Force Reserve was formally established April 14, 1948, and Air Force reservists have served proudly and with great distinction ever since.

Today, responding to a variety of threats to our national security and fighting a global war on terrorism, we serve with the same courage, commitment and confidence that defined us in our first years.

Sixty years ago, President Harry Truman envisioned a reserve program similar to one in World War I, where reservists stood ready as replacements during a wartime mobilization.

As we reflect on our esteemed heritage, we must never forget the visionary leaders who shaped the fledgling Air Force Reserve. Generals George Stratemeyer, Elwood Quesada,



Lt. Gen. John Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

Jimmy Doolittle and Tom Marchbanks were among the first to vector the course for a ready and relevant Air Force Reserve. Equally, on this occasion, we honor our Air Force reservists who served during Korea, Vietnam and a multitude of crises and contingencies.

The Total Force Policy of 1973 laid the foundation for organizing and equipping our Air Force Reserve to augment, associate and partner with the Regular Air Force.

Our contributions during and since the Persian Gulf War demonstrate that we are integrated operationally. Truly, we have soared past the original Truman and Total Force flight plans and have now reached new horizons in positing a viable force for the 21st century spectrum of threats that is capable of refocusing, reconstituting and recapitalizing without exhausting its people or resources while staying an operationally engaged Reserve.

One of our responsibilities as Unrivaled Wingmen is that we cannot be Airmen just part of the time. To meet future requirements, we will continue to build and sustain this viable force of an operationally engaged Reserve – a force in use every day. Now celebrating our 60th anniversary, we are, more than ever, essential to the Air Force's ability to fly, fight and win.

# MOHAWK

442ND FIGHTER WING

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May 2008  
Charge-of-quarters



**SENIOR MASTER SGT. ERNIE FERGUSON**  
**303RD FIGHTER SQUADRON**

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**COVER PHOTO: Tech. Sgt. Angela Harroun, 710th Medical Squadron, and her team administer aid to a wounded "victim" during a field-training exercise at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., as her commander, Col. Joan Gonzalez, observes the activities. For more on the 710th and its exercise see the story on pages eight and nine. (Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)**

**MOHAWK**

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**TECH. SGT. ROSE BENTON-HARDING**  
**442ND SERVICES FLIGHT**

Tech. Sgt. Rose Benton-Harding is an integral member of the 442nd Services Flight as the non-commissioned officer in charge of lodging. Sergeant Benton-Harding recently back-filled as a lodging front-desk supervisor with the 509th Services Squadron's Whiteman Inn serving there nearly four months. Quickly recognized as an expert in her field, she was assigned to train three non-commissioned officers and three civilian employees. Her efforts brought these individuals' training requirements into compliance 14 days earlier than expected, ensuring trained, ready personnel to meet customer-service demands.

While working with the 509th, Sergeant Benton-Harding identified critical discrepancies in the office's Beta lodging software. Her inputs warranted future programming changes. With her assistance, her unequaled customer service skills directly contributed to lodging's unprecedented 99 percent guest satisfaction rate. She was also key to non-appropriated fund resale operations that generated more than \$20 thousand in revenue which returned more than \$5 thousand to the base for event prizes. On her own initiative, Sergeant Benton-Harding managed Lodging's movie checkout database ensuring 100 percent accountability for more than 1,200 digital video discs, video tapes and video games. As a result of her hard work and initiative, she won the 509th's Lodging NCO of the Quarter, for the fourth quarter.

## Bagram A-10s stage response exercise

*Next scheduled exercise will be for F-15E's*

by Tech. Sgt. James Law  
455 Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

### **BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan**

— Airmen and civilians from multiple base agencies participated in Bagram's first major accident response exercise here March 11.

"The purpose of this exercise was to demonstrate we have the equipment, training and capability to rapidly respond to an aircraft crash, minimizing runway closures in the middle of a warzone," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Hall, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Crash Team chief and exercise coordinator.

The exercise began with a command post base-wide notification of an in-flight emergency for an A-10A Warthog. The exercise simulated a failure of the landing gear on the aircraft to operate and lower, forcing a gear-up landing.

Fire trucks and other emergency vehicles expediently made their way to the Golf Hammerhead, a large parking area at one end of the flight line, where an A-10 was parked. This was the pre-coordinated location the Warthog had simulated skidding to a stop, dislodging all its munitions during the landing and trapping the pilot inside.

Once on scene, the firefighters jumped into action positioning their vehicles and pulling out ladders, hoses and other equipment needed in the event of a

real accident. They used this equipment to simulate extinguishing a fire, removing the pilot and making the area safe for the crash team to perform their mission.

The crash team went to work attaching lifting brackets to the aircraft, dragging out ropes and positioning a 50-ton crane to raise a lifting harness out of the back of the crash team's response truck. The team used the ropes to guide the large cables on the harness as it was lowered into position to fasten to the lifting brackets. With the harness connected, the exercise was complete.

"I was impressed," said Lt. Col. Ray Shankles, 455th EMXS commander. "It was amazing how...everybody came together not just to set this up, but to demonstrate our procedures work."

"Maintaining and honing the skills necessary to rapidly and successfully recover crashed or damaged aircraft while minimizing additional damage is vital to our ability to restore airfield operations in minimal time while conserving valuable combat resources," said Col. Jon Sutterfield, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group commander. "Exercises such as this MARE are critical to ensuring our readiness to successfully execute operations at any given moment, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"The agencies involved have clearly proven they are capable and ready to go when they get the call."

Colonel Sutterfield stated the MARE

is the product of almost four months of intensive planning, training and cross-agency coordination.

The A-10 MARE is the first of two exercises scheduled to occur. The second exercise will involve Bagram's other deployed fighter, the F-15E Strike Eagle.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DEMETRIUS LESTER

**Crash-team Airmen from the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron attach a lifting harness to an A-10 Warthog here March 11. The Airmen were participating in the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing's first major accident response exercise.**

## AEF Airmen at Kirkuk participate in exercise

**KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq — Members of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group participate in a hazardous-materials exercise Mar. 29 here. The exercise was designed to ensure a quick and efficient response from all parties involved including the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Department and 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron Bioenvironmental Engineering to protect the safety of military and civilian personnel here. Members of the 442nd Civil Engineer Squadron are currently deployed to Kirkuk.**

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN SERMAE LAMPKIN



# Wing announces quarterly awards



*The 442nd Fighter Wing announced its quarterly award winners for the second quarter of 2008. Earning the honors were Tech. Sgt. Daniel Landi, left, from the 442nd Security Forces Squadron, and Senior Airman Jennifer Laspino, from the 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Sergeant Landi was named NCO of the Quarter, while Airman Laspino picked up the Airman of the Quarter award.*



## Health insurance offered for Citizen Airmen *Traditional reservists eligible for TRICARE Reserve Select*

**By TSgt. Leo Brown**

The majority of traditional reservists may be eligible to purchase health insurance under a new TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) plan.

The plan is similar to TRICARE Standard and Extra, and features open enrollment, increased availability to survivors and no activation requirements, according to a recent letter from Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of TRICARE Management Activity, to Lt. Gen. John Bradley, chief of the Air Force Reserve. Also, tiers, service agreements and differing premium levels no longer exist in the program.

However, selected Reserve members eligible for the Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) program or currently covered under FEHB cannot participate in TRS.

FEHB is for Department of Defense civilians, which includes air reserve technicians, according to Captain Joe Walter, 442nd Mission Support Flight commander.

Captain Walter said he encourages eligible Airmen to at least look into the TRS program, which can be purchased in monthly premiums of \$81 for individuals and \$253 for member-and-family coverage.

"I've talked to some folks who are paying over a \$1,000 a month for health insurance and with this program, you're paying \$253 a month," he said. "It's absolutely an incentive for joining (the Air Force Reserve) and for staying on as a traditional reservist. With all the benefits and entitlements Air Force Reserve Command has been giving us over the years, this doesn't surprise me. This is huge for Airmen with families.

"If you're a technical sergeant making \$400 each UTA, it's like making \$1,400 each month," Captain Walter said. "Even though it's not money in the pocket, it's money saved."

Capt. Rob Fritts and Chaplain (Capt.) Jim Buckman are two 442nd Fighter Wing Airmen using TRS. Captain Fritts, 442nd Communications Flight commander, said he recently signed up for the program, while Chaplain Buckman has been using it for about a year.

"There was about a \$300 difference in my monthly premium between the TRICARE Reserve Select plan and my employer's health care plan," said Captain Fritts, who has a spouse and three children. "Plus, I saved my employer about \$600 a month, which was their share of the premium. I'm saving about \$3,600 a year with this."

Chaplain Buckman said signing up for the program was a "no brainer."

"I'm self-employed as a pastor and my church bought my insurance through BlueCross BlueShield," he said. "It cost our church a little over \$1,200 a month and TRICARE for my family is about \$400 a month. We have a dental option with the plan. So we're saving about \$10,000 a year.

"This is a fantastic deal," said the chaplain, who has a spouse and five children. "BlueCross is top of the line, but TRICARE has a lower deductible and all your pharmaceutical prescriptions count toward your deductible. If you're on base, you can reload your prescriptions for free and you can't do that with BlueCross. I've been very happy with the coverage"

For more information on TRS, go to the "My Benefits" link at [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil).

# THE ~~DOOR~~ ART OF THE A-10



**78-0605**

Thunderbolt of Green Ridge



**78-0632**

Thunderbolt of Knob Noster



**78-0655**

Thunderbolt of Warsaw



**79-0093**

US Veterans' Thunderbolt



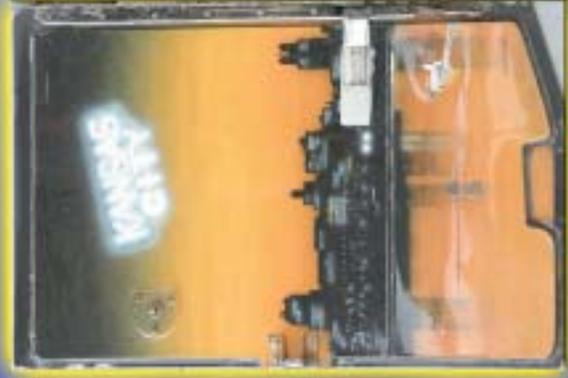
**79-0107**



**79-0109**



**79-0111**



**79-0113**

Thunderbolt of Concordia



79-0117

Thunderbolt of Marshall

Thunderbolt of Lincoln



79-0119

Thunderbolt of Windsor

Thunderbolt of Higginsville



79-0121

Thunderbolt of Richards-Gebaur

Thunderbolt of Branson



79-0122

Thunderbolt of the 442d Fighter Wing



79-0123

Thunderbolt of the 303d Fighter Squadron



79-0144

Thunderbolt of Columbia



80-0201

Thunderbolt of Cole Camp

Aircraft art has been a tradition in military aviation going back to World War I, when the airplane was first used extensively in combat. The tradition of customizing aircraft picked up steam in World War II when aviators and ground crews would name their assigned planes. In the A-10 community, art is painted on the inside of the ladder doors on the left side of the aircraft underneath the cockpit. Currently 15 of the 442nd Fighter Wing's A-10 Thunderbolt IIs are customized with ladder-door art. (Graphic by Master Sgt. William Huntington)

# 710th medics train in FTX

By Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

The 710th Medical Squadron, one of the 442nd Fighter Wing's two geographically separated units at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., took to the field during its April unit training assembly to hone their deployed-operations skills.

The field-training exercise, located at Offutt's base lake, has been something of an annual tradition for the medics and, while not as large in scope as previous exercises, was no less ambitious in its goal of keeping the squadron's members ready to perform even under austere conditions.

Past exercises included 2005's "Operation Prairie Medic," a joint, mass-casualty exercise that teamed the Offutt reservists with soldiers, sailors and Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets and was based at the Army National Guard's Camp Ashland. That FTX included Army helicopters picking up "wounded patients" at several eastern Nebraska locations and transporting them to their deployed hospital location at Ashland.

"We've done some incredible exercises," said Tech. Sgt. Wayne Cantwell, aerospace medical technician and one of the planners for this year's exercise. "We want to ensure that our members are ready for the deployed environment when they get called up or when they volunteer to go overseas. It has proven invaluable."

According to Sergeant Cantwell preparing for the exercise is very labor intensive. He said planning started four to five months before the exercise began and his "laundry list" of to-dos included organizing the logistics, getting the equipment prepared, preparing training scenarios, building documentation, obtaining commander approvals, factoring in safety considerations and, of

course, meeting the financial aspect of the undertaking.

"This year I was thankful to have Tech. Sgt. Shawn Barnard and Senior Airman Andrew Rebant take the lead on a lot of this," Sergeant Cantwell said. "There are a lot of man-hours involved and Sergeant Barnard did much of the leg work."

The 2008 exercise featured a series of stations that focused on deployed medical skills areas like triage, operating in a chemical environment and a litter-carry obstacle course. Five and six-person teams circulated through each of the stations responding to scenarios, making life and death decisions and all the while digesting the lessons learned from each experience.

A spirit of competition was added as members were graded on their actions with the team accumulating the most points being declared the winner.

A hallmark of these exercises has been using lessons learned from real-world situations to help prepare the reservists for combat and this year was no exception.

A veteran of deployments to Kuwait and to Iraq, Sergeant Cantwell, served as an instructor at the litter-carry obstacle course. There, the teams had to negotiate several barriers to reach a victim. Once there Sergeant Cantwell recited the wounded patient's symptoms and the teams responded accordingly to stabilize and prepare the individual for transport back over the same course just taken.

Safety and risk management took precedence over all activities, a fact pointed out by the 710th's commander, Col. Joan Gonzalez.

"I was real impressed with my instructors. They were focused on training and yet always aware of potentially unsafe actions," she said. "When they saw something that concerned them they stopped the activity and corrected the action, which was very good."

She cited the careful-transport training for litter patients over obstacles as an example.

Another experienced 710 MDS member is Lt. Col. Howard Phillippi, the squadron's chief nurse. Colonel Phillippi recently returned from an Afghanistan deployment where he gained a wealth of experience.

When he first got to Afghanistan he thought he'd be working in a real hospital but two days after he arrived they had told him he would be going to "Salerno" and immediately visions of Salerno, Italy came to mind.

"I got so excited, I couldn't see straight," Colonel Phillippi said with a smile. Camp Salerno, however, was a forward operating base near the Pakistan border just north of Khwost, Afghanistan.

With the only similarity of the two locations being the name, the colonel soon faced the realities of life at a forward operating base treating not only coalition wounded but also local Afghans and even some Taliban. It was an experience that he knew would be valuable in teaching his fellow squadron members about when he returned home and the FTX gave him the perfect opportunity.

"We're taught in the United States that the first things you start with (when assessing a trauma patient) are airway, breathing and circulation, in that order (to stabilize patients)," Colonel Phillippi said. "On the battle field, in a surgical field hospital at a forward operating base like where I was, we always had to take care of the bleeding problems first along with the breathing problems. Usually the injuries are so massive and traumatic that they would bleed to death very quickly so stopping the bleeding was a top priority."



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOHN VERTRESE

**Tech. Sgt. Eric Anderson, a medical service technician, attends to a wounded "victim" during the 710th Medical Squadron's field training exercise.**



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOHN VERTRESE

**Tech. Sgt. Kristine Fleming, operating room technician, and Master Sgt. Jean Tait, NCOIC of Medical Logistics, and their team emerge from the low-crawl portion of the litter-carry obstacle course during the field training**

**exercise as the last step to reaching their waiting "patient." After treating the patient and placing him on the stretcher, the team would have to retrace their route, including repeating the low-crawl, to carry him to safety.**

It was something he tried to drive home during the exercise. He taught other valuable lessons he learned in Afghanistan.

"I was training them (in the exercise) that when you do your primary assessment – checking them from head to toe – that it's not over," he said. "You go over them again, or you turn them over and you look at them on the back side too. You may roll somebody over and they've got a bigger wound there than they did on the front."

Another reality was the composition of the various medical disciplines in each team. While there might be nurses and doctors assigned at a forward location, they might not be in a position to perform triage. They might be in surgery when more wounded are brought in and the others present – medical technicians, lab workers or x-ray technicians – would have to do all of the triage and care.

"We had three technical sergeants, an airman 1st class and a senior airman (on my team)," said Tech. Sgt. Angela Harroun, a medical material troop. "I had to ask a lot of questions because I wasn't sure of the all of the terms or how to treat a lot of the wounds."

For the exercise, members of a Boy Scouts of America troop filled in as patients and moulage wounds were used to add realism. The boys took their roles seriously by mimicking the actions of someone wounded.

"The obstacle course and the station with the Boy Scouts acting as victims with blast and concussion injuries from a building collapse were the most beneficial training stations," Sergeant

Harroun said. "If I'm on my own now I'll know what to look for and how to treat it. I'll be able to instruct other people on how to help too.

"If I do deploy and they look at me and say 'I need help' then I'll feel more confident in helping them," she said.

"We tried to get these teams to function together, to communicate with each other, to get the job done, to get the mission accomplished, to retrieve the patient, to treat their injuries and get them back the quickest, most efficient and safest manner possible," Sergeant Cantwell said. For him, Sergeant Harroun's words translated into "mission accomplished."

Even though the training goals for the exercise were met, and Colonel Gonzalez was proud of the Squadron's performance, she felt another valuable by-product of the effort was learning where the Squadron's weaknesses lay and factoring that knowledge into future training plans.

"If we ran a flawless exercise every time I would question if we were pushing our people hard enough," Colonel Gonzalez said. "This is the opportunity for me to be able to see where we are and what we can improve upon. All of this helped me see what kind of training we'll need to do over the next 12 months."

She was quick to add that she knew her people had a culture of continuous improvement and they were ready for it.

"The members here love the mission, they love what they do and they love supporting the war fighter," Colonel Gonzalez said. "They are staunch believers of the Wingman concept and they have a true patriotism that I would argue would be hard to match."

# Newest A-10 upgrades continue to Evolve the Hog

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

Pilots in the 303rd Fighter Squadron are enhancing their eyes and ears thanks to the two newest upgrades to the 442nd Fighter Wing's A-10 Thunderbolt IIs.

Outside the cockpit, the A-10 will be sporting a new antenna, which is part of an ongoing satellite communications system upgrade.

Inside the cockpit, new software will keep pilots' eyes where they should be, focused on ground targets by displaying information on the plane's heads-up display in addition to a small computer screen.

## COMMUNICATION VIA SATELLITE

Thanks in large part to the Airmen of the 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's Specialist Flight, the new antenna being added to the top of the 442nd Fighter Wing's A-10s looks, according to one maintenance troop, "like the satellite-TV antenna on an RV."

Far from turning the A-10 into a "flying Winnebago," the antenna is part of the new Beyond-line-of-sight (BLOS) Airborne Radio Communications-210 (ARC-210) system, which improves pilots' conversations with ground forces, enhancing the 303rd Fighter Squadron's ability to employ lethal force against America's enemies.

With the old radios, pilots had to have a clear line of sight between the aircraft and the person with whom they were communicating.

Mountains, for instance, would wreak havoc on such transmissions, but the new radios communicate through satellites, giving pilots, in the words of Tech. Sgt. Michael Price, an avionics technician, "the ability to talk with anybody – anywhere, anytime."

"They will enhance communications between the pilot and ground troops, forward air controllers, anybody," he said. "You could be in Bagram (Afghanistan) and literally call home."

"The primary reason we're getting the sat.-comm. radios is the terrain in Afghanistan, which is our primary theater," said Col. Steve Arthur, 442nd Fighter Wing commander. "We have eight aircraft right now that have the ARC-210. It's a great radio and the feedback is all good."

Lt. Col. John Marks, assistant director of operations for the 303rd FS, said the new radios are a big improvement over the old ones.

"Especially for Afghanistan, which has huge mountains, the sat.-comm. capability lets us talk to anyone," he said. "We generally talk to all the ground agencies and, of course, the JTACS (joint terminal attack controllers) who are controlling our strikes."

"In the past, we could only talk to them on secure radios and we used 1960s technology. It used encryption and there was a time delay," he said. "It worked and it was fine, but with the new radios, you can go secure on any frequency."

"On the non-modified aircraft, there's a radio for a UHF frequency and two radios for VHF frequencies," Sergeant Price

said. "These are all built into the new sat.-comm. radio. It sounds good. It's very clear."

Colonels Arthur and Marks said that the new radios help bring the A-10 up to speed with other aircraft.

"Essentially, it's a more modern radio," Colonel Marks said. "It's been around quite a while and the Navy's F-18s have used it for several years."

"The A-10 is finally catching up," Colonel Arthur said. "The aviators here absolutely love it."

## SOFTWARE UPGRADES KEEP PILOTS' HEADS UP

In addition to radio upgrades, Airmen in the 442nd Maintenance Group recently installed new software for the A-10s' smart multi-function color displays (SMFCD), located in the cockpit. According to pilots and maintenance troops alike, the upgrade will improve "situational awareness" for pilots.

"It's like upgrading your computer," said Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Lyon, flight chief. "Every year, you get new computers and systems and, basically, we're upgrading a computer that's a couple of years old."

This upgrade, according to Sergeant Lyon, will connect the targeting pod, the integrated-flight and fire-control computer and other systems, and "send them to the SMFCD and the heads-up display. In the past, these systems were independent of each other and now they're grouped together to report information."

"(The 1.3 version of the software) changed the operating characteristics of the SMFCD and it will give the pilot more information and better functionality within the SMFCD," he said. "It'll enhance communication and improve the pilots' ability to get their bombs on target and provide cover for ground troops. That's why it's important to get this done before the next AEF."

"The 1.3 speeds up the HOTAS (hands-on-throttle-and-stick) functions, so pilots don't have to look down," Sergeant Price said. "We want them to be looking out the cockpit window instead of looking down to switch settings. The stick is the same, but we reprogrammed the computer."

"Instead of being able to see my wingman and targets on my data link, I can now see things on the heads-up display," Colonel Marks said. "I can see where my wingman is, where other data-link players are, where targets are. We can see friendly locations on the ground a couple hundred miles one way or the other. This adds a huge capability."

Colonel Marks said the wing's pilots are becoming more comfortable with the upgrades.

"We have a two-sortie upgrade program, a two-ride checkout," he said. "It takes a few sorties for guys to adjust, but that's expected."



## SOLID SUPPORT

Sergeant Lyon said the specialist flight Airmen completed the software upgrade in the wing's 27 A-10s in four days. As with some past upgrades, the flight's troops have been navigating through unknown waters.

"This, again, is self-taught," Sergeant Lyon said. "We're going into an area we've never been in.

"We were the first unit to do this," he said. "This is not something you do every day. In the magnitude of what we did, we broke new ground in the maintenance community with this."

Sergeant Lyon stressed that the success of these upgrades must be credited not only to the Airmen of the specialist flight, but also to the troops in the armament and weapons-load shops, and the flight-line section.

"It takes all the pieces of the puzzle to bring everything together," he said. "These shops are absolutely necessary components to getting this done and they have to do their processes to get the aircraft to mission-ready status."

"The A-10 community is pretty fortunate getting access to funding that allows us to do these upgrades," Colonel Arthur said. "That funding is driven by what combatant commanders need in theater.

"The bottom line is that we're very fortunate to have an Air Force Reserve Command commander (Gen. John Bradley) who has the ability to look into the future and get us what we need," the colonel said.

***Below, a pilot from the 303rd Fighter Squadron taxis A-10, number 144, past other aircraft from the 442nd Fighter Wing. Number 144 sports a new antenna, just behind the canopy (inset), for the Beyond-Line-of-Sight Airborne Radio Communications-210 system. The new communications will allow pilots to communicate via satellite to ground forces.***

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. TOM TALBERT



PHOTO BY MAJ. DAVID KURLE

***Senior Airman Sarah Bower, works on electrically grounding the "fill port" on the ARC-210 beyond-line-of-sight radio system March 20. Airman Bower is an avionics technician for the 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.***



*Tech. Sgt. Craig Gall, a 442nd Security Forces Squadron fire-team leader, is silhouetted by the setting sun while on duty in Iraq. Twenty-six 442nd SFS members were deployed to Kirkuk Regional Air Base from August 2007 until March of this year. (Courtesy photo)*

*DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
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## **TO THE FAMILY OF:**



**"Now celebrating our 60th anniversary,  
we are more than ever essential  
to the Air Force's ability to fly, fight and win."  
- Lt. Gen. John E. Bradley, AFRC commander**

**442nd Fighter Wing on line -- [www.442fw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.442fw.afrc.af.mil)**