

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing



To: *The families of the Wing*
From: *The 442d Fighter Wing
Human Resources
Development Council*



442nd HRDC's gift to families

Wing deploys with 'Team Kennedy'

The 442nd: a wing full of ACEs

By Col. Mark L. Clemons
442nd Fighter Wing commander

The Citizen Airmen of the 442nd Fighter Wing are all ACEs.

For those not in the know, an ACE is a pilot that has shot down five or more aircraft in combat. The ACE I am talking about is within in all of us. More on our ACEs later.

Now that I have your attention, I have been having a very difficult time since I have assumed Command of the 442nd FW. I am constantly wondering why... Why do we have the best Americans, the best Warrior Airmen of any unit in AFRC performing at such a high state of excellence? Why do our Airman sacrifice time away from family and from their primary job? Why do they consistently perform at the highest level and tempo with always outstanding results? WHY?

Is it because we have the best Leadership? Is it because we set high goals and attain them utilizing our Air Force Core Values? Is it because we always keep the mission in focus looking forward to our next challenge? Is it because we know we have the best wingmen at our side when faced with all our current challenges? Is it because we always seem to get the mission done – sometimes doing more with less? Is it because we execute one AEF bucket after another with outstanding results – without blinking an eye? I know it probably isn't for the pay but sometimes it helps. I also know it's probably not to be away from your family for extended periods of time.

Why do we do what we do?

Early in November, I attended the dedication of the static B-52 at the Arnold Gate to Whiteman Air Force Base. Yes, it was very cold and all of us had frosty faces as we assembled in our Air Force Blue uniform with pride. Just prior to the dedication, as always, we all stood, faced the flag, saluted, and listened to the National Anthem. I glanced at the faces of other people and knew the ritual meant something totally different to me and the others wearing the uniform than it did for those who never have. We took an oath. We swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Who else has done that? Who else dares take on that responsibility? Not many I say, not many...

We put the uniform on every day and do our job. What's our goal? It's simple: to fly, fight and win. It's the common mission of thousands of Airmen around the world. We have to have adequate housing, meals, finance, personnel, medical facilities, security, communications, maintenance, intelligence, operations, weather and ranges to make it happen and succeed. If you sit back and think about it for a minute, it's amazing that this many educated, talented people can work collectively to get it done. Every job here is essential for all of us to meet our goal. It can't be done without ALL of your expertise.

To answer the initial question as to why do we do what we do? It's pride, it's attitude, it's discipline. As a famous leader once said, "Pride is a personal commitment. It is an attitude which separates excellence from mediocrity." Disciplining yourself to do what you know is right and important, although difficult, is the high-road to pride, self-esteem and personal satisfaction. I was proud the day I swore in to enlist in the Air Force, as well as the day I became an officer. I was proud the day I graduated from pilot training and received my wings. I was proud to become a Warthog driver, flying the mighty A-10 Thunderbolt II, just as I was proud to fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon in many locations throughout the world.

I have never been more proud than being affiliated with the men and women of the 442nd Fighter Wing. It's not because of the numerous superficial reasons. It's because we get to do something only a few in our country have had the privilege to do. It's not just personal pride, but the pride of being part of one team to achieve success. As the great coach, Paul "Bear" Bryant professed, "Display class, have pride and show character. If you do, success takes care of itself."

It's also about commitment. Once you have committed to our way of excellence – our way of life – you benefit from the world's strongest Air Force watching your back. Once we all make that commitment, nothing will stop us of short of greatness and success.

Gen. W.L. Creech, one of the great former commanders of the Tactical Air Command, now known as Air Combat Command said that the main ingredient of success was "the absolute necessity of getting leadership and commitment from everyone, " everyone from the Boss to our first-term Airman. He also noted that it was critical not to underestimate the power of quality in all aspects of an organization and the value of mentoring those among us. Quality in the way we treat and support our people. Quality in our team structure and team-oriented organization. And quality in our leadership at every level.

ACE (ATTITUDE + COMMITMENT = EXCELLENCE). All of YOU are an ACE and anyone can become an ACE. It is indeed the Attitude and Commitment displayed by everyone in the 442nd FW. We stand tall to blend together, to build peak performance and strong, unwavering commitment from everyone involved.

I am always prepared for my next Air Force experience wherever it takes me. I'm excited to travel down new roads but like many before me, I'll be saddened when I will no longer wear the uniform. Like I tell those who have worked for me getting ready to retire or separate, "be proud of the fact that you got to wear the uniform." Be proud we will always strive for Excellence, and always remember, Excellence is not an acquired skill, it's an attitude.

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

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442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN BILBRUCK 442ND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

Senior Airman Brian Bilbruck is pivotal member of the 442nd AMXS Support section team. His willingness to adjust to any situation is valuable in today's military role.

Airman Bilbruck deployed with the wing this past summer to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He not only worked in the Support section, providing required tools and equipment assets to the flight line personnel, but he also helped with supply processes as well; researching and ordering parts. After returning to Whiteman AFB, Airman Bilbruck continued working in the Support section and volunteered to move to night shift to cover an Air Reserve Technician vacancy. He learned and successfully accomplished the debriefing of pilots after flight job. This process is above and beyond his scope of responsibility as a supply person.

Upon the return of the 442nd AMXS tools and equipment from Afghanistan, he actively cleaned, repaired and/or replaced hand tools and also identified broken or missing equipment assets. His ability to accurately identify and correct these issues enabled the Support Section to rapidly return the assets, through the tool accountability system, and reprocess them for the Phase I exercise in September and then Hawgsmoke 2008 in October. During Hawgsmoke 2008 he remained at Whiteman to cover the Support section in support of home station operations.

Airman Bilbruck provides a vital role in support of the 442nd Fighter Wing mission and his contributions are greatly distinguished.

January 2009
Charge-of-quarters



MASTER SGT. ANGELA BRYANT 442ND LOGISTICS READINESS SQUADRON

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

COVER PHOTO: During the December Unit Training Assembly, the 442nd Fighter Wing's Human Resources Development Council set up a "store" to help Wing members fill any gaps in holiday needs. Read more on pages six and seven. (Cover illustration by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington)

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EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- Maj. Matthew Domsalla, 40th FLTS A-10C pilot, makes the first ever drop of the GBU-54, or Laser Joint Direct Attack Munition, off the Warthog. This test proved a successful integration of the

munition with the A-10, allowing for an outstanding precision targeting capability that will help the Air Force continue to provide precision engagement. (US Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Joy Josephson)

The 'Hog' drops in on history

By Master Sgt. Joy Josephson
46th Test Wing

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — The A-10 Warthog, known for its close-air support superiority and the ability to carry large and varied ordnance, is now on its way to delivering a new capability to the warfighter.

The 40th Flight Test Squadron, with support from the 46th Test Wing, Boeing and a host of other units, flew a quick yet historic mission early in November. For the first time, a guided bomb unit-54, the Laser Joint Directed Attack Munition, or LJDAM, was dropped from an A-10C.

“There is a strong need to destroy moving targets in the AOR,” said Capt. Kirt Cassell, the lead A-10C flight test engineer. “The Laser JDAM has shown to be very effective at destroying moving targets on other platforms and Air Combat Command wanted to bring that capability to the A-10C for an upcoming deployment.”

Capt. Cassell and team members from the 40th began planning this test mission in early October. That’s a short timeline for a test mission. Plus, the team was challenged with ensuring the LJDAM worked correctly. To do this, the plan was to drop the bomb on a GPS target and then lase the weapon to another target down range.

“The test was very successful,” said Capt. Cassell. “The weapon functioned properly and released successfully, impacting the target almost exactly where the laser spot was located. We were able to demonstrate that the GBU-54 can successfully

be integrated and dropped from the A-10C.”

Maj. Matthew Domsalla piloted the historic mission. He’s been flying the A-10 for more than eight years and knows that this added capability will make the A-10C even more lethal and more valuable to warfighters needing some firepower assistance.

“The LJDAM provides the pilot the ability to update the targeting if the target moves while the weapon is in flight,” the major said.

The A-10C has already demonstrated tremendous capability in supporting the Global War on Terror. According to the 40th Flight Test Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Evan Dertien, putting

this bomb on the aircraft “will give the A-10 an outstanding precision targeting capability that will help the Air Force continue to provide precision engagement.”

And while making Air Force history is a great feeling for the 40th team, Colonel Dertien says the rewards of a successful test are more far reaching.

“When the weapons are proven in combat and you get feedback from the deployed flying units that a capability worked as expected and made a difference in the fight, that’s the big payoff,” he said.

The next step for the A-10C and LJDAM is to undergo op-

erational tests to develop tactics and techniques for employing the weapon. If those tests prove to go as well as the first, Dertien and the 40th may have their feedback as early as January. The goal is to have this new precision capability deployed to the area of operations by early 2009.

“When the weapons are proven in combat and you get feedback from the deployed flying units that a capability worked as expected and made a difference in the fight, that’s the big payoff.”

— Lt. Col. Evan Dertien

40th Flight Test Squadron commander

Reservists may qualify for early retired pay

From Staff Report
AFRC Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — The Department of Defense has issued new guidelines for early receipt of retired pay for members of the reserve components. Instead of having to wait until age 60 to receive Reserve retired pay, eligible members may receive retired pay prior to age 60 but not before age 50.

Under interim changes to Department of Defense Instruction 1215.07, Service Credit for Reserve Retirement, issued under a law passed by Congress effective Jan. 28, 2008, reserve component members are able to reduce the age at which they are eligible to receive retirement pay by three months for each cumulative period of 90 days served on active duty in any fiscal year. Under the new law, members eligible to receive retired pay earlier than age 60 must still wait until age 60 to receive health-care benefits.

Involuntary mobilization and voluntary active duty in support of a contingency qualify, but there is no requirement to be involuntarily mobilized, to support a contingency or to serve on active duty outside the continental United States to receive credit under the law. Most active-duty time qualifies, including training, operational support duties and school tours. It does not matter whether active-duty time is paid for under military or reserve personnel appropriation accounts, provided such active duty is performed under the authority of 10 U.S. Code § 12301 (d).

Also included is full-time National Guard duty served under a call to active service by a governor and authorized by the president or the secretary of defense under 32 U.S.C. § 502(f) for purposes of responding to either a national emergency declared by the president or a national emergency supported by federal funds.

The following time served on active duty is not creditable service for purposes of reducing retired pay age: as a member of the active Guard and Reserve (10 U.S.C. § 12310); on annual tour (10 U.S.C. § 12301(b)); while in captive status (10 U.S.C. § 12301(g)); for medical treatment, medical evaluation for disability purposes or medical study (10 U.S.C. § 12301(h)); as a member not assigned to, or participating satisfactorily in, units (10 U.S.C. § 12303); under active-duty agreements (10 U.S.C. § 12311); for disciplinary/courts-martial (10 U.S.C. § 12315); or for muster duty (10 U.S.C. § 12319).

Qualifying active-duty service performed after Jan. 28, 2008, the date on which the fiscal 2008 National Defense Authorization Act was enacted, is creditable. The law does not provide credit for time served on or before that date.

Here's an example of how these new guidelines work. A reservist performed five days of active-duty service on MPA orders in February 2008. He then volunteered for active duty beginning June 1 and ending Nov 30 (leave, reconstitution and post-deployment/mobilization respite absence included, as applicable). The reservist performed a total of 127 days of

active-duty service in fiscal year 2008 and 61 days in fiscal 2009.

Under this scenario, all of the active-duty time the reservist performed could be credited toward reduced retirement age eligibility because it was active-duty time performed under circumstances permitted under the new law (i.e., orders for voluntary service, 10 U.S.C. § 12301(d)). However, because time credited must total 90 days or must be in multiples of 90 days in the aggregate during a fiscal year in order to correspondingly reduce his retirement age by three months, or multiples of three months, the reservist will be able to reduce his retirement age by three months for fiscal 2008. Had he performed 53 more days of active-duty service after Jan. 28 and before going on active duty June 1, he would have accumulated 180 total days for fiscal 2008 and thus would be able to reduce his retirement age by six months.

Similarly, because the reservist has so far served on active duty 61 days in fiscal 2009, he must perform an additional 29 days of active-duty service some time during the year in order to reduce his retirement age by an additional three months.

All Airmen are encouraged to ensure their orders specify the statutory provision under which their active-duty service is performed. Airmen are also encouraged to keep track of their active-duty service and orders to ensure they receive proper credit and they meet the cumulative 90-day thresholds to reduce retirement age.

More information is available at www.arpc.afrc.af.mil.

Some drilling reservists qualify for travel reimbursements

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Certain Air Force reservists who travel 150 miles or more from their homes to perform monthly drills may be eligible for round-trip travel reimbursements. Qualifying reservists include those displaced by Base Realignment and Closure actions and programmatic changes or those serving in critical Air Force specialties. They could receive up to \$300 for each round trip taken after Aug. 14, 2008.

A memorandum signed Aug. 14, 2008, by Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Craig W. Duehring established the Air Force policy for Inactive Duty Training Travel Entitlements Outside of Normal Commuting Distance for eligible members.

Only reservists who receive inactive duty for training drill pay are eligible for the pay under the following conditions:

- They are qualified in a skill designated as a critically manned career fields. Officer career fields include, but are not limited to, rated operations staff officers (16G), civil engineers (32E) and clinical social workers (42S). Enlisted career fields include aviation resource management (1C0), operations intelligence (1N0) and safety (1S0).
- They are assigned to an Air Force Reserve unit with a critical manpower shortage or in a pay grade with a critical manpower shortage. Officer career fields include operations commanders

(10C), bomber pilots (11B), test pilots (11E) and fighter pilots (11F). Enlisted career fields include flight engineer (1A1), aircraft loadmaster (1A2), and airborne battle management (1A4).

- They are assigned to a unit or position that is disestablished or relocated as a result of BRAC or another force structure reallocation.

Under this policy, eligible reservists can be reimbursed for all travel expenses for each round-trip travel up to \$300, not to exceed 12 IDT travel trips per calendar year.

Actual costs of lodging, transportation and meals may be reimbursed. Receipts are required for lodging expenses claimed and any expenses of \$75 or more.

Reservists serving on Military Personnel Appropriate and Reserve Personnel Appropriation Man Day tours are not eligible to be reimbursed for their expenses.

The legislation governing IDT travel reimbursement expires Dec. 31, 2010.

For more information, unit reservists can contact their local Reserve military personnel flight. IMAs can contact their respective program manager or base individual mobilization augmentee administrator. Local Reserve finance offices also have information about the travel reimbursement.



(Left) Julie Gerome, left, an Operation Home Front volunteer, checks off household items destined for the 442nd Fighter Wing's Human Resources Development Council "Christmas Store," while Tech. Sgt. Eddie Smith packs boxes. Operation Home Front donated several of the items from their warehouse in St. Louis for the project. Sergeant Smith is from the 442nd Fighter Wing's Airman and Family Readiness Office. (Right) 442nd Fighter Wing Vice Commander Colonel Jim Mackey explains to MSgt. Heather Sells how the free HyVee gift cards the 442nd Fighter Wing Human Resources Development Council distributed at this year's "Christmas Store" will work. The cards provide a meal for a family of eight who otherwise might have difficulty in providing such a meal.



HRDC extends help

By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown

The 442nd Fighter Wing Operation Airmen Helping Airmen "Christmas store" opened its doors on the Saturday of the December unit training assembly – and shut its doors the next day.

This short-lived enterprise wasn't meant to turn a profit. It was meant to help wing Airmen and their families have a more meaningful Christmas in these tough economic times. And that it did, by offering free items ranging from diapers to digital cameras, thanks to the generosity of civilians and Citizen Airmen alike.

The "store," located near Whiteman's dining facility and its Arts and Crafts center, and set up for the December UTA by members of the wing's Human Resources and Development Council, served more than 90 families, according to Maj. Chrissy Abbott Marks, the 442nd Services Flight commander and an HRDC member.

"I'm really happy that the 442nd is known as a family and that we pulled together to help our own," she said. "It's just sad that a lot of people don't realize that we're civilians a lot of the time and that we're hurt by the economy as much as anyone else. It's our way of giving back."

"It was dynamite," said Master Sgt. Vickie Chambers, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Airman & Family Readiness office, and an HRDC member. "When people first came over, they didn't know what to expect. It just overwhelmed them. What we had to offer – people were just touched.

"Some said they weren't going to be able to give their kids a

Christmas, so it's really touched our unit," she said. "We've had officers losing jobs, so it's not just for Airmen. It was for all ranks. For the people working the store, it was a huge blessing, helping our members give Christmas to their families."

Col. James Mackey, 442nd Fighter Wing vice commander and the HRDC chairman, said this good-will initiative began when Major Abbott Marks approached him with the idea in October.

"She just came up and wanted to know if I wanted to help push it and it was a really big success for as quick as we did it," he said. "Considering the turnaround time – we had the idea in October, we pushed it in November and we didn't have much opportunity to advertise it – it was hugely successful."

Drawing on her experience with organizations that help the military in a variety of ways, Sergeant Chambers contacted the St. Louis-Southwest Illinois chapter of Operation Home Front, a civilian-led effort that passes on donated items to military members in need.

"They donated roughly \$6,200 worth of merchandise to us," Sergeant Chambers said. "Digital cameras, teddy bears, lunch boxes, clothes, baby accessories."

Major Abbott Marks said she, Sergeant Chambers and Tech. Sgt. Eddie Smith, an Airman and Family Readiness technician, road-tripped – via a truck from the 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron – to Operation Home Front's warehouse in St. Louis in early December and came back ready to do business.

"The three of us drove there on Dec. 1, and (Jon Jerome, the chapter's president) said there's this giant warehouse and we're



(Right) Master Sgt. Vickie Chambers and Tech. Sgt. Matthew Jobe stock supplies for babies in the Operation Airman Helping Airman "Christmas Store" Dec. 6. The store, managed by the 442nd Fighter Wing's Human Resources Development Council, provided essential items and holiday fare for wing reservists hit by hard economic times in their civilian occupations. Sergeant Chambers is the NCOIC of the the wing's Airman and Family Readiness section while Sergeant Jobe works in the 442nd Maintenance Operations Flight.



ing hand for holidays

thinking it'd be something like Sam's," the major said. "It wasn't that big, but he had the walls stacked with items. He helps mainly Guard and Reserve units. He gave us diapers, toddler toys, cribs, toothbrushes, hats, backpacks."

The generosity wasn't limited to Operation Home Front's efforts, however.

"One civilian anonymously donated more than \$300 worth of items," Major Abbott Marks said. "We collected cash, which bought nine turkeys and two hams, and we got 11 Hy-Vee grocery store gift cards. Each card would feed a family of eight."

The colonel said that more than \$1,000 was collected during the November and December UTAs.

"I was thinking people are probably going to show up at the UTA wanting to donate cash, so I just decided I'd get a bunch of gift cards," the colonel said. "We also collected canned goods during the November UTA. So we used the money for the Hy-Vee cards, plus about 20 or 25 hams and turkeys from the commissary. If folks didn't live near a Hy-Vee, we took their name down, got them a ham or turkey and gave it to them on Sunday."

Approximately 13 wing members volunteered to man the store, but Colonel Mackey said the first hours of the store's business – or lack of – tempered any initial excitement.

"By 8 a.m. on Saturday, we had had one person drop through," he said. "By 10 a.m., a second person. But then word got out that this was a great thing, especially with the quality items for families for the holidays. I think people said to themselves, 'This is something I'm going to take advantage of,' so I really think it was word

of mouth that got people coming in."

Major Abbott Marks said that while the customers were deeply grateful for the generosity shown them, they were quick to be generous themselves.

"People who came in with their families – their kids were so cute," she said. "They picked some items they wanted. Some people who came by just came in to help out. Some who came in said, 'I don't want to take too much in case someone else needs this, too.'"

"The store was for all ranks, for anybody in need from the 442nd," Sergeant Chambers said. "For a first time, we're very pleased, especially considering how busy the weekend was. The outpouring of generosity was tremendous."

According to Major Abbott Marks, HRDC members mentor, retrain and recruit wing members, along with supporting various projects, such as Wright Flight.

"An example of what we do," the major said, "is a young Airman is having problems in his squadron. He can come to HRDC and say anonymously, 'I'm not getting the mentoring I need,' and we'll try to help him. HRDC is also sponsoring the family picnic in June and we're planning on getting the USO to host it, so hopefully it'll be a true family day and not many wing members will have to work it."

For more information on HRDC, contact Major Abbott Marks at christina.marks@whiteman.af.mil or Sergeant Chambers at vickie.chambers@whiteman.af.mil. For more information on Operation Home Front, go to www.operationhomefront.net.

Faces and Places

When the 442nd deploys it calls on *Team Kennedy*

By Staff Sgt. Kent Kagarise

An Airman answers the phone and a voice on the other end informs him he is being deployed. Somewhere there is a space that needs to be filled, a job needs to be done, a mission needs to be accomplished and that Airman is just the individual the Air Force needs.

After the initial shock, the Airman packs their things and heads to Whiteman Air Force Base. As quickly as a week later that same Airman is in the combat theater.

Senior Master Sgt. Rodney Kennedy, Plans and Integration superintendent, 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, has been that shocked Airman packing his bags at the last minute. It was a rapid deployment in the past that drives him to assist others in their deployments today, as well as bring Airmen home with as much ease as possible today.

To accomplish any mission Airman-power is needed and that is where Sergeant Kennedy comes in.

"I make sure the supported commander is getting the right person for the job no matter how long the mission is, and I get the Airman there in a way that is not intrusive to the member," Sergeant Kennedy said.

Sergeant Kennedy manages the spaces for all aspects of deployment. Line-numbers need to be filled to ensure tasking needs are met, along with equipment and cargo, all packed correctly and on the proper plane.

Sergeant Kennedy lights up when he talks about his job.

"I've been doing this for four years," he said. "Nobody comes or goes without moving through LRS. I love making it all come together."

Many can relate to what it means to have a "full plate." Spend a few minutes with Sergeant Kennedy and it becomes obvious he sits at a table where the waiter brings full-course meals from a kitchen that never closes.

"The key to doing my job well is multi-tasking," he said. "You have to be able to prioritize and adjust to priority changes, which can come at you with one phone call," explained Sergeant Kennedy.

Readiness is Sergeant Kennedy's business and he has some words of wisdom for Airmen anticipating a deployment.

"Readiness is our personal responsibility and it requires personal accountability,"

he said. "An Airman should know the requirements and seek to fulfill those requirements. If you haven't been to the dentist in a couple of years – go to the dentist!"

"Simply put – be ready," Sergeant Kennedy emphasized.

While Senior Master Sgt. Kennedy handles filling the required spaces needed for tasks of a mission, a stroll down the hall will lead to Tech. Sgt. Shannon Kennedy, Personnel Readiness chief, 442nd Mission Support Flight who determines the faces to fill those spaces, and she is also Senior Master Sgt.

Kennedy's wife.

The Kennedys have been married for two years but have been friends for much longer. They're teammates at home and work.

"There is 100 percent teamwork between our jobs. I can't do my job without him and vice versa," Tech. Sgt. Kennedy said.

Some may wonder if this puts stress on their marriage. While most couples go to work apart from each other on a daily basis the Kennedys are not only working at the same place but in the same area and toward a common goal.

"It's not hard to work together and be married," Tech. Sgt. Kennedy said. "Sometimes in the evening Rodney and I will sit together at home on the front porch and get more accomplished than we do at the office.

"You wouldn't call a colleague at nine-thirty at night to ask about something that just crossed your mind pertaining to the job," she said. "It's nice to know we are both thinking about the same things."

Even chaplains cannot be in two places at the same time, but the Kennedys do their best to defy human limitations.

"There are times when one of us isn't here and the other is. We share a plan ID, which allows us to do each other's job," Tech. Sgt. Kennedy said.

When talking about her husband's work ethic she said, "Rodney is one of the hardest workers in the unit. Even on issues out of his arena he knows who to call to get things done and quite often gets calls pertaining to things outside his area of responsibility

"Rodney's mind is going 24/7 but never seems stressed and always gets the job done well," Tech. Sgt. Kennedy said.



PHOTO BY MAJ. DAVID KURLIE

"We are the muscle of the 442nd Fighter Wing that executes the plans"

- Senior Master Sgt. Rodney Kennedy, Plans and Integration superintendent



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. TOM TALBERT

"It's not hard to work together and be married."

- Tech. Sgt. Shannon Kennedy, personnel readiness chief



PHOTO BY MAJ. DAVID KURLE

Tech. Sgt. Shannon Kennedy watches her husband, Senior Master Sgt. Rodney Kennedy, call the crew of a C-130 waiting to take reservists from the 442nd Fighter Wing to observe an operational readiness inspection in South Carolina in December. As the Plans and Integration superintendent for the 442nd Logistics Readiness

Squadron, Rodney organizes the logistics to get reservists to their assigned places. Shannon, the Personnel Readiness chief for the 442nd Mission Support Flight, manages the manning requirements to fill deployment assignments. The husband and wife team are crucial to deploying reservists from the wing.

The symbolism of marriage has often been the joining of two, becoming one. In the Kennedy's case this body is much like a body-builder.

"We are the muscle of the 442nd FW that executes the plans," Senior Master Sgt. Kennedy said.

The Kennedys' cohesion is best summed up by a visit to

Tech. Sgt. Kennedy's office where she is busy on the phone. The stress levels seem somewhat high as another phone begins to ring. Without much thought her husband picks up the other line and the tension levels in the room drop immensely.

Behind every good Airman – is another Airman.

2009 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

Grade	Years of Service														
	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
O-8	1,206	1,246	1,272	1,279	1,312	1,366	1,380	1,431	1,446	1,491	1,555	1,615	1,654	1,654	1,654
O-7	1,003	1,048	1,070	1,087	1,118	1,149	1,184	1,220	1,255	1,366	1,461	1,461	1,461	1,461	1,468
O-6	743	817	870	870	873	911	915	915	967	1,060	1,113	1,168	1,198	1,228	1,289
O-5	619	698	746	754	785	803	835	872	910	967	994	1,021	1,051	1,051	1,051
O-4	534	618	661	669	708	748	799	840	867	883	893	893	893	893	893
O-3	470	533	575	628	657	689	711	746	764	764	764	764	764	764	764
O-2	405	462	533	550	562	562	562	562	562	562	562	562	562	562	562
O-1	352	367	443	443	443	443	443	443	443	443	443	443	443	443	443
O-3E	-	-	-	628	657	689	711	746	776	793	816	816	816	816	816
O-2E	-	-	-	550	562	580	610	634	650	650	650	650	650	650	650
O-1E	-	-	-	443	473	491	508	527	550	550	550	550	550	550	550
E-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	586	601	616	637	656	688	737	744	787
E-8	-	-	-	-	-	480	502	514	531	547	578	594	620	635	671
E-7	334	364	378	397	411	435	450	463	489	501	512	521	544	560	601
E-6	289	318	331	346	359	392	404	418	430	434	437	437	437	437	437
E-5	264	283	296	311	331	350	364	368	368	368	368	368	368	368	368
E-4	243	255	269	283	294	294	294	294	294	294	294	294	294	294	294
E-3	219	233	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247
E-2	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209
E-1	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186

E-1 with less than four months: \$168

All amounts reflect a 3.9 percent raise over 2008 totals and are rounded to the nearest dollar

CAC login gives users easy access

By Master Sgt. J.C. Woodring
Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

DENVER — Air Reserve Personnel Center officials launched a new enhancement today allowing Airmen to log into the virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve using their Common Access Card. This enhancement gives Airmen the option to associate their vPC-GR account with their CAC, eliminating the need to remember another password.

“This is something that our customers have been asking for, and we’re happy to give them this additional option of access,” said Lt. Col. Doug Ottinger, ARPC’s future operations and integration director.

Before Airmen can log into the vPC-GR using only their CAC, they must associate it by a logging in with their existing account and then clicking on the “Associate CAC” button. For those who do not have an account, they must create an account and then associate it with their CAC. Although the CAC option is available, it is not required. Airmen still have the option, whether their account is associated or not, to use their username and password.

“We wanted to give our customers the flexibility to easily log in with their CAC as well as maintaining the username and password option for those who may be without a CAC reader,” Colonel Ottinger said.



U.S. Air Force graphic by Mike Moline

Users of the virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve can now log in using a Common Access Card. This enhancement gives Airmen the option to associate their vPC-GR account with their CAC, eliminating the need to remember another password.

Citizen Airmen can contact their unit for CAC-reader availability.

Maintenance group changes leaders

PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. KENT KAGARISE



Left, Lt. Col. Michael Wood speaks to the 442nd Maintenance Group following a change of command ceremony Dec. 6, making him the new commander of the 442nd Fighter Wing's largest group. Colonel Wood was previously the deputy chief of maintenance in the 477th Fighter Group at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Below, Colonel Wood, right, accepts the flag, and command, of the 442nd Maintenance Group from Col. Mark Clemons

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Wing's safety office named best in AFRC

Tech. Sgt. Justin Johnston briefs 442nd Fighter Wing newcomers about local safety issues Dec. 7. Sergeant Johnston is part of the six-person Safety Office, which was recently named the best safety office in Air Force Reserve Command. The wing's safety staff credits the "culture of safety" among the members of the wing for their success in promoting ground, weapons and flying safety programs.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. TOM TALBERT



By: Staff Sgt. Kent Kagarise

Air Force Reserve Command released its safety-award selections for 2008 and recognized the 442nd Fighter Wing's safety team with The Safety Office of the Year Award Nov. 26.

The inspection reviewed safety programs in the areas of weapons, flight, ground and documentation.

"They look at everything," said Senior Master Sgt. Steve Smith, Chief of Ground Safety, and one of six members of the wing's Safety Office.

Although the award was given to the 442nd Fighter Wing's Safety Office it is difficult to find personnel within the office who will take credit for the award.

"The award belongs to the 442nd FW, not the office," Sergeant Smith said. "The safety maintained by every Airman, commander and civilian is what allowed us to win."

According to Lt. Col. Patrick Murphy, Chief of Safety, 442nd FW safety is a culture that is achieved when everyone believes in the same ideals.

"We have a saying around here. The mission is first, but safety is always," Colonel Murphy said.

Receiving such an accolade can provoke numerous emotions.

"I was kind of surprised," said Tech Sgt. Justin Johnston, ground safety technician. "We really feel undeserving. It's humbling to be recognized like this out of the entire Air Force Reserve Command."

There is one recurring theme through the safety office and that is the consistency of the 442nd FW maintenance.

"We get a lot of compliments on those guys. I've been around other maintenance crews and nobody is close to what we have here," Sergeant Johnston said. "You can eat off their floors, they're so clean."

The Safety Office of the Year was awarded to the 442nd FW, but it is clear that the office would like to give credit to the wing as a whole for making safety a way of life. There is plenty of credit to be given – but in selfless fashion, nobody accepts it.

Maj. Les Bradfield, an A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot with the 442nd Operations Support Flight looks to his aircraft crew chief, Senior Airman Andrea Sumner, prior to launching his aircraft on a local training flight during the December Unit Training Assembly. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tom Talbert)

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**“The mission of the United States Air Force
is to *fly, fight and win* ...
in air, space and cyberspace.”**

**-- The Air Force's new
mission statement**

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