

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing



**476th FG prepared
for first AEF combat deployment**
Wing's GSU ready in less than 2 years

Focus on Leadership

By Lt. Col. Michael Wood, 442nd Maintenance Group commander



“Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier. The ripple effect of a leader’s enthusiasm and optimism is awesome. So is the impact of cynicism and pessimism. Leaders who whine and blame engender those same behaviors among their colleagues. I am not talking about stoically accepting organizational stupidity and performance incompetence with a ‘what, me worry?’ smile. I am talking about a gung-ho attitude that says we can change things here, we can achieve awesome goals and we can be the best. Spare me the grim litany of the ‘realist;’ give me the unrealistic aspirations of the optimist any day.”

- Gen. Colin Powell
US Army, retired

The United States Air Force Reserve is packed full of leaders – individuals who have stepped up to meet the challenge to defend this great country.

They have volunteered for their military duty, held themselves to the Air Force’s core values and sometimes paid the ultimate sacrifice.

In the 442nd Maintenance Group there are plenty of examples of this. It’s extremely comforting as the commander of this magnificent group to be surrounded by such talented and inspiring warrior leaders – and I do not use the term “warrior” lightly. In this day and age, our choice in profession screams “warrior.”

The reputation this unit has throughout the command is exceptional. The past year, as we strove to become more standardized – combined with our drive to become tech-data compliant and executing next year’s inspection takes leadership from each one of us to push us even further to be a premier combat force.

Leadership by proxy is out, and leadership by example is in. Leaders set the example and tone of their shops, flights and squadrons. We, as leaders, in the 442nd MXG will set the example for other units within the command to follow.

As the group commander I expect my warrior leaders to be enthusiastic. They need to be able to manage their personal life with their civilian em-

ployment and reserve commitments. They must be oriented toward quality maintenance production with the mission of this wing as the guiding light. Our warrior leaders will be responsive and cooperative within the group and to the wing. They must have situational awareness and an acute understanding of the health, safety and welfare of the unit. Above all else, they will be loyal to their fellow Airmen.

Their very soul should speak to the core values that make this Air Force so great.

Integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do.

By the book, integrity is a character trait. It’s the most important because it is the essence of oneself. Integrity is the willingness to do what is right when no one is looking. Our group leadership will have integrity above all else. They will have courage, honesty, be responsive and accountable, show humility, and speak with openness, not to degrade, but to encourage. The organization needs direction and our warrior leaders will provide it.

Never doubt this – I am extremely proud to call the 442nd MXG home. It is one of the best maintenance organizations in this command and especially one of the more combat-proven.

We have the extreme honor of putting on a uniform and serving this great nation ... do it proudly with the mission in mind!

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

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Charge-of-quarters

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MASTER SGT. KENNETH KOYLES

442ND MAINTENANCE 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: An A-10C from the 23rd Wing -- the active-duty unit the 476th Fighter Group is associated with -- drops flares over a range in Georgia. The 442nd Fighter Wing's geographically-separated 476th FG is ready to deploy Air Force Reservists on its first combat tour. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Benjamin Wiseman, 23rd Wing Public Affairs)

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T 442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

TECH. SGT. DAVID LAWSON 442ND MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

Tech. Sgt. David Lawson has been with the 442nd Services Flight for more than 12 years and was instrumental during the operational readiness inspection in July. Due to his diligence and hard work, the Services Food Team earned an excellent score. As a traditional reservist, he took time off from his civilian job to prepare the flight for the inspection, including tear down and set up of the single pallet expeditionary kitchen, SPEK inventory, and much more. His primary duty was supervisor of the SPEK store room, where he kept inventory of all food assets. When a packaging mistake was discovered during an inventory, he quickly resolved it – impressing the inspector. In addition, he was also the primary post-attack reconnaissance team leader, teaching younger Airmen par duties. During one of the mass-casualty exercises, he took charge of the situation, assessing casualties and tending to the wounded. He was recognized by one of the inspectors for his quick response and take-charge attitude. In August, he deployed to support Patriot Defender ground combat skills training, providing breakfast and dinner to 140 security forces troops during the 15-day deployment.

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MAINTENANCE GROUP HOSTS FAMILY DAY

Face painting

Photo by Staff Sgt.
Tom Talbert

Lt. Col. Anne Yelderman, former 442nd Maintenance Squadron commander, now 442nd Mission Support Group deputy commander, paints faces during a maintenance group picnic at Skelton Park, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

By Senior Airman Danielle Wolf

After months of operational readiness inspection preparation and execution, maintainers and their families were finally able to breathe again.

That's what Senior Airman Kathleen Woodward, orderly room technician, said about the 442nd Maintenance Group's family day picnic Aug. 7.

"The inspection phase was stressful for a lot of people and it took time away from our families," she said. "So it was good to be able to get together, relax and just breathe – and to be able to spend time with our families."

Airman Woodward said her two, young children spent time at the picnic in the bouncy house and getting their faces painted.

Staff Sgt. Justin Bunting, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron electro-environmental technician, said his daughter played on the playground and seemed to be having a good time at the picnic.

"Everybody really needed this break," he said. "It was good stress relief and gave us a chance to bond and appreciate one another. Plus, who doesn't want to go to a picnic and eat steak?"

The 442nd Fighter Wing annual family day picnic is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., Sept. 11 at Skelton Park. Airmen and their families will have the opportunity to see an A-10 Thunderbolt II, AH-64 Apache, T-38 Talon and the Oscar-1 missile silo (Sign-up for O-1 at picnic stage.)



Barbecue

Photo by Staff Sgt.
Tom Talbert

Chaplain (Maj.) James Buckman receives food supplied by Fishnet Securities, Inc. at the MXG family day picnic.



Simulator
Congressman Skelton tours the A-10 Thunderbolt II simulator with Lt. Col. Brian Borgen.

Congressman speaks to Airmen, tours new facility

Photos and story by Senior Airman Danielle Wolf



Tour
Congressman Ike Skelton discusses the 442nd FW mission with Col. Mark Clemons and Lt. Col. Brian Borgen during a visit July 25.

Congressman Ike Skelton visited the 303rd Fighter Squadron July 25 to speak to Airmen, tour the new facility and present a flag to the command.

Originally from Lexington, Mo., the congressman, who is also the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, was unable to attend last fall's ribbon-cutting ceremony at the squadron.

During his visit, Mr. Skelton expressed to Airmen his appreciation for their dedication and commitment to military service, then presented an American flag that was flown over the nation's capitol to the squadron.

"Congressman Skelton took valuable time off to fly here and ensure we know he cares (about

the 442nd Fighter Wing,)" said Col. Mark Clemons, wing commander. "The flag he left is a symbol of a new building dedication and a symbol of Congressman Skelton's interest in our mission."

The congressman also discussed the wing's role in overseas missions. Colonel Clemons, Lt. col. Brian Borgen, 303rd FS commander; and Chief Master Sgt. Allan Sutrges, 442nd FW command chief gave Mr. Skelton a tour of the new building to include the new, state-of-the-art, 360-degree A-10 simulator.

"Congressman Skelton spent an hour with us looking over the facilities and asking questions about the mission," Colonel Borgen said. "We could tell how tuned in on our mission he was from the first minute of the tour."

Airmen donate blood to save lives

During the August unit training assembly the 442nd Fighter Wing Human Resources Development Council and the 509th Bomb Wing teamed up to sponsor the Armed Services Blood Drive.

More than 140 people participated in the drive, with 120 units shipped directly to Iraq and Afghanistan for injured personnel.

For those of us who aren't deployed, it gives an opportunity to support those who are. It takes 30 minutes to save a life for someone who is making the sacrifices I can't make right now."

- Maj. Cathy Roberts
HRDC co-chairperson

145 members processed
130 units collected
120 units shipped overseas

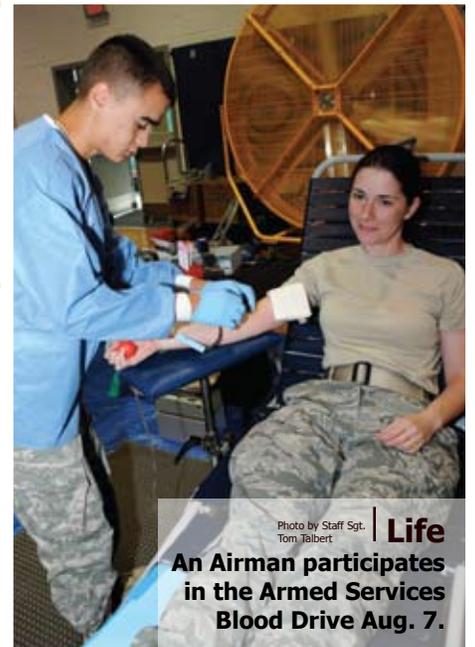


Photo by Staff Sgt. Tom Tibbert
Life
An Airman participates in the Armed Services Blood Drive Aug. 7.

The 442nd HRDC is currently working with the 509th BW to schedule future blood drives to support the ASB program.



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. CECILIO M. RICARDO JR.

476th Fighter Group scheduled for first deployment

Less than two years after standing up unit, reservists head to Afghanistan

By Senior Airman Danielle Wolf

Twenty-five reservists from the wing's geographically separated 476th Fighter Group at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., are scheduled to deploy in September along with their active-duty counterparts.

The Airmen, pilots and maintainers, will deploy to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom to provide close air support for U.S. and International Security Assistance Force troops on the ground.

"We've been effective in working with the active-duty squadron's commander to integrate into the line numbers our folks are filling," said Col. Gregory Eckfeld, 476th FG commander.

TOTAL FORCE INTEGRATION

The 476th FG stood up as an associate unit Feb. 1, 2009. Since then, the group has worked side-by-side with active-duty Airmen from the 23rd Wing.

"(This deployment) will make our relationship with the active duty that much stronger," Colonel Eckfeld said. "It's clear that there are differences, but when we deploy together, we're wearing the same uniform and supporting the same mission.

Along with the desire for total force integration, Colonel Eckfeld said the deploying reservists will also bring a variety of experiences to the unit's first large-scale combat deployment.

"All of our pilots are currently A-10C-model instructor pilots," he said. "A lot of our pilots will be supervisors and lead missions during the deployment. They are all field-grade officers with thousands of hours of experience."

Maj. Dennis Ott, 76th Fighter Squadron A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot, will be part of the deployment package.

"We have a great working relationship with the active duty," he said. "And, we should have a pretty good setup. Other units, who have gone before us, should have worked out many of the kinks, allowing us to be more mission-effective."

Senior Master Sgt. Ron Clark is an air reserve technician with the 476th Maintenance Squadron and will be deploying with the group.

Sergeant Clark, who deployed with the 442nd Maintenance Group to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in 2008, will deploy with the 476th FG as the specialist flight chief.

"(The 476th) has grown tremendously over

“ Our Airmen worked side-by-side with unit deployment managers and training managers to prepare for this. Our traditional reservists did focus-training in August to ensure a lot of the air expeditionary force training was met, including small-arms and chemical-warfare training. Active duty supported that training on the August drill and helped us finish up any loose ends. ”

- Col. Gregory Eckfeld
476th Fighter Group
commander



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN JOSHUA STRANG

The most prominent feature of the A-10 Thunderbolt II is the 30-millimeter GAU-8/A Avenger Gatling-gun cannon. Designed before the aircraft that carries it this weapon is capable of firing 3,900 rounds a minute and can defeat an array of ground targets to include tanks. Both the A-10 and GAU-8 entered service in 1977 and the gun represents 16 percent of the aircraft's weight.



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. KATIE BROWN

the past year and a half, and the relationship with our active-duty counterparts has been pretty smooth," he said. "We have also shown that we can be put into leadership positions and be as effective as the active-duty Airmen."

PREPARATION

Members of the 476th FG spent several unit training assemblies preparing for the deployment, Colonel Eckfeld said.

"Our Airmen worked side-by-side with unit deployment managers and training managers to prepare for this," he said. "Our traditional reservists did focus-training in August to ensure a lot of the air expeditionary force training was met, including small-arms and chemical-warfare training. Active duty supported that training on the August drill and helped us finish up any loose ends."

In addition to active-duty counterparts at Moody AFB, Colonel Eckfeld said the group's parent unit, the 442nd FW, provided vast support.

He said Senior Master Sgt. Rodney Kennedy and Tech. Sgt. Shannon Kennedy, 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, have traveled to the separated unit to assist with deployment readiness and orders, as well as Senior Master Sgt. Shevaun McRoberts, also from the 442nd LRS, who assisted with clothing requirements for the deployment.

"(Chief Master Sgt. Allan Sturges, 442nd FW command chief) came down here on the August drill to give us insight on some areas of deployment we hadn't thought of," Colonel Eckfeld said. "He gave us some good ideas to help our deployers' families."

Chief Master Sgt. Tim Storms, formerly the 442nd Maintenance Squadron's first sergeant, is now part of the 476th FG as a traditional reservist. Colonel Eckfeld said the chief was instrumental in ensuring the group had the funding to "go to war."

MANNING

Of approximately 240 Airmen in the 476th FG, Colonel Eckfeld said more than 10 percent of the group volunteered for the deployment.

"We had additional volunteers, but were only able to fill the slots based on the active duty's requests," he said. "We have a good cadre to support these folks as well."

"We couldn't have prepared for this deployment without support from the 442nd FW and the 23rd Wing here at Moody," the colonel said. "A lot of people from the 476th will be picking up the load while the deployers are gone. My hat is off to the folks who have taken on additional manning – this is really a team effort."



Par for the

for the

By Senior Airman Danielle Wolf

Airmen, retirees and Wright-Flight supporters teed off to support local high-school students in the 2nd Annual Wright Flight Golf Tournament at Royal Oaks Golf Course, Whiteman AFB, Mo., Aug. 7.

The tournament yielded 80 participants and raised more than \$1,500 for the organization, said Capt. Chad Rogers, 303rd Fighter Squadron A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot and co-coordinator of the event.

The winning team, comprised





“ Raising money for Wright Flight is important, because through the program we are able to teach kids about aviation history – and more importantly, goal-setting, achieving and assessing. ”



-Capt. Chad Rogers
WF Golf Tournament
co-coordinator



Fore!

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tom Talbert

(Far left) Maj. Steve “Nasty” Nester tees off during the Wright Flight Golf Tournament. Along with Capt. Chad Rogers and Maj. Todd Riddle, Maj. Nester was a co-coordinator of the event.

Drive

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tom Talbert

(Left) Capt. Rick Mitchell, formerly of the 303rd FS, tees off during the tournament.

Prayin’ for par

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tom Talbert

(Below) Chaplain (Maj.) James Buckman prays with his team prior to teeing off.



course

of Mike Bannon, Wendy Bannon, Carl Clark and Rob Mehan, scored a 58.

Wright Flight is an organization supported by the 442nd Fighter Wing in which students participate in a nine-week academic course involving the history and general knowledge of aviation. The program inspires students to set and achieve goals.

Once students meet the requirements, including remaining drug and alcohol free throughout the course, they are given the opportunity to experience a hands-on-flight in a private aircraft.



The sergeant's stats:

Bench press: 621.5 pounds

Squat: 429 pounds

Dead lift: 599.5 pounds

Recruiter wins state power lifting championship

By Staff Sgt. Kent Kagarise

Power lifting: A strength sport comprised of three events — bench press, squat and deadlift.

Staff Sgt. Chris Modlin, 442nd Fighter Wing USAF Reserve recruiter, recently won first place in the American Drug Free Power Lifting Federation's 2010 Missouri state meet.

Sergeant Modlin, who has completed twice before, was in the 221-242 weight division for the competition, hosted in Columbia, Mo. Despite his previous competitions, this was the first time he took home first place.

The competition is comprised of three events: squat, dead lift and bench press. Each competitor is given three opportunities to lift as much weight as possible.

"The first lift is moderately heavy," Sergeant Modlin said. "Then you progress up while utilizing 15- to 20-minute breaks in between to prepare for your next attempt."

He said the goal during the rest period is to maintain the proper frame of mind so that relaxation does not take precedence over the proper amount of intensity required to increase weight.

"I usually listen to my iPod," he said. "Lots of heavy metal seems to work for me."

Sergeant Modlin visits the gym two hours a day, four days a week in order to stay in shape and meet his goals.

"(During) my last competition, I squatted 623 pounds and would really like to get up to 700," Sergeant Modlin said.

Sergeant Modlin encourages others to be fit while he trains for competition.

"It's a motivating presence when you see him lift that much weight," said Capt. Keith Yersak, 442nd FW wing executive officer. "It makes you want to try harder."

Staff Sgt. Zachery Walker, 442nd FW services technician, works out at the fitness center at Whiteman Air Force Base with Sergeant Modlin. The two spot each other to ensure safety while



Recruiter Photo by Staff Sgt. Kent Kagarise
Staff Sgt. Chris Modlin won the American Drug Free Power Lifting Federation's 2010 Missouri state meet for powerlifting.

lifting extreme weight.

"You have to show up with your game face," Sergeant Walker said. "Working out with (Sergeant Modlin) has improved my technique and taught me to believe I've got more in me than I think."

Sergeant Modlin started lifting weights in 1997 but had not focused on power lifting until 1999.

"At that time there was a bigger following of power lifters in the gym," Sergeant Modlin said. "I began training with (the power lifters) and liked that style, which led to them talking to me about a competition in 2000."

Sergeant Modlin has applied the same power-lifting principles to benefit his Air Force career by setting goals and going after them the same way he would go after the next pound.

"If you want to make gains in the Air Force, you've got to go after it with the same go-getter attitude you bring to the gym," Sergeant Modlin said.

Sergeant Modlin also said his and other power lifters' greatest obstacles are maintaining 100 percent focus while attaining objectives — and that it takes decisions to cut a lot of things out of their lives.

While it's hard work, he said, and requires a commitment that's accompanied by sacrifices, Sergeant Modlin has no plans to quit any time soon.

"I just love doing it," he said. "For some reason it brings a certain amount of confidence that not everybody can put 600 pounds on their back without freaking out."

Sergeant Modlin has advice for Airmen considering a life of power lifting.

"Do it — it's fun!" he said.



AFR 2012: Command makes it easier for reservists to volunteer, mobilize, deploy

From Citizen Airman Magazine

Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington | **Deployment**
442nd Fighter Wing Airmen deploy in 2008 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Air Force Reserve officials are proposing comprehensive changes to how reservists are managed and called to active duty based on lessons learned from nearly nine years of combat and surge operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Collectively called “AFR 2012,” this series of projects establishes a single organization to access Air Force Reserve capability, streamlines the numbered air force management structure and strengthens Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command expertise in a wide range of new and emerging Air Force missions

“We are revising our management structures and practices to make it easier for our reservists to volunteer, mobilize and deploy,” said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., commander of Air Force Reserve Command. “As our Air Force prepares for the future, streamlining how we bring highly capable and cost-effective Reservists on to active duty is vital to our nation’s defense.”

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the Air Force and Department of Defense have asked all reserve-component organizations to take on an expanded operational role. In the last nine years, more than 32,000 Air Force reservists, representing nearly every Air Force mission area, have volunteered or been mobilized for active duty to fill critical worldwide combat and support

requirements.

“AFR 2012 is our vision to enhance the predictability and sustainability of our reserve force,” General Stenner said. “We’re going to remove bureaucratic redundancies and barriers to service.”

As the first step to redesigning its processes, functions and structures, the Air Force Reserve did an internal review of its headquarters staffs at the Office of Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.; HQ AFRC at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; and the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

The most significant organizational change proposed by the Air Force Reserve is a new “Force Generation Center,” projected to be fully operational by 2012. This new organization will be the single manager of the readiness, predictability and availability of Air Force Reserve resources. This will include visibility over reservists and Air Force Reserve organizations supporting operational missions, as well as developing better predictability for individual reservists, their families and their employers.

In addition, the Air Force Reserve will propose staff changes that enhance headquarters expertise in new and emerging missions, streamline the overall command management structure, improve oversight of Air Force Reserve forces, and enable

leadership to assess and address the stress on reservists serving at a greatly increased operational tempo.

“The Air Force Reserve is first and foremost a strategic reserve,” General Stenner said. “We have to have measures to protect the depth of our forces and ensure our nation has the ability to surge when we really need it.”

With about 70,000 people actively participating, the Air Force Reserve is the smallest of the Air Force’s three components. The regular Air Force comprises about 336,000 Airmen, while the Air National Guard has about 109,000 people.

Reservists save taxpayers money because they are called to active duty in a pay status only when the nation needs them. When they are no longer needed, reservists return to their civilian lives and a non-pay status. Nearly 80 percent of the Air Force Reserve is maintained on a called-up-as-needed but ready-now status.

“We provide nearly 17 percent of the Air Force’s capability for about 4 percent of the Air Force’s budget,” General Stenner said. “Our units and people make outstanding contributions to the national defense. Every day, we leverage a portion of the strategic reserve to support today’s operations with a careful eye not to deplete the strategic reserve’s surge capability until absolutely needed.”

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Several members of the 442nd Fighter Wing participate in the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Missouri Chapter 4-5, an organization that supports the Armed Forces and rides motorcycles together as a hobby. (Photo by Senior Airman Danielle Wolf)

TO THE FAMILY OF:



No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.

-Calvin Coolidge

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