Wing expands across country with new GSUs Page 8

A2nd Eighter Wing

442nd Fighter Wing

February 2011

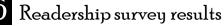
www.442fw.afrc.af.mil Whiteman AFB, Mo.



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CHIEF. PUBLIC AFFAIRS Vacant

EDITOR Staff Sgt. Danielle Wolf

PA STAFF Tech. Sgt. Tom Talbert Tech. Sgt. Kent Kagarise Senior Airman Tracy Brown Senior Airman Wesley Wright

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Cover story Wing stands up 917th Fighter \bigcirc

Group at Barksdale AFB, La.

STAFF. SGT. SARIETHIA LEMOS 442ND MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

ip of the Spear

Staff Sgt. Sariethia "Ricci" Lemos is a tremendous asset to the 442nd Fighter Wing Education and Training Office and to those customers lucky enough to meet her. Her positive attitude, professionalism and take-charge mindset are infectious. As a junior noncommissioned officer, she volunteered to take on the significant duties of the mission support group training manager during his extended absence. She updated, tracked and processed training requests for 251 members. She gathered training statistics and provided six commanders with accurate and detailed reports regarding their members. Some of her many other accomplishments include managing 179 formal and developmental school requests, verifying 60 backlogged Montgomery G.I. Bill and college kicker benefit recipients' information, administering more than 225 course exams, and overhauling her office's filing system. Her efforts in the emergency operation center during the operational readiness inspection directly contributed to the PERSCO team receiving the Inspector General's Superior Team Award. In addition, she is setting the example for all Airmen by pursuing dual-Bachelor of Art degrees; she hopes to graduate this Spring. Sergeant Lemos is truly a tip of the spear and an inspiration to us all.

In memory of...

Tech. Sgt. Lanny Rex Oct. 3, 1974 - Jan. 7, 2011



Lanny was an outstanding warrior maintainer, an exceptional person, with tremendous faith, a quick smile and a little mischief to boot. His leadership was an integral component in our quest to rebuild an exceptional maintenance organization. He was one of our flight line "Mavericks" controlling maintenance generating aircraft for the phase-two inspection and more recently for the regeneration in the phase-one inspection. Every time I met him on the line, he had an infectious smile and an extremely positive outlook at all times! Tech. Sqt. Lanny Rex was a gifted person ... He will be missed.

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

442nd Fighter Wing -

I would like to thank all who provided support and guidance to my daughter, Michelle Hall Rex, in the death of her husband, Tech. Sqt. Lanny Rex. The response of all involved at the funeral was beyond belief. Thanks again to the 442nd personnel and all involved.

- Ron Hall. Lanny Rex's father-in-law

Tech. Sgt. Lanny Rex, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief and air reserve technician, passed away Jan. 7 in Warrensburg, Mo.

Sergeant Rex, of California, Mo., is the son of Lynn and Beverly (Garnett) Rex of California, both of whom he is survived by. Sergeant Rex and his family were members of Main Street Baptist Church, where he was instrumental in the implementation of the discipleship program.

Those who knew Sergeant Rex, knew he loved hunting and fishing, spending time with his children, and taking care of their sheep.

Sergeant Rex served in the United States Air Force for 13 years. He deployed to Kuwait, Iraq and most recently to Afghanistan.

He is survived by his wife, Michelle, two daughters, Tobi and Jayden, both of the home; one brother, Jeff Rex and his wife, Gretchen, and son, Gideon, of California, Mo.; one nephew, Tyler Mock; and many aunts and uncles.

Sergeant Rex received full military honors. For those who would like to contribute, memorials are suggested to the Children of Lanny Rex Education Fund, c/o Central Bank, Attn: Sara Holtsclaw, 329 S. Oak, California, Mo. 65018





Reservist saves man from burning building, receives honors in civilian job

The Marshall, Mo. 911 operator answered the phone twice on Dec. 20, 2010 and heard a caller said, "Help me!" before hanging up the phone.

After plotting the call in order to get an address for the distressed man, the operator contacted Officer (Senior Airman)

Ryan Stark, a police officer for the Marhsall, Mo. Police Department and a reservist in the 442nd Aircrew Flight Equipment shop, part of the 442nd Fighter Wing.

"I walked up to the house and immediately saw smoke, fire and could hear a man inside yelling for help – at this time my partner kicked in the door," Airman Stark said.

Airman Stark then ran into the burning house where he called

out to the victim, who could not be seen due to the thick smoke, which hindered Airman Stark from wandering the corridors of the residence.

"It sounded like the voice was coming from the rear of the house, so I went outside to the back door in hopes of gaining access to the panicked man," he said.

Airman Stark broke in the back door and once again was confronted by a wall of smoke which was accompanied by a terrified

vell, "Help me! Don't let me burn!"

Airman Stark said his Adrenalin spiked as he exited the building and ran past three windows frantically trying to choose which one to bust so he could find the man inside.

"I don't know why I passed those other windows," Airman

Senior Airman Ryan Stark

Duty title: aircrew flight equipment technician

Where you might see Airman Stark: Inspecting life-support equipment, helping pilots suit up, assisting with pilot-survival training, patrolling the streets of Marshall, Mo. (for his civilian job as a police officer) (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kent Kagarise)

> "At that point, I wasn't thinking about myself, just the guy inside who looked at me with a soot-covered face and yelled for me to help him again and told me he was paraplegic," Airman Stark said.

Airman Stark and his partner, along with a Saline County Deputy of Missouri, who responded to the call, pulled the victim to safety.

and brushed away the

remaining shards.

Airman Cory Terrill, E-2

Unit: 442nd Maintenance Group

Duty title: Personnel specialist Hometown: Glasgow, Mo. Civilian job: Student **Education:** High-school graduate

Where you might see **Airman Terrill:** Maintenance group orderly room

What do you want to be doing in 10 years? I want to be an officer

What do you like about working in the 442nd Fighter Wing? Wing events and traveling

Why did you join the Air Force Reserve? Family tradition – my father was in the militarv

What is the most challenging aspect of your job? Doing a big task in a limited amount of time

Dali Diaz, civilian

Deployments: I have been sup-

Hobbies: Reading, cross-stitch-

Career goals: To support the

commander the best I can while

What do you want to be do-

ing in 10 years? I want to be

What would you like about

working in the 442nd Fighter

get the job done while having fun

Wing? I like the people I work

with and appreciate that we all

and accomplishing the mission.

retired in Puerto Rico and live by

porting deployments for 18 years ...

Unit: 442nd Fighter Wing Duty title: Wing commander's

Hometown: Patillas,

with the 442nd FW

secretary

Puerto Rico

ing, cooking

I'm here

the beach

DID YOU KNOWS The average length of time a federal-service employee works for the Air Force is 14.5 years. * According to Air Force Personnel Statistics, December 2010

was by the grace of God, but I fortunately picked the right one." In the midst of clearing the glass from the window pane,Officer Stark dropped his flashlight, cut both of his hands,

PHOTO BY SARAH REED/DEMOCRAT NEWS, PERMISSION FOR USE GRANTED

Officer (Senior Airman) Ryan Stark is award-

ed by Marshall, Mo. Police Department and

the City Council for heroic actions while he

was on duty as a Marshall police officer.

Award



Stark said. "Maybe it





442nd Fighter Wing expands with second GSU

917th heritage continues as fighter group

By Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston, 307th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

nated as the 917th Fighter Group. Thunderbolt II unit.

Col. Eric Overturf, commander of the 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., accepted the new flag from General Stenner. The new fighter group is now part of the 442nd FW.

"I'm proud to be your commander," said Colonel Overturf to the Airmen of the 917th FG. "Make no mistake ... You can rest assured when the nation calls on the 917th for airpower, we'll answer the call, and we'll be ready."

The A-10 close-air-support aircraft previously assigned to the 917th WG will remain at Barksdale. The fighter group will be assigned to the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., and will be gained by Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.

"We're losing the A-10s to Whiteman, but they'll still be here. We will still support them, but we are focusing on the bombers," said Brig. Gen. John J. Mooney III, 307th Bomb Wing commander and former commander of the 917th Wing.

The 917th Wing started in 1963 at Barksdale as a troop carrier. General Stenner noted that its lineage has changed over the years, but the unit has never deactivated. He said members of the unit, past and present, can be proud of what they have achieved and will continue to achieve.

By Staff Sgt. Danielle Wolf

The 442nd Fighter Wing now has command over three geographically separated units including the 476th Fighter Group at Moody AFB, Ga.; the 917th Fighter Group at Barksdale AFB, La.; and the 924th Fighter Group at Davis-Montham AFB, Ariz. In addition, the 442nd FW supports the 610th Intelligence Operations Flight at Ouffut AFB, Neb via Military Personnel Flight and finance assistance. As a result of the GSU gains, only 50.4 percent of the personnel in the 442nd FW will serve at Whiteman AFB; the remainder of the wing will be located at the GSUs throughout the country. According to the 442nd Military Personnel Flight, for the last two years, the wing has had approximately 1,299 members. The 917th and 924th Fighter group additions will put the wing at a total of approximately 2,083 authorized positions. The 442nd Financial Mangagment Office is the only office at Whiteman that may may gain addi-

tional personnel.

"The additional manning is pending a manpower study, which unfortunately is not expected to occur for two years," said Senior Master Sgt. Cesar Ortiz, 442nd MPF superintendent.

INFOGRAPHIC BY 917 FG

The 917th Fighter Group will bring with it three squadrons and two flights to the 442nd Fighter Wing.

47th Fighter Squadron

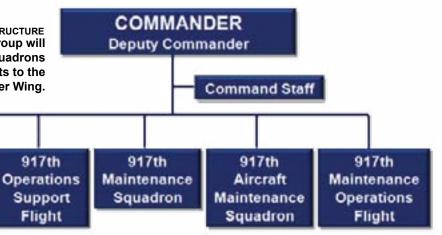
Photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Robertson 307th Bomb Wing Public Affairs RESTRUCTURE Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner, AFRC commander, acts as the officiating officer for the ceremony Jan. 8, which places the 917th Fighter Group under the command of the 442nd Fighter Wing.

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. - When the 917th Wing was deactivated here Jan. 8, it did not signal the end of the 917th designation because the wing's 917th Operations Group was redesig-

In a ceremony presided over by Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., commander of Air Force Reserve Command, the flag of the 917th Fighter Group was uncased, formally redesignating it as an A-10

The 917th Wing flag was furled and encased, thus signifying the end of the wing's mission and serving as a final symbol of closure for all those, past and present, who were a part of the wing.

Wing doubles total amount of personnel



Readership survey directs future of

M HAWK

The Mohawk is an internal publication produced by the 442nd Public Affairs office. This survey was sent, by e-mail, to all members of the 442nd Fighter Wing and the 476th Fighter Group.

Approximately 50 surveys were also sent by mail to retirees and various people in the community who receive the magazine on a monthly basis.

The survey was conducted online. As of Jan. 21, the PA office received a total of 160 surveys.

This survey will remain available to offer the opportunity for members to voice concerns and suggestions in regard to the magazine.

This readershipsurvey was approved by the 442nd Fighter Wing commander.

By 442nd Public Affairs Office

Mohawk staff responds to readers, makes changes in magazine

olonel Overturf

takes command of wing

We asked you to weigh in, and you did! First, we want to thank all of you for taking the time to respond to the readership survey. We are dedicated to making sure the Mohawk is informational and entertaining. More importantly, we want to give you what you want so you continue to read.

There are a few things that you brought to our attention that we would like to address:

Your suggestion: There was an overwhelming amount of you who said you'd like to see more of the behind-the-scenes people.

Our response: You are absolutely right. Prior to our time in PA, each of the staff members here had another AFSC. We come from an array of military backgrounds, including security forces. maintenance and services. Because of that, we realize that every job in the Air Force is equally as important, and we will work harder to make sure your shop or office is highlighted! With that said, please let

us know if something is going on in your shop, or if there is someone who you think we should talk to. It is still important for us to cover events, which include TDYs – so the people who you see in the Mohawk frequently – those who fly and launch the jets – will still be in the magazine from

time to time. It's important for us to cover those TDYs and deployments so your employer and family can see what you were doing while you were away and where the taxpayer's money is going.

Your suggestion: You would like to see more stories and photos, less commentaries.

Our response: We would too! Due to deployments and PA vacancies, 2010 was a rough year for our office. We were severely undermanned and had a little bit of trouble getting to your areas for photos and stories. As a result, we filled your heads with our own experiences. Our intention was never to be self-serving, but to entertain and inform. In the future, we will do our best to stick to the facts. Neverthe-

less, it's important (and our AFI even says so) that you hear from wing leadership from time to time.

In addition to the magazine, PA is tasked with changes of command, various photo requests for events and graphic assistance.

As of January 2011, our office is still short-handed, but we're in a little better shape than we were a year ago. Nevertheless, our policy has always been that we accept submissions. If you write it, usually we publish it.

Over the last few years we've published submissions from maintenance, civil engineers and security forces. If you have a knack for writing, love photography or just haven't seen us around your area yet and would like the wing to know what you're doing to contribute, feel free to submit your entry. We do reserve the right to edit for Associated Press style, grammar and length.

Your suggestion: You would like to see more of the need-to-know information in the yellow pages.

Our response: As you'll see in this month's yellow pages, we've taken your suggestion. You'll find a list of items you'll need for the ORI, phase one, as well as a list of CBTs you'll need to complete.

We will do our best to compile a list of events each month, such as training classes, CCAF graduations and meetings – but please remember, we certainly do not know everything going on around the wing. Feel free at any time to send an e-mail to 442fw.pa@whiteman. af.mil if you have anything you'd like us to add to the schedule. We will need the information a few weeks prior to the UTA to make sure it gets in each magazine. In the past, we've chosen to not put these schedules online for security purposes.

Your suggestion: You would like the opportunity to ask wing leadership pertinent questions and receive responses.

Our response: When we approached Colonel Overturf about this, he was extremely supportive. You will see a question/answer section in each Mohawk beginning in March with a submitted question from a reader and a response from someone in wing leadership. We will get guidance from the commander as to who is most qualified to answer your question each month. Please send questions to 442fw.pa@whiteman.af.mil.

Your suggestion: You would like to see more stories and photos from our geographically separated units.

Our response: Covering every area of the 442nd Fighter Wing is very important to us. The people at Whiteman make up exactly 50 percent of the 442nd FW, once all the GSUs have officially been gained. Because of manning, we aren't able to go out to the GSUs very often to find out what you're doing - but we're working on it. If something is going on in your unit that you would like to see in the magazine, let us know. If we can't make it there to cover the event, we'll find someone in your unit who is willing to do so. At the same time, if you are interested in helping us out with what's going on at your unit, let us know, and we'll make sure we stay in contact with you!

Your suggestion: You would like us to make the magazine more readily available to civilian employees and retirees.

Our response: We'll work with MPF to see if it's possible to get mailing addresses for the civilian employees. If not, notify us that you'd like to receive the magazine and we'll add you to the ones we manually mail out (there will be a few-day delay on your issue.) As for retirees please let us know vou'd like to continue to receive the magazine, and we'll add you to the list. There are always magazines outside our door for you to take at your convenience - so just stop up to our office (building 1148, room 209) and grab as many as you'd like.

Your suggestion: You would like us to add more features to the wing Web site, like a link to webmail, and other helpful outside sources.

Our response: Unfortunately, by AFI we're not allowed to add links to outside sources on our Web site. For both security and uniformity, the Air Force regulates the design and content of official wing Web pages.

MOHAWK 8

Survey Results

1	Do you read monthly basi		he Mohawk	ON A	
	YES	93.8%	No	6.2%	
2	What do you look at when you flip through the Mohawk?				
	I READ THE STO	OOK AT THE PI	HOTOS	86.3%	
	I LOOK AT THE			8.8%	
	${\bf I}$ look at something else in the			ZINE	1.9%
	I do not loop	DO NOT LOOK AT THE MAGAZINE			3%
(3)	WHO ELSE LOOKS AT YOUR COPY OF THE MOHAWK?				
\smile	*My spouse			48.1%	
	* M y childre	N		13.8%	
	*Other famil		16.3%		
	*Friends		6.9%		
	*Coworkers	/Employer	5	11.9%	
	*NONE OF THE	E ABOVE		35.6%	
(4)	WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN THE MAGAZINE				
\smile	*Рнотоs			45.8%)
	*Stories			31.3%)
	*Commentar	IES		21.5%)
	*V ARIETY			35.4%)
	*GRAPHICS			3.5%	
	*I do not lo	OK AT THE N	AGAZINE	4.2%	
(5)	How satisfied are you with the Mohawk?				
\bigcirc	VERY SATISFIEI			49%	
	Somewhat sa	TISFIED		28.7%	
	NEUTRAL			20.4%	
	Somewhat di			0.6%	
\frown	VERY DISSATIS	FIED		1.3%	
(6)	Do you ever visit the 442nd Fighter Wing official Web site (www.442fw.afrc.af.mil) or Facebook pagi				
U					
	YES	49.7%	No	50.3%	
(7)	How often do you visit the 442nd Fighter Wing official Web site or Facebook page?				
	DAILY			1.9%	
	WEEKLY			10.1%	
	MONTHLY			38.0%	
	I do not visit	ONLINE		50%	

* Members were allowed multiple selections on questions 3-4

MOHAWK 9

Commander's commentary

BE A GOOD WINGMAN: Oberseve others, step in when necessary By Col. Eric . Overturf, 442nd Fighter Wing commander

Team Whiteman has been through some very difficult times in the last few months with the loss of six Airmen between the 442 FW and the 509 BW.

As the new guy at the 442nd, I've been impressed with the way the wing, base and host communities have bonded together to grieve, heal and support the families of the fallen Airmen. I know from personal experience that the loss of a loved one never completely "gets better"; but I also know that time, faith and fellowship help to heal the wounds caused by the loss.

As I drove home from a memorial service recently, I tried to think of ways to prevent the loss of outstanding Airmen. Life has its ups and downs, and we can't stop every accident or tragic incident, but we can learn from these difficult times and try to minimize them.

For me, it starts with the wingman concept. As a young fighter pilot, wingmen got me out of more difficult situations than I can count, both in the air while helping me find the right target or defeat a missile at my six o'clock, and on the ground while encouraging me to re-think some of the bad habits in my personal life. The common theme was that I had someone to lean on when I needed help – even when I didn't know or think I needed it.

Of course wingmen aren't limited to the pilot community. I did not know the Airman we recently lost in the 442nd FW personally, but I'm told he was the epitome of a good wingman.

I'm a commander, but more importantly I'm a wingman, and the loss of these Airmen should inspire us all to be better wingmen and lend a helping hand when someone needs it. Whether it's telling a loved one how much they mean to you or taking the keys from a friend who shouldn't drive, I've learned the hard way it's too late to deliver the message at a memorial ceremony. Speak up when you see something that's not right. It could be someone showing signs of stress, depression or withdrawal. It could be someone refusing to wear protective equipment or taking other unnecessary risks. It could be someone experimenting with drugs or abusing alcohol. Whatever the case, the road to recovery starts with one wingman who has enough guts to step up and help.

Once that first step is made, there are many resources available to help with the next step, such as our chaplains or Military One Source, both of which offer free, confidential counseling.

Remember – being a good wingman isn't usually easy. The initial reaction to your remarks will often be hostile. It's human nature to be defensive when confronted about our actions, but don't let that slow you down. Your message will be heard, even though it may take time to sink in. In the meantime, you'll have the peace of mind that comes with knowing you tried to make a difference.



"I remember laying him down on the ground and seeing smoke coming off his body and out of his mouth," Airman Stark said. "I've never seen anything like that. I just kept telling him to stay calm, take deep breaths and get lots of fresh air."

Once the casualty was safe, Airman Stark realized his own wounds to his hands from clearing the window pane, wounds which resulted in eight stitches.

Airman Stark said in those moments where he thought he might die if he went into the fiery building, he really valued his Air Force training.

"When you're under pressure, you've got to clear your head," he said. "So often, whether in the civilian or Air-Force world, you've got to make split-second decisions, and your mind can't be cluttered."

Those who work next to Airman Stark in AFE were not shocked to hear of his heroic actions.

"We're always asking him about his job during unit training assemblies to hear about foot-chases and other beat stories," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Fair, 442nd AFE technician. "He doesn't wait to be told to do anything around here, so it's not surprising to hear that he springs to action in his civilian job as well."

It only took Airman Stark and his partner two minutes and 50 seconds to rescue the man from the fire, but he said it felt like hours. It was his quick response and decision making ability that saved a life.

"Stark's always ready to step in when you need him to do something" said Master Sgt. Phillip Youngblood, 442nd AFE technician. "He's an asset to any team."

Airman Stark received a life-saving award, pin and a plaque from the local City Council, but is humble about his achievements.

"I'm not a hero — this is my job," he said. "The heroes are those guys overseas fighting so I can do my job here."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Note: The Mohawk accepts all letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit for style, grammar and length. Please e-mail letters to danielle.wolf@whiteman.af.mil.

Members of the 442 FW,

Just want to pass a note of sincere thanks from myself and the Outdoor Channel film crew. They were here for five days in January and truly appreciated all the support you gave them. I would like to thank each individual who took time to share their expertise on what they do to fulfill the wing's mission. Most importantly, a HUGE thanks to the maintenance group for their work, Jan 11. Due to snow and ice on the ramp, our maintainers had to tow jets out and back to the arming area so they could launch four jets to the range. The film crew truly appreciated this effort; it allowed them to see the culmination of everything we do here to get an A-10 to employ. They were also able to get some great footage on the range. Again, my thanks to you all.

> – Maj. Aaron "Lindy" Linderman 303rd Fighter Squadron A-flight commander

Friends of the NRA films show, features 442nd FW, A-10



Sara Johnson, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons loader, helps Matt Duff, Friends of the NRA co-host, tie ammunition.

SAFETY AWARD COURTESY PHOTO

The 442nd Munitions Flight received the Safety Shop of the Year Award for successfully completing a Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board spot inspection with only two weeks notice. "We went through and gave them a list of things to do to prepare for the inspection," said Master Sgt. Justin Johnston, 442nd FW ground safety manager, "and they did it with a great attitude. They were diligent with their preparation, and their hard work resulted in a flawless inspection." DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 442ND FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS 931 ARNOLD AVE. WHITEMAN AFB, MO 65305-5070

To:



The 442nd Fighter Wing is an Air Force Reserve unit at Whiteman AFB, Mo. To find out more <u>about the 442nd Fighter Wing...</u>



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