

MOHAWK

January 2011

442nd Fighter Wing

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Whiteman AFB, Mo.



Colonel Overturf takes command of wing

PAGE 8



Cover story

6 Wing changes hands, new commander announces priorities

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COMMANDER, 442ND FW
Col. Eric Overturf

CHIEF, PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Vacant

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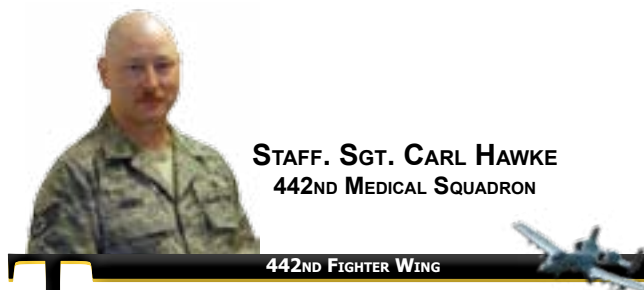
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STAFF. SGT. CARL HAWKE
442ND MEDICAL SQUADRON

Tip of the Spear

Staff Sgt. Carl Hawke is a medical technician assigned to the 442nd MDS. His advanced knowledge and dedicated service to the Air Force Reserves and the members of the 442nd Fighter Wing has earned him the Tip of the Spear for the Medical Squadron.

While serving as the supervisor of the wing self-aid and buddy care program, Sergeant Hawke earned the Operations Readiness Exercise 10th Air Force Outstanding Performer Award. Sergeant Hawke built and implemented the 442nd FW's self-aid and buddy care training plan from the ground up, to ensure the process was maintained and efficiently operated to maximize the worldwide duty status of wing personnel.

Sergeant Hawke is instrumental in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and Heartsaver certification of wing personnel and is certified by the American Heart Association as an instructor trainer and an emergency medical technician for the past 10 years.

While not on military duty, Sergeant Hawke is a telemetry technician and CPR instructor for Kindred Hospital, Kansas City, Mo. and a tissue procurement technician for Midwest Transplant Network, minimizing vital valuable time between donors and awaiting recipients. Sergeant Hawke is also active as the regimental medical advisor for the Young Marines organization in Missouri.

WORK HARD, TAKE TIME TO RECHARGE

Commentary by Col. Eric S. Overturf
442nd Fighter Wing commander

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had a great holiday season and enjoyed some well-deserved time off.

I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome, and I'm looking forward to introducing you to my wife, Karla, when she arrives in January.

My first month here was dedicated to learning about the mission and more importantly the people of the mighty 442nd Fighter Wing. I also spent the last part of the month enjoying some vacation time in the sun with my family. That pretty much sums up the way you can expect me to spend every month as your

commander: Working on our mission, getting out to see and meet our people, and spending dedicated time with my family.

I'm here first and foremost because I believe in the importance of what Citizen Airmen do: Caring for their families and balancing civilian careers with their military pledge to answer our nation's call when we are needed. I spend a lot of time out visiting people because I think it's the best way to find out what I can do to help them do their jobs, and it's a great way to get unvarnished feedback on how I'm doing my job. Finally, I work hard, but then I take time to unwind, recharge, work out, and enjoy life with my family and friends.

Spending time with my family brings me right back to the mission. I truly believe that in the long term, raising the next generation of great Americans is the most important thing we can do. That will keep our nation strong and ensure that the mission will still get done after we've moved on to that perfect fishing spot, deer blind or golf course waiting for us in retirement.

During the first few weeks I've been here, I've had a chance to see most of our facilities and meet some of our people. I've been struck by the depth of expe-

rience here. I met many people who have been in the 442nd FW for their entire military careers, and some had second-generation family members following in their footsteps.

I've seen the patriotism and pride of workmanship that I expected to find here in America's heartland, and the technical expertise that makes this the most respected A-10 unit in the Air Force.

I've also noticed that people are showing the stress of the constant cycle of inspection prep that we've been through for the last couple of years and the increased operations tempo that's gone along with it.

Mostly, I've been humbled by the quality of our people who have stepped up to answer our nation's call from providing close air support for coalition troops in Afghanistan to expeditionary tasking around the world like our security forces Airmen did when I was there with them in Iraq in 2009.

As I reflect on what I've learned about the wing, I'm looking forward to what we will accomplish in the upcoming year. Our priorities for the upcoming



Wing priorities for 2011

- *Completing an outstanding phase-one operational readiness inspection*
- *Building the biggest and best fighter wing in the AF Reserve*
- *Preparing for 2011 unit-compliance and health-services inspections*
- *Caring for our Airmen and their families*

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442nd photo album

FLIGHT LINE PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENNY
HOT PITS | HOLSTON, 509TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
 The 442nd Fighter Wing air reserve technicians and 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels operators work together to conduct hot-pit refuels for A-10 Thunderbolt II pilots, Dec. 8 at Whiteman Air Force Base. Hot-pit refueling is a procedure usually performed in a combat situation to rapidly refuel aircraft while the engines are running, resulting in a speedy refuel to thrust pilots back into the fight.



CHALKS

(Above) Tech. Sgt. Dewayne Magnuson, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief and air reserve technician, prepares to put chocks in place during a hot-pit refuel.

HOSE

(Right) A jet-fuel hose, used for refueling, is discarded after a hasty hot-pit refuel.



TOTAL FORCE INTEGRATION

(Above) Sergeant Magnuson and Senior Airman James White, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels operator, work together to perform a hot pit refuel on an A-10.

FUEL

(Left) Airman White observes a hot-pit refuel after assisting Sergeant Magnuson with the A-10.



HOT PIT PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENNY HOLSTON, 509TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AIR MARSHAL
(Right) Sergeant Magnuson marshals an A-10 for a hot-pit refuel.
FUEL UP
Sergeant Magnuson attaches a fuel hose to an A-10 during a hot-pit refuel.



CHRISTMAS STORE PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. TOM TALBERT
(Left) Tech. Sgt. Niki Adams and Master Sgt. Vickie Chambers, 442nd Airman and Family Readiness, work at the Christmas Store Dec. 3. The 442nd Christmas Store received more than \$50,000 worth of items as donations, which were then available for Citizen Airmen and their families.

DONATIONS PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. TOMMY TALBERT
Tech. Sgt. Dave Buening, 442nd Airman and Family Readiness, helps unload donations for the Christmas Store.



FINI FLIGHT PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JASON HIDDLESTON, 509TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Lt. Col. Mark Ernewein, Col. James Mackey, Col. John Hoff and Col. David Closen, A-10 Thunderbolt II pilots, prepare for Colonel Hoff's fini flight, Dec. 2. Colonel Hoff was the vice commander of the 442nd Fighter Wing.

NEW COMMANDER SETS PRIORITIES FOR WING

Photos and story by Staff Sgt. Kent Kagarise

During a change-of-command ceremony Dec. 5, Col. Eric S. Overturf assumed command of the 442nd Fighter Wing from Col. Mark L. Clemons.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Frank Padilla talked about how this transition resembles a similar change in leadership that took place in the New York Yankees organization when Mickey Mantle replaced Joe DiMaggio as the team clipper.

The team already had a reputation of excellence, which the rookie, Mantle, only needed to further - a sentiment that is echoed throughout the 442nd FW.

"We already have an outstanding wing that is moving in the right direction," 442nd FW Command Chief Master Sgt. Allan Sturges said. "I'm sure when it's all said and done, Colonel Overturf will leave it better than he found it."

Colonel Overturf said he has set short-term goals to get to know the men and women of the 442nd FW. He said he plans to spend a few weeks getting to know the groups and become familiar with the Citizen Airmen here.

"There are so many people doing great things around here," Colonel Overturf said. "I don't need to come in and fix anything right off the bat."

The new commander said the long-term goals are clear, and he is optimistic as he anticipates an outstanding score on the operational readiness inspection phase I, preparation for unit-compliance and health-services inspections, and builds the biggest fighter wing in the Air Force Reserve, comprised of: The 476th Fighter Group, Moody AFB, Ga.; the 917th Wing, Barksdale AFB, La.; the 924th Fighter Wing, Davis-Montham AFB, Ariz.; and the 610th Intelligence Operations Flight, Offutt AFB, Neb.

"If there is a challenge ahead of us, it's me," Colonel Overturf said. "The only obstacle is time for me to get adjusted, but I don't expect it to take very long for me to get my feet on the ground."

Colonel Overturf said he is looking forward to resuming where Colonel Clemons left off and hopes to propel the 442nd FW to the next level.

"My wife, Karla, and I are so excited about being here at the best job in the Air Force Reserve, and I feel very lucky to have it," Colonel Overturf said.

Lt. Col. Michael Wood, 442nd Maintenance Group commander, served with the commander in a smaller organization at Elmendorf AFB and said he embraces the new wing commander's leadership style.

"We can expect him to be very active with the community as well as Team Whiteman," Colonel Wood said. "Colonel Overturf is huge on total-force integration, which helps us all to get better."

The Air Force Reserve maintains a tradition of superiority in an ever-changing world, and the 442nd FW has experienced a superior change in the midst of an excellent tradition.

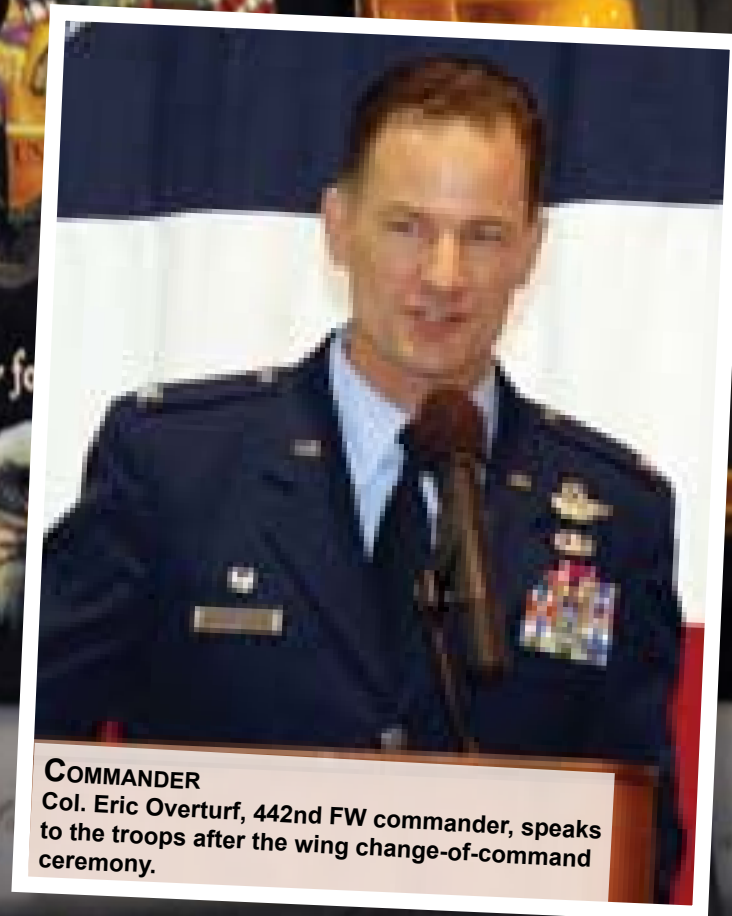
REVEAL | PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. TOM TALBERT

Tech. Sgt. Kellie Askew reveals the name of the new wing commander on an A-10 Thunderbolt II, aircraft tail number 79-0112, during the wing change-of-command ceremony, Dec. 4.

PILOT: COL ERIC OVERTURF
 CHIEF: TSGT JIM MCGILTON
 CHIEF: SRA ALEX CONNOR
 TSGT JIM MCGILTON
 SRA ALEX CONNOR



CEREMONY
 Colonel Overturf is announced as the wing commander in a ceremony officiated by Maj. Gen. Frank Padilla, 10th Air Force commander.



COMMANDER
 Col. Eric Overturf, 442nd FW commander, speaks to the troops after the wing change-of-command ceremony.



JAG PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. KENT KAGARISE
 (Left) The 442nd JAG office staff includes: Capt. Timothy O'Conner, Lt. Col. Jeffery Morris, Master Sgt. Linda Yeates (now retired) and Tech. Sgt. Tamika Jacobs.

Retirement brings happy trails

By Staff Sgt. Kent Kagarise

Master Sgt. Linda Yeates, paralegal assistant in the 442nd Fighter Wing's judge advocate general office, swiped her ID card one last time at the conclusion of the December 2010 unit training assembly and began the transition from Citizen Airman to Air Force Reserve retiree.

Having served just over nine years in the Navy as an environmental systems aircraft mechanic and 12 years in the Air Force Reserve, Sergeant Yeates looks back with fondness.

"After getting out of the Navy, I went and talked to an Air Force recruiter," Sergeant Yeates said. "I originally joined the wing in 1998 as a writer in public affairs and have witnessed a lot of changes over the years."

Sergeant Yeates said she remembers a time when the wing appeared much younger to her and noted that she thinks 9/11 was cause for immediate change that has transformed the Air Force.

"It's not about two weeks a year and one weekend a month anymore because the mission changed drastically when our nation was attacked," she said. "I think, oftentimes, people don't stick around as long anymore due to the greater demands on an Airman's time."

It is with mixed emotions when Sergeant Yeates considered hanging up the tiger stripes one last time.

"I'm going to lose a huge part of my identity and a tremendous sense of belonging that comes along with the pride of wearing the uniform," she said.

Her time spent in the judge advocate general's office gave her great satisfaction, she said, because she assisted deploying members so they had their affairs in order.

"It's nice to know I helped them go over there without worries and free of anxieties—knowing that their families had been taken care of," Sergeant Yeates said.

She not only provided comfort for those outside of JAG, but exemplified selfless leadership from within, according to those who know her.

"She's an excellent noncommissioned officer and one of the finest people I know," said Tech. Sgt. Tamika Jacobs, 442nd FW JAG assistant. "She's a great mentor who provided me direction and always kept chocolate around the office."

Sergeant Yeates quietly got her mission done and brought a calming peace to the JAG office—a peace that will be missed by her peers, one of her coworkers said.

"The easiest way to put it, is I'll be sad to not see her here next month," said Lt. Col. Jeff Morris, staff judge advocate. "From my inception into the unit in 2004 she's been here, and in



ORE PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. (RET.) BILL HUNTINGTON
 Tech. Sgt. Tamika Jacobs and Master Sgt. Linda Yeates became friends in the JAG office and worked together during the operational readiness exercise February 2009.

my mind she's an institution."

Sergeant Yeates' best experience in the Air Force, she said, was being deployed to Iraq. There, she partook in a multiple national-task force, which she said she feels has given her ample credibility at her civilian job with Veteran's Affairs where she is a readjustment-counseling therapist.

"There are a lot of veterans coming home from multiple deployments, and they're struggling with different types of reintegration issues," she said. "When they're speaking with me, sometimes they feel like they are talking to someone who might be able to understand a little bit."

Sergeant Yeates said she will miss seeing the people she has had wonderful relationships with in the 442nd FW family and said she always looked forward to reconnecting with them once a month.

In addition to the many long-term friendships, she said she will miss meeting the new Airmen and watching them grow.

"If I could give any of these great kids advice, it would be to have the mentality that they are in this for the long haul and when it comes to their military career—think long term," Sergeant Yeates said. "A crisis in your life today may seem very important, but there will always be change in your life. Having the Air Force support system in your life is very valuable."

Sergeant Yeates is looking to devote her extra time toward researching a psycho-therapy equine (horses) program for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

"I think there's value in people with mental illnesses working with animals to help them heal and move toward wellness," she said. "Horses are very kind and giving, but they demand a different kind of respect. When you see people who are physically or mentally ill riding a horse, you sense a certain freedom that they're not experiencing when they're on the ground."

Sergeant Yeates will be certainly be missed by her coworkers in the wing, but her fellow Citizen Airmen can take great comfort knowing that she is not riding off into the sunset—rather, one of many sunrises—which she will bring Air Force values and experiences with her.

COMMENTARY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. TOM
 PICTURED: COLONEL OVERTURF WITH HIS DAUGHTER, MADDIE, AND WIFE, KARLA.



MRS. OVERTURF TALKS WITH GUESTS AT THE POST-CHANGE-OF-COMMAND-CEREMONY RECEPTION.



COL. ALAN TEAUSEAU, 442ND MISSION SUPPORT GROUP COMMANDER, LEADS TROOPS DURING THE WING CHANGE-OF-COMMAND CEREMONY.

year are straightforward:

- Completing an outstanding phase-one operational readiness inspection
- Building the biggest and best fighter wing in the AF Reserve
- Preparing for 2011 unit-compliance and health-services inspections
- Caring for our Airmen and their families

Or first major hurdle is the phase-one ORI. We need to take on and conquer whatever challenges the inspector general team throws at us. I know this is frustrating for a wing that has proven again and again that we can generate and deploy effectively and efficiently for real-world combat missions. Unfortunately, the wing's exceptional past performance doesn't factor into our ORI grade, so we'll take on the phase-one challenge, kick its butt and get back to our focus on real-world combat operations where you've proven time and time again that the 442nd Fighter Wing shines.

While we prepare for the ORI, the wing will also be bringing our new geographically separated units (GSUs) in Louisiana and Arizona into our wing structure and daily battle rhythm. The 476th Fighter Group is already up and running at Moody AFB, Ga., and we will continue to support the 610th Information Operations Flight at Offutt AFB, Neb. The 917th Fighter Group will be formally activated next month at Barksdale AFB, La., and the 924th Fighter Group at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. is hiring people and contributing to the A-10 training mission there. When it's all said and done, the 442nd FW will be the biggest and best Fighter Wing in the Air Force Reserve.

We'll also begin preparation for the unit-compliance and health-services inspections that will evaluate our processes in 2012, starting with a rigorous look at our self-inspection checklists beginning later in the year.

Most importantly, we will balance these mission requirements with the needs of our civilian employers, our families and our personal development and time off for leisure activities.

The 442nd Fighter Wing is known throughout the Air Force Reserve as a great place to live, work and raise a family, and I want to bolster that reputation during my tenure as the commander. I know it's a lot to do, but I also know it can be done with the outstanding people I've already met during my first month on the job. We'll remember that we're in this for the long run—we have much to do, but we will get it done one step at a time, at a pace that will sustain and retain our most important resource: You and your families!

Thanks for all the amazing things you did in 2010, and here's to even greater things in 2011!

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A-10

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENNY HOLSTON,
509TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A 442ND FIGHTER WING A-10 THUNDERBOLT II PILOT SITS IN THE COCKPIT ON THE RAMP WHILE CREW CHIEFS PERFORM A HOT-PIT REFUEL FOR HIS AIRCRAFT, DEC. 8. HOT-PIT REFUELING IS A PROCEDURE USUALLY PERFORMED IN A COMBAT SITUATION TO RAPIDLY REFUEL AIRCRAFT WHILE THE ENGINES ARE RUNNING RESULTING IN A SPEEDY REFUEL TO THRUST PILOTS RIGHT BACK INTO THE FIGHT.

To:



THE 442ND FIGHTER WING IS AN AIR FORCE RESERVE UNIT AT WHITEMAN AFB, Mo.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE 442ND FIGHTER WING...



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