

MOHAWK

March 2011

442nd Fighter Wing www.442fw.afrc.af.mil Whiteman AFB, Mo.



A-10 community trains for combat ops at Red Flag



AWARDS | PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. CHRISTINA SURATON
Col. Eric Overturf, 442nd Fighter Wing commander, presents the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year 2010 award to Tech. Sgt. Jessica McCowan, 442nd Command Post.

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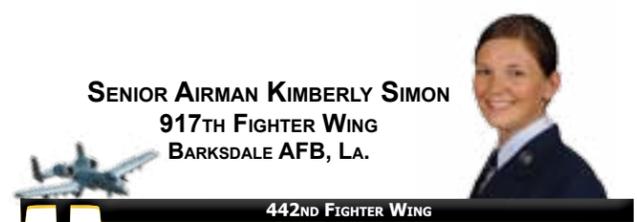
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On the Web ...
 Annual award winners recognized for outstanding service to wing, mission



SENIOR AIRMAN KIMBERLY SIMON
917TH FIGHTER WING
BARKSDALE AFB, LA.

Tip of the Spear: March 2011

Senior Airman Kimberly Simon, of the 917th Fighter Wing at Barksdale AFB, La., a geographically separated unit of the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo., is an avionics-system journeyman. Airman Simon single-handedly troubleshooted and repaired the radar-threat warning receiver on aircraft 79-0146. Through the use of technical data, wiring diagrams and a radar-simulator test set, she identified the problem and saved the sortie. Airman Simon deployed with her trainer to Alliance Field in Dallas, Texas to aid in the repair of aircraft 78-0582, which had landed with all radios unable to transmit. Using proper troubleshooting procedures and technical order guidance, it was determined the right throttle grip was at fault. The grip was replaced and the aircraft made the mission as scheduled with no further discrepancies. Airman Simon completed her first-series, five-level Career Development Courses 10 months ahead of schedule receiving a 91 percent; she continued to excel by completing her second series of CDCs ahead of the scheduled timeline again receiving a 92 percent. She consistently earns an excellent fitness score and raises the bar for fellow Airmen by her impeccable dress and appearance. Her eagerness to learn, attention to detail and exceptional job performance make her this month's tip of the spear.



Teamwork

By Col. Eric S. Overturf,
 442nd Fighter Wing commander

In February I had the privilege of attending this year's Hogfest banquet to honor our top maintainers.

Seeing all those world-class maintenance professionals in one room reminded me of a night as a young fighter pilot when a maintenance superintendent overheard me telling stories about a successful bombing mission.

The chief congratulated me for a job well done, and then asked if I knew who prepared the jet for take-off. Of course I did, I told him – the crew chief. Then he asked me if I knew who loaded the bombs and again, of course I did – the weapons loaders.

"Who built the bombs?" he asked. After a few more questions I started to figure out the lesson that wise old chief was trying to teach me. With each answer, my role in the mission seemed a little less important compared to the role of the hundreds of other people who had contributed to putting those bombs on target.

I learned an important lesson that day – every person in a wing plays some vital role in mission accomplishment. We have many incredibly talented individuals in the 442nd Fighter Wing, like the four 2010 annual award winners that were announced at February's commander's call:

Senior Airman Peter Matthews, 442nd Security Forces Squadron was named Airman of the Year.

Tech. Sgt. Jessica McCowan, 442nd Command Post, was named Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Master Sgt. Vickie Chambers, 442nd Airman and Family Readiness Office, was named Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

First Sgt. (Senior Master Sgt.) Angela Bryant, 442nd Security Forces Squadron, was named First Sergeant of the Year.

Each of these award winners made outstanding individual contributions to



our mission to Train and Deploy Ready Reservists, but more importantly they set great examples for the kind of teamwork the chief taught me about.

That teamwork will be more important than ever as we tackle this year's top priority of earning an outstanding rating on our operational readiness inspection. Our maintainers will carry much of the load as they prepare our jets for deployment and combat generation, and many other parts of the wing will be inspected as well, but no one will work alone. All of us will pitch in and work together as a team to succeed whether we are directly tasked during the inspection or not.

Part of that team effort starts with personal readiness. Your supervisors will be responsible for notifying you about how to complete all the requirements in your readiness folder, but it's also your responsibility as a ready reservist to complete the unfinished tasks. Review the yellow pages in this month's *Mohawk*, which have checklists of what you need to accomplish, and talk to your supervisor if you need help with completing any of the required items.

You should also expect to receive a recall notification via phone number or e-mail address a few days before the March unit training assembly. This accountability drill is an important part of our inspection readiness, so please respond to this recall as soon you receive it. Let your family know what to expect in case they are the ones who answer the phone.

Finally, as we build momentum toward the phase-one inspection in August, we need to get our game faces ready.

I've been out in most of your shops and offices, and I see a lot of great people who are doing great things, but I also see

that you're worn out, and I don't blame you. I know that years of inspections and re-inspections and preparation for inspections have not been easy, and morale has suffered.

I also know you probably didn't join the Air Force Reserve to take computer-based training tests (CBTs) and wear mission-oriented protective posture gear (MOPP) every drill weekend.

The good news is there is light at the end of the tunnel. We're going to take this inspection head on and put it behind us so we can get back to what this great wing does best – exceptional service to our country in real-world deployments while having fun along the way.

Starting with the exercise this month, when inspectors approach you let them know the 442nd Fighter Wing knows our stuff! I want you to be polite and respectful, but I also want you to carry a "bring-it-on" attitude into this inspection. We have a great spin-up plan to prepare us for the inspection, and you have proven time and time again that you're the best in the business when it comes to preparing and sending Citizen Airmen down range for real world operations.

The phase-one inspection will evaluate our ability to do just that, so execute your part of the mission as you've been trained to do, and let the inspectors bring it on – because we'll be ready.

This will be a busy year for everyone, but I will be out in your work areas over the next few months to meet you and find out what I can do to make it easier for you to get your part of the mission done.

Thanks to you and your families for everything you do and will do over this next month- it's an honor to serve as your commander.

442ND FIGHTER WING SPOTLIGHT

Tech. Sgt. Donielle Myles

Unit: 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
Duty title: Transportation technician

Civilian job: Youth worker with at-risk teens. I help the boys in the program go through a Love n' Logic curriculum and act as a mentor for them. I don't usually get to see the rewards of my efforts, but once a man returned after a few years and he was married. He came back to say thank you.

Education: Associate of Art degree, Associate of Additions Counseling degree; working on Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Services with emphasis on substance-abuse counseling

Hobbies: Singing, helping at church

Military experience: Previously in the Army National Guard, deployed to Iraq

Why did you join the Air Force Reserve? I think the AF Reserve treats its people well. I saw it in Iraq and wanted to be part of it.

Military goals: To retire as a chief



Senior Airman Kirk Simon

Unit: 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Duty title: Transportation technician

Civilian job: Special education teacher

Education: Master's degree in education

Where you might see

Airman Simon: Operating military vehicles, transporting Airmen and cargo

Hobbies: I love working in the garden, planting yellow honeysuckle and perennial flowers. I also love walking and spending time with my family. I definitely consider myself a family man.

Military experience: I was a cook in the Marines and once got in trouble for not following a recipe to the 'T'. I added tomatoes to chili when the recipe didn't call for it.

Why did you join the Air Force Reserve? I have spent 11 years in the Reserve. I enlisted here because I was curious what the AF Reserve would be like.

Military goals: I want to pass (Airman Leadership School) to become a staff sergeant and begin to play a bigger role when asked to be part of a mission.

Brenda George, civilian

Ms. George received the Air Force Reserve Command Financial Management Civilian of the Year Award for general-schedule 09 and above; payband 2 employees for fiscal year 2010 for her outstanding dedication to professionalism through integrity, service before self and excellence. The award was presented to Ms. George by the 442nd Fighter Wing commander, Col. Eric S. Overturf, Feb. 11 at Whiteman AFB, Mo.



Unit: 442nd Financial Management Office

Duty title: Budget analyst

Hometown: Brookfield, Mo.

How did you start working for the Air Force Reserve? I joined the civil service ranks as a communications squadron resource advisor while overseas as a dependent spouse. While this decision initially stemmed from the desire to maintain steady employment in the field of accounting while out of the country, it has resulted in a career in civil service.

Civilian career goals: I have always strived to be one of the go-to people when someone needs assistance. If I do not have the answer, I will get one for them. I also support the financial management function and our wing commander to the best of my ability.

Education: I have a bachelor's degree in accounting from University of Missouri - Columbia and numerous hours of continu-

ing education since joining the Department of Defense in the areas of finance, budget and contracting.

Family: I have a 20-year-old daughter, Kacee, who is currently attending Emporia State University in Kansas.

Most rewarding aspect of your job: Being recognized as a knowledgeable and dependable team player by those I work closely with both inside and outside the 442nd FW.

Most challenging aspect of your job: I am responsible for the funding of everyone's unit-training assemblies, Air Force Training Periods, Reserve Management Periods and bonuses as well as orders for annual tour, basic training, formal schools, manday support and unit deployments. We constantly juggle numerous requirements at the unit and wing levels in an effort to procure dollars needed to complete each and every mission.

Hobbies: Swimming, volleyball, and family

In memory of...



Master Sgt. Floyd Howe July 28, 1955 - Feb. 1, 2011

Floyd O. Howe II, 55, was born July 28, 1955, at Fort Monmouth, U.S. Army Hospital, the son of Clifford Oral Howe and Tsuyako Takaku (Ruth) Howe. He passed away suddenly Feb. 1, 2011, at his home in Warrensburg, Mo.

He was a graduate of Manhattan High School, Manhattan, Kan., in 1973, and enlisted in the Air Force in 1973. The next eight years were spent on active duty in Minot, N.D.

In 1982, Floyd graduated from Manhattan Area Technical College and was united in marriage to fellow graduate Elizabeth Socolofsky on Aug. 14, 1982, in Manhattan, Kan.

Floyd worked for BG Consultants Inc, Manhattan, Kan., as head of their Construction Inspection Department. During this time he also attended Kansas State University when he enlisted in the Air Force Reserve 442d Fighter Wing in 1985. He worked at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base as an Air Reserve Technician with Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in 1987, and moved with his unit to Whiteman Air Force Base near Warrensburg, Mo., in 1994.

Master Sergeant Howe proudly served 36 years with the Air Force Reserve and Active Duty and was a highly decorated veteran. He was Noncommissioned Officer of the quarter. The Meritorious Service Medal and the Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and numerous overseas campaign medals are a few of the 20 awards and decorations he had received. He served his country while in Alaska, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Kuwait, and served in such campaigns as Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

He was an active member of Boy Scouts of America and as team captain of the KC Hogs bicycling team, annually raised funds for the MS150.

He is survived by: his wife, Elizabeth, of the home, daughter Alexandria T. Howe of Warrensburg, one son Clifford K. Howe of the home, brothers Donald R. Howe, Manhattan, Kan., David E. Howe, of McPherson, Kan., Carl E. Howe, Maryville, Kan., and sister Mary J. Duclos, Manhattan, Kan.

More than anything, Floyd was a wonderful father and caring husband, friend and neighbor. He was an outstanding cook and loved airplanes, cycling, and the great outdoors.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the 442d Fighter Wing ROA Scholarship Fund, 442 FFS/A&FR, 931 Arnold Ave, Whiteman AFB, MO 65305, and in care of the Sweeney-Phillips & Holdren Funeral Home in Warrensburg.

To honor the deserving...

The 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. has awarded Master Sgt. Floyd Howe II, weapons section supervisor of the 442nd Fighter Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, with the Meritorious Service Medal and Citation.

The wing commander is scheduled to present the medal to Sergeant Howe's wife, Beth Howe, in a ceremony scheduled for spring 2011.

The medal is awarded in recognition of meritorious service from January 2004 through February 2011.

In the Meritorious Service Medal and Citation, Sergeant Howe is recognized for playing an instrumental role in the success of the 442nd's deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan 2006.

Sergeant Howe proved his leadership abilities and work ethic as a weapons expeditor and supervisor and was critical in achieving record-breaking munitions expenditures with an unparalleled weapons- reliability rate against enemy forces during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sergeant Howe played a critical role during the wing's operational readiness inspection in 2010. He directed multiple resources and concurrent operations while reacting to changing conditions and unforeseen limiting factors.

Sergeant Howe's subordinates and supervisors describe his unyielding dedication as providing them with comfort and instilling confidence.

Master Sgt. Floyd Howe II became a world-champion loader after the 442nd Fighter Wing competed against 13 wings in Gunsmoke '91 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Fourteen teams competed over a six-day period for the title. The 44nd audience included fellow service-members, 15 members of Kansas City newspapers, radio stations and television crews, and approximately 24 Base Community Council members.

The load crew competition included an integrated combat turn, or ICT, and a static load. The ICT team included 6 crew members and the pilot. The weapons-load team included Sergeant Floyd, weapons load crew chief, Senior Master Sgt. Alvin Edwards III (then a staff sergeant), #2 man, and Senior Master Sgt. Mitchell Mozingo (then a staff sergeant), #3 man.

The team finished with a perfect score on the ICT load. The final event for the load team was the static load. In this competition, safety, technical expertise and precision are requirements for success. The team scored 1490 out of 1500 points. In the end the load crew returned home at the world champion weapons load team.

The 442nd Fighter Wing's scores from Gunsmoke '91 were 63 points higher than any other wing in the competition.



Red Flag 11-2

Reservists participate in aerial-combat competition



Wh... Encore

Chaplains head to Nellis, provide morale to Airmen

By Capt. Lisa Kostellic, 476th Fighter Group

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. – When you hear the words “Red Flag,” the standard synonyms come to mind: Exercise, deployment and war games.

What doesn’t come to mind: Support, morale and spirituality, but this is exactly what Chaplain (Capt.) Benjamin D. Hayden and chaplain’s assistant Senior Master Sgt. Cindy R. Roller thought when they were invited to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., to participate in Red Flag 11-2 with approximately 180 reservists from the 442nd Fighter Wing.

For most deployed locations, the religious support team, made up of at least one chaplain and one chaplain’s assistant, are available to provide a visible reminder of the Holy by providing spiritual care and the opportunity for Air Force members to exercise their constitutional right to freedom of religion.

Because there aren’t a lot of simulated war-zone opportunities for training available to RSTs, Chaplain Hayden and Sergeant Roller jumped at the opportunity when asked to tag along for Red Flag.

Chaplain Hayden said the key to being an effective RST is building relationships with the Airmen.

“We work together as a team talking with different people and learning about their lives,” he said.

It’s important to have a chaplain assistant to share the mission for a few reasons. The main reason is that chaplains are non-combatants and cannot carry firearms. It’s Sergeant Roller’s job to carry the M-9 and use it should she need to in a deployed location. Another reason, chaplain assistants provide administrative support for chaplains by assisting with

setting up and conducting religious services. The most important reason according to Chaplain Hayden and Sergeant Roller is because having an enlisted member as part of the RST is extremely valuable.

“Sometimes we’ll have enlisted people who would rather talk to another enlisted person,” Sergeant Roller said. “It gives us another avenue for people to talk to us, express opinions, concerns or frustrations.”

Chaplain Hayden said he finds a great sense of confidence in Sergeant Roller’s ability.

“She’s been in our unit for 20 plus years,” Chaplain Hayden said. “I’ve been in the unit two years, so I can really ride on her coat tails when it comes to the influence and friendships she has. There’s a rapport factor that already exists because she’s been serving with the wing for awhile.”

In addition to building relationships by shadowing maintainers and pilots on the flight line, the RST provided morale by cooking and delivering meals, and conducting religious services and bible studies.

“Our philosophy is just be with the people and lead with the motto ‘not if crisis happens, but when crisis happens,’” Chaplain Hayden said.

“We build some relationships during the unit training assemblies, but it’s a lot better once you get out here in the field – seeing what they do, learning what they do and being a part of their team,” Sergeant Roller said.

Chaplain Hayden agreed.

“The most rewarding thing has been getting to know our people,” said Chaplain Hayden. “The best comment we heard was ‘we’re glad you came on this trip’ and that speaks volumes to us.”

CREW CHIEF | RED FLAG PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN TRACY BROWN
Staff Sgt. Tami Kjos, 442nd AMXS crew chief, marshals an A-10 during Red Flag.



REFUEL
Senior Master Sgt. Cindy Roller, 442nd FW chaplain’s assistant, lies in the operating deck of a KC-135 during an A-10 refueling mission at Nellis AFB, Nev.



WHERE’S THE BEEF?
(Right) Master Sgt. Jerry Odle, 442nd Material Support Liaison Supervisor, assists the Hogfest committee by serving meals to hungry maintainers at Red Flag.



Red Flag offers ‘realistic war-fighting conditions’

By Capt. Lisa Kostellic, 476th Fighter Group

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. – For the first time in several years, the 442nd Fighter Wing participated in Red Flag 11-2 here, Jan. 24 to Feb. 4.

Established 36 years ago and conducted at least twice a year, Red Flag is a large-scale exercise involving a wide variety of war-fighting capabilities engaging in simulated combat training over a span of two weeks. Additionally, Red Flag involves not only U.S. military personnel and assets but also includes U.S. allied forces and their air assets as well.

Nellis AFB is host to an exercise of this magnitude because it has the Nevada Test and Training Range, which is the U.S. Air Force’s renowned military training area containing more than 12,000 miles of airspace and 2.9 million acres of land with nearly 2,000 potential targets. What makes the training area elite are the realistic threat systems and opposing “enemy” forces, called aggressors, providing Air Force participants the ultimate combat experience that cannot be replicated in any other peacetime environment.

“What they have here, you can’t find anywhere else in the world apart from combat,” said Maj. Kevin M. Boblet, 442nd Fighter Wing’s Red Flag project officer and A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot. “Using a huge number of trained personnel, they present a scenario with a wide range of demands. The feedback we receive is priceless.”

Maj. Boblet has been coordinating the wing’s participation in Red Flag since April 2010. As acting detachment commander for the exercise, he facilitated the successful involvement of more than 180 wing personnel to include pilots, maintenance, life support, intelligence, logistics and schedulers.

Red Flag 11-2 involved a range of aircraft including attack, fighter, bomber, reconnaissance, airlift and aerial refueling. A typical “day” started with the air tasking order, which detailed the mission requirements for the next day’s sorties. Once the ATO dropped, the deployed wing, or air expeditionary wing, went into action.

Pilots for each aircraft began planning

their missions separately based upon their assigned air space and specific mission requirements. To ensure maximum mission success, the pilots, along with other operational support personnel, would meet in periodic coordination briefs throughout the day to synthesize their air efforts.

“A lot of coordination goes into one combat mission,” said Major Boblet. “For example, the mission brief today had four coordination briefs preceding it.”

While the operations personnel were diligently mission planning each day, maintenance and support personnel were doing their part to ensure every aircraft was fully operational and combat ready.

For the most part, it was business as usual for maintenance according to Tech. Sgt. Kenneth R. Campbell, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief.

“As far as maintenance, it’s work as normal, but I know the pilots are getting a lot of benefits out of this,” he said.

However, Sergeant Campbell did mention one enormous challenge for maintenance: Time management. He said something that would normally take an hour to get delivered at home could take up to six hours at Red Flag.

“Bombs are a good example. We’d load the day before at home, and here, we can’t load any earlier than six hours prior to takeoff,” Sergeant Campbell said. “Launch and recovery is normal, but when you need something extra, it’s a challenge.”

The wing’s main purpose for participating in Red Flag 11-2 is to provide U.S. Air Force reservists the opportunity to prepare for war in the most realistic conditions.

Lt. Col. Brian K. Borgen, 303rd Fighter Squadron commander, pointed out that the A-10 community, in general, has been supporting a war with very little ground-to-air threats. Red Flag provides attack professionals with the opportunity to train in the most realistic and intense environment available to U.S. Air Force personnel.

“Red Flag provided valuable training for all aspects of our organization. It’s a lot of hard work and much different than flying at home station,” said Colonel Borgen. “It’s been a phenomenal experience.”



Maintainers awarded for platinum record

**442nd Maintenance Squadron
Junior Enlisted Member**
Senior Airman Kyle Brown

**442nd Maintenance Squadron
Senior Enlisted Member**
Master Sgt. Michael Butler

**442nd Munitions/Armament
Flight
Junior Enlisted Member**
Tech. Sgt. Eric Heaney

**442nd Munitions/Armament
Flight Senior Enlisted Member**
Master Sgt. Jana Westcott

**442nd Maintenance Squadron
Backshop Member**
Master Sgt. Thomas Hager



**442nd Maintenance Group/
Maintenance Operations Flight
Junior Enlisted Member**
Senior Airman Matthew Bounds

**442nd Maintenance Group/
Maintenance Operations Flight
Senior Enlisted Member**
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hinote

**442nd Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron Junior Enlisted Member**
Senior Airman Sarah Knaff

**442nd Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron Senior Enlisted Member**
Tech. Sgt. Justin McCowan

**442nd Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron Assistant Crew Chief**
Staff Sgt. John Tischhauser

**442nd Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron Crew Chief**
Tech. Sgt. Kellie Askew

**442nd Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron Load Crew**
Master Sgt. Kenneth McKee
Tech. Sgt. Wesley Peel
Staff Sgt. Dean Gross

**442nd Aircraft
Maintenance Squadron
Specialist Flight Member**
Senior Airman Cecil Brushwood

LOVE

MEMBERS

Live Aloha!

LAUGH

SAVOR

My daughter, Maddie, and I in an A-10 on our first official day with the 442nd FW!



Why did I sell my snow blower? As I write this, the snow is falling, the wind is blowing and everyone in the state is preparing for the monster storm dubbed "The blizzard of Oz". My husband is in Arizona.

This is a common theme in our lives. In fact, 25 years ago this month we got married and shortly thereafter began to set up our first home. We were stationed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The day our household goods arrived, my husband was in Spain.

So is the life of a military spouse. Our loved ones go off to a temporary duty station and we are left behind to keep our lives going on a steady course. Back in the day we relied on luck. We hoped for good sponsor or friendly neighbor. But I am happy to say that we now have a more formal program. It is called the Key Spouse program, and I am excited to be working with the 442nd Airman and Family Readiness Office as a part of the program.

Our Key Spouses are there to help provide information, find resources and be a support system on handling military life experiences. Did you know that free and confidential counseling is available from not one, but many sources? Did you know the auto hobby shop will change the oil of your car for free when the military member is deployed? On certain occasions you may qualify for free babysitting! Our key spouses are busiest when members of our team are deployed, but they are there to help you anytime. Their contact number is (660) 909-3820. Please call if you have a need or a concern. Master Sgt. Vickie Chambers is our readiness noncommissioned officer and she is a wealth of information.

While we are stationed here, I hope to get to know more of you – and I would like to host some social events for any spouse in the local area who might like to get together now and then. Events may include concerts in Kansas City, Mo. happy hour at the new and improved Mission's End at Whiteman AFB, movie matinees on unit training assembly weekends... I'm open to suggestions.

How should we keep in touch? Become a friend on Facebook! Search for 442nd Fighter Wing government organization. This is a great source of up-to-the minute information on what is happening in the unit. If you don't have a Facebook account, you can contact me directly at kkturf@hotmail.com. Let me know if you'd like to be a part of a spouse social group.

So what did I do without the snow blower? I did what every military spouse would do. I walked through hip-high drifts to a neighbor I hadn't met before, introduced myself, and asked him for help. He had a snow blower. Turns out he needed a baby-sitter. My 14 year-old-daughter was happy to oblige. He helped me and I helped him. It was a good reminder for me that we are all here to help each other.

Please let us know if there is anything YOU need help with. I look forward to meeting you!

- Karla Overturf
wife of 442nd FW commander, Col. Eric S. Overturf

SUPPORT

PHOTO BY SENIOR
AIRMAN TRACY BROWN

Master Sgt. Jose Torres and Tech. Sgt. Courtney Stuart, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron support technicians, work on equipment while at Red Flag, Nellis AFB, Nev. in January. To read more about what Sergeants Torres and Stuart did while at Red Flag visit www.442fw.afrc.af.mil.

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