

FLYING **BADGER**

440th Airlift Wing, General Mitchell ARS, Milwaukee, WI

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**440th Family Comes
Together One Last Time
to Say Goodbye**



Three-year-old Elena Kartsonas, daughter of Maj. Gus Kartsonas, proudly wears her dad's hat during the wing's final Milwaukee commander's call on April 14.

photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

The Flying Badger

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A career filled with lessons, memories, pride

by Chief Master Sgt. Carmon Francher
440th Airlift Wing Command Chief



I've been reflecting on my 27 years here at the 440th Airlift Wing. I've spent 25 years as a flyer with the 95th AS and the 440th OSF, and the last two years as command chief. My thoughts went to lessons learned (especially over the last two years), memories of the wing, what makes the 440th as great as it is, and our Milwaukee heritage.

The first thing I was taught, and still continue to teach, is leadership. The best trait of leadership is leading by example; set the right example, take care of your people, don't be hard to get along with, and be fair but firm. Setting a good example is vital to good leadership. You do that by being up front, honest, sincere, and visible. You manage things, but lead your people.

I was fortunate throughout my entire career. My first active duty tour (1967 to 1971) was a unique time and things were drastically different from today. There were great leaders to learn from. It was never about them. They were always there to teach, and you were expected to learn. They were always there to help you if you messed up. One lesson learned early on was if you never take a chance, never do anything out of the ordinary, or stop learning, you will never make a mistake to learn

from, and you will never become a leader.

The culmination of my career and the proudest moment in my life was being chosen to be the seventh command chief of the 440th. I could not have done this without the help and guidance of great people in my first career and my second career here at the 440th. Leaders gave me tools to work with and it was up to me to use those tools to benefit me and those individuals that I come in contact with. I was able to help those who weren't afraid to take a chance to enhance their careers. I remember a master sergeant who is now a captain, a first sergeant, and two people who changed careers and earned a promotion. I have great memories of good and difficult times in Milwaukee. The

port OIF and OEF, the personal sacrifices of our families, friends, and employers made to support during those days and the trying times we went through when we lost two of our aircraft and some of the best people I have ever known. We always pulled together to help each other through those difficult times. We watched over each other and took care of each other.

Being the best of the best and taking care of each other through the good times and the difficult ones is the heritage of the 440th AW. This is our way of life, our traditional culture that we must pass on to our young airmen. These young airmen are our future and we have to show them how to do the right thing all the time and to take care of each other.

The 440th is the best of the best; not because of our aircraft, location or support equipment, but because of the people we are so blessed to have here in Milwaukee.

This is the heritage we will take to our new home at Pope, and pass on to our new members and the individuals that will be associated with us. We take the extra step to make sure that the

work we do is not just good enough, but the best. Teaching people to take pride in being and doing the best will be difficult, but we have the skills, the pride, and the determination to ensure the 440th legacy continues to grow.

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Chief Master Sgt. Carmon Francher
440th Airlift Wing Command Chief

great times include deployments, rotations, TDYs, exercises, and even ATSOs, OREs, ORIs, and the last IGX. We always pulled together to get the job done and we always got it done right. Difficult times came during our two year activation to sup-

In their own words...

The Flying Badger asked former 440th senior enlisted advisors and command chiefs to reflect on a variety of issues such as their memories here, the wing moving to Pope AFB, N.C., and advice to Airmen. The wing's first senior enlisted advisor was Chief Master Sgt. Rolf Nelson, who served from 1978 - 1980. Chief Richard Heiting followed, serving from 1980 - 1984. The surviving senior enlisted advisors and command chiefs shared their thoughts below.

	<p>Chief Master Sgt. Carmon Francher</p>	<p>I am most proud of being selected as the Command Chief for the best unit in AFRC. My advice for Airmen: Take charge of your career, do your training, finish your professional military education, get the Community College of the Air Force degree. You are responsible; ask your supervisor if you're meeting their standards and expectations. Don't be afraid to step up, go that extra mile, give 100 percent, set the example and be a leader.</p>
	<p>Chief Master Sgt. Mark Biedenbender</p>	<p>My advice to wing Airmen is wherever life takes you remember those great times you had here. Always do your best, not only for yourself, but because it is the right thing to do. Always watch out for your fellow Airman, and most of all no matter where you go, get involved with the Airmen's Council or TOP 3 group. It will make your wing a better place and it will make you a better Airman!</p>
	<p>Chief Master Sgt. Phil Dibb</p>	<p>The thing I'm most proud of is simple – the Airmen. As part of my job I attended a number of annual tours for various units. This gave me a first hand chance to see the outstanding job our people did. The “shine” of our people continued to show with award presentations and reading the facts on what our members accomplished. On base, I enjoyed the opportunity to visit all of our units, witnessing the inventiveness of our reservists as they created better ways to do the job required.</p>
	<p>Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Davis</p>	<p>My most memorable moment has to be my tour to the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield. It was very rewarding to help work various problems on a day-to-day basis as opposed to just one weekend a month. I came away with a better feeling on what active duty Airmen do on a daily basis.</p>
	<p>Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Shircel</p>	<p>My thoughts on moving to Pope AFB is that I'm sure the 440th will survive and excel for many years to come. But for those of us retirees who served with this organization for so many years and have grown up with this unit as I did here in Milwaukee, it can't help but bring a tear to our eye and an empty feeling.</p>

New 440th tail flash features

The 440th Airlift Wing received approval for a new “tail flash” that features the unit’s history and its new North Carolina home.

The tail flash is the colored horizontal stripe that is placed on both sides of the vertical fin of an aircraft. A C-130 tail flash is 11.5 inches high and 8 ft. long. Tail flashes are unique to each wing. The 440th's new tail colors combine elements from the unit’s long and rich history with its North Carolina location. The elements are: the historic Airborne Troop Carrier emblem, World War II D-Day invasion stripes, a silhouette of North Carolina, the words BRAGG-POPE in large block letters and blue and gold stripes.

When the 440th was formed in 1943 it was called a Troop Carrier Group. The 440th first came to Pope Field on Dec. 17, 1943. Shortly after arriving, the 440th began training with the 82nd Airborne Division and other elements of the 18th Airborne Corps at neighboring Fort Bragg, to prepare for the 1944 Allied invasion of German occupied Europe. The tail flash captures

- **AIRBORNE TROOP CARRIER:** This classic emblem comes from the 440th’s origin as the 440th Troop Carrier Group, a component of the U.S. Troop Carrier Command which was formed in 1942.

- **INVASION STRIPES:** Alternating black and white “invasion stripes” were painted on the wings, and around the fuselages of 440th C-47s to reduce the risk of friendly fire on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The 440th TCG launched 45 C-47s from Exeter Field, England, to Normandy, France, carrying elements of the 101st Airborne Division,

18th Airborne Corps, in support of Operation Neptune Bigot on June 6th, the wing’s first operational mission. During the next 13 months, the 440th TCG joined with many of the 18th Airborne Corps’ finest to play a key role in Operation Market Garden and other pivotal missions across France, Italy, Holland and Germany.

- **BRAGG-POPE:** The 440th's return to Fort Bragg and Pope AFB evokes the wing’s long history and grand heritage. The bold “Bragg-Pope” label across the tail flash clearly states the pride of Air Force Reservists in their home base, and their commitment to their



wing's history and geography

primary mission – supporting the U.S. Army and Fort Bragg. Fort Bragg and Pope AFB are joined in name, on the map, and by their mutually supporting missions. Because of Fort Bragg there is a need for Pope AFB.

- **OUTLINE of the STATE of NORTH CAROLINA:**

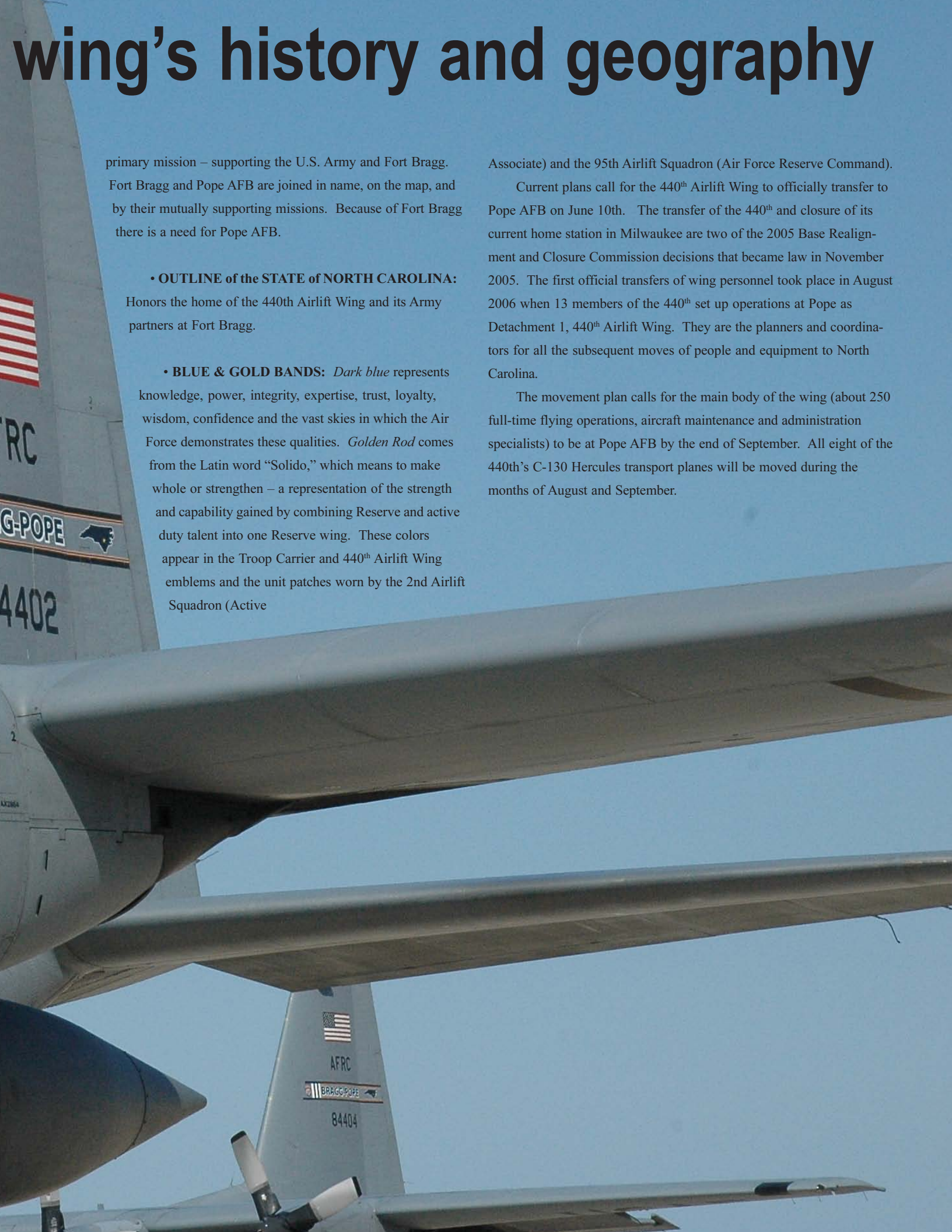
Honors the home of the 440th Airlift Wing and its Army partners at Fort Bragg.

- **BLUE & GOLD BANDS:** *Dark blue* represents knowledge, power, integrity, expertise, trust, loyalty, wisdom, confidence and the vast skies in which the Air Force demonstrates these qualities. *Golden Rod* comes from the Latin word “Solido,” which means to make whole or strengthen – a representation of the strength and capability gained by combining Reserve and active duty talent into one Reserve wing. These colors appear in the Troop Carrier and 440th Airlift Wing emblems and the unit patches worn by the 2nd Airlift Squadron (Active

Associate) and the 95th Airlift Squadron (Air Force Reserve Command).

Current plans call for the 440th Airlift Wing to officially transfer to Pope AFB on June 10th. The transfer of the 440th and closure of its current home station in Milwaukee are two of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission decisions that became law in November 2005. The first official transfers of wing personnel took place in August 2006 when 13 members of the 440th set up operations at Pope as Detachment 1, 440th Airlift Wing. They are the planners and coordinators for all the subsequent moves of people and equipment to North Carolina.

The movement plan calls for the main body of the wing (about 250 full-time flying operations, aircraft maintenance and administration specialists) to be at Pope AFB by the end of September. All eight of the 440th's C-130 Hercules transport planes will be moved during the months of August and September.



95th Airlift Squadron loadmaster captures wing legacy in aircraft art

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

When Staff Sgt. Anthony Flores joined the 95th Airlift Squadron in 2004, he was asked to sign a matted picture for an aircrew member who was retiring.

“As a new loadmaster to the unit, I really didn’t know the guy who was retiring, so I didn’t have anything to write about. Instead I sketched a mini-C-130,” said the Airman who previously served 11 years in the Marine Corps.

The C-130 sketch became Sergeant Flores’ signature block on all the lithographs and photos for retiring Airmen, and the people began to take notice.

“Apparently, the wing commander liked the drawings, and he asked me if I was interested in sketching a few for our historical archives,” said the loadmaster, who volunteered to draw some of the wing’s historical aircraft.

Sergeant Flores said he never planned on being an artist. But he seemed to have a knack for sketching.

“I’ve always enjoyed drawing,” he said. “When I was in 4th grade I got busted in class

for doodling too much. The teacher gave me a special assigned seat so she could keep an eye on me.”

Ironically, that same teacher, Miss McClain, sought out his help a couple years later to draw some murals and create clay sculptures for a class on ancient Egypt studies.

Sergeant Flores even earned an art scholarship for college, but never used it.

“I’m pretty humbled by the fact that Colonel Hart noticed my work and took interest,” he said. Art’s always been an interest, but not a full-time job.”

As for the archive sketches, the rest is history. Sergeant Flores work is featured in this month’s Flying Badger insert. The loadmaster from Racine, Wis., plans to continue flying with with wing, and will commute to Pope AFB in the coming year.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeff Schoen

One more autograph

Andrew Bogut, a member of the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team, signs a panel from the side of a C-130 aircraft. The signing ceremony was part of the half-time events at the April 14th Milwaukee Bucks game at the Bradley Center in Milwaukee. Bogut was joined by teammate Mo Williams in signing the panel. Col. Harry Heflin, the 440th inspector general, and the wing honor guard took part in a ceremony thanking Airmen for their service to the city, state and country during the last five decades.



submitted photo

Awards

The following reservists earned a Meritorious Service Medal:

- Lt. Col. Scott Brickerd
- Lt. Col. Jack Lewis
- Maj. Christopher Brennan
- Maj. Patrick Brien
- Maj. Jerry Christensen
- Maj. Paul Knapp
- Maj. John Schmidt
- SMSGt. Frederick Froeber
- MSgt. James Balling Jr.
- MSgt. Ronald Gustafson
- MSgt. Gerald Labinski
- MSgt. Thomas Rice
- TSgt. Rene Arriazola
- TSgt. Robert Lewis
- TSgt. Derek Thompson
- TSgt. Donald Watson

The following reservists earned the Air Force Commendation Medal:

- Capt. Jered Mies
- SMSGt. Lynn Klapste
- MSgt. Frank Coddington
- MSgt. Kujtim Sinani
- TSgt. Gregory Jacob
- TSgt. Michelle Roy
- SSgt. Bruce Sherwood
- SSgt. Danuta Hetrick
- SSgt. Dawn Putzke

CCAF Degrees

The following reservists earned Community College of the Air Force degrees:

- SMSGt. Bradley Bice
- MSgt. Dawn Clayton

- MSgt. Dennis Sanford
- TSgt. Richard Davila
- TSgt. Sean Palushek
- TSgt. Carrie Stroessner
- SSgt. Eric Junot
- SSgt. Vaughan Sura

So long and good luck

The 440th Airlift Wing says goodbye to the following reservists who have retired, separated or taken another assignment:

- Lt. Col. James Nowak
- Maj. Linda Blair
- SMSGt. Ernest Logemann
- SMSGt. William Rheingans
- MSgt. Timothy Biermann
- MSgt. Mark Blank
- MSgt. Gerald Milbourne

- MSgt. Lisa Quartana
- MSgt. Paul Scott
- MSgt. Robert Sczesny
- MSgt. Laurence Wilson
- MSgt. Gene Woller
- TSgt. Brooks Davison
- TSgt. Brad Gardebrecht
- TSgt. Ada Gray
- TSgt. Robert Lewis
- TSgt. Paul Miller
- TSgt. Karrie Stern
- TSgt. Paul Torres
- SSgt. Brad Finger
- SSgt. Claudia Leon
- SSgt. Wayne Tompkins
- SrA Stephanie Lawler
- SrA Jason Nichols
- SrA John Sundara
- SrA Kyle Umentum
- A1C Brandon Vine

440th MXG gives D-Ring Da-Boot

Story and photo by 1st Lt Jeff Schoen

Most people know that you don't put a round peg in a square hole or use a flat head screwdriver to remove a Phillips screw. So then why do most of us use the D-ring on our gas mask carrying case to remove the voice-mitter retaining rings on our gas masks?

Senior Master Sgt. Scott Schroeder, fabrication flight chief for the 440th Maintenance Group, faced with the same D-ring dilemma and changing more than 250 retaining rings, came up with a solution.

"I pulled in Senior Master Sgt. Brian Smith, who was in the squadron with metal technology at the time, and asked him what we could come up with," said Sergeant Schroeder. Within a few weeks they were able to finalize the design and fabricated the tool in-house, he said.

"I use it all the time," said Master Sgt. Jerry Milbourne, Air Force emergency management chief for the 440th Civil Engineer Squadron. Sergeant Milbourne is responsible for CBRNE training for the wing. "It is very easy to use and

saves us a lot of time," he added.

As chief of the Fabrication Section, Sergeant Schroeder is quick to point out that there are several other sections within maintenance that do a great job of thinking outside the box to support the wing including survival equipment, non-destructive inspection, metal technology and structural repair.

"Most of what we do (in the 440th Maintenance Group) is not in the T.O. (technical order). So we have to be constantly thinking of new ways to do things," Sergeant Schroeder said.

By fabricating or repairing things in-house, Sergeant Schroeder estimates the wing is easily saving tens of thousands of dollars annually.

So, even if the T.O. says to do something one way, like using the D-ring, you can rest assured that the men and women of the 440th Maintenance Group are on the job making life a little easier, a little more comfortable and saving the wing money.



Senior Master Sgt. Scott Schroeder uses his invention to easily remove and replace the D-ring voice-mitter in the gas mask.

Top Cop!



photo by Master Sgt. John "Dutch" DeGroot

Master Sgt. Demaine Milbach, 440th Airlift Wing Security Forces, is all smiles after accepting the Colonel Billy Jack Carter award from Lt. Gen. John Bradley, chief of the Air Force Reserve (left) and Col. Merle D. Hart, 440th Airlift Wing commander. The award is given to the "top cop" in the entire command. Sergeant Milbach was selected from more than 2,800 Airmen and civilians that serve in AFRC Security Forces. He deployed as a member of the Central Command commander's protective service detail team lead in 2005 and 2006, protecting former CENTCOM commander Gen. John Abizaid in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Wing Photo OP

Bring your blues in May!

Be a part of the last wing formation picture in Milwaukee. Reservists are asked to wear their blues (class A, service dress) for the photo.

Show your Flying Badger pride & be a part of history!

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