

# PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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MAY 2000

## Out of Africa: 439th crews fly relief missions



**AIRLIFTING AIRLIFT** — A MH-53 helicopter is loaded onto a Westover C-5 for airlift back to RAF Mildenhall.  
—photo by TSgt. David P. Adams, 439th MXS

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Big problems call for big solutions.

When severe flooding caused thousands of deaths in Mozambique in late February, Westover C-5s and crews ferried tons of supplies and personnel as part of an international relief effort.

Missions in early and late March not only showcased unit teamwork, but also the seamless blend between active duty and reserve forces.

While on a routine mission to Germany in early March, the C-5 commanded by Capt. Glenn Melia was diverted to Accra, Ghana in support of Operation Atlas Response. They airlifted 64 tons of humanitarian cargo and 68 members of the 86<sup>th</sup> Contingency Response Force from Ramstein AB, Germany. Cargo also included four Humvees, two forklifts, six all-terrain vehicles and four pallets containing tons of food and water.

Once in Ghana, the Westover crew went into mandatory crew rest and handed over the aircraft and the mission to an active duty crew who completed the airlift to South Africa. The following day, reserve crew regained the aircraft and resumed the mission back to Westover.

What goes out must come back.

As relief efforts wound down, Westover crews flew redeployment missions returning cargo the original locations. With only three days notice, Westover crews headed back to Africa.

Early Sunday morning, March 26, reporters were at the base interviewing crew members and documenting Westover's ongoing role in global events. For Loadmaster, TSgt. Dave Benson, it was his second trip to Africa. "Yesterday afternoon I was putting out a house fire in Indian Orchard, and today I'm heading to Africa," Benson said. The Springfield firefighter praised his employer for accommo-

*Continued on page 9*

## Best of luck to Westover's R2K team

About the time you are reading this edition of the Patriot, our R2K (Rodeo 2000) team will be departing for Pope AFB to represent our wing in the Air Mobility Command's Rodeo 2000 competition.

This is the world's premier mobility event as over 60 teams from the United States and foreign countries compete to see who is the best of the best. Aircrew, maintenance, aerial port, aeromedical

### Commentary

evacuation and security forces squadron members will represent us.

Not to date myself, but I was lucky enough to be a participant in the 79, 80 and 81 Rodeos. I have a deep respect for what our representatives will go through at the competition. You have to be the best you can be in your job to be a part of the team and our team represents that standard.

I want to thank these folks in advance for giving up their time to be Westover's ambassadors to the world during this competition.

For those who do not remember, we won the Best Airland Wing award for Rodeo 98. We wish our team chief, Maj. Vito Addabbo and all of our R2K team the very best for a safe and successful competition.



**Col. Martin M. Mazick**

by Col. Martin M. Mazick  
439<sup>th</sup> AW Commander

## Briefs

### Government travel card coordinators appointed

The 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing has appointed Agency Program Coordinators for the Bank of America Visa government travel card.

Base personnel may contact their respective group level APCs for questions relating to use of the card.

Coordinators are:

#### 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing

1<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Elaine M. Bernash, Ext. 3562  
Diane A. Whelihan, Ext. 3588

#### 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group

Lt. Col. Cranford O. Bost, Ext. 3076  
Col. Charles A. Brown, Ext. 3816

#### 439<sup>th</sup> Support Group

Deborah A. Heady, Ext. 3044  
Freeman P. Wiley, Ext. 2967

#### 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Group

Ronald A. Ploof, Ext. 3881  
Lt. Col. Kenneth J. Riley, Ext. 3317

### Pope captures AF award

MSgt. W.C. Pope of the 439<sup>th</sup> AW Public Affairs office, captured first place in the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Air Force Print and Broadcast Media Contest.

Pope, whose cartoons appear regularly in the *PATRIOT* and other Air Force Reserve and Air Force publications, won the award in the Information Graphics category.

Pope now moves on to the Department of Defense contest, vying for a Thomas Jefferson award.

**May UTA schedule**  
**A UTA May 6-7**  
**B UTA May 20-21**



**Great New England**  
**Air Show**  
**August 12-13**

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#### 439<sup>th</sup> AW Commander

Col. Martin M. Mazick

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Gordon A. Newell

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Capt. Mike Franco

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AIC Amber Ryals

## Mauzaka promoted, named Wing vice commander

Article by MSgt. Tom Allocco  
Photos by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

Col. Thomas Mauzaka, a Gulf War veteran, former C-130 navigator and flight commander, has been appointed 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing vice commander. The new vice commander also pinned on eagles in a promotion ceremony in April. Mauzaka became vice commander following four years as commander of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight to succeed retiring Col. Merrill Cross.

A 1973 graduate of Southern Connecticut State University, Mauzaka was commissioned in 1974 following Officer Training School at Lackland AFB, Texas. Following combat crew training, he served on active duty from 1975-1981 as a C-130E navigator and as an instructor/flight examiner at Little Rock, AFB, Ark.

Mauzaka joined the Air Force Reserve in 1982, and came to Westover as a C-130 instructor/flight examiner with the 337<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Squadron, predecessor of the 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. As

*"This is a great opportunity to continue working with the Westover people I have known for so many years,"*

*-Col. Thomas Mauzaka*



a master navigator, he flew more than 4,000 hours in C-130 E/H aircraft. Following six years service as an instructor/flight examiner, he was appointed chief of the Westover Command Post.

Before assuming command of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight, he served as the unit's operations officer from 1990 to 1996. During that period, he and other 439<sup>th</sup> ALCF members earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptional performance.

Mauzaka served on active duty when the 439<sup>th</sup> AW was activated during the Gulf War from 1990 to 1991. He was flight operations officer when the flight conducted airlift operations at King Khalid Military City airfield in northern Saudi Arabia from March to May 1991 following the liberation of Kuwait. Their duties included coordinating the airlift home of returning American troops and equipment following Desert Storm hostilities.

In 1999, Mauzaka earned honors as an outstanding Air War College graduate. Mauzaka resides in Strong, Maine with his wife, Pam.



**PINNING ON THE EAGLES** — Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander, pins on Col. Tom Mauzaka's eagles, in March, while wife Pam looks on.

## Westover wing named tops in Air Force Reserve

By Gordon A. Newell

The 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, is the 1999 Air Force Reserve winner of the Lt. Gen. Malcolm B. Armstrong Trophy which is awarded annually by 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force which is Westover's higher command in time of mobility.

The awarded is named after Lt. Gen. Armstrong, who during his tenure as 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force Commander, wanted to annually recognize the outstanding active duty, Reserve and National Guard wings that would come under his command during

war time. The trophy was put into place in 1996 and has been given out each year since.

"This award recognizes the significant contributions by every man and woman, Reservist, Air Reserve Technician and civilian serving in our wing," said Col. Martin M. Mazick, commander of the 439<sup>th</sup>.

"It also recognizes the support of our families and employers, without which, we cannot perform this mission.

"The recognition of our peacetime

accomplishments and wartime readiness is truly gratifying coming from the active duty organization we would work for upon mobilization. We should all be proud for our hard work has been recognized," he said.

The Most Outstanding Active Duty unit is the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from Charleston, S.C. while the top National Guard unit is the 171<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

# Employer Appreciation Days set for October

by Gordon A. Newell

Air Force reservists assigned to the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing will once again have the opportunity to invite their civilian employers to visit Westover and to take an orientation flight aboard a unit C-5.

A new twist will be added this year, as employers will be invited to breakfast with Wing Commander Col. Martin M. Mazick.

Reservists who normally drill on the A UTA should invite their boss for Oct. 14 while B UTA reservists may invite their em-

ployer for Oct. 28.

Reservists should ask their employer to be at the Westover Club by 8:00 a.m. for registration. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. Employers will be guests of the wing commander. Reservists may take part in breakfast with their boss but must pay for their own breakfast.

An orientation flight on a unit C-5 at approximately 10:30 a.m. will last about 90 minutes.

Following lunch, employers will be given the opportunity to visit a field exer-

cise, to be conducted in the Dogpatch area. Later in the afternoon, reservists may invite their employers to visit their reserve workstation.

Each reservist will be allowed to bring just one supervisor. Only reservists assigned to the flight crew will be allowed to take part in the orientation flight.

To make reservations, fill out the application above and return it to the Public Affairs office. Further information is available at (413) 557-3500. Fax number is (413) 557-2011.

## EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY APPLICATION

Reservist's name, rank and unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's name and title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast for employer: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast for reservist: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of UTA:

Oct. 14 ( A UTA) \_\_\_\_\_ Oct. 28 ( B UTA) \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

*Return this form to:*

439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103

Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

fax: (413) 557-2011, for information, call: (413) 557-3500

Personal Data Privacy Act 1974 (U.S.C. 552a)

## Briefs

### Scholarships offered to reservists, families

Wing personnel and their family members may compete for one of three scholarships totaling \$10,000 offered through the Westover Club and Air Force Services. Applicants need to write a 500-word essay on "Air Force Clubs – Professional Privilege," and submit it along with a one-page summary of their accomplishments and long-term career and life goals.

The summary may include civic, athletic, and academic awards and accomplishments. Submissions should be on standard white bond paper, with one-inch margins, typed in 12-point Arial or Times New Roman. Nomination packages should be mailed to: Christopher Menard, 439<sup>th</sup> SPTG/SV, 951 Patriot Ave., Chicopee, MA 01022-1636.

### Free step aerobics

Step aerobics classes are being offered, free of charge, during both unit-training assemblies at the base gym.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kelly Montolio, a member of the 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron, a certified aerobics and CPR instructor, will provide instruction on Saturdays at 5 p.m.

For further information please call Lt. Montolio at Ext. 3073 on UTAs only.

### Billeting no-shows causing a problem

As of May 1, all paying reservists must reserve billeting by credit card or provide pre-payment (cash or check), according to Lt. Col. James Joyce, commander of the 439<sup>th</sup> Support Group.

If guests do not show up by 5 a.m. the following day, his or her credit card will be charged for the previous night's lodging.

If a reservist has a non-guaranteed reservation (not secured with credit card or prepayment) the reservation will be cancelled at 6 p.m.

A no-show fee will be charged to the unit for all UTA personnel who do not cancel their reservation if they are not coming in.

## Westover to get new control tower

by Gordon A. Newell

Construction of a new air traffic control tower will begin here in late May.

The \$4,349,001 project will replace the present tower, which opened in August of 1962. Winning the construction contract is Westcott Construction, Inc. of North Attleboro, Mass.

"This is good news for Westover and Metropolitan Airport," said Col. Martin M. Mazick, commander of the base's 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. "I wish to thank Congressman John W. Olver and his staff who worked closely with us to bring about this project. It's something we've needed for a long time and will provide the airfield with a state-of-the-art facility that will be the most modern in New England."

The new facility will be a 10-story, steel framed structure supported on a new mat foundation with pre-cast exterior wall panels explained Lt. Col. James P. Joyce who is commander of the 439<sup>th</sup> Support Group. "In addition, the new tower will have an elevator, fire sprinkler system and an emergency generator. Underground tanks will be installed for building heating oil and for diesel fuel for the emergency

generator," he said.

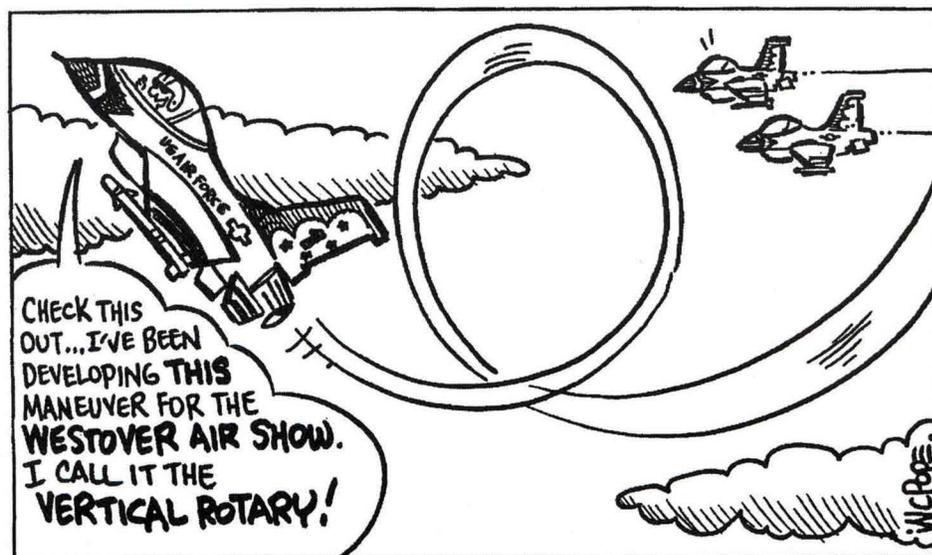
Construction of the tower is scheduled to take about 425 days, Joyce said. The second phase – time for the government to install new equipment – will take an additional 90 days. When that work is completed, the existing tower will be demolished and removed. The new tower will stand in the same general area as the existing one.

"So all in all, we're looking at about a year and a half before the tower is up and running," said Joyce.



## Patriot Puns

by MSgt. W.C. Pope



# FDA states: Anthrax vaccine is safe

**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL.** — Partial truths, misinformation and misinterpretation about anthrax immunization are driving some people to make career-altering decisions based on fear, rather than fact.

People need the facts on this critical force protection issue. The facts are: Anthrax is the most likely biological weapon and poses a real threat to our forces, especially in certain high-risk theaters of operation. Anthrax, as a biological weapon, is nearly 100 percent lethal. The anthrax vaccine is safe and effective. Given these facts, failure to immunize our troops would be unconscionable.

## *How do you know this vaccine is safe?*

Anthrax vaccine has been proven safe during more than 29 years of use. The Food and Drug Administration, which has the strictest quality criteria of any industrialized country, has repeatedly verified that anthrax vaccine is safe and effective.

Every vaccine lot is tested for sterility, safety, purity and potency before distribution.

In her written congressional testimony, Dr. Kathryn Zoon, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research stated, "We believe anthrax vaccine is a safe and effective vaccine for the prevention of anthrax disease — an often-fatal disease.

"Our confidence in this vaccine, like all vaccines, is based upon four components: first, the clinical trials and subsequent clinical laboratory experience with the vaccine; second, ongoing inspections of the manufacturing facility; third, our lot release requirements; and fourth, our ongoing collection of adverse event reports.

"We will continue our efforts in all four of these areas, with the anthrax vaccine and all vaccines, to assure that only safe products are on the market."

*Rumors say the vaccine stockpile is contaminated; how do you know this isn't true?*

No valid scientific or even circumstantial evidence exists to support those rumors. Every lot is inspected and evaluated for sterility, safety, purity and potency. Testing is done at the manufacturer and sometimes the FDA as well. At Defense Department's request, additional testing with independent verification

started in January 1998 on all stockpiled vaccine lots.

*Aren't a lot of people having serious adverse reactions to the vaccine?*

Although one Air Force base is reporting a larger number of possible reactions than expected, across the Department of Defense, the number of side effects is very small, and mostly very minor.

The intense focus and increased media coverage makes the number seem much higher than it is. Any vaccine can cause some people to have adverse reactions. Even vaccines we give our children produce some adverse reactions.

This vaccine is no different, but the numbers are smaller than most other vaccines and very few serious reactions have occurred.

The FDA has a reporting system to track unexpected adverse reaction and rapidly recall vaccines. This Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System is a nationwide system, not a military one.

Providers or patients may access this system to report reactions directly to the FDA. Although never intended to report all reactions, it works as an early warning system.

A team of civilian medical experts reviews these reports every four to six weeks, looking for trends or any indication that a vaccine may be causing an unexpected or severe reaction.

As of Oct. 20, only 362 adverse reaction reports have been filed on almost 1.2 million shots given to more than 350,000 people. Of the 98 serious reactions (loss of duty greater than 24 hours or hospitalizations) only 64 have been judged by the expert panel to most probably be due to the vaccine. This is a rate of well less than .1 percent.

## **Anthrax in a nutshell**

Anthrax is a vaccine, just like other vaccines. It protects against a bacteria just like typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria and many other vaccines. It just happens to be a bacterium that not only occurs naturally but also can be



concentrated and used as a biological warfare agent.

All vaccines have some side effects. Usually these reactions are local and mild inflammatory reactions. Sometimes they are allergic and, rarely, are they severe. When looking at the reaction statistics for other vaccines, it becomes clear that anthrax has very low rates of reaction. For example, re-immunization with injectable typhoid vaccine causes tenderness in 98 percent of those immunized, feverish feeling in 4 percent of those vaccinated, malaise (a generalized feeling of illness) in 24 percent, headache in 11 percent and some type of pain in 56 percent.

These rates are much higher rates than anthrax, yet we take it willingly. DPT, a vaccine most people routinely give their children, causes a certain small percentage of those immunized to have reactions ranging from fever to severe neurological disease, and behavioral changes. We take vaccines and we give them to our children because the risks from vaccination are minor compared to the risks from the disease.

The bottom line: Anthrax kills. The anthrax vaccine protects — and it's much safer than many routine immunizations. That's why medics, commanders, senior leaders and others who have researched the scientific facts have lined up to take this shot.

**"Anthrax vaccine has been proven safe during more than 29 years of use."**

—The Food and Drug Administration

# 439th SFS, Phoenix Raven train rough and tough

Article and photos by MSgt. W.C.Pope

The few and the proud of Phoenix Raven took to Dogpatch for some hand-to-hand training on the April UTA.

The team of four is a specialized group within the 439th Security Forces Squadron. Their mission is to travel with any AMC aircraft and protect it in foreign countries that have no security.

The Raven program has been around for two years and the current Ravens are Air Reserve Technicians. They will soon add four more from the reserve.

Raven training is held at Ft. Dix, N.J. for two weeks and has a 20 percent failure rate. With the 30 required areas of training, they practice every reserve weekend.



**PUSHY** — SSgt. Joey Rivera, in the protective gear, is pushed back by SSgt. Alan Zawistowski. Rivera is playing an antagonist trying to gain entrance to the aircraft. "These techniques are used in foreign countries where firearms may not be allowed off of the aircraft," said TSgt. John Lupien, NCOIC of the Ravens. This is the first step used to discourage an intruder.



**THE RAVENS** — SSgt. Charles Thomas, TSgt. John Lupien, SSgt. Joey Rivera, and SSgt. Alan Zawistowski.



**INTERVIEW STANCE** — Thomas and Zawistowski use the interview stance and try talking the intruders out of coming any closer. They each hold an asp ready to strike. "In most cases we would be able to talk them out of coming any closer, and even get them to stop by giving them a cigarette, but we have to show them that we will use force," said Thomas.



**GET BACK!** — In an aggressive posture Thomas beats back Rivera with a training asp. "We alone have to keep them from attacking the aircraft because we can't call for backup," said Thomas.



**"DON'T MOVE!"** — The final step is lethal force which is only used as a final resort.

## Aerial porter fights for grants to needy children

Article and photos  
by Capt. James Bishop

"If you know of any child in need, contact me."

That's the message TSgt. Ronald Orzechowski, NCOIC, special handling at the 58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, left with more people than he can remember.

Orzechowski was honored in a ceremony March 20 for writing grants totaling some \$50,000 to various needy children in the area through his position in the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus.

What is the motivating factor for his charitable acts? Not money. All his time is donated. Orzechowski says his grandfather was left deaf and mute as a four-year-old after being kicked by a horse.

"I remember the difficulties of trying to talk to him," he said. "That's where I first learned about having special needs. So I figured that if I've got free time why not use it in a way that helps others."

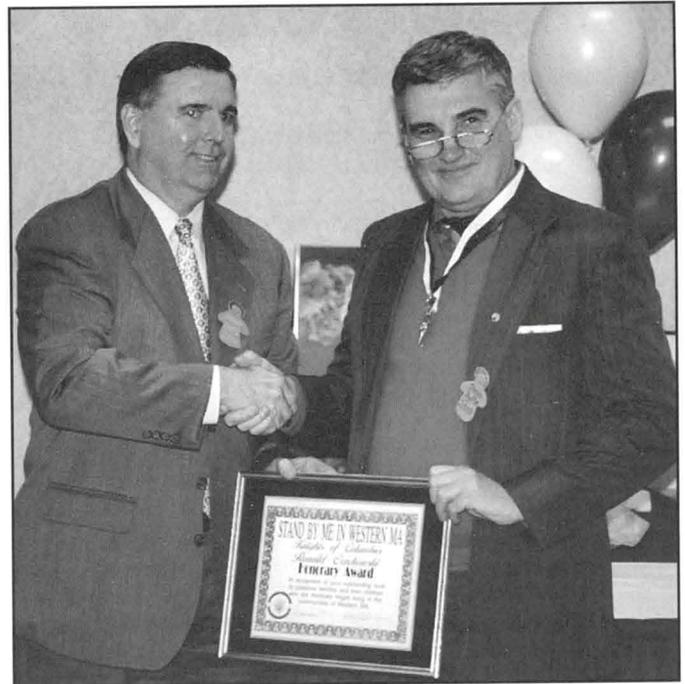
About 150 people attended the ceremony at the West Springfield Best Western. Orzechowski received his award from the children's charity group Family Bridges. The group recognized Orzechowski for successfully writing many grants for aid to the State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

The award recognized his "outstanding work to preserve families and their children who are medically fragile living in the communities of Western Massachusetts."

One of Orzechowski's grants involved widening a bathroom doorway so that a child's motorized wheelchair could go through. In the



**PRIDE** — TSgt. Orzechowski smiles after receiving the award for outstanding charitable work for children. Looking on is MSgt. John Tinnemeyer, superintendent of special handling at the 58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron.



**CONGRATULATIONS!** — TSgt. Ronald Orzechowski, 58<sup>th</sup> APS NCOIC of special handling, receives an award from Gerry Morrissey, the Massachusetts commissioner with mental retardation. At the ceremony, Orzechowski made two more contacts of organizations needing special equipment for children.

child's house, the bathtub, bowl and sink were lowered so the child would be able to use the bathroom without aid.

"Each grant is specific to the need of the child," Orzechowski said.

Another grant he spearheaded resulted in the installation of ramps in front and back of a house for a five-year-old child with multiple sclerosis so he can go outside to play on his own in his wheelchair.

A third grant provided a computer and software to a high school teenager from West Springfield teen who broke her neck in a diving accident, rendering her a quadriplegic.

Orzechowski, a Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus from 1997 to 1998, said that in the nine years before he took over, the Western Massachusetts chapter of the Knights of Columbus—officially known as Council 2212—had given only one grant. Since then he's guided eight to ten grants through completion.

As Grand Knight, Orzechowski began calling hospitals, social services, and other charitable organizations to determine needs.

"I left my name in a lot of places," he said.

A professional tax accountant, Orzechowski co-owns R&R Tax Services in West Springfield.

Orzechowski said winning the award was a pleasant surprise.

"I never really considered it being in the public eye. It's just something I do in my free time."

## Brush fire cancels SAV exercise for base department



**SMOK'IN**— Smoke billows from a fire that engulfed ten acres of Westover land during the A UTA in April. Within two hours the 10 reservist firefighters had the fire under control preventing it from spreading to the woods only yards away.

—photo by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

Article and photo  
by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

Ten acres and a SAV exercise went up in smoke when Westover firefighters turned their hoses on a fast moving brush fire during April's staff assistance visit.

The firefighters were ready to respond to a simulated structural fire for SAV inspectors when they spotted smoke billowing in the northeast corner of the base.

Five trucks and 10 reservists responded to the blaze, which ignited when Blackhawk assault helicopters dropped smoke markers on the dry grass.

"The inspectors canceled the scheduled SAV exercise because they happened to be present when an actual fire broke out," said CMSgt. Lawrence Lose, fire chief. "They were very happy with how the reservists performed."

To fight the fire, SSgt. Dave Perry, SSgt. Russ Atkinson, and SSgt. Patrick Campbell assisted other vehicles by chasing flames in a yellow P-23 crash truck. Throwing thousand of gallons of water on the fire prevented it from spreading into the woods.

Other reservists walked along with hoses, dousing the flames and preventing them from spreading.

"If it spread to the woods then it would be a real mess," said Perry.

The fire was extinguished in less than two hours.

"It's rare that we get brush fires out there, but the land is really dry right now," said Lose.

## 439th AW Mozambique relief missions ... from page 1

dating his military travel.

The C-5 left Westover with two augmented crews as mission requirements called for nearly continuous flying over 10 days, shuttling cargo between continents. The crew used Ghana as their "stage" base swapping Westover crews as the C-5 came through midway between destinations. Maj. Douglas Gernhard and Maj. Stan Smith were the aircraft commanders for their respective crew. The first leg flew to Hoedspruit, South Africa to pick up cargo. Hoedspruit is approximately 100 miles from the Mozambique border. Once loaded, the C-5 returned to Ghana, switched crews and delivered cargo to RAF Mildenhall, northwest of London.

After another reload in Hoedspruit, the C-5 returned to Ghana. Lack of fuel in Ghana necessitated more fuel stops on the way home. The C-5 stopped at the Ascension Islands for fuel, but they also discovered a break in a hydraulic line. "MSgt. Steve Ross worked really hard to get us

back on the road in little more than 24 hours," said TSgt. David Adams, 439<sup>th</sup> AGS mechanic. In fact, Adams praised maintenance support throughout the mission, both from Westover staff and from Air Force personnel helping at each location.

After one more fuel stop at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico, the crew delivered their cargo of four H-60 rescue helicopters back to Moody AFB, in Georgia.

A tired, but satisfied crew returned to Westover on April 5. "Most guys will put up with more knowing you are helping people out. It is rewarding," said Gernhard, referring to spartan living conditions, very long days and the need for flexible schedules.

"These successful missions are a true testimony to our people's flexibility and training, and speaks highly of the day-to-day capability the Reserve brings to our nation," said Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander. "I thank the employers and families of these crew members, for without their support, this capability would not exist."

### Africa relief effort crews

Capt. Glenn T. Melia  
Capt. Christopher T. Cortese  
1st. Lt. James C. Miller  
2nd Lt. Travis M. Board  
SMSgt. Garth Parker  
MSgt. Daniel G. Hartling  
MSgt. Henry M. Olearecek  
MSgt. Lawrence A. Gawacki  
TSgt. Christopher J. McCurdy  
TSgt. Ronald F. Donofrio  
TSgt. David M. Benson

Maj. Douglas R. Gernhard  
Maj. Daniel W. Smith  
Capt. William Gonzalez  
1st. Lt. David M. Capuano  
TSgt. Scott Pashko  
TSgt. Kenneth MacDougald  
TSgt. David Benson  
MSgt. Lawrence A. Garwacki  
TSgt. Mark A. Pleva  
TSgt. Thomas Budington  
TSgt. David P. Adams

Maj. Stanford S. Smith  
Capt. Kenneth A. Parsons  
MSgt. David P. Jones  
SSgt. Kevin P. Godbout  
MSgt. Richard D. Bready  
MSgt. Theodore J. Chaloux  
TSgt. Michael T. Dunn  
SSgt. Greg S. Levangie  
TSgt. Richard W. Halla  
MSgt. Steven E. Ross

# Chief Wood; honored as Image of Influence



**60 MINUTES OF FAME** — CMSgt. Kathy Wood has guest speaker Lesley Stahl sign a copy of her book *Reporting Live* at the "Images of Influence" Banquet held March 30 at the Chez Josef in Agawam, Mass.  
— photo submitted

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

CMSgt. Kathleen M. Wood of Belcher-town was one of 15 women in Western Massachusetts to be chosen for a portrait exhibition titled "Images of Influence," which honored extraordinary women who represent various categories of achievement.

"When I met the other 14 women, I immediately felt that I wasn't in their league... and oddly enough, they all said the same," said Wood. "I guess we've all done significant things in our own fields and that's why we were chosen."

The photo exhibit was initiated by family-owned Robert Charles Photography in East Longmeadow, and was inspired by the late Beverly Zemba, wife of Robert Charles Zemba.

"Her death and obituary made people realize what an amazing life she had. The family realized that others shouldn't wait so long to pay tribute to people in their lives, so they — along with the Western Massachusetts Women's Fund — put this together," Wood said.

The chief, who was first assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing in 1975, was chosen as a

result of her achievements in the "Armed Services" category of the exhibit. She began her career in aircraft maintenance and now serves as wing performance planner, where she assists the wing with annual and strategic planning.

She and Lt. Col. Armand Tourangeau also instruct classes in leadership and mentoring, as well as the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People."

They are now part of base readiness council and assess how units are evaluated, and provide feedback for the next planning session, Wood added.

Off base, Wood was among volunteers who kept a vigil reading names at the Vietnam Memorial on its 10th anniversary. And as a charter member of Women in Military Service for America, she attended the opening of the Women's Memorial in Arlington, Va. in 1997.

Wood's achievements and dedication to the armed forces on and off base led business leaders, who made up the exhibit selection committee, to deem her appropriate for "Images of Influence." Wood was chosen from 200 nominations submitted.

On March 30, the photographs were

debuted at a banquet at Chez Josef. The exhibition is now on tour in Western Massachusetts.

"We 15 women were chosen to represent all the women of Western Mass. and their accomplishments, not just our own. I think that is significant," she said.

Chief Wood is married to retired CMSgt. Vincent Viglione, and is the mother of Erin Wood, 19.

The chief explained that at the banquet Edward Zemba, from Robert Charles Photography, challenged attendees to write out a card to women in their lives who were inspirational. The cards were provided at each place setting.

Said Wood, "The most significant thing that happened the evening of the banquet was my daughter, Erin, wrote me note of thanks for being her mom — it will be with me forever."

## CCAF April 2000 graduates

(Additions to the April issue graduate list)

TSgt. Kevin Pietrowski	439 OSS
SSgt. Natasha Marsteller	439 MSS

## Awards and Decorations

### Meritorious Service Medal

MSgt. Brian M. Quirk	439 CS
MSgt. Francis T. Simone	439 MSS
TSgt. Francis X. Kelly	439 MSS

### Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. Edward J. Miller**	439 OSS
CMSgt. Teresa M. Wenthe****	439 CS
MSgt. Jacqueline M. Davis**	439 CS
TSgt. Paul A. Barsalou	439 CS
TSgt. Barbara A. Jackson	439 AW
TSgt. George J. Nalesnik**	439 CS
TSgt. Abram L. Winters**	439 CS
SSgt. Janet M. Creager****	439MSS
SSgt. Vanessa U. Simmons	439 MSS

### Air Force Achievement Medal

TSgt. Byron T. Chaples, Jr.***	439 CS
TSgt. Belitza Morales	439 CS
SSgt. Bonnie C. Bell ***	439 CS
SSgt. Euclid B. Ritchens	439 CS

\*\*second award  
\*\*\*\*fourth award

## Patriot People

**Name:** Genetta N. Staple-Ward  
**Rank:** SSgt.  
**Age:** 33  
**Address:** Chicopee, Mass.  
**Unit:** 439th Support Group  
**Position:** Information Management Systems  
**Civilian position:** Administration  
**Favorite food:** Apple pie  
**Years of service:** 3 years  
**Favorite sport:** Biking  
**Favorite hobby:** Dancing  
**Ideal vacation:** Anywhere with a beach  
**Best way to relax:** Soft music  
**Preferred entertainment:** Movies  
**Favorite hero:** Anyone who has made a contribution to humankind.  
**Favorite music:** R&B, Classical  
**Favorite movie:** "Waiting to Exhale"  
**Favorite aircraft:** F-16  
**Pet peeve:** Nosy people  
**What I would do if I won \$1 million:** Travel around the world and share my money with the less fortunate



Photo by SSgt. Andrew Reitano

SSgt. Genetta N. Staple-Ward

## Patriot Praises

### PEP Promotions

MSgt. Gagnon, Paul J.  
 MSgt. Hedrick, Dale C.  
 MSgt. Kida, Stephen E.  
 MSgt. Newton, Edward R.  
 MSgt. Wolff, Kenneth P.  
 TSgt. Babin, Kimberly A.  
 TSgt. Bourgeois, Marc A.  
 TSgt. Bowen, Kevin M.  
 TSgt. Bowler, James M.  
 TSgt. Circe, Raymond J.  
 TSgt. Connor, Patrick S.  
 TSgt. Corey, Susan P.  
 TSgt. Dorr, Timothy J.  
 TSgt. Karcz, Robert D.  
 TSgt. Ojanpera, Timo W.  
 TSgt. Walker, Mark A.

### Enlistments

SSgt. Daniels, Theodore T.  
 SSgt. Donald, John M.  
 SSgt. Morris, Craig A.  
 SSgt. Reeve, Daniel R.  
 SSgt. Squires, Jennifer R.  
 SSgt. Watson, William M.  
 SrA. Hernandez, Stanley J., Jr.  
 SrA. Kirschner, Dieter R.  
 SrA. Rader, Robert H.  
 SrA. Snow, Roland A.  
 SrA. Wilcox, Debra J.  
 AIC Harry, Christopher P.

### Reenlistments

SMSgt. Barrick, Michael C.  
 SMSgt. Carbin, David F.  
 SMSgt. Galloway, Thomas F.  
 SMSgt. Robert, John F.  
 SMSgt. Sobczyk, John J.

MSgt. Archibald, David A.  
 MSgt. Beckman, Joseph A.  
 MSgt. Begue, Cynthia J.  
 MSgt. Desorcy, Roger P.  
 MSgt. Hedrick, Dale C.  
 MSgt. Kohler, Kurt C.  
 MSgt. Letourneau, Edward H., Jr.  
 MSgt. Marchand, Gary F.  
 MSgt. Serra, James M.  
 TSgt. Allen, Wayne T.  
 TSgt. Case, Ronald S.  
 TSgt. Cobb, James J.  
 TSgt. Czmyr, Mark A.  
 TSgt. Day, Timothy A.  
 TSgt. Fish, Eugene E.  
 TSgt. Henry, Richard C., Jr.  
 TSgt. Manzelli, Michael A.  
 TSgt. Olszewski, Michael R.  
 TSgt. Savarese, Lawrence J.  
 TSgt. Shattuck, David M.  
 SSgt. Ayuyu, Kimberlee A.  
 SSgt. Curley, Michael J.  
 SSgt. Dordine, Joseph T., Jr.  
 SSgt. Emmons, Brian A.  
 SSgt. Godley, David S.  
 SSgt. Lennon, Brian A.  
 SSgt. Marx, Steven L.  
 SSgt. McEwan, Bonnie L.  
 SSgt. Olexa, John A.  
 SSgt. Tolar, Floyd L.  
 SrA. Hamm, William V., Jr.  
 SrA. Lambert, Henry J., Jr.  
 SrA. Markey, Victor M.

### Retirements

SMSgt. LePage, Robert E.  
 MSgt. Nelson, Jack E.  
 MSgt. Quirin, Olga A.

## 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing UTA Schedule for FY-2001

	A UTA	B UTA
October	14-16	28-29
November	4-5	18-19
December	2-3	9-10
January	6-7	20-21
February	3-4	24-25
March	10-11	24-25
April	7-8	21-22
May	5-6	19-20
June	9-10	23-24
July	7-8	21-22
August	4-5	18-19
September	8-9	22-23

## Enlisted Dining Out highlights Westover history

by MSgt. W.C. Pope

"Our Heritage, Our People, Our Pride" was the theme of the 439th Airlift Wing Enlisted Dining Out held at Westover Club on April 1.

The traditional military event had 193 in attendance and began with Recruiter SSgt. Sirita Day singing the national anthem.

The guest speaker was CMSgt. Gary R. Akin, the director of the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute, Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Ala. He spoke on the history of the Air Force's Enlisted force and its ever increasing importance to the total force—past, present and future.

Notables included distinguished guest Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander; Senior NCO of the Year, SMSgt.

Bruce Westcott, NCO of the Year, MSgt William Pope; and Airman of the Year, SrA. Cornelia Babcock. The event was presided over by President of the mess, CMSgt. Zigmund Skawski, and Mr. Vice, TSgt. Donald Martel both members of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron.

The festivities included a music video that highlighted the

history of Westover ARB from 1941 until today. The video was compiled by SMSgt. David Carbin and SSgt. Lisa Gustafson.

"Even with many of our people on deployments and the SAV going on, we had a great turnout and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves," said CMSgt. Kathleen Wood

"We need to keep these military traditions alive so that we can see where we are coming from and where we are going," she said.



**PRESENTING OF THE WESTOVER COIN — Col. Martin Mazick, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing presents CMSgt. Gary Akin the Commander's Coin at the conclusion of the Dining Out.**  
—photo by TSgt. Howard Garbarsky

# PATRIOT

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Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. William Palmieri, of Seekonk, Mass., and 2,311 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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