

PATRIOT

THE BEST IN THE AIR FORCE

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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439th AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces



TASTE OF BASIC — Air Force Reserve recruits in the Delayed Enlistment Program at Westover get a taste of basic training from SSgt. James Barry, recruiter and former Training Instructor (TI).

— photo by MSgt. W. C. Pope

PATRIOT

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Briefs

River cruise planned

Westover's Services Squadron is planning a River Cruise on the Connecticut River, Sept. 7 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The cost of the cruise is \$10. Sign-up is in the base gymnasium. Those planning to attend will meet at the gym at 6 p.m. Box lunches will be provided.

Capt. Owczarzak is top company grade officer

A Wing Quarterly Awards board has selected Capt. Michael Owczarzak of the 439th Security Forces Squadron as Company Grade officer of the 4th quarter. He will now compete for the ROA Outstanding Company Grade officer of the year.

The 4th quarter awards for airman, NCO, Senior NCO, Civilian and Civilian Supervisor will be selected during the August UTA.

Commander's Call set

Wing-wide Commander's Call will be held in the Base Hangar starting at 3:30 p.m. on the following dates:

1 December 2001
2 March 2002
1 June 2002
7 September 2002

Taekwon-Do classes

Beginning in August, Taekwon-Do classes are scheduled for the B UTAs at 6:30 p.m. in the base gym. The free classes are offered by Master Instructor SrA. Michael Linnehan and are open to children and adults of any skill level. For more information, call Linnehan at Ext. 3073.

September UTA schedule

A UTA Sept. 8-9
B UTA Sept. 22-23

PLANES AND TRAINS — Maj. Gen. William Kiefer, commander of the U.S. Army's 94th Regional Support Command, rides a rail inspection car past the C-5 in June. The general presided over activation ceremonies for the 226th TROC, the newest tenant unit at Westover. (Article on page 5)

—photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

Medical squadrons best in AFRC – Again!

By MSgt. Tom Allocco

The medical specialists of the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron and the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron extended their string of top honors when they captured outstanding unit and individual awards in Air Force Reserve Command competition. They were selected as outstanding performers from among 32 AFRC medical units.

The 439th AMDS and the 439th ASTS were named Outstanding Medical Squadrons in their categories. Recognized with individual awards for outstanding performance in their unit categories were: Lt. Col. Joel Bogner, 439th AMDS aerospace medicine physician, outstanding AFRC officer; TSgt. Kathlee Kratochvil, 439th AMDS dental specialist, outstanding AFRC NCO; and SrA. Donahue Pinto, 439th ASTS medical services specialist, outstanding AFRC airman.

Three Westover medical people earned recognition as best in their category in 22nd Air Force. Honored by 22nd Air Force were: Capt. Maureen McCann-Howard, 439th ASTS clinical nurse, outstanding officer; MSgt. Frank Venturella, 439th ASTS medical services craftsman, outstanding NCO; and SrA. Marykate Casey, 439th AMDS aeromedical apprentice.

Bogner, Kratochvil and Casey were recognized in the category of non-deployable medical unit members and Pinto, McCann-Howard and Venturella were honored as a member of an aeromedical staging squadron.

The selection of the 439th AMDS for the outstanding performance award for a unit without a mobility mission is the fifth time in six years that the medical unit received the top AFRC honors. The medical specialists of the 439th ASTS have captured the outstanding unit award for an aeromedical staging squadron for four out of the past five years.

The 89 medical specialists of the 439th AMDS were rated top in their category based in part on their performance in training, readiness inspections and real-world missions. The squadron has sent medical specialists on humanitarian missions to Honduras, Guatemala, Guyana and the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South

"I've got the finest group of people working for me. I admire their dedication, commitment and hard work that made it possible for them to win this award."

Col. Yash Malhotra, 439th AMDS



Dakota. During one mission last year, a team of medical specialists treated more than 7,500 Guatemalans from seven villages during an annual tour.

In the opinion of the squadron commander, Col. Yash Malhotra, the 439th AMDS earned the top honor by always going the extra mile. "I've got the finest group of people working for me. I admire their dedication, commitment and hard work that made it possible for them to win this award," Malhotra said.

"Everyone made an effort to strive for excellence in sustainment training, to prepare for the readiness inspection. They kept the tradition going," said CMSgt. George Kudla, superintendent of medical administration.

The medical specialists of the 439th ASTS over the years have won top AFRC honors during a time of rapid expansion and transition during which they grew from 68 to 197 authorized members. More than half the medical specialists are relative newcomers to the squadron.

Responding to the challenges absorbing new members and adapting to mission realignment, the 439th ASTS medical specialists "successfully met or exceeded all training requirements and proved their outstanding capabilities during medical readiness inspections," said Col. Sarah Waterman, squadron commander.

"The AFRC award is the result of the entire unit being involved. The teamwork is evident the moment you come through the door," Waterman said of her medical specialists.

Award winners will be formally recognized at the Association of Military Surgeons ceremonies in San Antonio in November.

Telephone dialing access codes to become standardized

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -

Air Force Reserve Command bases are making the switch to standardized telephone access codes.

In February 2001, Brig. Gen. Walter I. Jones, assistant deputy chief of staff for Air Force communications and information, directed that all Air Force bases convert to the same access codes. Standardizing the codes for Defense Switched Network, and commercial long-distance and local calls will eliminate confusion when people transfer or travel to another installation.

Officials in Headquarters AFRC's

Directorate of Communications and Information are working with telephone operations at the command's bases to implement the change by Aug. 1. According to MSgt. Jacqueline Davis, chief of information management, the telephone code changes are scheduled to become effective at Westover on July 23.

Other major commands will determine when their installations will standardize their access codes, said Headquarters AFRC officials. Air Force units based on other service installations are subject to the host installation implementation plans.

The two-digit access codes are:

- 90 - DSN flash override,
- 91 - DSN flash,
- 92 - DSN immediate,
- 93 - DSN priority,
- 94 - DSN routine,
- 98 - FTS2001 commercial long distance, and
- 99 - commercial local.

(AFRC News Service)

Air Force Reserve benefits: In the military and beyond

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This article is the first in a three-part series that highlights some of the benefits of serving in the Air Force Reserve. The series attempts to capture the practical, recreational and ideological benefits — some known and some “off the beaten track.” Any suggestions or benefit “heads-up” can be contributed by calling the Public Affairs Office at Ext. 2020.*

By SrA. Brad Harrison

If you play your cards right, you could be getting a lot more out of the reserve program than just your monthly pay. Legal assistance, education and special deals available only to military members and their families are everywhere — it only takes a little effort to find them.

Every squadron has, most likely, one member who seems to have a solid understanding about many of the lesser-known benefits. They aren't always the people in charge or working in the orderly rooms, either -- it's someone who spent a little bit of time researching what is available. Benefits range from a snack at the USO club in the airport — to a college degree — and all of it free, or at a reduced price, to reservists.

Here at Westover, the education office offers testing in college-level classes and can guide reservists through the Community College of the Air Force, from enrollment to graduation.

College credits aren't all the office offers to reservists.

“One thing we could do more of is certification testing,” said SMSgt Kristine Seney of the education office. Certification testing includes, among others, EMT testing, ASE (auto mechanic) testing and food storage. People who work in an AFSC which require these certifications are twice as lucky — if they take the certification test outside of the Air Force, for their civilian jobs, they may be able to get reimbursed by the Air Force.

“The catch is that it has to be for their particular AFSC,” Seney said. “If someone is an auto mechanic and works in the personnel flight, it doesn't apply to them.”

Also worth researching are the DSST (DANTES), CLEP and Excelsior testing for college credit. These are tests college-level tests which are administered at Westover free of charge to civilian employees, reservists and spouses of reservists.

The Montgomery G.I. Bill is possibly the best-known benefit to military members. With it, the member receives money to defray the cost of living while taking college-level classes, cooperative classes, correspondence courses, apprenticeships or on-the-job training, and flying lessons.

Time is of the essence with the G.I. Bill, however. Reservists are eligible to receive the benefits for only 10

years from the date of their first six-year enlistment in the guard or reserve. For people just leaving active duty, the eligibility runs out 10 years from their date of separation. To take advantage of it, members must start by bringing their DD Form 214 to the Education office. From there, the G.I. Bill benefits — which provide money for expenses while a reservist is in school — is available. Amounts vary according to the number of credits being taken.

There is also a new tuition program available to reservists for associate degrees, first bachelor degree or CCAF course work. According to Seney, the new program may benefit those reservists outside of the 10-year window of the traditional Montgomery Bill. Reservists should compare the two programs to determine which would be most cost-efficient for them.

For further information, contact the education office at Ext. 2042 or 3440.

The base legal office can provide the benefit of some legal assistance. Don't plan to sit down and spend a few hours going over complex legal problems with them — because of time constraints, the office is unable to handle a very wide range of services. The typical tasks the legal office take on include writing wills, drafting power of attorney letters, and dealing with employment issues, along with the various legal issues on the base.

While the legal services for reservists are very specific, they could occupy a private attorney's time — read that as “generating billable hours” — and that costs money.

Writing up a will, which can take several hours, can cost hundreds of dollars. At Westover? It's free.

In addition to wills, and power of attorney, the office is assembling a nationwide attorney referral service to help members find an attorney more quickly.

“We can't advise people on a lot of their private matters, because we just don't have the time,” said TSgt. Janet Bicho of the Base Legal Office. But, the office does have a Notary Public, who can notarize some documents — time permitting.

In addition to educational and legal benefits, reservists may also receive low-cost dental insurance and term life insurance. Tricare dental insurance is available to reservists and has recently expanded its coverage. Servicemen's Group Life Insurance has long been an option to reservists.

While the Base Exchange is often overlooked as a military benefit, it can offer a sizable saving on big-dollar items, not only by offering reasonable prices but because payment is tax-free. Westover's BX may be small, but an impressive selection of merchandise is available through the catalog which may be obtained at the BX.

226th TROC railway unit makes tracks to Westover



Article by Maj. Sally Nutt Morger
Photos by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

Add engineers, conductors and "MOWers" to the list of deployment experts at Westover.

The Army Reserve's 226th Transportation Railway Operating Company (TROC) was activated on June 23 during ceremonies in the 439th Airlift Wing's base hangar. The company's 124 soldiers will operate locomotives, build and repair railroad tracks, and maintain locomotives and railway cars.

The unit's mission, like that of the 439th, is to provide deployment support wherever and whenever required. "Our job is to deploy overseas and work with host nation railroads," said Company Commander Capt. Timothy Christensen.

The 226th relocated from Granite City, Ill., in March to capitalize on Westover's facilities and recruiting base. Christensen said the unit is already close to 50 percent strength, drawing members from as far away as Washington, D.C. Six full-time employees will operate the unit's office at Westover's Reserve Center. Reservists will train on what is typically the base's "B" UTA.

Christensen added the unit now has three motor cars, used by the maintenance-of-way (MOW) teams along Westover's more than five miles of track. For training time on locomotives, the army reservists go to Pioneer Valley Railroad in Westfield where the unit maintains two engines.

Railroad buffs can learn more about the 226th TROC at its parent unit's web site, www.1205thtrob.com.

The 226th TROC is now one of 11 tenant units based at Westover.



WESTOVER'S NEWEST AT'TRACK'TION: The 226th Transportation Railway Operating Company (TROC) was formally activated at Westover on June 23 in an official ceremony in the Base Hangar. Maj. Gen. William Kiefer, commander of the 94th Regional Support Command presided over the activation. In upper left photo, the 94th Army Reserve Band, out of E. Windsor, Conn., provides music. In top photo, Capt. Timothy M. Christensen prepares to take formal command of the 226th TROC from the commander of the 1205th Transportation Railway Operating Battalion, higher headquarters of the 226th.

Marine squadron has new commander

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Lt. Col. Rui (Roy) Moura accepted the flag of Marine Air Support Squadron 6 to succeed Lt. Col. Lawrence Jewett during a change of command ceremony at the squadron in May.

Moura will command about 75 Marines of MAAS-6 whose job is to control and coordinate aircraft operating in direct support of Marine air ground task force operations. The Westover tenant unit operates out of six buildings on base.

Commissioned in 1982, Moura served on active duty at Camp Pendleton, Calif. and on Okinawa. As a Marine Reservist he was activated to serve as MASS-6 (Detachment C) operations officer for six months during Desert Shield and Storm.

Moura most recently served as officer-in-charge of MASS-6 (Detachment A), Miramar, Calif. He holds the Air Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

Moura and his wife, Karen, have two children and reside in Gig Harbor, Wash.



INCOMING — Lt. Col. Rui (Roy) Moura (left) accepts command of the MAAS-6 in May.

Eligibility requirements



To Airman:

6 months time-in-grade as E-1
Time-in-grade begins when member enters IADT



To Airman 1st Class:

3-level in Primary AFSC
6 months time-in-grade
1 year satisfactory service
Time-in-grade begins when member enters IADT



To Senior Airman:

3-level in AFSC
8 months time-in-grade as E-3
1 year satisfactory service
Time-in-grade begins when member enters IADT



To Staff Sergeant:

5-level in AFSC
12 months time-in-grade
3 years satisfactory service and completion of Airman Leadership School



To Technical Sergeant:

7-level in AFSC
18 months time-in-grade
5 years satisfactory service
Assigned to TSgt. slot *



To Master Sergeant:

7-level in AFSC
24 months time-in-grade
8 years satisfactory service
Assigned to MSgt. slot*
Completion of NCO academy (in-residence or correspondence)



To Senior Master Sergeant:

7-level in AFSC
24 months time-in-grade
11 years satisfactory service
Assigned to SMSgt. slot*
Completion of Senior NCO academy (in-residence or correspondence)



To Chief Master Sergeant:

9-level in AFSC
24 months time-in-grade
10 years enlisted service
14 years satisfactory service
Assigned to CMSgt. slot*

Wearing the Air Force uniform

Articles by SMSgt. Sa

Navigating a military career path is most successful when you decide your destination and carefully plan each step.

Getting from step to step may require supervisory assistance, but a little initiative goes a long way. When reservists know what is required for each step, they can groom themselves for promotion and stay actively involved in their career progression.

Many factors play into promotion opportunities, but some factors can be easily overlooked. Most reservists know the need for military and civilian education, job performance, time-in-grade and time-in-service, but they may miss criteria such as leadership skills, other types of professional development, and higher levels of responsibility. Military awards, such as the commendation medal or achievement medal, are important to promotion. If a reservist is never put in for an award, or it has been

Education often key to

Education plays a key role in career advancement.

An Air Force career provides many educational opportunities, and civilian education should be incorporated into the reservist's educational profile.

For career advancement, Professional Military Education (PME) is essential. The most basic PME is the Airman Leadership School (course 00001) for enlisted and the Squadron Officer School (course 00026A) for officers. As reservists move through the ranks, they should be aware of what PME is required for the next level.

The second aspect of educational considerations for advancement is completion of upgrade training in the enlisted career fields. Qualification for the next rank may include a specific skill level.

"If you are eligible for training, it's best to get it done. You can get grade enhancements — you just need to get the training," said SMSgt. Kristine Seney, chief of staff and training.

Seney said reservists should look at their military records and see if they are missing any education — civilian and military. She mentioned the Community College of the Air Force as a great tool to translate civilian education into college credits. Enlisted members should bring in their civilian transcripts and have them applied toward CCAF credits.

Officers move through the ranks through the Air Force Staff College and the Air Force Reserve Officer Training School. As they progress through the ranks, they should bring in their civilian education such as a degree. PME is not mandatory

Career advisors can lend a hand

Unit career advisors may be a valuable asset for career progression.

"Career advisors are all about people," said TSgt. Richard Gheen, wing career assistance advisor. "They are knowledgeable about the units, scope of activities, opportunities, benefits, point summaries, good-year requirements and the overall perspective concerning career opportunities."

Gheen said career advisors also monitor the bonus program to stay abreast of bonus career fields and they also provide feedback to determine criteria for new bonus career fields.

Unit career advisors should communicate PME opportunities and other educational avenues, as well as the requirements for the next grade level. According to Gheen, career advisors can also serve as a liaison between the reservist and their supervisor, or refer the reservist to other base agencies.

"There's so little time on UTAs — the career advisor can serve as an adjunct to the supervisors," said Gheen.

Unit career advisors are listed to the right.

ressed for success'

ndi Michon

...e or more years since an award, it may minimize the total ...age. Civilian life is also a factor, especially relating to ...ards, recognition, specific achievements and breadth of ex- ...ence.

According to MSgt. Ann Fluegge, chief of career enhance- ...nt, most promotions have specific eligibility criteria. The for- ...l criteria are very systematic, but if each eligible person has ...those criteria, the other factors take on greater significance.

Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander, compares ...er advancement to a road. "The smoother the road, the more ...id the progress. Reservists should be careful to fill any pot- ...es when paving their road to promotion," he said.

Whatever your career destination, prepare properly, and the ...ney can be more satisfying.

advancement

...e next level of ...e - with recent ...t never know," ...ief of education

becomes more necessary when competing against a more educated field.

"Education is always a criteria for ad- vancement. It may be the one thing that puts you ahead of the competition if all other things are equal," Seney said.

As enlisted members complete a four- year degree, the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT) may determine if they qualify for officer opportunities. The Deserving Air- man's Program is another tool to step from the enlisted to the officer ranks.

Questions regarding educational issues should be directed to Seney at Ext. 2042, or TSgt. Lori Boucher at Ext. 3440.

Questions on the Deserving Airman's Program should be directed to MSgt. Ann Fluegge at Ext. 3436.

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...Air Command ...War College as ...Officers mov- ...ften need addi- ...as a master's ...for officers, but

Officer promotion information

How well do you really understand the officer promotion process within the Air Force Reserve?

The Reserve Officer Personnel Management Act (ROPMA) took effect in 1996. Officers are promoted to 1st Lieutenant after two years of commissioned service, with unit and wing commanders' approval. For all other officer promotions, the member needs to be selected by a promotion board appropriate to their next higher grade.

Under ROPMA there are two types of boards, **mandatory and position vacancy (PV)**. All officers must meet the mandatory board when eligible. Position vacancy is reserved for top performers who are recommended by the wing commander. There must also be a vacancy in the AFSC. For officer promotion purposes, there is a vacancy if the number of officers authorized in that grade and AFSC is more than the number assigned.

When the promotion board meets, your "promotion folder" is reviewed by a panel of officers. The promotion folder contains a promotion brief, which shows the same information that is on a "pre-selection brief" mailed to your home about 90 days prior to your promotion board. The folder also contains your OPRs, decoration citations, a personal letter to the board if you choose to write one, and a Promotion Recommendation Form (PRF), if a PRF is required.

It is important that you carefully review the Pre-Selection Brief mailed to your home. It is your responsibility to insure your record is accurate. The sooner you identify any missing or erroneous data the more likely that it will be corrected before the board meets.

The PRF is written by your Senior Rater, which is either the Wing Commander or the first General Officer in your chain of command. The PRF is similar to an OPR and can encompass your entire career. It also contains promotion recommendation blocks, "Definitely Promote," "Promote," or "Do Not Promote This Board." If you are meeting a mandatory board one of these blocks will be X'd. If a PRF is used for your board, you will receive a copy of your PRF 30 days prior to the board convening date. Boards requiring PRFs are all PV boards and mandatory promotion boards to the grades of Lt Col, and above.

The minimum eligibility requirements for meeting mandatory promotion boards to the following grades are:

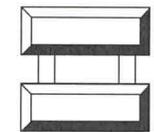
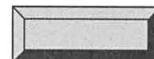
Promotion To	Time in Grade	Total Yrs Svc
CAPTAIN	4 YEARS	7 YEARS
MAJOR	7 YEARS	12.5 YEARS
LT COLONEL	7 YEARS	19.5 YEARS
COLONEL	3 YEARS	N/A

The minimum eligibility requirements for meeting PV boards to the following grades are:

Promotion To	Time in Grade
CAPTAIN	2 YEARS
MAJOR	4 YEARS
LT COLONEL	4 YEARS

A board schedule and eligibility requirements can be found on the Air Reserve Personnel Center's (ARPC) Web Page, at www.arpc.org. At the main menu go to "Promotions" and click on "Officers." From this page choose "Info," then "DOR (TIG) and TYSD Forecast FY 01 & 02."

Questions regarding officer promotions can be directed to Career Enhancement at ext 3436.



- 439th ASTS: TSgt. William Forbes
- 439th AMDS: SSgt. Ruth Rodriguez
- 722nd ASTS: MSgt. Charlis Willis
- 439th OG: MSgt. Deborah Ash
- 439th OSS: SSgt. Julie Kycia
- 42nd APS: TSgt. Louis Vezina
- 58th APS: MSgt. Kathy Newton
- 85th APS: TSgt. Janet Creager
- 337th AS: TSgt. John Velky
- 439th AES: MSgt. David James
- 439th ALCF: TSgt. Alex Cotton
- 439th LG: MSgts. Bienek/Skura
- 439th LSS: MSgt. Kenneth King
- 439th AGS: MSgt. Mitch Skura
- 439th MXS: MSgt. Bob Bienek
- 439th SPTG: MSgt. Robert McGraw
- 439th CES: MSgt. Jeff Jesmonth
- 439th CS: TSgt. Rich Messenger
- 439th SFS: TSgt. Scott Daigneault

AFRC mandates new medical tracking system

By SMSgt. Sandi Michon

During the next fiscal year, Westover will be implementing the new Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment (RCPHA).

The new program provides more detailed yearly health assessments, and "personalized" physicals every three years based on age and specific feedback from the assessments.

The Air Force Reserve Command mandated the new medical tracking system to increase readiness.

According to Maj. Michael A. Palmer, 439th AMDS chief of aerospace medicine, Air Force Reserve statistics show that 50 percent of reservists need to have something medical done prior to deployment, three percent are non-deployable and 50 percent are not properly immunized prior to deployment.

"Our current physical examination is based on age and done every five years," said Palmer. "The new system is more prevention-based, it should provide a more current health assessment and, ultimately, take less time."

The RCPHA will incorporate the following:

1. A detailed review of available medical records
2. One-time medical requirements such as DNA, blood type, RH factor, sickle cell trait, etc.
3. Completion of the Reserve Component Health Risk Assessment (formerly the AF Form 895, or the Annual Medical Certificate) The assessment may be completed on a standard form, or at the RCPHA web site. This form is accomplished annually, and expires on the last day of the reservist's birth month.
4. A focused medical assessment determined by military occu-

pation and health risk factors

5. Ancillary testing as determined by the individual's age, gender and health risk factors

6. A periodic health assessment ("personalized" physical) is performed every three years on criteria specific to each reservist. Criteria for the assessment is based on health risk assessment information, age-mandated testing (such as cholesterol, vision, hearing), dental exams, immunizations and gender-specific tests.

By maintaining a medical database for each reservist, the system will flag tests and any other requirements based on feedback and pre-scheduled rotation. Reservists should receive ample advance notice of medical requirements and any special preparation which must be taken.

"The individual reservist must take the initiative to comply with the new requirements," said MSgt. Emily Samfield, 22nd AF Point of Contact for the RCPHA. She said members who fail to complete annual requirements by the end of their birth month may be profiled and not allowed to participate until the requirement is met.

According to Palmer, the new program doesn't significantly increase requirements, but follows the reservist's medical status more closely as a preventative measure to ensure military readiness.

The initial assessment forms and detailed review of medical records will initiate the new program within the next few months. More information is available by contacting MSgt. Linda Moen at the 439th AMDS at Ext. 2651.

Employer Appreciation Days scheduled for October

by Gordon A. Newell

The 439th Airlift Wing will once again conduct Employer Appreciation Days during both UTAs in October.

Reservists are encouraged to invite their boss to the base to foster a better understanding of what they do when they put on their uniforms. Employers will also fly an orientation flight aboard a Westover C-5A. Only reservists assigned to the flight crew will be permitted to take part in the orientation flight.

Col. Martin M. Mazick, commander of the 439th AW, will again host employers for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. (registration at 8 a.m.) at the Westover Club to kick off the day's activities. Reservists may attend the breakfast with their boss but must pay for their own meal.

Reservists who normally drill on the A UTA should ask their boss (one supervisor per reservist) to be here Oct. 13 while B UTA reservists may invite their employer for Oct. 27.

To make reservations, fill out the application that appears on this page 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

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. 13 (A UTA) _____ Oct. 27 (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)

Lassiter named Staff Judge Advocate

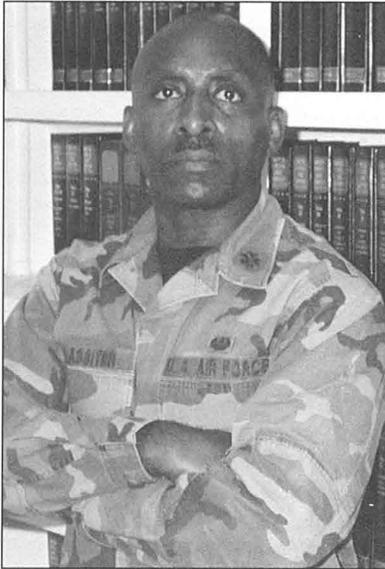
Maj. Walt Lassiter was recently assigned to Westover as the 439th Air Wing active duty Staff Judge Advocate. He succeeds Maj. Cheryl Lewis.

Lassiter is the only active duty Air Force member serving at Westover.

As Staff Judge Advocate, he advises the Wing Commander on issues ranging from civilian employee discipline to environmental clean-up matters.

"My goal is to provide the Wing Commander with all the legal rules, tools and advice needed to ensure that no issue of a legal nature prevents the command from performing its mission," the new Staff Judge Advocate said.

"Because of the range of the legal issues I will address, this will be my most challenging assignment. And being a big fan of the weather in the South, the weather here will be just as big a challenge. I am looking forward to both challenges," he said.



Maj. Walt Lassiter

Lassiter initially enlisted in the Army with a G.E.D. in 1979. He served as both a combat medic and a paralegal, with two tours of duty in West Germany; and tours in Fort Carson, Col.; and Fort Irwin, Calif.

After attaining the grade of E-6 and completing a BS in business management from the University of Maryland (European Division), Lassiter left active duty to attend law school. He completed law school at St. John's University, New York City, in 1991. In 1992, he was commissioned an Air Force first lieutenant as a judge advocate.

As a judge advocate, he has served as a Chief of Military Justice at Castle AFB, Calif.; Area Defense Counsel to ARPC; Chief of Military Justice, Maxwell AFB, Ala.; and Circuit Defense Counsel, Randolph AFB, Texas.

Lassiter resides in Springfield.



Lt. Col. Talivaldis I. Maidelis
439th Airlift Wing IG

Lt. Col. Talivaldis I. Maidelis has been named Inspector General for the 439th Airlift Wing, replacing Col. Diane Russell who has retired.

Maidelis, whose last assignment was as commander of the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron, has been at Westover since 1980, serving as a navigator on C-123s and later C-130s.

He entered the Air Force in 1974 as an AFROTC scholarship graduate from the North Carolina State University. He was an instructor KC-135 navigator when he left active duty.

Joyce earns eagles; accepts new position in Charleston

Article and photo
by MSgt. W.C..Pope

The 439th Support Group will be saying bon voyage to newly-promoted Col. Jim Joyce who has been SG commander since December 1997. He will be moving into the position of Logistics Group Commander with the 315th Airlift Wing, an associate wing of C-17s at Charleston AFB, S.C.

In his 11 years at Westover, Joyce served as maintenance supervisor at the 439th EMS, CRS and AGS — positions he held for almost seven years — and two years as deputy logistics group commander.

Prior to Westover, he served 15 years active duty as aircraft maintenance officer at Woodbridge/Wentwater RAF,



Col. Jim Joyce

England, and McChord AFB, Wash.

A native of Janesville, Wis. Joyce attended the University of Wisconsin in Greenbay where he received a bachelor's degree in Urban Planning.

One of the things that Joyce enjoyed most about Westover was the people. "I particularly like the New England outlook. People here are highly educated, have high work ethics and are extremely skilled," Joyce said. "And the people here are 100 percent friendlier than advertised," he quipped.

"Westover is an important strategic base for the Air Force, and it needs to be kept at the highest functional level," Joyce said.

Joyce said he will miss Westover but is looking forward to the new assignment and new challenges.

DOD, bank agree to changes in credit card terms

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – The Defense Department and Bank of America have agreed to a revised cardholder terms and agreement policy for the government travel card. The new agreement is scheduled to take effect Aug. 10.

The new terms include increased fees for some transactions, according to Michael Weber, Air Force travel card program coordinator.

Although some fees have increased, he predicts only a small number of people will be affected.

"The Air Force has seen a significant decrease in travel credit card delinquencies," he said. "Since January, delinquencies have dropped from over 12 percent to currently 5 percent, and we continue to see a decline".

He said people can avoid the higher cash advance fees simply by using the credit card to charge their lodging, transportation, meals and rental car costs.

"We encourage cardholders to use the card as much as possible and avoid using the ATM for cash advances to pay expenses that should be charged directly to the card," he said. Nearly all other additional fees will be avoided by paying bills on time and being financially responsible, he added.

New terms include:

- Late fee: A late fee of \$29 at 75 days past closing date on the statement of the account in which the charge first appeared.
- Expedited cards: A \$20 fee for expedited delivery of cards,

which is reimbursable on the travel voucher; no fee will be charged for emergency replacement of lost/stolen/damaged cards while in a travel status.

- Returned check fees: A \$29 fee for returned checks.
- Cash fees: For cash advances, a fee of \$2 per transaction or 3 percent of the transaction amount, whichever is greater.
- Reduce credit lines on restricted and standard cards consistent with travel needs.

Bank of America will include the revised terms and agreement policy in the July statements, Weber said. Cardholders should expect to see this new cardholder agreement in the mail around July 7-9. It is for information only and no action is necessary by the cardholder.

Additionally, Weber said future changes include a split disbursement default option and procedures to implement salary offset for delinquent accounts. These changes are expected to take effect later this fall and additional information will be announced once it becomes available.

"Split disbursement is a convenience option that is already used by thousands of cardholders," Weber said. He said people who want to know the balance on their cards can go online to the Electronic Account Government Ledger System, known as EAGLS.

Information on how travelers can get access to EAGLS to view their balances on the Internet can be obtained from their unit agency program coordinator or "The Cardholder Program Guide," a booklet available from unit APCs.

PATRIOT PUNS

BY MSGT. W.C. POPE



Base Advisory Council seeks input from units

by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

The Base Advisory Council is looking to expand membership to include two representatives from each unit on base. The Council's overall objective is to increase morale and quality of life for all assigned members and their families. The council is involved in activities like the Base Picnic, air shows, veterans' affairs, community relation projects, etc. Membership from each unit would provide a broader understanding of base issues and a deeper problem-solving base for creative solutions. "We discuss problems, research solutions, and present the proposals through proper channels," explained SSgt. Kara Stackpole, council vice president. Meetings are held at 0900 hours the Sunday of each A UTA in the wing conference room in Building 1850. Stackpole said they would appreciate the input of unit commanders and first sergeants to recommend motivated individuals to represent their unit.

Members are welcome from airman basic to technical sergeant.

Anyone interested is invited to sit in on a meeting. Suggestions and input from reservists may be e-mailed to West-overBAC@cs.com.

For more information, contact SSgt. Sabine Dietrich (3565), BAC president, or SSgt. Kara Stackpole (3073), vice

Patriot People

Name: Bob Merchant
Rank: SMSgt.
Age: 49 years
Address: Winchester, NH
Unit: 439th Maintenance Squadron, ISO dock
Position: Night Shift Dock Element Chief
Civilian position: Air Reserve Technician
Favorite food: Clams
Years of service: 26 years
Favorite sport: Horseback Riding
Favorite hobby: Horses
Ideal vacation: Cattle Ranch
Best way to relax: Be with my kids
Preferred entertainment: TV westerns
Favorite hero: John Wayne
Favorite music: Country
Favorite movie: "True Grit"
Favorite aircraft: C-5, which he's worked on since 1971
Pet peeve: People whining that it isn't their job,
 just do it and get it done.
What I would do if I won \$1 million:
 Set up a school for needy kids

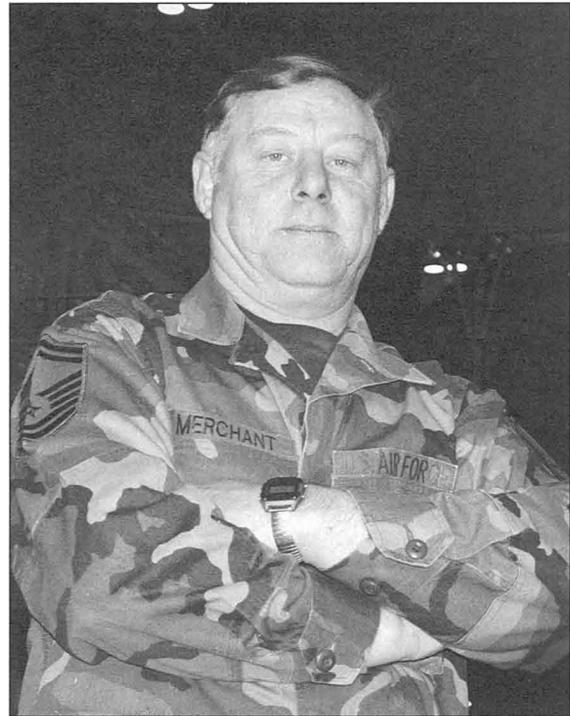


Photo by MSgt. W. C. Pope

SMSgt. Bob Merchant

Patriot Praises

Promotions:

SMSgt. Brown, Calvin C.	TSgt. Kasaras, Jeffrey R.
SMSgt. O'Neil, Christopher	TSgt. Manegio, Frank A.
SMSgt. Woods, Patrice M.	TSgt. Moreland, Michael S.
MSgt. Aube, Tracie A.	TSgt. Rivera, Jose O.
MSgt. Berry, Daniel P.	TSgt. Roy, Michael A.
MSgt. Fallon, David R.	TSgt. Sheeran, Joanna O.
MSgt. Grybko, Kim L.	TSgt. Sloan, Roy E.
MSgt. Niemiec, Richard R.	TSgt. Smallidge, Andrew J.
MSgt. Picard, Jennifer F.	TSgt. Smithers, Timothy R.
MSgt. Savage, Steven P.	TSgt. Solomon, William A.
MSgt. Spence-Elder, Lisa A.	TSgt. Steiner, Georgiana
MSgt. Valley, Stephen B.	TSgt. Sweet, David R.
MSgt. Witt, Daniel C. Jr.	TSgt. Therrien, Marian D.
TSgt. Bean, Lonnie S.	TSgt. Whelton, James M.
TSgt. Bellerose, Michael	TSgt. Williams, Sean E.
TSgt. Boucher, James E.	SSgt. Babcock, Cornelia
TSgt. Carey, Michael J.	SSgt. Beaudoin, Scott M.
TSgt. Cornell, Kelly A.	SSgt. Brooks, Stephen R.
TSgt. Duchesne, Michael A.	SSgt. Ceballos, Marcus L.
TSgt. Ehlers, Daniel E.	SSgt. Harrison, Bradford
TSgt. Gablaski, Charles E.	SSgt. Lemay, Paul A. II
TSgt. Hilario, Pedro A. Jr.	SSgt. Skaza, John P. III
TSgt. Ivey, Robert D.	SrA. Gellinger, Theresa M.
	SrA. Johnson, Ryan C.

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt.Col. Joel S. Bogner 439 AMDS
 Maj. Martha C. Shea** 439 AMDS
 Maj. Christoph F. Skomars* 439 LG
 MSgt. Anthony J. Delduco III 439 CES
 MSgt. Karen R. Ross 439 AMDS
 MSgt. Gregory J. Zakrzewski 439 CES

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt. Mark A. Czmyr* 439 CES
 MSgt. David W. Lawton 439 LSS
 TSgt. Luis A. Cabrera* 439 CES
 TSgt. Robert W. Chnyk 439 LSS
 TSgt. Scott D. Dudley 439 CES
 TSgt. Eugene E. Fish* 439 CES
 TSgt. John P. Popiak 42 APS
 TSgt. Paul M. Soja* 439 LSS
 SSgt. Richard D. Greene 439 LSS
 SSgt. Shawn M. Quigley 439 CES

Air Force Achievement Medal

Maj. Arvin H. Chin 722 ASTS

* First Award

Active-duty retirees welcome to join Air Force Reserve

WASHINGTON - The Air Force Reserve is offering active-duty military retirees the opportunity to return to military service.

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY2001 added Section 12741 to Chapter 1223, Title 10 USC, which permits retired active-component service members who later serve in the Air Force Reserve to elect retirement as members of the retired reserve.

In addition to helping Air Force Reserve Command fill a critical need, active-duty retirees will receive several benefits for continued military service as reservists. These incentives include:

- ✱ Increased retirement income by earning points and/or pay while serving;
- ✱ Promotion opportunity to a higher grade and retirement in that grade;
- ✱ Renewed esprit de corps and camaraderie enjoyed on active duty; and
- ✱ The possibility of serving in another career field and receiving new training.

To be eligible for this program, people must be regular active-duty Air Force retirees who retired not more than five years ago or current active-duty members with an approved, projected retirement date. The program is open to all career fields. The Air Force Reserve will consider all applicants as long as there are valid vacancies to be filled, and they meet the program's criteria. Some people may have to retrain to meet the needs of the Air Force.

Once they become members of the Air Force Reserve, the retirees will participate within the regular boundaries of the Reserve's rules for promotion, continuation, utilization and retirement. In addition to being physically qualified, they must meet current Air Force Reserve high-year-tenure or mandatory separation date rules, which require reservists to retire or separate by age 60. For example, participation in the Reserve is limited to a total of 33 years service unless enlisted reservists request and obtain an extension.

The retirees will continue to draw active-duty retire-

ment pay but will not receive dual compensation for active-duty retirement pay and participation in the Reserve. Their active-duty retirement paycheck will be reduced by 1/30th for each day of reserve duty; however, they will receive a full reserve pay check for duty performed on that same day. During a reserve drill weekend, reservists receive the equivalent of one day of active-duty pay for every four hours of service.

If promoted, members may elect reserve retirement pay in the higher grade at age 60. Even if not promoted, they may request recomputation of their retired pay due to reserve participation.

Interested people who believe they qualify for the program may contact the nearest Air Force Reserve recruiter for details.
(AFRC News Service)

439th Airlift Wing Family Day Sept. 8

To thank reservists and their families for their valuable support for the Westover mission, the 439th Airlift Wing is sponsoring Family Day on Sept. 8.

Prior to the picnic, scheduled from noon to 4 p.m., Family Support personnel are hosting a "Family Forum" at the base conference center from 9 - 11 a.m. The forum will cover a wide range of topics relevant to dependent issues. Family Support is also hosting a complimentary continental breakfast at the conference center at 8:30, and activities have been planned for the children during the forum sessions. Project Kid Care, a children's ID program, will also be available.

Besides the normal picnic food fare, hayrides, clowns and face painting are scheduled for the children, as well as horseshoes, raffles and volleyball for the adults.

PATRIOT

PATRIOT online: <http://www.afrc.af.mil/439aw>



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Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Ellen VanLoon, of Salem, Mass., and 2,416 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.