

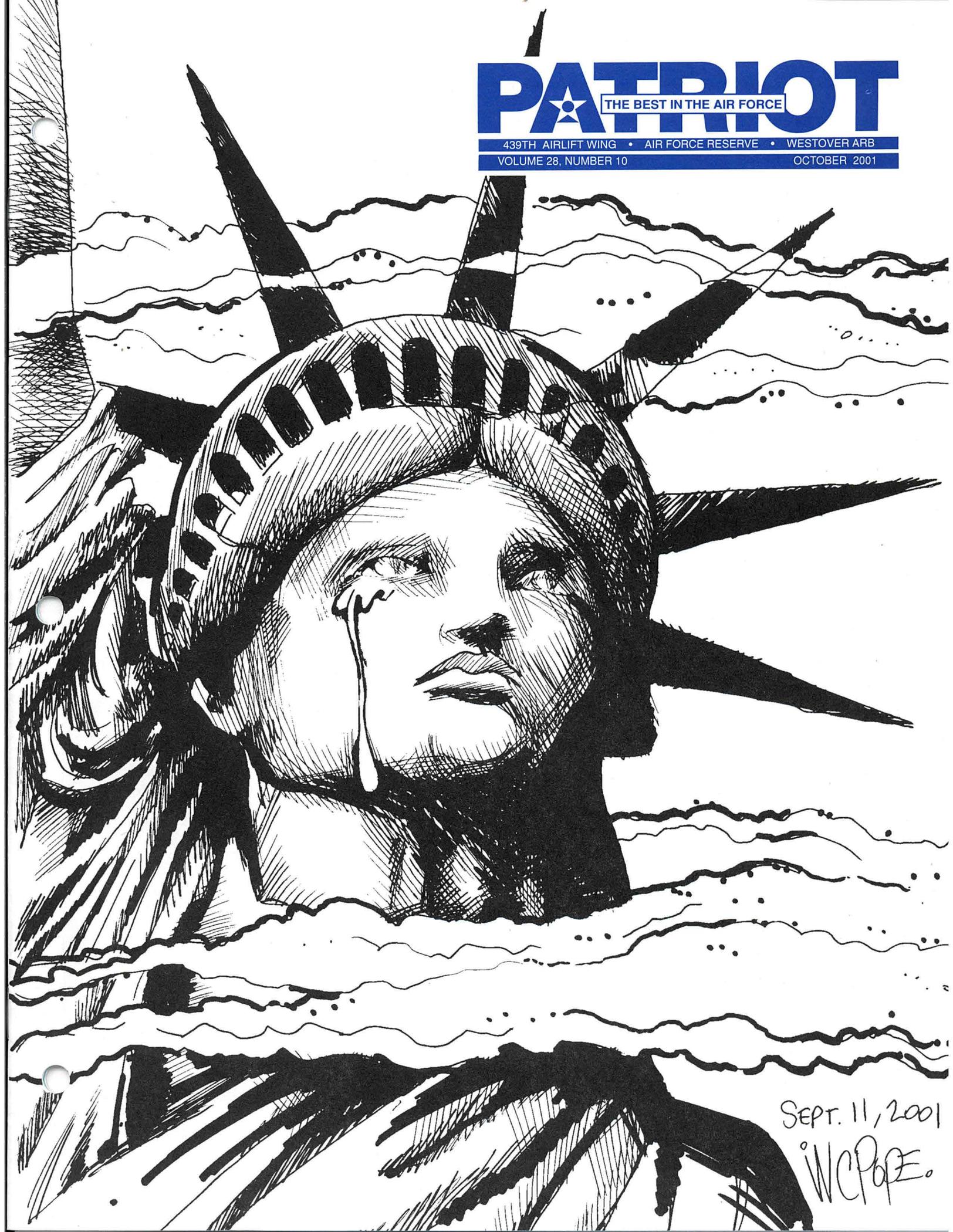
# PATRIOT

THE BEST IN THE AIR FORCE

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2001



SEPT. 11, 2001  
WCP/E.

## Security is everyone's responsibility

On Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of September, we were exposed to events the likes of which were inconceivable to most Americans. I am sure for most, myself included, the shock has not worn off.

This is an attack on our very freedom as a nation. Life as we have lived it has changed forever. Our complacency while we live on American soil has been shaken. Our basic freedom can no longer be taken for granted.

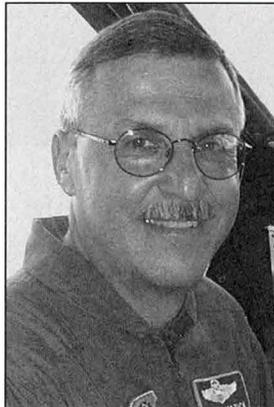
As our nation prepares for its response, understand that it will not just be an action in some far away country, to be watched on TV, safe and secure back here at home. This will involve all Americans.

For our part here at Westover, you have noticed increased security. My responsibility to all of you who work and play on the installation is a safe and secure environment.

We will continue to take whatever security actions are necessary.

I ask you to do your part while you are on the installation. Keep your antennas up, be familiar with your responsibilities during Force Protection Conditions (FPCONs), and be patient. Allow yourselves some extra time to get to work to make it through the ID checks. Security is everyone's responsibility. Please thank those security personnel that are pulling the 12-hour shifts around-the-clock; they are there for you and me.

God bless America, and thanks for all you do!



Col. Martin M. Mazick

by Col. Martin M. Mazick  
439th Airlift Wing Commander

# PATRIOT

"This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *PATRIOT* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force."

"The content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated."

**439th AW Commander**  
Col. Martin M. Mazick  
**Chief of Public Affairs/Co-editor**  
Gordon A. Newell  
**Wing Public Affairs Officers**  
Lt. Col. Sally Nutt Morger  
Capt. Wilson Camelo  
**NCOIC/Editor**  
SMSgt. Sandi Michon

**Deputy NCOIC**  
MSgt. Tom Allocco  
**Illustrator**  
MSgt. W.C. Pope  
**Staff**  
SSgt. Andrew Reitano  
TSgt. Euclid Ritchens  
AIC Amber Ryals  
**Correspondent**  
SrA Brad Harrison

## Briefs

### Security Forces Squadron seeking first sergeant

The 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron is recruiting for a new first sergeant.

Squadron Commander Capt. Ron Coburn said applicants will be interviewed during the September and October B UTAs. All interested reservists are asked to contact SMSgt. Mike Olenick (Ext. 3211) or e-mail (michael.olenick@westover.af.mil) to schedule a time for an interview. SMSgt. Kirt McGee, current first sergeant, is retiring.

### Club membership drive

If you join the Club between Aug. 15 and Nov. 18, you will have the chance to win a new car in an Air Force Reserve wide drawing for new members. Current Club members will be in a similar drawing.

The Air Force Reserve drawing for new members is one of 10 to give a special reward to those who support their Clubs with their membership. Vehicle choices will include the Chevy Cavalier, Dodge Neon and Ford Ranger. Winners can also take the option of \$8,500 in cash.

The drawings will take place about Dec. 18.

### Soldiers Home morale trip

The Base Advisory Council will continue a Westover tradition when it sponsors a holiday season morale trip to the Soldiers Home in Holyoke on Dec. 1 ("A" UTA).

Commanders and first sergeants have been asked to release volunteers to meet at the base gym at 9 a.m. Many at the Soldiers Home are veterans of World War II, aging members of the "greatest generation," and fading at the rate of 1,100 people every day.

Call TSgt. Douglas Emmo (Ext. 3413) for further information.

**November UTA schedule**  
**A UTA Nov. 3-4**  
**B UTA Nov. 17-18**

### Cover graphic

**When words may fail to express the sentiment of a nation, a picture is worth more than a thousand words...**

—artwork by MSgt. W.C. Pope



**SAME DAY SERVICE** — Within hours of terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, a Westover crew transports search and rescue teams, with 72 people and 37 tons of cargo, across the country.

## Westover's initial response

Article by MSgt. Tom Allocco  
Photos by TSgt. Bob Serricchio

A Westover aircrew was in the air with help within hours of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

The aircrew, under aircraft commander Maj. Daniel Smith, was at Travis AFB, Calif. on the first leg of a mission to Australia when they were tasked to transport a rescue team and equipment to New York City. They loaded their Galaxy and departed Travis by 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Pacific Time.

They flew across the country at a time the FAA had grounded all but emergency aircraft. Silent radios and empty skies made the mission eerie, as did an intercept by F-16s near Chicago and other large cities.

"The F-16s checked us out very carefully. It was very strange," Smith said.

The aircrew delivered about 72 members

of an urban search and rescue team, their vehicles and nine pallets of equipment to McGuire AFB, N.J. early on Sept. 12. The team included medical people, firefighters, chaplains and rescue dogs.

Leaving McGuire the next day, they flew over Manhattan, which was still smoking.

"It took a couple of hours to digest what I saw," said TSgt. Bob Serricchio, flight engineer.

"It looked like a smoke stack from a power plant. When we saw those plumes of smoke everyone was quiet for a long time on the flight home," he said.

Others in the aircrew were: Maj. Matthew Warren, Capt. Joseph Freitas, MSgt. Paul Gagnon, TSgt. Steven Peterson, TSgt. Daniel Giddinge, TSgt. John Szafko, SSgt. James Griffin, SSgt. Ryan Hellyar and SSgt. Shawn Manley.



**READY WHEN NEEDED** — The Westover crew shown above was diverted from a regular mission to carry rescue teams to New Jersey on Sept. 11/12.



**CLOSEST PORT IN A STORM:** Ten A-10s from Arizona land at Westover on their way home from Middle East.

## Attack on America: Westover responds

Article and photos  
by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Like the Pearl Harbor generation, we will always know where we were when America came under fire.

We'll remember hearing the first word as we went about our business at mid-morning on a Tuesday, Sept. 11. We'll never forget standing around TV sets watching the world unravel, how we spoke in short outbursts, how faces were taut in disbelieving shock. We'll recount how unthinkable, impossible images exploded through the morning — flaming buildings; dying firefighters; final, doomed words spoken into cell phones.

Like the Pearl Harbor generation, we will have the satisfaction of knowing that those who hurt us, misjudged us. Even as the blows were still coming, we fell back on instinct and training.

America's military worldwide went to Force Protection Condition Delta, the highest alert, used only to signal that an attack is in progress.

The new, grimmer face of Westover started with heavy equipment operators lowering red-topped cement jersey barriers at parking lot and street entrances. Military and civilian members left their desks to set up plastic cones and yellow ropes around their buildings and move away trash cans.

They locked entrance doors in their buildings and set up tables at main entrances to check ID cards and take names of those coming and going.

The Westover senior leadership established a Crisis Action Team in the Command Post. It's mission was twofold: to protect Westover's people and property, and to prepare aircraft, flight crews and support people who might be called into military or humanitarian action.

Offices around the base began receiving calls from reservists who volunteered to report for duty if needed. Some traditional reservists, like Col. Sarah Waterman, 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS commander, and Lt. Col. Terry Thomas, 439<sup>th</sup> MSS commander, simply showed up. "I couldn't stay home," Waterman said. The medical units called members and assembled rosters of volunteers available for a short-notice alert.

Westover closed its gate to all non-mission people. Incoming vehicles were subjected to the German shepherds of Massachusetts State police dog handlers and Westover Marines joined wing security members at the gate.

With an FAA order to clear the skies, a Texas C-130 crew returning home from England landed at Westover after a "greeting" by two F-15s about 75 miles north of Springfield. "I'd never had an escort like that before in my career," the aircraft commander said. Similarly, 10 A-10 aircrews found themselves grounded at Westover on their way home to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. from the Middle East.

The first step to tighten security on the flight line and around base was to increase the number of security forces and frequency

of patrols. Security forces armed with M-16s and M9 Baretta pistols stood at entry control points to the flight line, patrolled in Humvees and walked the fence line to check for tampering.

The civilian DOD police worked long hours and reservists of the 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron called in to volunteer. The Westover force was supplemented by Massachusetts Army National Guard military police. Maintenance members stood guard at the entry control point to the flight line.

During the week, volunteers of the 439<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron were in the Dining Facility at 4 a.m. to cook breakfast for the security forces and other reservists.

Lt. Col. Armand Torangeau conducted a prayer service in the Base Chapel to pray for victims, rescuers and all those in uniform who face the unknown. He chose passages from Scripture reminding that the greatest strength in times of stress is a core of inner peace.

The wave of solidarity that swept America in response to the attack was felt at the Westover reserve recruiting offices. Westover's recruiting offices in New England and New York received numerous calls from prior and non-prior service people and inactive reservists.

"There has been a surge of patriotism. People want to get involved and do something for their country. They say they want to take a stand," said SMSgt. Ronald Tyson, senior reserve recruiter.

Before the end of Tuesday, security po-



**NO NONSENSE —** Westover personnel tighten security with full perimeter checks (above) controlled entry to all base buildings (right), and increased sentry duty on the flight line (lower right).



lice lowered the base flag to half-staff.

It had been a day of roller-coaster emotions for Americans, among them Kathy Kies, wing JAG legal assistant. All morning and into the early afternoon she made nervous calls to family members seeking word about her nephew, a civilian Pentagon employee. After hours of anxiety, a call came that he was safe.

"It was such a feeling of relief. Thank God he was safe, especially when I found out how close he had been. He had just left a room that was demolished. His supervisor was killed," she said.

Like the Pearl Harbor generation, Kathy Kies now looks at the price of war through a mother's eyes. "Now," she said, "I worry about my daughter. Sherri is a sergeant with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne. I'm afraid of what will come next."



**HONOR AND GLORY —** The American flag at half staff symbolizes national grief, while a plethora of red, white and blue blankets the country in a massive array of national pride and show of solidarity.

## Air Force initiatives raise drug abuse awareness

By MSgt. Tom Allocco

The number of airmen having their careers destroyed by drug abuse is growing, in part due to the rise of new "club drugs," and, also more effective enforcement, prompting the Air Force to step up efforts to educate and deter those at risk.

Greater emphasis on education at every level, from commanders calls to chief of staff messages, and increased drug testing focusing on club drugs are among recently announced recommendations of a team of Air Force experts.

The Air Force Drug Abuse Reduction Team, created last October, developed the recommendations to focus on prevention and deterrence. The team is composed of air staff-level experts from legal, medical, security forces, personnel, public affairs, recruiting, OSI and Reserve and National Guard components.

The team determined the number of Air Force members identified as abusing drugs is growing. The higher number can be attributed to higher use and better detection through testing and investigation.

Computerized random urinalysis is conducted at Westover by the 439<sup>th</sup> AMDS. The wing follows the Air Force Reserve guideline to test one-quarter of members annually.

Westover Reservists have not been immune from the lure of illegal drugs and the far-reaching consequences of drug abuse.

"The rule is zero tolerance. Use of these drugs is not compatible

with being a member of the military service," said Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander. In fiscal year 2000, one wing member was discharged under other than honorable conditions for illegal drug use. In fiscal year 2001 the wing had five cases.

In a memo to commanders, General Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, urged commanders to take innovative approaches to the drug problem. "We need to be fair, firm and proactive as we enforce our standards," the chief of staff said.

Key initiatives of the Air Force Drug Abuse Reduction Team are:

- Recommend the Defense Department test recruits at military entrance processing stations for the same range of drugs for which the Air Force tests airmen. New recruits are only tested for marijuana and cocaine. The Air Force tests for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, methamphetamines, PCP, LSD, opiates and barbiturates. The Air Force tests for Ecstasy when the methamphetamine test is positive
- Emphasize the periodic use of Air Force-wide weekend and holiday urinalysis testing, for detection and deterrence of club drugs;
- Expand instruction at squadron, group and wing commander courses and add officer professional military education classes;
- Design commander's call topics that discuss the effects substance abuse has on health, and the potential consequences of using drugs; and
- Highlight zero tolerance, increased drug testing and integrity issues with internal media to promote awareness within the Air Force community.

## Payroll deductions beginning for delinquent travel cardholders

by Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker  
Air Force Print News

08/30/01 - WASHINGTON -- In October, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will begin involuntary payroll deductions for almost 8,000 Air Force people who are more than 120 days delinquent on their government travel charge card accounts

These deductions, up to 15 percent of a person's disposable income, will help Bank of America recoup the millions of dollars that cardholders owe on their past due accounts, said Michael Weber, Air Force Travel Card Program manager at the Pentagon.

"Last month alone, Bank of America wrote off \$161,000 from delinquent Air Force cardholders," Weber said. Before any payroll deduction begins, Bank of America will notify each cardholder, once an account reaches 90 days past due, and offer them one of two options to settle the account voluntarily, said Col. Gregory Morgan, Air Force accounting, banking and comptroller support director at the Pentagon.

"The first option is a one-time payment to bring the account current," Morgan said. "The second option, for those financially unable to pay the account in full, is to enter into a written agreement with Bank of America to make voluntary monthly payments."

By voluntarily settling a past due account, Bank of America will permit the cardholder to restore their government travel charge card privileges, Weber said.

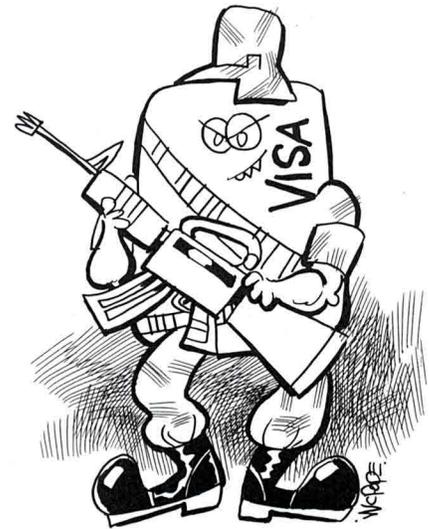
However, if a cardholder defaults on these agreements or does not make arrangements with the bank to settle the account, the unpaid account balance will be submitted to DFAS for immediate involuntary payroll deduction, he said. This will result in the permanent termination of all government travel charge card privileges for the offending cardholder.

Additionally, Bank of America will begin reporting all delinquent government travel charge card accounts to the credit bureaus.

"This financial irresponsibility by Air Force members greatly impacts their ability to travel and to accomplish the mission," Morgan said.

Morgan said increased unit oversight of the travel charge card program is needed to help combat current and future account delinquencies.

"When commanders are more cognizant of their unit's program, we see a much lower delinquency rate among Air Force members," he said. "As more commanders have become involved, we have dropped from a 12-percent delinquency rate to one



much closer to the nationwide delinquency rate among Visa and Master Card users."

"Although the Air Force has reduced the number of its delinquent accounts, the lowest among any service, we still have a long way to go," Weber said. "It's really up to the person entrusted with the government travel charge card to do the right thing — pay for what you use."



AIC Brian Boynton

"First and foremost, to protect my family and country. The benefits help my family and I enjoy the professionalism among military personnel."



MSgt. Lisa Spence-Elder

"I serve because I love the Air Force. The G.I. Bill has helped me to further my education... it's a good way to meet people of diverse backgrounds..."



Lt. Col Richard Miesel

"I feel especially strong about the free exercise of religion. I like being part of protecting it."

(Chaplain)



SSgt. Robert Luby

"To serve my country, for the training... my father was in the Navy, by brother is in the Marines... I always liked planes, so I chose the Air Force."

## Air Force Reserve benefits (3): "Why I serve"

by SSGt. Andrew Reitano

The first two articles in this series focused on the educational and recreational benefits of being in the Air Force Reserve. They make a convincing argument that we enjoy positive, tangible benefits.

Many of us, myself included, initially joined the Air Force Reserve because we really appreciated these extraordinary benefits that are not available to civilians. But, there are other intangibles that come only to those who choose to wear the uniform.

We don't talk about it a lot, but each one of us appreciates the fact that we share a special sense of accomplishment. We have earned the right to feel pride when the national anthem is played at a sporting event.

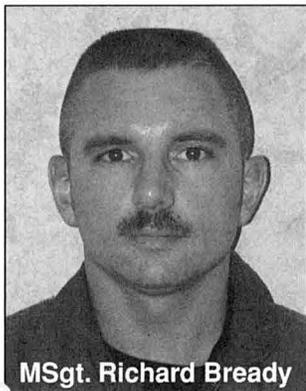
As Reservists, we have proven we can live up to the highest expectations of words like "patriotism" and "service before self." To me, and I think, for most of my fellow Reservists, concepts such as these are more than good enough reasons to get up early on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Pride, like any good benefit, doesn't come free. We pay for it on the monthly installment plan: field conditions, MOPP Level 4, MREs, missed birthdays and anniversaries, and Force Protection Condition Delta. It's a price that many Americans have chosen not to pay. Those who have earned military pride know that patriotism and service ultimately mean more to them than tuition assistance and Shades of Green resorts.

With the tragic events of Sept. 11 still

fresh in our minds, we Air Force reservists are being called upon to help eradicate a threat to civilization. For long-time veterans, this may involve new tactics, but answering the call to duty is an old and honored tradition. For the younger airmen, the coming challenges are an opportunity to prove they are worthy to serve our nation with pride and distinction.

It's times like these that call us to reflect on why it matters to be a part of the Air Force Reserve. The intangible, difficult-to-explain benefits overshadow the tangible. It's a deep sense of being a part of something larger than ourselves — standing for principle. We feel it each time we hear our national anthem — and when wearing our uniform — we seem to stand a little taller.



MSgt. Richard Bready

"The people, the mission, and the extra money together make me happy to be here and proud to serve."



MSgt. Mark Czmyr

"I enjoy it. I enjoy the bond that firefighters and military members share... a sense of duty... I knew out of high school that I would join the service."



MSgt. Rosa Rimola-Webb

"I serve to mentor young people, assist in 'passing down' traditions as well as knowledge... that not only enhance military lives but provide communities with knowledgeable, well-rounded citizens."



2nd. Lt. Jason R. Rose

The greatest benefit... is the privilege of continuing the Citizen Soldier tradition established by our Founding Fathers two centuries ago... to secure liberty for generations to come..."

## Reservist's 240-pound fishing "catch" a gift in hiding

by Capt. Wilson Camelo

On the first day of his fly-fishing vacation, Lt. Col. Pete Gray had a day most fishermen would envy. The Westover operations plans officer was on a sportsman's high after catching and releasing his personal best, a 44-inch striped bass while fly fishing the surf near Chatham, Mass.

Little did he know his second day's "catch" on Aug. 6 would be one that would change his perspective on life.

Hooked on to another "striper" while fly-fishing from a sandbar near the outer end of a channel, Gray heard a distant sound to his right. "I thought it was a seal since I had seen some earlier that morning," Gray said.

"The air was thick that morning. Fog had rolled in and visibility was only about 25 yards so I couldn't see the source," he said.

With his fishing rod bent and still fighting the fish, the sound was now almost right in front of him. The fog cleared enough to see a sight that sent chills up his back and raised the hair on the back of his neck.

The prized "catch?" A 240-pound man in the water being dragged out to open ocean by the tidal current.

The man's head, barely above water, was bobbing up and down and he didn't have a personal flotation device. "As an aircraft commander, formerly flying C130s and C-5s, I was trained to take charge, so I knew I had to do something," Gray recalled.

It seemed as if fate was on the side of the man in the water. For starters, Gray was the only person on the sandbar that morning and got there by kayak. It also didn't hurt that Gray, a Desert Storm veteran, was a lifeguard in his younger days and had experience pulling people out of the water. Only moments prior, he had called the weather office for a forecast, and a promising report prompted him to stay a bit longer. Because of the heavy fog, he brought along his compass and cell phone. Drilled by years of Air Force training, he also brought along his personal flotation device and his safety sense.

After doing what fishermen dread — voluntarily breaking off a hooked fish — Gray took a quick heading on the compass and found his kayak. He began paddling toward the man with short, powerful, quick strokes at a rate just a bit slower than that of his now racing heart.

Gray's honed instincts told him to do a quick risk analysis.

"The first rule in rescues is to not become a victim yourself," he said. "I stopped about eight feet from him because I needed to know if he was planning a mutiny on my kayak or if he'd cooperate with the rescue."

Gray asked him a few questions to gauge the drowning man's intentions so they wouldn't both end up in the water. The man responded well, Gray said.

He approached and instructed the man to grab the tow handle at the back of the kayak and to kick his feet. "I wanted him to be mentally engaged in his own rescue so he wouldn't fall off," Gray said.

Going back to his compass, Gray obtained a heading and paddled back toward his original position on the sandbar. He used his cell phone to call 911 and coordinate the emergency response.

The man was cold coming out of the water. All he was wearing was wading boots, Bermuda shorts, a T-shirt, a pale face and blue lips. Gray learned the man's name was Kevin and he was from Ohio.

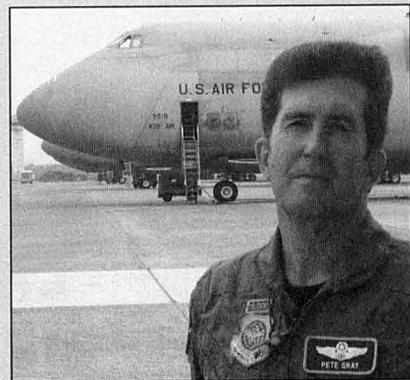
He also learned the man was a diabetic and due for his insulin shot in 30 minutes.

Gray gave Kevin his coat as they walked to the other end of the sandbar to wait for the harbormaster to take Kevin to the rescue unit. After a brief exchange of pleasantries, it was all over.

Gray's afterthoughts strayed to the man's family. Kevin had told him he had a wife and two children. They were in Maine shopping

**"This was something good for him and good for me. It was like a gift."**

—Lt. Col. Pete Gray



while Kevin did some ocean fishing, something he can't do in Ohio.

"All I kept thinking about was his kids coming back — what the family would have said if they couldn't find Daddy. Well, they wouldn't have found Daddy if he was still on his way to Nova Scotia," Gray kidded.

Gray says he doesn't consider himself a hero. He says he's more grateful to Kevin for their lives having intersected that day.

"This was something good for him and good for me. It was like a gift."

To understand why Gray considered the rescue more a gift than a heroic experience, turn back the clock to February 1999.

As the aircraft commander, Gray had just touched down his C-5 Eielson AFB, Alaska, in sub-freezing temperatures. After arriving at the parking spot and preparing for cargo offload, a crewmember informed him there was smoke coming from a wheel well.

Gray went to investigate and determined that several brakes, later found to be faulty, had badly overheated and immediately ordered the plane, with about 65 people on board, evacuated and the fire department called. The brakes and one wheel soon ignited. He and the flight engineer began to fight the fire. While passing a 300-pound fire extinguisher, Gray tore the rotator cuff in his right shoulder.

The injury eventually took him off flying status and, just like that, 30 years of flying came to an abrupt end. He became what pilots affectionately refer to as a "penguin" ... a flightless bird.

"Flying is all I ever wanted to do and now that was gone," he said. No longer able to fly missions, he said he focused more on his limitations and went into a period of self-pity.

"After I dropped Kevin off, it really hit me: I did something monumentally important and it had nothing to do with flying. This told me I was still capable; that I was still able to come forward and make a big difference."

Gray said the event changed his life and he no longer focuses on the negatives.

Gray jokes that the only regret he has is the fish he lost to rescue Kevin. "If I ever see Kevin again, I'll tell him 'heck of a time you chose to try and drown on me,'" he said with a smile on his face.

The "penguin" retires from the Air Force Reserve next year after 30 years of federal service. Not surprisingly, he's planning to retire not too far from his fishing hole in Chatham.

He'll take with him Air Force memories of landing in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm, Panama during Operation Just Cause, Somalia and other humanitarian missions too many to name. He'll take with him the feeling of having done the right thing by going after his new friend from Ohio. Most importantly, he'll take with him a glass that's half full and a smile that's a barometer of adventures that await.

## Family Day may be 'thanks' in advance

Article by Capt. Wilson Camelo  
Photos by MSgt. W. C. Pope

Food, clowns, children's activities, sporting events, and dunking the wing commander highlighted this year's Family Day Sept. 8. A mere three days later, the nation experienced a terrorist attack that will more than likely test the mettle of our military. You could say the picnic expressed "thanks-in-advance" for reservists' family support.

While the picnic started at noon, Family Day officially kicked off with a spouse's orientation at the conference center. During the forum — organized by the Family Readiness Center — spouses were briefed by a myriad of base agencies to help them better understand their and their military spouse's benefits, said Linda Rieth, director of Family Readiness.

Once at the picnic, families were greeted by a new attraction: the Children's Fun Zone. Looking like an inflatable playground, the zone featured a slide, jumping pit, basketball game, and other children's activities such as face painting and drawing.

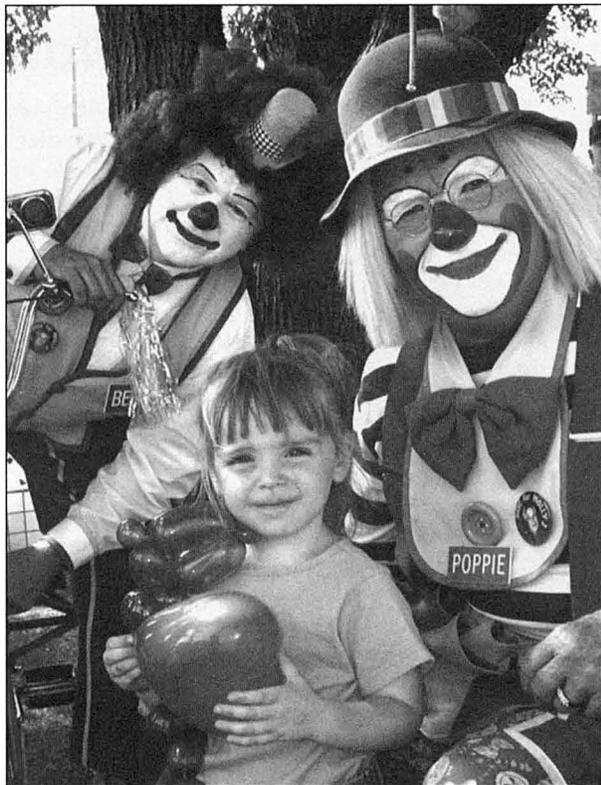
"We wanted to give kids something new and fun to do this year and I've heard nothing but compliments from families about the inflatables," said CMSgt. Tammy Vezina, military personnel superintendent and member of the Chief's Council.

"I've also been stopped numerous times by parents thanking us for the toys that their children received and were extremely thankful for them," Vezina said. "We were fortunate as Lego's donated more than 170 LEGO systems to us."

"This is my fourth year coming and it's the best one thus far. There's lots of stuff for the kids to do and the food isn't bad either," said Michelle Otis, wife of TSgt. Jeffrey Otis. Her daughter, Amanda, 12, agreed, "This is fun. I like coming and getting together with the other kids."

According to CMSgt. Bill Currier, approximately 1,200 people attended this year's Family Day. That's based on the approximately 3,000 hamburgers cooked by the Galaxy Council, he said.

Currier added that the Chief's Council began planning for Family Day in January by selecting subcommittee members to handle all the details. "We had great support from many people and agencies along the way such as the Galaxy Council, Family Readiness, USO, junior ROTC, and others."



**SEND IN THE CLOWNS** — Anna Marie Gregory, daughter of TSgt. Donna Gregory of the 439th MXS, shows off her balloon sculpture — courtesy of the Shriner clowns — at the base family picnic held Sept. 8.

**HAVING A BALL** — Good weather, food, fellowship, and spirited sports competition all contributed to the best Family Day picnic on record.



## Firefighters reunion brings fellowship, lessons

by Capt. Wilson Camelo

The smell of burgers, hotdogs and nostalgia filled the air at the base fire department Aug. 18 as nearly 75 retired, transferred and current firefighters reunited for the first "Old Timers" picnic.

Westover Fire Chief Philip Boyer said that while the picnic allowed everyone to get together to share memories, look through photo albums and "see old faces," it also served to educate the younger members.

"It feels good to bring some tradition back to the department. Our younger members can talk with those who started it all and understand that progress has been made in fire-fighting," Boyer said.

The reunion idea came from Assistant Chief Charlie Vangorden, who had served at Griffiss AFB, where they routinely held reunion picnics.

"You never know what to expect the first year. We mailed 113 invitations and, considering the notice and distances, we had a very good turn out. We even had a guy here from Seattle," he said.

Sean Strohman, a Westover fire-

fighter who also serves as president of the Westover Firefighters Benevolent Association, said putting the picnic together was a team effort. He said the association helped defray the cost, base facilities loaned equipment such as the grill, and many people chipped in to bring food and set up.

One of the "old timers" in attendance was Joe Longworth, who served as Westover fire chief from 1991-1995.

"I think this is a great idea," said Longworth, who served at the fire department since 1974.

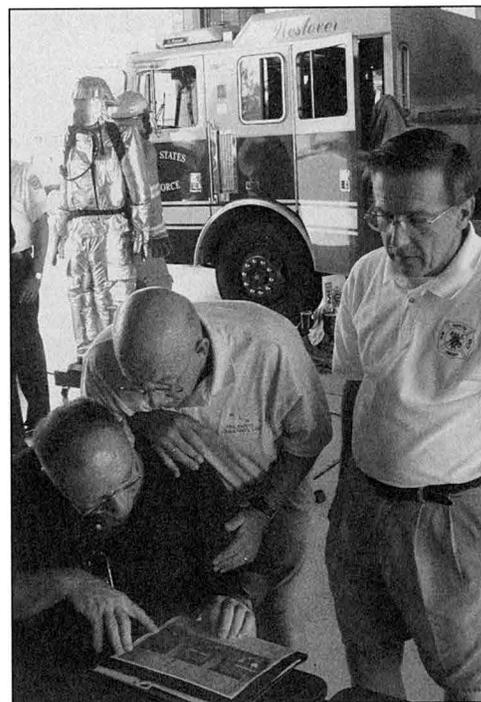
The retired chief said that a lot has changed at the fire department over the years, but a lot has stayed the same.

Technology and quality of training have certainly improved, but many of the proven procedures have remained constant, he said.

"We're also more environmentally friendly today. Now we have better, safer facilities," he said.

Also in attendance was John Diana, who was the first station captain when reservists took over firefighting duties from Strategic Air Command in 1974.

Boyer says they intend to continue the tradition.



Retired Fire Chiefs Don Elliott, Bill Hennessey, and Philip Boyer trying to identify former firefighter from old photographs.

—photo by Capt. Wilson Camelo

### Base announces annual award winners

An awards selection board was convened to select the annual outstanding Airman, NCO, SrNCO, Company Grade Officer, Civilian Employee, and Civilian Supervisor.

Congratulations to the following individuals:

Airman: SrA Michael S. Linnehan, 439 ASTS  
 NCO: SSgt. Peter J. Murphy, 439 CS  
 SrNCO: MSgt. Gary A. Hebert, 439 MX  
 Officer: Capt. Michael Owczarzak, 439 SFS  
 Civilian: Virginia M. Griffin, CIV 439 LSS  
 Civilian/Supervisor: Alan P. Rogers, SUPV 439 MXS

The Westover annual awards will be presented at the December Commander's Call in the base hangar. These individuals will also be in competition for the AFRC-level awards. Winning units should coordinate with Ann Beebe, Ext 3953 for AFRC nomination requirements/suspense. The outstanding contributions these individuals have made to their respective units and the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing is highly commendable and deserving of recognition.

### PATRIOT PLANS BY MSGT. W.C. POPE



439th Airlift Wing Honor Guard needs you! Call MSgt. Tom Roe at 557-3342  
 Ceremonial Guardsman School is scheduled for Oct 15-19.

## Patriot People

**Name:** Fred Perret  
**Rank:** SMSgt.  
**Age:** 44 years  
**Address:** Montague, Mass.  
**Unit:** 337th Airlift Squadron  
**Position:** Flight Engineer  
**Civilian position:** Flight Safety  
**Favorite food:** Lobster  
**Years of service:** 26+ years  
**Favorite sport:** College basketball  
**Favorite hobby:** Woodworking  
**Ideal vacation:** A beach in Hawaii  
**Best way to relax:** By the pool  
**Preferred entertainment:** Music  
**Favorite hero:** Robin Hood  
**Favorite music:** Jazz  
**Favorite movie:** "Rebel Without a Cause"  
**Favorite aircraft:** C-130  
**Pet peeve:** Unaccountability  
**What I would do if I won \$1 million:** Buy the *Say When* cafe



Photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

SMSgt. Fred Perret

## Patriot Praises

**Promotions:**

CMSgt. Flynn, Arthur F.  
 SMSgt. Wentworth, Michael L.  
 SMSgt. Willis, Charles L.  
 MSgt. Burgess, Jon  
 MSgt. Carrington, Carol B.  
 MSgt. Hayford, Albert C., Jr.  
 MSgt. Munoz, Luis M.  
 MSgt. Shaw, Russell S., Jr.  
 MSgt. Smith, Robert J.  
 TSgt. Berkebile, David A.  
 TSgt. Delano, Robert J.  
 TSgt. Fernandez, Joseph  
 TSgt. Gardner, Frederick D.  
 TSgt. Henrickson, David  
 TSgt. Hickson, Michael T.  
 TSgt. Lambert, Joshua O.  
 TSgt. Lawlor, David P.  
 TSgt. Murphy, Peter J.  
 TSgt. Payne, James  
 TSgt. Otis, Jeffrey C.  
 TSgt. Serricchio, Michael C.  
 TSgt. Staple-Ward, Genetta N.  
 TSgt. Tracey, Scott A.  
 SSgt. Hodgdon, Sean M.  
 SSgt. Radley, John T., Jr.  
 SSgt. Sanctuary, Joseph  
 SSgt. Tavares, Paul M.  
 SrA. Boye, Littita A.  
 SrA. Holloran, Bonnie  
 SrA. King, David A. II  
 SrA. Messina, Kasey R.  
 SrA. Miguel, Ligia D.  
 SrA. Moliter, Patrick J., Jr.  
 SrA. Niedziela, Joseph A.  
 A. Notto, Tracey L.  
 A. Okaiadjetey, Perseverance A.  
 AIC Garcia, Rachel

SSgt. Meisel, Michael H.  
 SSgt. Vachon, Matthew V.  
 SrA. Bednarz, John T.  
 SrA. Bragg, Kimberly  
 SrA. Couch, Larry J.  
 SrA. Deyo, Kevin P.  
 SrA. Doyon, Paul J.  
 SrA. Soto, Katherine  
 AIC Curtis, Philip W.  
 AIC Fazzino, Lishelle N.  
 AIC Goncalves, Raymond J.  
 AIC Hardy, Sara R.  
 AIC Callahan, Donald J.  
 AIC Keokoummane, Banlang  
 AIC Killin, Trevor C.  
 AIC Redd, Lakeena R.  
 AIC Warren, Daniel C.  
 AIC Wentworth, Kenneth W.  
 Amn. Bonaldi, Tina M.  
 Amn. Jamison, Matthew T.  
 AB Bradley, Nicole L.  
 AB Dion, Mariah A.  
 AB Rojas, Joaquin A.  
 AB Torres, Maria M.  
 AB Wahlgren, Nathan L.

**Retirements:**

Col. Russell, Diane M.  
 Lt. Col. McPherseon, Paul R.  
 Lt. Col. Roberts, Dale E.  
 Maj. Marasco, Thomas R.  
 CMSgt. Byrnes, Patricia A.  
 MSgt. Breedlove, Frances M.  
 MSgt. Lawton, David W.  
 MSgt. Hoagland, George L.  
 MSgt. Mercure, Robert M. J.  
 TSgt. Dube, George W.  
 TSgt. Dudley, Scott D.  
 TSgt. Kaczmariski, Linda L.  
 TSgt. Lambert, Raymond E.  
 TSgt. Lupien, Philip J.  
 TSgt. Phelps, William C.

**Newly Assigned:**  
 Maj. Tirrell, Mark J.  
 SSgt. Martine, Renatta Kay

## Awards and Decorations

**Meritorious Service Medal**

MSgt. Waymond Dotson*	439 APS
MSgt. Kenneth B. King	439 LSS
MSgt. Shelli A. McCarthy	439 ASTS
MSgt. Robert M. Mercure	42 APS
TSgt. Thomas G. McDonough	439 LG

**Air Force Commendation Medal**

2Lt. Robert E. Driscoll, Jr.	439 AMDS
TSgt. Jeffrey J. Casson	439 LSS
TSgt. Fernando, Santana	42 APS

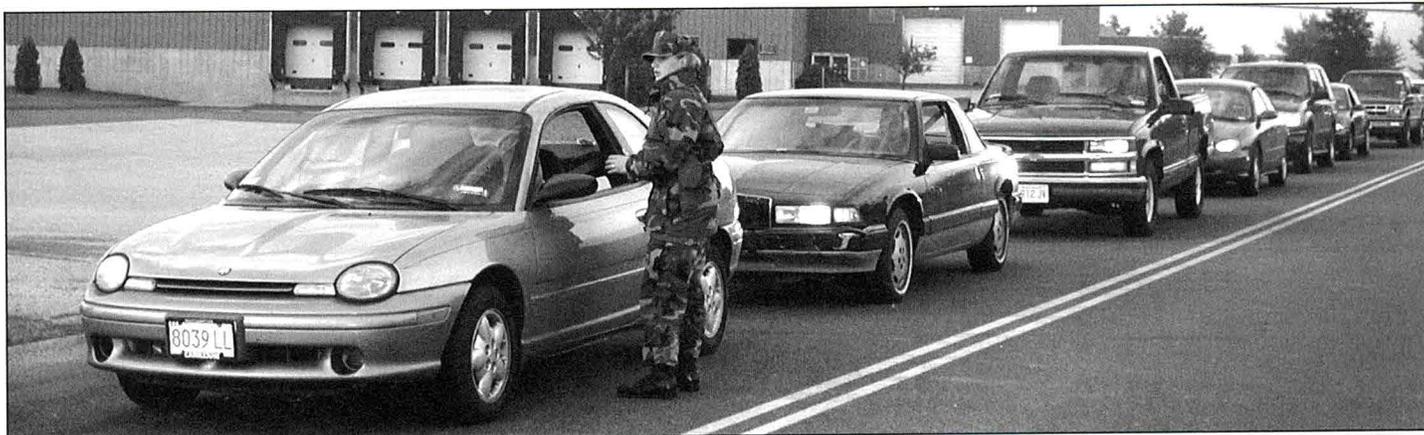
**Air Force Achievement Medal**

TSgt. Holly C. Durham	42 APS
TSgt. Michael J. Healy	42 APS
SrA. Cornelia Babcock	439 ASTS

\*Second Award

## CCAF Graduates, October 2001:

SMSgt. Mark G. Johnson	439 AES
MSgt. Richard W. Gheen	439 MSS
MSgt. Anita Mancini	42 APS
MSgt. David C. Pierrepont	439 ASTS
MSgt. James Rodovich	439 CES
TSgt. Keith A. Bodley	439 AGS
TSgt. Lisa Spence-Elder	439 AGS
SSgt. Andrew Reitano	439 AW
SrA. Rebecca Pina	439 ASTS



**LINE OF DUTY** — Marine PFC Melissa Wood checks ID's at the gate to augment Westover's security forces during Force Protection Charlie on Sunday of the "B" UTA in September. — by SSgt. Andrew Reitano

## Total Force responds to increased security needs

By MSgt. Tom Allocco

Around-the-clock force protection is hard work at any time. During the current crisis, stepped up patrols within the base, expanded security teams at the gate, tighter scrutiny of the fence line, the posting of new entry control points and myriad other new security measures requires extra help.

When Westover went to Force Protection Condition Delta in the days immediately following the New York and Washington terror attacks, the Army, Marines, Navy and area police closed ranks with the 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron and Westover DOD police.

Chicopee's National Guard 42<sup>nd</sup> MP Company of the 42<sup>nd</sup> "Rainbow" Division was among the first to supplement the West-

over security force. Westover's Marines of Marine Air Support Squadron 6, the Marine Corps Site Support Element and Marine Wing Support Squadron also had a high profile in the security plan. Marines also loaned their HUMVEEs for security force patrolling.

Westover Seabees of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 27 helped set up barriers and other fortifications, plus augmented the security forces.

Volunteers the 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group guarded the flightline entry control point, and 439<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron members answered the call to come in and cook breakfast meals for the augmented security forces.

Massachusetts State Police helped at the gate with dogs, and they and the

Chicopee Police offered their Emergency Services Response Teams if needed. All area police departments offered their support. Contingency planning and security cooperation remain close.

Big Y and Costco Wholesale donated food and coffee for the security teams. The Massachusetts Turnpike Authority provided security barriers. The men and women of Griffin Services and Vehicle Operations rose to the challenge and their extra efforts earned the appreciation of Capt. Ronald Coburn, 439<sup>th</sup> SFS commander.

"As far as I'm concerned, the boundaries between the other services and civilian organizations just dropped away. Everyone stood up to provide outstanding support," the squadron commander said.

# PATRIOT

PATRIOT online: <http://www.afrc.af.mill439aw>



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Caroline Roy, of Biddleford, Maine., and 2,452 members of the 439<sup>th</sup> AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

439th AW/PA  
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE  
100 Lloyd Street  
East Wing, Suite 103  
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

PRSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHICOPEE, MA  
PERMIT #43