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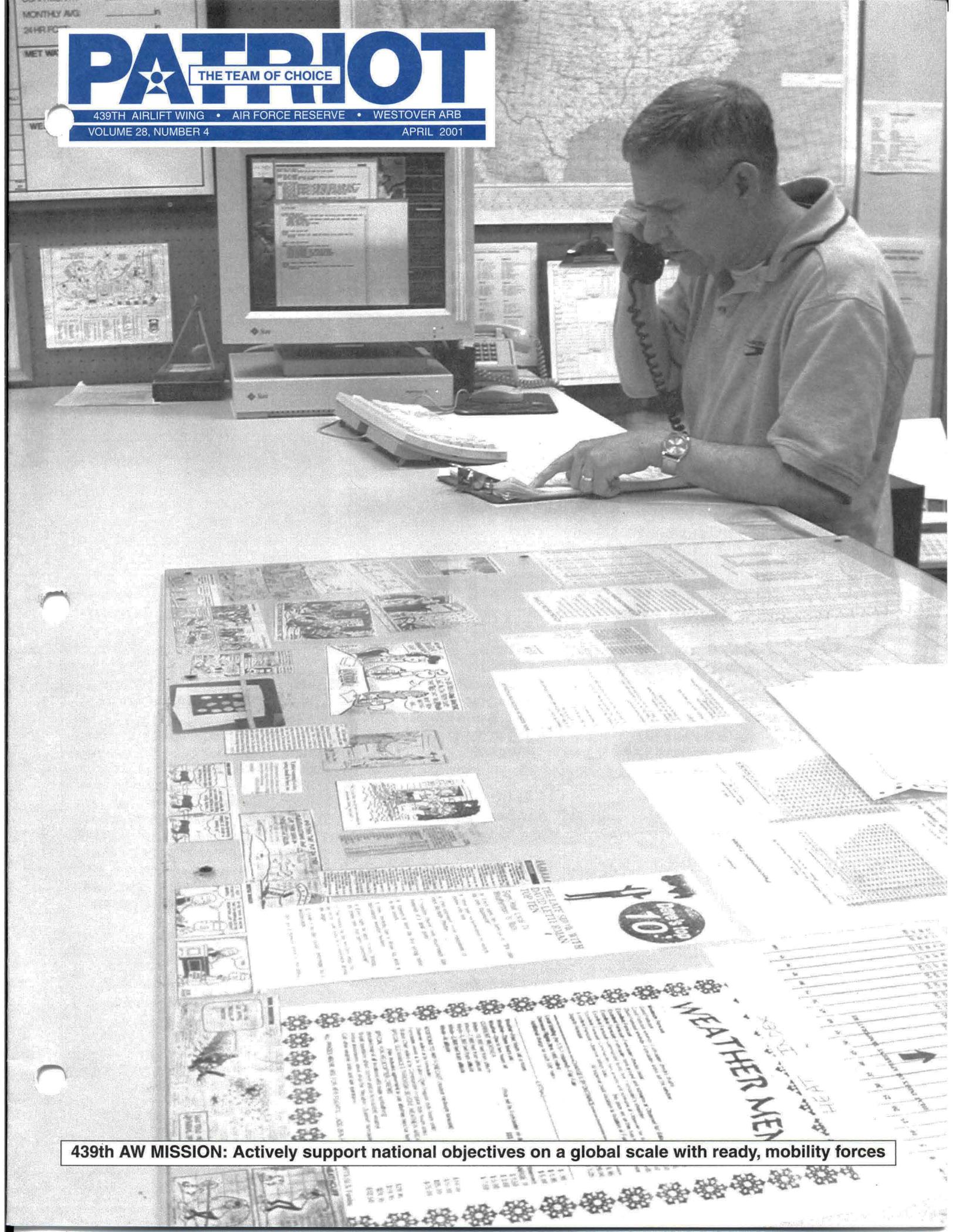
# PATRIOT

THE TEAM OF CHOICE

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2001



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

## Mission and vision

I wanted to take the opportunity to talk with you about our job and what senior leadership is thinking about. Over the next couple of months we will run a series of articles from our Chief, Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard, III. These articles describe his three key issues.

First, let me share our command's new Mission and Vision statements because they develop our focus as an organization.

**AFRC MISSION STATEMENT** — *To provide Citizen Airmen to defend the United States and protect its interests through aerospace power.*

**AFRC VISION STATEMENT** — *Citizen Airmen fully engaged in Global Vigilance, Reach and Power.*

As you can see from these two statements, we begin to define who we are, what we do and where we are going as an Air Force Reserve. General Sherrard further defines our focus by stating his priorities for the Command:

- PEOPLE
- READINESS
- MODERNIZATION

The Key Issue article included this month centers on his first priority — the reserve must recruit and retain the best people.

I have attempted to help us here at Westover further define our focus by my Wing priorities, which you can see are consistent with the Command priorities:

- READINESS
- RECRUITING AND RETENTION
- ONE STANDARD
- INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT
- QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENT

Keep this in mind this year as we demonstrate our readiness. Each of us has a key role to play in order for us to become the **"TEAM OF CHOICE"**

We will be doing a lot this year so let me leave you with one final thought: This is peacetime and no one is asking you to lay down your life for your country. We all have a strong desire to accomplish the mission and that is what makes us special. As you tackle the challenges ahead I expect you to: **perform your job safely, make it safe or don't do it!** You are just too important for me to expect anything less.

Thanks for all you do!

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

### Commentary



### Briefs

#### SGLI maximum coverage increases to \$250,000

WASHINGTON D.C. — Starting April 1, everyone eligible for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance will automatically be covered by the new maximum of \$250,000.

The increase in SGLI is a result of the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000. Cost for maximum coverage goes from \$16 per month for \$200,000 to \$20 per month for \$250,000.

Members may decline coverage or elect a reduced level of insurance in multiples of \$1,000. The cost of coverage remains 80 cents per \$10,000.

People who elect to change their coverage after April will pay for the maximum coverage for April as well as for any other month in which the increased coverage remains in effect.

#### Reserve seeks candidates for Capitol Hill fellowship

WASHINGTON D.C. — Air Force Reserve majors and major selectees have until April 6 to apply for a 14-month tour of active duty through the Capitol Hill Fellowship Program.

Program participants wear civilian attire while serving on the staff of a member of Congress. The tour earns in-residence intermediate service school credit. "The program provides an opportunity for our people to greatly enhance their understanding of the legislative branch of government while broadening Congress' knowledge of the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve," said Wayne Gracie, chief of the policy integration directorate at the Pentagon.

For more information, go to [www.re.hq.af.mil](http://www.re.hq.af.mil) then click on REI information.

#### June UTA schedule A UTA June 9-10 B UTA June 23-24

Cover photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope  
**WEATHER MAN**—Curt Osgood checks charts at the base weather station as the 10th Nor'easter this year hits Westover March 22. Westover has had 70.3 inches of snow, the ninth highest recorded snowfall.

## PATRIOT

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## Key issue: Reserve must recruit, retain best people

by Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III  
Chief of Air Force Reserve and Commander  
of Air Force Reserve Command

The Air Force Reserve, and the Air Force in general, have led the way in providing responsive reserve forces, available immediately, to meet service and national needs.

People are our most important asset. We need to take care of them, and they must feel their work is worthwhile and meaningful. They are highly skilled and we must maintain this experience to ensure our contributions to the total force are useful.

We must remain viable in recruiting and retention. The potential active-duty pool for recruitment into Air Force Reserve Command has diminished because of the force drawdown and longer active-duty service commitments.

We need to reward our people through promotion and give them the opportunity to compete for command opportunities.

Leadership is not limited only to commanders; everyone down to the lowest-ranking airman is a leader. We need to ensure that there is open dialogue among the troops to make sure that we're doing our job the best it can be done.

**Volunteerism:** The Air Force Reserve continues to remain on the leading edge vol-

unteering to participate in peacetime operations. By using volunteers, we minimize potentially adverse impacts on readiness and training, recruiting, and retention. Air Force Reserve volunteers have consistently provided trained and ready forces to the gaining commands. These forces are available for short-notice contingency operations as well as for longer term mobilizations.

With ever-increasing OPTEMPO and PERSTEMPO, the Air Force Reserve is aggressively pursuing ways to better leverage the time of Air Force Reservists and to apply training credit for civilian skills.

**Help for employers:** Employers are an integral part of the Reserve triad (reservists, their families and their employers). We have vigorously pursued feedback from employers, and they have expressed an interest in monetary relief. The Air Force Reserve supports Congressional recognition of the invaluable contribution of employers of guardsmen and reservists in support of national defense.

**Compensation for reservists and families:** People are the Air Force Reserve's most important resource. To maintain our history of success, we must be able to recruit and retain the best and brightest young people. Quality of life issues are a big key to doing that. Our focus is on the following areas: pay, entitlements, improved quarters, family services, reducing



Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III

personnel turbulence and parity of benefits that make sense to the taxpayer and do not reduce the benefits of active-duty personnel. (AFRC News Service)

## Congress considering tax break for some employers

by Capt. James R. Wilson  
419<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah – This spring the U.S. House of Representatives is considering legislation, which if enacted would compensate employers of reservists with a credit to their annual income tax.

House Resolution 394, introduced by U. S. Rep. George Nethercutt of Washington, would allow employers a credit of up to \$2,000 for each reservist who supports contingency operations in an active-duty status. The legislation would allow a total credit of \$7,500 per employer each taxable year.

Utah area employers viewed the Reserve Employer Tax Credit Act of 2001 as a sensible initiative and one that signals a change to an age-old paradigm.

"In the past, companies have allowed their employees to serve the country because it's viewed as the patriotic thing to do," said Steve Frampton, owner of a tire store in Fill-

more, Utah, and employer of guardsmen and reservists.

Frampton went on to say the monetary relief would serve as a good "first step" in building a true partnership between businesses and the Armed Forces.

"If this [legislation] is approved, it would be a real plus to me as an employer," Frampton said. "This would send a clear message that Uncle Sam is willing to share in the bottomline costs for maintaining today's citizen airmen and citizen soldiers. From my standpoint, it's a win-win situation."

Increased operational tempo has resulted in many drilling and mobilized reservists spending more and more time away from their civilian jobs. Consequently, businesses must either hire temporary help or otherwise attempt to get by without critical employees while reservists are deployed.

"It's difficult for a company when someone in a strategic position is gone – even when it's for a short period of time," said Jeff Tiede, presi-

dent of a packaging company in Salt Lake City. "Often times these are the individuals with diverse backgrounds which include military service. For that reason, I think a tax credit for employers makes a lot of sense."

While the fate of the bill has yet to be decided, the fact that the proposal is even being considered was an encouraging sign to one area employer.

"If nothing else, I think it's a good gesture," said Gerald Higgins, owner of body and paint shop in West Jordan, Utah.

Higgins employs a reservist from Air Force Reserve Command's 419<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and even goes so far as making up the difference between his military and civilian salaries when deployed.

H.R. 394 contains provisions that would afford reservists who are self-employed a comparable tax credit. If Congress adopts the legislation, the effective date would begin after the calendar year in which the bill is enacted.

## Base mechanics innovate solutions

# Necessity's the mother of invention

Article and photos  
by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Whether it's bending a wrench or creating a complicated circuit card, Westover mechanics are looking for a better way to get the job done.

The C-5 is a big plane and locating small problems can turn into a huge headache. Fixing problems can also consume large amounts of time and money.

Innovation spells relief.

Take for example the anti-skid "det-failed" light on the C-5's instrument panel. Twenty-four of the 28 landing gear wheels have a detector to alert the pilots of anti-skid malfunctions. But when the det-failed light goes on in the cockpit, it doesn't say which detector is reading the error. MSgt. Mike Conboy, 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron's electrical environmental craftsman, designed a circuit card to track the problem. When placed in the anti-skid control box, the card collects data from all 24 sensors, and monitors any activity that would produce a "det-failed" light. It then holds the malfunction signal and designates the exact detector the signal originated from. This innovation alone could save 20 to 30 or more mechanical hours for each malfunction alert.

"It's a great idea. It captures the fault and

greatly simplifies troubleshooting. We're trying to get Lockheed to review the prototype and mass produce the card for all C-5s," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joe Amato, executive officer and C-5 avionics modernization engineer at Warner-Robins AFB, Ga.

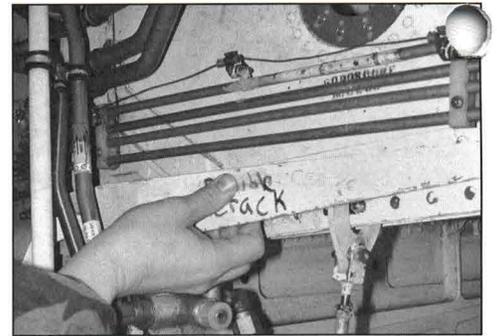
Timely troubleshooting and repair ultimately means safer aircraft and more planes to fly.

Conboy tried another idea. If an engine run-up produces excess vibration, an out-of-balance compressor blade may be the culprit. Conboy, along with MSgts. Rosemarie Matteson and Sean Powell, designed a fan-indexing optical tool that clips onto the engine and counts the blades as they spin. It visually keeps track of the blades between the offset blade and the index blade and helps identify exactly where the adjustment weights are needed.

Two other Conboy-initiated innovations help troubleshoot the flap pack area that drives the movement of the C-5 wing flaps and slats. He designed an optical counter that keeps a revolution count of the flap pack without disconnecting anything, which saves up to eight mechanic hours once or twice a month. A flap pack computer powers the flap pack and is dependent on many switches running correctly. Conboy rigged a portable

electronic switch reader that can diagnose how the switches are configured without removing the flap pack computer. Mechanics say this saves at least four hours once or twice a month and promotes a higher safety level.

Jan Oda, from Lockheed's design engineering staff, speaks highly of Conboy, and TSgt. Byron Labreche, of the 439<sup>th</sup> MXS. "I worked with them on C-5 problem solving at Stewart ANGB, N.Y. and their input was very valuable.



**CRACK REPAIR** — The machine shop mills a replacement part for a cracked C-5 nose landing gear lateral support beam.

I've incorporated some of their ideas in our C-5 procedures," Oda said.

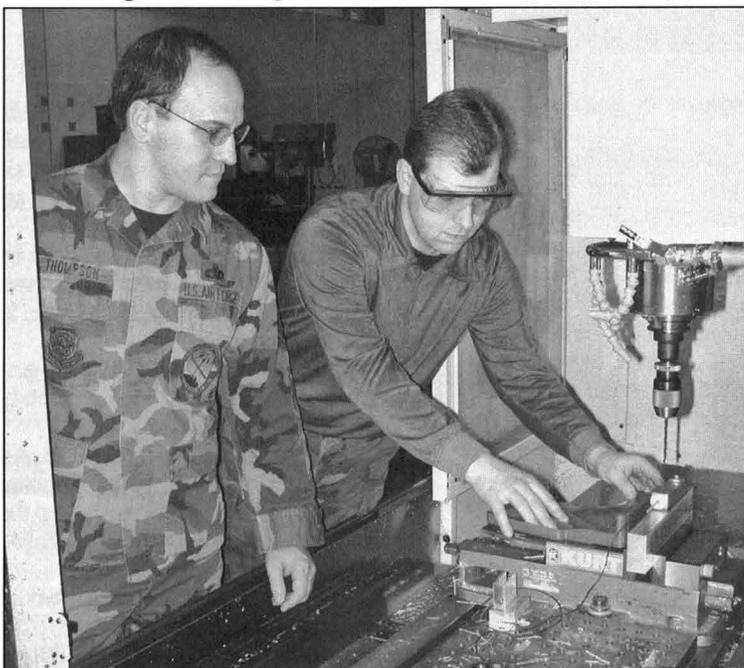
Some innovations are not as complicated, but save time and money. MSgt. Roger Desorcy, from the aerospace repair shop, created a "decoupler wrench" by angling a standard wrench. Using the angled wrench provides easier access past the flight control lines to recouple the slats. Desorcy and MSgt. Bob Rock also designed a main landing gear dolly. They simplified a Lockheed design and made it mobile to take out to the aircraft. "It's more compact and saves time by letting us keep the landing gear vertical," explained Desorcy. He said every C-5 mechanic that visits the base wants one once they see how well it works.

Westover's machine shop also stays on the cutting edge, especially when creating custom-made parts. Procedures are normally governed by technical orders (TO's), but if no TO exists — base machinists aggressively pursue solutions at the base level. Once they come up with a "fix", it has to pass muster with depot-level engineers at Warner-Robins. Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Haines, from Warner Robins, visited Westover last summer and was so impressed with Westover's ingenuity that he wanted to share their repair ideas throughout the C-5 fleet.

A simple, but enormously effective repair tool is a digital camera. When communicating with depot-level engineers, MSgt. Pat Thompson, aircraft metals technology journeyman, uses a digital camera to record the repair area, e-mails the image to depot, and both bases view a crystal-clear color image while discussing the fix over the phone. "It may sound simple, but it's a significant improvement over the old black and white fax images we used to use," said Thompson.

Westover machinists have also spent hundreds of hours procuring and learning the latest CAD (computer-assisted drawing) programs. CAD programs greatly enhance replacement repairs, especially over existing drawings in C-5 TO's — some decades old.

*Continued on next page*



**WAX MODEL** — SSgt. John Vescovi, metal technologist (right) and MSgt. Pat Thompson, aircraft metals technology journeyman, check the wax mold in the numerically-controlled milling machine — to create a perfect fit.

## Creative innovations... from previous page

Thompson hopes to soon use the digital image of the needed part and feed it directly into the CAD program and produce the 3-D specifications for the part.

Because replacement parts must be an exact fit, it required many wooden trial models before the actual metal part was milled. By innovating wax prototypes, the machine shop makes cheaper, faster adjustments, and the wax trial parts save wear and tear on the cutters. "A lot of people said it couldn't be done. We showed them we could," said Thompson. TSgt. Steve Burek, 439<sup>th</sup> MXS aircraft metals technology journeyman, was praised for his initiative and long hours learning the numerically-controlled milling machine.

Their "can-do" attitude has made Westover a sole source for some components. When corrosion was found in C-5 floor beams, base machinists were not content with the TO-recommended fix, so they designed a complete floor beam replacement. After authorization from Robins engineers, they created the floor beams — and depot is now asking Westover to supply them. Westover mechanics also work with Lockheed field service teams who work repair projects locally.

CMSgt. Bob Fetherston, fabrication flight

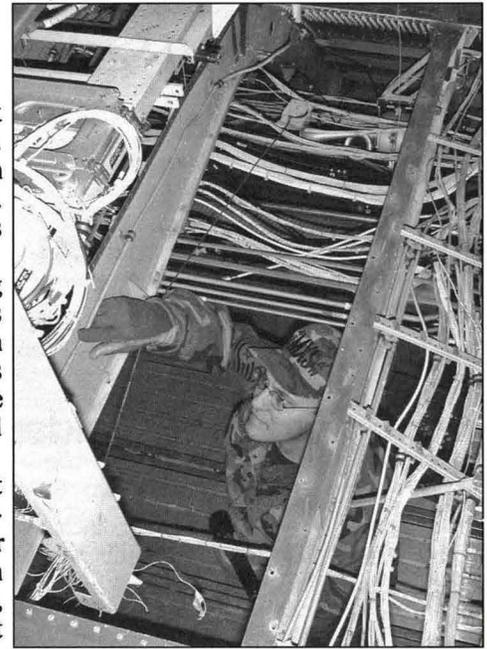
chief, spoke highly of his section. "We work hard to keep up with technological advances. The investment of time and energy up front can pay great dividends in the future," he said. CMSgt. Alan Rogers agrees. "Westover appears to be a trendsetter for solutions," he said.

Their shop is currently designing a fitting for the C-5 nose landing gear. If depot handles the problem, there is a 150-day lead time at an estimated cost of \$5,000 - \$20,000. Westover is now trying to procure necessary tools to get the job done on base — at a fraction of the cost — and it should be complete within 30 days.

The savings are obvious, but once the part is designed and manufactured on base, the program is saved to make any number of parts, or to share the program with other C-5 bases. In fact, a machine shop chief from Dover AFB, Del. is scheduled to spend his annual tour at Westover to observe our technology and methods.

Word is out that Westover is the place for workshops and training. Amato, from Warner Robins agrees. "Westover is one of our preferred sites to test out new equipment. There is a tremendous level of maintenance support," he said.

Col. Charles Brown, 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group



**FLOOR SHOW** — MSgt. Pat Thompson indicates where a complete floor beam replacement is needed — and supplied at the base.

commander, added. "Our people are usually on the forefront of innovation."



**COMMANDING LEAD** — Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of the Air Force Reserve (left), congratulates Capt. Jim Bishop, Westover public affairs officer, on his Print Journalist of the Year award. Bishop dominated the individual awards by also placing first in Sports Article and Picture Story and second in News Articles. Assisting with the ARFC Print Media Awards is Brig. Gen. Ronald T. Rand, director of public affairs, and Col. Mike Mickelson, chief of AFRC public affairs.

—photo by Dan Dougherty

## Front and center

Westover folks were on center stage at the Air Force Reserve Public Affairs Conference in Georgia on March 9 when 439<sup>th</sup> AW PA staff won or placed in eight of the 12 eligible categories in the 2000 AFRC Print Media contest. The results are:

**Top Newspaper:**

***PATRIOT*, 2nd place**

**Sports Article:**

**Capt. Jim Bishop, 1st place**

**Picture Story:**

**Capt. Jim Bishop, 1st place**

**Art/Graphics:**

**MSgt. W.C. Pope, 1st place**

**Print Journalist of the Year:**

**Capt. Jim Bishop, 1st place**

**News Article:**

**Capt. Jim Bishop, 2nd place**

**Web-based publication: 2nd place**

**MSgt. W.C. Pope primary contributor**

**Feature Article:**

**MSgt. Sandi Michon, 3rd place**

## 2000 Stakeholders Report Executive Summary

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

### Mission

The 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing will actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces.

### Stakeholders

Priorities for 2000 were Readiness, Recruiting and Retention, One Standard, Quality of Life Improvement and Infrastructure Improvement. Stakeholders include: 439th AW members and their families, Westover tenant units, Griffin Services Inc, Galaxy Community Council, State of Massachusetts, 22nd Air Force (22AF), 21st Air Force (21AF), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Tanker Airlift Control Center (TACC), Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC), Air Mobility Command (AMC), Air Combat Command (ACC), U.S. Transportation Command, Air Force Material Command, U.S. Strategic Command, U.S. Space Command, U.S. Southern Command, Air Force Electronic Systems Command, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Customs Service, Defense Accounting and Finance Services, Air National Guard, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and National Command Authorities.

### Milestones

In **January**, the instrument-laden NASA ER-2 aircraft attracted the media to Westover when it transited the base en route to Sweden. Congressman John W. Olver and Senator Edward M. Kennedy's legal assistant were among dignitaries who visited. The 42nd APS built up cargo for a Denton Amendment humanitarian mission to Honduras and worked closely with the NASA Ames Research Center on mission support. A 439th AES nurse served as nurse instructor for TOPSTAR, an intensive recurring medical training.

In **February**, we airlifted radomes for Ballistic Missile Defense testing in Hawaii. The 58th APS conducted a Massachusetts Army Guard unit deployment. Items of community interest included a visit from Congressman Olver to discuss Marine Corps issues. Wing members participated in the annual Valentine's Day National Salute to Veterans at the Northampton VA Medical Center. The Wing newspaper won several top command awards. The Wing also celebrated outstanding unit awards for the 439<sup>th</sup> CES, 58<sup>th</sup> APS and 439<sup>th</sup> MDS. The 42<sup>nd</sup> APS received the keys to a new 60-K loader, the 100<sup>th</sup> "Tunner" off the assembly line in St. Louis, dubbed "The Spirit of Westover".

In **March**, Griffin Services took over base operation support as a result of the A-76 contract study. Twenty-two 58<sup>th</sup> APS members deployed to Yokota AB, Japan and 24 42nd APS members went to Berlin to bring a part of the Berlin Wall back to the Air Force Museum in Ohio. The Wing participated in support missions including Phoenix Banner, (Presidential) and storage facility construction at the

Air Force Academy by our CES. Fifteen of our Security Forces personnel participated in Air Base Ground Defense training in Texas. The Wing was recognized with the prestigious 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force Lieutenant General Malcom B. Armstrong trophy as the Outstanding Air Force Reserve Wing.

In **April**, the Wing received a 22nd Air Force Staff Assistance Visit. We provided Missile Defense System support by carrying a 65-foot submarine, designated the Advanced SEAL Delivery System, from Andrews AFB, Md. to Hawaii. Thirteen 439<sup>th</sup> CS members participated in Joint Virtual Reality Interoperability Operations



**LINE UP** — Visitors to the Great New England Airshow line up to see the inside of a KC-10 on the Westover flightline.

— photo by MSgt. W.C.Pope

as the first reserve component to validate USTRANSCOM in computer network defense. At the request of Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Defense, two 439th AES radio operators supported the "tele-medicine" Care in the Air program during a JCS exercise. Mission Essential Ground Personnel (MEGP) of the 42<sup>nd</sup> APS worked with NASA to move a mock satellite launch to Alaska. Wing members came together to reaffirm their traditions with a Wing Enlisted Dining-Out. Westover was one of ten bases chosen across the United States authorized a Base Honor Guard Superintendent to be a liaison with Active Duty to support local military funerals and other special functions.

In **May**, Team Yankee 2000 marked the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the medical training program that brings active duty, Guard and Reserve members to Westover for one of the largest joint service mass casualty field exercises on the East Coast. Thirty-seven wing members participated in the Air Mobility Command Rodeo with our maintenance team taking first place for best C-5 pre-flight inspection.

The Wing provided humanitarian airlift of fire trucks and hospi-

## Stakeholders continued...

tal equipment from Offutt AFB to Honduras. The 439th ALCF deployed 14 members to Wisconsin in support of a Readiness Assistance Visit. Thirty 439th MDS members treated 6,499 medical patients, 1,393 dental patients and 121 optometry patients during annual tour training in Guatemala with support from the 439th AES and 439th SPTG/SV squadrons. The Wing also conducted its annual retirement and Memorial Day ceremonies.

**In June**, an official ground breaking ceremony was conducted for a new control tower. Members of the 439th CES deployed to Misawa, Japan to train and provide quality inspections. The 42nd APS was the first unit in 22nd Air Force to install a new computer system that tracks passengers and cargo worldwide in real time. Thirty-three civic leaders participated in a tour to Robins AFB, Ga. The 439th AES earned the AFRC Outstanding AES and Reserve Officers Association outstanding Medical Unit award. Our medical units earned seven out of 14 individual awards and four out of nine unit awards in competition among 75 AFRC medical units.

**In July**, our ALCF deployed to Newfoundland to conduct an airfield survey. Services reservists performed a tour in England and 42nd APS members served in Florida.

**In August**, over 300,000 "guests" attended the Great New England Airshow hosted by the Galaxy Community Council and the wing. Meanwhile, 41 members of the 42 APS deployed to Guam in support of "Patriot Partner" in a demonstration of the Air Forces' Total Force concept. Our 439th MDS reservists performed annual tour training in Nevada, and were involved in TOPSTAR in San Antonio, Texas. A security forces member deployed to Brussels, Belgium and will remain there until March 2001 assigned to a NATO position.

**September** was busy, with our medical units hosting the Veteran's Stand Down to provide medical care and attention to 300 local veterans. Our occupational program was rated as exceptional during an OHcamp inspection. The 42nd APS worked missions with Navy SEALs and sent MEGP personnel to France to work with an Army contractor during a NATO exercise.

**Patriot Harvest II**, a Joint Forces exercise was held in **October** with the Rhode Island ANG and our Marine reservists. This exercise tested our reservists' skills with a practice field operation in a simulated combat environment. A team of our Supply/Fuels reservists competed at a Readiness Competition Rodeo at Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz. with other reserve and active duty units. Forty-six employers of our reservists were treated to breakfast at our Club, a 90-minute C-5 orientation flight and visits to work areas on base during our Employer Appreciation Day.

**In November**, 39 of our medical folks (439th MDS and 439th ASTS) attended the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States conference where the 439th ASTS commander was a guest speaker. The 439th MDS members came home with the coveted General George E. Shafer Trophy presented to the Outstanding Air Reserve Forces Medical Unit. They also earned two other unit awards and three individual awards. The base hosted Commerce 2000, an annual business-to-business showcase supported by our public affairs and recruiter staff. Twenty-five enlisted reservists received Community College of the Air Force associate degrees. Our recruiters launched the 'Get One' referral program, while our 439th MXS supported a test program for high school students to 'Shadow' base technicians three times per week. A solemn ceremony was for Veterans Day during our UTA.

**In December**, we ended the year supporting some of our Stakeholders, with our Services people supporting a Marine Corps field

exercise and the 42nd APS working with the Naval Warfare Group and Army Logistics Planners. Also, Congressmen Richard E. Neal and Olver joined our wing commander to ceremonially break

## Outlook

This will be the "Year of Readiness" for the 439th AW. With successful accomplishment of our AEF tasking behind us we will concentrate on demonstrating our readiness through evaluation. Operations and Logistics will complete a successful EORI during an AMC Inspector General Exercise. The SFS, 42nd APS, ASTS, and MDS will all begin intensive preparation for their inspections in 2002. We will demonstrate our capability to perform home station mobility through our GSI and Maytag contractor partners. We will apply our constrained resources to improve the infrastructure and quality of life for our reservists. The new control tower will be completed and we will begin renovation of two more airmen's dorms to give our people their own room and private bathroom. We will begin the much needed resurfacing of runway 15/33, break ground for the new home of our EOD mission and open a new front gate house which when combined with the major fence line upgrade increases the force protection of our people and assets.

We will renovate the flight simulator office and training complex and continue to make modest upgrades and repairs to other base facilities utilizing our GSI partner. Despite this demanding schedule, we will take time out in September to celebrate with our families and loved ones at the Wing picnic. We will improve our communication with families through the establishment of a Community Action Information Board with the hope of helping our people deal with the intricacies of being a military member. Our outlook is positive because I know our people and their capabilities. Opportunities will also continue as we work to recruit new members and retain our valuable experienced members. With the great support of the Galaxy Community Council, our neighbors, and our elected officials we will be successful and continue to improve Westover.

## Conclusion

The focus for our Y2K was "outreach" and "reach out" was what we did. Westover supported 244 AEF taskings completing our Cycle 1 commitment. We supported 57 static C-5 aircraft tours for 1,490 community people and gave 19 addresses in the area for a total audience of 4,718. This did not include our largest community event of the year, which was our airshow as previously mentioned. Our recruiters brought 288 new members on board and our overall retention rate was 89 percent. Our medics performed 714 physicals and gave 3,586 immunizations to our 2,311 assigned reservists. We reached out all over the world and transported 29,408 tons of cargo and 23,421 passengers. Our maintenance folks provided en route support teams for bases 17 times throughout the year and our security forces sent en route teams out 26 times to protect our aircraft on distant lands. Our prestigious Honor Guard provided support for five retreats, five parades, seven funerals and 25 special ceremonies throughout New England. Our stakeholders are important to us and provide the impetus for our vision of— TEAM OF CHOICE.

## Reservist finds working at NATO fascinating and rewarding

by SrA. Bradford Harrison

Global hotspots like Bosnia, Sarajevo and Kosovo have been routine destinations for MSgt. Kevin Cahill, who packed his bags for Brussels, Belgium, last August to work in the U.S. mission's public affairs office at NATO Headquarters.

A reservist at Westover since 1975, Cahill serves with the 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron. In civilian life, he is a special agent with the Federal Aviation Administration at Bradley International Airport in Hartford, Conn. However, he has extensive public affairs experience, too, as a broadcast journalist for eight years, and as a media spokesman for Massachusetts governors Dukakis and Weld. Since 1997, he's served an additional military role as a media-relations trainer at the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Through this last position, Cahill came in contact with the senior reserve advisor at the U.S. mission to NATO.

The advisor asked if Cahill would be interested in a temporary assignment in a new position as military liaison in the public affairs shop at NATO. Cahill took leave from the FAA and arrived in Brussels on Aug. 8. His tour there is slated to last until April.

At NATO, Cahill's responsibilities include staying on top of news reports about the mission and relevant European events, and to develop relationships with other public affairs offices in the Balkans and throughout Europe, sharing information about peacekeeping operations.

Cahill has had the chance to tour places most see only on television: Sarajevo, Kosovo, and Brcko, in Bosnia, where some of the most brutal fighting and killing occurred during the conflict. While flying by helicopter to Pristina, Cahill caught a bird's-eye view of the destruction caused by fighting in



**SHOWING HIS COLORS — MSgt. Kevin Cahill, 439th Security Forces Squad Leader, stands in front of flags of the member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at NATO headquarters in Belgium.**

the region where Serbians drove nearly 1 million Albanians from their homes in a campaign of ethnic cleansing.

In an e-mail he sent in February to the Westover public affairs office, he described touring the streets of Gnjilane, Kosovo, with U.S. peacekeeping forces and seeing "grenade attacks against homes, random shootings, threats of violence and a constant uneasiness."

Witnessing the aftermath of the war in the Balkans is not all that Cahill has done. Because of his background as a broadcast journalist and instructor, he has conducted media relations training for NATO officers from Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium and Allied Forces North (AFNORTH) in the Netherlands during NATO's Constant Harmony exercise in 2000. He has also coordinated press and public affairs activities for visits to NATO by then-

Secretary of Defense William Cohen and then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright last year.

"Fascinating and rewarding" is how Cahill describes the opportunity to watch high-level defense planning, operations conducted, and decisions made regarding missile defense and peacekeeping in the Balkans.

But there are down sides to the job, as well. The long hours, the six-hour time difference from Washington, D.C., and being the only military member on his six-person team, provide additional challenges for him. Additionally, taskings from both the State Department and the Defense Department Public Affairs keep Cahill and his team busy.

Cahill lives in Marshfield, Mass., and expects to be back on the job at Westover in April.

## Army transportation unit becomes base's newest tenant

by Gordon A. Newell

The U.S. Army Reserve's 226<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company officially joined the Westover family on March 16 and will make their home at the Joint Services Reserve Center.

Assigned to the Army's 94 Regional Support Command, the unit consists of 124 servicemembers, including five full-timers.

According to Maj. John Pajak, executive officer of the 1205<sup>th</sup> battalion, the unit operates and maintains trains for use by the Army.

"We won't be bringing our trains to Westover for a while, he said "But we will be doing training repairing and working on the rail lines that already exist on the base."

Pajak said the unit's trains are being housed at the Pioneer Valley Railroad facility in Westfield.

He also said the entire unit and equipment should be on base within six months. The unit will drill on B Unit Training Assemblies.

# C-5 tour is life-changing for local teen

Article and photos  
by MSgt. Sandi Michon

It seemed like just another Westover tour—but it wasn't.

For 15-year-old Matt Towsley, from West Springfield, it changed his life.

Towsley, the fifth of 11 children, toured the base with members of Western Mass. Homeschoolers in 1999. He listened with keen interest as then 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jessica Brightman shared her story during the C-5 part of the tour.

Brightman, a C-5 pilot, accelerated her own homeschool education and entered college at 15. She graduated at 19, joined the military—and went on to graduate first in her Undergraduate Pilot Training class. The kids on the tour were impressed by how much this diminutive pilot knew about such a big plane.

But it was nearly two years before Brightman's inspiration to Matt Towsley became known.

Another parent who attended a base tour called looking for a contact to speak with a 16-year-old girl interested in flying. As the arrangements were made, she commented that she had enjoyed visiting Westover and remarked how life-changing the base tour had been for Towsley.

A few days later, when Brightman stayed after sign-out in January to meet with 16-year-old Sophia Bitzas, Towsley made his second visit to the base. This time, he shared *his* story with his military mentor.

"The tour turned my life around. It was great to see someone [Brightman] reach their goals," Towsley said. "If she could do it—then I felt I could," he said.

And, so far, he has.

After the tour, he did his homework on educational options and began taking college courses during what should have been his junior year in high school. This June, at 17, he will have completed two years of college credits. He also enrolled in civilian pilot school, and like Brightman, received his student pilot's license even before his driver's license.

"The tour was a spark for Matt," said his mom, Peggy Towsley. "He was impressed with Jessica's accomplishments and the tour helped him focus on specific opportunities.

"The tour also helped us as parents. By exposing us to aviation and the military, it helped us to encourage him. We saw the joy it



**MILITARY CLASSROOM** — Fifty members of Western Mass. Homeschoolers tour the C-5 as part of a base tour in April 2000. On average, the base hosts more than 3,000 "tourists" each year.

brought to him," she said.

"Flying—I love it!" said Towsley, and his eyes shine as he shares his dream to become a fighter pilot.

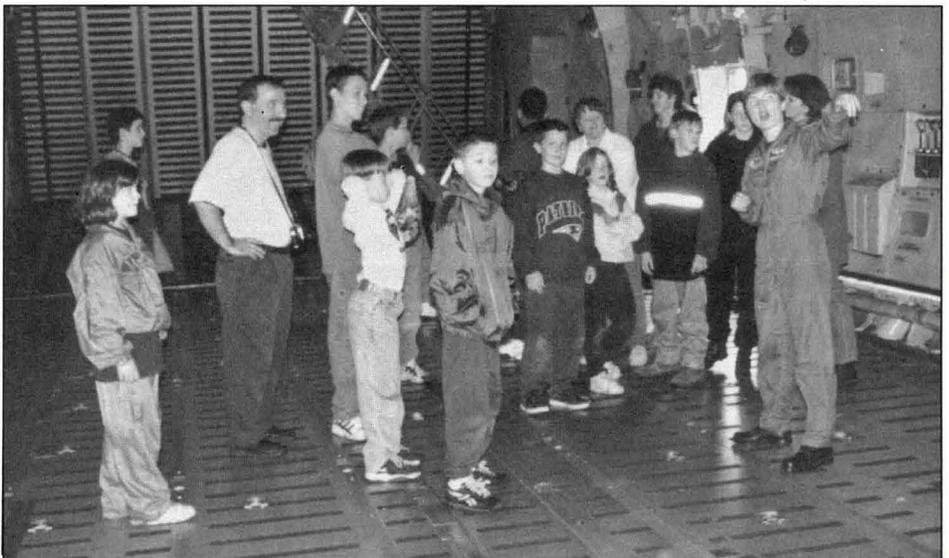
Brightman encouraged his dream but humorously pointed out that she'd never aspired to pilot a plane that she couldn't drink a cup of coffee while flying.

She reinforced the need to explore all the options, set a goal and pursue it tenaciously. "When I was eight, I told my mom I wanted to be an American 747 pilot," said Brightman, who currently flies for Ameri-

can Airlines. When she set her sights on the C-5s at Westover back in 1994, she sent her resume and then called every other week. When hired, she quoted Lt. Col. Sandy Whittier as saying, "I either had to hire you, or change my phone number!"

Brightman and recruiter TSgt. Serita Day spent two hours answering a barrage of questions from the teenage aviation enthusiasts.

If and when either young person enters the military, they may be one of many that can trace their dreams back to "just another base tour."



**SPARKING A DREAM** — Then 2nd Lt. Jessica Brightman, C-5 pilot with the 337th Airlift Squadron, explains details of the huge cargo bay to a group of homeschooled students in April 2000.

## American Legion puts out welcome mat for reservists

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

SMSgt. Glenn Brault, financial management supervisor, recently addressed the American Legion's National Membership Conference and urged a strong effort to recruit Reservists into the ranks of the veterans' organization.

Speaking before the Legionnaires in Indianapolis, Brault outlined the American Legion's Reconnect Program. One of the program's goals is to spread the word to active duty and Reserve members that they are eligible for Legion membership benefits. In addition to the camaraderie, Legion members have the advantages of veterans' services officers

at every post that can help with military and medical benefits, youth scholarship programs, and the personal satisfaction of community involvement to promote good citizenship.

The American Legion is open to those in uniform who serve during periods of hostilities as designated by Congress. The Gulf War period of eligibility, which began with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, remains in effect. Any active duty or Reserve member who has undergone basic training during this period is eligible for American Legion membership. Regardless of when they underwent basic training, a single day of overseas duty

during the period can also qualify a Reservist for membership.

Brault serves as finance officer of American Legion Post 337, Chicopee, and is a member of the Department of Membership Committee.

"The 2.7 million members of the American are working for all veterans, including those still in uniform. There is a major lobbying effort for quality of life issues, as well as to teach the values of patriotism and service to young people. How successful the Legion is will depend on the level of support of veterans," Brault said.

## Clubs undergo \$10 million improvement program

by Capt. James Bishop

Westover's consolidated club will be part of a worldwide \$10 million standardization initiative for Air Force clubs.

"The menus, food quality and presentation, and the level of service" will all improve under the program, said Mike Cecil, chief of field operations for Air Force clubs, in a recent interview at Westover's club.

For years, every club in the Air Force has established its own policies, he said. Now, for example, if you're a member and want to use the club for a personal function, you wouldn't be charged any room fee or deposit, which anyone who has rented a hall for a function knows can be costly, said Cecil.

The biggest change the club member will see is one inclusive price for renting, with no hidden fees tacked on for preparation or cleaning or anything, he said.

The program goals, according to the Air Force Services web page, are to standardize catering procedures for all Air Force clubs, to train all club staff in the art of catering and to provide exceptional service to club members for more repeat business.

Any officer, enlisted, retired or civilian employee who is a club member may have an event catered at the club. The occasion can be anything from graduations and weddings to promotions and retirements or just a gathering of friends.

Under the program, 80 percent of the menu will be standardized, with the remaining 20 percent being left to the individual club's discretion to allow for local favorites.

### 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing UTA Schedule for FY-2002

	A UTA	B UTA
<b>October</b>	<b>13-14</b>	<b>27-28</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>17-18</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>No B UTA</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>5-6</b>	<b>26-27</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>23-24</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>16-17</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>6-7</b>	<b>20-21</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>18-19</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>22-23</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>13-14</b>	<b>27-28</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>17-18</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>7-8</b>	<b>21-22</b>

## Patriot People

**Name:** Felicia Marshall  
**Rank:** TSgt.  
**Age:** 39 years  
**Address:** Springfield, Mass.  
**Unit:** 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron  
**Position:** Health Management Craftsman  
**Civilian position:** Administrative Clerk  
**Favorite food:** Spicy foods  
**Years of service:** 18 years  
**Favorite sport:** Boxing  
**Favorite hobby:** Gambling  
**Ideal vacation:** Island with lots of men  
**Best way to relax:** Playing computer solitaire  
**Preferred entertainment:** Dancing  
**Favorite hero:** My parents  
**Favorite music:** Blues  
**Favorite movie:** "Color Purple"  
**Favorite aircraft:** C-5  
**Pet peeve:** People who don't like the military  
**What I would do if I won \$1 million:** Shop until I drop and share it with my family and friends



Photo by SSgt. Andrew Reitano

**TSgt. Felicia Marshall**

## Patriot Praises

### Reenlistments

MSgt. Conigliaro, Charles J.  
 MSgt. Cossaboom, Robert B.  
 MSgt. Duncan, Earl E., Jr.  
 MSgt. Henry, David P.  
 MSgt. Lavelle, Steven A.  
 MSgt. Lue, Lana L.  
 MSgt. Matteson, Rosemarie G.  
 MSgt. Moulaison, Edward J., Jr.

MSgt. Patterson, Barbara J.  
 MSgt. Ross, Karen R.  
 TSgt. Allen, Bruce J.  
 TSgt. Charest, Kenneth T.  
 TSgt. Garneau, Kevin P.  
 TSgt. LaPointe, Forrest D.  
 TSgt. Myrdek, Renee A.  
 TSgt. Rodriguez, Teresa  
 TSgt. Rousselle, Keith R.

TSgt. Thomas, Blain D.  
 TSgt. Wasuk, Mark D.  
 SSgt. Champagne, Robert G.  
 SSgt. Gambardella, Anthony G.  
 SSgt. Longto, Dynelle M.  
 SSgt. McCarthy, James M.  
 SSgt. Moorehead, Robert J.

SSgt. Palmer, Christopher M.  
 SSgt. Rondeau, Michael M.  
 SSgt. Solomon, William A.  
 SSgt. Teel, Charlotte F.  
 SrA. Dallachie, Mathew B.  
 SrA. Flowers, Jesse A.  
 SrA. Payton, Toure J.



**ON THE DOUBLE** — Six weeks after twins Cloey (left) and Brigitte were born, their mom, TSgt. Sandra Mundt, 439th MPF personnel journeyman is back on duty. Her husband Dan Mundt and son Dale, 5, brought the twins to the base to share a family lunch hour. —Photo by MSgt. Sandi Michon

## Awards and Decorations

### Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Kevin C. Riley	439 CS
SMsgt. Joseph G. Chaloux	439 OSS
MSgt. James G. Chappuis	439 ALCF
MSgt. James M. Serra	439 CES
MSgt. Pamela J. White	439 CES
TSgt. Scott Lau	439 MSS

### Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt. Stephen J. Smith**	439 CES
TSgt. Joseph J. Menzyk	439 SVS
SSgt. Matthew S. Hoagland	439 SVS

### Air Force Achievement Medal

Capt. Qais M. Ajalat	439 CS
MSgt. Michael A. DeGiule**	439 CS
MSgt. Brian M. Quirk***	439 CS
TSgt. Richard C. Messenger***	439 CS
TSgt. Andrew L. Sylvain	439 CS
TSgt. Gregory A. Williams**	439 CS
SSgt. David M. Halat	439 CS
SSgt. Peter J. Murphy**	439 CS
SSgt. Norman F. O'Brien	439 CS
SSgt. Roy E. Sloan	439 CS
SSgt. Thomas J. Stanley	439 CS

\*\*Second Award

\*\*\*Third Award

# Ruth Parker named Air Force Resource Manager of the Year

Article and photo by  
MSgt. Tom Allocco

A new three-foot tall silver cup on display behind Ruth Parker's desk confirms what every Westover aircrew member has always known, that she is the best in the world at tracking flight management data. The silver cup is recognition that for 15 years when aircrew members have needed documentation or had a problem with records, they could trust their flight records supervisor to have the answers without fuss or second-guessing.

Col. Martin M. Mazick, wing commander, recently presented Parker the silver cup, which acknowledges her as Air Force Resource Civilian Manager of the Year. The top civilian award was the third step in Parker's progression from 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force Resource Civilian Manager of the Year and Air Force Reserve Command Civilian Manager of the Year. She was previously cited as 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Superior Performer.

As 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron Host Operations System Manager, Parker oversees records for about 200 members of the 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron and 60 members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

It's a job which gets bigger every year as she supervises the tracking Air Force Operations Resource Management System (AFORMS) of training, flight pay entitlements and "currencies," physical status and more.

Parker started tracking flight records 15 years ago in an office with a typewriter and "shoeboxes" of punch cards. "During the first year we would go the data punch key operators at Supply, carrying boxes of data cards," she said.

As records-keeping was computerized, Parker stayed in the forefront of researching and teaching computer sub-programs, browsers, customized screens and complex batch file programs to integrate AFORMS. She is currently updating software to give individuals easier access to their documentation and trouble-shooting problems for those learning the system.

To Lt. Col. John Riley, 439<sup>th</sup> OSS commander, there's no question that Parker earned the top Air Force award. "Ruth Parker is part of the Civil Service cadre that makes the entire system work," Riley said.

"She looks forward, anticipating changes. She is part of the quiet, persistent, competent and caring component that separates us from the 'also-rans,'" the squadron commander said.

Parker joined the Westover family 20 years ago as a cashier at the Club, and gained additional responsibilities by demonstrating competency and "can-do" spirit.

"I just love working with the guys, taking care of them when they have a problem, running special reports they can't obtain on their own," Parker said. She adds: "Not to mention making coffee and putting band aids on their hands. In the air wing we do it all!"

Parker is a member of the AFRC Advisory Group which acts as liaison between AFORM users and the Reserve Headquarters. In addition to being active in the Westover golf and bowling leagues, she is on the Consolidated Open Mess Advisory Board.

She and her husband, loadmaster SMSgt. Garth Parker, reside in Ludlow, Mass.



**Ruth Parker**

## PATRIOT

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



Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. Charles Anderson of Northboro, Mass., and 2,378 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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