

PATRIOT

THE BEST IN THE AIR FORCE

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB
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JUNE 2001

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

STRATEGIC AIRLIFT—TOP PRIORITY

The title of my article says it all. General "Tony" Robertson, Commander of U. S. Transportation Command and Commander of Air Mobility Command, recently testified before the Senate Sea-power Subcommittee chaired by Senator Edward M. Kennedy. This committee has oversight for the

Commentary

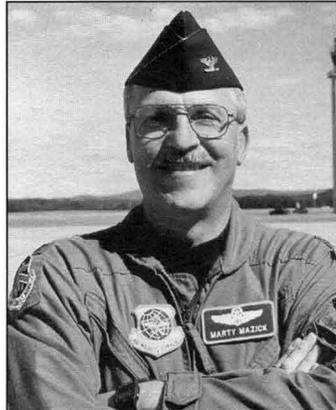
Defense Transportation System, which makes up the entire airlift, sealift and ground transportation assets of DOD.

General Robertson stated that "fixing Strat Airlift" is his number one priority. He explained that this means "re-engineing" the C-5 fleet and buying more C-17s. His plan calls for filling the airlift void of 10 million ton-miles per day to support the nation's requirements by purchasing new assets and modernizing the assets we have to increase their reliability.

As a Total Force partner, we stand to benefit from his plan in the long term. This fits perfectly with Major General Sherrard's third key issue in the Patriot this month: *Modernization Should Mirror Active Force*.

From a weapon system perspective, we have benefited from our gaining command relationship with Air Mobility Command. Active-duty aircraft modernization efforts by AMC include the programmatic funding for Reserve and Guard aircraft. That is why we installed global positioning systems (GPS), are installing the Advanced Terminal Collision Avoidance System (ATCAS) and will install the "Glass Cockpit" under the Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) in our Westover C-5s. This allows us to fight side by side with the active duty in any situation. This continued effort allows us to maintain relevance and readiness and provides you with the tools you need to accomplish the mission. THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!

by Col. Martin M. Mazick
439th AW Commander



Briefs

Quarterly award winners announced

Westover's Quarterly Awards Board has selected the following individuals as winners of the third quarter awards for fiscal year 2001.

Airman:

SRA Robert J. Beadle, 439 MSS;

NCO:

SSgt. Gabriela M. Panico, 439 MSX;

Senior NCO:

MSgt. David C. Pierrepont 439 ASTS;

Officer:

Capt. Marc A. Gautreau 439 ASTS;

Civilian: Janice A. Colby 439 MSS;

Supervisor: Jacqueline M. Davis 439 CS.

Professor to speak to officers luncheon

Dr. Vincent Ferraro, a professor of International Studies at Mount Holyoke College, will be guest speaker at the Reserve Officers' Association luncheon June 10 at the Westover Club.

Dr. Ferraro's topic will be "Problems with American Foreign Policy."

All officers are invited to attend the affair. No reservations will be taken. Lunch starts at 11 a.m.

Help is again needed for annual Stand-Down

Volunteers are needed for the 2001 Western Massachusetts Veterans' Stand-Down to be held Saturday, Aug. 25. Individuals with medical skills, as well as general manpower are needed. More than 350 veterans received assistance last year.

For more information, call 1st. Lt. Krista Bonner at 207-871-9791.

JULY UTA Schedule A UTA July 7-8 B UTA June 28-29

cover photo

PATRIOTIC FORMATION—Reservists from the 439th Airlift Wing units honor retirees and veterans during Westover's annual ceremony.

— photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

PATRIOT

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439th AW Commander

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Key issue: Modernization should mirror active force



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

Congress recognizes that modern equipment directly impacts readiness. Congressional help in the past has provided us with aircraft and upgrades, which have enhanced our ability to fly anywhere in the world on a moment's notice.

The Air Reserve Components must continue to receive modern equipment at the same rate as the active-duty Air Force. This will ensure that all three Air Force components maintain the same tier of readiness – ready now! Modernization is an area that must be closely watched in this era of aging aircraft and constrained investment budgets.

The Air Force Reserve Command directly aligns itself with the vision, goals and core competencies of the active-duty Air Force. Similarly, the mission capabilities of the AFRC and the equipment upgrades required to meet our mission taskings correlate one-for-one with the primary mission areas

of the active-duty gaining commands.

In the past few years, four areas of air-power doctrine have been affected by changing technologies, force structures and economic realities. We are well-positioned to lead, support and effectively carry-out our mission in each of these areas:

First, we will be expected to do our jobs day and night to the same level of proficiency as the active-duty Air Force.

Second, we must have precision-munitions capability to effectively perform in

today's contingency environment.

Third, fighters and bombers must reach their targets and survive on their own; self-protection, electronic-warfare capabilities are essential to the mission.

Finally, to reduce fratricide and fully integrate air power with ground and sea forces, we must be part of the "digital battlefield" data-link programs. All three components of the Air Force must have modern equipment that is compatible and interoperable.
 (AFRC News Service)

Maj. Gen. Sherrard nominated for 3rd star

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, has been nominated by the president for promotion to lieutenant general.

The Air Force announced the nomination April 26. Other reserve component chiefs and directors have also been nominated for a third star. The promotions are contingent of Senate confirmation.

In the Fiscal 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress gave the Department of Defense the authority to upgrade the reserve

component positions, but the promotions would have had to come from active-duty three-star authorizations.

Last year Congress increased the limit on the number of officers who can serve on active duty above the grade of O-8. It also directed DOD to promote the chief of the Air Force Reserve and the five other reserve bosses within 12 months of enactment of the Fiscal 2001 National Defense Authorization Act, which was signed into law Oct. 30.

(AFRC News Service)

FLIGHT LINES: Why do you like being an Air Force reservist?



SSgt John Long,
 439th COM

"I missed the camaraderie from active duty and didn't find it in the civilian world. I like the educational benefits and the chance to use my skills in humanitarian conditions."



SrA Kimberly Kopp,
 439th MSS/MPF

"I originally joined for the money for college, but I like the feeling of pride and the sense of making a difference."



MSgt. Steve McKay,
 42nd APS

"I like the people and the travel. The people are good and the annual tours are always fun and give you a different perspective. It's a good diversion from my civilian job."



SSgt Kai Thompson,
 439th AGS

"I have the opportunity to serve with the most skilled aircraft maintainers in the world."

Air Force past, present, future comes together in new symbol

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

As America's airmen, we have a mission to protect our country, we have core values focusing on integrity, and we have a slogan that proclaims that no one else comes close to our performance. Now, those of us who take the oath to live by that code, have a symbol to represent where we come from and where we are going.

When the Air Force set out to create a unifying symbol of who we are, it started with input from all the Air Force family. The result is a symbol which retains the core elements of our Air Corps heritage -- the "Arnold" wings and star with circle -- and modernizes them to reflect our aerospace force of today and tomorrow. The reference is to five-star General "Hap" Arnold, United States Army Air Force commanding general during World War II.

The symbol has two main parts. In the upper half, the stylized wings represent the stripes of our strength -- the enlisted men and women of our force. They have been drawn with great angularity to emphasize our swiftness and power, and they are divided into six sections which represent our core competencies -- aerospace superiority, global attack, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superiority, and agile combat support.

In the lower half are a sphere, a star and three diamonds. The



sphere within the star represents the globe. It reminds us of our obligation to secure our nation's freedom with global vigilance, reach and power. The globe also reminds us of our challenge as an expeditionary force to respond rapidly to crises and to provide decisive aerospace power worldwide.

The area surrounding the sphere takes the shape of a star. The star has many meanings. Its five points represent the components of our one force and family -- our active duty, civilians, Reserve, Guard and retirees. The star symbolizes space as the high ground of our nation's aerospace force. The rallying symbol in all our wars, the star also represents our office corps, central to our combat leadership.

The star has been framed with three diamonds, which represent our core values -- integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do.

The elements come together to form one symbol that presents two powerful images -- at once it is an eagle, the emblem of our nation, and a representation of the Medal of Honor, denoting valor in service to our nation.

For the first time in our history, we have an official symbol to unify us as One Force, One Family -- a Total Force team of civilians, enlisted and officers -- dedicated to America's security, peace and freedom.

Community mentoring program kicked off by 439th volunteers

by Maj. Sally Nutt Morger

Clad in a brown uniform, David Guertin has been representing the Hampshire County Sheriff's office at high school career days near his home in Florence, Mass., for several years. Last fall, he wondered how he could visit the school in his *blue* uniform, the one he wears as an Air Force Reserve technical sergeant in life support at Westover.

Meanwhile, SRA Winnifred Dion was asking a recruiter at Westover how she could spread the word about the 439th Airlift Wing in her hometown of Ware, Mass. As an airfield management specialist, she knew she wasn't an official recruiter, but felt she could field questions from curious neighbors and high school students about life in uniform. Is there material or a program that might help?

Soon, both Guertin and Dion learned that Capt. Christine Klink, 439th operations group executive officer, was developing just such a program. During the April UTA, the three traditional reservists gathered in Klink's office with four other kindred spirits to kick off a new program dubbed "Community Mentors."

For some time, Klink has believed that busy recruiters could be helped with

grass roots support from reservists to spread the Westover story. These towns, spread throughout New England and beyond, reach far past any geography that Westover's recruiters could ever hope to cover. With credibility as a "local," reservists can share their personal experiences with people who have no exposure to the military. This increases awareness about Westover, boosts public support of the Air Force mission, and ultimately nurtures interest in potential recruits.

To make this big idea work, Klink started small. She focused on the Operations Group, directing volunteers to begin mentoring efforts by contacting high school guidance offices. To help volunteers, she built an information package, easily tailored by each volunteer, that includes a letter of introduction to a high school, a biography and business cards for each reservist, brochures on the Operation Group's different career fields, and data about Westover and the Air Force Reserve.

Kicking off Community Mentors are six volunteers. However, Klink says she'd be more than glad to prepare a package for others in the Wing who might like to spread the word in their hometowns. She can be reached at Ext. 3315 on UTA weekends.



GETTING THE WORD OUT — Capt. Christine Klink, 439th Operations Group officer, shows her recruiting packages to a co-worker.

"We know can't speak to the specifics of signing up," says Klink, "but I think we are approachable, especially to someone who might not be ready to talk to a recruiter. I'm hoping our enthusiasm is contagious, and that we'll soon be referring names to recruiters."

Sherwin new base command chief

Article and photo
by SMSgt. Sandi Michon



CCMSgt. Jeffrey Sherwin

As Westover's command chief, CCMSgt. Jeffrey Sherwin hopes his climb to the top of the enlisted ladder gives him a unique viewpoint to help others.

In his new position, Sherwin has his ear to the ground monitoring enlisted issues, to advise and serve as liaison, to the wing commander. He assumed the position on May 1st, replacing CMSgt. Chris Menard, who performed command chief duties for eight years.

Sherwin began his enlisted career with the Army in 1967, serving five years in Vietnam and Germany, followed by four years in the Army National Guard. His 16 years with the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Westover also give Sherwin an evolutionary look at enlisted issues.

Despite all the changes, he is optimistic. "No problem is insurmountable – but some solutions take longer than others," he said.

Sherwin doesn't pretend to have all the answers, but he's confident that he knows where to look for them.

Access to the troops is essential to the job and Sherwin's goal is to get out to the units each UTA. "I also want people to know that I stay in billeting each UTA, so I'm available after hours," he stressed.

He plans to work closely with the Chiefs' Council at Westover and wants to brainstorm with command chiefs from other bases to exchange ideas and solutions.

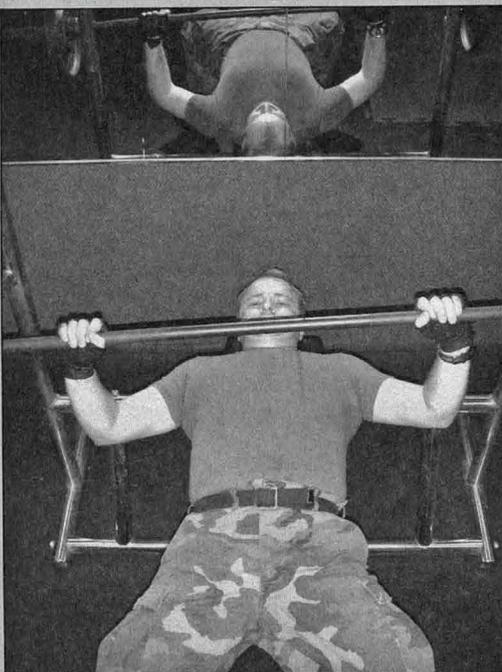
"Reservists need to know that we take care of our own," he said. Sherwin can be reached on base at Ext. 2214, and his e-mail addresses are: Jeffrey.Sherwin@westover.af.mil or Sherwin@LL.mit.edu.

Sherwin served in the criminal justice field as a civilian – as a local police officer and as a captain with the Mass. Department of Corrections. He currently works as a security supervisor. He resides in Gardner, Mass. with his wife Teresa (Hussey) and their two daughters.

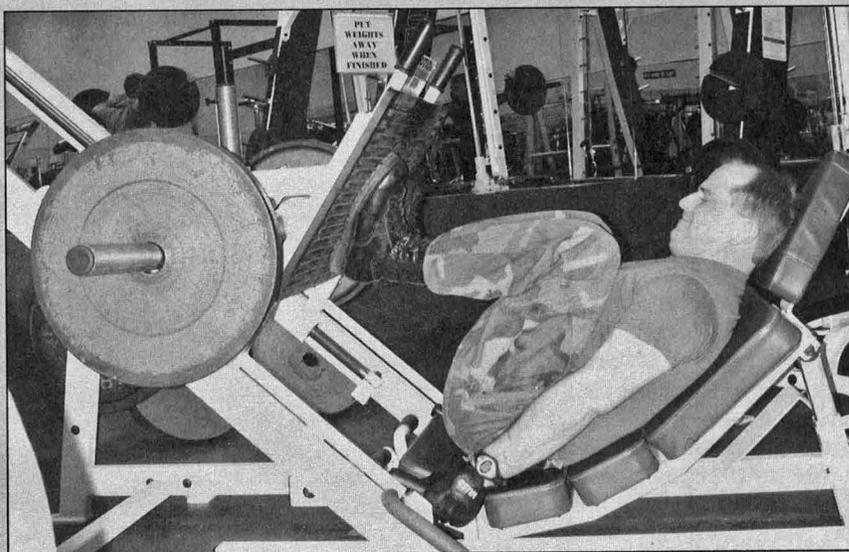
SHAPE UP!

Westover's fitness center offers a wide range of exercise options. There are also three tennis courts adjacent to the pool, and the Four Seasons Rental Store offers lunch-hour bike rental for one dollar. Call the fitness center at Ext. 3958, or the rental store at Ext. 2974 for more information.

Photos by SMSgt. Sandi Michon



MACHINE SHOP — EO3 Raymond Mason, equipment operator with the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, Det. 1027 works out at the base gym. Mason's unit is based in Worcester, but drills at Westover the third weekend of each month and helps out with projects on the base to provide training.



Abrams keeps nation's promise to bring MIAs home to families

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

We are a nation that honors its dead. That's a promise embodied in a simple Westover stone, formations of Arlington markers, French meadows of white crosses and Stars of David, and countless family plots watered by tears.

Other untended memorials are scattered around the world, from Germany to New Guinea. These are lost, lonely graves where bones of the fallen lay amid twisted metal of a jungle crash site or covered by a layer of forest foliage or hidden in a forgotten valley. Their families have not seen the return of 80,000 World War II, 8,000 Korean War and 2,000 Vietnam missing.

Eleven years ago, Linda C. Abrams, a volunteer genealogist from Longmeadow, made a commitment to do everything she could to keep the national promise to honor our dead. One-by-one, she is bringing soldiers, sailors and airmen home to loved ones. With telephone, computer and dogged determination, she has located the families of more than 600 service members recovered from the lost graves of America's wars.

During the 439th AW Retiree Appreciation/Memorial Day Ceremony in June, Col. Martin M. Mazick, wing commander, presented Abrams the Department of Defense Exceptional Public Service Award in the name of the Secretary of Defense. The medal is a nation's thanks for giving solace to families who mourn for loved ones whose homecomings were delayed by decades.

In 1990, Abrams was an Air Force enlisted active duty and Reserve veteran, VA supervisor and amateur genealogist when the Army asked for a volunteer to help locate next-of-kin of a crew recovered from a World War II B-24 crash site in New Guinea. Her success encouraged her to expand her volunteer efforts, until, following her retirement from the VA, she was working seven days a week, running up \$500 to \$800 phone bills without reimbursement. Still an unpaid volunteer, Abrams is now paid for expenses.

At any given time she may be working on 20 cases of service members whose remains are at the Central Identification Laboratory in Honolulu awaiting identification. Recently, her pending cases included a request to search for descendants of Confederate sailors recovered from the submarine Hunley in the harbor of Charleston, S.C., a B-24 crew member recovered in Germany, several remains of Americans repatriated by the North Koreans and two Marines found in Vietnam.

Painfully slowly, lost service members are being found. Last year a hiker found a B-24 and 10 crewmembers in a ravine in France's Eiffel Mountains. Metal detectors turn up helmets and skeletons from the Battle of the Bulge. Negotiations with the Vietnamese and North Koreans yield remains.

Sometimes the search for family is particularly poignant, such as the P-47 pilot from Maine who was found in Germany in the wreckage of his Thunderbolt, with his dog tags and the identification numbers on the engine which matched a computer data base at Maxwell AFB.

In his case, Abrams went one step further when she learned that the P-47's nose art was "Scrumptious Betty." After locating his niece and sharing with her all she had discovered about her uncle while searching for any of his living kin, making her report and closing the file, she thought out loud, "Wait a minute, who is Scrumptious Betty?"

She says, "I opened the file again and researched his yearbook, but didn't find anything. Then I found a news clipping in a Portland newspaper that reported him missing-in action. In the article, the father had indicated that his son had had a girlfriend named Betty he had met in



EXCEPTIONAL HONOR — Linda C. Abrams receives the Department of Defense Exceptional Public Service Award for her painstaking work as a volunteer genealogist identifying the remains of MIA's. Wing Commander Col. Martin M. Mazick presented the award.

— Photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

training in Idaho. I resumed my search and learned a lot about Pocatello and its big World War II training base and I found Betty. She had waited for him to come back. I found her in California."

Other times, like a detective starting out on a trail decades old, Abrams searches old newspapers, census records, deeds, probate records of wills, directories, cemeteries, funeral home records and even school records and high school reunions for family clues.

In most cases, positive identification of a soldier's remains is only possible through DNA technology that compares the DNA from the skeletal remains with the DNA blood samples from a maternal-line relative. To Abrams this has meant two family searches for each soldier: one to locate his next-of-kin and the other to locate a maternal-line relative, often persons so distantly connected they are unknown to each other.

In one case, she traced a family back to the 1840s to discover a branch in the family tree related to a crewman lost in a B-24 crash in China. The search ended with a DNA match with a 93-year-old Alabama woman, a distant cousin who was willing to donate a blood sample to identify a cousin she never knew existed.

The process can be a long, emotionally draining experience.

"Sometimes, there is a genealogy investigation when I've done all the research I can do. I've tried everything. I have to close it up and walk away. I'll go in the back yard and I'll walk around and say out loud 'Where are you?' A few days later I'll go back and see if I left a stone unturned.

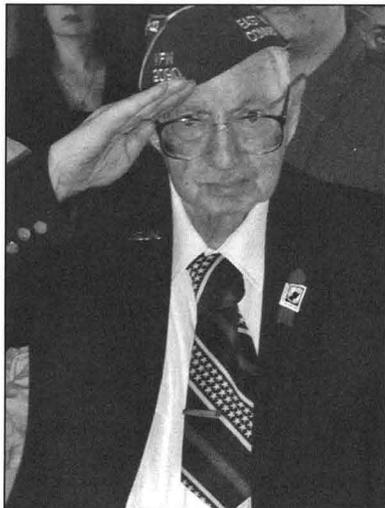
"When I start a case I don't quit until I've solved it. The soldier's remains are in a laboratory and I want him home. I feel they need to come home for a proper burial and I know I can do it. They deserve to be with their family," Abrams said.

She remembers her own tears when the mother of a Vietnam MIA told her "you found my son...you gave me my life back"

"This work is my gift to my country, making a difference in the lives of people and families who have never stopped remembering and wondering what happened to their loved ones who went off to war filled with youth and hope, but never to return," Abrams said.

FITTING TRIBUTE —

More than 1,000 reservists stood in formation to honor at the Retiree/Memorial Day ceremony on May 5. Maj. Christopher Skomars of the 439th LG served as Master of Ceremonies, and Capt. John J. Ryan of the 439th AW was Commander of Troops.



Honor for service

Photos by SMSgt. Sandi Michon and MSgt. W.C. Pope

HONORABLE MENTION — The base honor guard (top photo), Westover reservists and guests assembled in the Base Hangar on May 5 to remember fallen comrades and honor recent retirees. After the retirees received their certificates, they turned to face the troops (lower photo) and received a hand salute for their service. Older veterans also joined the tribute. Chicopee Mayor Richard J. Kos expressed his appreciation for Westover's contributions, and the wing honored retiring Galaxy Council president Thomas O'Donnell.



**Retiree
Roll Call**

- Col. Diane M. Russell
- Lt Col. Cranford O. Bost, Jr.
- Lt Col. Mary J. Mihalek
- Lt Col. Paul R. McPherson
- Maj. Martha C. Shea
- Maj. Thomas R. Marasco
- Capt. William C. Lewis
- Capt. Richard J. Ouellette
- CMSgt. Paul M. Mersincavage
- CMSgt. Edward T. Kolodjay
- SMSgt. Benedict B. Fiamma
- SMSgt. Frank S. Rys
- SMSgt. Stephen M. Caraker
- SMSgt. Leslie G. Howe, III
- SMSgt. Joseph G. Chaloux
- MSgt. Richard J. Anderson
- MSgt. John W. Barrett
- MSgt. Kevin R. Brown
- MSgt. James V. Divita
- MSgt. Michael K. Doyle
- MSgt. Harry R. Dunn, Jr.
- MSgt. George W. Gomperts
- MSgt. Joseph J. Pandolfi
- MSgt. Jason R. Smith
- MSgt. Luciano Giovannucci
- MSgt. Michael J. Corcoran
- MSgt. David G. Vargo
- MSgt. William F. Toomey
- MSgt. Kenneth L. Morytko
- MSgt. Steven F. Post
- MSgt. Guy F. Delia
- MSgt. Eugene M. Dumont
- MSgt. Larry W. Raines
- MSgt. Jeanne T. Brewer
- MSgt. Carlos A. Pestana
- MSgt. Victoria L. Bolton
- MSgt. Gregory J. Zakrzewski
- MSgt. Robert M. J. Mercure
- MSgt. Robert R. Turcotte
- MSgt. George L. Hoagland
- TSgt. Allan R. Boucher
- TSgt. Sidney J. Canfield
- TSgt. Daniel L. Cenotti
- TSgt. Pamela A. Cumberlander
- TSgt. Eugene E. Fish
- TSgt. Robert G. Hannaford
- TSgt. James D. Jerzyk
- TSgt. Liam S. Moquin
- TSgt. John J. Prechtl
- TSgt. Arturo Rodriguez
- TSgt. Leonard J. Stanwood
- TSgt. Mark I. Ratcliffe
- TSgt. Francis J. Komloski
- TSgt. Edward J. Goodfield
- TSgt. Stephen M. Wade
- TSgt. Valerie Jenkins
- TSgt. David C. Huffman
- TSgt. Lester W. Ryan, III
- TSgt. Luis A. Cabrera, Jr.
- TSgt. Scott D. Dudley
- TSgt. Philip J. Lupien
- TSgt. Robert W. Chunyk
- TSgt. Robert W. Smith
- TSgt. Raymond E. Lambert
- TSgt. Thomas B. Perkins
- TSgt. George W. Dube
- SSgt. David P. Armstrong
- SrA. Angel L. Colon

Everyone should practice ORM during busy summer schedule



by Lt.Col. David Moore
439th Airlift Wing
Chief of Safety

The heat will be on throughout the exercise/inspection schedule this summer. This may be accompanied by a tendency to cut corners you normally wouldn't cut and ignore tech orders or other instructions that you normally would not ignore.

Operational Risk Management (ORM) is a process that can prevent mishaps on or off duty and preserve our precious resources. Identify the hazards, assess the risk, attempt to reduce it, if necessary, and go forward when you can do it *safely*. The following is a generic risk assessment matrix that may be applied to a deployment. You need to customize it for your specific operation after you identify your hazards:

Circle the number corresponding to the hazard(s) listed on the charts. Then total all the numbers to determine the overall risk of the operation. Check the risk gauge at the end to determine how much risk is involved. Take action to eliminate or reduce risks whenever possible. Proceed if the benefit outweighs the risk. *Do not take an unnecessary risk.*

Planning	Preparation Time		
	In-Depth	Adequate	Minimal
Guidance			
Vague	3	4	5
General	2	3	4
Specific	1	2	3

Human Factors	Work Day		
	Normal	Extended	Maximum
Living Factors			
Field	3	4	5
Hotels	2	3	4
Home Station	1	2	3

Climate	Weather Conditions		
	Good	Moderate	Severe
Shelter			
None	3	4	5
Partial	2	3	4
Full	1	2	3

Personnel	Subordinates		
	Highly Qualified	Qualified	Training
Supervisors			
Inexperienced	3	4	5
Experienced	2	3	4
Highly Experienced	1	2	3

Ops Tempo	Airplane Utilization Rate		
	Low	Medium	High
Airplane Generation			
Maximum	3	4	5
Normal	2	3	4
Minimum	1	2	3

Operating Location	Facilities		
	Optimal	Adequate	Minimal
Local Support			
None	3	4	5
Partial	2	3	4
Full	1	2	3

Risk Gauge			
7-14	15-21	22-28	29-35
Green	Yellow		Red
Low Risk	Low Caution	High Caution	High Risk

LOW RISK: Proceed with caution
LOW OR HIGH CAUTION: Contact your supervisor. Reduce or eliminate hazards if possible. Then repeat the process. Decision level may have to be elevated.

HIGH RISK: Stop. Reduce or eliminate hazards if possible. Advise your supervisor before proceeding. Decision level must be elevated if hazards cannot be reduced or eliminated.

All safety people at Westover are ORM-trained and can assist you in applying the process. Call us at Ext. 3587 for additional information. Plan now for safe summer in 2001!



439th MSS team captures first Fitness Challenge

Article by MSgt. Tom Allocco
Photos by MSgt. W.C.Pope



A 439th Mission Support Squadron team set the pace among six teams and crossed the finish line in under an hour in the first 439th Airlift Wing Fitness Challenge on May 5. Winning top honors for speed and endurance by running, biking and canoeing were 1st Lt. Kenneth Dinovo, MSgt. Robert Fredette and SSgt. Theresa Robert.

Fighting gusting winds all the way, they ran three miles from the fitness center to Wade Lake, canoed a course of about one and a half miles around the lake, and bicycled four miles back to the Fitness Center in 58 minutes, 30 seconds.

Testifying to the sharpness of the competition, only 10 seconds separated the first and second-place finishers. The hard-charging Mixed Bunch team of Col. Thomas Mauzaka, Lt. Col. Sandy Whittier and MSgt. Ann Fluegge stayed competitive all the way, but crossed the line at 58 minutes, 40 seconds for second place.

At a very respectable 1 hour, 5 minutes, the team of Capt. Glenn Melia, 1st Lt. David Capuano and SrA. Amber Antoine earned third place.

Four minutes behind them at 1 hour, 9 minutes were Maj. Ken McQuade, MSgt. Pamela White and SSgt. Karl Dietzler who showed aggressive determination to close the gap.

The Missing Links team of Col. Charles Brown, 1st Lt. Kelly Braudis and SSgt. Alice Mitchell saw valuable minutes slip away with steering problems on Wade Lake, but pushed on for a 1 hour, 11 minute finish.

A gutsy Team Safety earned respect for their sharp tee-shirts and never-say-die spirit as they finished in 1 hour, 16 minutes.



FROM START TO FINISH —The Mixed Bunch takes an early lead in the run (top), and Team Safety glides around Wade Lake (center). At left, Lt. Col. Sandy Whittier and MSgt. Ann Fluegge pedal toward the finish line, but Team MSS beat them to the tape (bottom).



'By law' not best way to name SGLI beneficiary

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — When it comes to Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, completing the election form correctly is as important as the size of the benefit.

With the maximum SGLI coverage \$250,000 as of April 1, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Judge Advocate lawyers here are concerned about people who either indicate no SGLI beneficiary or select the "by law" option.

"The best way to ensure that the proceeds are paid to intended beneficiaries

is to specifically name them on the SGLI form," said Col. Rebecca Weeks, AFRC staff judge advocate. "Otherwise, strict interpretation of beneficiary definitions in the SGLI statute may result in payment inconsistent with the servicemember's intent."

According to the statute, the proceeds will first go to the spouse. If there is no spouse, surviving children share the proceeds equally. Next in line are surviving parents. If there are no parents, the proceeds will go to the executor of the deceased's estate. In the absence of an executor, the proceeds go to the next of kin according to state law.

The SGLI statute specifically defines who qualifies, for example, as a parent. If a person has a stepparent who has not legally adopted him or her, that stepparent would not qualify as a "parent" under the definition in the statute. If servicemembers want a stepparent to receive their SGLI proceeds, they should specifically name the stepparent as a beneficiary and not use the "by-law" designation.

"Some people think having a will ensures all their property will go to the beneficiaries named in the will," Weeks said. "They forget to keep their insurance contracts up to date and correct. They incorrectly believe that the will directs where the insurance proceeds go. Insurance contracts are normally separate and apart from a will."

Weeks suggests reviewing wills and insurance documents, including SGLI, every couple of years or whenever family circumstances change, such as after a divorce or when a child is born," Weeks said. "It is an important element of military readiness." (AFRC News Service)

PATRIOT PUNS

BY MSGT. W.C. POPE



Patriot again named best in AF

by Gordon A. Newell

For the second time in nine years, the *Patriot* has been selected best in the Air Force and is now vying in the Department of Defense's Thomas Jefferson awards competition, a much-coveted award the paper earned in 1992.

The *Patriot* finished second to the 446th Airlift Wing's Associate Press, from McChord AFB, WA, in the 2000 Air Force Reserve Command's media contest. Both papers then represented AFRC in the Air Force competition for Military Funded (Small) newspapers.

Units submit one issue of their choice and one mandatory issue to the AFRC judges, who also designate individual winners.

"The *Patriot* is all about community," said Col. Michael R. Mickelson, AFRC chief of Public Affairs. "From the mandatory May issue's stories about the 439th mission and reservists' civic activities to the optional September issue about the base air show, the Westover newspaper staff offers readers a good mix of news and human interest articles. It's that excellent local coverage, balanced with the right amount of command news, that sets the *Patriot* apart from its peers in the Air Force Reserve Command and the Air Force," he said.

In addition to the paper's award, MSgt. William C. Pope of the 439th AW Public Affairs office placed second at the Air Force level in Category N, Art in Support of a Publication. Pope is the creator of *Pope's Puns* and many other illustrative art that appear in the *Patriot* on a regular basis.

SMSgt. Sandi Michon, NCOIC of Westover's PA office, praised the staff for its hard work and enterprise. "Our folks work very hard to produce the best newspaper possible, but it's easier to be the best when you cover the best people — who do so many quality things."

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. William E. Baird, Jr.***	439 SPTG
CMSgt. Alan P. Rogers**	439 MXS
MSgt. Michael J. Corcoran	337 AS
MSgt. Larry W. Raines	439 LSS

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt. Shane Robitaille**	439 MSS
TSgt. George W. Dube	439 OSS
TSgt. Bradford J. June	439 LSS
TSgt. Roger P. Prinz	439 CES
TSgt. Ruth Rodriguez	439 AMDS

Air Force Achievement Medal

1 st Lt. Lauri Tyler	722 ASTS
1 st Lt. William S. Wiecher	439 AW
SSgt. Floyd M. A. Kirton	722 ASTS
SSgt. Genetta N. Staple-Ward	439 SPTG
SSgt. Moises Zanazanian	439 CES

**Second Award

***Third Award

Patriot People

Name: Michael Owczarzak
Rank: Capt.
Age: 30 years
Address: Chicopee, Mass.
Unit: 439th Security Forces Squadron
Position: Operations Officer
Civilian position: Air Reserve Technician
Favorite food: Chicago-style pizza
Years of service: 10 years
Favorite sport: Baseball
Favorite hobby: Fishing for catfish
Ideal vacation: Driving around the U.S. visiting friends
Best way to relax: Reading
Preferred entertainment: None
Favorite hero: Abraham Lincoln
Favorite music: Classical
Favorite movie: "Paths of Glory"
Favorite aircraft: AH-60 Apache
Pet peeve: Lack of vision
What I would do if I won \$1 million:
 Donate most of it to charity and save some

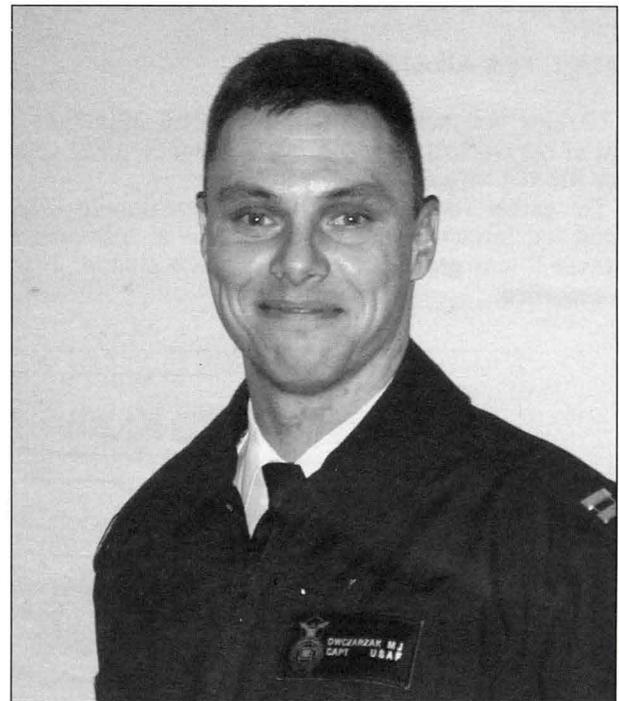


Photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

Capt. Michael J. Owczarzak

Patriot Praises

Promotions:

CMSgt. Carbin, David F.
 CMSgt. Sherwin, Jeffrey B.
 SMSgt. Kida, John E.
 SMSgt. Ricci, Richard A.
 MSgt. Antuna, Jeff K.
 MSgt. Baldwin, Ronald C.
 MSgt. Barton, Ronald L.
 MSgt. Cobleigh, Roy K., Jr.
 MSgt. Goodman, James
 MSgt. Hurley, William P., Jr.
 MSgt. Jackson, John J.
 MSgt. Jimenez, Susan R.
 MSgt. Kibe, Daniel E.
 MSgt. Mongelli, Anthony P.
 MSgt. Myrdek, Renee A.
 MSgt. Pasquerella, Anthony
 MSgt. Sullivan, William J.
 MSgt. Torrey, Robert B.
 MSgt. Trombley, Kevin F.
 TSgt. Allen, Kevin M.
 TSgt. Brewton, Rachael A.
 TSgt. Champagne, Robert G.
 TSgt. Dietzler, Karl M.
 TSgt. Downs, Michael J.
 TSgt. Fortin, Paul J., Jr.
 TSgt. Gendron, Michael
 TSgt. Lakeman, Stacey
 TSgt. Leeds, Lawrence r.
 TSgt. Leone, Daniel A., JR.
 TSgt. Mallett, Charmaine M.
 TSgt. Mendez, Richard L.
 TSgt. Mrowka, Thomas
 TSgt. Sklarski, Eric J.
 TSgt. Thomas, Michael S.
 TSgt. Thompson, Kai J.
 TSgt. Vogt, Michael L.

TSgt. Welch, Michael J.
 TSgt. Wildes, Dennis M.
 SSgt. Ashworth, Brian M.
 SSgt. Jones, Donald R.
 SSgt. Peltier, Mark J.
 SSgt. Rudert, Steven C.
 SSgt. Turcotte, Francis L.
 SrA. Cody, John A.
 SrA. Harry, Christopher
 A1C Plummer, Elroy O.
 A1C Ross, Michael A.

Enlistments:

TSgt. Gilder, Sebastian K.
 SSgt. Ferrara, John F.
 SSgt. Finneran, Therese E.
 SSgt. Fuchs, Thomas E.
 SSgt. Jeanlouis, Tamara
 SSgt. LaPenta, George A.
 SSgt. Ouimet, David J.
 SSgt. Quinn, Shawn P.
 SrA. Baskiewicz, Krzysztof J.
 SrA. Briere, Ronnie P.
 SrA. Busenbark, Kenneth A.
 SrA. Korman, Michael H.
 SrA. LaFreniere, Peter H.
 SrA. McDonald, Charles E.
 SrA. Muse, Tammanica S.
 SrA. Pavao, Albert R.
 SrA. Smithhill, Barbara S.
 SrA. Stack, James D.
 SrA. Zygo, Dixie L.
 A1C Borden, Jameson A.
 A1C Boynton, Brian P.
 A1C Gentilotti, Brian P.
 A1C Harper, Darrell R.
 A1C Joyce, Chesley A.
 A1C Lombardino, Aaron M.
 A1C Marcoux, Karen M.
 A1C Marlak, Anthony D.
 A1C Moloney, Kevin J.
 A1C Nelson, Christopher J.
 A1C Schmitter, Faye A.
 A1C Sisco, Gerald R., Jr.

Amn. Marshall, Kevin G.
 AB Armstrong, Jason T.
 AB Beaulieu, Christopher J.
 AB Cabral, Erin M.
 AB Ellis, Lateef S.
 AB Hickey, Jason W.
 AB Johnson, Elizabeth D.
 AB Mitchell, Richard A., Jr.
 AB Smith, Christine A.

Reenlistments:

CMSgt. Brogis, Roger J.
 CMSgt. Brosseau, Roy R.
 CMSgt. Gilbert, Kenneth J.
 SMSgt. Dimartino, Joseph S.
 SMSgt. Karrasch, Robert W.
 MSgt. Jones, David P.
 MSgt. King, Kenneth B.
 MSgt. Mottor, David A.
 MSgt. Post, Steven F.
 TSgt. Cote, Gerard A.
 TSgt. Florian, Daniel G.
 TSgt. Greenwood, Edward J., Sr.
 TSgt. Jedrey, Richard A.
 TSgt. Langford, Keith A.
 TSgt. Langhill, David A.
 TSgt. MacDougald, Kenneth
 TSgt. Paradise, Bruce W.
 TSgt. Pelletier, David J.
 TSgt. Popiak, John P.
 TSgt. Sneed, Robert R., Jr.
 TSgt. Weber, Gary M.
 TSgt. Willabay, Lauraine N.
 TSgt. Wood Jeanpierre
 SSgt. Bellerose, Michael R.
 SSgt. Curry, Thomas F.
 SSgt. Gauvreau, Richard W., Jr.
 SSgt. Howell, Clayton A.
 SSgt. Kelly, David A.
 SSgt. Manning, Michael D.
 SSgt. Miceli, Robert C.
 SSgt. Padden, William C.
 SSgt. Rhodes, Judith D.
 SSgt. Squier, Reid A.

SSgt. Stewart, Kim M.
 SSgt. Ward, Leah D.
 SSgt. Williams, Sean E.
 SrA. Brady, Richard K.
 SrA. Fisher, Katie L.
 SrA. Holms, Christopher M.
 SrA. Kuhlman, Patricia A.
 SrA. LeMay, Brandon H.
 SrA. Lincoln, Peter J.
 SrA. Menta, Michael, Jr.
 SrA. Prudhomme, Debra R.
 SrA. Serricchio, Jennifer L.
 SrA. Sifuentes, Aaron M.
 A1C Miguel, Ligia D.

Newly Assigned:

Capt. Camelo, Wilson
 1st Lt. Wolfe, Patrice L.
 SSgt. Brunelle, Gary P.
 SSgt. Waterhouse, Heidi G.
 SSgt. Young, Devore H.
 SrA. Blaszc, Joseph L.
 SrA. Bonaldi, Angela M.
 SrA. Collins, Christopher R.
 SrA. Davis, Kara B.
 SrA. Ilsley, Joseph S.
 SrA. Lucia, Jason E.
 SrA. Martin, Christopher P.

Retirements:

Lt. Col. Mihalek, Mary J.
 Capt. Ouellette, Richard J.
 CMSgt. Kolodjay, Edward T.
 SMSgt. Caraker, Stephen M.
 SMSgt. Howe, Leslie G., III.
 MSgt. Delta, Guy F.
 MSgt. Ford, William H.
 MSgt. Marten, Martha A.
 MSgt. Zakrzewski, Gregory J.
 TSgt. Chunyk, Robert W.
 TSgt. Fish, Eugene E.
 TSgt. Lambert, Raymond E.
 TSgt. Ryan, Lester W., III.

Ukraine test pilots fly world's biggest plane

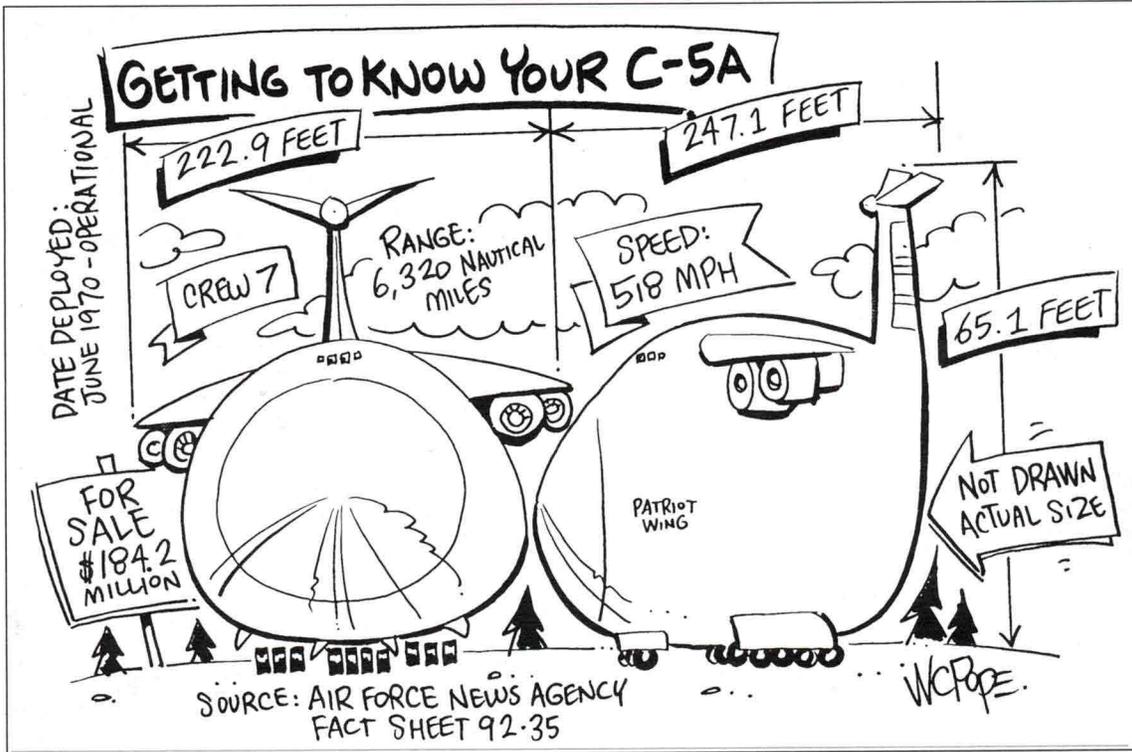
By MSgt. Tom Allocco

Ukraine conducted the first successful 30-minute test flight of the world's biggest airplane, a modernized version of the An-225 Mriya, near Kiev in May.

The earlier version of the aircraft first flew in 1988 to support the former Soviet Union's space shuttle program. However it was grounded when the space shuttle program was cancelled.

The six-engine An-225 has a wingspan of 291 feet and a cargo compartment 142 feet long. It is capable of carrying 275 tons of cargo 2,800 miles. By comparison, the C-5A is 247 feet long and has a cargo compartment 143 feet, 9 inches long. The Galaxy can carry 130 tons of cargo for 3,000 nautical miles.

The four-engine Russian An-124 Condor has a length of 227 feet and a maximum take-off weight of 893,000 pounds. The C-5 has a maximum take-off weight of 769,000 pounds.



PATRIOT

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