

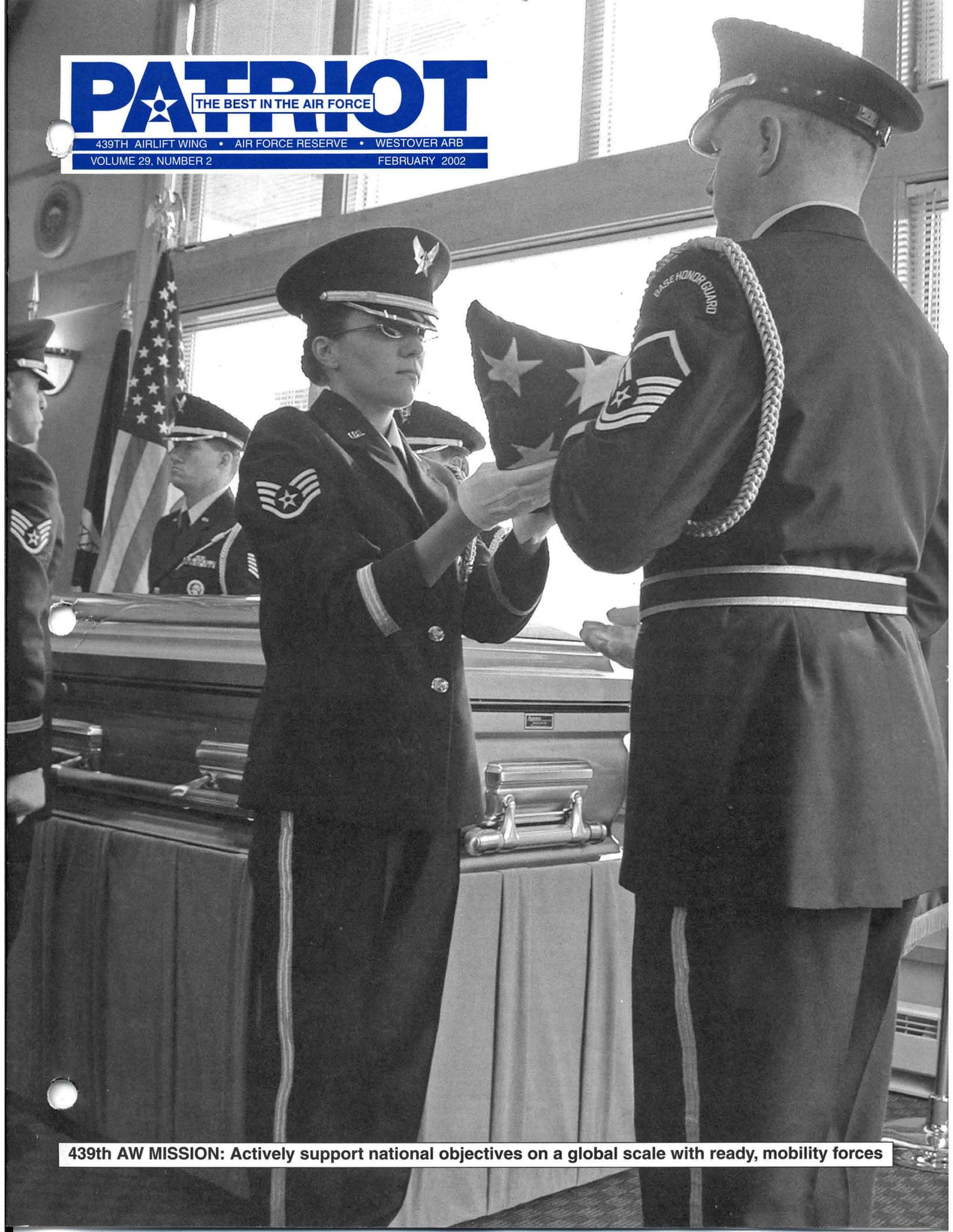
PATRIOT

THE BEST IN THE AIR FORCE

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2002



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

How are we doing?

I know that at times you may feel like a mushroom in this war on terrorism. Whether you are activated or not, but especially if you have given up a portion of your lives to go to work for Uncle Sam full time, you probably are wondering if it is worth it.

I'm sure it doesn't feel like Desert Shield/Desert Storm to many of those who remember, and that's because it is not. We always believed the fight was to take place somewhere else, on someone else's territory. We never anticipated our present situation.

Despite this, you have stepped up and are helping us cope with the new dynamics of taking the fight to the enemy and defending home base simultaneously.

It is frustrating because I don't have all the answers to give you. Many want to know how long activation will be, some want to know if security will remain this high at home and all of us wonder what the end state will be in our fight against terrorism. I want to give you my perspective to this point, on our performance based on what I see, and what I hear from our senior leadership.

You need to know that your sacrifices are making it happen. We are successfully meeting our entire flying mission tasking and have been all over the globe in the last three months supporting our country's fight. We have deployed folks to four different locations and they have done and continue to do a great job! Members of AGS even passed an EORI for their UTC in the middle of supporting Operation Enduring Freedom! Our Westover base security is at an all-time high. We have made ourselves a very difficult target through the continued presence of our security forces troops and everyone's increased vigilance.

Our success to date has been due to a very concerted effort on the part of everyone at Westover. From the finance and personnel folks to the services and medical folks, all the support agencies have accomplished much to process, pay, care and feed our 1,047 activated troops and those that are performing mandays to get the job done.

A successful mission begins well before the aircrew raises the gear after takeoff. Your part in that pre-launch and pre-deployment process is going very well. Our people leave here well-prepared for their missions, and once placed in the system, your performance has been exemplary. It is simple to say, yet difficult to do: Westover people and aircraft are moving the mission safely and effectively!

In my book that deserves a big **WELL DONE!** Thanks for all you do!



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

Briefs

Military travelers can keep frequent flier miles

Federal employees can use frequent flier miles earned on government travel, under an amendment included in the fiscal 2002 Defense Authorization bill, which was passed in December.

Senators Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and John Warner, R-Va., added the amendment, arguing that allowing federal workers to keep frequent flier miles would help federal retention and recruitment efforts.

The long-awaited employer benefit allows civil service, military and Foreign Service employees to use frequent flier miles obtained on government travel for personal use. The benefit is retroactive, allowing federal employees to use miles earned prior to the bill's enactment.

Ambassadors of Jazz concert at Northampton

The United States Air Force band of Liberty "Ambassadors of Jazz Ensemble" will perform at the Academy of Music Theater in Northampton, Sunday, March 10, at 2 p.m.

Free tickets may be obtained by sending a self-addressed envelope to the Northampton Department of Veterans' Services, 240 Main St. Room No. 4, Memorial Hall, Northampton, MA. 01060-2113.

People are requested to order tickets early.

March UTA schedule
A UTA March 2-3
B UTA March 16-17

Cover Photo

SSgt. Kara Stackpole, Base Honor Guard member, hands the American flag to MSgt. Thomas Roe, Honor Guard NCOIC, during military burial services for SSgt. Theodore Brown on Dec. 14 at the Massachusetts Memorial Veterans Cemetery. See article and photos on page 3.

—photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

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

Public Affairs Air Reserve Technician

SSgt. Andrew Biscoe
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
SSgt. Duane Meszler
A1C Thomas Ouellette

Administration

SrA. Amber Ryals

Reservist's death stuns Westover; communities mourn

Article and photos
by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Westover ARB and the Springfield area mourned the death of a high school counselor and Air Force reservist who was stabbed to death by a high school student on Dec. 5.



SSgt. Theodore Brown

Joyce, with the American flag that had covered her husband's casket. Mazick praised the 51-year-old man's versatility that affected many people in his civilian and military jobs.

"SSgt Brown presented an excellent example of citizenship - teacher, counselor, father, foster parent, and service to the nation as an Air Force reservist," Mazick said.

After the presentation to Joyce Brown, Westover reservists approached the casket in pairs and saluted. The untimely death of their co-worker and friend registered with tears that streamed down their faces.

The reservists filed outside under overcast skies that seemed to symbolize the sadness of the morning. Many hugged each other before climbing aboard an Air Force bus for the trip back to the base.

Co-workers reflected on the impact Brown had at the clinic.

TSgt. Kelly DeStefano was his supervisor for two years.

"(He had) an ability to take whatever was thrown at him," she said. "He was serious ... he was able to do his job professionally. But when it was time to relax, he could do so. He was an unbelievable people person. He really went out of his way to make sure people were happy. The customers, the unit personnel - everyone."



A COUNTRY'S THANKS — Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander, presents the American flag to Joyce Brown, widow of SSgt. Theodore Brown.

Theodore Brown died after 17-year-old Corey Ramos, a Springfield High School student, allegedly attacked him. Brown reportedly had asked Ramos to lower his hood in accordance with school policy. Employed by the Springfield Public Schools, Brown was also a staff sergeant and medical administrative journeyman with the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron at Westover.

Those who knew and worked with Brown paid their last respects on Dec. 14 during a military burial service at the Massachusetts Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Agawam. The service capped three days of tributes that included a candlelight vigil on Dec. 13 attended by hundreds of people and fellow teachers in Springfield.

More than 30 Westover people attended the burial. They included Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander, who presented Brown's widow,

what - and stay happy, no matter what," she said. "He brought the best out of everybody."

Lt. Col. Robert Sousa, 439th AMDS administrator, remembered when he heard Brown's death on a radio broadcast. Sousa turned his car around and headed straight to Westover, where he informed his fellow squadron members who were bowling on base.

"It was just complete and utter shock," he said. "Nobody here can believe anyone would want to hurt Ted. He had an unwavering faith in God and man. The most striking thing about Ted is that he was a very simple, straightforward, down-to-earth man who positively affected people through his simplicity."

Sousa delivered a eulogy for Brown during funeral services on Dec. 13 at the Holy Family Church in Springfield.

"He did not draw people toward himself like an icon; instead he drew them together as a community and most importantly, he did all of this modestly and humbly without asking for credit and recognition," Sousa told Brown's family members and co-workers. "This is real power, the power exemplified by his Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ."

Brown was pastor of the Church of God by Faith Family and Friends Mission Springfield and the Church of God by Faith in East Hartford, Conn. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, a foster son and foster daughter, three brothers, his paternal parents, three sisters, a granddaughter, and many others.



FINAL RESPECTS — SrA. Robert English and Lt. Col. Robert Sousa salute the casket of SSgt. Theodore Brown during the military burial service at the Massachusetts Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Agawam in December. In the background, CMSgt. George Kudla and TSgt. Stacey Balicki wait to pay their last respects.

Brown had qualities not seen in other people she has supervised at the clinic, DeStefano said.

"Ted was so able to put everything into his job - no matter

Col. Mazick to pin streamer on wing flag in March

439th Airlift Wing wins AF Outstanding Unit Award

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

The new year started off very well when Westover learned it had earned one of the most prestigious awards in the Air Force. Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander, announced that the wing won the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

"The entire 439th has earned this award for their mission accomplishment and every person assigned has made a contribution to that end," Mazick said.

The colonel said the key element to winning the award was in the consistent efforts of all wing members.

"We consistently accomplished any and every mission safely and effectively," he said. "I guess that is what makes us the 'Team of Choice.' I'm very pleased for the wing!"

CMSgt. Kathy Wood, wing performance planner, spent hours last fall assembling the award package. Although she handled the writing of the award, Wood credited her boss, Lt. Col. Armand Tourangeau, and MSgt. Tom Allocco of the public affairs office with their assistance. Tourangeau provided moral support and proofreading help, while Allocco edited her writing down to two pages — the required length to summarize the wing's accomplishments from Oct. 1, 1999 to Sept. 30, 2001.

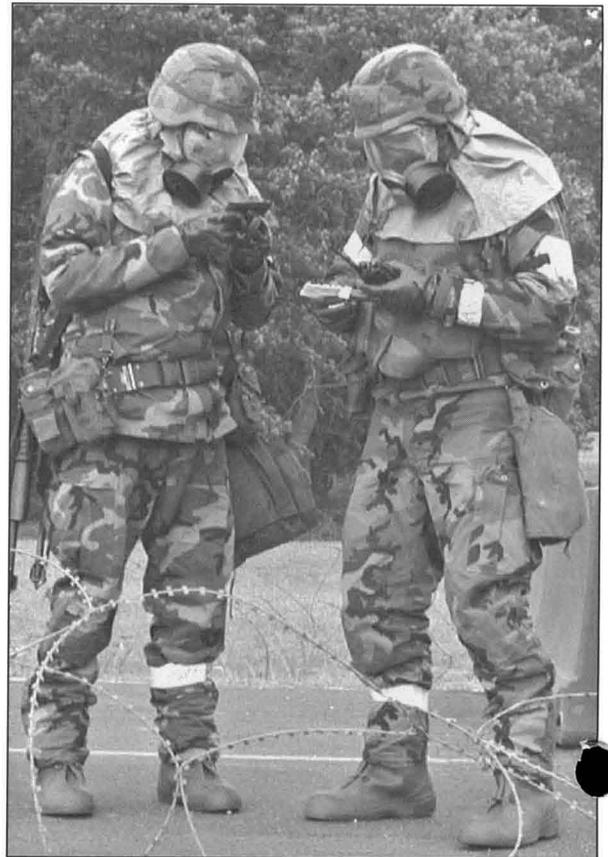
Wood previously put together wing award packages, including the Air Force Association Outstanding Unit Award and the Lt. Gen. Malcolm B. Armstrong Award. "I've had a little bit of experience in the past two years — thanks to Colonel Mazick," she said.

Wood spent about two months' worth of time "off and on" calling different units around the base to learn of their accomplishments.

"Of course, you start with operations, because of where we have flown," she said. "But I looked for the 'gee whiz' stuff from the units — what makes us the 'Team of Choice.'"

This year is the third time the 439th has earned the prestigious award. The wing last won the Outstanding Unit Award in 1991 and in 1976.

Plans call for Mazick to pin a streamer to the wing flag during Commanders Call in March.



EXERCISE — Reservists check data during one of the many wing exercises held last year.

—Photo by MSgt. W. C. Pope

First sergeant takes top two awards at academy — a first!

by Capt. Wilson Camelo

As the only chief in his First Sergeant Academy class, CMSgt. Dave Carbin understood perhaps more than his classmates the importance of receiving formal recognition from Professional Military Education courses for career progression.

That's why the 439th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant suggested putting other lower-ranking classmates in leadership roles to better position them for formal awards at graduation.

"I'm already a chief so these awards wouldn't do much for my career," he said. "So, I tried to put others in leadership roles so they could receive recognition."

However, at graduation it was he who was selected by his classmates to receive the academy's Leadership Award. He also earned the Academic Award for maintaining the highest grade point average in the class.



CMSgt. Dave Carbin

This was the first time one person won both awards, according to Carbin.

"I really didn't want the awards," he said. Not that he was ungrateful. However, Carbin said he would have rather seen the awards to go the junior ranking people in his class.

A nearly twenty-year veteran who has been here since May 1998, Carbin said he is glad he was able to put Westover in a positive light during the graduation. Especially since former Westover wing commander Brig. Gen. James Czekanski presented him the award.

Now back at Westover, Carbin is again doing what he loves best, dealing with people. As the base's local area network manager in his civilian job and first sergeant as a reservist, he is in a unique position to do just that. "I really enjoying having the pulse on morale, and knowing I can make a change and make things happen."

Wing career assistance advisor keys on experience to help retention challenges

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Retention, retention, retention – repetition of the word has become a mantra at all levels of the military recruiting and personnel levels.

In this age of a drastically downsized active duty force, military leaders rely on the reserve forces to augment, and, in many cases, perform the roles of the regular forces. And with a solid American economy that rebounded from a recession in the early 1990s, the challenge of keeping people in the military is considerable for recruiters and military leaders alike.

With more than 2,500 people assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing at Westover, MSgt. Richard Gheen has his work cut out for him. As the wing career assistance advisor, he oversees the unit and group career advisors from each squadron. All of the advisors are traditional reservists. In between each Unit Training Assembly, Gheen counts on solid communication through phone calls and e-mails to stay aware of personnel issues. When the UTA does begin, Gheen's goal is to have an answer for that person who may be choosing to leave the wing. And Gheen is, in some cases, the last resort the 439th has to prevent a frustrated person from doing so.

"My goal in this position is to have effective conversations with people," he said. "I want someone to know they can tell me what is going on without being concerned it



MSgt. Richard Gheen

will travel back to their unit."

Recent retention numbers had military personnel officials at all levels concerned. In September 2000, CMSgt. Tammy Vezina hired Gheen for the job.

"Command-wide retention was one of the biggest issues," Vezina said. "Our losses were outnumbering what our gains were."

Gheen's extensive background in recruiting made him a "perfect fit" as

a candidate for the job, she said.

"He understood many of the personnel programs and benefits," the chief said, adding Gheen had many contacts and a lot to offer for the wing advisor position. "In a way, it's recruiting and retention hand-in-hand. He has the insight."

The 39-year-old's perspective conveys empathy – and understanding – to people who might be frustrated with their jobs at Westover. Gheen came to Westover in 1989, after 10 years on active duty. He was an aircraft mechanic for 16 years, then a recruiter, followed by a stint in the base education and training office.

Gheen wants someone who is unhappy to bring their concerns to those who can help.

"If you can lighten it a little, that person would be more than apt to stay," he said.

"I have a different feel and sense for what someone might go through. I've pushed pallets and kicked tires."

He may be reached at 557-3435. His office is located in Building 1875.

ESGR strives to resolve work issues between Reservists, employers

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

While employers of Westover reservists are aware of the traditional "one-weekend-per-month" commitment, many of those bosses may not know that those days are long gone for many of their employees.

That's because the commitment of the Air Force Reserve Command of the new century has enlarged as the active duty Air Force has shrunk by one-third in just a decade. Employers needed to look no further than Westover to see those changes in action as Operation Enduring Freedom unfolded in the fall of 2001. Activation commitments could require up to two years from most of the reservists.

"Westover has more than 1,000 unit members activated, and employer questions are on the rise," said MSgt. Richard Gheen, a member of the Massachusetts committee of the Employer Supported Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program. "We work out difficulties between the reserve and the employers."

ESGR also seeks to protect the rights of reservists who are required to leave their regular jobs to fulfill their military commitments. The National Committee for ESGR is an agency within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. It was established in 1972.

To strengthen relations between employers and the Reserve, ESGR members and the Westover public affairs office provide an annual Employer Appreciation Day that includes a tour and flight aboard a C-5 for the bosses.

For more information about ESGR, call the PA office. The ESGR web site is www.esgr.org



439th Mission Support Squadron
Maj. Richard Cockley

← An organizational chart in the January 2002 Patriot incorrectly listed Lt. Col. Terry Thomas as the 439th Mission Support Squadron commander. Maj. Richard Cockley is the MSS commander. Please cut along the dotted line and glue this photo in the MSS spot, which was placed in the bottom left of the chart.



EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF
THE GUARD AND RESERVE

www.esgr.org
1-800-336-4590

"MY BOSS IS A
PRO"
Award nomination
forms
available in the
Public Affairs Office
or

Jubilant families greet returning reservists

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

Flags and red, white and blue balloons waved in the frigid breeze as family members pressed against the chain-link fence when the C-5 rolled onto Westover's tarmac on Jan. 5. Cheers soon erupted as 37 maintenance reservists walked off the plane, returning from a 60-day deployment that spanned the holidays.

As the homecoming party moved into Hangar 9, tears flowed freely and reservists gazed at loved ones as if to recapture lost time. Couples embraced and little ones clutched parent's legs and lingered in laps.

For SSgt. Michael's children, their best belated Christmas gift was having their daddy home. "I missed playing football with him," said four-year-old Zachary. Daughter Tory, who stressed that she was seven and a *half*, said she coped with her dad's absence by talking to him every day on the phone. "I told him what I did in school," Tory said.

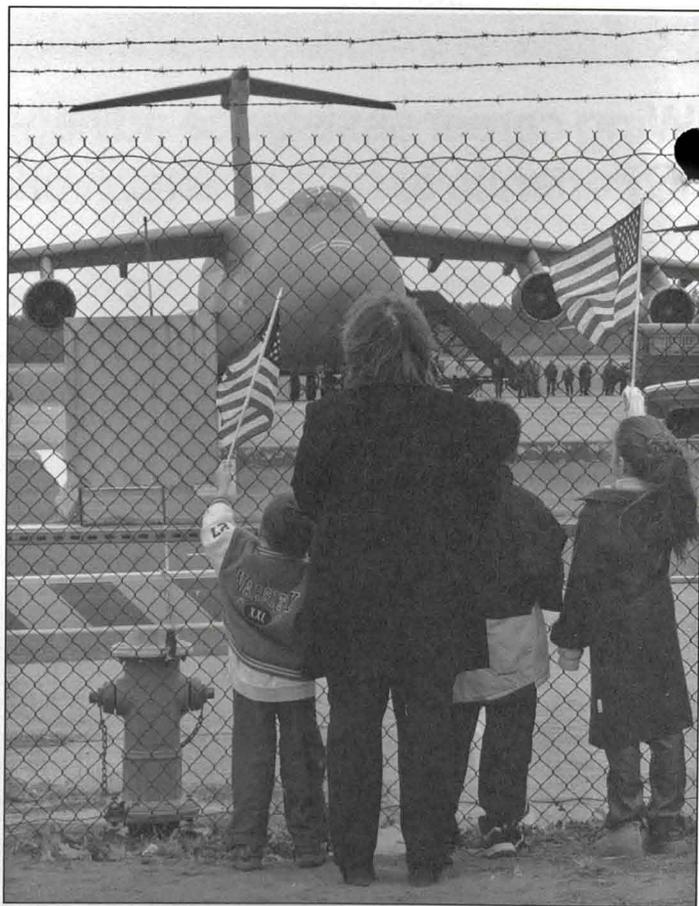
Michael's wife Carol, who is almost nine months pregnant with their third child, is especially glad her husband is back. "I worried that he might not get home in time," she said. Carol and Michael work split shifts to share childcare responsibilities, so Carol took emergency leave from her job when Michael was deployed. "Even though people offered to help, it was still hard to take care of everything myself," commented Carol. "I definitely appreciate him more than ever," she said.

Michael said that Christmas Eve was the hardest time of his deployment. In his 12 years of military service, including six years of active duty Navy, it was the first time he was not home for Christmas. "Michael's voice was breaking as we passed the phone around at our Christmas Eve family gathering," Carol said, looking lovingly at her husband.

While many families planned to catch up with delayed holiday plans, others celebrated early. With less than three days notice for deployment, TSgt. Kevin's family scrambled to celebrate Thanksgiving before he deployed in early November. With good reason - Kevin's brother was also deploying for a one-year active duty tour to Asia. Kevin said it didn't



HOMECOMING KING — TSgt. Frank is embraced by family and friends when he returned from a 60-day deployment in January.



WELCOMING COMMITTEE — Families wait at the fence as reservists exit the C-5 after a 60-day deployment January.

really feel like Thanksgiving, but once deployed, he was pleasantly surprised by the homeland support they received with holiday cards from students around the nation.

Kevin and his brother carry on a family tradition begun by their WWII B-25 pilot grandfather and continued by their father, who retired from Westover.

Holidays weren't the only events missed during the deployment. TSgt. Frank missed his girlfriend Katie's birthday. As relatives welcomed Frank home and the subject of birthdays came up, his 14-year-old niece, Kristen, piped up, "Uncle Frank, you missed my birthday, too!"

Many family members described different hardships, including seasonal illnesses that added to the challenge. Some related their fear about the safety of loved ones, and deployment brought a new perspective to families and reservists alike.

"I saw a lot of young troops transiting through the base we were at, and I wondered in the back of my mind if they would all return," said Frank. "It makes it very real."

Despite working 12-hour shifts with limited resources, the maintenance team was proud of their accomplishments. "We turned [quick-turn maintenance] a lot of aircraft," Kevin said, "we emerged as a team and are proud of our work."

Reservists were overwhelmingly glad to take an active role in the war on terrorism and feel they represented Westover as a player in the big picture.

Col. Charles Brown, 439th Logistics Group commander, agrees. He said the returning maintenance team missed holidays, but gained a real sense of accomplishment. "I'm proud as a peacock about what they've done. I can't think of better ambassadors to represent Westover," Brown said. "Our greatest asset is our people."

Family Support pillow 'softens' deployment pain

Article and photo by
SMSgt. Sandi Michon

He's thousands of miles away, but at least his kids will see his face before they go to sleep and once they wake up. Having their father's picture on their pillowcase is a small consolation for Kaity, age 7, and Greg, age 4 during their father's 60-plus-days deployment, but one of many things Family Support is trying to do to ease separation anxiety for military families.

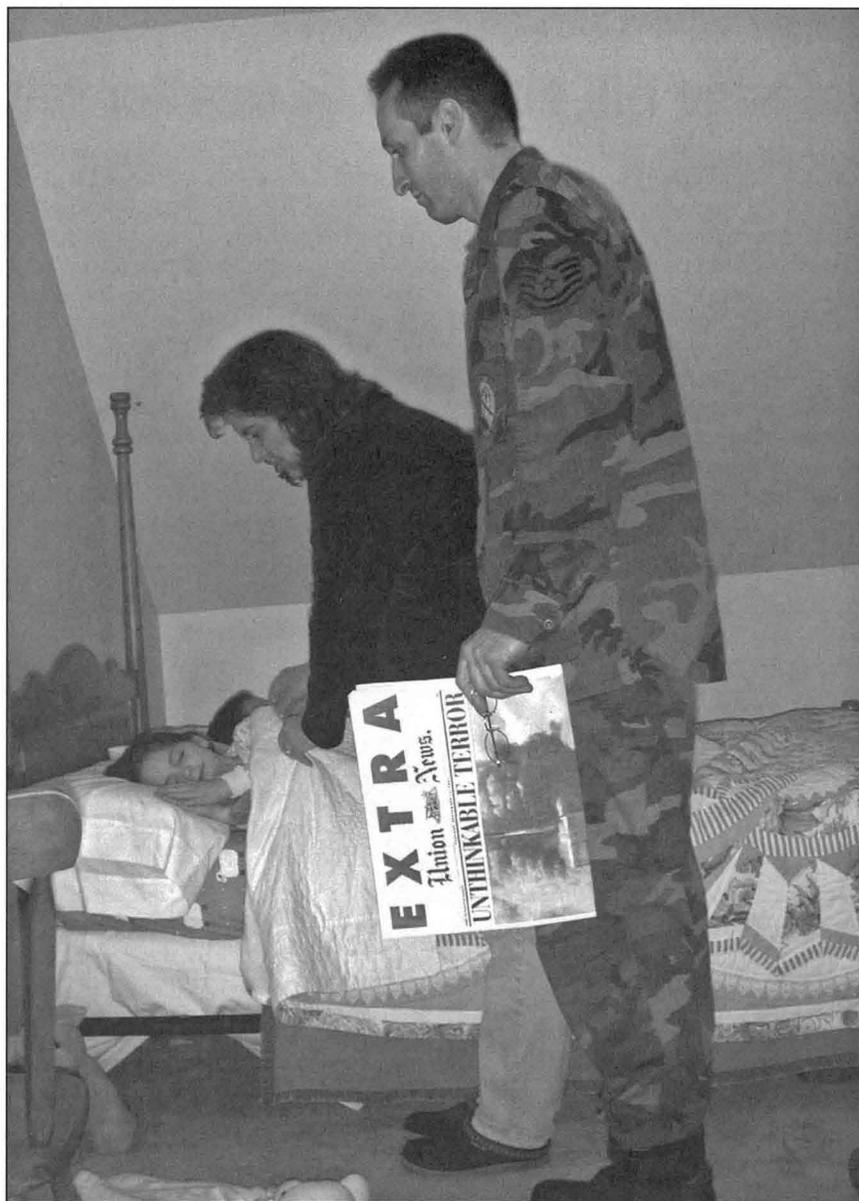
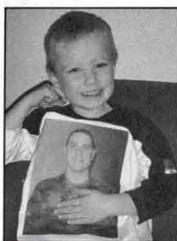
SSgt. James, a maintenance reservist at Westover, left for a deployment in early January and doesn't expect to be back until at least mid-March. When Kaity received her pillowcase, she said she felt happy. But, she also said, "I miss my daddy."

As her kids admired the pillowcases, their mom Stacy contemplated the coming months of James' deployment. "I hope I can balance all the demands without his direct support," she said. As a prior lab technician with the Air Force, Stacy understands military requirements. "My main concern is helping our kids through the separation and supporting my husband," she said.

While James wasn't away for the holidays like the previously deployed maintenance team, each deployment requires sacrifices. As Stacy looked ahead, she noted that her husband would be away for their anniversary and for their shared birthday in March, but she hoped he would be back in time for Kaity's birthday.

Stacy's closest family is two hours away, but she said Westover is very supportive. "Family Support helps to bridge the distance by helping us keep in contact while he's deployed," she said, "and the squadron helps us get packages to them on Air Force flights.

"I'll just take it day-by-day," she said, as Greg and Kaity snuggled close to their mom and hugged their "daddy pillows."



'Freedom from Fear'

The above photo is modeled after Norman Rockwell's famed "Freedom from Fear" painting – which takes on renewed significance in light of current events.

The painting is one of the four-part *Freedom's* series that Rockwell painted after hearing President Roosevelt suggest in a 1943 address that freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear, were the things the United States was fighting to preserve.

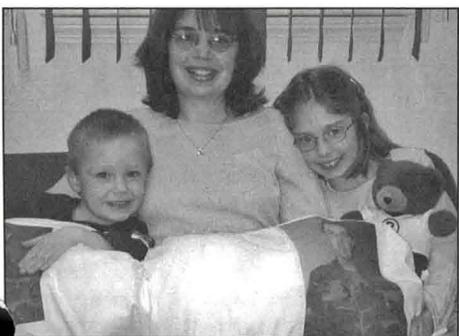
Rockwell painted *Freedom from Fear* as bombs were fall-

ling on London, sending shock waves across the Atlantic.

Ironically, Rockwell felt this last of the four Freedom he painted was presumptuous – particularly because America had not been attacked on her own soil, outside of Pearl Harbor.

In our current war on terrorism, Rockwell's concept pulls at the heartstrings of every American – and is acutely relevant to our nation's military members – as the photo attempts to convey.

Photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon



PAIN CUSHION — Stacy and her children Greg and Kaity, hug their personalized pillows printed with the image of their deployed dad.

Defense bill authorizes beefier pay hike, more benefits

WASHINGTON— The largest military pay raise in 20 years along with new benefits for reservists are among the provisions of the fiscal year 2002 National Defense Authorization Act.

Signed into law Dec. 28 by President George W. Bush, the act authorizes across-the-board and targeted pay raises ranging from 5 to 10 percent with a minimum 6-percent pay hike for enlisted personnel and a minimum 5 percent for officers. Last year military personnel got an across the board raise of 3.7 percent in January with additional

targeted raises in July.

The FY 2002 defense bill also approved personnel increases in three major categories in Air Force Reserve Command. Compared to last year, the authorized end-strength climbed from 74,300 to 74,700, the number of full-time reservists went from 1,336 to 1,437, and air reserve technicians jumped from 9,785 to 9,818.

Last year the Department of Defense and Office of Personnel Management agreed that the government should help federal employees pay for health care if they are called to active

duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation. As a result, this year's bill permits federal agencies to pay the employee and government portions of Federal Employee Health Benefit Program premiums, so families of called-up reservists continue to receive affordable medical care.

Congress wanted to stimulate participation in funeral honors duty, so it extended to reservists the same rights, benefits and protections received for performing inactive-duty for training. Federal employees gained the

Continued on next page

Active Duty Monthly Basic Pay Table

Effective January 1, 2002

YEARS OF SERVICE

PAY GRADE	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS															
O-10	8944.8	9259.5	9259.5	9259.5	9259.5	9614.7	9614.7	10147.5	10147.5	10873.8	10873.8	11601.9	11659.2	11901.3	12324
O-9	7927.5	8135.1	8308.5	8308.5	8308.5	8519.7	8519.7	8874.3	8874.3	9614.7	9614.7	10147.5	10293.6	10504.8	10873.8
O-8	7180.2	7415.4	7571.1	7614.9	7809.3	8135.1	8210.7	8519.7	8608.5	8874.3	9259.5	9614.7	9852	9852	9852
O-7	5966.4	6371.7	6371.7	6418.2	6657.9	6840.3	7051.2	7261.8	7472.7	8135.1	8694.9	8694.9	8694.9	8694.9	8738.7
O-6	4422	4857.9	5176.8	5176.8	5196.6	5418.9	5448.6	5448.6	5628.6	6305.7	6627	6948.3	7131	7316.1	7675.2
O-5	3537	4152.6	4440.3	4494.3	4673.1	4673.1	4813.5	5073.3	5413.5	5755.8	5919	6079.8	6262.8	6262.8	6262.8
O-4	3023.7	3681.9	3927.6	3982.5	4210.5	4395.9	4696.2	4930.2	5092.5	5255.7	5310.6	5310.6	5310.6	5310.6	5310.6
O-3	2796.6	3170.4	3421.8	3698.7	3875.7	4070.1	4232.4	4441.2	4549.5	4549.5	4549.5	4549.5	4549.5	4549.5	4549.5
O-2	2416.2	2751.9	3169.5	3276.3	3344.1	3344.1	3344.1	3344.1	3344.1	3344.1	3344.1	3344.1	3344.1	3344.1	3344.1
O-1	2097.6	2183.1	2638.5	2638.5	2638.5	2638.5	2638.5	2638.5	2638.5	2638.5	2638.5	2638.5	2638.5	2638.5	2638.5
PAY GRADE	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER 4 YEARS ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE AS AN ENLISTED MEMBER OR WARRANT OFFICER															
O-3E	0	0	0	3698.7	3875.7	4070.1	4232.4	4441.2	4617	4717.5	4855.2	4855.2	4855.2	4855.2	4855.2
O-2E	0	0	0	3276.3	3344.1	3450.3	3630	3768.9	3872.4	3872.4	3872.4	3872.4	3872.4	3872.4	3872.4
O-1E	0	0	0	2638.5	2818.2	2922.3	3028.5	3133.2	3276.3	3276.3	3276.3	3276.3	3276.3	3276.3	3276.3
PAY GRADE	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
WARRANT OFFICERS															
W-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4965.6	5136	5307	5478.6
W-4	2889.6	3108.6	3198	3285.9	3437.1	3586.5	3737.7	3885.3	4038	4184.4	4334.4	4480.8	4632.6	4782	4935.3
W-3	2638.8	2862	2862	2898.9	3017.4	3152.4	3330.9	3439.5	3558.3	3693.9	3828.6	3963.6	4098.3	4233.3	4368.9
W-2	2321.4	2454	2569.8	2654.1	2726.4	2875.2	2984.4	3093.9	3200.4	3318	3438.9	3559.8	3680.1	3801.3	3801.3
W-1	2049.9	2217.6	2330.1	2402.7	2511.9	2624.7	2737.8	2850	2963.7	3077.1	3189.9	3275.1	3275.1	3275.1	3275.1
PAY GRADE	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
ENLISTED MEMBERS															
E-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	3423.9	3501.3	3599.4	3714.6	3830.4	3944.1	4098.3	4251.3	4467
E-8	0	0	0	0	0	2858.1	2940.6	3017.7	3110.1	3210.3	3314.7	3420.3	3573	3724.8	3937.8
E-7	1986.9	2169	2251.5	2332.5	2417.4	2562.9	2645.1	2726.4	2808	2892.6	2975.1	3057.3	3200.4	3292.8	3526.8
E-6	1701	1870.8	1953.6	2033.7	2117.4	2254.5	2337.3	2417.4	2499.3	2558.1	2602.8	2602.8	2602.8	2602.8	2602.8
E-5	1561.5	1665.3	1745.7	1828.5	1912.8	2030.1	2110.2	2193.3	2193.3	2193.3	2193.3	2193.3	2193.3	2193.3	2193.3
E-4	1443.6	1517.7	1599.6	1680.3	1752.3	1752.3	1752.3	1752.3	1752.3	1752.3	1752.3	1752.3	1752.3	1752.3	1752.3
E-3	1303.5	1385.4	1468.5	1468.5	1468.5	1468.5	1468.5	1468.5	1468.5	1468.5	1468.5	1468.5	1468.5	1468.5	1468.5
E-2	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3	1239.3
E-1 >4	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5	1105.5
E-1 <4	1022.7														
C/S		13598.1	M/S	5382.9											
NOTE—BASIC PAY FOR O7-O10 IS LIMITED TO\$11,141.70															
LEVEL III OF THE EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE															
FY2002, Graduated Pay Raise Increase.								NOTE—BASIC PAY FOR O6 AND BELOW IS LIMITED TO \$9,800.10							
LEVEL V OF THE EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE															

Defense bill... continued

option of using military leave to perform funeral duty as reservists, and retirees may serve as members of funeral honors details and receive payment.

Some benefits offered by defense bills are not immediate because DOD and Air Force must implement policies and programs before these benefits are delivered to service members. In some cases, Congress issues additional clarification in later defense bills.

Each year Congress renews one-year extensions of bonuses and special pay. This year's extensions through Dec. 31, 2002, include:

- Special pay for health care professionals who serve in the Selected Reserve in critically short wartime specialties;
- Selected Reserve affiliation, enlistment and reenlistment bonuses;
- Special pay for enlisted members of the Selected Reserve assigned to certain high-priority units;
- Ready Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonuses; and
- Prior-service enlistment bonus until Dec. 31, 2002.

New members of the Participating Individual Ready Reserve, which includes Air Force Academy liaison officers, will accrue two days' access to commissaries for each month's satisfactory participation in required training. Previously, these reservists had to complete a good year (a minimum of 50 points) toward retirement to qualify for commissary access.

Another perk allows federal employees of the executive branch, military members and their family members to retain for personal use promotional items received as a

result of using travel or transportation services paid for by the executive branch.

Some proposed legislation benefiting reservists did not make it into this year's authorization act. For example, one provision included in the House of Representative bill but not adopted in conference by the House and

Senate would have entitled qualified reserve aviators to be paid the same amount of Aviation Career Incentive Pay as active-duty aviators with the same number of years of aviation service.

(AFRC News Service)

2002 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

Pay Grade	Years of Service														
	Under 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over 26
O-7 ₂	795.52	849.56	849.56	855.76	887.72	912.04	940.16	968.24	996.36	1084.68	1159.32	1159.32	1159.32	1159.32	1165.16
O-6 ₂	589.60	647.72	690.24	690.24	692.88	722.52	726.48	726.48	750.48	840.76	883.60	926.44	950.80	975.48	1023.36
O-5 ₂	471.60	553.68	592.04	599.24	623.08	623.08	641.80	676.44	721.80	767.44	789.20	810.64	835.04	835.04	835.04
O-4 ₂	403.16	490.92	523.68	531.00	561.40	586.12	626.16	657.36	679.00	700.76	708.08	708.08	708.08	708.08	708.08
O-3 ₂	372.88	422.72	456.24	493.16	516.76	542.68	564.32	592.16	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60
O-2 ₂	322.16	366.92	422.60	436.84	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88
O-1 ₂	279.68	291.08	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80
O-3E _{2,3}				493.16	516.76	542.68	564.32	592.16	615.60	629.00	647.36	647.36	647.36	647.36	647.36
O-2E _{2,3}				436.84	445.88	460.04	484.00	502.52	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32
O-1E _{2,3}				351.80	375.76	389.64	403.80	417.76	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84
E-9 ₁							456.52	466.84	479.92	495.28	510.72	525.88	546.44	566.84	595.60
E-8 ₁							381.08	392.08	402.36	414.68	428.04	441.96	456.04	476.40	525.04
E-7 ₁	264.92	289.20	300.20	311.00	322.32	341.72	352.68	363.52	374.40	385.68	396.68	407.64	426.72	439.04	470.24
E-6 ₁	226.80	249.44	260.48	271.16	282.32	300.60	311.64	322.32	333.24	341.08	347.04	347.04	347.04	347.04	347.04
E-5 ₁	208.20	222.04	232.76	243.80	255.04	270.68	281.36	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44
E-4 ₁	192.48	202.36	213.28	224.04	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64
E-3 ₁	173.80	184.72	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80
E-2 ₁	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24
E-1>4 ₁	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40
E-1<4 ₁	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36

New pay chart effective Jan. 1. Normally, reservists receive credit for four drill pay periods during one weekend unit training assembly.

Notes: See following explanations for the underlined numbers located to the right of the various pay grade designations in column one.

1. While serving as JCS/Vice JCS, CNO, CMC, Army/Air Force CS, basic pay is \$13,598.10 (see note 2).

2. Basic pay for an O-7 to O-10 is limited by Level III of the Executive Schedule, which is \$11,516.70. Basic pay for O-6 and below is limited by Level V of the Executive Schedule, which is \$10,133.40.

3. Applicable to O-1 to O-3 with at least 4 years and 1 day of active duty as a warrant officer and/or enlisted member.

Civilian Salary Table 2002

Incorporating the 3.60% general schedule increase and a locality payment of 8.64% for the locality pay area of rest of U.S.

(Net Increase: 4.52%) — Annual Rates by Grade and Step

GS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	16032	16567	17100	17630	18165	18479	19003	19535	19556	20051
2	18026	18453	19050	19556	19774	20355	20936	21517	22098	22680
3	19667	20322	20977	21632	22287	22943	23598	24253	24908	25563
4	22078	22813	23549	24284	25020	25755	26491	27226	27962	28697
5	24701	25525	26348	27172	27995	28819	29642	30466	31289	32113
6	27534	28452	29370	30288	31206	32124	33042	33960	34878	35796
7	30597	31617	32638	33658	34678	35698	36718	37738	38758	39779
8	33886	35016	36146	37275	38405	39535	40665	41795	42925	44055
9	37428	38675	39922	41169	42416	43664	44911	46158	47405	48652
10	41217	42591	43966	45340	46714	48088	49463	50837	52211	53586
11	45285	46795	48304	49813	51322	52831	54340	55849	57358	58867
12	54275	56084	57893	59702	61511	63320	65129	66937	68746	70555
13	64542	66693	68844	70995	73146	75297	77448	79599	81751	83902
14	76271	78813	81355	83897	86439	88982	91524	94066	96608	99150
15	89715	92706	95697	98687	101678	104669	107660	110651	113642	116633

Veteran firefighter retires; reflects on four decades at Westover

Article and photo
by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

When Bill Morrissey left his firefighter post on Feb. 1, he wrapped up a career spanning four decades at Westover.

Morrissey, 52, worked for more than half his lifetime at the base — from his arrival in December 1971, as an Air Force firefighter to his final days as assistant fire chief. The fire department held his retirement party on Feb. 1 at the Knights of Columbus in Chicopee.

The Westfield native recalled Westover's Cold War heyday with its constant thunder of Strategic Air Command B-52s and KC-135s that belonged to the 99th Bombardment Wing. Besides the armada of Air Force aircraft, more than 10,000 military and civilian people were assigned to Westover, and the base had four separate fire stations. Morrissey worked in a station at the nosedocks on the southern side of the base. He was among more than 100 firefighters tasked to protect the resources at Westover.

"This base was huge," Morrissey said. "The fire station was where the police department is now. We also had one at Stony Brook (Air Force Station) and on Johnson Drive, where the Marine and Navy center is now."

Morrissey got out of the Air Force in September 1972, but stayed on part-time with the military as a firefighter assigned to the 104th Tactical Fighter Group at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield. He got out of the Guard in 1974, and returned to a much smaller and quieter Westover.

"It was eye-opening," Morrissey said. "It was real different ... it really slowed down."

As Westover evolved into a major Air Force Reserve base, Morrissey rose through the ranks from firefighter to lieutenant to assistant fire chief. When the C-5s arrived in 1987, he was already familiar with the big transports. He had worked on a pair of Galaxies assigned to Pope AFB, N. C., during his active duty days in the Air Force.

While Westover's maintenance and logistics areas had to adapt to the transition

from the C-130s to the much larger C-5s, the fire department faced their own adjustments.

"It really changed our policy," Morrissey said. "We went from a small-frame to a large-frame aircraft. Our equipment status didn't change; our technique changed."

Fire Chief Philip Boyer said Morrissey's prior knowledge of the C-5 helped

Springfield and a large warehouse blaze on what was once part of Westover.

He remembered the most serious aircraft fire at Westover that occurred in the mid-1970s. Morrissey recalled the skilled airmanship of C-123 pilot Lt. Col. Gale French, who prevented the transport from being completely engulfed in flames.

"The engine was on fire. He landed it himself," Morrissey said. "It was just like war-time — you could see it smoking and all the flames when it was coming in."

Although fire had damaged the tail and wing sections of the C-123, French was able to land the aircraft. Morrissey and his fellow firefighters and French's airmanship had prevented a major tragedy.

Thirty-six firefighters were on staff in 1974, when Westover started out as an Air Force Reserve base. With the C-5 mission and other changes at the base, that number rose through the years to 61 by 2000. Twenty-six of those firefighters worked for Morrissey.

"He was a great boss to work for," said firefighter Luis Carvalho, who has been at Westover for 16 years. "He's the kind of boss that will stick up for his own people." The firefighters also credited Morrissey for his diligent self-help efforts at the fire station that was built in 1990. Morrissey spearheaded projects over the years that included renovations of the kitchen and the building's heating system, and a patio.

Morrissey said he would have "mixed feelings" about his last day at Westover.

"I'll miss the people, I'll miss the job," he said. "I loved it. I'll probably miss the camaraderie more than anything."

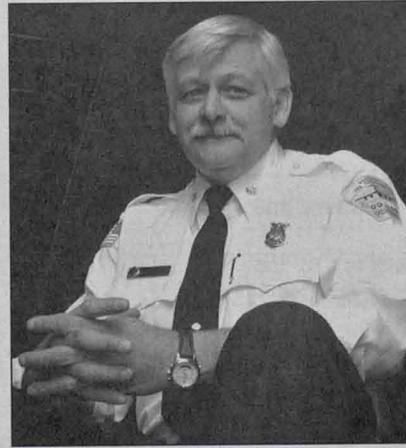
An experienced woodworker, Morrissey will devote more of his time to cabinet making and home remodeling. He and his wife, Deborah, have two children, Jennifer, 30, and Billy, 26; and two grandchildren.

He took another look out his window toward the flight line full of C-5s.

"It is home. It always has been," Morrissey, as he leaned back in his chair with a smile. "But I'm ready to do something else."

**"I'll miss the people,
I'll miss the job. I
loved it. I'll probably
miss the camaraderie
more than anything."**

**— Assistant Fire Chief
Bill Morrissey**



form that new technique. Unlike the C-130, firefighters could find themselves spread out all over the giant fuselage of a C-5 fire.

Boyer landed his job at about the same time that Morrissey did in June 1974. "He was invaluable not only to me as part of my staff, but to the firefighters as well," Boyer said. "He could get his people to adapt to change. He had an in-depth and corporate knowledge. He was a team player. He cares about firefighting. He wouldn't have been in it for 30 years if he didn't care about it."

Morrissey downplayed his compassion for his people and his job and deflected the credit to other people at the base who are proud of their contributions to the mission of the base. He said the strength of Westover's people rests in their pride of the base being the local military installation people think of as part of home. Others who didn't have that mindset and who weren't satisfied with the assignment used it for other means, he said.

"I knew a (fire) chief who used this place as a stepping stone," Morrissey said. "He didn't understand why people were satisfied to be here."

But the majority of people assigned to Westover live nearby, and that results in a highly-experienced staff. Neighboring towns around Westover are well aware of the firefighting expertise at the base. Morrissey remembered when he and other base firefighters responded to the Gasoline Alley Fire in

Patriot People

Name: Gregory A. Williams
Rank: TSgt.
Age: 46 years
Address: Burlington, Mass.
Unit: 439th Communications Squadron
Position: Computer Network Security
Civilian position: Software Engineer
Favorite food: Macaroni and Cheese
Years of service: 18.5 years
Favorite sport: Baseball
Favorite hobby: Automobile restoration
Ideal vacation: Bahamas
Best way to relax: Soft music
Preferred entertainment: Movies
Favorite hero: Mohammad Ali
Favorite music: Blues
Favorite movie: "Miller's Crossing"
Favorite aircraft: E-3
Pet peeve: People who start talking and don't shut up
What I would do if I won \$1 million:
 Buy a home in Florida

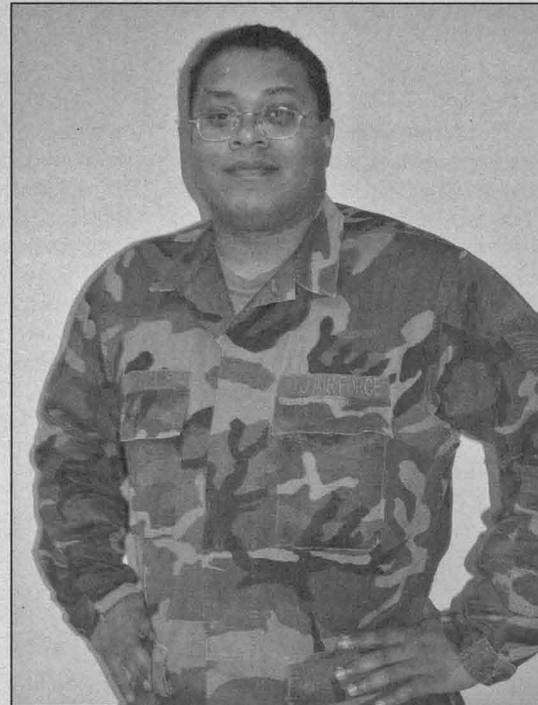


Photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

TSgt. Gregory A. Williams

Patriot Praises

Promotions:

SMSgt Shaughnessy, Thomas J.
 SMSgt Thorpe, Michael F.
 SMSgt Whittington, Charles
 MSgt Allison, Jean M.
 MSgt Becker, Gregory G.
 MSgt Buechele, Bruce B.
 MSgt Carlson, Laurie A.
 MSgt Creager, Janet M.
 MSgt Guertin, David J.
 MSgt Olbrys, Peter J.
 MSgt Richardson, William R.
 MSgt Smith, Jason E.
 MSgt Trombley, Anthony J.
 MSgt Whalen, Joseph M.
 MSgt Yeh, Maida
 TSgt Allen, Charles D.
 TSgt Belisle, Gary R.
 TSgt Boydurrill, Kristina L.
 TSgt Denekamp, Michael J.
 TSgt Erpenbeck, Regina
 TSgt Howell, Clayton A.
 TSgt Kociuba, Kevin M.
 TSgt Martine, Renatta K.
 TSgt Oliver, Laurence B.
 TSgt Sodergren, Paul R.
 TSgt Tavilla, Melissa
 TSgt Trudeau, John D.
 TSgt Valladares, Neil B.
 TSgt Wegiel, Edward G.
 SSgt Barnes, Grace G.
 SSgt Brady, Richard K.
 SSgt Calkins, Jeffrey R.
 SSgt Castillo, Scott F.
 SSgt Labelle, Daniel A.
 SSgt Lanzo, David R.
 SSgt Riley, Mark R.
 SSgt Singh, Rowtas K.
 SSgt Wenzell, Christopher
 SSgt Wilkinson, Joseph C.
 SrA Bolduc, Susan M.

SrA Campbell, Tespha M.
 SrA Chan, Trevor K.
 SrA Eaves, Talia A.
 SrA Fries, Patricia A.
 SrA Gathers, Kevin L.
 SrA Kanarek, Richard L.
 SrA Lane, Kimberly L.
 SrA Menard, Jonathan T.
 SrA Szafranowicz, Daniel E.
 A1C Castro, Dairen M.
 Amn Cabral, Erin M.
 Amn McGrath, John J.
 Amn Smith, Christine A.

Reenlistments:

CMSgt. Lewandowski, John H.
 CMSgt. Milliken, Lawrence N.
 SMSgt. Pirog, Mark J.
 MSgt. Fallon, David R.
 MSgt. Healey, Marianne S.
 MSgt. Kibe, Daniel E.
 MSgt. McCarthy, Jeffrey E.
 TSgt. Connon, Glenn G.
 TSgt. Jalbert, Daniel R.
 TSgt. Kovacs, Thomas A.
 TSgt. Kratochvil, Kathleen A.
 TSgt. Lanzi, Matthew J.
 TSgt. Metcalf, Robert F.
 TSgt. Niquette, Robert R.
 TSgt. Richardson, William R.
 TSgt. Salomaa, Robert H.
 TSgt. Serricchio, Michael C.
 TSgt. Simmons, Vanessa U.
 TSgt. Smallidge, Andrew J.
 TSgt. Vankruiningen, Daniel J.
 TSgt. Wood, William P.
 SSgt. Ayuyu, Kimberlee A.
 SSgt. Prindle, William A., Jr.
 SSgt. Stevens, Alan D.
 SrA. Gonzalez, Arthur

Enlistments:

TSgt. Harris, Robert A.
 TSgt. Latarski, Keith A.
 SSgt. Dietzler, George L.
 SSgt. Dunphy, Matthew C.
 SSgt. Fletcher, Jessie L.
 SSgt. Lehouillier, John H.
 SSgt. O'Brey, Chad E.
 SrA. Doughty, Charles F., Jr.
 SrA. Livadas, Michael G.
 SrA. Moro, James J.
 SrA. Reinhold, Robin L.
 SrA. Sanchez, Eluid
 SrA. Shameklis, Brian J.
 SrA. Vitullo, John F.
 A1C Buonanducci, Paul R.
 A1C Chagnon, Alfred A. II
 A1C Diaz, Lidiann
 A1C LaPointe, Nissa R.
 A1C Lawrence, Gregory A.
 A1C Lowery, Leon F.
 AB Bodden, Francisco A.
 AB Gonzalez, Herijo, J.

Newly Assigned:

Maj. Randall, Patricia A.
 Maj. Robison, Donald C.
 TSgt. Sweet, David R.
 SSgt. Kelly, David A.
 SrA. Brasil, Mark V.
 SrA. Brousseau, Jeffrey L.
 SrA. Bunk, John-Michael L.
 SrA. Delacruz, Angela C.
 SrA. Mageau, Keith M.
 SrA. Vachon, Matthew V.
 SrA. Windom, Lakeia

Retirements:

Lt. Col. Gray, Peter E.
 Lt. Col. Ryan, Christine M.
 CMSgt. Lose, Lawrence B.
 TSgt. Bonanno, Anthony P.
 TSgt. Bracey, George P.
 MSgt. Gray, John F., Jr.

Civilian orientation flight

Civilian employees of Westover (excluding contractors) will have the opportunity of fly aboard a Westover C-5A on May 16.

The base public affairs office will compile a first-come, first-served list of those wishing to fly. Please call either 557-3500 or 557-2020 to reserve a seat.



Bosses Day for activated reservists scheduled

by Gordon A. Newell

The 439th Airlift Wing will conduct a special Employer Appreciation Day on July 18, for reservists who have been activated.

The March, April, May and June issues of the *Patriot* will publish an application form, which may be filled out and returned to the Public Affairs office. The office will also accept telephone applications.

Col. Martin M. Mazick, commander of the 439th AW feels it is an especially meaningful time for employers to learn what their

workers are doing under activation.

"In the climate in which we are now operating, it is tremendously important that we receive the support and understanding of the people who employ our reservists during normal times," he said. "We need to get them on the base and in one of our C-5s to show them just how vital our role is in the war on terrorism."

Employers will be asked to join the wing commander for breakfast at the Westover Club. They should be at the Club no later than 8 a.m. Breakfast will be served at

8:30 a.m. Reservists may attend the breakfast but must pay for their own meal. Bosses are guests of the Wing Commander.

Reservists are allowed to invite one supervisor. Only reservists assigned to the air crew will be allowed to fly.

Further information is available at the Public Affairs office at (413) 557-3500 or 2020.

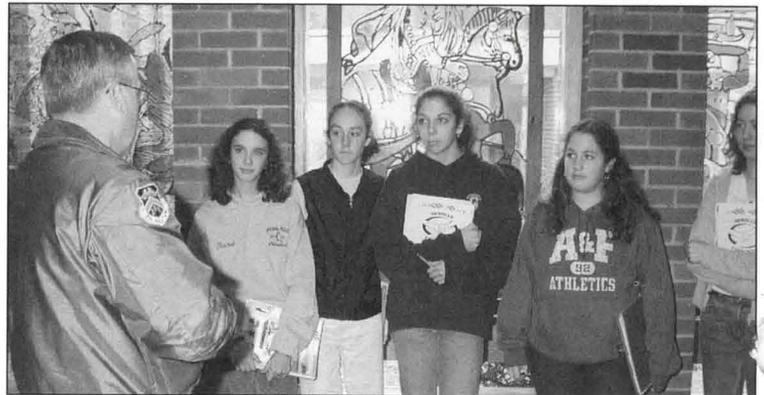
Employer Appreciation Days for non-activated reservists will be held in October as usual.



STAMP OF THANKS - Chicopee Postmaster Stan Hale meets with Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander, on Dec. 12 to show appreciation from the postal service to the people at Westover ARB. Hale presented a United We Stand stamp and a poster signed by postal workers to Mazick at wing headquarters.

— photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Thanks, Westover!



THANKS - Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander, stands with five Wilbraham Middle School students who baked hundreds of cookies in December for Westover people on base and those assigned to Operation Enduring Freedom missions overseas. The students are, from left to right, Rachel Smith, Christina Figueredo, Danielle Fortier, Samantha Kaufman, and Sarah Germani. Mazick traveled to the school on Dec. 20 to thank the students for their support and handed each a 439th AW coin.

— photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

PATRIOT

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



Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Jennifer Serrucchio, and the 2,437 members of the 439th 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