

# PATRIOT

439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing | Westover ARB | May 2008 | Volume 34 No. 5  
Actively Supporting National Objectives With Ready Mobility Forces



## Good to go

Staff Sgts. Glenn W. McAvoy and Anthony D. Marlak, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, practice loading cargo aboard a C-5 during the April A UTA at Westover. (photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope)



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**ENGINEITY** >> Westover reservists gather around a C-123 Provider engine in this 1975 photo from the Patriot archive. These reservists were members of the 901st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, which maintained both the C-123s and C-130 Hercules transports assigned to the base. Westover was home to the Providers from 1973 to 1982, and hosted the Hercules from 1972 to 1987.

## EDITORIAL | Professionalism, follow-through mark Patriot Wing's style



General Farris

I have yet another reason to be proud as the commander of the 439th Airlift Wing! During one of the shortest outbriefs I have attended in my career; I heard nothing but the highest accolades about the men and women of Westover. The people

telling me were members of the 22nd Air Force Staff Assistance Visit (SAV) team, who made more than 150-observations of our reservists. Only three write-ups came out of the SAV inspection.

While the SAV was going on, another group of inspectors went through our maintenance people in the shops and out on the flight line with a fine-toothed comb. I'm pleased to report the maintenance standardization evaluation performance (MSEP) team came away with many words of praise for our maintainers, who continue to amaze me with their dedication to keeping the C-5s flying, all while handling a constantly busy operations tempo and an avion-

ics modernization program (AMP).

How do we sustain excellence? We press ahead and look to another set of challenges for the Patriot Wing this year. As of this writing, an Air Mobility Command Aircrew Standardization Evaluation (ASEV) team is here looking over our operations folks. This is another chance for our reservists to show our professionalism.

Preparation for our next inspection needs to have already started. Our unit compliance inspection (UCI) is scheduled for the spring of 2009. Work on those self-inspection tracking items, so that when the UCI team arrives, we can take what the SAV folks helped us with, and show that we are supporting a war. If we follow through, I expect to see a repeat of what I saw in 2005 -- we'll do really, really well on the UCI. The more we prepare now, the better off we are when it comes time for the Operational Readiness Inspection in 2010.

This year also brings another enormous amount of coordination and teamwork as we prepare for the first air show at Westover in four years. The Great New England Air Show, with the Thunderbirds headlining, is Sept. 6-7.

In the meantime, I know that we're all working very hard amid a relentless operations tempo. If

there is anything I can do to help you accomplish the mission better, let me know by calling Ext. 3774, my Action Line. You call, I listen. Your message is important to me. You don't have to leave your name. I know many of you are dealing with our intense operations tempo, or you're deployed again somewhere. Let me know what's on your mind.

I'll close with a comment from the 22nd SAV team chief, Col. Carol Mellom. As she praised the morale and professionalism of the 439th she shook her head in amazement. It was at that moment that I heard one of the best compliments a wing commander could get.

"I'd go to war with you guys any day," Colonel Mellom said.

I couldn't agree more. I thank each of you for your commitment and hard work and for everything you do.

Brig. Gen. Wade Farris  
439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander

## BRIEFS |

### CC call

A Commander's Call is scheduled for June 7 at 3:30 p.m. in the Base Hangar. This is a mandatory formation for all Patriot Wing reservists.

### Memorial Day parade

The City of Chicopee invites Westover reservists to participate in the annual Memorial Day parade taking place May 25. Form up time is 11 a.m. on West Street in Chicopee Center.

The parade steps off at 12:30 p.m. Uniform is ABUs/BDUs. A head count for participation will take place at the end of the May A UTA. Squadron should report numbers of marchers by e-mailing public affairs at 439aw.pa@westover.af.mil.

### Bosslift trip heads to Maine on C-5

The Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) committees of Massachusetts and Maine are coordinating a Bosslift May 9 to inform employers about the mission of Westover and Bangor Air National Guard Base, Maine.

The Bosslift schedule begins in the morning at Westover with a tour of the base and flight aboard a C-5 and a scheduled air refueling with an Air National Guard KC-135 on the way to Maine. Employers need to contact ESGR representative Joseph Ryan, to sign up for the Bosslift. Mr. Ryan may be reached at (508) 233-7249 or e-mail, joseph.c.ryan@us.army.mil

### Enlisted Workshop planned for June

The second-annual enlisted workshop is scheduled for June 8-10 at the Westover Conference Center. It will begin at 1 p.m. on the Sunday of the June A UTA and wraps up at the end of the duty day June 10.

"As with last year, our theme is 'I am an Airman,'" said Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood. "Our goal is to help you make the most out of your career as an enlisted Airman." Topics covered in the workshop will include writing, understanding their training records, their financial credit, and much more."

Airmen need to sign up through their first sergeants no later than May 10. For more information, call Chief Wood at Ext. 2876.

### Operation Kids

The Westover Airman and Family Readiness Center will host a mock deployment for children June 8 (the A UTA).

Children from ages 5 to 14 are invited to go through simulated activities to include a mission briefing, mobility bags, a simulated deployment site, and presentations from Westover units. Also planned are gas mask fittings, an M-16 assembly demonstration, a security forces K-9 unit, meals ready-to-eat, tours of a C-5 and Humvees, a pizza lunch, and many other activities.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Base Hangar.

Adults must be with children attending the event. Deadline for application is May 16.

For more information call the readiness center at Ext. 3025.



**ANSWERING THE CALL** >> Westover firefighters respond to the March 28 tanker explosion near Interstate 91. Westover crews directed a special foam from a one of the trucks that put out the flames in a matter of minutes. The tanker truck had been hauling over 10,000 gallons of jet and diesel fuel. (Photo by 2008 The Republican Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission )

## Westover firefighters foam down tanker flames

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Westover firefighters directed their exclusive foam to quell a towering fireball from a tanker truck fire on Interstate 91 in Chicopee March 28.

On its way to Charlemont, Mass., the tanker truck, which carried more than 10,000 gallons of jet and diesel fuel, swerved to avoid a car as it entered the freeway. The truck jackknifed in the highway, according to a State Police report. The tanker's fuel container and cab separated and the fuel ignited, which set off a roadside inferno.

Fire departments from West Springfield and Chicopee first responded to the scene by the highway. But officials quickly realized the fire from the tanker threatened the steel of an I-91 bridge and could spread into brush near

the highway. They called on Westover's firefighters and foam truck to assist in putting out the billowing flames. In all, six firefighters, an assistant fire chief, a 1000-gallon foam trailer and two trucks arrived at the scene at about 10 a.m., said Westover Fire Chief Charles Van Gorden.

"Our trucks carry aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) that is designed to put out jet fuel," said Charles Van Gorden, Westover Fire Chief.

Assistant Fire Chief Michael Morrissey was in charge at the scene. "Gasoline on fire was flowing down an embankment (from the highway)," he said. "We connected to Chicopee fire's platform and supplied them with the foam to extinguish the fire. Once the connections were made, the entire fire was out in two or three minutes."

Teamwork between the base fire department and neighboring departments is an example of the mutual aid agreements between the departments, Chief Van Gorden said.

The spectacle of the crash drew national and local media to the scene, and its wreckage closed the highway for more than two hours in both directions. Chief Van Gorden explained this agreement to the national media during a live interview with CNN the morning of March 28.

Despite the success of the firefighting efforts -- which prevented the flames from spreading into the nearby brush, the accident claimed the life of the tanker truck driver. He died the day following the accident in a Boston hospital after having sustained burn injuries over most of his body.



## SAV, MSEP performers

Higher headquarters Airmen visited Westover from April 3-7 to evaluate the wing's maintenance operations and overall readiness of the Patriot Wing.

The staff assistance visit (SAV) team and inspectors, both from from 22nd Air Force, cited the efforts of the following wing members:

### Outstanding performers

Lieutenant colonel  
Adele Hill  
Michael Szostak  
Richard Tilburg

Major  
Thomas Chafe  
Jennifer Christovich

Chief Master Sgt. Kathleen Wood

Senior master sergeant  
Michael DiRienzo  
Jennifer Hearn  
Sandi Michon  
Blain Thomas

Master sergeant  
Paul Beaugard  
Wayne Georgiana  
Kathleen Kratochvil  
W. C. Pope  
Kim Schulz  
Corinne Squier

Technical sergeant  
Erin Cabral  
David Jeleniewski  
Joshua Hebert  
Jeffrey Sickler

Staff Sgt. Christina Rundstrom

Senior Airman Julie Novak

William Archambeau  
Kim Grybko  
Ruth Parker

### MSEP superior performers

Master Sgt. Stephen Kida  
Tech. Sgt. Paul Barboza  
Staff Sgt. Jesse Forbes  
Senior Airman Alicia Leydic

# Coordinator marks first anniversary of program's introduction to base

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

In a span of just one year, Capt. Carrie Baker has brought more exposure to an important program at Westover, the lives of family members, and even new recruits entering the military.

Captain Baker is the full-time sexual assault response coordinator (SARC) at Westover. She handles the demands of this job along with serving as the behavioral health support coordinator for the base.

As the SARC, she ensures prevention and response services are provided to all unit personnel on Westover to include the tenant units. Captain Baker works closely with five victim advocates who also share a critical role in the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program, as they are able to provide briefings to units, make referrals and provide support to victims during the reporting process.

Just like other awareness programs such as suicide prevention and sexual harassment, sexual assault prevention awareness plays a very crucial role to ensuring mission readiness because if an Airman is assaulted, it can affect unit morale and work performance.

"Westover is not immune (from sexual assault)" Captain Baker said. "We've had cases reported since I've been in the position. We're no different than any other setting."

Nationwide, according to the recently released FY 2007 Pentagon report on the SARC program, there were 2,688 reports of sexual assaults involving military service members. Of that number, 2,085 were unrestricted reports and the latter were restricted in nature.

The sexual assault prevention and response program is a victim-driven program which allows the person (not the command) to decide

**"If a person decides to change the report to an unrestricted report, he or she has 12 months from the time of the report to do so."**

**-- Captain Baker**

how they wish to report the incident. If a person wishes to make a restricted report, it is kept confidential with the SARC who in turn ensures medical and counseling services are provided.

"If a person decides to change the report to an unrestricted report, he or she has 12 months from the time of the report to do so," Captain Baker said. An unrestricted report involves meeting with the SARC still however, it also includes triggering an investigation via the service member's commander and the law enforcement on base.

Captain Baker localizes the Department of Defense's commitment to eliminating sexual assault from military service. She regularly speaks to various units, and even meets with recruits from the military entrance processing station (MEPS) on base to educate them early about sexual assault and the SARC program.

The best way to reduce or eliminate all together sexual assault in the military is through policy changes and most of all, education, the captain said. While DoD continued to recognize April as the Sexual Assault Awareness month, it should never end there. It should continue every day of the year, she said.

For more information on this program, contact Captain Baker at Ext. 2623.



"I go to the gym three times per week."

Senior Airman Joseph Bastozzi, aeromedical evacuation



"I go to Planet Fitness."

Senior Airman Tocarra Wright, services



"Practice, practice, practice."

Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Hearn, wing finance

**TROOP TALK** | What are you doing to prepare for your fitness test?

## WESTOVER PATRIOTS |



**OFF AND RUNNING** >> Ryan Hellyar, far right, from Westover's 337th Airlift Squadron, heads out with hundreds of other runners on the six-mile Holyoke Road Race March 29. More than 15 Patriot Wing members competed in the annual road race. ( photo by 1st Lt. Scott Theriault )

## Recruiters seek more

Westover's Patriot Wing recruiters are seeking candidates who would like the challenge and rewards of one of the military's most visible jobs.

"As a recruiter, you have the opportunity to help shape the Air Force Reserve," said Chief Master Sgt. Erik P. Anderson, the wing's senior recruiter. "You may qualify to be a member of this elite team if you are motivated to excel and perform above the status quo."

Airmen who are interested in this opportunity begin with a face-to-face interview with Chief Anderson. "Selection for recruiting duty follows strict criteria," the chief said. "Not everyone is accepted."

Candidates must be at least a senior airman and must have completed Airman Leadership School. They must also be in the Air Force Reserve and have no more than 16 years of active duty, possess high moral standards, and be physically fit and have passing fitness test scores.

The Patriot Wing recruiters enlisted 35 recruits in March, the most for any Air Force Reserve recruiting office on the East Coast, Chief Anderson said.

A recruiter challenge will be held on the May A UTA during lunch at the Westover Club. Recruiters invite those interested in joining their team to stop by and find out first-hand by asking questions.

For more information, call Chief Anderson at Ext. 2125 or 1-800-367-2125.

Commander's Action Line: Ext. 3774.



## BRIEFS |

### Air Force Assistance Fund gets under way at base

Westover's 2008 Air Force Assistance Fund drive is now under way. The drive began on April 5 and runs through the end of May.

Anyone is eligible to contribute to the AFAF, said Capt. Glenn Baker, AFAF project officer.

Donations can be made through cash or

check, to the Air Force Assistance Fund.

This year's fund raising goal is \$5,500. Last year, Westover raised \$5,464, 163 percent over the goal of \$3,350.

For more information on contributing to the fund designed to help Air Force members in need, call Capt. Baker at Ext. 2378

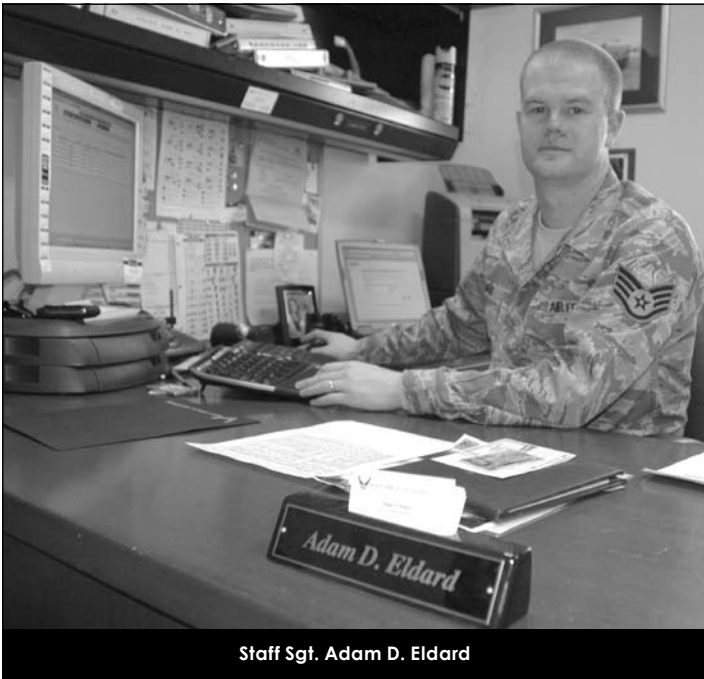
### Civilians in war zones eligible for GWOT medal

Department of Defense civilians serving in war zones are eligible for a new Global War on Terror medal.

Eligible candidates must be engaged in direct support of an operation for 30 con-

secutive days, be engaged in direct support for 30 consecutive days in an area of eligibility in a military operation, and meet other requirements DoD requirements. For more information, call Ext. 3193.

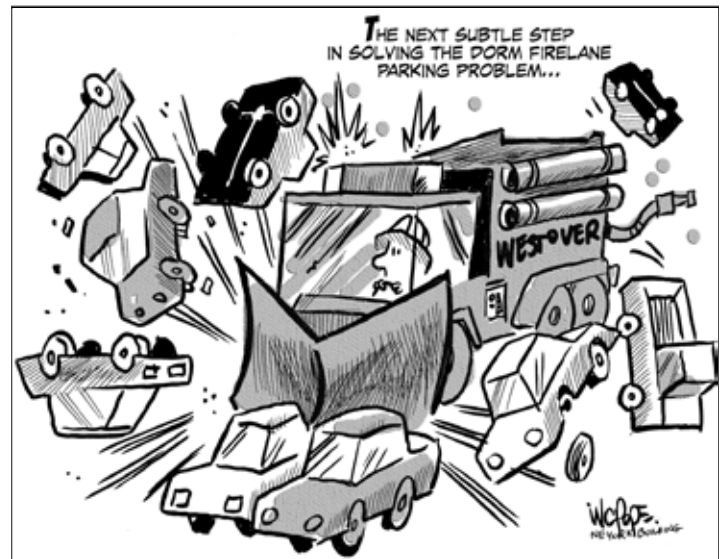
## PATRIOT PEOPLE |



Staff Sgt. Adam D. Eldard

NAME : Adam D. Eldard  
 RANK : Staff sergeant  
 HOMETOWN : Colorado Springs, Colo.  
 UNIT : 439th Airlift Wing  
 POSITION : Recruiter  
 FAVORITE FOOD : Barbecued chicken  
 YEARS OF SERVICE : Six  
 FAVORITE SPORT : Nascar  
 FAVORITE HOBBY : Golf  
 IDEAL VACATION : A cruise to the Bahamas  
 BEST WAY TO RELAX : Fishing  
 PREFERRED ENTERTAINMENT : Popcorn and a good movie  
 FAVORITE HERO : My father (he served 40 years in the AF Reserve)  
 FAVORITE MUSIC STYLE : Country  
 FAVORITE MOVIE : Top Gun  
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT : C-130  
 PET PEEVE : Talking with your mouth full  
 WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WON \$1 MILLION : Take a long vacation  
 WHY I ENJOY BEING A RECRUITER : So I can share my experiences I have had with the satisfaction I gain every day from serving in the Air Force Reserve.

## PATRIOT PUNS |



**AT THE CLUB** >> Wireless internet is now available for customers. Necessary codes will be provided by the staff. Ciderhouse, an electric blues band, will perform May 3 at 8 p.m. Other upcoming performances include King Bee's, a "hip-shakin" blues band, June 7 at 8 p.m.; Ciderhouse, July 12 at 8 p.m.; and JOVI, The Ultimate Bon Jovi Tribute band, Aug. 9 at 8 p.m.

**AT THE FITNESS CENTER** >> Expanded hours at the center are in effect from Monday-Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. A and B UTA hours are: 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

**AT THE BOWLING CENTER** >> The Rising 6 is hosting an Airman's Social May 3 from 8-12 p.m. In other center activities, in honor of mothers, all moms bowl free May 9-10. Call Ext. 3990 for more information.

**AT LODGING** >> Premium blend coffee is available in the lobby of lodging. Guests may choose from a variety of flavors including French vanilla, hazelnut, coffee latte, coffee mocha and more. Each 12-ounce cup is 50 cents. Information: Ext. 2700

**AT THE RENTAL CENTER** >> Spring cleaning equipment is available at the center. For more information, call Ext. 2039.

MAY SERVICES CALENDER | [www.westoverservices.com](http://www.westoverservices.com)

## PATRIOT PRAISES |

Chief Master Sgt.  
James T. Mitchell

Senior Master Sgt.  
Blain D. Thomas

**Master sergeant**

Matthew D. Baker  
John J. Bastone  
Lawrence Batherwich  
Paul R. Brandt  
Paul Czupkiewicz  
Ryan M. Hellyar

**Technical sergeant**

Brian P. Boynton  
Anthony Branco  
Kenneth L. Collins  
James E. Dupuis  
Sean O'Connor  
Michele T. Oparowski

**Staff sergeant**

David Allison  
Richard Bradley  
Nicholas Clark

Pete JJ Corretjer  
Jeremy M. Coupal  
Jane Cowan  
Olver Del Rosario  
Christy L. Diller  
Christina L. Rundstrom  
Kara P. Vautour

**Senior airman**

Steven R. Anderson  
Krissy A. Bonds  
Kristen Cahill  
Lloyd Chadbourne

Gregory Figueiredo  
Paul W. McGrath  
Alexandru F. Motoc  
Saldaya Turner

**Reenlistments**

Senior Master Sgt. Elisa M. Overton

**Master sergeant**

Aidan F. Evelyn  
Roger C. Bennet  
Richard G. Bloxham  
Nancy C. Clegg





**SKILLED LEVEL** >> Senior Airman Garret H. Deschenes, 439th Civil Engineering Squadron, left, and Senior Airman Matthew D. Savard, work on a ventilation system by the James Street gate during 3-level training on the April A UTA. The Airmen were part of an on-the-job work order coordination program between the base civil engineer and CES. It is an ongoing training enhancement program designed to help more quickly qualify reserve enlisted engineering Air Force Specialty Codes. (photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza)

**PATRIOT** |

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A UTA | MAY 3-4 | NO B UTA



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Published monthly for Patriots like Tech. Sgt. Kevin Vadeboncoeur, Belchertown, Mass., and 3,053 reservists and civilians of the 439th AW and the wing's geographically separated unit at Hanscom AFB, Mass.