

Year in Review



photo by Tech. Sgt. Timm Huffman

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UTA SNAPSHOT |

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ON THE COVER >> The Patriot Wing earned two major trophies in 2010 -- the Maj. Gen. Joseph McNeil and Lt. Gen. James Sherrard III awards. For more on the wing's highlights from 2010, turn to page 6.



HISTORIC VISIT >> This Nov. 1, 1963 edition of the Yankee Flyer shows President John F. Kennedy stopping at Westover on the way to Amherst College, Oct. 26, 1963. Escorting the late president is Lt. Gen. Joseph Nazzarro, commander of the Strategic Air Command's Eighth Air Force, headquartered at Westover from June 1955 until March 1970. (Yankee Flyer archives)



Colonel Swain

The holiday season is about enjoying family and being thankful. It's why we serve – to protect the people and things we hold dear.

Family and relationships make the hard work matter. If you climb to the top of a mountain

and no one is there to share it with you, it's not worth climbing. And the thankfulness should come easy -- health, family, freedom, job -- but sometimes we all need a reminder.

Just weeks before that fateful day in Dallas, President John F. Kennedy arrived at Westover Oct. 26, 1963, to speak to students at nearby Amherst College. He issued a Thanksgiving Proclamation Nov. 5:

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

As we prepare for the Operational Readiness Inspection, understand that everyone matters, everyone is a player, not just the 450 who are going to Alpena, Mich. We want to continue proving why we are the

best wing in the command, let alone the Air Force. Let's not simply "utter those words" or rest on our award as the best wing in the command. Let's live by them.

At the same time, we want to understand what a difference we make at work and at home in our communities. We receive top-shelf technical training. We bring risk management habits and leadership experience to civilian jobs and to the community. Like throwing a rock in a pond, the ripple extends across the water.

We are a diverse wing, with reservists coming from 32 states and many different ethnic groups. We give and gain knowledge by working together. Our differences make us more capable.

Though the daylight hours are decreasing, the challenges are still continuing to

"The men and women of the 439th Airlift Wing will continue to be part of the solution to the ongoing perils, ensuring that we meet tomorrow's challenges."

-- Colonel Swain

evolve throughout the world.

In his Proclamation, President Kennedy also wrote, "Yet as our power has grown, so has our peril." The men and women of the 439th Airlift Wing will continue to be part of the solution to the ongoing perils, ensuring that we meet tomorrow's challenges.

We've proven what we can do in combat operations, in humanitarian operations, and in the daily support operations that keep us going. This holiday season offers a tremendous opportunity to enjoy family, to remember what we are fighting for, and to remain grateful for our many gifts.

Every person who comes through the gate is important to me. I want to give each one the opportunity to grow and to have fun. I hope you use this time as a chance to rest, and to hone skills to prove that we're ready for any challenge.

I thank you for your continued service to this wing, command and great country of ours.

Diane and I wish both you and your family the happiest of holiday seasons and best wishes for a wonderful New Year.

Col. Robert Swain Jr.
439th Airlift Wing commander

BRIEFS |

CC call

Commander's Call will be held at 8 a.m. Dec. 4 in the Base Hangar. This is a mandatory formation for all 439th Airlift Wing reservists.

CFC raises \$15K

As of Nov. 9, Westover's Combined Federal Campaign had raised more than \$15,450, said Capt. Patrick McCarthy, CFC project officer.

This year's theme is "I care." The Western Massachusetts CFC is one of more than 240 nationwide and overseas. Westover reservists held ice cream scoop-a-thons and a runway road race in November as part of the fund-raiser.

The base campaign, with a goal of \$45,000, wraps up Dec. 15.

Commander's hotline

The 439th Airlift Wing Commander's Hotline is 557-3774.

While members are encouraged to use their chains of command, reservists may address important issues and concerns and leave messages in the hotline's mailbox.

AF to change civilian hire guidelines

Beginning Nov. 15, the application procedure for Air Force civilian jobs will change.

In an effort to simplify and standardize civilian hiring across the Air Force, the Department of Defense announced a series of changes under the title, Air Force Single Staffing Tool.

After Nov. 15, USAJOBS.gov will serve as the single location for all internal and external applicants. Jobs will no longer post at AFPC's website.

Also, only active vacancies will be posted (under the old system, some jobs are listed which aren't open).

For more information, call Westover civilian personnel office at 557-3193.

Call snowline for base conditions

The snowline, at (413) 557-3444, provides updated information on Westover conditions during inclement weather.

Quarterly awards

Westover's quarterly awards board has selected the following fourth quarter winners for their outstanding contributions to the 439th Airlift Wing mission:

Airman: Senior Airman Justin Nolan, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

NCO: Tech. Sgt. David Owens, 337th Airlift Squadron

Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe, 439th AW Public Affairs

Company Grade Officer: Capt. John Defina; 439th ASTS

Civilian: Robert Durand, 439th Security Forces Squadron

Civilian Supervisor: Tammy Vezina, 439th AW Protocol Officer

AFSO 21 team diagnoses better clinic appointments

by Lt. Col. June Kountz

Beginning with the January A UTA, reservists can expect major changes designed to improve health care and screening at the base clinic – ultimately improving efficiency and morale.

The clinic houses reservists of the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, one of three medical units assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing. Virtually every reservist in the wing will visit the clinic in their careers here.

In the past, reservists who reported to the clinic found a crowded, hectic, and frustrating atmosphere.

In early September, a small team of Westover people convened for an Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century event to find ways to improve the physical/dental exam process and related medical readiness statistics.

The goal was to streamline the process, producing mission-ready Airmen, improving morale for the AMDS staff and reducing frustration for all wing Airmen who report to the clinic. The team was designed to ensure representation for all Westover personnel and comprised commanders, chiefs, first sergeants, unit health monitors, customers, an AMDS dental technician, and facilitators.

Each team member was responsible for addressing viewpoints



STICKING TO THE PLAN >> Sticky notes indicate tasks listed during the AFSO 21 findings with the base clinic's operations. The team found ways to improve and streamline physical and dental appointments on UTAs for reservists. (photo by Staff Sgt. Andre Bowser)

and topics of concern throughout the process.

After team introductions and a brief lesson on how to do an AFSO event, the team developed the rules of engagement, defined our goals and got down to work.

We defined the "current state" – every step of the process from the time a member becomes due for medical requirement, through pre-work, scheduling, and completion of the requirement.

This was an extremely time-consuming, grueling effort as each step had to be further broken down into "value-added" benefits

and time, "non-value added" benefits and time, overall quality issues and travel distance required.

The "current state" has 26 steps, takes 669 minutes to complete, of which 455 minutes are non-value added, and has at least 100 quality issues.

Then, and only then, could we talk about possible changes! We reviewed each step, quality issues, and non-value added items and determined whether we could improve the process. After days of thinking, dreaming and scheming we drafted the 'future state,' the ideal medical process.

Our "future state" has only 22 steps, takes 397 minutes and only has 36 possible quality issues; a 16 percent reduction of waste; it allows for AMDS personnel to manage their own training and reduces the overall frustration in the whole process.

Major changes to be implemented by the January 2011 UTA:

-- Create and use best practices for scheduling, execution and monitoring.

-- All physicals will be scheduled through unit health monitors.

Airmen arriving 15 minutes late are considered "no shows."

-- All Airmen requiring physical training profiles must go to AMDS between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. on UTA Saturdays.

-- No Airmen requiring physicals will be seen without an appointment.

-- Personnel requiring shots or who are turning in documentation can visit the AMDS on Sunday from 12:30-3 p.m. only.

-- Use the "Dental" mailbox. Do not hand-carry your form to dental; it will not be accepted. Your unit health monitor must scan and send it.

Information distribution has begun, which includes the public web site and the *Patriot*.

-- UHMs are introducing themselves to their squadrons.

-- The AFSO team will audit distribution of information and make corrections to the process as needed.

-- Monthly status meetings for UHMs and quarterly training will be held as needed.

-- AFSO team members suggest AFSO continued on page 10

Team provides findings, recommendations

Findings:

1. Lack of training of base personnel, UHMs, unit deployment monitors, fitness program managers, first sergeants and commanders.
2. AMDS members constantly had to fit "walk-in" people in the schedule, which drastically slowed the process.
3. People arriving late for appointments caused bottlenecks.
4. No accountability for "no-shows."
5. Staffing at the 439th AMDS clinic was not always optimal- i.e., shortage of doctors and hearing technicians.

Recommendations:

1. Create and use standard practices implementing best practices for scheduling, execution and monitoring.
2. Train base people, UHMs, UDMs, UFPMs, first sergeants and commanders on the new process and their duties and responsibilities. Make folks aware of other items that might affect the process – re-schedules, excusals – and then hold folks accountable.
3. Monitor results for continuous improvement.
4. Make/hold everyone in the process accountable.



NOW HEAR THIS >> Tech Sgts. Christopher Houde, left, and Dale Edwards, command post ORTP-4 participants, keep records updated during the November exercise held in Alpena, Mich. ORTP helped the more than 400 reservists who headed to Michigan, prepare for next year's Operational Readiness Exercise and ORI. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Timm Huffman)

ORTP-4 hones reservists for next year's ORE, ORI

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a first in a series of articles to help reservists prepare for the 2011 Operational Readiness Exercise in March and the ORI in June. Information will be provided in Patriots through June.

Months of preparation, training, and coordination among hundreds of Westover reservists will culminate in the Patriot Wing's participation in the Op-

erational Readiness Inspection in June 2011. Nearly 500 reservists will travel to a training site to be announced in 2011 with members of the 109th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard at Stratton ANGB, N.Y.

The *Patriot* will feature monthly questions to assist Airmen of the 114th Air Expeditionary Wing for the ORI -- the flagship Air Force training exercise.



SUPER TROOP >> ORI Airmen -- test your knowledge!
 A) Which unit does NOT wear the reflective belt at all times?
 B) What is carried in the RIGHT leg pocket?
 C) What is carried in the large pocket inside the gas mask carrier?
 D) Arm band worn on wearer's left will contain which items?
 (See answers to questions on bottom of page 10)

ESGR question and answer assists transitioning reservists

This year's mobilization brought nearly 1,000 reservists to full-time status. A majority of these Airmen demobilized at the end of October are traditional reservists who have returned to their full-time places of employment.

The Massachusetts Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve assists reservists with these major transitions. The following includes information that can assist reservists during this time.

Question: I've just returned from a year of active duty and my employer tells me that due to downsizing of the company, I have been laid off. I thought they had to guarantee me my job

back when I returned?

Answer: Reemployed service members are entitled to the seniority and all rights and benefits based on seniority that they would have attained with reasonable certainty had they remained continuously employed.

A right or benefit is seniority-based if it is determined by or accrues with length of service.

On the other hand, a right or benefit is not seniority-based if it is compensation for work performed or is subject to a significant contingency.

Simply put: If you had not left for service to our country but remained at your job

would you have been laid off? If yes, then you are out of luck. If the service in the military is one the reasons you were laid off then you may have a case.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: ESGR members and volunteers regularly assist Westover with its Employer Days and Bosslifts. Dates on these events for 2011 will be announced as soon as information is available.

Due to the number of people returning to civilian jobs from Westover, the Patriot staff will run a recurring Q & A column with Earl Bonett, Massachusetts ESGR representative.

For other issues, please visit www.esgr.org or contact Mr. Bonett at 413-267-4037.)

Awards highlight successful year



ISO dock sets command standard

by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A spring mobilization and two major awards bookended mission accomplishment in 2010 for the men and women of the Patriot Wing.

A year's worth of credibility and Total Force value of the 439th Airlift Wing filled the months between those

two events. The more than 3,000 men and women of the wing – who comprise traditional Air Force reservists, air reserve technicians, active/guard reserve, and civilians – pulled together to prepare the wing for an Operational Readiness Inspection headed its way in 2011.

Westover firefighters earned the 2009 Air Force Reserve Command Fire Prevention Program of the Year award, and the isochronal inspection Airmen and civilians continued to set the standard for C-5 ISO maintenance.



AFRC Fire Prevention Program of the Year for 2009

Air Force Reserve officials tapped the 439th AW in October as the top reserve wing in the nation. The wing received the 2010 Airlift/Tanker Association's Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III Award. Air Force officials judged the wing's performance against the other 32 wings in the Air Force Reserve.

In addition, the 439th Airlift Wing Human Resources Development

Council tied with the 445th AW at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, in the large wing category for the Maj. Gen. James McNeil Award for HRDC Leadership Excellence.

The HRDC members earned the national Air Force Reserve recognition for the second time in two years.

Col. Robert Swain Jr., 439th AW commander, emphasized that the General Sherrard award does not single out any particular unit

within what the reserve knows as the "Patriot Wing."

"This is a team effort-driven award," he said. "This award validates what every individual in this wing does: Airmen, civilians and the contractors contribute to our overall mission.



Afghanistan surge -- 24 hour operations



Patriot Wing aerial porters load up as part of Iraq drawdown



Haiti relief mission

ear

None of us succeed on our own, and that includes our families and civilian employers that allow us to continue to serve this great nation of ours."

While the 16 C-5 transport jets at the base are the most visible aspect of Westover's mission, more than 2,400 men and women – assigned to 16 different squadrons on the base – form the backbone of that mission. They included more than 100 aerial port Air Force reservists who were deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq until October. More than 400 reservists joined those aerial port Airmen called up in April for overseas assignments, and worked at the base to support the surge operations in Afghanistan.

"This award is a well deserved acknowledgement of the outstanding contribution to the Total Force effort made by your unit and the entire Air Force Reserve Command," said Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner, commander of the Air Force Reserve, in an email to the Westover wing. "Please accept and convey my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to every member of the 439th Airlift Wing."

General Sherrard was commander of the Air Force Reserve from September 1998 to June 2004.

In October, the Patriot Wing earned another national award.

Colonel Swain was on hand with General Stenner to receive the McNeil Award on behalf of the wing.

"We have made history!" said Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood, HRDC co-chair. "For the first time ever in the history of the Maj Gen James McNeil Award for HRDC Leadership Excellence, there was a tie for the Large Wing Category (which Westover won in 2008). We won again."

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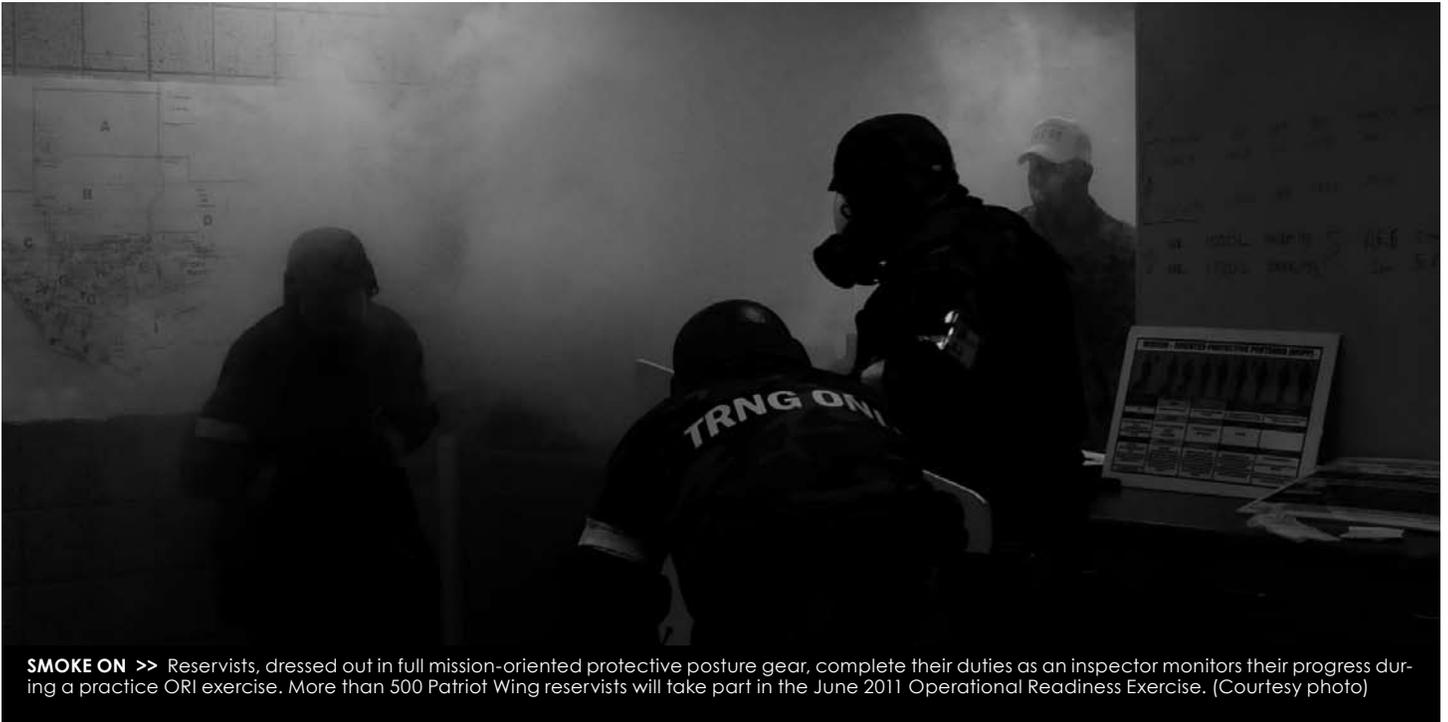


Returning from Iraq deployment

Honor guard instructs Junior ROTC students during youth symposium



2010



SMOKE ON >> Reservists, dressed out in full mission-oriented protective posture gear, complete their duties as an inspector monitors their progress during a practice ORI exercise. More than 500 Patriot Wing reservists will take part in the June 2011 Operational Readiness Exercise. (Courtesy photo)

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General Stenner presented the General McNeil award to Colonel Swain at the HRDC workshop in Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 27. The award, covering activity from 2008 to 2010, recognized multiple programs and initiatives that brought improvements to the base. The Patriot Wing's previous award was for the same HRDC elements held from 2006 to 2008.

General McNeil carries a rich history for standing up for the rights of others during the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Activities that Westover HRDC leadership oversaw that helped win the McNeil Award included community outreach and operational plans, such as the Hispanic Youth Leadership Symposium held in April, and the Pilot for a Day program, which will continue in 2011.

2010 accomplishments by the numbers

Hours flown by 337th Airlift Squadron aircrews*

7891.9

Passengers processed by 42nd and 58th Aerial Port squadron reservists

701

Pounds of cargo moved by aerial porters

5,486,561

Reservists activated

420

Reservists deployed

266

New Airmen recruited*

407

142 (prior service; 35 percent of total accessions) **265** (non-prior service; 65 percent of total accessions)

Percentage of assigned AFRC recruiting goal achieved

121

Economic impact of Westover*

\$267 MILLION

*Statistics as of mid-November 2010 compiled by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe, 439th AW Public Affairs; *denotes Fiscal 2010*



"It was another successful year coordinating the Hispanic Leadership Symposium here."

-- Master Sgt. Luisa Cabana, 439th Maintenance Operations Squadron



"I have spent a year supporting the mission of the Airman and Family Readiness Center."

-- Tech. Sgt. Aluin Morales, 439th Force Support Squadron



"I was mobilized this year. It was a good learning experience and a great opportunity to progress in the Air Force."

-- Senior Airman Michael Kubasek, 439th Force Support Squadron

TROOP TALK | What was your highlight from 2010?

Suicide prevention: How you can help save a life

by Maj. Patricia Manning

You've likely heard more talk lately about the Suicide Prevention Program.

The increase in the frequency and intensity of the discussion surrounding suicide prevention is to heighten awareness, in the hope that this will help prevent suicides. There have been more suicides among military members over the past several years and the rate of suicide appears to be rising steadily.

By November, more than 60 Airmen had taken their own lives. Statistics show that without intervention, the suicide rate will continue to climb and in years to come, as expected, the suicide rate will be even more staggering than it is today.

Conferences, committees and teams are formed to study and discuss the alarming number of suicides taking place within the military; however, it is unclear if there is a root cause or what is happening currently that is contributing to the soaring numbers.

Risk factors associated with suicide include relationship problems, financial difficulties, career challenges, legal issues, and substance abuse, just to mention a few. These risk factors are not unique to the military; however, there are additional risk factors for military members that may include easy access to a weapon, deployment and working in a career field that might be considered "high risk."

We have enhanced resources provided to us that will help with these issues, yet it remains unclear why the steady climb in suicides. Rather than wait until more data is collected to determine reasons for the increase, measures are being taken that show the potential to help prevent suicides, to include taking care of yourself

(resiliency training), reinforcing the Wingman Concept, and the ACE approach and others.

Steps include:

- Promote good mental health by getting and keeping yourself healthy and helping your wingmen do the same.

- Become self-aware and use preventive measures to keep yourself mentally and physically well. These include working out, becoming involved in a group or organization, trying to maintain a positive attitude, spending time with family and friends, eating right, exercising, listening to music and getting enough sleep.

When there are more risk factors at any given time, you may need to increase the preventive measures you use.

For example, financial difficulties may cause people to feel "stressed out." A thorough physical workout keeps your viewpoint in balance. Issues seem to be more manageable.

However, if you end up with a legal issue as well, you may need to do more than exercise to keep everything in balance and not get too overwhelmed. You may need to investigate new ways to make yourself feel better. Not everything works for everyone. Try different measures to see what works for you.

The Air Force is reinforcing the Wingman Concept as a measure

to help prevent suicide. This concept has been discussed over the past several years with the suicide prevention briefings. The idea behind the "Wingman Concept" is Airmen watching out for other Airmen.

What does "watching out for your buddy" actually mean? How are you to know if you are doing what is expected?

Some of the basics of this concept include operating as a pair. Wingmen have identified one another to watch out for, exclusively. This involves taking responsibility for each other and being aware if they show any signs of distress and assisting them in getting the help that they need.

It may simply be that the Airman needs someone to talk to, or it may be more of a crisis situation requiring intervention such as escorting them to a chaplain or medical provider.

The ACE (Ask, Care, Escort) approach is another measure believed to help in preventing suicide. All 439th Airlift Wing reservists underwent this training during the June UTA. ACE helps you intervene when a fellow Airman is at risk.

Although it may be difficult, you must ask them about the signs of distress they are displaying as well as ask directly "Are you having thoughts of killing yourself?" You must calmly control the

situation, listen carefully, show understanding and remove any means of self harm. Do not leave your wingman alone and escort them to someone that can help such as someone in your chain of command, a chaplain, a member of the mental health team or a medical provider.

There is also a National Suicide Prevention Hotline that can be called at 1-800-273-8255. Callers can speak directly to a veteran/military counselor.

Many other Air Force programs are continually being enhanced. These include family and military education, reintegration programs, mental health self-assessment programs, resiliency building, communication with other branches of the military to derive "best practice," additional trainings and eliminating the stigma associated with mental health issues.

Life can be challenging, and at any given time, you or a wingman may be dealing with at least one or more of the risk factors identified with suicide.

This can lead to a feeling that "there is no end in sight" or hopelessness. It is important to work on the things that keep you well, so at times like these you are prepared.

There may be times, however, that this is not enough and we'll need to take extra care and get ourselves the help we need when we need it, be vigilant and watchful of our fellow airman and assist them in getting the help they need as well, to get through these rough times.

The bottom line: It is possible to prevent suicide. The Air Force is encouraging everyone to do their part to save a life.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Major Manning is assigned to the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron. She is the assistant officer in charge of mental health.

Help is a phone call -- or a mouse click -- away:

National Suicide Prevention Hotline:

1-800-273-8255

Military One Source:

1-800-342-9647

www.militaryonesource.com

439th AW Chaplain's Office:

1-413-557-3031

Airmen and Family Readiness Center:

1-413-557-3024

WESTOVER PATRIOTS |

AFSO continued from page 4

commanders add the medical process review to block training.

-- Scheduled specialized training for UHMs, unit deployment monitors, unit fitness program monitors, first sergeants, commanders.

-- Commanders and first sergeants are welcome to walk-through the process.

Senior leadership will review scheduled physicals at the Friday night commanders' meeting. AMDS will send no-show list by 9 a.m. on Sunday.

UHMs will record alibis for no-shows and all personnel showing "red" on their PIMR reports and send to their commanders.

Commanders, first sergeants and UHMs will coordinate on discipline issues resulting from this process.

In order for this new process to be completely successful, we need your help!

Please keep your mind open to changes, have patience and kindly suggest improvements if you see a better way of doing things.

Not all the reports are 100 percent accurate yet, so please let us know if you see a discrepancy so we can correct it.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Colonel Kountz asked that anyone with questions or suggestions should call their unit health monitor.

ATSO SUPER TROOP

Answers from page 5 questions:

A) Security forces

B) Airman's Manual (with tabs); 114 AEW brochure, simulated medical kit

C) Proper AF Form 1574 inspection card; mask fit paperwork

D) Military ID, accountability card with troop number facing out, line badge on inside, weapons qualification card (if required)

(Information provided by the 439th Airlift Wing emergency management office. Look for more ORI preparatory information in upcoming Patriot issues, to include ability to survive and operate guidelines, the buddy system, and other useful tips. Reservists with questions should contact their unit deployment monitors.)

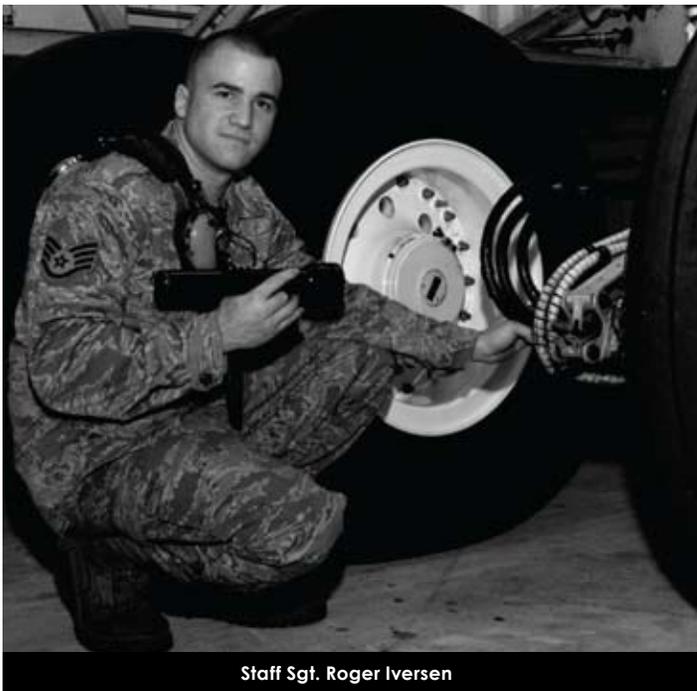


FLAG OF FAITH >> Col. Patricia Evans, 439th Airlift Wing Inspector General, receives her American flag from Master Sgt. Terri Dionne, Patriot Wing Honor Guard, during the colonel's retirement ceremony Nov. 6 at the Westover Conference Center. Colonel Evans' career spanned 30 years, including assignments as senior wing intelligence officer, commander of the 439th Operations Support Squadron, and a T-38 and CT-39 pilot. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton)



ROYAL RETREAT >> This year's 439th Airlift Wing retreat ceremony featured bagpiper and retired Master Sgt. Karcher Reynolds, who joined a formation of Westover reservists and members of the Patriot Wing Honor Guard for the annual ceremony, held at Base Ellipse Nov. 6. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton)

PATRIOT PEOPLE |



Staff Sgt. Roger Iversen

NAME: Roger Iversen
 RANK: Staff sergeant
 UNIT: 436th/439th Maintenance Squadron
 POSITION: ISO dock crew chief
 HOMETOWN: Rocky Point, N.Y.
 YEARS AT WESTOVER: Two
 FAVORITE FOOD: Long Island pizza
 FAVORITE SPORT: Football
 FAVORITE HOBBY: Going to the movies
 IDEAL VACATION: Caribbean cruise
 BEST WAY TO RELAX: Walking my dog
 FAVORITE MUSIC: Rock
 FAVORITE MOVIE: *Avatar*
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT: C-130
 PET PEEVE: Traffic
 WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WON \$1 MILLION: Go on a month-long cruise with my wife

BOOK 'EM >> Reservists can book their holiday parties at the club; please contact Vickie Mitchell at 593-5531 Ext. 104. There will be a free comedy show Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. in the club lounge. Breakfast with Santa will take place from 8 to 11 a.m. Dec. 18 and will include kids' activities, games and prizes. Free to club members with participating child; non-members' costs are \$6, kids 4-12, \$3.

BOWLING CENTER >> Reservists can book their holiday bowling parties. There is Cosmic Bowling Friday and Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. The snack bar is open until 9 p.m.

FITNESS CENTER >> Basketball team sign-ups are held until Dec 10. The December's Commanders Cup event: The unit with the highest percent of excellent scores on their PT test wins. For more information, call 557-3958.

OUTDOOR RECREATION >> Rentals include snowshoes and poles, snow thrower, snow blower, and a generator. For more information, call 557-2192.

SERVICES CALENDER | www.westoverservices.com

Retirements

Colonel Patricia Evans

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Goliber

Senior master sergeant

John Barley

Joseph Barszcz

Wayne Hayes

Master sergeant

Steven Allen

Stephen Brannan

Glenn Connon

David Iarossi

Cynthia Labrie

Robert Muller

Robert Preble

Fredrick Williams

Kathleen Yost

PATRIOT PRAISES | Promotions

Master sergeant

Krystal Busby
 Jeffrey Cahill
 Richard Desousa
 Arjel Falcon
 Todd Lasky
 Ray Martin
 Kevin Preston
 Kelly Wentworth

Technical sergeant

William Briggs
 Dennis Coite
 Arthur Greene
 Maria Vidacovich

Staff sergeant

Ashley Grant
 Michael Neveln
 Tara Nolan
 William Risho
 Gary Romanovicz
 Brian Shipman
 Magnolia Solis

Senior airman

Alexandria Baca
 Justine Brousseau
 Megan Levasseur
 Ryan Manning
 Jonathon Mattex

Gabriel Mendez
 Louisimond Vertyl

Airman First Class Amanda Bonilla
 Stephanie Cataldo

UMass provides veterans' center

Veterans at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst have a drop-in center to get help with student life, making the transition from military to campus life, and many other needs.

The Military Times ranked the campus 27th on its Top 100 Colleges for Veterans list.

Contact the UMass Veterans' Center at 413-545-5792 or visit umass.edu/veterans/ for more information.



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FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
PAID



Published monthly for Patriots like Senior Airman Levi Carter, Enfield, Conn., and 3,053 reservists and civilians of the 439th AW.



DECADES OF DEDICATION >> Chief Master Sgts. Michael Barrick, left, and James LaGasse, reflect on their combined 60 years of service to their country during their retirement ceremony Nov. 6 in the Westover Conference Center. Tech. Sgt. Robert Cirillo, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, took this photo. Photographers are encouraged to shoot high-resolution photos of Westover happenings and people for this back page photo section of the *Patriot*. Photos may be submitted to 439aw.pa@westover.af.mil.

Photo selection of the month