

Deployed for the Holidays

A family's struggle and
a father's sacrifice

page 6

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photo by Senior Airman Timm Huffman

HOLIDAY TRADITION >> Brig. Gen. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, serves a holiday lunch to Chief Master Sgt. Michael G. Ingham, 439th Civil Engineering Squadron, Nov. 4 at the Westover Club. The meal serving was part of a long-standing holiday tradition in the Air Force.

EDITORIAL | From the ORI to the holidays – a look back



General Farris

We'll soon cap 2006 with holiday parties, get-togethers and, most important, share special times with our families. Every one of you deserves the joy of the holidays!

This has been an incredibly busy year – headlined by an ORI that culminated a long

string of successful inspections over the past two years! I'm pleased to review 2006 with a thorough sense of accomplishment.

From February to June, I deployed halfway around the world to Southwest Asia. Although my job in a combined air operations center kept me plenty busy, no day went by without my thoughts of this wing getting ready for the ORE in April, which helped us prepare for the ORI held in August in Alpena, Mich.

Once again we showed the Air Mobility Command Inspector General team why the Patriot Wing sets the bar for others in this command to follow. The military-civilian team here, charged

with operating the largest Air Force Reserve base in the nation, showed the inspectors the results of many, many long hours preparing for the ORI, all while we worked constant world-wide missions and deployments.

The ORI dominated this year's operations, and I am proud of this entire wing – Reservists, civilians, and contractors – for pulling together and doing a superb job!

While we all know that the ORI was an enormous tasking, our maintenance and flying folks also led the effort on the flight line with the conversion to the newer C-5Bs. The fact that our flight line is nearly full with B-models, and that this took less than six months to occur, is another clear indication to me that this wing is up to facing any task, any time! We began receiving the B-model jets in June (the last ones will arrive some time next year), all the while preparing for the ORI. Another job well done!

We remember all of the hard work that went into the ORI, and we head into the holiday season which, for most of us, is the most hectic time of the year. The holidays bring the added stress of Christmas shopping and family budgets, on top

of all the work we already do here.

This time of year, with its compressed array of shopping, parties, and a new year just around the corner, brings the joy of the season - and the stress too. We deserve to relax, but we need to be very careful and look out for each other. I remind you to please take care of your wingman.

As I have written about this year's success, words alone cannot express the pride I have for the tremendous effort all of you put forth to make this wing what it is. Kim and I wish you Happy Holidays. Please enjoy, stay safe, and remember how proud I am to be your commander of this wing!

Brig. Gen. Wade Farris
439th Airlift Wing
Commander

BRIEFS |

Employer flight 2007

The Massachusetts Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve is coordinating an employer flight on Jan. 17, and will return Jan. 18. They will fly to the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center, in Savannah, Ga.

For more information on the Bosslift, please call the 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office at Ext. 2020.

CFC deadline in Dec.

The last day to contribute to the Combined Federal Campaign is Dec. 15. Contact Bob Perreault at Ext. 2128 for details.

Commander's Call

A wing-wide Commander's Call is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 of the December A UTA in the Base Hangar. This is a mandatory formation for all 439th Airlift Wing Reservists.

Health benefits for traumatic injuries

Traumatic Servicemembers Group Life Insurance benefits from \$25,000 to \$100,000 are available for available, depending on the extent of the injury. Members insured under an SGLI policy are automatically covered at an increase in their premiums of \$1 per month. The coverage also includes a retroactive provision for Airmen who suffered a qualifying loss as a direct result of injuries incurred in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom from Oct. 7, 2001 through Nov. 30, 2005.

For more information, including certification forms, call Anna Bradshaw, Westover casualty assistance representative, at Ext. 2539.

Enlisted workshop set for June 2007

A first-ever Enlisted Career Workshop will be held at Westover June 4-5, 2007. All enlisted members are invited on a first-come, first-served basis. Space will be limited at the Westover Conference Center. Participants can expect information on benefits, financial and educational information, and more.

For more information, contact Command Chief Master Sgt. Zigmund D. Skawski at Ext. 2214, or Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood, Ext. 2876.

Base Ellipse driving rules reminder

Drivers are reminded that the speed limit around the Base Ellipse, which includes the running track, is 20 mph. Runners are permitted to wear headphones while using the track. Reservists wearing the Air Force uniform are not required to wear their hats while exercising on the ellipse.

Tree lighting in Dec.

The Chapel and Airmen and Family Readiness Center staffs invite Reservists to share the holiday spirit during Westover's second annual tree lighting ceremony set for Saturday, Dec. 2 of the December A UTA. The ceremony will take place at 4:30 p.m. at the entrance to the Westover Road gate. Refreshments will be served.



Courtesy photo

CHANGES IN THE WHITE HOUSE >> President George W. Bush is flanked by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, left, and secretary of defense nominee Robert Gates during a press conference Nov. 8, shortly after Secretary Rumsfeld announced his resignation.

SECAF : Rumsfeld’s vision strengthened Air Force

11/8/2006 - SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) —

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld changed the way the military thinks about defense during his six years at the Pentagon.

Secretary Wynne worked with Secretary Rumsfeld three times at the Department of Defense and in his current job.

“In each case I learned a lot about leadership, forthrightness and attention to detail,” Secretary Wynne said after the announcement that Secretary Rumsfeld will leave his Pentagon post. At a White House news conference Nov. 8, President George Bush said he and Secretary Rumsfeld agreed it was time for change of Pentagon leadership.

The president will nominate Bob Gates to replace the secretary. Mr. Gates is a former director of central intelligence

and current president of Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

Secretary Rumsfeld’s “acumen led the Air Force to become lean, lethal and agile, expanding our mission areas for a stronger joint team,” Secretary Wynne said.

“His vision has not only made our Air Force more efficient, but has strengthened the entire Department of Defense and our nation,” Secretary Wynne said.

“The department will miss his leadership,” Secretary Wynne said, “I look forward to working with Mr. Bob Gates, as he will undoubtedly bring ideas fused with years of experience from various national security roles.” The president said, “Don Rumsfeld is a patriot and has served our country with honor and distinction. He is a trusted advisor and a friend, and I’m deeply grateful for his service to our country.”

Ex - CIA chief nominated

President Bush called Robert M. Gates, his choice to be the next secretary of defense, the right man to meet the challenges facing the United States.

Gates, who is the president of Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, said the war on terrorism will shape the world for decades to come. “Because our long-term strategic interests and our national and homeland security are at risk, because so many of America’s sons and daughters in our armed forces are in harm’s way, I did not hesitate when the president asked me to return to duty,” he said. “If confirmed by the Senate, I will serve with all my heart and with gratitude to the president for giving me the opportunity to do so.”

Gates has served as a member of the Iraq study group, chaired by former Secretary of State James Baker and former Congressman Lee Hamilton. He has met with political and military leaders in Iraq. “He will provide the department with a fresh perspective and new ideas on how America can achieve our goals in Iraq,” Bush said.

Bush also stressed Gates’ service under presidents of both parties, including time as director of the CIA. “He is a man of integrity, candor and sound judgment,” the president said. “He knows that the challenge of protecting our country is larger than any political party, and he has a record of working with leaders on both sides of the aisle to strengthen our national security.”

Recruiters net command awards

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A record number of new faces joined the ranks of the 439th Airlift Wing this past fiscal year.

The 439 Airlift Wing took second place for the Air Force Reserve Command's Get One incentive program with 29 new recruits joining the wing. First place went to Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y., for the program that was originally implemented by Brig. Gen. Wade Farris before his arrival at Westover as 439th AW commander. In fiscal 2005, the Patriot Wing received the first place award along with Staff Sgt. James Fitzell receiving the top individual award.

"In overall numbers, the recruiters brought 291 new people into the Patriot Wing," said Master Sgt. Jeanette A. Masters, line recruiter. This number far outpaced the assigned goal of 227.

The other awards garnered included:

- Top Operating Location in 22nd Air Force out of the 14 assigned operating locations
- Top Rookie Recruiter for the Command: Tech. Sgt. Kevin French, with 26 accessions for the fiscal year
- Top Officer Accessions: Master Sgt. Steven Fousek



- Three Westover recruiters also earned the prestigious Top 50 Award for placing in the top 50 recruiters within Air Force Reserve Command: Master Sergeant Jeanette Masters, Tech Sergeant French, and Master Sergeant Eric Tolson

- Seven of the ten assigned recruiters received Superior Performer awards for achieving over 100 percent of assigned goal

"With more than 2,400 reservists, the 439th AW is the fourth-largest unit in the Air Force Reserve. The recruiters are not only responsible for bringing in people from western Massachusetts. Their efforts spread out all over New England and even into parts of New York, Sergeant Masters said.

Those challenges only help Sergeant Masters know how important her job is for the 439th AW. "You have to focus on the mission," she said. "The Air Force Reserve is good for some people out there, and it's our job to find them." Sergeant Masters topped her goal of 24 with 46 accessions for the fiscal year.

"Having arrived at Westover in late July, I was truly in awe of the team," said Senior Master Sgt. Erik Anderson, senior recruiter. "These are among the best recruiters I have had the pleasure to work with."

Helping the Patriot Wing win the Get One award was Tech. Sgt. Joshua L. Doherty, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, who tied for third place in the command.

The Get One program's website is www.get1now.us

Advisor lists bonus program changes

Military personnel flight officials remind reservists of some significant changes in the bonus reenlistment program that have taken place since October 2005.

These changes are a result of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006.

Some of the highlights include six-year reenlistment bonuses that have changed from \$5,000 to \$15,000, and three-year reenlistment bonuses from \$2,500 to \$7,500.

Other highlights include years of service from less than 14 to less than 20 for reenlistments, and from less than 14 to less than 16 for enlistments, said Master Sgt. Lori D. Boucher, wing career assistance advisor. For the new bonus program, initial payment will be half of the money after the member's first anniversary. Payments are made based on their UTA participation for that year. The remainder of the bonuses will be made in equal installments - also based on consistent UTA participation, Sergeant Boucher said.

Members who transfer from Westover are not guaranteed that the bonus will be continued, since their eligibility is specific to their Westover assignment. Air reserve technicians, active guard and reserve and officers are ineligible for the bonus program.

The bonus listing is determined bi-annually in April and October.

For a listing of the current AFSCs affected by the bonus, reservists should contact their unit career assistance advisors or Sergeant Boucher at Ext. 3435.

NEW PERSONNEL SYSTEM ARRIVES

Multiple briefings recently became common at Westover as civilian personnel specialists briefed Patriot Wing members on the new National Security Personnel System (NSPS).

The following information, provided through the Air Force web page, explains this new system.

What is NSPS?

NSPS is an ambitious reshaping of the old rules governing civilian employee management. It changes how employees are recruited and retained. It builds on a new performance management system that values performance, rewards contribution, and promotes excellence. It requires that supervisors manage with innovation to achieve tangible results and that civilians adapt rapidly to new missions, new technology, and new tactics.

What are the elements that make up NSPS?

NSPS was designed to allow the AF to be a more competitive and progressive employer at a time when the country's national security demands a highly responsive system of civilian personnel management by changing the way civilian jobs are graded and classified (a shift to Pay Bands), in the way the employee and manager performance objectives are set, managed and rewarded (performance-based pay), in the way the Department works with its unions (Labor Relations), in the way the Department hires, promotes and adjusts its workforce size (Staffing Flexibilities) and in the way the Department addresses personnel issues, discipline and appeals.

When will my installation convert to NSPS?

NSPS will be deployed across the Department of Defense incrementally; each increment is known as a Spiral. Each Spiral can further be broken down into smaller units to facilitate implementation.

Spiral 1 covers general schedule, manager, and acquisition demo employees. Spiral 1.1 will convert approximately 3,100 AF employees in elements from SAF/MR, Air Force Audit Agency and Tinker AFB. The target date is 30 April.

Spiral 1.2 is scheduled to convert to NSPS in October 2006 and Spiral 1.3 in January 2007—both with a January 2008 payout. Spiral 1.4, if needed, will deploy in October 2007.

Spiral 2 will cover the rest of the workforce, including wage grade employees. Spiral 3 will be implemented if the current legislative restrictions are eliminated and DoD laboratories are included in NSPS.

Those people with questions about the NSPS should call the civilian personnel office at Ext. 3193. The web site is <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/>

The Air Force web site link is: <http://www.af.mil/library/nsps-af/nspsbasics.asp>

A NOTE TO HOME >>

Master Sgt. Timothy B. Maguire, deployed to Afghanistan with the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, writes a letter home to his family.



Wrapped in Sacrifice

By Senior Master Sgt. Sandi Michon

Eight-year-old Elizabeth Maguire kisses her daddy's picture on her pillowcase every night before she goes to sleep and she wears his shirts around the house. Last month, she had to settle for talking to her dad on the phone while she opened his birthday present for her.

That's just a few of the sacrifices little Elizabeth makes while her dad is deployed with the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron halfway around the world until early next year.

Master Sgt. Timothy B. Maguire, his wife Kathleen, and their three children showcase the hardships of family separation felt by the more than 50 aerial porters deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan through the holidays.

The close-knit Maguires agree that the holidays are the hardest time.

"We are so traditional. It's such a big deal to us; I don't think I can pull the traditions off without him," said Kathleen, Sergeant



photo by Capt. Vince King, 455th AEW Public Affairs





Courtesy photo

PILLOW PAPA >> Jessica Maguire, 15, kisses a pillow with a picture of her dad, Master Sgt. Timothy B. Maguire. The 42nd Aerial Port Squadron member is deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, through the holidays.

Maguire's wife of 17 years. "He loves hosting Thanksgiving and takes pride in making the ultimate Christmas Eve feast. I organize everything, but he runs the kitchen."

She said Thanksgiving will be very quiet this year, and she plans to take the kids to California to visit her brother the week of Christmas.

"Celebrating my brother's holiday traditions will take our minds off missing our own," she said.

Creative thinking is key to making holiday adjustments and also to coping with everyday life. A "veteran" from two previous deployments, Kathleen says deployments tend to follow a pattern.

"The first month is adjusting roles and figuring out how to get things done, the middle months tend to be status quo in the busyness, and the final month is anticipation and excitement while planning welcome-home activities," she said, and added another month for readjustments to family life once he's home. Sergeant Maguire has high praise for his wife's support and says she has the harder role. He describes his duty in Afghanistan on 13-hour shifts as ramp supervisor, six days a week, with a few hours for eating, reading and working out, then "crashing" in his little plywood B-hut for badly-needed sleep.

"With very few entertainment options and no off-base access, it's like the 'Groundhog Day' movie every day," he said. "My wife is the one juggling her role and mine with home, work, and all the kids' activities."

Kathleen has learned, by the third deployment, it's okay not to get everything done.

"The pace is so unbelievably fast. I feel like I'm

flying by the seat of my pants with everything," said the mother of three, and fifth-grade teacher. She said her father helps with yard jobs, her mom helps with chores, and the kids try to pick up the slack.

"When Tim is home, we are a team. We are best friends. Every day, I miss him so much," she said. Family, church and friends have been a major support system to the family. They are on a prayer list at St. Peter's Church in Saratoga Springs.

"The church mails cards to Tim and his unit, and my fifth-grade class writes to the soldiers and sends care packages."

Sergeant Maguire said he started to miss his family the minute he got on the plane.

"I miss the soccer games, the cheerleading competitions, making faces in their plates with the eggs and sausages during Sunday morning family breakfast, and their Sunday family day activities," he said. "It was always our day to connect."

"I wish Dad was in the stands when we won our Grand Champions cheerleading competition," said 15-year-old Jessica. She and her dad e-mail at least twice a week to catch up with each other. "I tell him what's going on with me and he tells me about his job. He tells me to do my best and that he's proud of me, she said. "I miss watching ESPN with him and having him explain football to me."

She may not be watching ESPN with her father, but she saw her father on ESPN recently when he was the spokesman for the 42nd Aerial Port segment shown during the Army/Air Force game aired Nov. 3.

"I'm very proud of my dad. Not a lot of people, like, want to go overseas. It takes a lot of courage," Jessica said. "I admire that."

Eleven-year-old Andrew misses his dad a lot because now he's the only guy left in the house. According to his mom, he's working hard to fill in as "man-of-the-house." Andrew said he talks to his dad on the phone a couple times a week but misses playing basketball, playing tag, or going for walks with him.

"He tells me how much he cares about me, but I can't think about him too much so I don't break down in tears," Andrew said. Sergeant Maguire tries to stay upbeat and sends pictures so his family can relate to where he is and what he does. "I want them to make a connection and feel a part of it," he said. As the 42nd APS' unit deployment monitor, Sergeant Maguire works hard with his "military family" overseas.

"Friends and family are sending holiday stuff already," he said. "We want to make it as festive as possible to ease the separation." Sergeant Maguire laughed when asked what he wanted to do first when he got home – indicating what would be the obvious answer for any husband away from his wife for months. He finally said, "Have a nice, cold beer and a good meal."

Little Elizabeth is proud that her dad is "serving our country and keeping our family safe." She knows exactly what she wants to do when she first sees her dad again. "I'm going to run up to him – and he'll catch me – and he'll know how much I miss him," she said.



Taming the Beast

by Staff Sgt. Tom Ouellette and adapted from staff of the 66th Air Base Wing /PA, Hanscom AFB, Mass.

Images can be deceiving. Consider a Patriot Wing C-130 located at Hanscom AFB. It's wingless, tailless and hasn't been off the ground in more than 25 years.

But to the 85th Aerial Port Squadron, Westover's geographically separated unit, this "bird" means everything.

"The plane is our aerial port training aide for load team training, which is the uploading and downloading of cargo, pallets and vehicles," said Senior Master Sgt. Joanne Boczanowski, 85 APS air transportation manager.

"This helps members of the 85th APS maintain their proficiency, which would be nearly impossible without this aide," Sergeant Boczanowski added. So when the 94-and-a-half-foot long Hercules, locally referred to as the "Hulk," began deteriorating, the aerial porters became nervous.

Time and the ever-changing New

England weather have taken their toll on the aircraft. Numerous water leaks, deteriorating seals and gaskets, as well as a faulty hydraulic system have reduced the aircraft's usefulness as a training aid to a limited status.

With limited funds, the 85th APS couldn't afford to fix the Hulk's safety hazards, threatening to shut it down.

That's when some Pennsylvanian Reservists came to the rescue.

Thanks to many long hours and hard work by members of the 913th Maintenance Squadron and the 913th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, both from Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Penn., 'the Hulk' is ready to resume its role as a first class trainer.

They volunteered to repair the

C-130, coming to Hanscom for week-long repair bonanzas once per month since last May, Sergeant Boczanowski said.

The old camouflage paint scheme is gone; the Hulk now sports more than 25 gallons of fresh new gray paint, new Air Force specified decals and freshly painted wheel rims. Refurbished hydraulics and dual rail systems, door locks and several sheet metal patches have brought this old flyer back to life and ready to serve once more.

Equipment that couldn't be refurbished at Hanscom was removed and repaired at Willow Grove, then reinstalled upon the group's next visit to Hanscom. The seven-member composite team that made it happen was led by Master Sgt. Michael Effting, 913 MXS, who had his doubts upon first seeing the project.

"When we first arrived and looked her over, we were wondering if the effort was going to be worth it," Sergeant Effting said, "but this training aide is now 100 percent better."

Senior Master Sgt. Larry Savarese, 85th APS ramp superintendent, knows how difficult the work was, having personally observed the long hours and dedication that

the team from Willow Grove has demonstrated.

"Without their efforts we would have had to shut down our load trainer for safety reasons," Sergeant Savarese said.

Sergeant Boczanowski said she is hopeful the improvements will not stop when the Airmen depart.

"Having the C-130 configured with jump seats will enhance our training efforts, as we convert from a cargo setting to a passenger setting. We're looking now at ways we can acquire this additional equipment," she said.

"We can't say enough good things about them (the 913th). Basically, they set up this aircraft so that it is 'new,'" Maj. John Mailo, 85th APS commander, said.

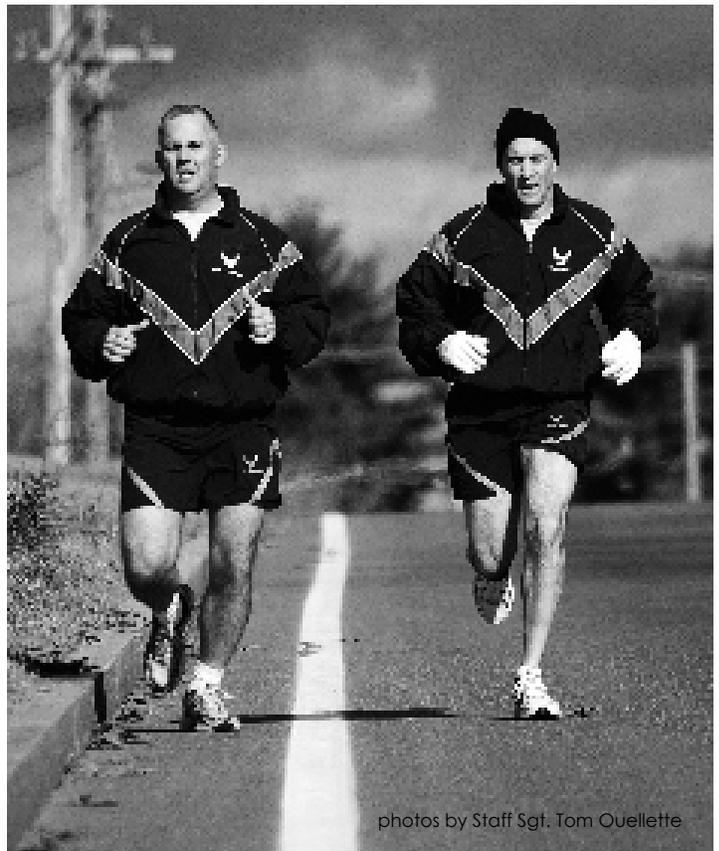
"We are very fortunate that with the recent drawdowns and cutbacks, a unit with really no tie to Hanscom or Westover Air Reserve Base volunteered their time and efforts, Major Mailo said, "we're in debt to the members of the 913th.

(Sergeant Effting's crew consisted of the following 913th Airlift Wing Airmen who repaired 'old 5019': Master Sgt. John Dimon, Tech. Sgt. Charles Bartlucci, Staff Sgt. Daniel Melot, and Senior Airmen Ricardo Cruz, Eduard Lomazon, and Dennis Mooney.)

WESTOVER PATRIOTS |



COUPLE RUNNETH OVER >> Nadine Bates, 439th Mission Support Squadron, runs with husband Randy, 439th Security Forces Squadron, during the Turkey Trot held Nov. 4. Thirty people participated in this year's event and 12 turkeys were given away. Celio Hernandez, 439th Maintenance Squadron, was the winner for the males, while 15-year-old Mary Mancuso took first place for the women.



photos by Staff Sgt. Tom Ouellette

PT LOOK >> Michael P. Grady, 439th Security Forces Squadron, runs with Timothy Donnelly, 439th Mission Support Squadron, during the Turkey Trot. They wear the new Air Force PT uniform.

Patriot Wing runners vie for annual turkeys on UTA



FINAL TOUCH-UP >> Christopher P. Doyle, a Westover artist and air reserve technician with the 439th Maintenance Squadron, works on his commemorative Air Force painting.

Artist's work draws anniversary attention

Article and photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

The talents of a Westover artist are now featured in the nation's capital.

Christopher P. Doyle's painting depicts Air Force Maj. Edward H. White II conducting the first extra vehicular activity for the US manned space flight program in June 1965. Mr. Doyle chose this historical event as part of the 60th anniversary of the Air Force.

The painting will be displayed in Washington, D.C., through next year.

"I chose this historical event to remember my enthusiasm as I followed the space program as a youngster," Mr. Doyle said. "I wanted to artistically represent this important event in Air Force history.

At the invitation of Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne, Mr. Doyle traveled to the Pentagon Oct. 19 to celebrate part of the kick-

the 60th anniversary kickoff.

Once he arrived at the Pentagon, Mr. Doyle met some of the most senior-ranking officials in the Air Force, including Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, commander of the Air Force Reserve Command. The general approached Mr. Doyle to applaud his artistry. "He thanked me for being there and for being a reservist," Mr. Doyle said. "I was overwhelmed."

An air reserve technician and avionics flight chief with the 439th Maintenance Squadron, Mr. Doyle has been an artist since he was 8 years old. As a reservist, he is a senior master sergeant.

He is a life-long enthusiast of spacecraft and aviation, and watched B-52s and many other aircraft fly in and out of Westover as he grew up in western Massachusetts.

Mr. Doyle has worked at Westover for more than 30 years. He lives in East Longmeadow, Mass.

PATRIOT PEOPLE |



Ms. Boutin

NAME : Tina L. Boutin
 RANK : Non-appropriated fund employee
 AGE : 40
 HOMETOWN : Chicopee, Mass.
 UNIT : 439th Services Squadron
 POSITION : Head cook
 FAVORITE FOOD : Spaghetti and meatballs
 YEARS OF SERVICE : Eighteen
 FAVORITE SPORT : Softball
 FAVORITE HOBBY : Hiking
 IDEAL VACATION : Japan
 BEST WAY TO RELAX : Anything with family
 PREFERRED ENTERTAINMENT : Movies, dancing with friends and family
 FAVORITE HERO : Clint Eastwood - Dirty Harry
 FAVORITE MUSIC STYLES : Everything but country
 FAVORITE MOVIE : Lord of the Rings
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT : Stealth
 PET PEEVE : Tardiness
 WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WON \$1 MILLION : Open my own restaurant

A look back at Westover history

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column is a monthly review of some of the highlights of Westover's 66-year history. The base first opened in 1940 as a World War II bomber training installation. Since that time, Westover has hosted units of the Military Air Transport Service (MATS), the Strategic Air Command (SAC), and, since 1974, the Air Force Reserve. This month's look back features a historic date during the base's early years as a major SAC base.

On Dec. 4, 1956, the first B-52 to be assigned to Westover arrived. Col. Selmon Wells, 99th Bombardment Wing commander, flew the aircraft to Westover. It was the first of 45 of the strategic bombers to be assigned. The Strategic Air Command chose Westover as the second Air Force base nationwide to stand up the command's first operational B-52 wing. The other B-52 bomb wing was assigned to Loring Air Force Base, Maine. By 1962, the last of 744 B-52s joined the Air Force inventory. Westover's Stratofortresses were the C and D-models, the latter which served in Vietnam during rotating deployments from 1967 to 1972. The last C-models were retired from the Air Force in 1971. About 75 B-52H models remain in the Air Force inventory today.

PATRIOT PUNS |



PATRIOT PRAISES |

Retirements: August-December 2006

Lieutenant colonel
 John L. Adams
 Jacquelyn B. Crothers
 Donald F. Moran

Major
 Michael R. Carey
 James L. Coyle
 Stanford S. Smith

Capt. Stephen F. Riley

Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Podkowka

Senior master sergeant
 Santiago J. Begue
 James H. Keay
 Stephen C. Mueller
 Christopher M. O'Neil
 Steven P. Savage
 Thomas E. Sullivan
 Robert C. Seaton
 Thomas J. Shaughnessy
 Master sergeant
 Bruce James Allen
 Herbert Bambury
 Richard E. Ferranti Jr.
 Kenneth M. Huckins
 Richard A. Jedrey

Jeffrey Jesmonth
 Dennis R. Lenzioszek
 Michael J. May
 Ronald E. May
 Rafael A. Moz
 Charles W. Nash
 Raymond M. Preis
 Manuel J. Ray
 Gary W. Pike
 Peter Steeves
 William F. Vargus
 Technical sergeant
 Robert E. Brown
 Peter A. Coughlin
 Delton C Davison Jr.

Michael A. Froias
 Richard C. King
 Linda M. McGann
 Donald E. Poudrier
 William P A. Powers
 John F. Ritchie
 Donald B. Robertson
 John R. Rossi
 David A. Ryder
 Paul R. Sodergren
 Robert Stefaniak
 Donald R. Talbot
 Steven A. Turner
 Reginald L. Wilson
 Joyce N. Zimmerman

photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza



SALUTE TO HEROES >> Maj. Jay Smeltzer, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron officer, salutes during the Veteran's Day retreat ceremony held at the Base Ellipse Nov. 4.

PATRIOT |

www.westover.afrc.af.mil

A-UTA | DEC. 2-3 | NO B-UTA |



Published monthly for Patriots like Ronald G. Chevalier, Agawam, Mass., and 3,053 reservists and civilians of the 439th AW and the wing's geographically separated unit at Hanscom AFB, Mass.

PRSR STD
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