

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 1995

Westover crew carries Brits to Croatia

by MSgt. Gordon Newell

A 439th Airlift Wing crew airlifted United Nation Rapid Reaction Force troops, vehicles and cargo from RAF Brize-Norton to Croatia July 9.

The nine-member Westover crew, which was the first Reserve stage crew to fly to Split, initially volunteered for 12 days to fly Operation Quicklift missions in support of the U.N. peacekeeping operations in Bosnia.

"On our way to the plane for England, we received a call asking us to volunteer for an extra 10 days," said Capt. Bob Ulich, who was aircraft commander. "Most of us have full-time jobs but we were all willing to stay the extra time."

"The crew is motivated and flexible," he said. "We were the first ones in the flow after TALCE (tanker airlift control element) was ready in Split. We carried 88,000 pounds of

cargo, mostly military vehicles," he said. TALCE is the command and control coordination for the operation.

Other reserve crews from Kelly AFB, Travis AFB and Dover AFB flew missions the next day.

Operation Quicklift was set to bring in about 4,700 British army troops from England and Germany into Croatia as part of the U.N. force being set to reinforce peacekeepers already in Bosnia.

Members of the original Westover crew included pilots Capt. Robert Ulich, 1st. Lt. Michael Smith, Capt. Sean Amuan; flight engineers TSgt. James McKelligan, TSgt. Scott Pashko; loadmasters SSgt. Jeff Antuna, SSgt. Monique Menard and SSgt. Theodore Chaloux and SSgt. William Gagnon of the 439th EMS. On July 18, Amuan and Smith were replaced by Capt. Patrick Cloutier and Capt. Anthony Portnof.



MSgt. Sandi Michon

ON THE LEVEL — Employees of Lane Construction Co. even out freshly-poured concrete on Golf taxiway. The 4,000-foot taxiway is 52-inches thick and

includes 16,000 cubic yards of concrete. Nine thousand tons of asphalt form the shoulder to the taxiway. (See article on page 6.)



A BIG BITE — A C-5 Galaxy from Dover AFB, Del., swallows a CH-47 Chinook helicopter assigned to G Company, 104th Aviation, Pennsylvania National Guard on Westover's ramp. The unit was deploying to Iceland to take part in exercises there. The copters were dismantled for transport to Westover.

Photo by SSgt. Paul Mantikoski

AFRES targets tardy travel vouchers

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Air Force reservists who don't turn their travel vouchers in on time are causing big problems for base budgets, and may thwart their own future TDY plans in the process.

The Joint Federal Travel Regulation requires vouchers to be turned in within five working days of returning from a temporary duty assignment. Because funds are allocated, vouchers that are not completed tie up money that could be used elsewhere, according to James Perry, the 439th AW accounting and finance officer.

"We could be dedicating the unused funds for operations, maintenance, supply or quality of life expenses," he said.

Perry said that the 439th has a high rate of travel voucher delinquency. "The majority of late vouchers are from reservists who live locally," he said.

According to financial management officials at Air Force Reserve Headquarters at Robins AFB, Ga, money is obligated from an organization's travel budget for each trip based on an estimate of the amount that will be spent.

If the estimate is too low, officials said, and the situation isn't corrected by the prompt filing of the voucher, then the organization may wind up obligating more money than is actually available. If the estimate is too high, then money is needlessly tied up in obligations when it could be used to pay other requirements.

Filing travel vouchers within five working days of returning from a trip ensures that actual expenses are posted so travel budget managers know exactly how much money is available.

"We don't have too much of a problem with people who use their American Express cards to pay for their TDYs," said Susan Walker, an accounting specialist in the Headquarters AFRES directorate of financial management.

Walker said that travelers who receive a cash advance prior to their trip aren't a big problem either. "If they don't file their vouchers within 30 days, the travel accounting office takes action to deduct the amount owed from their paycheck," she said.

According to Perry, Westover's Accounting and Finance office is sending out 25-50 letters a week to reservists who have outstanding vouchers and alerting their commanders.

PATRIOT

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O'Grady ordeal spotlights Life Support training

by SSgt. Christine Mora

The 439th Aircrew Life Support section does its best preparing for the worst. They have to, it's their job.

A staff of eight keeps 439th aircrews safe by training the people and equipping the planes that make up Westover's flying squadrons.

"Our job is to make sure that aircrew members—from both the 337th Airlift Squadron and 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron—can handle any emergency or survival situation they run into," said MSgt. Paul LaRochelle, NCOIC,

In order to train reservists and keep aircraft supplied, the life support section, part of the 439th Operations Group, has to keep track of thousands of pieces of equipment, making sure it is in optimum working condition at all times. In addition to C-5 equipment, the section stocks equipment for C-130s and C-141s used by 439th medics.

To ensure crew members know how to operate the tools that may someday mean the difference between life or death, the life support personnel conduct a variety of training over different time intervals. "On an annual basis, aircrews must train on all life support equipment, in addition to egress training," LaRochelle said. "Every two years, they must go through aircrew chemical defense ensemble training and every three years, both water survival and combat survival."

Combat survival training grabbed the spotlight several weeks ago when Capt. Scott O'Grady, an active-duty F-16 pilot, survived on his own for six days after being shot down over war-torn Bosnia. "The O'Grady situation illustrated all elements of life support training coming together," LaRochelle said. "There is no glory in this and other career fields that go unnoticed until something goes wrong."

The life support section conducts combat survival training at Westover's Dogpatch field training



MASKED MAN — SSgt. Jean-Pierre Wood, aircrew life support journeyman, models the chemical warfare ensemble for aircrew members.

area and the sessions involve a variety of topics that teach aircrews what they need to know to survive completely on their own. Among the subjects covered are evasion, medical, personal protection, signaling and recovery, travel techniques and sustenance.

Much of what they teach is not common practice, but survival-specific, according to SSgt. Jean-Pierre Wood, aircrew life support journeyman. "For instance, we instruct aircrews to treat themselves medically and set their own broken bones," Wood said. "Of course, in a normal situation, you wouldn't move your limb, but wait until you got to a hospital. When you're out in the middle of nowhere, YOU are the hospital."

After the Air Mobility Command, the flying squadron's gaining command, mandated last year that all aircrews go through hands-on survival training in open water, LaRochelle spearheaded a new training program. It takes Westover aircrews to Key West, Fla., where they drill in a variety of water survival techniques at the U.S. Army Special Forces Underwater training school.

"The program has been very well-received by the squadrons and many have said it is some of the most realistic training they've been through," LaRochelle said. "We've utilized Total Quality Management techniques to assess the productivity of this and other training so we can continually improve the processes."

Base firefighter teaches kids a lesson

By TSgt. William C. Pope

The Westover fire station is quickly becoming the most popular spot on the base tour and it's all because of an entertaining firefighter.

"Are you kids scared of me, because I'm big and mean looking and drive a big motorcycle!" said Joseph Jude Kara a civilian firefighter at Westover's fire station. He glared at the Cub Scouts from Somerset, Mass. for a few more moments and then gave them a smile when they said: "No, fireman Joe".

Kara captured the attention of the 16 scouts and the 13 adult leaders who accompanied them. They enjoyed every minute of it and learned things that could save their lives in the future.

"I did this kind of public education 62 times last year and I consider it my second duty. I teach day-care age at the old base chapel from two to six years old and the elderly," he said.

"I like the kids the best because there I know I have a real chance of stopping them from playing with matches or showing them how to stop, drop and roll if they experience a fire," he said.

During the tour Kara shows them a line of equipment and suits that are lying on the floor. He walks along behind them and shows what each is and how it is used. He shows them silver gear which retards heat, a chemical suit that is used in hazardous material emergencies, an air pack that they wear on their backs, a weight belt to show them they need to be strong to be a fireman, and he shows them a mop firefighters use to keep the station clean.

Then it was off to see the fire trucks, "I want to go with you fireman Joe," a dark-haired scout said as Kara was splitting up the groups.

After each group explored the trucks, it was back for a little more lecturing. Kara gathered the group into an open area in the station and set a case down in front of them. They watched him like he was a performing magician at a circus. He pulled



SSgt. Paul Mantikowski

BREATHE EASY — Joseph Jude Kara, alias Fireman Joe, shows the unique features of the Swedish-made breathing mask to a group of Cub Scouts.

from his case a familiar stuffed purple dinosaur. He used it as a prop to show them to crawl low in smoke.

"Should you play with these," He asked as he brought out a bag of lighters and matches. "No!" everyone said in unison.

"These are a leading cause of fires," Kara said as he pulled out a large zip-lock bag full of cigarettes. He then pulled out a bag full of dummy fireworks and said "All fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts, but they are still a big contributor to people getting injured during the summer months."

As Kara finished up he stressed that fire is nothing to play with and that it can be a very dangerous thing.

"Now that you have seen all of

this, how many of you want to be a firefighter," he asked as all the scouts raised their hands enthusiastically.

"But you do know that you'll have to go to school for the rest of your life," he said with smile. "Firefighters have to always keep learning new techniques of firefighting and training with real fire and equipment. It's never ending," he said.

"People get the misconception that firefighters don't do anything other than sit around the fire station. That couldn't be further from the truth," he said.

Fireman Joe packed up all his goodies into his case and said goodbye to his newly-made friends, knowing that his fun way of educating may someday save one of their lives.



Good neighbors

Nearly 3,000 visitors each year tour Westover from April through November. In just three months of 1995, the base hosted 47 tours for a total of 1,271 guests. A typical tour highlights the C-5 and the fire station, to the delight of young and old from far and wide. The tour program augments the biennial air show at the base which showcases Westover's role in our national defense.

Photos by SSgt. Paul Mantikoski





HARD HAT AREA — Photos above, and at right, show work being done on a \$5 million construction project on Golf taxiway. Below, a worker attaches plywood panel to the roof of the new medical training facility due to be completed in December.
(photos by MSgt. Sandi Michon)



Face lift

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

In case you hadn't noticed, Westover is in the midst of a construction boom, and it's a long way from being over.

Millions of dollars were expended on various projects this year and more building and renovation plans are being considered to help the base remain a top notch facility.

"As custodians of Westover, we must spend taxpayer dollars wisely," said Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing. "It makes good economic sense to properly maintain the facilities we have, especially with the increased use of the base as the Northeast Air Station. More and more people are training

here in exercises like Patriot Tiger and Medstar so we must offer a first class facility and safe environment for these people."

With these goals in mind, base Civil Engineering, headed by Leroy Clink, has been busy designing and facilitating scores of projects to make Westover the pride of the Air Force Reserve.

"We are in a new era of facility improvement," said Clink. "These projects are needed to maintain and improve Westover as a strategic military facility."

Many of the upgrades are long overdue, like the \$2 million base water distribution system that replaces the half-century old system.

Badly-needed renovations and alterations to the Base Supply Building should be completed in October, and \$1 million went to upgrade an antiquated electrical distribution system. Construction of a new AGE shop in Hangar 9 ran about \$800,000 while a new tele-conferencing center in the existing Base Theater will cost about the same.

Other jobs either completed this year or nearly completed include renovations to the recruiting building (formerly the base photo lab); construction of a welcome center and religious training facility in Bldg. 1100; new bathroom facilities in all five hangars; rebuilding of the crumbling



continued on page 10



Young ends 20-year career

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

At 39, a lot of people think about slowing down, but Louise Young was just getting started.

As a single mother of two grown children, Young obtained an age waiver and followed her son's footsteps into an Air Force adventure.

Now, 20 years later — she is hanging up her boots — but still shows no signs of slowing down.

Born in Sicily, Italy, TSgt. Young was only one-and-a-half-years old when she and her parents emigrated to America. They settled in Ansonia, Conn., where Young grew up.

In her late thirties, she considered the Air Force Reserve as a way to obtain nursing training, and thought it was "the patriotic thing to do." Her son was already in the Air Force, and her brother was an Air Force colonel. "I felt God was telling me to join the

Reserve," Young said.

After basic training and technical school, Young joined Westover's ranks as a medical technician at the 439th MDS (then the TAC Hospital). In addition to 20 years at the base clinic, Young served various active duty tours in support of base exercises, and Headquarters AFRES.

She worked one year civil service at CBPO, and has worked 13 years for Sikorsky Aircraft in Connecticut. She also worked as a nursing assistant at the VA hospital in Manchester, N.H.

After naming a list of Air Force career highlights, Young finally decided, "I loved it all!"

Young was a visible volunteer at many base events, and volunteerism is a way of life no matter where she is. She was named Volunteer of the Year at Sikorsky Aircraft in 1992, and regularly volunteers at the VA hospital, nursing homes, standdowns, church



Louise Young

activities, Special Olympics, and even bakes for her neighbors.

As she said goodbye to associates at the Clinic in July, she was already planning her next volunteer event — she'll be back to help out at the wing picnic in September.

Reservists take volunteer spirit into community

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Each and every Reservist volunteers to serve in the military, and they regularly take their volunteer spirit into their communities.

Lt. Col. Burt Finkel, Westover's chief of dental services, recently volunteered at the Special Olympics in New Haven, Conn. The Games were only a half-hour drive from his home in Cheshire, Conn., and they made it a family event.

Finkel, his wife Wendy, and their three children, Julie, 21, Kevin, 17, and Karen, 15, all took part in the international, eight-day event. "We were assigned to a pin-trading tent in Expo Park, which turned out to be the most popular side tent at the Olympics," said Finkel. "We had a great time. We ended up going back a couple more days," he said.

Finkel, who was part of the volunteer group from the VA hospital in West Haven where he works, couldn't say enough about the experience. While he felt it was difficult to articulate his feelings, he said they definitely felt like they got a lot more than they gave. "We met and talked to athletes from around the world. As I congratulated a power lifting athlete that came through our tent, the only thing that outshone the three gold medals around his neck, was the pride beaming on his face," said Finkel.

Besides seeing many celebrities at the Special Olympics, Finkel was most taken by the athletes themselves.

After watching a young man from Panama play basketball with only one leg, Finkel felt inspired. "It gave me the chills to see him hopping up and down the court — playing better than I ever could! I am inspired by his courage," he said.

According to Finkel, his kids were originally lukewarm about volunteering, but were hooked after the first day. "My youngest daughter was apprehensive about being around handicapped people, but the experience deepened her understanding, and she loved visiting with the athletes," explained Finkel.

"It helps put things in perspective. We groan about our little aches and pains, but watching others overcome larger challenges really changes your viewpoint," he said. Finkel loves activities his family can enjoy together, and he feels parents need to model the volunteer concept and teach kids to "do something for nothing."

In Finkel's volunteer experiences, he also sees similarities in the Reserve volunteer. "In both arenas, I see a high caliber of people, very giving, vibrant people with tons of energy. Many traits I see in volunteers are also found among Reservists," Finkel said.

According to Finkel, many professionals in the Reserve can make more money at their civilian jobs with the time they spend serving in the Reserve program, but he summed up the volunteer motivation as, "There is something bigger than money." That is what the Reservist shares with his community and his country.

Medics earn abundance of AFRES awards

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

The 439th Airlift Wing is one of 39 wings in the Air Force Reserve, yet more than half of the command's 1994 medical awards found their way to Westover.

The 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron won as a unit, and Capt. Martha Soper and MSgt. Catherine Skalecki earned individual kudos. (See related article.)

The 439th Medical Squadron listed SSgt. Marianne Healey, SMSgt. Mark Guilyard, and Maj. Bob Sousa as individual winners.

The 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, won outstanding ASTS (100-bed) and TSgt. Carl Craft and

Maj. Lenore Boris took individual awards.

"We are a 'medical family'," said Col. Joseph Curley, medical group commander, referring to how all four medical units work together. Even though the 439th AES does not fall under the medical group, there is much interchange between the units. Curley said all four units have highly talented personnel that work side-by-side in exercises and training, and they also use the talent pool for career enhancement across all medical units.

According to Curley, the unit's combined efforts in hosting national exercises like Medstar and mass-casualty exercises has placed

Westover on the map as the northeast medical training facility.

Individual awards in the 439th Medical Group were outstanding airman, NCO and officer of a non-deployable medical unit. SMSgt. Mark Guilyard, superintendent of nursing services, took best NCO, which is the third consecutive year their unit has represented best NCO. Guilyard, a 24-year veteran from Branford, Conn., is a busy troop both in and out of the Reserve program. He is heavily involved in Team Yankee, a tri-service EMT training program.

SSgt. Marianne Healey, dental assistant, won the outstanding airman, a category that Westover has never captured. Healey has been with the 439th MDS for three years, and is a special education teacher as a civilian.

Adding to a long list of awards, Maj. Bob Sousa, medical administrator, is outstanding officer assigned to a non-deployable unit. Sousa has 22 years service, including 14 with the MDS.

Adding to the unit award for the 439th ASTS, Maj. Lenore Boris was named outstanding officer for an ASTS. Boris is a training officer with the 439th ASTS, and is a lawyer as a civilian.

TSgt. Carl Craft, a logistics specialist with the 439th ASTS, is noted for his volunteer efforts. He spent six months in Cuba assisting with refugees at Guantanamo Bay, and was instrumental in moving the ASTS from Griffiss AFB to Westover.

Three members of the 722nd ASTS received quarterly awards from the 622nd Regional Support Group, which heads up 19 geographically separated units.

Individual awards went to 1st. Lt. Jennie Cumberbatch-Smith, MSgt. Stephenson McCoy and SSgt. Carlis Ragland III.

To sum up all the awards, Chief Kudla quipped, "We medics have the best troops on base."

439th AES shares in bounty

By Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

This year, it's their year.

The 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron is the Air Force Reserve's top aeromedical evacuation squadron, a first-time commendation for the unit.

"We're very proud of the reservists," Maj. Rosemary Costa, the unit's full-time nurse, said. "When there's a call to assist, our people come forward."

439th AES members have assisted in training missions from Alaska to Panama. Developing an emergency medical plan for Westover's air show, taking the lead in bring together civilian and military trauma experts to assist in natural disasters and pioneering ways to channel military medical training into nationally recognized certifications, were among the reasons the unit won the AFRES honor. And along the way, four of its members won Bronze Stars.

Costa attributes the award, in part, to the 439th's expanded mission. It's a tall order. The unit must be able to deploy anywhere in the world to provide aeromedical evacuation support to combat ground forces—within 72 hours.

The unit also garnered two individual reserve awards: MSgt. Catherine J. Skalecki was named outstanding aeromedical evacuation squadron NCO and Capt. Martha P. Soper, outstanding aeromedical evacuation squadron flight nurse.

Soper, one of the Bronze Star recipients, is described as "a natural-born instructor who displays a strong ability to build credibility." She served as an instructor during Patriot Medstar '94 and is an advanced cardiac life support instructor at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Skalecki, an honor graduate at the Brooks AFB School of Aerospace Medicine, developed a wing-wide nutrition and fitness program and served as a multi-service trauma and battle-casualty consultant. She also authors a health and wellness newsletter.

Patriot People

Name: Ted Jeremicz
Rank: TSgt.
Age: 48
Address: Springfield
Unit: 439 EMS
Position: Fabric worker
Civilian position: Fabric worker (ART)
Favorite food: seafood
Years of service: 19
Favorite sport: Downhill skiing
Favorite hobby: Computers
Ideal vacation: Mountains
Best way to relax: Hot tub
Preferred entertainment: Good movie
Favorite car: Lexus
Favorite music: Country
Favorite movie: Ben Hur
Favorite aircraft: F-117
Pet peeve: People who double talk
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Start a business



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

TSgt. Ted Jeremicz

Patriot Praises

Promotions

CMSgt. Rogers, Alan P.
 SMSgt. Puopolo, Frank M.
 SMSgt. Ralston Susan A.
 MSgt. Lawton, David W.
 TSgt. Brothers, Brenda B.
 TSgt. Dambrosio, Thomas W.
 TSgt. Johnson, Lex S.
 TSgt. Larkowski, Robert A.
 SSgt. Angiulo, Stephen R.
 SSgt. Archambault, James M.
 SSgt. Barr, Steven E.
 SSgt. Card, Timothy M.
 SSgt. Cohen, Anthony
 SSgt. Companik, Michael E.
 SSgt. Ejdays, Daniel R.
 SSgt. Emo, Douglas W.
 SSgt. Flatten, James
 SSgt. Girard, Nicole J.
 SSgt. Gosselin, Martin H.
 SSgt. Luckie, Gregory
 SSgt. McGuire, Thomas J.Jr.
 SSgt. McMahon, William J.
 SSgt. Niemiec, Joseph
 SSgt. Soares, Antonio J.
 SSgt. Valladares, Neil B.
 SSgt. Warmesley, Floyd III
 SSgt. Watson, Gary M.
 SSgt. Whelton, James M.
 SrA. Adams, David K.
 SrA. Demerchant, Rodney C.Jr.
 SrA. Fijal, Tadd M.
 SrA. Henrickson, David K.
 SrA. Henry, Francis J.
 SrA. Hinkson, Marva L.
 SrA. Martin, Sean S.
 SrA. Montgomery, Joseph H.IV

SrA. Payne, James M.
 SrA. Perry, Bryan K.
 SrA. Tice, Christian C.
 SrA. Troiano, Peter D.
 AIC Connors, Jason E.
 AIC Magistri, Tracy L.
 AIC Otto, Danette M.
 AIC Snay, Shawn K.
 AB Coyle, Charles B.

Enlistments

Sgt. Stokes, Vikki J.
 SSgt. Banister Christopher L.
 SSgt. Hall, David S.
 SSgt. Stefferson James J.
 SSgt. Taggart Timothy B.
 SrA. Aparicio Vincent
 SrA. Jackson, Anthony E.
 SrA. Cotto, Rene
 SrA. Mejia William E.
 SrA. Murphy Todd P.
 SrA. Ortiz Louis G. Jr.
 SrA. Otis Jeffrey C.
 SrA. Palmer Christopher M.
 SrA. Radecki, Eric J.
 SrA. Ramos Liana M.
 SrA. Simpson Jarrette W.
 AIC Azevedo Amy L.
 AIC Bayusiak, Bryan C.
 AIC Beaulieu Joshua A.
 AIC Downen Kathleen M.
 AIC Johnson Robin K.
 AIC Gaynor Carlton D.
 AIC Morency, Ronald G.
 AMN. Riordan Kam S.
 AB Doss Rena E.

Reenlistments

CMSgt. Doyle, Christopher
 CMSgt. Kudla George J.
 CMSgt. Smith, Thomas A.
 SMSgt. Bailey, Angus C.
 SMSgt. Walsh, Debra A.
 MSgt. Conigliaro, Charles J.
 MSgt. Giovannucci, Luciano
 MSgt. Larochelle, Paul N.
 MSgt. Mc Coy, Stephenson
 MSgt. Pease, Richard L.
 MSgt. Pickener, James L.
 MSgt. Rosario Flores, Hector M.
 TSgt. Ames, Christopher G.
 TSgt. Baker, Mark D. Jr.
 TSgt. Bennis, Robert W. Jr.
 TSgt. Bornstein, Bruce L.
 TSgt. Coney, Gerald L. Sr.
 TSgt. Fielding, Brian T.
 TSgt. Fluegge, Ann M.
 TSgt. Ford, William H.
 TSgt. Holding, David E.
 TSgt. Kobis, Donald E.
 TSgt. Oliva, Vincent J.
 TSgt. Parker, James S.
 TSgt. Perry, Ann
 TSgt. Roberto, Ann T.
 TSgt. Sage, Donald M.
 TSgt. Walker, Janet L.
 Ssgt. Armstrong, David P.
 SSgt. Bennett, Everett D. III
 SSgt. Bray, Robert L. III
 SSgt. Breland, Mary L.
 SSgt. Brown, Daryl J.
 SSgt. Chaloux, Theodore J.
 SSgt. Chaniewicz Adamchak, Halyna
 SSgt. Cosenza, Albert J.

SSgt. Dawson, Kelly E.
 SSgt. Durocher, Robert G.
 SSgt. Duval, Donna M.
 SSgt. Frank, Donald F.
 SSgt. George, Lystra D.
 SSgt. Hartwig, Carl R.
 SSgt. Hickey, Daniel P.
 SSgt. Horne, Augustine Jr.
 SSgt. Iacona, Ana Maria J.
 SSgt. Janusz, Joseph A.
 SSgt. Karol, Jason F.
 SSgt. Levesque, Mark E.
 SSgt. Lumenello, Jason S.
 SSgt. McSherry, James W.
 SSgt. Montenegro, Jose F.B. III
 Ssgt. Pelka, Paul L.
 SSgt. Pepin, Jeffrey D.
 SSgt. Perkins, John E.
 SSgt. Piette, Jason A.
 SSgt. Reitz, Clement G.
 SSgt. Roberts, Robert A.
 SSgt. Simmons, Vanessa V.
 SSgt. Sketch, John J.
 SSgt. Velky, John S. II
 Sgt. Page, Richard H. III
 SrA. Boulanger, Micheal A.
 SrA. Evasins, Darren R.
 SrA. Gambardella, Anthony G.
 SrA. Harper, Stephen J.
 SrA. Miller, Adam B.
 SrA. Nowak, Mark J.
 SrA. Stall, Daniel E.
 SrA. Surowiec, Peter A.

Quality leadership

This summer seems to be especially turbulent for the Air Force Reserve. The last round of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission and other force structure changes have hit us and the active force hard. But, we have to keep the big picture in focus: Since the drawdown started in 1987, the active force lost about 35 percent of its officer and enlisted force and 39 percent of its civilians. Although the Reserve is experiencing some force structure reductions, our slice of the Air Force mission is generally increasing and our of tempo is also remaining high.

While we can't stop the pace of change, there is one thing we can do: Provide quality leadership. Leadership, in the end, is the most vital stabilizing influence in any organization. As Air Force Reserve leaders (to some degree everyone is a leader) we must maximize the stability and constancy of our greatest assets—the attitudes and morale of our people. While we may not necessarily be happy with all this turbulence, one of our primary responsibilities as professionals is to effectively implement and facilitate change.

I am very confident that the caliber of officer and NCO leaders in this great command will continue to keep us combat ready and constantly improving. Your role as an important air Force Reserve leader and team member remains key to our execution of the mission—both now and in the future.

Commentary

by Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh
Commander, Air Force Reserve

Base construction projects long overdue

continued from page 7

Pad 19, where dangerous cargo is stored, near Dogpatch.

Major military construction projects, which have been approved by Congress, include the rebuilding of Golf Taxiway with a \$5 million price tag; the new medical training facility, and the replacement of underground storage tanks. Many smaller projects—such as the

beautification of the ellipse, new storm drains, a recycling and transfer station and new base signs—have also been completed.



In the immediate future, Clink has plans for road construction and paving, new granite curbing, sidewalks and a hazardous material pharmacy in Building 1301.

Briefs

Wing Family Day slated for Sept.

The 439th Airlift Wing's annual Family Day picnic will be held Sept. 9 from noon to 1600.

In addition to food and beverages, entertainment and raffles, a volleyball tournament will be conducted. Horseshoes and other games will also be available.

CMSgt. Bill Currier, who is the picnic committee coordinator, said the event is a tremendous opportunity to meet other wing members and their families, and to foster team spirit.

Civilian employees of the base and their immediate families are also invited to attend.

Chief Kudla named resource manager

CMSgt. George Kudla is the new medical resource manager. Kudla, a 25-year veteran from Ludlow, Mass., is responsible for all logistical aspects which maintain Westover's three medical units that comprise the medical group (439th MDS, 439th ASTS and 722nd ASTS). He was formerly the 439th MDS medical administration manager.

DOD establishes Gulf War line

The Department of Defense set up a toll-free number so people who served in the Persian Gulf region can report incidents they believe may have led to medical problems.

Military and civilian members who were in the Persian Gulf region as early as August 1990 can call the Gulf War incident reporting line at 1-800-472-6719.

August UTA dates
A UTA Aug. 5-6
B UTA Aug. 19-20

ESGR can help Reservists thank bosses

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Okay, so your boss isn't exactly thrilled when you ask for time off to perform Air Force Reserve duty. However most of the time he understands and gives you the time you need..

So maybe you'd like a way to show him that you appreciate his tolerance.

The National Committee for the Support of the Guard and Reserve has just the ticket.

The committee, established by Congress to help educate employers about the mission of National Guard and Reserve, has established three awards to recognize deserving bosses.

The top award in the program is the prestigious Pro Patria, a Latin expression meaning "for the nation." The award highlights the patriotism of the recipient, who indicates support of the national defense by adopting personnel policies which make it easier for employees in the military. This award, which is presented by the Secretary of Defense, is highly selective. No more than one award is given in each state annually.

The State Chairman's Award is given to a limited number of recipients by the state committee for em-

ployer support.

The Certificate of Appreciation, referred to as the "My Boss is a Pro" award, is presented by the National Committee on behalf of the Department of Defense.

Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of the 439th AW, is 100 percent behind the program and is anxious to present awards to deserving employers.

"This is a very important program," he said. "We want your employers to know that we appreciate

their sacrifices. Either myself or my representative will present the awards to employers at a convenient place and time.'

Nominations may be in letter format, or on a fill-in form available through the public affairs office. Call (413) 557-3500 or write:

**439 AW/PA
Westover ARB
100 Lloyd St., Suite 103
East Wing
Chicopee, Ma. 01022-1825**

Employer Appreciation Day on October UTAs

Reservists assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing will have the chance to show their bosses what the Air Force Reserve is all about on Employer Appreciation Day during the October UTAs.

Reservists may invite their boss on the UTA they normally drill.

A full day's activities are planned for employers, including an orientation flight on a C-5 and the opportunity to visit their reservists in their military workplace. If reservists are taking part in the scheduled Operational Readiness Exercise bosses will be transported to those sites.

Employers are asked to register in the 337th briefing room at the Base Hangar at 8:30 a.m. Saturday of both UTAs.

Following welcoming remarks by Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of the 439th, bosses will be split into two groups to begin activities.

Applications are available at the 439th AW public affairs office Ext. 2072.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Scott W. Lau, of Groton, Conn., and 2,820 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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