

# PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

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**FAMILY DAY** – MSgt. John Riley, 439th AGS crew chief, husband of MSgt. Sharon Riley, 42nd APS career advisor, enjoys the Wing picnic with their daughter

Melissa. Hundreds of Reservists and family members attended the picnic on Sept. 9. Westover's chiefs and first sergeants organized the annual picnic.

## ***Wing expresses thanks to Reservists' families***

By Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

Overcast skies didn't dampen the spirits of hundreds of reservists and their families who attended the 439th Airlift Wing picnic Saturday during the September A UTA.

They dined on the requisite fare of hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, soda and beer. They bopped to the funky beats of rock, rap and rhythm. They browsed the concession stand, sent the kids to a tent full of Lego blocks and spiked volleyballs.

A few even scored a bull's eye at the dunking booth giving Wing Commander Col. James P. Czekanski frigid soakings.

The scale of entertainment at times gave the picnic a carnival ambiance.

"There's a better turnout than last year," Lisa Wielder, a base purchasing clerk, remarked about the picnic. "There's more stuff to do." Her husband David, is an air reserve technician at the 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron.

TSgt. Michael Sullivan, an aircraft inspector at the 439th Logistics Group, and his wife, Marilyn, found a quiet spot to enjoy their meal at the far end of the picnic area. "The food is good," Marilyn said, as she attended to their 11-month old son Kyle who seemed content to rock the seat of his stroller.

Nearby, the families of MSgt. Charles Porter and MSgt. Thomas Brown, transportation supervisors at the aerial

*Continued on page 6*

# Quality teams put reservists in the driver's seat

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Since 1991, Total Quality teams at Westover ARB, have changed the way the base does business. And reservists there aren't just reaping the benefits — they're the ones making it happen.

From the clinic to the flightline the more than 111 improvements are apparent. Office processes are being revised, mechanical components modified and ideas realized.

"Not only have Westover reservists adapted to Total Quality, they've embraced it," said Maj. Armand Tourangeau, 439th Airlift Wing Quality Officer.

Leading the pack of quality improvements is the 439th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. A variety of projects has increased communication and morale within the squadron. The improvements have promoted periodic meetings and staff question and answer periods, reservist information updates, and even annual tour site changes. "The reservists were displeased that Westover was always their annual tour site," said SMSgt. Kathy Wood, wing quality officer. "Using filters (including a 'within driving distance' requirement) they were able to perform their training off-site at numerous locations. The

**"Some of our original skeptics are now true believers because they've seen the results..."**

**Maj. Armand Tourangeau**

project won kudos from other bases, provided effective training and increased morale."

Most reservists have trudged through the long lines that accompany their annual physicals, but Westover's USAF Clinic has made that process practically hassle-free. Personnel will now find staff members assisting them with paperwork, escorting them to stations with no wait lines and even offering fasting reservists refreshments once bloodwork is completed. By "focusing on the customer," Westover medics have turned one of the most hassling responsibilities into one of the most expedient.

"We've decreased the time needed for physicals from more than six hours to about three," said Lt. Col. Sarah Waterman, chief of nursing services. "We return customers to their duty stations quicker and Clinic personnel get more of their own tasks accomplished." The colonel added that customer feedback has indicated

the unit is "on the right track."

Maintenance personnel from the 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron took a problem with separate tanks on de-icing trucks and not only solved it, but saved money in the process. They armed two trucks with pre-mixed tanks which reduced the chance of freezing pump systems and reduced the cost of the expensive purging process. "By analyzing the issue and working with different agencies, we were able to solve a problem that had plagued us for years," said Lt. Col. Robert Guillet, squadron commander. "We are able to work more efficiently because reservists took the initiative to improve a process themselves."

"When we started Total Quality at Westover four years ago, many thought of it as the flavor of the month," said Tourangeau. "Some of our original skeptics are now true believers because they've seen the results as both customers and process owner."

## PATRIOT

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## Speaker asks audience to confront enemy

*Renowned journalist, Maria Hinojosa, addresses Hispanic heritage gathering at Westover Club*

Article and photo  
by SSgt. Christine Mora

Guest speaker Maria Hinojosa challenged the Westover group to "embrace diversity and change - not fight it."

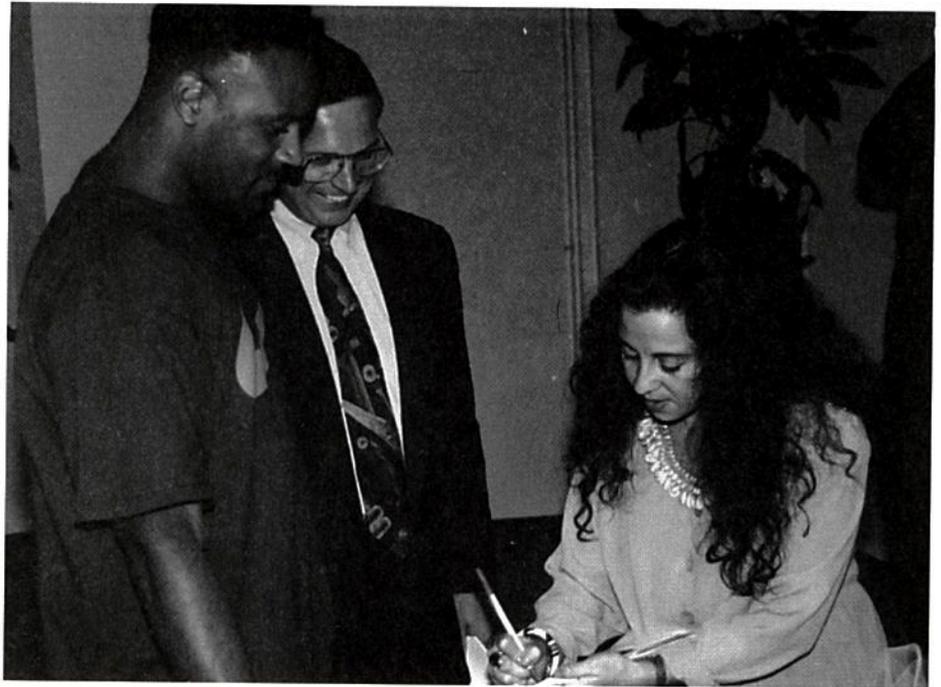
The nationally-renowned journalist spoke to more than 100 people gathered at the Special Emphasis Program Committee's Hispanic Heritage Month seminar Sept. 7, about diversity, fear, and what she calls, the "other people".

Addressing society's tendency to condemn immigrants, or the "others," Hinojosa pointed out that we are all the "other," in some way, shape or form. She said that our nation's melting pot beginnings and the fact that — unless one is of native American descent — we all have roots in another land, make it hypocritical for Americans to criticize immigration or those of different ancestry.

"The nature of being American is that we all embody different cultures and no one person or ethnic group has ownership in this country," she said. "We are an inherently multi-cultural society. The 'other' is not the enemy, the 'other' is ourselves."

Hinojosa used a recent national tragedy to illustrate how quickly Americans jump to ethnic conclusions. "Immediately after the Oklahoma bombing, the public was so quick to point out that the culprits must be 'them' or foreigners," she said. "Then CNN reported that the suspects were white males."

Hinojosa told the crowd that a few weeks after the Oklahoma bombing, she walked into a small store in resi-



**SIGNING OFF - National Public Radio (NPR) journalist Maria Hinojosa, signs an autograph at the Westover Club, where she spoke to civilians and reservists about cultural and class struggles facing America today. Looking on (center) is Norm Lorange, civilian personnel officer.**

dential Connecticut and saw a white man with a crew cut. "I instinctively felt fear," she said.

"What was the basis for this fear?" Hinojosa asked. "The image that was created by the media." Similar images are what taints society's view of many ethnic groups, she said. "Because the media highlights the actions of an individual who happens to be a certain ethnicity, society stereotypes the whole group."

Hinojosa condemned television shows such as "COPS" for "using certain images to reinforce certain fears," and noted that they are not reflective of reality. "It is so much easier to point the finger or blame our problems on the 'others.'"

The issue that really needs to be confronted is not diversity of culture, but diversity of class, she said.

Commonality of experiences and of vision is ultimately what will save us, according to Hinojosa. "Let's face it, people will continue to come here because that is the history of our country," she said. "We can't build a wall because they are coming here for the same reasons our forefathers did — because they have a dream."

Although there are immigrants

that are bad people, there are many Americans that are bad too, she said. Hinojosa warned that one group society should really fear are "skinheads". "I just did a story on a couple of skinheads from an Aryan nation group in Pennsylvania who killed their parents," she said. One of the most chilling moments was when a young female skinhead (who had two Puerto Rican brothers) told Hinojosa that "if it (becoming a skinhead) could happen to me, it could happen to anyone."

The challenge constantly facing Americans is a "fear of change, of losing power, of people who do things differently," she said. "Either we embrace this change and work with it, or we'll be very angry people for a long time."

People should imagine the worst case scenario, Hinojosa said. "If there were a revolution in this country, what side would you be on?"

"Whether we are threatened by an outside enemy or from within, we will reach out to those next to us - no matter what the ethnic background," she said. "We will save ourselves by saving each other."



**TAXIWAY DEDICATED** -- Brig. Gen. Michael Lee, 22nd AF commander, right center, was on hand Sept. 9 to help Col. James P. Czekanski cut the traditional ribbon to officially open Golf Taxiway. The project cost \$5.2 million, and took 176 days to

complete. In addition, 16,000 cubic feet of concrete were poured, 9,700 cubic yard of asphalt used, and 100,000 cubic yards of earth moved. The revamped taxiway adds two C-5 parking spaces, and one more for smaller aircraft. (Photo by SSgt. Christine Mora)

## Advisory Council rewards Churchill's performance

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

SSgt. Lori Churchill, 439th LSS information management specialist, has been named the first recipient of the new Base Advisory Council Above and Beyond Award in recognition of exceptional performance.

The 16-member council of enlisted reservists recently instituted the award to honor those who go beyond the call of duty as a reservist or civilian. The Above and Beyond Award includes a \$25 gift certificate from the Base Advisory Council.

Churchill's award recognizes that she went beyond the call of duty while serving on TDY at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia from June to September, 1994.

According to the citation, she worked with "a vast mixture of Air Force personnel, branches of service and nationalities to perform a difficult mission in a harsh desert environment at which she excelled. This 90-day tasking was a course of endurance and applying knowledge, ingenuity and restraint."

Churchill assisted in construction of a 4,000-foot transportation combat-oriented supply operations ware-

house. She built more than 300 feet of new storage racks and set up a warehouse of 8,000 items. She also helped organize the transportation of material to the new warehouse.

"It is important to recognize those who go outside of the routine performance of duty. The council knows that some people excel at what they do and deserve to be recognized for it. They help to keep the standards high," said SSgt. William Gagnon, Base Advisory Council president.

The Above and Beyond Award will be presented to a Westover reservist twice a year. To nominate someone for recognition, call SSgt. William Mick, 439th AGS, at Ext. 3993 or Gagnon at Ext. 3226.

The council is made up of technical sergeants and below who represent every squadron on base. Their chief purpose is to advise commanders of ways to enhance the morale and welfare of enlisted members. Council members are also committed to providing assistance to enlisted members.

The Base Advisory Council meets at the dining hall at 9 a.m. on Sundays of "A" UTAs. Everyone on base is invited to attend the meetings.

# Reservists have two years to get patched up

by TSgt. William C. Pope

Most of the Air Force Reserve's 65,000 members have two years to put patches on their battle dress uniforms.

Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command and AFRES-gained reservists have until Sept. 30, 1997, to switch their BDUs from the aircrew style name patch to the sewn-on name and U.S. Air Force tapes.

When the BDU shirt or field jacket is configured with the sewn-on tapes, Reserve units gained by ACC, AMC or AFRES will wear the subdued gaining command patch above the right breast pocket. The patches will be centered between the left and right edges and the bottom of the flap and the bottom of the pocket.

"As of October 1, 1995 we want to see all of the ranks sewn on the BDUs. This includes the enlisted stripes on the sleeves and the officer ranks back on the collar," commented CMSgt. Joseph R. LaFrance, First Sergeant of the 439 MSSQ.

Installation commanders may approve the wear of one subdued sewn-on organizational patch and will designate whether it is a numbered air force, wing or squadron patch.

The organizational patch will go on the left breast pocket in the same manner as the command patch will go on the right breast pocket. AFRES active-duty units and Headquarters AFRES personnel will not wear an organizational patch.

"The Wing will be studying the organizational patch issue, to decide what or if any organizational patches will be used. We will be getting more information out on this in the future," said LaFrance.

If the service member has an awarded duty badge - security police, fire protection - it will go on the left pocket in lieu of the organizational patch.

Air Force Instruction 36-2903 and its supplements have more information on the proper wear of command and organizational patches, and duty

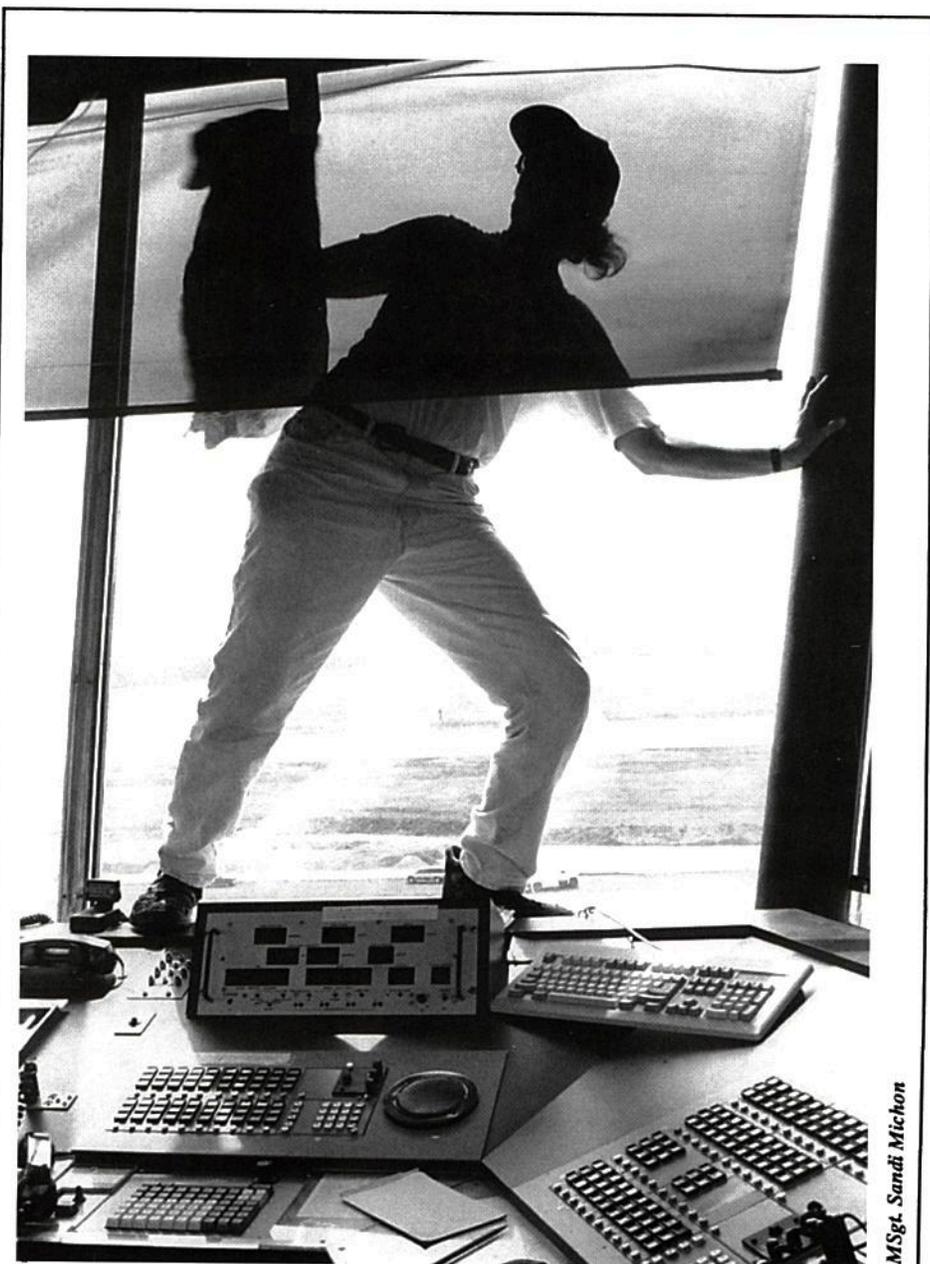
badges. They must be sewn on the uniform, not affixed with Velcro or similar fasteners.

Unit orderly rooms will provide clothing issue request forms needed to obtain sew-on name and U.S. Air Force tapes from base supply. Stripes may be available at unit orderly rooms, or base supply. Uniform items are also available at the Base Ex-

change, or at Sentry Uniform at members own cost.

Sentry will sew stripes at no cost, providing member has pre-authorization from clothing issue personnel.

ACC and AMC have not authorized the wear of morale patches, including specialty, competition and recognition patches. In the past, these were worn above the name tape.



MSgt. Sandi Michon

**HE DOES WINDOWS** — Although his perch looks precarious, Walter Bara, from Holyoke, is actually standing on the control tower console to wash the tower windows and polarizer shades. Bara works for Richco Cleaning Company.

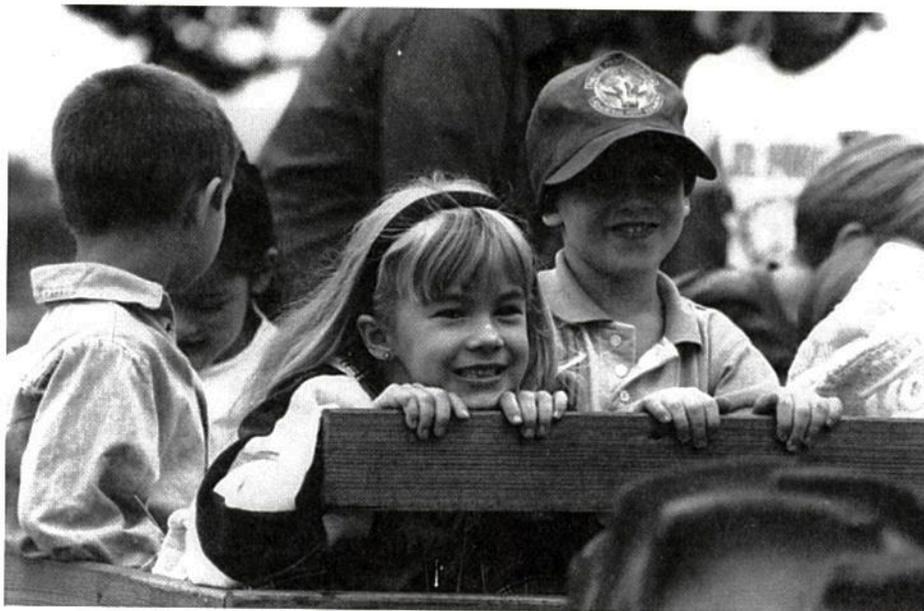


SrA. Joe McLean



SSgt. Christine Mora

**SPORTS GRILL** — (top) Volleyball competition heats up as several wing unit teams match up to determine a victor by day's end. Lt. Col. Nellie Newhouse, (below), 337th AS pilot, was one of dozens of officers who tended the grill to feed the multitudes.



SrA. Joe McLean

**FUN FOR ALL AGES —** One of the top attractions for Westover children, (left) was the hayride, which ran non-stop throughout the day. (below) Retired MSgt. John Spencer interviews his former boss, wing commander Col. James P. Czekanski at the popular dunking booth. (bottom) Security policemen pile into the dunking booth to create their own activities.

# Wing picnic

*Pages 6-7 cont. from page 1*

port squadrons soaked up the atmosphere. Both families are from Springfield and enjoy coming to the picnic each year, Porter said. Retired First Sergeant John Wallace Spencer, for years the voice of Westover, served as the event's emcee, with his play-by-play narration of activities.

Family activities, including hayrides and face painting for the kids and a C-5 display, rounded out the afternoon.

"Without the support of family, friends and spouses, we couldn't do our job," said Brig. Gen. Michael Lee, 22nd Air Force commander, in his welcoming remarks at the picnic.

The festivities were organized and funded by Westover's chiefs and first sergeants. They oversaw teams of volunteers from all units who set up the tents and other facilities. In addition, 48 officers assisted on the grills and food lines.

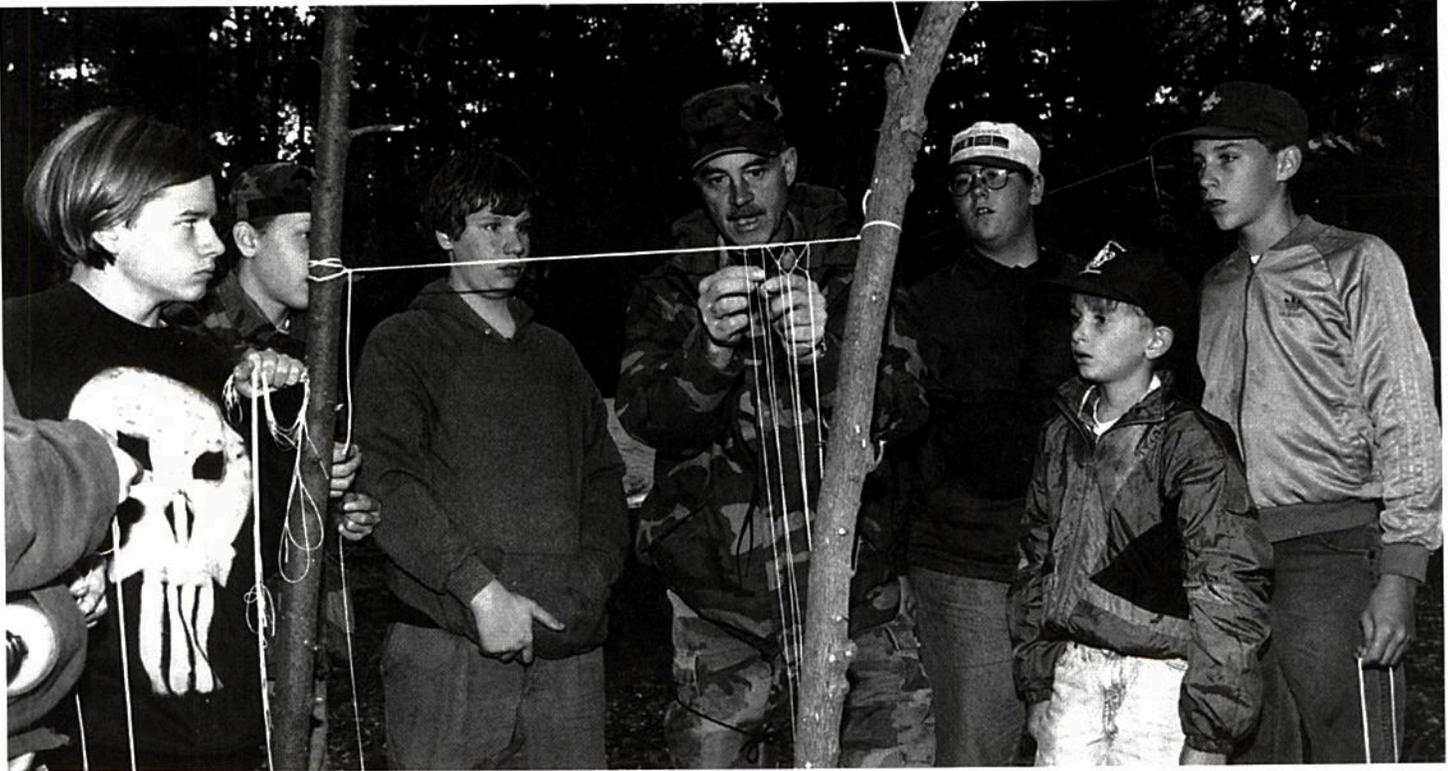
Colonel Czekanski gave letters of appreciation to picnic organizers: CMSgt. William Currier, CMSgt. Ronald Ploof, CMSgt. Ronald Perreault and CMSgt. George Kudla.



SSgt. Christine Mora



SrA. Joe McLean



## Learning the ropes

*Photos by  
SSgt. Vin Blanchard*

Sixteen Boy Scouts from Troop 121 in Colraine, Mass., spent the weekend in the woods at Westover, learning how to survive.

Who better to teach them but Westover's own Life Support Section members?

On Sept. 23-24, Life Support, led by MSgt. Paul LaRoche taught a captive audience. In top photo, LaRoche constructs a gill net for fishing in small brooks and streams. TSgt. George DeJesus, middle, teaches knots in construction of a lean-to. At bottom right, TSgt. Al Dedinas explains the value of a used parachute as a temporary shelter.



# Mobile shot teams rev up for flu season

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

The long, hot summer is swiftly drawing to an end and that means among other things, that the flu season will soon be upon us.

To help keep 439th AW reservists healthy for possible world-wide deployment, the 439th MDS will offer immunizations starting on the A UTA in October.

Second Lieutenant Ari Fisher, OIC of the immunization clinic asked that all members have their shot records available when the mobile shot team visits units.

"Reservists must be certain to have their shot records," he said. "We cannot dispense immunizations without them and we cannot make up new ones as we have done in the past."

Fisher also said that anyone allergic to eggs or who is pregnant will not be given a shot.

## The October A UTA schedule follows:

### Saturday

439 CRS-8 - 9 a.m. at Bldg. 2426 conference room.  
337 AS-8 - 9 a.m. at Hangar One break room.  
439 EMS-10 - 11 a.m. at Hangar 7.  
439 SVF-10 - 11 a.m. at Dining Hall.  
439 EMS- 1 - 2 p.m. at Hangar 7.  
439 MDS-1 - 3 p.m. base gym (open to all).

### Sunday

439 LSS-8 - 9:30 a.m. at Hangar 5.  
337 AS-8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Hangar One.  
439 CF-10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Bldg. 5305.  
439 AW-1:30 - 2:30 p.m. at Bldg. 1850.  
439 MDS-1:30 - 3 p.m. at base gym.

## The October B UTA schedule follows:

### Saturday

439 CRS-8 - 9 a.m. at Bldg. 2426.  
439 EMS-10 - 11:30 a.m. at Hangar 7.  
439 LSS-1 - 2 p.m. at Hangar 5.  
439 MDS-2 - 4 p.m. at the clinic.

### Sunday

439 CRS-8 - 9 a.m. at Bldg. 2426.  
439 EMS-10 - 11:30 a.m. at Hangar 7.  
439 LSS-1 - 2 p.m. at Hangar 5.  
439 MDS- 2 - 4 p.m. at the clinic.

## The November A UTA schedule follows:

### Saturday

337 AS-8 - 9 a.m. at Base Hangar.  
58 APS-8 - 9 a.m. at Bldg. 5302.  
439 SPS-10 - 11:30 a.m. Bldg. 1520 (second floor).  
439 AGS-10 - 11:30 a.m. Hangar Three (north side).  
439 MDS-1:30 - 3 p.m. base gym.

### Sunday

33t AS-8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Hangar One.  
58 APS-9 - 10:30 a.m. at Bldg. 5302.  
439 OSS-10 - 11 a.m. at Hangar One.  
439 MDS-1:30 - 3 p.m. at Base Gym.

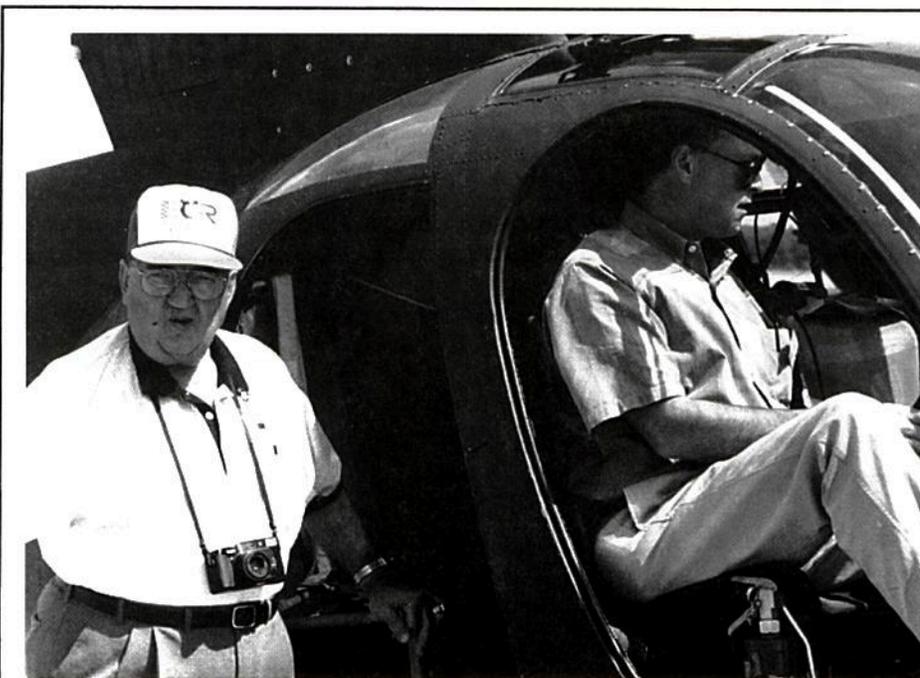
## The November B UTA schedule follows:

### Saturday

42 APS-8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Hangar Three.

### Sunday

42 APS-8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Hangar Three.  
439 MDS-12:30 - 2:30 P.M. at the clinic.



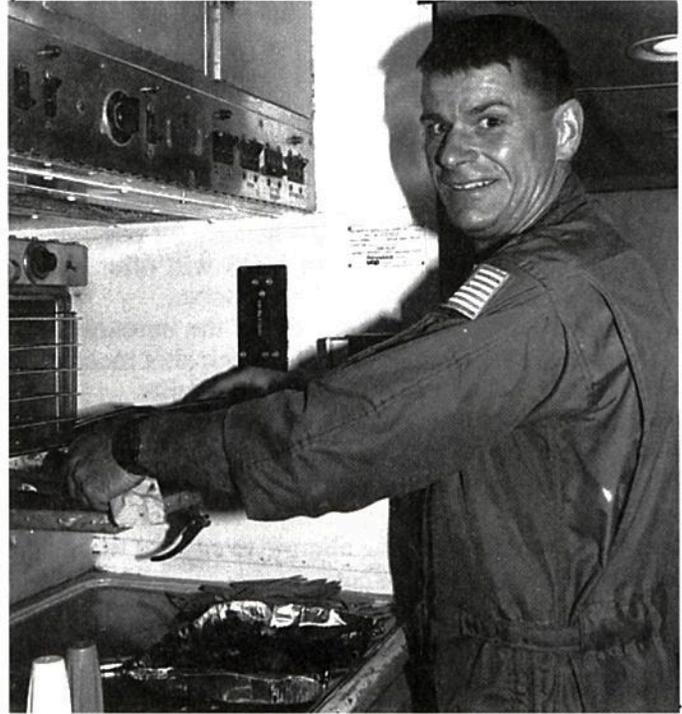
## Sooners visit

**ESGR HOST** – Members of the Oklahoma Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve committee visited Westover in August. Visitors inspect a helicopter at the 110th Cavalry Unit (Massachusetts National Guard). The group also toured a 439th AW C-5 and other facilities on base.

(Photo by Capt. Mike Franco)

## Patriot People

**Name:** Dan Sullivan  
**Rank:** SSgt.  
**Age:** 35  
**Address:** Springfield, Mass.  
**Unit:** 337th AS  
**Position:** Loadmaster  
**Civilian position:** Electrician  
**Favorite food:** steak  
**Years of service:** 14  
**Favorite sport:** Water skiing  
**Favorite hobby:** Cars  
**Ideal vacation:** Anywhere on a sunny beach!  
**Best way to relax:** Watch T. V.  
**Preferred entertainment:** Night out with friends  
**Favorite hero:** Ace Ventura  
**Favorite music:** Oldies  
**Favorite movie:** *The Siege of Firebase Gloria*  
**Favorite aircraft:** C-5  
**Pet peeve:** People that think they're it!  
**What I would do if I won \$1 million:** Spend it!



MSgt. Sandi Michon

SSgt. Dan Sullivan

## Travel payments now direct deposit

When you travel, you can expect to receive your reimbursement by direct deposit, under a new Air Force policy.

All Air Force finance offices, including Westover's, now only offer direct deposit of travel pay reimbursement.

Direct deposit payments will go in the same accounts used for pay, unless a separate travel pay account is established. Notification of deposit will be made by mail.

The new direct deposit policy is part of an ongoing effort to streamline customer service, according to 1st Lt. John Ryan, Reserve accounting and finance officer.

He advised reservists to be sure that they have the correct direct deposit information on file.

Changes have also been made in procedures for obtaining reimbursement for commercial lodging and per diem, including elimination of the requirement for statements of nonavailability.

## Patriot Praises

### Enlistments

SSgt. Lemelin, Robert E.  
 SrA. Noble, Mathew D.  
 SrA. Sykes, Gerald E. Jr.  
 Sra. Wildes, Dennis M.  
 AIC Aponte, Jaqueline E.  
 AIC Bentley, Erik H.  
 AIC Bonchard, Joseph N.  
 AIC Clear, Ruth A.  
 AIC Goracy, Sandy M.  
 AIC Lackman, Michael E.  
 AIC Lima, Wilber M.  
 AIC Martinez, Glenda  
 AIC Rozon, Carey A.  
 AIC Seidell, Robert P.  
 Amn. Coppola, Dawn M.  
 AB Rabel, Stephen M.  
 AB Labranche, Philip J.

### Reenlistments

CMSgt. Rogers, Alan P.  
 MSgt. Lloyd, Kenneth A.  
 MSgt. Riano, James E.  
 MSgt. Schworm, Kenneth E.  
 MSgt. Scott, James P.  
 MSgt. Sullivan, John J.  
 TSgt. Adamczyk, Stephen  
 TSgt. Crawford, Kenneth D.  
 TSgt. Faber, Gerrit  
 TSgt. Hebert, Kenneth R.  
 TSgt. Matckie, Paul A.  
 TSgt. Martinez, Joseph J.  
 TSgt. Reimann, William H.  
 TSgt. Sanderson, Jeffrey A.  
 TSgt. Stanros, Stephen D. Jr.  
 TSgt. Turcotte, Robert R.  
 SSgt. Backlund, Kenneth H. Jr.

SSgt. Barrows, John F.  
 SSgt. Bisson, Gary P.  
 SSgt. Bracey, George P.  
 SSgt. Downs, Michael J.  
 SSgt. Isaacs, Daniel R.  
 SSgt. Libby, Gregory A.  
 SSgt. Mink, Ronald  
 SSgt. Morgan, Jennifer P.  
 SSgt. NNA, Obioma H.  
 SSgt. Rayome, John H.  
 SSgt. Rulewicz, Jerome Jr.  
 SSgt. Shahid, Renee A.  
 SSgt. Slater, Zachary P.  
 SSgt. Walczyk, Alexander  
 SSgt. Williams, Robert A.  
 SrA. Soehl, Richard C.  
 SrA. Bonham, Charles R.  
 SrA. Oliver, Laurence B.  
 SrA. Kalagher, Jared M.

## Hayes running for Family Readiness Center



MSgt. Richard Hayes, Services technician, will run in the annual 26-mile Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 22 to benefit the Westover Family Readiness Center.

Hayes is seeking pledges which will be used to purchase videos on family issues for a library at the Family Readiness Center, Bldg. 3284, 22 Seawolf Ave. To make a pledge, call MSgt. John Sullivan, deputy director of the center, at 593-1431.

## Human Relations and Hate

With the passage of time in our "sound bite" culture we tend to forget the issues generated by events in the news. Though the bombing in Oklahoma City itself is not quickly forgotten, some of the immediate fascination and fear about "militias" and hate groups has waned. For Air Force Reservists the issue of membership in extremist groups may not be pressing, but its implications are indeed persistent.

The genius of the First Amendment is that it even protects members of the military when it comes to religion, speech, assembly and redress of grievances. But the caveat of military necessity makes it clear that loyalty, discipline and morale are reasonable matters to consider when limiting some aspect of one's First Amendment rights. Reservists-the true citizen soldiers of US Armed Forces-occupy a difficult position when it comes to limits dictated by military necessity. A traditional Reservist who is not on military status cannot be prohibited from active participation in a hate group, but once on status, all participation must cease-including the expression of speech or gestures that can be considered provocative.

So, what constrains Reservists from being involved in something that could lead to anything like Oklahoma City? The constraint upon Reservists is, for the vast part, subjective and personal. It falls into two categories: personal ethics and an inward respect for the Constitution of the United States. When it comes to actually defending the Constitution it is the members of the Armed Forces who are called upon, not self-proclaimed "patriot militias." By virtue of the oaths we all took, whether officer or enlisted, we agreed to be counted among those citizens who would lay down their lives, if need be, to protect the rights of other citizens guaranteed by one of the most enlightened documents in the history of humankind. We become the citizens who make it clear to threats "both foreign and domestic" that citizenship is defined by law, not by the arbitrary categories of race, religion, color, creed, gender or national origin.

Today the Department of Defense, including all its components, is the most integrated and diverse "company" in the US. We reflect the makeup of the United States better than most big corporations. And each year we move toward greater diversity. Our military "subculture" operates on the principles of merit, excellence and achievement, and compared to most civilian organizations, the DOD is far ahead when it comes to dealing with human relation problems.

One paragraph of DOD Directive 1325.6 articulates a principle of personal ethics that all Reservists can consider for their own lives both on and off duty. It reads in part: "Military personnel must reject participation in organizations that espouse supremacist causes; attempt to create illegal discrimination based on race, creed, color, sex, religion, or national origin; or advocate the use of force or violence, or otherwise engage in efforts, to deprive individuals of their civil rights."

This year we've been remembering the end of a war in which our parents and grandparents fought a government pursuing a supremacist cause. The point is to remember history and to remember the message a good citizen soldier sends by taking an oath to defend the Constitution. The challenge is to be remembered by history as one who was willing to stand against hate.

by Capt. Byron Breese  
Social Actions Officer

## Briefs

### Three receive awards

Three enlisted reservists have been selected as the top Airman, NCO and Senior NCO of the year.

SMSGt. Kathleen Wood of the 439th AW Quality office is Senior NCO of the Year; TSgt. Robert Rodrigue of the 439th CRS is NCO of the Year and SrA Danette Otto of the 439th MDS is Airman of the year.

All three will be honored by the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce in the spring.

### Quarterly winners

Quarterly honors have been bestowed on SrA Donette Otto of the 439th MDS, TSgt. Pamela Combs of the 439 LSS and MSgt. David Pirog of the 439th LG.

Otto was named top airman for the fourth quarter, while Combs was named NCO of the quarter, and Pirog was selected top senior NCO of the quarter.

Commanders are reminded that award packages, using AF Form 1206 should be received by CCE prior to the November UTA.

### Ideas earn money

A total of \$275 was distributed between five base employees for approval and implementation of suggestions they submitted to the civilian personnel office.

Suggestions to make quicker repairs of heating ducts, increased safety for operation of the P-22 and elimination of a potential safety problem in Bldg. 1850 warranted awards of \$75 each.

Two other ideas earned their originators \$25 each.

Anyone interested in the Suggestion Program may submit their idea on AF Form 1000 to Civilian Personnel, 439 AW/DPCE.

# Reservists assist volunteer community cadre

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

There were sore muscles, but good feelings when Westover volunteers spent a long Saturday remodeling a West Springfield playground in September.

When the Brightside Center for Families and Children needed assistance to build the playground facility, about 20 Westover reservists, civilians and Pioneer Valley USO volunteers rolled up their sleeves and went to work.

After the call for help, Westover volunteers showed up at the social services organization at first light of day on Sept. 16. Working with about 50 other volunteers from the community, they assembled and erected an eight-component jungle gym and swing set, put in gravel, and landscaped.

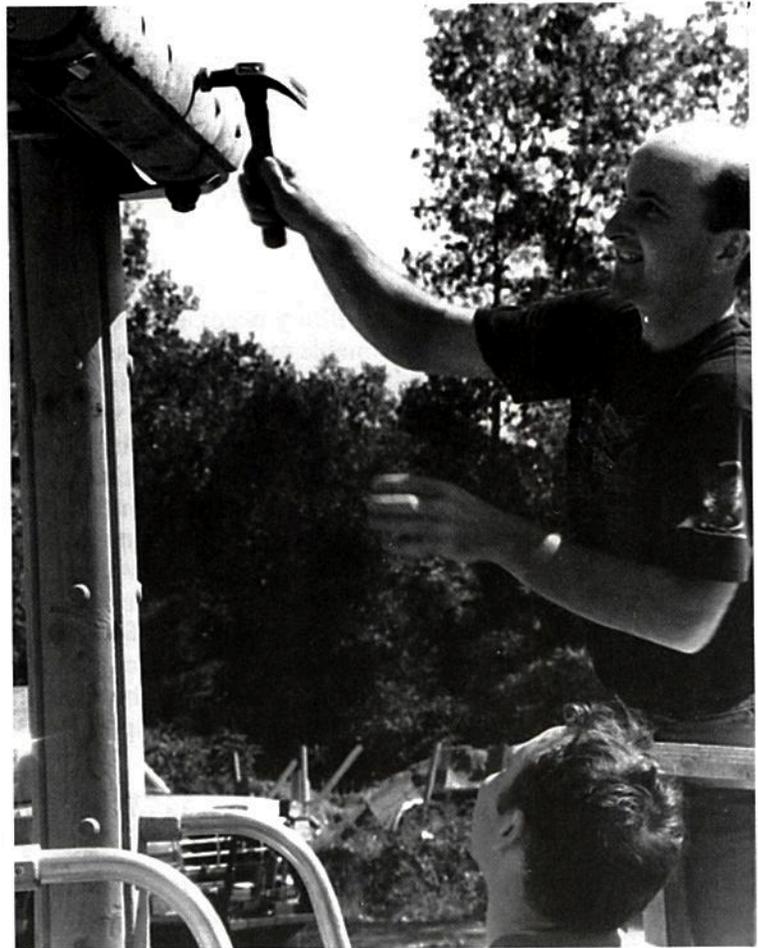
The new playground will include slides, swings, a rope climb, curly climber, and an updated version of monkey bars. It is designed to be used primarily by children ages 6 to 12, and is a key therapeutic resource for the agency.

The volunteer effort was in response to a request from Brightside President Peter Salerno, which was forwarded to Lt. Col. Forrest Price, wing plans officer.

Salerno made the plea for help, saying that the old facility was worn and outdated, and Brightside could not afford to build a new one without help from the community.

"The people at Brightside said they could not have done it without our help," Price said.

"Westover was asked to help because of our reputation in the community. Our volunteers worked hard and did a superb job for the children. It proves that community spirit is a real part of Westover," he said.



MSgt. Brian Quirk

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER** — SSgt. Richard Perry, 439th CRS aerospace ground equipment specialist, drives pegs on playground apparatus at Brightside in West Springfield.

## PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like MSgt. Catherine Newton, of Gardner, Mass., and 2,850 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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