

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 6

JUNE 1996



SSgt. Christine Mora

LIFESAVER -- An MH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter, from the 301st Rescue Squadron at Patrick AFB, Fla., approaches a survival raft on Florida's Banana River filled

with 337th Airlift Squadron aircrew. Aircrew members were hoisted up into the helicopter as both units practiced the intricacies of sea rescue.

Aircrews survive training at Patrick

by SSgt. Christine Mora

There is more than meets the eye when it comes to training an aircrew member.

Like watching out for snakes and treading water.

Both were part of the agenda when 42 reservists from the 337th Airlift Squadron deployed to Patrick AFB, Fla., May 10 to participate in chemical warfare, land and water survival training.

"Aircrews need to be ready for any circumstance," said MSgt. Paul LaRochelle, life support superintendent with the 439th Operations Squadron. "Our worldwide mission means our planes can be anywhere at anytime, and we need to be prepared for all situations."

During land survival training, aircrew members were

dropped off in a dense Florida forest to simulate an emergency landing in enemy territory. After warnings about the snakes and wild boar known to the area, they wound their way through the woods, evading enemy aggressors and hiding beneath the thick brush.

The foliage filled with bugs and thorn bushes, and the jungle-like density helped hide aircrews when enemy helicopters searched them out. After finding a group, the chopper hovered just above the treetops, creating a virtual tornado in the forest as the aircrews hung onto tree trunks and braced themselves against the winds that swirled dirt and sticks all around them.

"It's an incredible experience having a helicopter hover a few feet above you," said 337th flight engineer TSgt. Ken MacDou-

(continued on page 5)

Westover reservists pay respects to fallen comrade

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

More than 100 reservists and civilians gathered at Westover May 5, to remember a fallen comrade.

Maj. Pamela Kluwe, former 439 AES flight nurse, succumbed to cancer on Feb. 6. After 14 years at Westover, her death created a void for many.

Col. Richard C. Carr, 439th AES commander, spoke of her courage and professionalism. He said that same courage was evident as she battled for life.

Squadron members shared their special memories of Pam — her concern for others was a predominant theme.

Lt. Col. Linda Lear spoke of working together on squadron projects, and related how Pam was concerned about fellow reservists and upcoming inspections even right before she died. Lear gave messages to each of Kluwe's daughters, as she knew them well through their mother's many conversations about her girls.

Testimonies brought tears, and Pam's three daughters cried along with reservists, comforted in sharing grief with so many.

Maj. Armand Tourangeau, wing quality officer, accompanied on guitar by SSgt. Roger Benard, computer systems operations journeyman, sang beginning and closing songs for the occasion.

Besides her three daughters, Karin, Kimberly and Kelli, Pam is survived by her husband, Lt. Col. Tilman Kluwe, M.D., formerly from Westover.



MSgt. Sandi Michon

RECALLING HAPPIER TIMES — Former associates of Maj. Pam Kluwe reminisce while looking through a photo album at a memorial service in her honor held May 5. From left to right, Lt. Col. Archie Mosley, SSgt. Denise Claffey, Capt. Paul Brisson, SSgt. Robert Blake and MSgt. Richard Ricci.

MAJ. PAM KLUWE
1947 - 1996



Courtesy of Lt. Col. Linda Lear

Maj. Pam Kluwe

PATRIOT

"This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the **PATRIOT** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force."

"The content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated."

439th AW Commander

Col. James P. Czekanski

Chief of Public Affairs

Gordon A. Newell

Wing Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Paul Koscak

Public Affairs Specialist

Monica M. Lindberg

NCOIC/Co-editor

MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Editor/Deputy NCOIC

MSgt. Sandra M. Michon

Deputy NCOIC/ Media Relations

MSgt. Tom Allocco

Photo Editor:

SSgt. Vin Blanchard

Staff

Capt. Mike Franco

TSgt. William C. Pope

SSgt. Kim Allen

SSgt. Paul Mantikoski

SSgt. Christine Mora

SSgt. Joe McLean

439th retirees honored at wing reception

by Capt. Paul Koscak

It was a homecoming of sorts.

Retirees got a special thank you during May's A UTA for their years of service and sacrifice.

"You have truly earned the title of Patriot," Wing Commander Col. James P. Czekanski told the 22 retirees seated before the open ranks of the 439th Airlift Wing as well as family and friends and a stage full of group commanders.

Because of rain, the ceremony took place in the Base Hangar.

Former First Sgt. John Wallace Spencer, renowned for his years of emceeding base events before he retired last year, presided over the event. Retirees received certificates of appreciation and the personal congratulations of each group commander.

The clockwork ceremony was supported by the Westover color guard and included a remembrance of deceased retirees.

"There's a lot of change," TSgt. Nancy Haskins of Sunderland remarked during the social that preceded the ceremony. "The squadron is all reorganized."



SSgt. Christine Mora

RETIREEES HONORED -- A total of 22 reservists who retired from the 439th Airlift Wing within the past year, were honored in a ceremony held during the May UTA. Inclement weather forced the ceremony into the Base Hangar.

Haskins, a former administrative specialist with the 439th Component Repair Squadron, works as a personnel specialist at the University of Massachusetts.

Former ground safety specialist MSgt. Francis J. Coffey of Westfield said he misses the place "only when it snows." Coffey, who also retired last year, added

he remembers driving the slippery, snowy roads during many UTAs.

Coffey, 55, recently retired from his job at IBM where he spent 28 years as a service technician.

SSgt. Marvin Spooner of Guilford, Vt., stayed in the Reserve 22 years despite his civilian job with Georgia Pacific which kept him on a rotating schedule that included weekends.

Spooner, who retired in February from the 58th Aerial Port Squadron, where he worked in the ramp section, said he aims to spend the extra weekend camping.

SMSgt. John Speidel of Hudson, Mass., another 58th aerial port squadron veteran with 28 years service, said it simply: "I miss the camaraderie."

Still another veteran from the 58th, SSgt. John Wilson seemed pensive about the 25 years he spent moving cargo.

"I was a guy who just did his job," said the Springfield resident, who works as an engineer with the city water department and chose a business suit rather than his old uniform for the occasion.

"I didn't appreciate being drafted in 1970," Wilson said. "My father persuaded me to join the Reserve when I got out."



SSgt. Christine Mora

STRIKE UP THE BAND -- Lt. Col. Nelson Newhouse, left, Lt. Col. Charles Needles, center, and Lt. Col. Bruce Hawley provided a military beat to the third annual retirement ceremony.

Van Norden retires, but still under Higher Command

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness, and then moved on to follow the call of God.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Sandy Van Norden's 32 years military service has not been a wilderness experience, but he is retiring and moving to a new pastorate.

During his 10 years at Westover, Van Norden's gentle manner and warm smile has helped many reservists through life's troubled times.

During Desert Storm, when the government said, "Let my people go," the chaplain wanted to make sure they were spiritually equipped for the trip. When they returned, Van Norden led a team of 13 chaplains who worked around-the-clock to welcome them back to the fold.

In fact, at a recent chaplain's conference, a young captain recognized Van Norden as the one who prayed with him when he arrived at Westover during Desert Storm.

Being available to people is a domi-

nant theme in Van Norden's life, both as an Air Force chaplain, and as a Methodist minister. He has been involved in many ways, but related times he had prayed with individuals and rejoiced with them as circumstances turned around soon after.

When Van Norden suffered a heart attack in 1988, Westover reservists reached out to support him in return. He received cards and phone calls from hundreds at Westover.

Van Norden began his military career in 1957 as an Air Force clerk typist. During his four-year tour, he served in Arizona and Morocco. When he got out in 1961, he became a Methodist lay-pastor, and pursued his education.

A Vermont native, he received a liberal arts degree from the University of Vermont, and a bachelor of divinity from McGill University in Montreal. He earned his doctor of ministry degree from New York Theological Seminary.

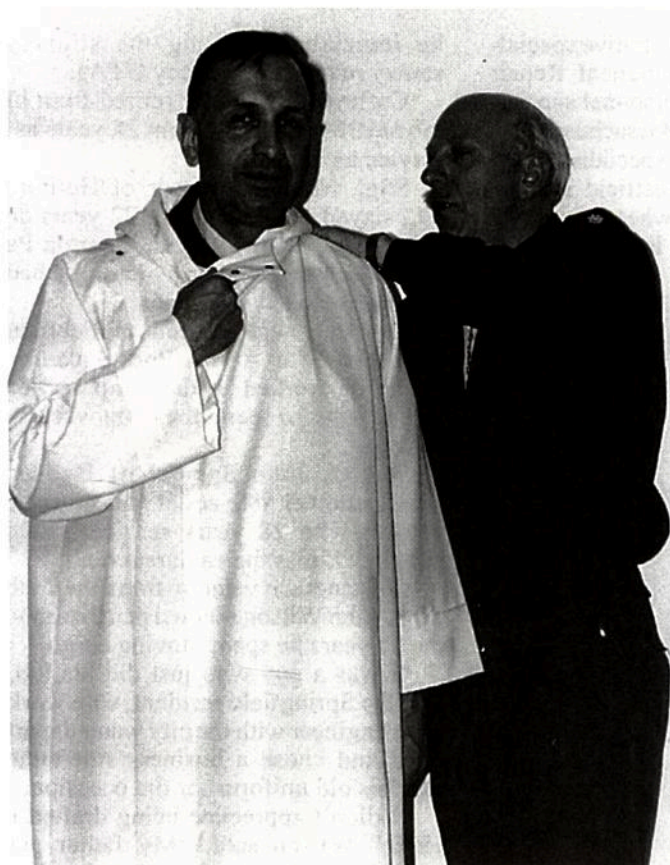
Van Norden rejoined the military through the chaplain candidacy program

in 1968, and he became a chapel area representative in 1970. After serving in Plattsburg, N.Y. from 1971-77, he transferred to Dover where he served until accepting the senior chaplain position at Westover in 1986.

Concurrent with his military service, Van Norden served as pastor in more than seven different churches. As he retires from Westover in June, his next move is to Floral Park, N.Y. where he will head up a church in the Long Island West District. "I hate to move," Van Norden said, but he and his wife Loretta (Miller) are looking forward to his new assignment.

Besides his family of six children and seven grandchildren, Van Norden lists Westover as family. "Coming to Westover is the best thing that ever happened to me," he said. "I have made many good friends."

Chaplain (Maj.) Richard L.C. Meisel will succeed Van Norden as base senior chaplain.



MSgt. Sandi Michon

JOINT SERVICE — Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Sandy Van Norden, right, adjusts the collar on Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph Safranec's ceremonial robe.

Safranec joins chaplain staff

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Capt. Joseph Safranec, a Buffalo N.Y. native, recently joined Westover's chaplain staff.

Safranec graduated from Christ the King Seminary in E. Aurora, N.Y. in 1971, and spent the next five years in hospital ministry. He served at the Roswell Park Memorial Institute, the first cancer hospital in the world. From 1976-86, he served in full-time parish work and taught high school.

He joined the Air Force in 1986, serving six assignment in nearly eight years. His tours included: Thule, Greenland, Alabama, Germany, Ohio, and three months supporting Operation Provide Comfort in Turkey.

"I know what it's like to be deployed," said Safranec with a smile. Because of his experience dealing with deployed troops and their families, he fits right in with this year's Air Force chaplain's theme, "Serving in their midst."

The Catholic chaplain explained that ministry has "gone on the road." Chaplains are expected to be out with the troops on maneuvers. That's why every chaplain has a mobility assignment.

Getting to know the troops is Safranec's first priority. Having witnessed broken families due to the stress of military separation, his goals are to offer comfort, strengthen faith, and provide inspiration.

Safranec lives in Newtonville, Mass. and works at the VA Medical Center in Jamaica Plains.

"I think hospitals are in my blood," he said.

Aircrew survives...

continued from page one

(photos by SSgt. Christine Mora)

gald "The realism of all the training was so intense, I don't think it could be replicated back at Westover."

After the evasion portion, the reservists headed to an open field to practice vectoring in a helicopter using a compass and signal flares.

"I haven't had that type of training since initial survival school," MacDougald said. "It was even more effective because the helicopter pilot critiqued us after we finished."

When they reconvened for water survival training, the aircrews donned life vests over their flight suits and were dumped in the Florida's Banana River, home to the endangered manatee sea cows. After swimming to the 25-man life boat and tumbling in, they were given training by 439th Life Support personnel about equipment and survival in the round, yellow raft.

Soon, they heard the rumbling of a MH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter from Patrick's 301st Rescue Squadron. The helicopter hovered over the raft, blinding the swimmers with the thick rotor wash swirling up from the river. Pararescue teams jumped from the helicopter before a rescue hoist was dropped down. One by one, the swimmers were strapped into the harness and lifted out of the water, simulating a rescue at sea.

"Being dropped in actual open water is much more realistic than training in a swimming pool," said 337th pilot Lt. Col. Dave Moore. "The current, the waves and intense prop wash gave us a feel for what water rescue is really like."

Rounding out the jam-packed weekend of training was the aircrew chemical defense exercise. The reservists made their way through the Chemical Air Process System (CAPS), designed so life support technicians can help aircrews remove chemical warfare gear during actual attack conditions.

"The whole training weekend was very well-received by the aircrews," LaRochelle said. "Classroom instruction can only go so far. This type of in-the-woods, in-the-water training illustrates all the elements of emergency situations we can't show in a class setting."



SURVIVAL MODE -- TSgt. Wayne Rehnberg, top, evades enemy aggressors in the Florida forest. Right, SrA. Stephen Croxford (right) helps an aircrew member don plastic covers to control contamination. Below, (left to right) TSgt. Nelson Serrao, and MSgt. Robert Karrasch help TSgt. Ken MacDougald vector in a helicopter.





FIELD TRAINING -- Helicopter crew members watch activity below as the chopper moves in for a medical pickup (top photo). At lower left, a mock patient lying on a stretcher receives emergency treatment before being evacuated to a hospital facility.

Fielding calls

Total Force is Team Yankee

Article by Capt. Paul Koscak
Photos by TSgt. W.C. Pope

Army Capt. John Caneti gave pointers to the medical staff standing around a patient feigning the latest round of horrible wounds. In almost raptured attention, the staff focused on Caneti's every word of life-saving advice, oblivious to the bustle of other medical staff packing the small battalion aid station at Westover's dogpatch training area.

Certainly the battered bodies seem real. After all, paint and wax in the hands of deft moulage artists can make even those with staunch constitutions squirm.

But take a closer look at this picture—the staff, not the victims—and the essence of Team Yankee, an annual exercise that keeps the skills of military medical specialists sharp, is revealed.

Along with the Army instructor, the group contains a few Navy and Air Force medical people. That's no coincidence. Team Yankee not only measures and evaluates practical skills but does it in an interservice, Total Force way.

Teams of Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force medical specialists—a mix of both active duty and reserve—rushed casualties from “the front,” usually the nearby woods. From there, they're sent to battalion aid stations, fleet hospitals and mobile aeromedical stations, represented in different parts of the Dogpatch area, said Air Force Lt. Col. C. Rossi McLaughlin, an exercise evaluator, who teaches at the School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

Although McLaughlin is an active duty nurse, she's no stranger to the Total Force concept.

“The majority of our students are from the Guard and Reserve,” she added.

The pace of this year's exercise was more intense. To increase

(continued on next page)

the challenge, the number of patients doubled from last year, forcing medical technicians to work faster, despite the damp, bone chilling weather during April's B UTA. However, more emergency vehicles were also added to the fray, Marine Col. Douglas Kulig, Team Yankee's commander, said.

"We wanted to increase the stress at the battalion station," he said. "That's more like the real world."

Perhaps.

But Navy Hospital Corpsman Ralph Beaman, a reservist from Bedford, N.H., who worked Team Yankee last year didn't think so.

"We're working about the same speed as last year," Beaman replied, when asked about the new pace. "There are no big hang-ups. We have the staff."

As victims got patched up by some medical specialists, others triaged, or decided the next stage of treatment. Some victims were loaded on humvee ambulances. Those with severe trauma got whisked off by helicopter to what would be permanent hospitals.

"Time out! Time out!" yelled Capt. Adele Sorak, a 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse and Team Yankee evaluator.

A group of Army reservists lugging a victim on a stretcher onto an ambulance stopped.

"Do not move them without two straps," Sorak warned the team.

She said safety underscores the entire exercise.

"We don't want to end up with any real victims," she said.

439th AES welcomes leader

Aside from an intense interservice exercise, Team Yankee provided the backdrop for welcoming the 439th AES's new commander. For a field unit, where else would be a fitting place for a ceremony than, well, out in the field?

Sunday, during April's B UTA, Lt. Col. Richard C. Carr handed over command to Lt. Col. Seymour Wiener, former commander of Pittsburgh's 911th AES.

"I want to thank all of you for the many wonderful memories," Carr remarked to the squadron as they stood at attention in battle dress uniform in the dogpatch training area.

Carr, 52, who headed the squadron for five years, will retire in October. A Woburn resident, he previously served as the squadron's training and medical services officer during his 22 years at Westover. Carr works as a conventions promoter for the city of Boston.

Wiener, a precious-metals broker, will continue to live in Pittsburgh and commute to his new job here. He spent his entire Reserve and active duty career in medical services.

The new commander couldn't have picked a better way to see his troops in action—four days of Team Yankee.

"This is the fourth medical unit I've been in," he said.



LINE 'EM UP -- MOVE 'EM OUT -- Personnel from four branches of the U.S. military participated in Team Yankee. In a simulated mass casualty exercise, "wounded"

are being triaged, and prepared for evacuation to a medical facility set up in the Dogpatch area at Westover.

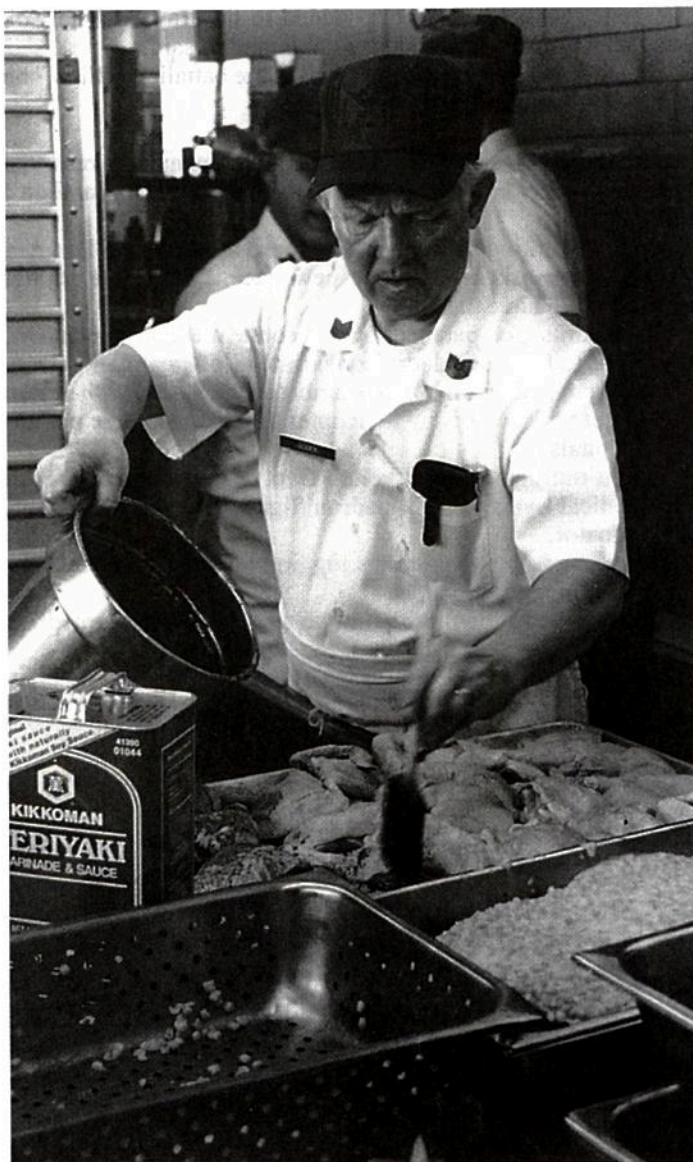


TSgt. W.C. Pope

Palate-pleasing priorities

U.S. HOSPITALITY — Having hundreds of people over for dinner doesn't bother the reservists working in the base dining hall — they do it all the time.

At top left, SSgt. Dave Beauregard (left) and SSgt. Guy Anderson prepare shepherd's pie for lunch. Right, MSgt. Frank Godek brushes marinade onto chicken pieces before baking. Below, the guests have arrived and, (left to right) Francis Wilson, SSgt. Charles Curll and Sgt. Joe Lecuyer serve up burgers in the fast food line.



TSgt. W.C. Pope



TSgt. W.C. Pope

Westover Club offers contest to members

by SSgt. Paul Mantikoski

If you are a member of the Westover Club, you could be in for an additional week of special annual tour this summer.

On this special tour of "duty" you won't have to bring your BDUs, boots or even your dog tags, just your bathing suit, and beach blanket. You could be heading for Bermuda.

In an effort to boost club membership and to show appreciation for current members, Air Force Reserve clubs will be running a summer contest full of prizes from June 1 to July 15.

All members who enter will be eligible for the grand prize -- a week-long trip for two to Bermuda. The lucky winner and guest will be billeted at the Belmont Hotel, Golf and County Club.

Other prizes include three sets of round-trip tickets on Delta Air Lines, good anywhere in the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Mexico. One member can call anyone with the good news using \$500 in AT&T long distance calls. Each Friday during the event, a club member will receive \$50 in club bucks.

The first 100 people to enter at each club location will receive a free phone card from AT&T.

"For such a small monthly fee, members can get so much out of a club membership," said John Filler, Westover Club manager. "We appreciate all our members and this contest is just one way for the club system to say thank you."

Club members will receive an entry

form in their May club card statement. People who do not receive a statement can show their club card to receive an entry form to qualify for the prize drawings.

Anyone assigned to a Reserve installation and other people eligible for club membership will receive information on how to join and obtain a special entry card in the mail.

Seminar focuses on loss, grief

by SSgt. Joe McLean

A series of workshops on grief and loss is scheduled this fall at the Family Readiness Center.

The sessions, which consist of half-hour videos produced by the United Methodist Church, will be conducted by Maj. Richard L. C. Meisel, senior base chaplain. Topics include divorce, fear, anger, and guilt.

Meisel, who conducts this seminar at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton, Conn., where he is a pastor, said the program will be informal and

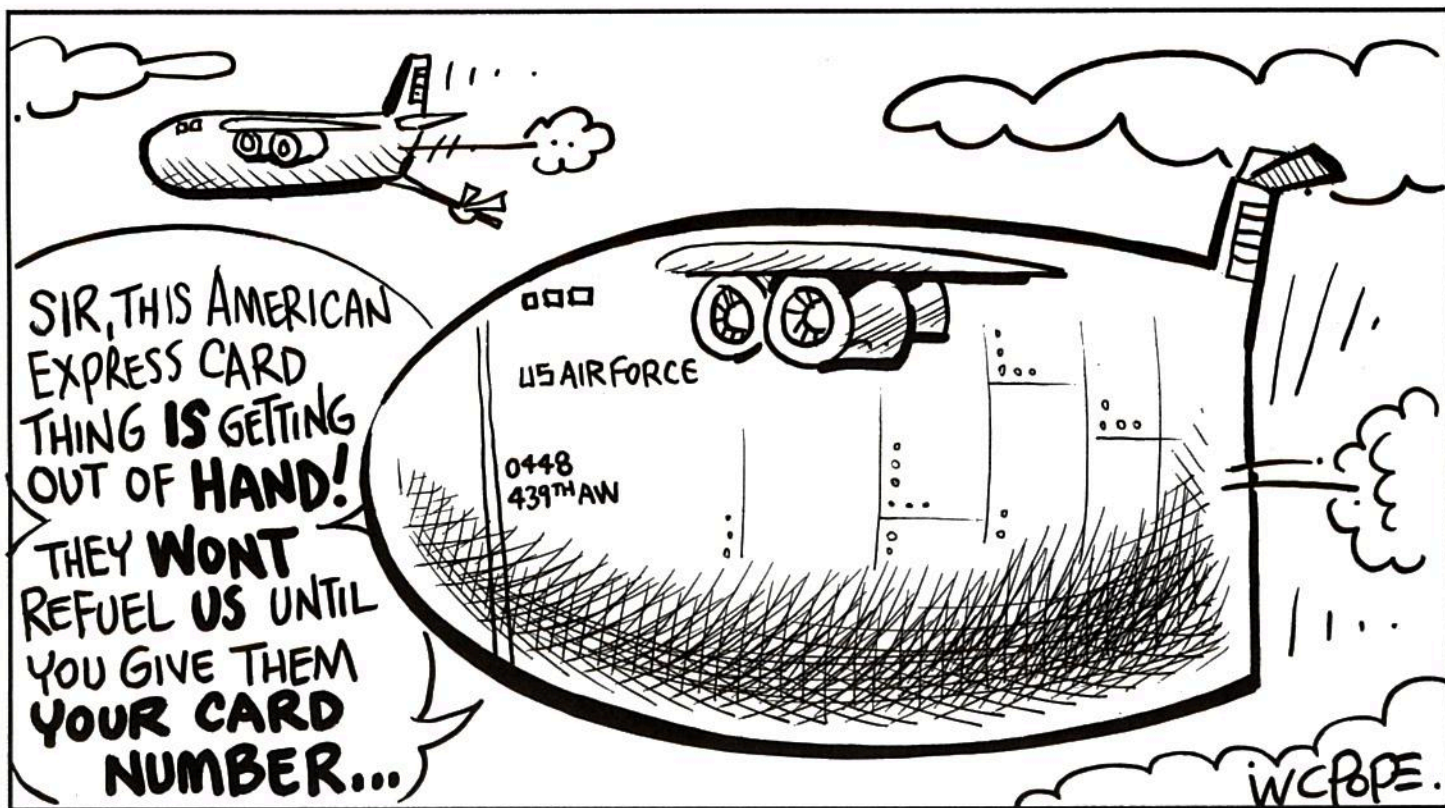
open to anyone.

"It's clear when they walk out the door, they feel better," Meisel said.

The sessions focus on people and their losses. They include topics of divorce, fear, anger, and guilt.

In today's society, Meisel said, families tend to be fractured and sometimes separated by great distance, leaving members without the emotional support during times of tragedy or personal loss so common decades ago.

The workshops begin in September during both UTA's. For more information contact Roy Green at 593-1431.



Patriot People

Name: Thaddeus Malysz
Rank: TSgt.
Age: 42
Address: Wilbraham, Mass.
Unit: 337th Airlift Squadron
Position: Loadmaster
Civilian position: Computer help desk technician
Favorite food: Pasta
Years of service: 7
Favorite sport: Flying my own plane
Favorite hobby: Playing concertina
Ideal vacation: Tropical island
Best way to relax: Reading
Preferred entertainment: Music
Favorite hero: John Lennon
Favorite music: Sixties
Favorite aircraft: B-58 Hustler
Pet peeve: Not enough time to do everything
What I would do if I won \$1million: Invest



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

TSgt. Thaddeus Malysz



TSgt. W.C. Pope

YOUNG TOURISTS -- A group of youngsters listen intently to Lt. Craig Schofield from Westover's fire department on a recent tour. On average, the base hosts 100 tours yearly, totaling 2,500 visitors. Tours may be set up by calling Ms. Monica Lindberg at (413) 557-2020.

Patriot Praises

Promotions

SMSgt. Aiken, Jerrold J.
 SMSgt. Budenas, John M.
 MSgt. Beaulieu, Ronald N.
 MSgt. Galizia, Dominick A.
 MSgt. Lever, Hayden R.
 MSgt. Rodovich, James F.
 TSgt. Dehart, Ronald L.
 TSgt. Dudley, Albert E.
 TSgt. Fallon, David R.
 TSgt. Homolka, Mark W.
 TSgt. Jerzyk, James D.
 TSgt. McDonough, Thomas G.
 TSgt. Michon, Ronald E.
 TSgt. Post, Steven F.
 TSgt. Roberts, Todd A.
 TSgt. Sketch, John J.
 SSgt. Crouch, Helen L.
 SSgt. Currier, Christopher N.
 SSgt. Godin, Richard J.
 SSgt. Gustafson, Lisa A.
 SSgt. Kasaras, Jeffrey R.
 SSgt. Langhill, David A.
 SSgt. Manley, Shawn A.
 SSgt. Manning, Patricia M.
 SSgt. McLean, Joseph F.
 SSgt. Miceli, Robert C.
 SSgt. Rivest, James W.
 SSgt. Sorber, David H.
 SSgt. Uccello, Marc A., Jr.
 SrA. Burr, Adam J.
 SrA. Dediego, Robert A., Jr.
 SrA. Hahn, Brendon M.
 SrA. King, David P.
 SrA. Lambert, Joshua O.
 SrA. Litzler, Amy K.
 SrA. Morales, Philip
 SrA. Otto, Danette M.
 SrA. Ragonesi, Robert A.
 SrA. Skaza, John P., III
 A1C Beauregard, Brenda L.

A1C Ferri, Nicholas A.
 A1C Semedo, Kennedy C.
 Amn. Doss, Rena E.
 Amn. Weston, Valerie J.
 Amn. Williams, Jabar C.

Enlistments

SSgt. Mayfield, David K.
 SSgt. Scheller, Richard A., Jr.
 SrA. Joyce, Timothy G.
 SrA. Swedock, Ava M.
 A1C Delesline, Charlene K.
 A1C Girouard, Michael C.
 A1C Jean-Francois, Serge, Jr.
 A1C Urban, Jennifer A.
 Amn. Staple-Ward, Genetta N.

Reenlistments

TSgt. Gunter, Beverly J.
 TSgt. Lupien, John J.
 TSgt. Molina, McDonald R.
 TSgt. Morehouse, Raymond B.
 TSgt. Walker, Robert J.
 TSgt. Warner, Ava M.
 SSgt. Baisi, James
 SSgt. Bosinske, Jeffrey M.
 SSgt. Fletcher, Jessie L.
 SSgt. Johnson, Deron L.
 SSgt. Velez, Johnny W.
 SSgt. Yargeau, Bruce A.
 SSgt. Zackaricz, Joseph M.
 SrA. Brosseau, Bryan C.
 SrA. Pietrowski, Kevin J.
 SrA. Romprey, John C.
 A1C Hahn, Brendon M.
 A1C Luxton, David D.

Family values at Westover

As Maj. Pam Kluwe's daughters sat among a sea of camouflage and blue uniforms in May, they heard eulogies offered for their mom who had died little more than three months earlier.

In the 14 years Pam had worked with the 439th AES, she and her associates worked on many squadron projects, but they also shared their lives. They knew each others families. Flight nurses gave testimonies to the daughters of how much their mother had loved them. The daughters cried. Reservists cried. It was a family embraced by a larger family — the Westover family.

When Lt. Col. (chaplain) Sandy Van Norden reflected on his retirement from Westover in June, he recalled his heart attack almost eight years ago. As he lay in his hospital bed in New York his family was there. News spread of his condition. Soon a larger family rallied its support — the Westover family. Well wishers called, and he received cards from the base with hundreds of signatures. Upon recovery, he was welcomed back with open arms.

A few months ago, members from the 439th Medical Squadron travelled to Honduras to minister medical aid to remote villages. Conditions were challenging to say the least. In the midst of the hardships, they supported each other. By their own admission, "they went in as a unit, but came out as a family." Even the Army unit based at Soto Cano couldn't believe the cohesiveness of the Westover unit.

The members of the 439th MDS work hard at what they do. But in the process, they build a family. When a member is moving, more than likely, fellow reservists are lifting furniture and carrying boxes. When a member marries, the guest list is heavy with reservists' names.

Incidents like these are common throughout the base. People who care enough to serve their country, are likely to take the time to care for each other.

We join the military for different reasons. But it seems no matter how much we give, we get more back.

In countless stories written on Reservists, most are quick to share the praise, and emphasize the team. During interviews, they banter and compare notes with co-workers. In personal tragedies, the Westover family is there to comfort.

In retirement stories, without exception, what reservists will miss the most — the people.

It's often said that the soldier next to you could save your life. In the Westover family — it only takes the battles of everyday life to prove the adage true.

by MSgt. Sandi Michon
PATRIOT Editor

Editorial

Briefs

Reservists asked to invite bosses to tour Westover

The 439th Airlift Wing will conduct Employer Appreciation days in September and October and reservists are encouraged to invite their bosses to attend the events.

Reservists who normally drill on A Unit Training Assemblies are asked to bring their bosses on the October UTA while those who drill on B UTAs should bring their employer on the September B UTA.

Application forms which appeared in the May issue of the *PATRIOT*, and which are available at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1850, should be filled out and returned to the PA office as soon as possible.

In addition to touring Westover, employers will be treated to an orientation flight aboard a unit C-5A.

Reservists receive quarterly honors

The 439th Airlift Wing's Enlisted Awards Committee has selected three reservists to be honored for the third quarter of FY 96.

SrA. John Beyer, 439th Medical Squadron member is Airman of the Quarter; SSgt. Ruth Rodriguez, also from the 439th Medical Squadron is NCO of the Quarter and MSgt. Mark Colby of the 439th Component Repair Squadron is Senior NCO of the Quarter.

Maj. Max Mendoza, wing executive officer and committee chairman, reminded commanders that nominations for the next quarter, (AF Form 1206), should be received by his office prior to the A UTA in September.

JUNE UTA dates

A UTA 1-2
B UTA 22-23

Three ESGR award programs honor reservists' employers

by MSgt Thomas N. Allocco

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is seeking nominations to honor employers who show exceptional support of Reservists and Guard members.

Three awards programs have been established: a Pro Patria award, State Chairman's recognition, and Certificates of Appreciation. The Pro Patria designation is derived from the Latin expression meaning "for the nation." It is designed to recognize the patriotism of an employer who has adopted personnel policies which make it easier for Reserve and Guard employees. No more than one award will be given in each state annually.

The State Chairman's Awards are plaque-mounted certificates which will be presented annually by state committees.

The Certificate of Appreciation, also referred to as the "My Boss is a Patriot," is awarded by the ESGR National Committee on behalf of the Department of Defense. All nominees receive the certificate. The certificate of appreciation is forwarded to unit commanders in a presentation folder.

Nominations can be made by letter to NESGR, 155 Wilson Blvd., Suite 200, Arlington, VA, 22209-2405 or forms for "My Boss is a Patriot" awards are available in the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1850. For more information, call 1-800-336-4590.



FRUITS OF LABOR — Westover received the 1995 Tree City USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation for base efforts to preserve vast tracks of woodlands and for commitment to environmental management. To commemorate the honor, Westover personnel helped plant a tree. Mike Palmer, civilian at center, presented the award to 439th AW Vice Commander, Col. Marvin Jay Barry, left center.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Kevin M. Kociuba, of Glendale, R.I., and 2,703 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

439th AW/PA
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE
100 Lloyd Street
East Wing, Suite 103
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #43
CHICOPEE, MA