

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

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MARCH 1996



SSgt Christine Mora

Early bird

Maj. Jim Harder, left, Thunderbirds' coordinator, visited Westover in late January to plan for the base's Open House and Air Show scheduled for Aug. 3 and 4. Accompanying him was SSgt. Rick Bernet, crew chief. Lt. Col. Paul Torpey, second from right, director of the Open House, and Lt. Col. Dave Moore, Westover's Thunderbird liaison, greet the visitors.

HRDC expands opportunities for personnel

by SSgt. Christine Mora

The newly-established Human Resources Development Council is taking a look at Westover's people — who they are, how long they stay and where they're coming from.

When Maj. Gen. Robert A. McIntosh, Air Force Reserve commander, tasked all wings to establish an HRDC last year, Westover formed a local council to address cultural diversity issues in the workplace.

According to McIntosh, there is a direct relationship between diversity awareness and unit readiness. "The Air Force Reserve is an increasingly diverse group with a single common bond — service to country — and I'm committed

to taking advantage of the best each of us has to offer," he said. "One of my goals is to ensure that everyone in AFRES has the opportunity to live up to his or her potential and share the responsibility for leading and maintaining a strong, viable and combat-ready Reserve."

McIntosh's directive to establish wing HRDCs is a by-product of his predecessor, Maj. Gen. John J. Closner's formation of an AFRES-level council in 1992.

Westover formally established its HRDC last March and since then, has focused on three main areas impacted by cultural awareness: recruiting, retention and mentoring.

"Reservists should represent a cross-section of society," said Col. James P.

Czekanski, 439th Airlift Wing commander. "Unfortunately, women and minorities are not proportionally represented in the rank structure, and more specifically in senior grades and leadership roles."

Led by Czekanski, the HRDC is examining the factors that are hindering the hiring and mobility of women and minorities, according to Maj. Armand Tourangeau, wing quality officer. "The council is composed of commanders and representatives from all aspects of the workforce — reservists, civilians and Air Reserve Technicians," Tourangeau said. "Most importantly, the HRDC is not setting goals or quotas, but examining is-

continued on page 6

Doc Jones' retirement plans up in the air

Article and photo
by MSgt. Sandi Michon

When Dr. Warner Jones played as a boy, he decorated his pretend pilot uniform with wings made out of tin foil.

He had long forgotten doing that, but as he prepared his uniform for one of his last UTAs, he realized, "I have real wings now!"

For Col. Warner E. Jones, the wings represent his flight surgeon status, but when he retires as 439th Medical Squadron commander on March 21, he will have actually fulfilled his dream of becoming a pilot as well.

Born in St. Petersburg, Fla. in 1936, Jones grew up in New Hampshire. "As long as I can remember, I wanted to be a doctor and an Air Force pilot," said Jones. His lofty ambitions led him to the University of New Hampshire where he pursued a premed degree and completed the ROTC pilot training program.

In 1957, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in premedical studies, and received his commission as a Distinguished Military Graduate through ROTC. He was deferred from active duty to pursue his medical doctorate degree from Tufts University School of Medicine which he received in 1961. In between his internship and residency at St. Vincent Hospital, Jones served as Chief of Aerospace Medicine for Headquarters, 26th Air Division (Air Defense Command), at Hancock Field, N.Y.

In 1964, he separated from active duty. He completed his residency and built a private practice as an internist in



Col. Warner E. Jones

Springfield, Vt. During the next 13 years, Jones' claim to the sky was satisfied by flying his own personal aircraft, but he missed the Air Force. "I wanted to rejoin active duty, but in deference to my family, I joined the Reserve program," Jones said.

In 1977, he became Chief of Aerospace Medicine for the 439th Tactical Hospital, and was appointed commander

in 1980. After a five-year stint as mobilization augmentee to the commander of the Malcolm Grow USAF Medical Center at Andrews AFB, Md, he returned to Westover in 1991. He served as Chief of Aeromedical Services and was appointed as 439th MDS commander in 1992.

It's not surprising that the doctor/pilot's favorite job was aerospace medicine. The tall, slender colonel leaned back in his chair and clasped his hands behind his neck as he recalled antics of days gone by. "I've flown too high, and I've flown too low," said Jones, who has flown the T-33, T-37 U3A, F-101, F-102, F-106, C-45, C-47, C-123, and C-130. His face lit up as he described racing the T-33 to peak altitude till it wobbled in the sky.

He told of the time while flying into a small field, he took off the top of a maple tree when the sun on the scratched, plastic windshield clouded visibility.

"It was so much fun. It gave me opportunities to do things I couldn't have done otherwise," he said.

He has also enjoyed many of the annual tours he performed with the clinic. He found their tour to the Indian Health Service in Winslow, Arizona very interesting, but his favorite annual tour was at Eglin AFB, Fla., where he was put in charge of the residents doing their family practice rotation.

He worked long hours, but loved sharing his skills with the young and enthusiastic residents. "I'm getting to be an old poop, perhaps somewhat jaded.... but they had none of that," he said with a smile.

Jones is never jaded about the troops he has commanded. Speaking of the 439th Medical Squadron, he said he was blessed to be with such an outstanding group of hard working, dedicated people. "I'll miss the people more than the job itself," he said.

What Jones gains from retirement will be two free weekends per month, which is much needed free time. With an active private practice, and board positions for several corporations, Jones is very busy. After recounting his military exploits, he resolved to use his free weekends to get back to more flying.

Jones is married to the former Barbara Bullock, and they have three sons, Charles, Warner Jr. and William.

PATRIOT

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SSgt. Christine Mora

THE RIGHT TOUCH — Local artist Peter Ring, left, presents Wing Commander Col. James P. Czekanski

with his rendition of "Touchdown," a Westover C-5 landing during a lightning storm.

Artist donates dramatic painting of Westover C-5

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Peter Ring has spent many a lunch hour watching Westover C-5s taking off and touching down. It's a self-confessed hobby.

He has also filled many a canvas painting aircraft. It's his favorite hobby.

The artist combined the two hobbies when he painted "Touchdown," a dramatic rendition of a Galaxy in flight that he recently donated to the 439th Airlift Wing.

"I've loved the C-5s since I was a kid," Ring said. "It's such a unique plane and I wanted to share that uniqueness with others."

Ring's love and knowledge of aviation began at an early age and became the basis for his art. "When I was young, I used to build a lot of airplane models," he said. "I became more interested in the artwork on the box covers than the finished models themselves."

The reason Ring loved the covers so much was the intense detail of the artwork. "The photorealism is what impressed me the most and that sparked my career in art," Ring said. "Most people don't have the opportunity to see planes up close, so this is my chance to bring the planes to them."

Accuracy is almost an obsession with Ring and it's not unusual for him to travel miles to get a last look at a jet engine or a rotor blade. "You never know who will be looking at your

paintings and if for example, a Lockheed worker was viewing my art, I feel it would be insulting if it were wrong."

Ring depicted tail No. 167 of Westover's C-5 fleet flying through a lightning storm. He even researched the lightning in a National Audubon Society book. "I wanted to show that it isn't always smooth flying for pilots," Ring said. "The lighting of the storm scene allowed me to show the detail of the plane along with the drama."

Using only acrylic paint, the artist has completed more than 300 paintings in the last 20 years — 80% of which are aviation art. He's also done the occasional portrait of people or automobiles. Ring is currently an auto parts manager but hopes to make art his full-time career soon.

"For years I was a 'closet' painter but about five years ago I became more serious about my art and began exhibiting my paintings in public," Ring said. "I've been fairly successful so far, and have had exhibits in many shows, contests and museums, including the Oshkosh Air Museum in Wisconsin and Bradley Air Museum in Connecticut." Ring was recently hired by munitions manufacturer Textron Industries as a freelance artist.

He currently lives in Charlton, Mass., with his wife and two children. The artist and his family are also foster parents to abused children.

American Express: Getting the 'bugs' out

by TSgt. W.C. Pope

The problem with any good idea is that it takes time to work out all the bugs. The American Express card is one such idea and its one big 'bug' is people using it to make personal purchases.

"When using the card the bottom line is: if it isn't reimbursable on a travel voucher don't use it," said a recent letter from Maj. Gen. Robert A. McIntosh, Air Force Reserve Commander, to his numbered air force and wing commanders.

"The AMEX card has become a high interest item at AFRES because of its increased misuse," said James W. Perry, disbursing agent and administrator of the AMEX program at Westover's finance office.

"American Express looks for patterns of misuse and activity sheets on all cards are sent to us on a monthly basis," said Perry. "All abuses are caught either by AMEX or by us and when an actual abuse is identified it is sent to the attention of the individual's commander who takes appropriate action."

"The card is to be used for official

travel only," he said. "It is highly recommended to be used for major charges such as billeting, contract quarters or authorized rental car."

As of December 1995, automatic teller machine withdrawals cannot exceed \$250 per day, \$500 per week and \$1,000 per month, Perry explained.

The bill is supposed to be paid on

"When using the card, the bottom line is: 'If it isn't reimbursable on a travel voucher, don't use it.'"

Maj. Gen. Robert A. McIntosh
Air Force Reserve Commander

time, said Perry. If it goes unpaid for more than 75 days the card will be suspended. Reinstatement of the card will take more than six months and if your credit is still bad at that time, it will not be reinstated.

Air Force finance offices will no longer disburse cash, so the card has become more important to travelers. The card is a privilege and without it government travel can be a lot more difficult,

Perry continued.

"Reservists should make sure when applying for the card, that all information is correct, including address and social security number," Perry said. "Unit coordinator must review the application and one of the administrators at finance must sign the form."

"If after receiving the card any information changes, card holders must contact Finance and call American Express at 1-800-492-4922," continued Perry.

"Applicants should know that the application process takes 10 to 15 days, so if they are planning to go to school or on TDY they should plan ahead," he said. "If necessary we can get a card application through overnight express mail in an emergency."

"For any TDY longer than 30 days the card holder should file a travel voucher requesting accrued per diem at Westover after the initial 30 days. This process should be done every 30 days until member returns to Westover," Perry said. "This will get money electronically transferred into their account so the AMEX bill can be paid."

For further information contact the finance office at ext. 3460 or 2950.





ICY TRIP — More than 50 reservists from the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to Dobbins ARB, Ga., on Saturday of the Feb. UTA. After being delayed at Westover for de-icing, the unit was diverted from Dobbins after the base closed due to an ice storm in Atlanta. After a night at Charleston AFB, S.C., the engineers made it to Dobbins Sunday to start their two-week annual tour.

Flying South

photos by TSgt. W. C. Pope



Chiefs' Council: A helping hand

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Counseling alcoholics and helping students go to school are tops on the Chiefs' Council agenda, but Westover's senior enlisted arm doesn't stop there when it comes to aiding reservists.

"We serve as a link between reservists and senior management," said Council President CMSgt. William Currier, "We deal in many issues, including the military career, retention, morale, work environment and educational concerns of Westover's enlisted personnel."

As opposed to the First Sergeant's and Base Advisory councils that focus on more individual "people" issues, the Chiefs' Council addresses broader topics that affect all enlisted members.

Currier explained that the council has direct access to senior management and that access allows them to be an effective voice for Westover's enlisted.

They offer extensive experience to reservists. "If an enlisted member has a problem, they can use the council as a bank of knowledge and avenue to help resolve the issue," said council secretary CMSgt. Vince Viglione.

The chiefs coordinate several programs, the most renowned is the Chiefs' Council Scholarship Fund. The \$350 scholarships have aided 80 students since its start eight years ago.

When Westover personnel suggested offering an Alcoholics Anonymous chapter on base, the council served as a "vehicle to get things going," said CMSgt. Christopher Menard, senior enlisted advisor. "Several reservists are members of AA and we helped them get the program off the ground here," he said.

The chiefs coordinated the meeting place and refreshments but Menard stressed that the local chapter is not a run by the council, but by the AA organization. "No base per-



sonnel are managing the program, we're just offering them facilities and coordination." The meetings are held at the Family Readiness Center on Seawolf Ave., Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 7 p.m. on both UTAs.

The Chiefs' Council also sponsors the NCO Leadership and Development Course graduations, Welcome Center and scholarship luncheons and coordinates the involvement of personnel in base activities such as airshows and wing picnics.

On a more administrative note, the chiefs serve on base and numbered Air Force Promotion Enhancement Program boards and run the SNCO, NCO and Airman of the Quarter and Year program.

"The Chiefs' Council is essentially the voice of Westover's enlisted," said Menard. "We care about the issues that affect enlisted reservists and do all we can to increase their opportunities and improve their Air Force life."

New base council addresses cultural awareness issues

continued from page 1

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Chiefs will again award 10 scholarships

The Westover Chiefs' Council will again this year, award 10 scholarships worth \$350 apiece to students with Westover connections.

CMSgt. Larry Lose, who heads the scholarship committee, said candidates must either be dependents of current 439th Airlift Wing enlisted reservists or reservists themselves.

They must also be accepted by or presently attending any accredited college or university, carrying a minimum of six credit hours per semester.

If a candidate is entering college, he or she must have maintained a scholastic

rating of a 'B' average or better during their senior year of high school. If in college, candidates must have a 2.75 cumulative average.

To apply, candidates must submit an autobiography to include outside activities, scholastic or extra curricular activities. They must also submit a letter of recommendation from their school official as well as their most recent grade transcript.

The application form that appears on this page must be filled out and returned to:

CMSgt. Larry B. Lose
439 CES/CEF
250 Patriot Avenue Suite 2
Westover ARB
Chicopee, Mass. 01022

Cut-off date for applications is July 2. Scholarship presentation will be at a dinner at the Westover Club July 14. Application forms are also available in unit orderly rooms.

439th AW Westover Chiefs' Council scholarship application

Student's name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Age _____ School attended _____

School address _____

Class standing _____ Scholastic rating _____

College desired _____

Address _____

Date accepted _____ Major/course selected _____

Name of 439th AW Reservist/parent _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit assigned _____ Rank _____

Length of service _____

Length of service in 439th AW _____

Return to: CMSgt. Larry Lose, 439th CES/CEF, Westover ARB, Mass. 01022

Customer requests contribute to Club improvements

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

John Filler believes the adage, "the customer is always first."

As Westover's club manager, that philosophy fuels Filler's drive to make the club the best it can be.

"We're here to meet needs and we welcome all ideas," said Filler, as he reviewed current club improvements and future changes.

In direct response to customer requests, the club is developing new menus for the a la carte dining room, main dining room and special functions. "We're adding healthier choices, and creating new package deals for special functions to make planning easier for the customer," said Filler. The packages will group meal selections to create a more organized approach to pricing.

The club also offers many specials throughout the year. They have changed their lunch program, and are looking at ways to upgrade the level of entertainment. Filler said that they will schedule more country music nights, which have been very popular, and seek out higher caliber bands to perform at the club.

"We want to expand our image beyond 'just a place to go for a drink'," he said. He touted the club as the ideal place for a variety of events, from weddings, business clubs, showers, meetings, anniversaries, and more.

As a frigid winter winds to a close, Filler wants to make full use, this spring and summer, of the patio area at the rear of the club.

As club personnel respond to customer ideas, club membership is on the rise. Westover's conversion to the new club card is ahead of other bases. Filler expressed thanks for base support, even prior to a command-wide membership promotion due to start in June.

According to Filler, no increase in membership dues is expected, but the membership drive will offer many incentives to those who join the club.

Although the club has had a successful first quarter, their busiest season is just ahead.

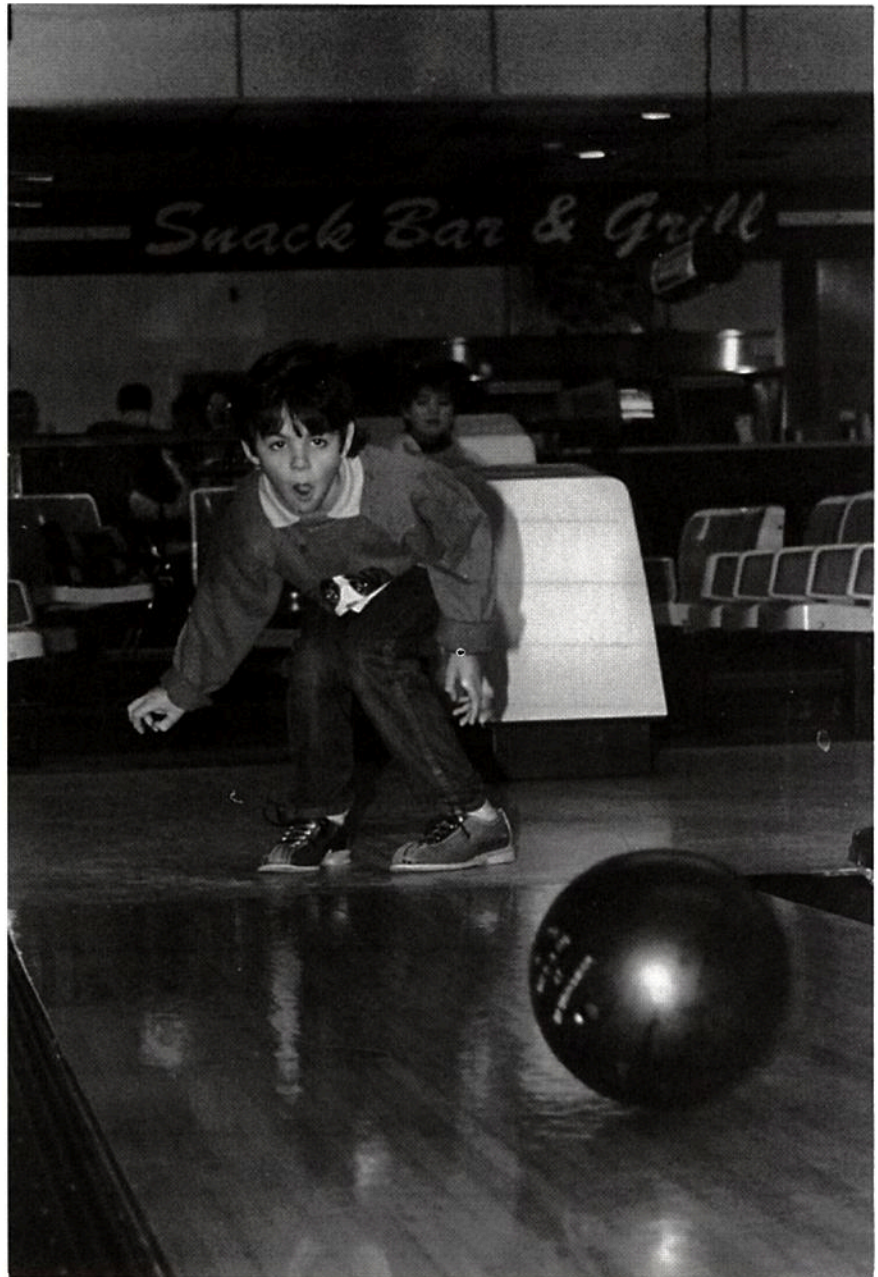
An Easter Sunday brunch is scheduled for April 7, and a dinner theater is planned for April 21. A special Secretary's Day luncheon is set for April 24, and the cost of the lunch will include a gift for the secretary.

Reservations are requested for these

events. Call the club at 593-5531 for details or reservations. (Ask for the brochure which gives a comprehensive listings of all Services spring and early summer specials.)

For long-range planning, the club is

sponsoring their annual club block party on Aug. 2 to kick off the Open House/Air show weekend on Aug. 3 and 4. Last year's block party was very well attended, and Filler expects the Open House to draw even more patrons.



MSgt. Sandi Michon

STRIKING POSE — Brian Robinson, 8, aims for a strike at Westover's Bowling Center, as his brother Jacob, 6, looks on. Both are sons of Teresa Robinson who works at the snack bar. Brian and Jacob bowl in the children's league which meets 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each Saturday at the bowling center. There are 24 teams of 5 to 13-year-olds. The cost is \$5 per week. Call the center at 557-3010 for details.

The whole shooting match

STRAIGHT SHOOTERS
— SrA. Dirk Diviney, a member of the 439th OSS, left, and TSgt. Gary Josefiak, of the 439th AGS, test their marksmanship with the 9mm pistol on the Combat Arms Training System, a high-tech video simulator. The system can be used for both 9 mm, and M-16 qualification.



TSgt. W.C. Pope

42nd APS enthusiastic about reorganization

by TSgt. W.C. Pope

Most people cringe when they hear the word reorganization, but not the members of the 42 Aerial Port Squadron.

They are ready to face the new challenge and are down-right excited about what's happening.

When CMSgt. Diane Thibodeau took over the unit's top enlisted slot late last year, she saw a need for change.

"We needed to change to the total quality concept," CMSgt. Diane Thibodeau said. "We found that most of our people were not diversified enough. They were very qualified in the job they were doing, but when it came to doing other jobs they didn't have the experience."

"Some of these problems were identified during Desert Storm, and we needed to fix those problems," Thibodeau said.

By adopting TQM, Thibodeau and the rest of upper management, empowered unit members with more responsibility.

"The way we restructured will give us the ability to get better training, and even out workloads," Thibodeau said.

Upper management will consolidate, and different AFSCs will divide into three groups — equal in skill and experience, she said. This will give the junior NCOs management skills they may not have gotten under the old structure.

"People will have a sense of belonging to their new smaller groups and we will retain squadron cohesiveness," she said. "With smaller groups everyone will be trained and get experienced in a variety of jobs."

"The green, blue and gold sections are what we are calling

"Our people are definitely up to the challenge, and we will have fun doing it... the best part is, we'll be a better, more productive unit."

**CMSgt. Diane Thibodeau
42nd APS**

them," Thibodeau said. "People are already promoting friendly competition between the groups,"

"This new system will better utilize reservists," she said. "While our mission has doubled, the number of people has stayed the same."

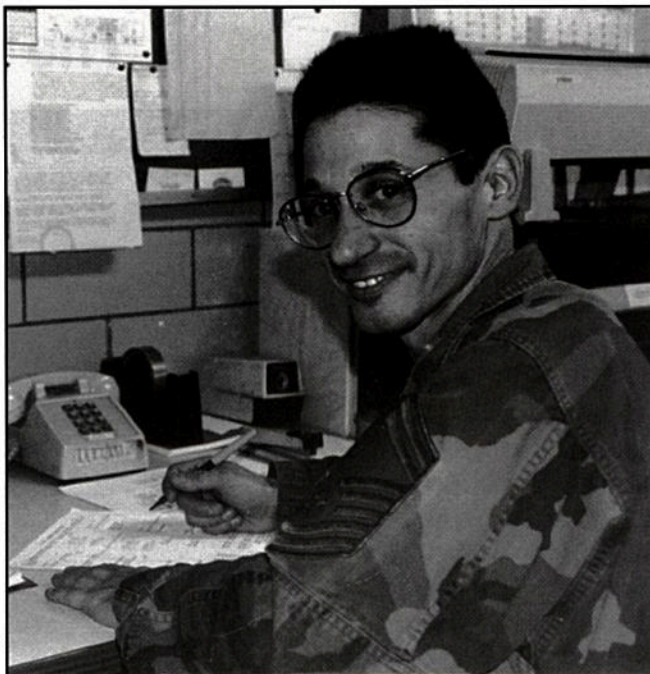
"Our UTA scheduling will be different then it has been in the past," she said. "Some of our reservists will be working the Fridays before the weekends and our A and B weekends will be a little different than other units in the wing."

Enthusiasm is evident in Hangar 3 as the 42 APS reorganization takes hold.

"Our people are definitely up to the challenge and we will have fun doing it," said Thibodeau. "And the best part is, we'll be a better, more productive unit."

Patriot People

Name: Michael A. Spano
Rank: SMSgt.
Age: 37
Address: New Britain, Conn.
Unit: 439th Services Squadron
Position: Dining facility superintendent
Civilian position: Food service director
Favorite food: Italian
Years of service: 19
Favorite sport: Soccer
Favorite hobby: Bicycle
Ideal vacation: Colorado
Best way to relax: Read a book
Preferred entertainment: None listed
Favorite hero: Clint Eastwood
Favorite music: Country
Favorite aircraft: F-16
Pet peeve: Lack of unit and base support for SVS
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Buy a house on the beach



SSgt. Paul Mantidoski

SMSgt. Michael A. Spano

Patriot Praises

Enlistments

SSgt. Adams, David L.
 SrA. Domingos, Joseph C.
 SrA. Febus, Gilberto
 SrA. Schulz, Kimberly S.
 A1C Dietzler, Karl M.
 A1C Forbes, Scott M.
 A1C Kvadus, Glen J., Jr.
 A1C Parenteau, Michael A.
 A1C Watson, Thea A.
 AB Davidson, Damian H.

Reenlistments

MSgt. Knox, Roberta E.
 MSgt. Mueller, Stephen C.
 MSgt. Rock, Robert J.
 MSgt. Stokes, Vikki J.
 MSgt. Thompson, Patrick O.
 MSgt. Tryba, Bradley S.
 TSgt. Beauregard, Paul J.
 TSgt. Dager, Roger A.

TSgt. Gray, David N.
 TSgt. Rockwood, Dale F.
 TSgt. Rose, Leroy T.
 TSgt. Woods, Patrice M.
 SSgt. Aaron, Douglas F.
 SSgt. Bradshaw, Roy T.
 SSgt. Briggs, Laurie A.
 SSgt. Harney, David W., Jr.
 SSgt. McCarthy, Jeffrey E.
 SSgt. Metcalf, Robert F.
 SSgt. Richardson, William R.
 SSgt. Salomaa, Robert H.
 SSgt. Trainor, Bruce S.
 SSgt. Whalen, Joseph M.
 SSgt. Whalen, Michael J.
 SSgt. Wiggin, Kathy A.
 SSgt. Zuzula, Todd R.
 SrA. Currier, Christopher N.
 SrA. Decker, Stephen C.
 SrA. DeJimenez, Lazaro F.
 SrA. McCarthy, Patrick T.
 SrA. Walker, Shivaughn B.

Three selected for honors

Three enlisted members of the 439th Airlift Wing have been honored by the Wing Enlisted Awards committee by being named Airmen of the 2nd Quarter.

Winners include SrA Jose Rivers of the 439th MS as Airman of the quarter; SSgt. Kevin J. Matteson, NCO of the quarter and SMSgt. Henry V. Spear, Senior NCO of the quarter.

The committee, chaired by Maj. Maynard M. Mendoza, wing executive officer, will meet May 4 to review nomination packages for the third quarter. Nominations on AF Form 1206 must be received by CCE prior to the A UTA in May.

DOD accepts donations for Bosnia service members

WASHINGTON D.C. — DOD announced it will accept and transport bulk donations from U.S. citizens and organizations to U.S. military units in Bosnia. Defense officials said the program will begin next month.

The Defense Logistics Agency has a 24-hour telephone recording to provide information about donations (703) 767-5266. There is also a toll-free number (800) 841-0937. Officials said DOD is not soliciting donations. However, private organizations are asking to make contributions. Thousands of individuals and groups sent service members donations during the Persian Gulf War. These included sunscreen and snacks.

However, Defense Logistics Agency spokeswoman Pat Miller said the agency is not promoting Desert Storm examples. She said many items donated for Southwest Asia won't apply to Bosnia. By publicizing the Persian Gulf contributions, Miller said groups may send items not needed in the Balkan region.

Currently, the military is focusing on getting essential shipments to forces in the Balkans. Once this effort is far enough along, the DLA will ship contributions.

The DLA will receive and transport donations. Once the program begins, groups or individuals must transport the donations to stateside shipping points. Transportation to Bosnia, temporary storage and distribution by DOD will be space-available, at no cost to donors.

More information and announcements will be available on the Internet (<http://www.dtic.dla.il/bosnia/>) at the BosniaLINK home page. In addition, the logistics agency is establishing an electronic bulletin board to answer questions. The e-mail address to that bulletin board is bosnia-donations@hq.dla.mil.

The program will not affect postal shipments of small items—up to 70 pounds—to service members and units by the Military Postal Services Agency.

They serve us, do we serve them?

When Congress tried to pass a law making reservists pay their own travel and billeting costs, the Reserve Officer's Association led the fight against it — and won.

When the Department of Defense considered cutting enlisted TDY per diem rates by more than half, the Air Force Sergeant's Association lashed out — contacting legislators and launching a grass-roots campaign against the proposal.

Military organizations like the ROA, AFSA and Air Force Association continually crusade to defend the rights of military personnel. Are we fighting with them, or sitting by and letting them do all the work?

While the cost-cutting ax swings through federal programs and plans to restructure the Total Force are debated on Congressional floors and in Pentagon offices, military support organizations doggedly fight to get us pay raises, secure our benefits, and save our bases.

In addition to keeping our voice alive on the national front, they tell the military story on the local front.

They remember the past. Through commemorative ceremonies and reunions, they keep military heritage alive.

They highlight the present. From grassroots efforts on the local level to lobbying efforts in the national arena, military groups keep the public informed on and gather support for our national forces.

They look towards the future. Support organizations ensure funding for the Reserve Officer Training Corps and Civil Air Patrol. They fight for educational benefits and build support for new technology.

They fight for us when we're in the service and out, keeping a watchful eye on veterans' and retiree issues.

For all the work they do, membership in these groups is a fraction of what it could be. In the AFSA alone, millions of servicepeople and retirees are eligible, yet only 160,000 or so are members.

They serve us, do we serve them?

by SSgt. Christine Mora
Public Affairs Craftsman

Editorial

Gen. McIntosh praises Air Force Reserve

The secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force chief of staff frequently say that our nation's Air Force is ideally suited to the challenges posed by today's security environment. We built upon our technology to create robust air and space forces, including the Air Force Reserve. We are capable of achieving decisive advantages against potential aggressors. The Air Force routinely is first to arrive and fight.

The Air Force provides global situational awareness. We employ while oth-

ers deploy. We carry first-line ground forces to the fight and then control the air over them. That is exactly what the Air Force and our reservists did and are doing in Operation Joint Endeavor.

You, our experienced and expertly-trained men and women, are the backbone of our nation's Air Force Reserve and are vital to the success of the Total Force.

Maj. Gen Robert A. McIntosh
Air Force Reserve Commander

Briefs

PA staffers capture AFRES media awards

The 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs staff has once again won several awards in the AFRES media contest.

MSgt. Sandi Michon was a double winner, taking first place for photographs supporting a news story, and third place for photo stories.

TSgt. Bill Pope was the first place winner in illustrative art. Pope is the creator of 'Pope's Puns', a monthly feature in the PATRIOT.

In addition, SSgt. Christine Mora placed third in editorial writing. The PATRIOT was second in the small paper category, behind the ASSOCIATE PRESS from the 446th AW at McChord AFB, Wash.

AA group will meet on base

A chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous is being formed at Westover with meetings scheduled during the week and on UTA weekends.

Meetings will be conducted at the Family Readiness Center on Seawolf Avenue Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 7 p.m. on both UTAs. Further information is available by calling (413) 593-1431.

Ham radio operators needed for air show

Any Ham radio operator interested in helping set up a MARS station on base during the Great New England Air Show, Aug. 3 and 4 is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Todd Panico Ext. 2387 Eric Tuller at Ext. 3993 during A UTAs or Ian McLeash at Ext. 2740 or Charley Darling at Ext. 2789 during B UTAs.

April UTA dates
A UTA April 13-14
B UTA April 27-28

Sub-zero temperatures provide realistic training for 739th SPF reservists

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Ignoring sub-zero temperatures and a fresh eight-inch snowfall, 30 members of the 739th Security Police Flight ventured to a former remote communications site in Granby, Mass. during the February UTA for cold weather training.

According to Curt Osgood of Westover's weather station, temperatures hovered around the zero mark most of the night but a steady wind of about 11 knots, made the wind chill between 25 and 30 degrees below zero.

"It was cold," said Capt. Tim Donnelly, who commands the unit. "We didn't anticipate these kinds of temperatures but we were dressed for it and got through the night with no cold weather injuries."

Donnelly said the exercise scenario was written to reflect winter weather conditions in Bosnia where 20,000 American troops are participating in NATO peacekeeping efforts.

The operation included the taking of an enemy-occupied building with hostages involved. Under the direction of an Army Special Forces officer, who volunteered to help Donnelly, there were patrol exercises, reconnaissance operations, the use of pyrotechnics and small arms fire using blank ammunition.

The reservists slept on the ground in shelter halves. The exercise got underway Saturday morning with classroom training before the reservists convoyed to the Granby site off Green Meadow Lane.

Chilled but undaunted, the unit returned to Westover Sunday afternoon. "This kind of training is great for esprit de corps and builds confidence," Donnelly said. "It also reminds the reservists what they might be asked to do to survive and still be able to perform their mission."



TSgt. W. C. Pope

ICE PACK — Members of the 739th Security Police Flight pile their survival gear on their back and head out for a frigid overnighter as part of a winter combat operation exercise held at the old radar site off Green Meadow Lane in Granby during the February UTA.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. James J. Cobb, of Blossvale, N.Y., and 2,781 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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