

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 5

MAY 1996



Courtesy of SrA Teri Destéfano

WELCOME WAGON — Mosquito Indian children surround the UH-60 Black Hawk when 439th MDS reservists landed to minister medical aid to the villagers in northeastern Honduras.

Medical tour brings aid to remote Honduran villages

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Her name is Alba.

Her penetrating dark brown eyes scanned the horizon as the Black Hawk helicopter approached the tiny Mosquito village of Barrapatuca in northeast Honduras.

Her braids flew as she ran with the other villagers to meet the helicopter. By the time the copter landed, it was completely surrounded. The arrival of

Westover's medical team signalled an unofficial holiday, and the beginning of yet another arduous day for the medical missionaries.

This reception became commonplace as 439th Medical Squadron members ministered medical aid in 12 remote Honduran villages from March 17-31.

The mission began with a C-130 trip into Comayagua. The Westover reservists were then airlifted to the northeast area of Honduras known as Gracias A

Dios (Thanks to God). It is doubtful that many were initially thankful as they set up their cots and mosquito netting in an abandoned Honduran army outpost. In the absence of chairs, they used empty MRE cardboard boxes, and minimal electricity and plumbing came on sporadically about twice a day. But this was luxury compared to the villages they visited.

"It is amazing how these people live,"

Continued on page 6 - 7

After 20 years, Wood just plain "pepped" out

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Kathy Wood has been "pepped" for the last time.

The 439th Quality Advisor was recently promoted to chief master sergeant through the Promotion Enhancement Program (PEP) and although it's the last time she'll be "pepped", it's not the first.

In her 20-year career at Westover, Wood has worked her way up the ranks and been promoted to master sergeant and senior master sergeant through the

PEP evaluation system.

How did she do it?

By raising her hand.

Wood attributes her promotion success to her strong sense of volunteerism. "Those who adhere to the old adage 'Never volunteer for anything' are dead wrong," she said. "I try to volunteer for every opportunity I can because it's the only way I'm going to grow as a person."

She said she "never turns down a job because it's too small" and has "volun-

teered for just about everything." Her list of extra efforts includes stints on numerous local, Air Force Reserve, Air Mobility Command and numbered air force Process Action Teams, as an Inspector General augmentee, writing a course for AMC and redesigning command computer systems.

Her volunteerism has also expanded and diversified her experience—another facet Wood said contributed to her promotions. "People can't be afraid to get involved," she said. "You've got to take a risk and get out there."

Wood joined the Air Force Reserve in 1975 as an administrative specialist in the 905th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. In 1983 she became an Air Reserve Technician training manager with the 439th CAMS, until 1995 when she accepted a job as 439th Airlift Wing's Quality Advisor.

Working to implement the culture change at Westover, she describes her current job as part consultant, teacher, facilitator, motivator and director.

"I love the challenges of my new position," she said. "I have always been a real research person — trying to find a better way to do things." Wood has also taken on the monumental task of managing the wing's Unit Self Assessment (USA).

Wood cites her supervisors as an integral part of her success. "I've been so fortunate to have commanders and supervisors who had vision and believed in me," she said. "They were willing to listen to my ideas and let me do my job."

Her current supervisor, Maj. Armand Tourangeau, wing quality officer, echoes her sentiments. "Leaders have to have vision and establish goals," he said. "That is what makes Chief Wood such a successful leader — she sets goals and doesn't stop until she reaches them."

Tourangeau also insisted that Wood's promotion wasn't just a stroke of luck. "She planned this. She set goals. She made sure all her Professional Military Education was completed, and did the best job she could. She was noticed for that, it wasn't luck."

Wood is still setting goals, although some would think becoming a chief is the highest you can set.

"My next step is Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force."



CMSgt. Kathy Wood

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

SrA Joe McLean



MSgt. Gordon Newell

Enough already!

RECORD SEASON — It was almost seven inches of snow, but it seemed like two feet to weather-weary New Englanders. Winter took a final swipe on April 10, when 6.9 inches fell at Westover, bringing the season total to 107.7 inches — snapping the old record of 88.6 inches during the winter of 1947-48. Jaunuary of 1996 was the snowiest month, accumulating 38.8 inches.

Assessment measures 439th wing's condition

by Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

"How em I doin'?" former New York City mayor Ed Koch yelled to crowds anytime he wanted feedback.

Talk about a quick poll.

Now, the 439th Airlift Wing is asking the same question—and Air Force Reserve is listening. Just don't expect a quick poll.

In fact, the answer has been in the making about a year since the wing kicked off a voluminous—as in paper—self-assessment process. The project came about after Reserve Chief Maj. Gen. Robert A. McIntosh asked all Reserve units to evaluate just how efficient they are.

The self assessment is Westover's first, and by June we should all know how we're doin', CMSgt Kathy Wood, the project's manager, predicts.

"This is our assessment of ourselves," she says. "We can be completely honest. Nobody is going to be looking over our shoulder."

The project, says Wood, who also works at the base's Center for Excellence, is simply designed to look at the way we get things done: how we lead, how we evaluate, how we deal with others in the workplace—customers, to use the proper parlance—both at Westover and at higher commands.

To get the right answers, teams made up of representatives from every base unit were formed last June to ask the right questions.

Ask they did.

Nearly 100 Westover-specific questions covering everything from employee satisfaction, education and training to such arcane topics as customer relationship management and supplier performance results provided the framework for a unit self assessment handbook. The book then went to the commanders of every unit who formed focus groups to come up with written answers.

"This is a bottom-up approach," Col. James P. Czekanski, 439th Airlift Wing commander, says. "This effort will result in a baseline which will help the wing determine its opportunities for improvement."

The result: boxes stuffed with daunting volumes of information that now must be gleaned into a wing assessment, the project's final product.

That task will be given to a team that will score each response based on what the answers reveal.

The bottom-up bottom line, Wood says, is a score that rates the 439th Airlift Wing and compares it to other wings throughout the Reserve. That should happen by June.

The data gathering and analysis is fashioned after the Malcolm Baldrige Criteria, the latest variation of the Total Quality craze that's sweeping the corporate world. After some modifications, the Air Force also climbed aboard the Baldrige bandwagon, creating the Unit Self Assessment.

The self assessments will enhance the traditional inspector-general-type evaluations, Wood added.

"The project... is simply designed to look at the way we get things done: how we lead, how we evaluate, how we deal with others in the workplace..."

CMSgt. Kathy Wood



439th AES trains on C-5

photos by SSgt. Paul Mantikoski

The 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron is in the business of evacuating patients. They normally use C-130 aircraft, but in a wartime scenario, they could be forced to use any available (opportune) aircraft.

To be prepared to use a C-5, 439th AES personnel must be familiar with the C-5 to configure litters, set up medical apparatus, and store equipment inflight. Approximately 20 439th AES personnel have accomplished the C-5 configuration training.

Maj. Denise M. Wishoski and SSgt. Daniel E. Kibe, NCOIC of training, developed the program. Any aircraft can be diverted at any time to pick up patients, so the crews need to be familiar with working in the C-5, they said.

"We're looking at aircraft configuration and patient care," said Kibe. "We want to work with the crew of the aircraft, and the medical crew to ensure that evacuations go as smoothly and easily as possible."



JUST IN CASE — In the event that a C-5 is the only aircraft available, members of the 439th AES train in C-5 patient configuration. At top, 439th AES reservists learn tie-down procedures for medical equipment. Above, Capt. Patty Kuhner (front) and 1st Lt. Michelle Parent, carry a litter through the troop door. At right, reservists set up litters and attach oxygen tubing.



Invite your boss to spend the day touring Westover

by MSgt. Gordon Newell

Members of the 439th Airlift Wing will get a chance to show their bosses what the Air Force Reserve is all about during Employer Appreciation Days scheduled for September and October.

The first appreciation day is slated for Sept. 21 and the second is set for Oct. 5. Reservists who normally drill on the A Unit Training Assembly should bring their boss in October, while those who normally drill on the B UTA should make their invitation for September.

Wing Commander, James P. Czekanski is firmly behind the Employer Appreciation program and encourages reservists to take part.

"This is the one time each year that we get a chance to thank employers for their sacrifice and cooperation with reservists. Without their understanding, the Air Force Reserve could not satisfactorily complete its mission. We need to let them know that your Reserve duties are important to the security of this country."

The day's activities will get underway at the Westover Club at 8:30 a.m. with a short briefing by Czekanski.

The highlight of the day for employers

EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY APPLICATION

Employer's full name: _____

Employer's job title: _____

Company name and address: _____

Reservist (name, rank and unit): _____

Reservist's phone numbers:

Day _____ Evening _____ Duty _____

Choice of UTA :

Sept. 21 (B) _____ Oct. 5 (A) _____

Return form to: 439th Airlift Wing, Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103, Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825, or fax to (413) 557-2011.

For more information: (413) 557-3500

Personal Data Privacy Act 1974 (U.S. C. 552a)

will be an orientation flight on a unit C-5A that will last approximately two hours. In addition, reservists will be asked to take their boss to their work place on base.

Each reservist may bring only one employer. The only reservists who will fly on the orientation flights will be

members of the 337th Airlift Squadron who are assigned to the mission.

To make reservations, members should fill out the form that appears on this page and send it to the Public Affairs office. Further information is available at Public Affairs, Ext. 3500.

TROOP CALL

ONE GOOD TURN... MSgt. Chris Doyle (left) and SMSgt. Joe Norton, 439th Component Repair Squadron supervisors, visit with retired WWII airborne officer John Landers in March. Several reservists took time out to brighten the day of resident veterans at the Holyoke Soldiers Home. The visit was arranged by the Air Force Association, Pioneer Valley Chapter.

photo by Capt. Paul Koscak, Jr.





Courtesy of Lt. Col. Randy Brown

BRIEF VISIT -- Lt. Col. Randy Brown (left) and TSgt. Felicia Marshall (kneeling, center) spend time with the residents of Wawina, a small village in northeast Honduras.

Medical missionaries in Honduras

(continued from page one)

439th AW medical team

439th MDS

Lt. Col. P. (Randy) Brown
Lt. Col. Herbert Kaufman
Lt. Col. Sarah Waterman
Maj. John Adams
Maj. Barry Cunha
Capt. Deborah Fuller
CMSgt. George Kudla
MSgt. Paul Giglio
MSgt. Barbara Lozanski
MSgt. Karen Ross
TSgt. Jean Allison
TSgt. Felicia Marshall
SSgt. Yvette Christman
SSgt. Dale Edwards
SSgt. Nicole Girard
Sgt. Marianne Healey
SSgt. Jose Rivers
SSgt. Ruth Rodriguez
SrA. Derek Brindisi
SrA. Teri Destefano
SrA. Kathleen Kratochvil
SrA. Kimberly Phillips
SrA. Karen Robertson

439th ASTS

Capt. Daniele Ingram

722nd ASTS

Maj. Dwane Wilson
SrA. Manuel Simet

910 MDS

(Youngstown, Ohio)
Capt. James Geiss
(temporarily with Westover)

said SrA Derek Brindisi, 439th MDS public health technician, referring to the utter poverty and squalid living conditions. As many shared their experiences, they were sometimes moved to tears.

According to Lt. Col. Phillip (Randy) Brown, who headed up the mission, Brindisi did yeoman's work keeping the team supplied with potable water. Instead of the large water tanks originally planned, Brindisi chlorinated 360 gallons of water in five-gallon increments.

Rigorous 16-hour days were the norm and the medical team amassed an impressive list of accomplishments. They immunized 887 patients, performed 663 tooth extractions, and inoculated 598 animals. Doctors saw 1100 patients and 1632 prescriptions were dispensed. "We dispensed 340 prescriptions per day — and that means 340 Spanish translations of how to use the drug," said SSgt. Dale Edwards.

Army officials predicted that five to six personnel would experience heat exhaustion from the 100-degree, humid climate, but none did. "We took care of each other," said dental assistant, TSgt. Marianne Healey.

CMSgt. George Kudla, medical resource manager, simply shook his head. "In my 26 years in the military, I've never witnessed anything like what we did in Honduras," he said. In addition to their accomplishments, he cited the incredible teamwork that made the mission such a success. Despite the hardships, they went in as a unit, but came out as a family.

Two reservists, Sgt. Ruth Rodriguez, and SSgt. Jose Rivers, added language to their list of assets. Both interpreted throughout the mission, and felt it gave them more freedom of movement, and a deeper understanding of the culture.

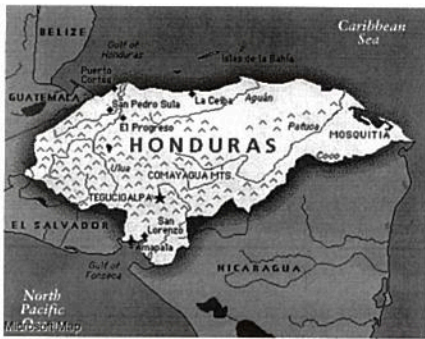
The culture was an eye-opener for most. "The kids wore no shoes or socks, and the clothes they wore were obviously donated," Brown said. "The only toy I saw during the whole trip was one hand-carved wooden top." With a high mortality rate in that area, only three out of five children live to age five.

Brindisi was impressed by the responsibility even young children shouldered. It was not unusual to see a five-year-old carrying a baby around all day. Brindisi had played Frisbee and shared his MREs with one village boy, and when Brindisi had to leave, the boy asked when he would be back. "I felt bad telling him that I didn't know when," Brindisi said. In reality, most said they would go back in a minute.

Often the medical team treated patients out in the open, or in primitive school buildings. The Honduran people are very philosophical about life and death. They see so much death and disease, they tend to be fatalistic. In the capital city of Tegucigalpa, Brown and Kudla related an incident about a young boy who was struck by a car. He lay on the ground mangled and bleeding, but the people that gathered would not touch him. They later learned that if a person looked hopeless they would simply let him die. If it appeared he would live, they would load him into a pickup and find a doctor.

Like others, Sgt. Katy Kratochvil, 439th MDS dental assistant, thought of her seven-year-old son at home, as she treated the village children. "I missed him like crazy, but I would not trade this experience for anything," she said.

Various members shared their experiences living in such primitive billeting. They bathed and did their laundry in a nearby stream, and they gathered for their evening MRE meal on tables and chairs fashioned from cardboard boxes. Aside from the tropical insects, they found a



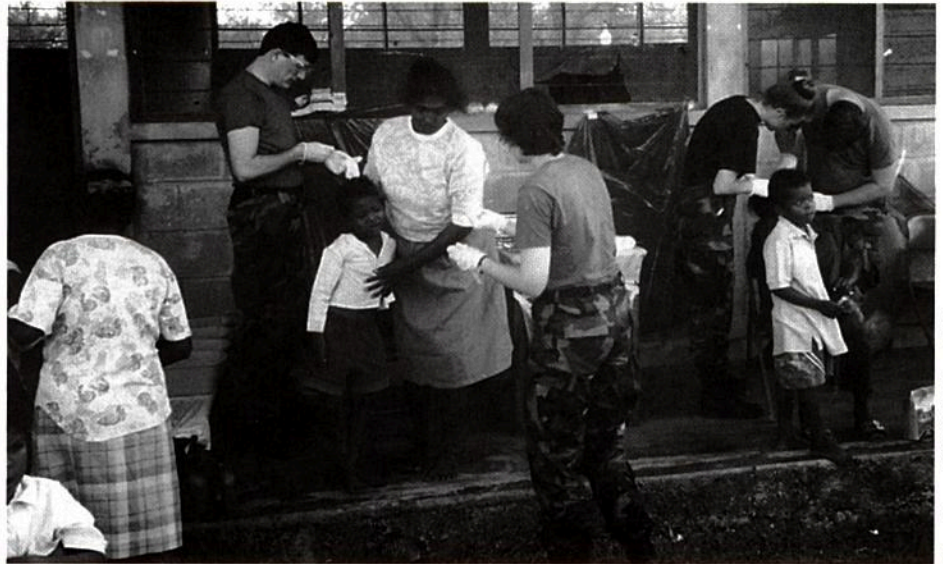
tarantula in the latrine, and stray pigs wandered in from outside. Laughing, Kratochvil said, "I have never even been camping before!"

Bathing was challenging. Streams doubled as septic systems and were filled with "creepy crawly" things. TSgt. Felicia Marshall vowed she would not bathe that way, but after only one work-day in the steamy climate, she relented. Healey was not as squeamish. "I drew the line though, when a pig joined us in the water," she said.

Despite the difficulties, and the initial apprehension, every member came away from the tour with glowing reports. They were most touched by the gratitude shown by the native people, and came away with a renewed sense of personal gratitude for what they formerly took for granted.

"There is not one person who did not play a critical role," Brown boasted. "The 439th did an absolutely stunning job."

The mission was a U.S. Army/Air Force venture coordinated through the Honduran Ministry of Health.



COME ONE, COME ALL -- Both man and beast received medical care in the village of Mangotara -- compliments of the 439th AW medical team.

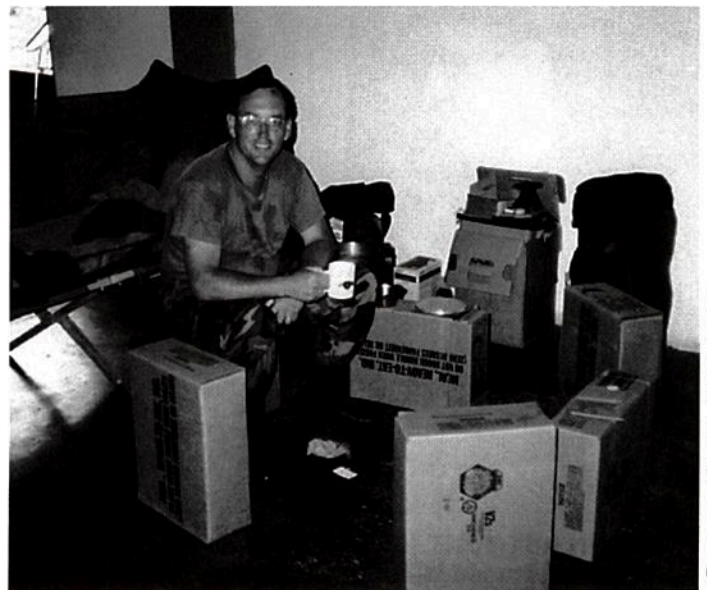


Courtesy of Lt. Col. Randy Brown

Courtesy of Lt. Col. Randy Brown



Courtesy of SSgt. Marianne Healey



Courtesy of Lt. Col. Randy Brown

ANGEL OF MERCY -- SSgt. Marianne Healey, 439th MDS dental assistant chums with her new friends

HEADQUARTERS -- Lt. Col. Randy Brown sits by his cot and makeshift office in an abandoned outpost

A 'concrete' unit

The 439th Civil Engineering Squadron poured 125 square yards of concrete for a fire-training area during their annual tour to Dobbins ARB, Ga. in February and March. They also poured a 250-foot circular pad for a B-29 static display. The civil engineers worked in individual shops to cross train during their tour.



SSgt. Thomas Vanderhoof

Grace enlistment: ends 1,000 years of service

by Capt. Mike Franco

The new year brought a sense of closure for Westover's MSgt. Robert Grace and the Grace family name.

Grace, a member of the 58th Aerial Port Squadron, ended a military tradition spanning more than 1,000 years when he enlisted for his final time in January. He is the last Grace male to serve the colors since neither he, nor his only brother, have sons.

The tradition began in the ninth century with William Le Gros, a Norman Knight who migrated to County Kilkenny, Ireland, according to Grace.

However, the first Le Gros descendant to carry the Grace name into military service was Col. Richard Grace, a commander under Charles I.

The colonel's regiment was the last to surrender to Parliament under terms his regiment join Spanish service. Returning to Ireland during the Restoration and the onset of the Jacobite War, he assumed command of the fortress of Athlone and died at age 70 while engaged in close combat during the fortress' second siege.

After the war, several men in the Grace family served as Wild Geese (cavalry officers for foreign armies) mercenaries. In the 18th century, two cousins,

both named John Grace, served as Wild Geese — one in the Austrian Cavalry and the other in the American Colonies from whom Grace is a direct descendant.

The latter John Grace became an advisor to the Continental Army encamped at Valley Forge. He fought at the Battle of Eutaw Springs and witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis. He then settled in Maryland and raised horses, later moving to Western Pennsylvania.

John's son Nimrod, a lieutenant in the Pittsburgh Blues during the War of 1812, was Robert's great-great grandfather. He received bounty land in Indiana for his military service and fathered sixteen children — two sons of which served during the Civil War. One of his sons, Robert's great grandfather, Samuel, was an infantryman assigned to the 24th Indiana Volunteers who saw action in the Wilderness Campaign.

Samuel's son John Grace, Robert's grandfather, was a Methodist minister and a chaplain during the Spanish-American War. Robert's uncle and father served as army sergeants during WWI and WWII, and his brother, Albert, was Navy Reserve officer.

I'm the last of an unbroken line of male family members to serve in the military, Grace said. He was in the Marine Corps Reserve from 1957 to 1969, then after a mixed career ranging from actor and stagehand to police officer, joined the Air Force Reserve in 1984. Grace was hired as a full-time air reserve technician at Westover in 1988.

My enlistment brought a sense of history and nostalgia over me, Grace said.



Capt. Mike Franco

FINAL ENLISTMENT — Lt. Col. Stephen Gross (right) 58th APS commander, enlists MSgt. Robert M. Grace. Grace's retirement will end a long military tradition.

Personnel managers cited for outstanding work

by Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

Two base personnel managers won recognition for outstanding work.

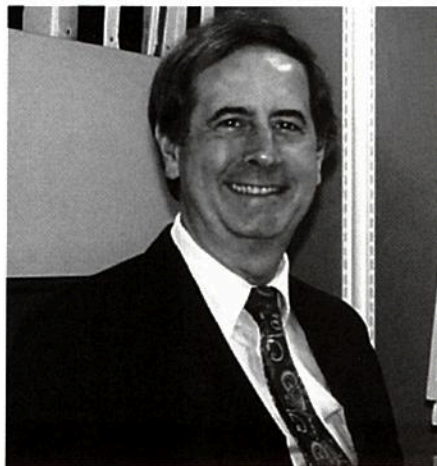
Jeff Frank, chief of the personnel management branch, received the Air Force Reserve Outstanding Civilian Personnel Senior Program Manager award and Donald R. Proctor, civilian personnel computer systems manager, netted the Air Force Exemplary Civilian Service Award.

Frank's award was based on his overall performance. Much of his work involves advising commanders and other managers on work and labor issues as well as providing support to satellite personnel offices at Niagara Falls, N.Y., Pittsburgh and Willow Grove, Penn. and Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

During the recent round of base realignments and closures, he provided guidance for both employees and managers at Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station and at Griffiss Air Force Base, N.Y. before coming to Westover.

A Chicopee resident, Frank started his government career less than eight years ago as a GS-7.

Proctor was recognized for his efforts



Donald R. Proctor



Jeff Frank

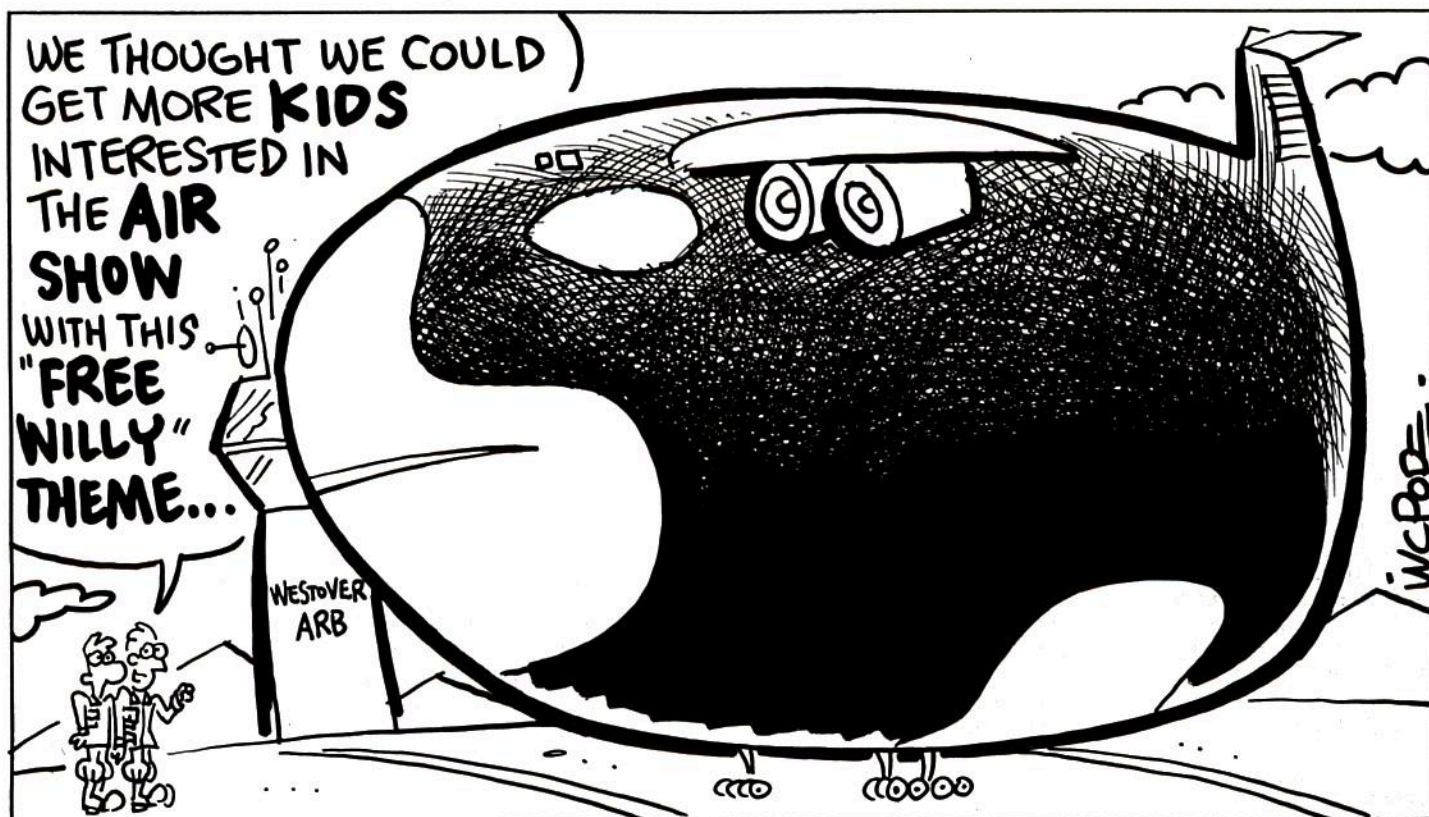
in helping to redesign the structure of Defense Department civilian personnel services. During a year-long study as a member of a marketing and reengineering team, Proctor designed a computer system to track workflow and personnel data, eliminating the need for mainframe computers.

Within four years, Proctor said, regional data processing centers will replace the outdated and expensive main-

frame systems. The centers will also eliminate the need for most of the clerical staff needed now to run base personnel offices.

About 35 people work at Westover's personnel office. That number will shrink to perhaps less than a dozen after the new system is on line, Proctor predicts.

Proctor is a Belchertown resident who has worked in civil service since 1971.



Patriot People

Name: Gary Matherson
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 31
Address: Greenfield, Mass.
Unit: 439th Medical Squadron
Position: Medical laboratory technician
Civilian position: Phlebotomist
Favorite food: Pizza
Years of service: 14
Favorite sport: Soccer
Favorite hobby: Cooking
Ideal vacation: Trip to the mountains
Best way to relax: Music
Preferred entertainment: Sports
Favorite hero: Duckman
Favorite music: Rock
Favorite aircraft: Star Wars
Pet peeve: Waiting
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Retire and relax.



SSgt. Paul Mantikoski

SSgt. Gary Matherson

Patriot Praises

Promotions

CMSgt. Wood, Kathleen M.
 MSgt. Cessna, Thomas E.
 MSgt. Lashley, Leon K.
 MSgt. Prunier, Edward K.
 MSgt. McGhee, William O.
 MSgt. Motley, Robert R.
 TSgt. Day, Timothy A.
 TSgt. Hedrick, Dale C.
 TSgt. Lau, Deborah A.
 TSgt. Mick, William K.
 TSgt. Pietrowski, Kevin J.
 TSgt. Speir, Jon L.
 TSgt. Wolff, Kenneth P.

Enlistments

SSgt. Baird, Henry R.
 SSgt. DiPietro, Michael G.
 SSgt. Fenton, Stephen P.
 SSgt. Gallant, Walter R., Jr.
 SSgt. Sideris, Paris C.
 SrA. Harris, Kenyatta L.
 SrA. Long, John C.
 SrA. Michaud, Michael P.
 A1C Henderson, Paul A.
 A1C Loughman, Scott J.
 A1C Marques, Paulo C.
 A1C Lopez, Kenny

Reenlistments

SMSgt. Fassbender,
 Thomas F., Jr.
 MSgt. Levreault, David E.

MSgt. Maille, Christopher, J.
 MSgt. Saso, Kerry G.
 MSgt. Woodworth, Susanne M.
 TSgt. Alfano, Tracie A.
 TSgt. Clark, John W.
 TSgt. Delduccio, Anthony J., III
 TSgt. Lomax, Clarence E.
 TSgt. Giddinge, Daniel J.
 TSgt. Marcin, Robert P.
 SSgt. Ash, Deborah E.
 SSgt. Canfield, Sidney J.
 SSgt. Churchill, Lori L.
 SSgt. Collins, James P.
 SSgt. Corey, Susan P.
 SSgt. Cullen, Timothy M.
 SSgt. Egan, Matthew J.
 SSgt. Ferriter, Lawrence J., Jr.
 SSgt. Johnson, Scott A.
 SSgt. Kukawka, Steve Z.
 SSgt. Lanier, Cheldon O., Jr.
 SSgt. Sinclair, Robert E.
 SSgt. Zawistowski, Alan T.
 SrA. Brown, Eric R.
 SrA. Croxford, Stephen J., Jr.
 SrA. Gendron, Michael A.
 SrA. Morin, Amy J.
 SrA. Mortimer, Shane W.
 A1C Dediego, Robert A., Jr.
 A1C LaFrance, Scott C.
 A1C Luxton, David D.
 A1C Mondor, Brian M.
 A1C Tavilla, Melissa

Rescheduling made easier for reservists

Air Force reservists are now allowed more freedom to reschedule their unit training assemblies and make up for missed training opportunities.

These changes are part of new procedures included in Air Force Manual 36-8001, which went into effect this year.

"For the most part, these changes are good for the reservists, said MSgt. Lori Albrecht, unit orderly room clerk for the 952nd RSS at Robins AFB, Ga.. "The changes allow them to reschedule a missed UTA anytime during the same fiscal year, instead of having to make it up within what we call the 60-day window—30 days each side of the scheduled UTA.

"This will give reservists more flexibility in adjusting their civilian work schedules to permit them to perform their annual training and meet mandatory requirements," Albrecht said. "These changes are definitely pluses for reservists as well as their employers."

Unit orderly rooms have more details on how these changes affect reservists.

AFRES News Service

Words aren't cheap

Get to the point!

That small admonition could save us all lots of time and Excedrin whenever we put pen to paper.

The biggest culprits?

If you said those who manage from the stratosphere of government and corporate America, you're right.

It's estimated Americans spent more than 6.5 billion hours last year filling out forms, answering survey questions and compiling records for the federal government. Much of that paperwork jungle was generated by requests for clarifications. Since the Reserve is a big part of government, each of us can exert some control on runaway language.

Take this for example:

When an individual contacts the local office to request application services for retroactive medical coverage, he/she is given the appropriate form letter, an application for assistance (Form 101) and an attachment (Form 101A).

Imagine plowing through paragraphs of that bilge?

Here's an edited version:

Each individual who wants to apply for retroactive medical coverage must complete and sign application form 101 and attachment 101A.

It's smooth, understandable and to the point. Even the parentheses—mental speed bumps, really—are gone.

That logic works even with words.

Instead of accommodations, rooms. Rather than deactivate, close or shut off. Buy, not purchase; use, not utilize; carry out, not implement; before, not prior to.

Every time a letter or memo is written using useless words and phrases, it makes understanding difficult and causes mistakes by forcing people to assume. Talk about a word to have fun with.

Big business is just as reckless. Here's a quote from a news release sent out by Fleet Financial Group in Rhode Island: *"Specifically, we have used technology to enhance such areas as customer segmentation, business line diversification, alternative delivery channels..."*

That was what a vice president said. What would be your friend's reaction if you started talking like that? More to the point: *Computers are targeting customers and businesses in new ways.*

More to the point: time really is money when you think about the hours we spend trying to figure out what sometimes passes for communication—our money, that is.

Editorial

by Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Briefs

Enlisted Dining Out scheduled for Oct. 5

An enlisted Dining Out will be conducted at the Westover Club on Oct. 5 with CMSAF David J. Campanale appearing as guest speaker.

According to SMSgt. Kelly Braudis of the Dining Out Committee, official dress for the affair as well as other details will be announced at a later date.

Overdue accounts will be reported

Starting this month, reservists who carry a balance on their government American Express credit card, 90 days past due, will receive a letter from the company telling them that if they allow the account to reach 120 days delinquency, the information will be reported to the credit bureau.

Card users who have a balance of 120 days past due, will receive a letter informing them they have 45 days to pay or the information will be reported to the credit bureau.

Further information is available from James Perry (Ext. 3460) or Dan McCarthy (Ext. 2950) at Westover's finance office.

Suggestions pay off

The base Suggestion Program Awards Committee has approved a total of \$1804 for seven suggestions, including one for \$903.

Other winners received checks for \$350, \$225, and \$200. Two others received \$38 each and two more got \$25 apiece.

Suggestions must be submitted on AF Form 1000 to Civilian Personnel, 439 SPTG/DPCE. Further information is available from Susanne Schmidt at ext. 2355.

MAY UTA dates

A UTA 4-5
B UTA 18-19

Navy Leap Frogs fall for Westover



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS -- The U.S. Navy Leap Frogs demonstrate a sample of a few of their spectacular maneuvers.



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Sometimes they're SEALs and sometimes they're frogs, but whatever they're called, the U.S. Navy's acrobatic jump team promises to wow the crowds at Westover's Great New England Airshow on August 3-4.

The 15-man Navy Leap Frogs team is comprised of Sea, Air, Land personnel from the east and west coast SEAL teams and are attached to the Naval Special Warfare Center in Coronado, Calif.

The Leap Frogs perform more than 60 exhibitions of aerial acrobatics and precision free-fall techniques. The parachutists jump from more than 12,000 feet and reach speeds of 120-220 mph as they loop, spin and fly in formation. The team has earned a solid reputation as aerial

showmen and traveling ambassadors.

During their three-year tour, team members undergo rigorous and demanding training until each member is a proficient jumper. No member of the team has fewer than 200 free-fall jumps and several have more than one thousand.

The Leap Frogs' primary mission is to support Navy recruiting — a job they've been doing since the late 1960s. At that time, the Frogmen would get together and perform at shows in their spare time. Realizing what a valuable recruiting asset they were, the Navy established two official teams dedicated to aerial demonstration. The east coast Chuting Stars, and the west coast Leap Frogs, were consolidated in 1984 to form the Leap Frogs — traveling around the world promoting U.S. Navy awareness.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like MSgt. Bob Seaton, of Chicopee, Mass., 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