

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1997

Cemetery ceremony



COMMUNITY SERVICE -- The Air Force reserve was a proud cadre among various military formations at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam in October. MSgt. Robert Johanns led the Westover formation.

photos by TSgt. W.C. Pope

Military provisions survive 1998 budget process

WASHINGTON -- Armed for the first time with line-item veto capability, President Clinton left intact several programs in the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Appropriations Act affecting Air Force Reserve Command. The act went into effect in mid-October.

The companion defense authorization bill, which includes recommended benefits for reservists, is awaiting final conference action.

Marking up the FY 98 Department of Defense President's Budget submitted in

February, Congress injected increases in four major areas - end strength, reserve personnel, operation and maintenance, and Guard and Reserve equipment. With these increases, the Reserve budget rose from a proposed \$2.45 billion to \$2.65 billion.

Under personnel end strength for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30, 1998, the ranks of the Selected Reserve climbed 167 slots above what was requested in the president's budget, from 73,431 to 73,598. Full-time bluesuiters held steady at

963, and air reserve technician numbers increased slightly from 9,622 to 9,659. The additional end strength provides for the restoration of six C-130s that were proposed for reduction in the president's budget and for a stand-alone weather reconnaissance maintenance capability.

Add-ons in the reserve personnel appropriation called for an additional \$8.2 million in military leave, \$1.4 million in C-130 force structure and \$170,000 in WC-130 maintenance. At the same time,

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439th ASTS leader called 'an inspiration'

Col. Dee Holliday retires amid praise of peers

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

The opportunity to travel was what compelled Col. Dorothy H. Holliday to join the Air Force, and, ironically, 25 years later the same opportunity is driving her to retire.

Of course, these trips won't involve the military aircraft on which she's flown, the medical equipment for which she's responsible, or the 112 reservists she leads — all things the veteran will miss at times as she spends her retirement years traveling throughout North America and beyond with her husband, Walter, (Doc) a former commander of the 337th now retired.

"We just want to travel and spend our winters in Florida," the commander of the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron says.

Holliday said she'll miss the reservists the most: the ones she watched grow, the ones she mentored, and especially the ones she helped become great reservists as they helped her become a great commander.

The Connecticut native discovered she could lead while deployed overseas for exercises like Korea's "Team Spirit" and operations like Desert Storm. Those who work for Holliday say it's her ability to draw out the best in people coupled with her sincere concern for those whom she leads that makes her a terrific leader.

"I am most proud of being a commander," Holliday says, adding that it was at Ramstein AB, Germany, during

the Gulf War, where her leadership skills were most challenged. The Aeromedical Evaluation Squadron set up in Germany to prepare for the expected onslaught of casualties once the ground war started. Fortunately it wasn't needed.

"We really didn't know what was going on from one day to the next and this made it difficult to keep morale up," Holliday says.

Difficult, but not impossible. According to Maj. Christine Gryglik, staff development officer, Holliday made an unsure and difficult time bearable.

"We didn't know if we were going to Saudi, if we were staying in Germany, when we were going home...we didn't know what was going on," Gryglik remembers. "But Colonel Holliday was always available for us — she kept us as informed as possible and she was always available to listen or give advice ... she's just a wonderful person and I would follow her anywhere."

Holliday came to Westover in 1980 after four and a half years of active duty, followed by a stint in the Michigan Air National Guard. Coming in as an Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron officer-in-charge, the certified nurse quickly got involved in in-flight training. Eventually she became a flight instructor, flight examiner, chief nurse, ART nurse, and since 1994, commander.

Holliday's civilian career in the medical field — a field she chose because she wanted to help children — has been



Col. Dee Holliday

equally as active. She began her civilian nursing career at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, in Boston. After marrying, she moved back to Western Massachusetts and worked for the Red Cross. She currently treats children as a nurse in the Enfield and South Windsor, Connecticut school systems.

"That's what's nice about being a nurse — you can move around to a lot of different jobs and people don't think you are unstable, they believe you're just making a career move," she said, exposing her sense of humor. Periodically, she switches subtly from a serious, leader-like demeanor, to one of jocular wit and wryness. Those who know her well say her personality is as well-rounded as her leadership skills.

"She leads by example," Gryglik says. "She's an inspiration to us all."

Although a bumper sticker found on the commander's office wall begs: "Stop Global Whining," this doesn't mean reservists are hesitant to come to Holliday with problems, suggestions, or for advice.

"She's firm, yet she's extremely caring," said Lt. Col. Jane L. Sbardella, chief nurse, "She's the best commander I have ever had. I will miss her as a friend, a mentor, and a leader."

PATRIOT

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Newest 337th pilot takes top spot in UPT

by SSgt. Christine Mora

At 15, she had her high school diploma, at 19, she graduated college and at 22, 2nd Lt. Jessica Brightman finished at the top of her Undergraduate Pilot Training Class.

Not a traditional background.

But not much about Brightman's background has been very traditional.

The latest addition to Westover's 337th Airlift Squadron made a distinctive start to what she hopes will be a long Air Force career when she completed pilot training at Vance AFB, Okla., in September.

In addition to finishing first in her class of 22, she received the Air Education and Training Command Trophy, as the top graduate in her T-1 training class at Vance.

Brightman said her unorthodox education plays a key role in her success. Before college, she spent six years home schooling, a process that shaped her future, according to the Lunenburg, Mass., native.

"Being schooled at home taught me to be very resourceful and disciplined," Brightman said. "I had to be very independent and take care of myself."

Those lessons paid off during pilot training, according to Brightman. "I was so used to studying and managing my time. When I got to pilot training, I didn't have a whole lot of time management problems," she said.

After getting her General Equivalency Diploma at age 15, she attended Fitchburg College, where she eventually received a bachelors degree in Mathematics.

"College was a great experience," Brightman said. "There was such a wide range of ages and people. That diversity was interesting."

As a 19-year-old college graduate, Brightman was faced with a career choice. "I had already been flying as a civilian pilot for several years by then," she said. "I was working as a flight instructor, and just loved flying." While examining different career paths, Brightman said she was looking for a challenge.

"I knew I'd enjoy flying the missions at Westover," she said. "The opportunity gave me the chance to keep flying and experience another element of diversity."

In January, 1996, Brightman hit the training grounds of Officer Training School and began her fledgling Air Force career. After an interim on-the-job-training stint at Westover, she attended the one-year Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance.

"Pilot training was a fun challenge," she said. "We had to get a lot of academics and flying requirements done in small increments of time." Despite the intense schedule, Brightman said she always showed up in the morning with a smile on her face. "The instructors couldn't believe I was having so much fun," she said.

"We are tremendously proud of what Jessica accomplished," said Lt. Col. Peter Gray, 337thAS pilot. Gray, along with Lt. Col. Jim Hosey, represented the 337th Airlift Squadron at graduation ceremonies at Vance. "She didn't just prove to be the best in the Air Force Reserve Command, she took on the best in the Air Force, and she came out number one. That's truly outstanding," Gray said.

Brightman will attend a series of schools including survival school and C-5 co-pilot school before she begins a one-year Progressive Tour and joins the Westover ranks as a fully-qualified Galaxy pilot.



photo courtesy of 2nd Lt. Jessica Brightman

SOARING SUCCESS -- Second Lieutenant Jessica Brightman's mother pins on her daughter's pilot's wings (above). While shorter than her aviation classmates, Brightman rose above them all to graduate top in her class at Vance AFB, Okla.



photo courtesy of 2nd Lt. Jessica Brightman

Giving Back to America **SSgt Helen Crouch springs into action**

Article and photo by MSgt. Sandi Michon

SSgt. Helen "Holly" Crouch lives life with a passion. For her, "life is 'doing'."

Just listening to her schedule is tiring. When not working at one of her three jobs, she can be found competing in a canoe race, scuba diving, escorting a field hockey team overseas, initiating community preschool programs, working volunteer booths, or somehow, always looking for new ways to serve others.

Despite her hectic schedule, Crouch is surprisingly peaceful, and whoever she is interacting with gets her undivided attention.

"People are important," says Crouch simply. "The value of each person matters to me." Her philosophy is lived out in her "hands-on" approach to life. "My motto is 'do it now.' I don't want to put off all that life has to offer," she said.

Crouch, a 439th ASTS med tech, is a third grade special needs teacher in her hometown of Sherburne, N.Y. and she waitresses part time. She loves contact with people -- particularly little ones. Much of her volunteer activities revolve around organizations that help children.

Crouch is on the board of directors for the Gathering Place, a local organization which raises funds for various children's groups. She volunteers for Sertoma, which helps fund children's medical networks, and she developed preschool conservation programs for the Rogers Environmental Center.

On a recent weekend, Crouch spent the day volunteering at a children's fair, working one booth blowing up balloons and spending the afternoon at another booth dressed up as a bug.

With degrees in biblical studies, archeology, early childhood education and special education, Crouch spent years working in preschool programs. She was a teacher with Head Start for nine years, and then director of the Griffiss [AFB, N.Y.] Child Care Program until the base closed in 1995.

"Little children represent simplicity, honesty and love -- qualities which are very important to me," said Crouch. As she speaks of children, her eyes sparkle with the delight of a child as she extols their curiosity, excitement and desire to learn. "Kids are very hands-on. Hanging out with them is a great way to live life from their perspective."

As Crouch recalls her own childhood, there was little down time. In her teens, she hayed her grandfather's farm, babysat, took diving lessons, taught swimming -- just to list a few of her activities. She credits her mom for modeling excellence and

encouraging her daughter's goals by building confidence.

Crouch's love for the outdoors vies for her precious time. She has spent years playing field hockey, and has chaperoned and coached local teams in international competitions since 1984. She likes to sky dive and has done competitive canoeing for 16 years. In September, she and her teammate won the women's division of the Adirondack Canoe Classic, paddling and portaging for three days along a 90-mile course. She has also won state and national women's titles.

Her volunteer spirit, love for travel and the medical profession brought Crouch to the military in 1990. She began as an operating room technician at Griffiss and crosstrained as a medtech when the unit relocated to Westover in 1995. "Joining the military is the best thing I've ever done," she said, and her volunteer spirit thrives in the military. Not surprisingly, she heads up her unit's newcomers' orientation and she helps with the unit fitness program.

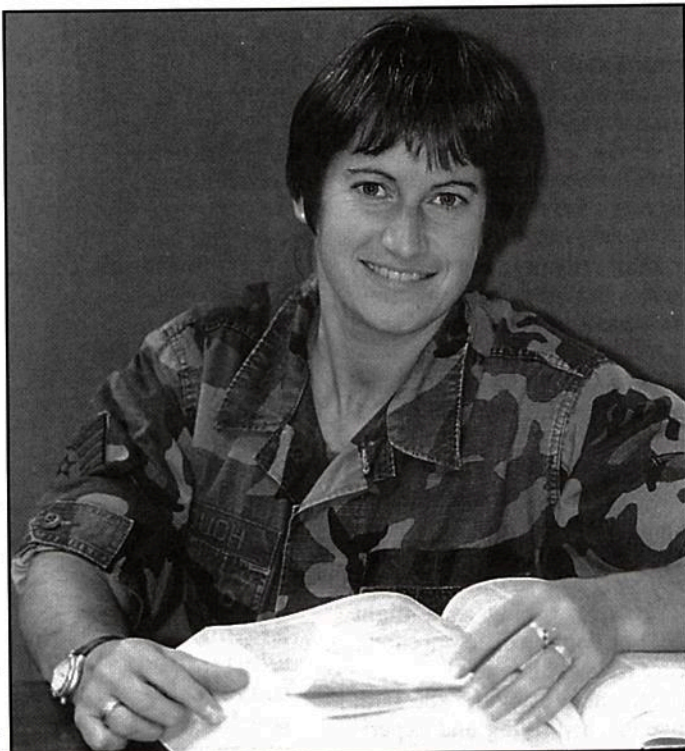
She is highly esteemed by her co-workers as several reservists commented during and after the interview, "I'm glad you're doing a story on Holly, she's a great person." Her first sergeant concurs. "She's a very bright, motivated, sharing individual who knows no bounds in the effort and time she puts into a project," said MSgt. Charles Szmurlo. "She's a model to follow, that's for sure."

Crouch is grateful for what the military has given her. She said she has learned leadership skills, self confidence and interpersonal skills that enhance her other activities.

The youthful, athletic brunette is very unassuming regarding her exploits, but the reason for her humility touches her deepest passion -- and the driving force behind all that she does. Crouch is an associate sister, or lay-nun, with the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chondlet, and she credits Jesus Christ as her source of direction, strength and purpose. "God gave us life, and shared His life -- this is what we are supposed to do," she said. "If I can make someone's life a little happier, a little warmer, then I feel comforted and closer to God."

Even Crouch's enlisted status is important to her. She said without worker bees there is no honey. "It's in making the honey we find sweetness in life," she said. She said money does not impress her and she just likes helping people. She finds the "doing together" very satisfying and said she would not feel fulfilled without volunteering.

Crouch expresses a rare sense of tasting life. She wants to do it all, yet she smells the roses along the way. She summed up her philosophy succinctly, "I live my life each day so that if I died that day, I'd die with a smile on my face."



SSgt. Helen "Holly" Crouch

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE-- Keeping Westover fully manned is a full-time job for base recruiters. Shown (left to right) are new staff: MSgt. Mike Neeley, SSgt. Ron Salafia, MSgt. Jackie Stanley, and MSgt. Ed DeMore.



TSgt. W. C. Pope



Wing expands recruiting team

by Capt. Mike Franco

Four recruiters join the 439th Recruiting Service as part of a strategy to beef up recruiting efforts.

Using more than 50 years recruiting experience, Master Sergeants Jackie Stanley, Ed DeMore, and Mike Neeley, and SSgt. Ron Salafia will reach out to communities in eastern New York state, Connecticut and Massachusetts to fill vacancies at Westover.

According to CMSgt. Thom S. Harvey, senior recruiter, their team is a "new breed" with lots of energy and enthusiasm. They will be more involved with commanders' calls and the units, networking with reserve members in search for new recruits.

"Our goal is to achieve 100 percent plus of our manning requirement," Harvey said. Westover recruiting has a total of nine "production" recruiters covering seven states.

People interested in the Air Force Reserve at Westover can call the Recruiting Service office toll free at 800-367-1110. Jackie Stanley, office manager, and Ron Salafia can be contacted on station at extensions 2332 and 2943. Ed DeMore, in-service recruiter at Hanscom Air Force Base, can be reached at (617) 377-4461 or DSN 478-4461 and Mike Neeley, Albany's satellite office manager, may be contacted at (518) 434-3077.



MAINTENANCE STOP -
- Bosses toured Westover's maintenance facilities as part of Employer Appreciation Days held in September and October. Eighty-seven employers of Reservists attended the event which is sponsored by the base to foster understanding and support between civilian bosses and their Reserve employees.

C-5 flights dazzle employers

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi
photos by TSgt. W.C. Pope

As a kid, the professor had always dreamed of flying in a military aircraft. Seeing first-hand the "nitty-gritty" workings of the Air Force was something the tax auditor had always wanted to do. And the nun was curious: What did her employee do each month when he put on that uniform?

Questions were answered and childhood hopes were fulfilled when 32 reservists brought their bosses to Westover's annual Employer Appreciation Day during the B UTA on Sept. 20. On Oct. 4, 55 reservists who drill on the A UTAs brought their bosses to work.

"It's a wonderful experience to come out here and see the capabilities of defense," said Sister Geraldine Noonan of St. Luke's Home in Springfield. "Westover is a great resource for the community. It's comforting to know that if there is any type of disaster Westover can help, whether with airlifts, manpower, or anything."

Master Sergeant Richard Pease from Services works for Noonan at the nursing home where he directs food services.

"I know what he does for us, but now I have a chance to see what he does for his country," Noonan said.

After an introduction to Westover

from Col. Merrill Cross, 439 AW vice commander, the bosses were bussed out to the flightline to board a C-5. Although cloudy skies prevented a more extended aerial tour of New England, employers had the chance to visit the cockpit to view Quabbin Reservoir from 3,000 feet during a 90-minute flight.

"It's such a thrill being up here," shouted Peter Scotto, professor of Russian at Mount Holyoke College, above the din of C-5 engines. "I've dreamed of this as a kid and I can't believe I'm actually doing it."

Scotto's employee, Technical Sgt. Tracie Aube, said Scotto had been excited for a week. "He told me, 'I knew there was another reason why we hired you.'"

After the flight, employers met up with the reservists to eat lunch at the club or dining hall. Bosses were then treated to a tour of the maintenance facility and Dogpatch. The day concluded with bosses visiting their employees at their individual work areas to observe the Reservists performing their military jobs.

"It's very important that we keep this connection between Westover and the employers," Noonan said, "because in addition to feeling appreciated ourselves, it also gives us an opportunity to show our employees that we support them and appreciate what they do."



BELLS AND WHISTLES -- A 337th AS flight engineer explains aspects of the complex engine panel to a civilian employer during a C-5 Employer Appreciation Day flight.

Four Seasons sale

Beginning Nov. 8, the Four Seasons Store is having a clearance sale on 1996/97 models of new skis, boots, bindings, skates and accessories. Ski tuning and hot wax treatment is also available for \$14.

The Four Seasons also has a full line of winter equipment available for rental, including snowmobiles. A flyer is published listing items and rental rates.

The store is open weekdays (except Wednesdays) from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call the store at Ext. 2974.

98 budget... continued from page 1

Congress took \$8.8 million from the health professional scholarship program.

Under the operation and maintenance appropriation, Congress agreed with the president's \$1.624 billion request but tacked on another \$6.78 million in C-130 force structure and \$830,000 in WC-130 maintenance.

Key provisions of the appropriations bill that affect reservists include:

- *Pay for law enforcement - Reservists may use military leave and be paid for law enforcement or assistance to civil authorities in the protection or saving of life or property or prevention of injury.

- *Billeting - The act includes annual language allowing reimbursement to reservists for lodging during active or inactive duty training.

- *Technician reduction restriction - The bill prevents arbitrary reductions of air reserve technicians by allowing reductions only if they are a direct result of a decrease in military force structure.

- *Medical supplies - The act makes funds available to provide transportation of medical supplies and equipment, on a non-reimbursable basis, to the Indian Health Services when it is in conjunction with a civil-military project.

(AFRC News Service)



SUPERMAN VISION -- SSgt. Roger Bennett, 439th AGS aerospace propulsion technician, peers into the eye piece of a Jet Engine Borescope, much like the instrument used for exploratory surgery in humans. The borescope is a non-destructive method of inspecting for internal engine damage. TSgt. Michael Hildebrand and TSgt. Susan Balboni assisted in the inspection that located internal damage that led to an engine change. *Photo by TSgt. W.C. Pope*

Units can authorize actual travel expense

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Air Force Reserve Command travelers can now ask their wing commanders to approve an actual expense allowance for trips to high cost areas.

Before Oct. 1, units had to request the allowance from Headquarters AFRC. The allowance has a 150 percent cap on all actual per diem expenses.

Travelers can request the extra allowance if actual expense will exceed the maximum per diem expense by \$5 per

day. Allowable expenses are those usually covered by per diem; expenses for personal convenience are not allowed.

Commanders and financial service officers will work together to establish local procedures for requesting actual expense allowances.

Justification for the request should include reason for travel, identity of senior member and other members of party, proposed itinerary, reason for additional allowance and point of contact.

'Oracle HRMS' brings system into 21st century

by Capt. Mike Franco

The 439th Military Personnel Flight is adopting a new personnel system, the Oracle HRMS (Human Resource Management System).

Oracle HRMS, or as the Air Force calls it, MILMOD for military modernization, is a Total Force effort directed by the Air Force Personnel Center. It is the Air Force's first commercially developed and acquired military personnel system.

The system is currently installed, but is not scheduled to be fully operational until the fall of 1998, according to SSgt. Gregory A. Libby, assistant chief systems and readiness. The system must first undergo extensive testing and evaluation by the local personnel units.

"At this time, we can retrieve files, but not update them," Libby said. Over one million records from 130 existing database systems have to be transferred to Oracle HRMS.

"This consolidation of data is a massive undertaking," he said. Oracle HRMS has a large database with a variety of applications.

"Oracle will bring us beyond the year 2000 technologically," Libby said. For example, it provides an on-screen graphical interface that will allow us to export files to other commercial software for creating reports, he said.

According to R. P. Gaskill, Chief, MILMOD Customer Support, we need to modernize our Personnel Data System



COMMAND POSE -- Col. Merrill N. Cross, new 439th Airlift Wing vice commander, and former 337th AS commander (left) congratulates his successor Lt. Col. William B. Bradford to the helm of the 337th Airlift Squadron.

photo by TSgt. W.C. Pope

because, "by today's technology standards, it is an inefficient database management system with mid-to-late 1970's technology."

The current PDS has "nearly reached its hardware capacity," Gaskill said. The labor intensive operating environment and system limitations have also resulted in an increase in stand-alone systems built by local units, none of which are supportable in the long term.

The Air Force Chief of Staff approved the modernization three years ago. Since then, AFPC has held over 100 workshops with Total Force representatives attending and Oracle HRMS was selected.

Gaskill said training is being accomplished via the TNET and from CD-ROM issued to units, Gaskill said. The personnel center also uses the Internet to help "spread the word" offering a library of video tapes and reviewing frequently-asked questions.

In order to meet modernization plans the Air Force will restrict enhancements or "freeze" the current system, according to Brig. Gen. Susan L. Pamerleau, Commander, AFPC. As of May 1997, the current system will be in a 'caretaker' status — fully functional but no longer evolving.



Reserve trimming training requirements

ROBINS AFB, GA. -- Faced with more training requirements than time to perform them, Air Force Reserve Command is taking a close look at what is and is not needed, and trimming the burden where possible.

"So far, we've managed to reduce training requirements approximately 34 hours a year for our reservists," said Brig. Gen. Dave Sibley, AFRC assistant vice commander. "And we've just hit the tip of the iceberg. We're still working on reducing ancillary training and are hoping to capture another 25 to 30 hours per year."

Maj. Gen. Robert A. McIntosh, AFRC commander, directed Sibley to head up an effort to scale back on the training requirements placed on reservists. In the summer of 1996, Sibley established a cross-functional working group than began looking for ways to curb those requirements.

"Our group determined we could make the most immediate impact by looking at the training requirements not related to combat readiness first," Sibley said. Group members have already looked at about 20 annual ancillary training requirements for reservists to see if any could be deleted, reduced or altered.

"For years, we've been adding train-

ing requirements without giving much thought to how much time our people have available," he said. "At the same time, our operations tempo has been going through the roof. We're at a point now where something has to give, and there's no relief in sight on ops tempo requirements."

Maj. Larry Lee, chief of the Training Support Branch in the Directorate of Personnel, HQ AFRC, estimates that there are between 50 and 75 total ancillary requirements taking up reservists' limited duty time. Exactly how much time depends on a reservist's functional area.

After trimming ancillary training, Sibley said the group plans to look at Air Force specialty code-related training for additional time savings.

"Once we've racked and stacked all of the training requirements and gotten rid of, or reduced the ones we could, the requirements will be locked," the general said.

A Reserve training clearinghouse will ensure that no new requirements are added to the list without something being deleted first. Any new training requirements will have to be coordinated through the clearinghouse to see if their frequency duration and format can be streamlined before being implemented

and to see what comparable time can be removed from existing requirements.

Sibley said that reducing training requirements is a time-consuming process.

"It's going to take some time to identify all of the training requirements and complete reduction efforts before we're able to load the training requirements into the database," he said. "Another thing that's slowing us down right now is an Air Force policy that says everything in an Air Force Instruction will be complied with unless you have a waiver. Every time we want to do something less frequently or differently than is stated in the AFI, we have to go to the Air Staff to get a waiver. It's a time-consuming process but it's not going to dissuade us from pressing on."

For example, Sibley said one particular instruction states that everyone must have a four-hour block of equal opportunity training and that the size of each class must not exceed 30 people.

"For some of our bases, like Travis (Air Force Base, Calif.) with close to 5,000 reservists, this would be impossible," he said. "It would take several years to give everyone this training. We've asked the Air Force for a waiver to see if we can get more people in each class."

(AFRC news release)

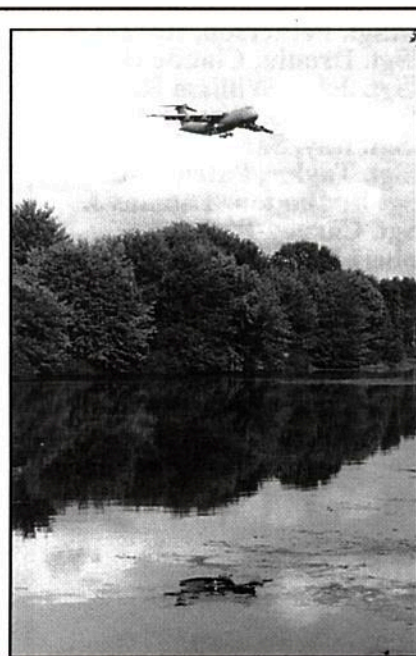
Reserve to charge GI Bill recipients who fail to finish six-year tours

WASHINGTON -- Reservists who receive Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve benefits and fail to satisfactorily participate, stand to lose more than just their eligibility to remain in the Reserve. They will have to pay back to the government a portion of the benefits they received.

Under provisions of a new law, effective Oct. 1, 1998, all reserve components, including the Air Force Reserve Command, will begin recouping benefits from those people who became unsatisfactory participants after Oct. 1, 1997. The conditions of unsatisfactory participants are spelled out in Air Force Manual 36-8001, Reserve Personnel Participation and Training Procedures. Names of unsatisfactory participants who have received benefits will be identified in the Personnel Data System and forwarded to the Defense Finance and Accounting System for collection action.

The amount of benefits owed to the government is determined by a mathematical formula, using the number of months remaining in the person's service obligation and divided by 72 (the number of months in a six-year contract). That percentage is then multiplied by the amount of Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve benefits received during the eligibility period. Finally, a flat rate interest charge, which is determined at the time the debt is processed, is added to the total.

For example, if a person fails to meet participation requirements and has 23 months left in his or her reserve obligation, the 23 months divided by 72 equals .32. If the person received \$2,400 in benefits, the math is \$2,400 multiplied by .32 equals \$768. If the interest rate is 15 percent, the amount owed to the government equals \$883.20 -- \$768 plus \$115.20 in interest. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)



NATURAL RESOURCE -- A Westover Galaxy circles over Wade Lake on a training sortie in October.

Patriot People

Name: Danial Breckenridge
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 35
Address: Rome, N.Y.
Unit: 42nd Aerial Port Squadron
Position: Air Cargo Specialist
Civilian position: Sales person
Favorite food: Spaghetti
Years of service: 11 years
Favorite sport: Football
Favorite hobby: Fishing
Ideal vacation: North Carolina beaches
Best way to relax: Reading
Preferred entertainment: Getting together with friends
Favorite hero: John Wayne
Favorite music: Oldies
Favorite movie: *Top Gun*
Favorite aircraft: F-15
Pet peeve: Hurry up and wait...
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Disappear...



TSgt. W.C. Pope

SSgt. Danial Breckenridge

Patriot Praises

PEP Promotions

CMSgt. Fetherson, Robert B.
 MSgt. Drouin, Claude G.
 MSgt. Jebb, William R.
 MSgt. Moore, Wayne A.
 MSgt. Ray, Sandra L.
 MSgt. Taylor, Patricia A.
 TSgt. Budington, Thomas J.
 TSgt. Carney-Richter, Robert H.
 TSgt. Florian, Daniel
 TSgt. Gates, Aaron D.
 TSgt. Housley, Deborah S.
 TSgt. Martel, Donald R.
 TSgt. Robitaille, Shane C.
 TSgt. Rockhill, George E.
 TSgt. Williams, Robert A.

Enlistments

SSgt. Clark, William H.
 SSgt. Gedraitis, Mark W.
 SrA. Digiosio, Robert B.
 SrA. Losano, Joseph A.
 SrA. Manning, Michael D.
 SrA. Rosati, Joseph A., Jr.
 A1C Adams, David A.
 A1C Drenzek, Ian C.
 A1C Muller, J. Eric
 A1C Phelps, Ronald C.
 AB Mullally, Desmond B.

Reenlistments

SMSgt. Byrnes, Patricia A.
 SMSgt. Fraini, Frederick D.
 SMSgt. Skawski, Zigmund D.
 MSgt. Bowen, Grady M.
 MSgt. Hogan, Daniel G.
 MSgt. Valliere, David A.
 TSgt. Rudnicki, Paul A.
 TSgt. Schmoke, Richard T.
 TSgt. Serrao, Nelson A.
 TSgt. Wells, David L.
 TSgt. Wojtowicz, Richard
 SSgt. Cabrera, Luis A., Jr.
 SSgt. Campbell, Patrick K.
 SSgt. Claffey, Denise A.
 SSgt. Gagnon, Paul J.
 SSgt. Garrity, James P.
 SSgt. Green, Jeffrey A.
 SSgt. Hamlet, Michael E.
 SSgt. Hoagland, Matthew S.
 SSgt. Lepsch, Edward J.
 SSgt. Macdonald, Douglas D.
 SSgt. Maclure, Joan E.
 SSgt. Martin, Norman F.
 SSgt. Patuano, Stephen J.
 SSgt. Peros, Michael M.
 SSgt. Rowe, Benjamin A., IV
 SSgt. Saya, Lynne
 SSgt. Smith, Gary E.
 SSgt. Zanzanian, Moises
 SrA. Batchelor, Thomas J., Jr.
 SrA. Gagnon, Abel J.
 SrA. Herbert, Mandy
 SrA. Williams, Reginald

UTA SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

| | A UTA | B UTA | 85 APS | 722 ASTS |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|----------|
| Nov. | 8-9 | 22-23 | 1-2 | 15-16 |
| Dec. | 6-7 | 13-14 | 6-7 | 6-7 |
| Jan. | 10-11 | 24-25 | 10-11 | 10-11 |
| Feb. | 7-8 | 21-22 | 7-8 | 7-8 |
| March | 7-8 | 21-22 | 7-8 | 7-8 |
| April | 4-5 | 18-19 | 4-5 | 18-19 |
| May | 2-3 | 16-17 | 2-3 | 16-17 |
| June | 6-7 | 27-28 | 6-7 | 6-7 |
| July | 11-12 | 25-26 | 11-12 | 25-26 |
| Aug. | 8-9 | 22-23 | 1-2 | 15-16 |
| Sept. | 12-13 | 26-27 | 12-13 | 12-13 |

Being thankful

If we really thought about it, we could all list things we're thankful for.

But we don't always think about it.

It's so easy to get lost in the chaos of the average day. Little things become big issues. We lose perspective. We feel sorry for ourselves.

Ironically, it's often the big issues that remind us to be thankful.

Recently, a co-worker was in an accident and seriously hurt. During her recovery, she was amazed at how many people offered thoughts and help during her difficult time. When asked how she was doing, she would reply that, most of all, she was thankful. Overwhelmingly so. Thankful it wasn't worse -- and for the clear perspective trauma can bring.

Our lack of gratitude is partly the product of a problem-solving culture. We look for what's wrong so we can fix it. We spend a lot less time looking at what's right and being thankful.

We lose perspective.

Several years ago, I found myself at the end of a long TDY trying to get home. It had been a tense couple of weeks and I needed to find a flight home from Europe. I had kicked into the go-home mode and was frustrated. I just wanted to sleep in my own bed.

I finally caught a C-141 flight with five minutes to spare. I rushed in and as the doors closed, I realized I was on a medical evacuation flight filled with Bosnian refugees. I spent the next nine hours caring for people who didn't even have a bed to sleep in -- and didn't know when they ever would.

I had fallen into the trap we all do. Lamenting over the little details and losing sight of the big picture.

Perhaps our lack of gratitude is also a product of having too much. We tend to appreciate things less when they're abundant.

Whatever the reasons for not keeping focus, days like Thanksgiving offer us opportunity to reflect -- as the Plymouth settlers did hundreds of years ago.

Searching for a promised land of freedom and prosperity, the Pilgrims instead suffered loss of family members, illness, hunger and homelessness. Despite the difficulties, they set aside a special time to celebrate what was good.

They took the time to focus on the things they had to be thankful for.

by SSgt. Christine Mora
Public Affairs Craftsman

EDITORIAL



Briefs Chapel service Food drive

An ecumenical Thanksgiving service is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 8 at 1500 hours in the Chapel Center. All are welcome.

The chapel center is also sponsoring a food drive to benefit the USO pantry. Canned and non-perishable foods are needed.

Donations will be accepted through the December B UTA. Drop-off points are: Wing Command Section, Wing Quality Office, Base Clinic, and Base Chapel.

Retreat Ceremony for FY '98 listed

Following is the unit schedule for Retreat Ceremony during Fiscal Year 1998. Ceremonies take place on Saturday of the A UTA at the flagpole on Monument Avenue.

November 1997--439th Logistics Support Squadron.

December 1997--439th Medical Squadron and 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

January 1998--439th Operations Support Squadron and 337th Airlift Squadron.

February 1998--439th Aircraft Generation Squadron.

March 1998--42nd Aerial Port Squadron.

April 1998--439th Civil Engineering Squadron.

May 1998--439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

June 1998--439th Maintenance Squadron.

July 1998--439th Communications Squadron and 439th Services Flight.

August 1998--439th Airlift Wing Headquarters and 439th Mission Support Squadron.

Retreat ceremonies will begin at 1545 hours and units should be in place no later than 1530 hours.

Nov. UTA dates

**A UTA Nov. 8-9
B UTA Nov. 22-23**

TEAMWORK EXPO

by Capt. Mike Franco



Approximately 500 people from the Pioneer Valley attended the 5th Annual Teamwork Expo hosted at the Westover Club, Oct. 7.

Teams and working groups from several on and off-base organizations exhibited their quality initiatives at the event including two from Westover.

According to Maj. Armand Tourangeau, wing quality officer, the "Team Medics" from the 439th Medical Squadron showcased their newcomer's orientation process and the "Mystery Shoppers", a base customer focus group, displayed their two-day course on customer/supplier relationships.

"Teamwork Expo was a success again this year," Tourangeau said. The fair creates awareness about the importance of continuous improvement to everyday life.

Six "best quality project" awards were given, he said. Two awards went to Westover teams - "Team Medics" won the award for "Best Use of Quality Tools" and the "Mystery Shoppers" won for "Best Ideas to Take Home." The "Best Team Overall" honor went to a process action team representing Lego Systems USA, Enfield, Conn.

Teamwork Expo is sponsored by Springfield Area Council for Excellence and Manufacturing Partnership of Western Massachusetts.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Erin L. Maxwell of Springfield, Mass., and 2,608 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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