

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 1997



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

ATSO DRILL -- Members of the 439th AGS stake out a simulated chemical spill site as part of ATSO training in August. Shown above are TSgt. Albert Dudley, TSgt. Susan Balboni and SSgt. Gabriela Panico.

Reservists volunteer to prepare for ATSO test

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Between 150 and 175 439th Airlift Wing reservists will be spending a good portion of their Unit Training Assemblies in September and October in Dogpatch learning skills that will enhance their Ability To Survive and Operate.

"We will be undergoing what is being called a 'Limited ORI' in November," said Lt. Col. Tom Mauzaka, ATSO commander. "The people involved are what I refer to as our heroes," he said. "They

have all volunteered to go through this rigorous training and the exercise to show what the 439th AW is made of."

In September, he said, special teams will be training in ATSO [procedures]. There will also be a Command and Control exercise. In October, involved reservists will go through a two-day exercise that will mirror as closely as possible, the actual ATSO evaluation scheduled for Nov. 21, 22 and 23.

Reservists involved in the training will

come from services, civil engineering, security police, mission support, safety, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron and 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron. All must have their shot records up to date, including hepatitis A and meningococcol. They must also have DNA verification.

"Every Wing member has a stake in this exercise," Mauzaka said. "But for these people to go through this training is extraordinary, and I know that General Bankers is as grateful to them as I am."

More changes alter uniform appearance

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.

-- Several major changes concerning proper wear of the Air Force uniform have or will occur in the next few years.

Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command personnel officials here say the following actions will take effect Oct. 1.

- Air Force and name tapes will be mandatory on battle dress uniforms.
- All enlisted members must wear the new chevrons on all uniform combinations. Senior airmen and sergeants will both wear the new senior airmen chevrons.
- Embroidered badges and specialty insignia worn on battle dress uniform will be phased out.
- The women's blue and white service hat will be phased out.

Effective Oct. 1, 1998, the Air Force will phase out the following:

- Miniature highly-polished and chrome-finish badges and specialty insignia, except wings and missile badges;
- Satin and oxidized finish belt tips and buckles, and specialty badges, both regular and miniature sizes.
- Air Force officials have extended the mandatory wear date for the new women's service hat for field grade officers to October 1998.

Beginning Oct. 1, 1999, wear of the new service dress uniform is mandatory and the phase out of the old mess dress



blouse is extended to January 2000.

A number of uniform changes have been recently implemented with immediate effective dates. Following is a summary:

- In Air Force Instruction 36-2903 (Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel), the reference to enlisted BDU wear has changed to read that members should ensure their rank chevron is visible.
- Security police members assigned to units above the group level may wear the security police shield and blue beret with all authorized uniform combinations.
- Members may carry gym bags, clothing bags, backpacks and similar type items over their left shoulder or in the left hand.

- Members must wear all or some of their ribbons on the service dress coats. The option to wear no ribbons is no longer available.
- Members may wear beepers and cellular phones clipped to their waistband or purse, or carry them in their left hand only if necessary to perform their duties.
- Members have the option to wear a tie/tab with the blue pullover sweater. However local commanders retain the option to require the tie/tab be worn under specific circumstances.
- When shoulder rank is required, officers and senior noncommissioned officers may wear shoulder marks; all other airmen must wear metal rank insignia.
- The new blue cardigan sweater is available at clothing stores at a cost of approximately \$38. Members may wear a tie/tab, buttoned or unbuttoned when indoors and unbuttoned outdoors. The shirt collar may be worn inside or outside the sweater.
- The officer sleeve rank is no longer authorized on the new service dress uniform coat.
- Wear of the green field jacket is no longer authorized.

Anyone wanting more information on uniform changes should contact their military personnel flight or refer to AFI 36-2903. (AFRC News Service).

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Giving Back to America

Reservist brings music back for elderly man

by TSgt. Charlie Cangemi

Although music had always been a big part of his life, 99-year-old Arthur Bourbeau hasn't made music since his wife died nine years ago. That was until Westover Air Reserve Technician and part-time art student Christopher Doyle came into his life looking for material for an art project called "Childhood Memories." The assignment, which was given to 14 art students from Westfield State College where Doyle, 42, a part-time art major, was to recreate aspects of nursing home residents' lives through art of any medium.

A senior master sergeant assigned to the 439th Maintenance Squadron at Westover Air Reserve Base, Doyle was to get this information by talking with Bourbeau at his small room in the Mount St. Vincent Nursing Home in Holyoke, Mass.

During a four-hour discussion, the senior recounted memories since 1904 when he was six-years-old. Bourbeau told the student about the art classes he took at Holyoke High, the violin his uncle had made for him, and the piano he played on Saturday nights to entertain his parents and 12 siblings—"there was no TV back then," he reminded Doyle. He told Doyle about his passion for music. He also said music had not been a part of his life since his wife died.

But Doyle brought music back into Bourbeau's life in more ways than one. During the talk, as Bourbeau fondly recalled music memories, lyrics would pop into his head, compelling him to sing for Doyle. In return, Doyle immortalized the senior's love for music in an oil painting that hung in the nursing home art gallery.

"When the residents communicate with those from other generations, they really feel more alive," said Richard Pelland, director of Mount St. Vincent's Nursing Home.

The project was brainstormed by Pelland, Barbara Keim, chair of the art department at Westfield State College, and Holly Robbins from the WSC Department of Continuing Education. The idea was to have art students like Doyle create images of nursing home residents' lives through art. Each student was assigned a resident whom he or she would interview.

According to Keim, the dual goal of the project was to get the artists into the community to spend time with nursing home residents while doing research for a challenging art assignment. The 13 finished projects hung in the nursing home's art gallery and were showcased at an art exhibit reception that drew over 300 visitors.

"We wanted the students to connect with the residents," Keim said, adding that she knew the project would be as emotional as it was challenging for her students.

"You can't get a more emotional subject than a living person," she said. This project isn't like doing a portrait where you don't even have to talk to the person—with this project there is a human connection, and it is beautiful."

In several ways Doyle made this connection.

"Music was foremost in Arthur's memory, and this was my first and lasting impression after the interview," Doyle said.

But, before putting the image—which encompassed a violin, a piano, and an Amedeo Modigliani painting—on the canvas, Doyle had to do more research. He visited the library to study period furniture, he drew "thumbnail" portraits in order to get the perfect perspective, and he acquired a copy of a Modigliani which he



photo courtesy of Westfield State College

SIMPLE HARMONY -- SMSgt. Chris Doyle, right, stands with his new friend, Arthur Bourbeau, 99, in the latter's room at Mt. St. Vincent Nursing Home. At right is the painting Doyle created to capture nearly a century of Arthur Bourbeau's life.

would replicate in his piece. The Italian painter was Bourbeau's favorite artist.

Doyle spent a total of 20 hours on the oil painting—the first oil piece he had ever done. Now finished, the three main elements—the violin, the piano, and the Modigliani—are juxtaposed in an early 20th century parlor. The Modigliani hangs against gold textured wallpaper. The upright violin rests precariously on a chair leaning against its back as if to beckon a young Bourbeau to pick it up; a grand piano decorates the right side of the painting fighting for attention.

Sadly, Bourbeau will never see the painting because of failing eyesight. Doyle found this out at the art exhibit reception, where he unveiled his painting.

"His family was there at the exhibit and they helped me describe the painting to him," Doyle said, with just a hint of disappointment in his voice. "He said it sounded like I really captured what he was trying to say."

In many ways, the hours that Bourbeau spent with the Westover reservist meant more to him than the painting. That afternoon he shared stories and sang songs, remembering things he thought he had forgotten and forgetting things he thought he remembered. Doyle provided Bourbeau an opportunity to relive the past as he talked about art, music, his children, and his wife.

Evoked from that meeting, during a two-month exhibit, existed a tangible image of memories that hung on the nursing home wall. Ironically, without sight, Bourbeau can still only visualize the image in his mind. But that may be okay with him, because in addition to the painting, Doyle created something else for Bourbeau—a memory of the day a young man came to visit and brought music back into his life.

Civil engineer takes part in coalition exercise

by SSgt. Christine Mora

MSgt. Clayton Hanwright, a heavy equipment operator with the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron, traditionally spends his annual tours and TDYs behind the wheel of a tractor or backhoe.

But as a civilian, Hanwright is a development technician with MITRE Corp., and he was requested by the Command and Control Unified Battlespace Environment (CUBE) at Hanscom AFB's Electronic Systems Command, to take part in a field deployment of new technological systems being tested by the Air Force.

So instead of grading rough surfaces, he spent a month-long TDY demonstrating high-tech computer systems to generals from all over the world.

Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstration '97, a United States Coalition Operation, tested the latest information technology for defense superiority. The "coalition forces," composed of sea, air, and ground components included a carrier battle group, an amphibious task force, a submarine and aircraft.

"I worked on the aircraft, 'Speckled Trout,' a modified C-135 that is the official aircraft of the Air Force Chief of Staff," said Hanwright. "Our mission was to demonstrate a sort of 'air operations center' that allows traveling commanders to get up-to-date information on operations around the world."

Only military personnel could travel on the specialized aircraft for the amount of time needed for the demonstration, said Hanwright.

According to Air Force Col. Richard Picanso, CUBE Cadre director, "Sergeant Hanwright is the singular resource best able to meet CUBE needs based on his previous experience assisting CUBE staff in ESC deployments of our developmental systems. There is no one else who has his experience or capability on active duty at ESC."

Hanwright explained that the "air operations center" effort

was sparked in part by lessons learned during Operation Desert Storm. "Commanders en route to the area of operations were out of the loop when they landed," he said. "We've equipped the aircraft with the latest in communication, intelligence, and command and control systems that keep them informed of military operations as they are happening."

Hanwright's role was to demonstrate the technology to visitors from all over the world, including Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Canada and North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries.



MSgt. Clayton Hanwright

Visiting generals and commanders watched as Hanwright demonstrated attributes of the Global Command and Control Center (GCC) that allows commanders to view forces playing out the war. "We also have a 'collaborative virtual workspace' that gives commanders video conferencing capabilities while they are in the air," he said.

During his tour, Hanwright flew approximately four days a week on missions and performed ground demonstrations at bases throughout the country. The demonstrations involved war scenarios that were played out through computers.

"Commanders could track everything from the up-to-the minute Air Tasking Orders to the movement of ground troops," said Hanwright.

The exercise tested eight phases of combined operations: pre-deployment, deployment, presence, hostilities, forcible entry, build-up, decisive combat, and re-deployment.

"The demonstration allows us to prove the concept works," Hanwright said. "Once we can do that, new technology can be adopted by the military."

Hanwright spends much of his civilian career developing and demonstrating battle concepts and systems throughout the world. In addition to the many intelligence and communications systems he focuses on, Hanwright is working on the Air Force's new Force Protection concept, the reorganization of security forces.

VA home loan benefit to expire for some reservists

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, GA.
-- Time is running out for some Selected Reserve members to take advantage of a benefit from the Persian Gulf War.

Unless otherwise entitled, reservists with at least six years of service have until Oct. 28, 1999, to sign up for government mortgages under the Veterans Administration's Home Loan Guaranty Program.

Reservists in this category pay a slightly higher funding fee than other veterans to obtain a VA loan. They pay a 2.75 percent fee, compared to a two percent fee paid by other veterans. Reservists can reduce the fee to 2.25 percent with a five percent down payment or two per-

cent with 10 percent down. Other veterans can put five percent down to reduce their fee to 1.5 percent or 10 percent down to reduce it to 1.25 percent.

Most Air Force Reserve Command reservists already qualify for the lower funding fee because of prior active-duty service. In addition to Vietnam era veterans, those with at least 180 days action service during peacetime before the 1980s qualify for these loans. Veterans of enlisted service that began after Sept. 7, 1980, or officers with service beginning after Oct. 16, 1981, must, in most cases, have served at least two years. Reservists and National Guard members activated

on or after Aug. 2, 1990 and who served at least 90 days and were discharged honorably are also eligible for VA loans at the lower funding fee.

More information about VA home loan entitlement, how to obtain it and requirement for its approval is available by contacting the local VA regional office at 1-800-827-1000. Veterans can also find more detailed information in VA Pamphlet 26-6: To the Home-Buying Veteran. The VA also has a home page on the World Wide Web. Home loan information is available at: <http://www.va.gov/vas/loan>.

(AFRC News Service)

Senft retires after 32 years

Article and photo by SSgt. Nancy Robbins

The 439th Support Group and members of the Wing staff turned out to bid farewell to Col. Franklyn E. Senft at a retirement ceremony held during the August Unit Training Assembly.

Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, vice commander of the Air Force Reserve Command attended the ceremony and presented certificates of retirement to Senft and his wife Ginny.

More than 100 people attended a farewell dinner at the Chateau Provost in Chicopee that evening.

Senft's four-year tour here as the Support Group Commander culminated 32 years of military service which began in 1965 when he received his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

Senft said the highlight of his career was his tour of duty at Westover, "My tour here culminated everything that I've been trained for during my entire career," Senft said. "I'm proud of what we accomplished in base beautification, and progress with the on-going water problem."

Senft will continue to work for the Air Force as a civilian assistant for statutory tour matters at the Pentagon.

Lt. Col. Glenn M. Martin, vice commander for the 439th Support Group, is now acting commander until a permanent replacement for Senft is appointed.



32 YEARS LATER -- Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard, left, presents Mrs. Ginny Senft with a certificate of appreciation as Col. Franklyn Senft looks on.

Annual three-mile walk will test reservists' fitness

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Air Force Reserve Command wants unit reservists to take a walk--a three-mile walk to complete annual physical fitness testing. In July Air Force approved use of the walk for reservists as an alternative to the cycle ergometry test, according to the command's directorate of health services here.

Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, AFRC vice commander, announced the new program in a message to unit commanders July 14. Sherrard tasked commanders to test all unit members by Dec. 31, unless they completed cycle ergometry testing earlier this year.

"The annual fitness test requirement ensures reservists are physically prepared to support all military operations, exercises or other contingencies," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Alan Berg, chief of the aerospace medicine branch. "A timed three-mile walk, done within guidelines, adequately checks cardiovascular fitness and

muscular endurance."

Standards for a three-mile walk in minutes and seconds follow:

Age	Men	Women
17-29	40:54	43:52
30-34	42:04	45:10
35-39	43:15	46:29
40-44	44:25	47:44
45-49	45:34	48:55
50+	48:19	52:02

Berg emphasized that reservists don't have to pass the test by the end of the year, but they have to complete it. "Failure of the fitness test is not a reason to discharge a reservist. However, reassigning a reservist to inactive status for not successfully completing a remedial fitness improvement program is an option for commanders.

Every reservist should already have a year-round conditioning program em-

phasizing cardio-respiratory endurance."

Before making the three-mile walk, reservists will complete a fitness test screening questionnaire. "The questionnaires ask some very basic questions about individual fitness," Berg said. "They will be reviewed by a unit fitness program manager before anyone is allowed to take the fitness test."

The three-mile walk not only allows testing of large groups of reservists but has other benefits as well. "Just about everyone can do it," Berg said. "There are fewer reasons for waivers than there are for the cycle test. For example, anyone on beta blocker medication is excused from the cycle but they will not automatically be excused from walking." There are provisions for certain short-term waivers such as injuries or pregnancy. Commanders still have the option to use cycle ergometry as an alternative testing method for reservists.

Westover Galaxy travels to land

Photos by Lt. Col. Pete Gray

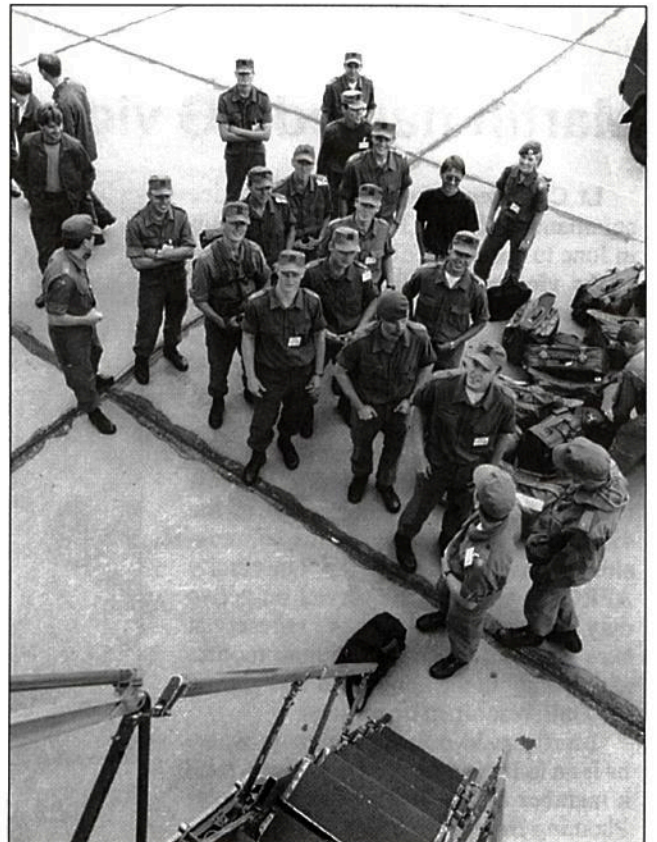
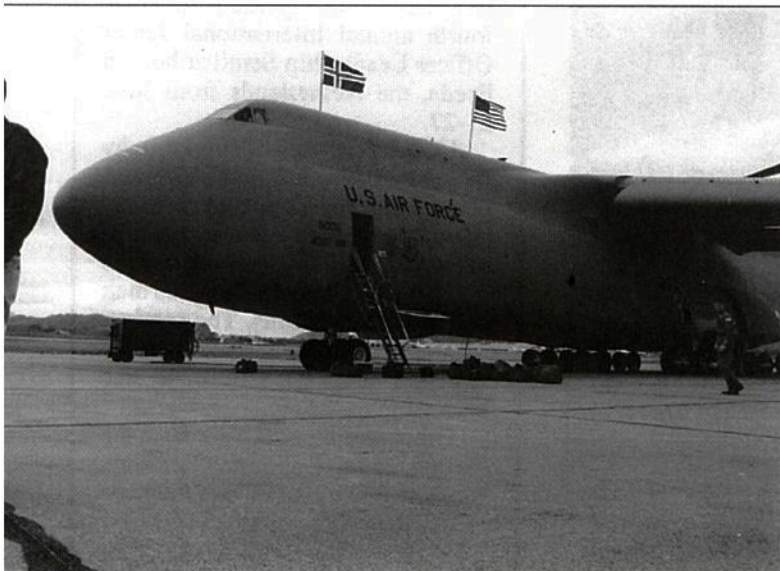
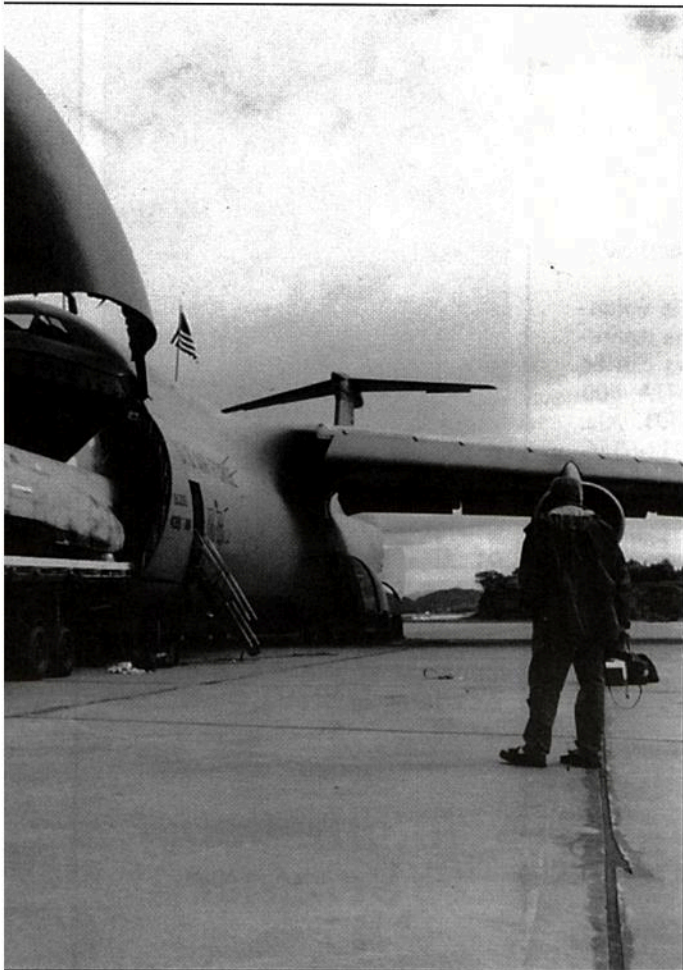
NORTHERN WELCOME -- In photo at far right, Royal Norwegian Air Force officials pose with Terry Aiken in front of the Westover C-5 that carried a T-37 and an F-4 for display in that country's air museum. At right, a Norwegian television crew was on hand to film the off-load, in Bodo, a city that lies above the Arctic Circle on the northwestern coast of Norway.



MUSEUM MISSION -- A Westover crew flew two surplus aircraft from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. to Norway and returned with a Nike Missile battery that will be displayed at the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB. At left a Royal Norwegian Air Force officer peers out the top of the C-5. At right, Terry Aiken, curator of the Air Force Museum poses in front of the aircraft, with flags of Norway and the United States flying high. At far right, Norwegian military members wait their



of the Vikings



Gulf War team looking for assistance

by SSgt. Christine Mora

As the Air Force continues to compile information regarding Gulf War issues, officials are asking reservists who served in the Kuwaiti theater of operations to help.

The Gulf War Declassification Team is attempting to complete a database of Air Force members who deployed to the Gulf War region including Saudi Arabia, Iraq or Kuwait between August 1990 and December 1991.

"Since the mobilization and deployment of Air Force Reserve members was at the direction of the gaining major commands, we do not have the specific information the team needs," said Paul Clement, chief of personnel readiness operations, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command at Robins. "In addition, aircrew, aeromedical and support personnel moved in and out of the area of operations on a daily basis without actually bedding down."

"The best source of information for the team is from reservists themselves," said Clement. We need everyone's help in getting the word out to every reservist, including those who retired or separated."

The team needs a complete copy of deployment orders or decoration citations sent by fax or mail. The information should include social security number, deployment location, pay grade at the end of deployment, duty status, deploying Air Force Specialty Code, date of birth, and dates in theater.

According to SSgt. Shane Robitaille, a personnel readiness technician with the 439th Military Personnel Flight, Westover reservists who served in the area of operation can send in a travel voucher if their orders don't specifically indicate the Kuwaiti theater.

"Participation in the effort is voluntary and the responsibility of the reservist," said Robitaille. The orders can be mailed to SAF/AAZG c/o AFAHA, 600 Chennault Circle, Maxwell AFB, Ala. 36112-6424 or faxed to 1-334-953-6356.

Additional information for Gulf War veterans is available on Internet at <http://www.dtic.mil/gulfink/>. The site contains the latest press releases, congressional testimony, Office of the Special Assistance for Gulf War Illnesses organization chart and other documents related to Gulf War illness issues.



WARMING UP -- 1st Lt. Christine Klink, left, member of the 439th Operations Group, warms up with fellow attendees at the International Junior Officer Development Seminar at the Royal Military Academy in Breda, the Netherlands.

Martin named SG vice commander

Lt. Col. Glenn Martin advanced to vice commander of the 439th Support Group in June to succeed Col. Robert Martens.

As vice commander, Martin will be responsible for mission readiness and management effectiveness of the 500-member group, made up of civil engineers, security forces, mission support, communications and services members.

Martin had served for the past year as deputy commander of aerial ports, following two years as commander of the 42nd APS. After receiving his commission through the Norwich University AFOTC program, he served on active duty for four years. He has been a reservist here since 1978, including nine months active duty in the Command Post during the Gulf War airlift operations.

Martin resides in Ashburnham where he is an independent mortgage broker and a member of the Town of Ashburnham Planning Board.



Lt. Col. Glenn Martin

International Seminar

First lieutenant Christine Klink, 439th Operations Group member, was one of 41 U.S. participants at the fourth annual International Junior Officer Leadership Seminar held in Breda, the Netherlands from June 23-27.

IJOLDS provides an opportunity for junior officers from NATO and other European countries to meet, share the common cultural values of reservists, build teamwork within international forces and expand their professional horizons. The seminar combines traditional classroom instruction with team building and leadership exercises.

Other participants were from the Netherlands, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Great Britain and Italy.

Wing will salute employers of reservists

by MSgt. Gordon Newell

The 439th Airlift Wing will conduct Employer Appreciation Days in September and October.

Reservists are offered the opportunity to invite their civilian bosses to visit Westover and take an orientation flight in a unit C-5A Galaxy.

Reservists who normally drill on B UTAs are asked to bring their bosses on Sept. 20 while those who drill on A UTAs should make their invitations for Oct. 4.

Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, commander of the 439th, urges reservists

to take part in the program.

"It is imperative that employers of reservists know what we do here at Westover," he said. "Without their support and understanding, we simply cannot perform our mission. This is the one time of the year that we get the chance to say thanks for their sacrifice and understanding."

Employers should be at the Westover Club no later than 8:30 a.m. on the day of their visit. General Bankers will kick off activities with a short welcome, followed by a question-and-answer period.

The highlight of the day for bosses

will be an orientation flight aboard a unit C-5 that will last for approximately an hour and a half. Reservists are also encouraged to invite their employer to visit their work place on base.

Each reservist may invite just one boss or supervisor. Only reservists assigned to air crew will participate in the flight.

To secure reservations, members must fill out the application form that appears on this page and return it to the Public Affairs office. Further information is available at PA, Ext. 3500.

EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY APPLICATION

Reservist's name: _____

Reservist's rank and unit: _____

Reservist's home address: _____

Reservist's daytime phone number: _____

Employer's name and title: _____

Employer's company name: _____

Choice of UTA: _____

Sept. 20 (B-UTA) _____ Oct. 4 (A UTA) _____

I understand that I may nominate one person at a time and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature: _____

Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103

Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

fax: (413) 557-2011, for information, call: (413) 557-3500

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

Patriot People

Name: Wade Chmielinski
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 28
Address: Plymouth, Mass.
Unit: 439th LSS
Position: Information Management Specialist
Civilian position: Graduate student
Favorite food: Pasta
Years of service: 7
Favorite sport: Basketball
Favorite hobby: Weightlifting
Ideal vacation: Any beach
Best way to relax: Reading
Preferred entertainment: New England Patriots
Favorite hero: Arnold
Favorite music: Bob Marley
Favorite movie: *Braveheart*
Favorite aircraft: C-5A
Pet peeve: Slow drivers
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Spend it.



SSgt. Vln Blanchard

SSgt. Wade Chmielinski

Fifth annual Teamwork Expo scheduled for Oct. 7

by SSgt. Nancy Robbins

The fifth annual Teamwork Expo will be Tuesday, Oct. 7 at the Westover Club.

Maj. Armand Tourangeau, quality officer for the 439th Airlift Wing, explained the event provides an opportunity for teams throughout the Pioneer Valley to showcase their projects in several areas, such as improving customer service, and increasing productivity in the workplace.

"Our friends outside our gate look for-

ward to coming year each year for the Expo," he said. "It's an excellent time for us to show what we can do."

Tourangeau says two teams from Westover are scheduled to participate in this year's Expo. A team from the medical squadron, will present their process covering newcomer's orientation. The Westover Customer Focus Working Group, consisting of personnel from various areas of the base, will be looking at

improving customer relations base-wide.

Tourangeau says the Expo is co-hosted this year by SPACE (Springfield Area Council for Excellence), and the Manufacturing Partnership of Western Mass. Awards in six categories are to be presented at the end of the day.

Deadline to enter a team is Sept. 22. The Wing's Center for Excellence can answer questions about the Expo at Ext. 2273.

Patriot Praises

Promotions

SMSgt. Lamontagne, Paul J.
 SMSgt. Skalecki, Catherine J.
 MSgt. Beadle, Jean A.
 MSgt. Westcott, Bruce L.
 TSgt. Absous, Lorenda L.
 TSgt. Bready, Richard D., Jr.
 TSgt. Titcomb, Richard P.
 TSgt. Sinclair, Robert E.
 SSgt. Benoit, Keith D.
 SSgt. Brandt, Paul R.
 SSgt. Caron, Drew C.
 SSgt. Cronan, Steven J.
 SSgt. Dakin, Thomas J.
 SSgt. Dyson, Susan R.
 SSgt. Grier, Joseph D.
 SSgt. Lacombe, Daniel P.

SSgt. Luxton, David D.
 SSgt. Scrivener, Marc A.
 SSgt. Smith, Jason E.
 SSgt. Zona, Sabatino P., Jr.
 SrA. Cirolia, Robert M.
 SrA. Delesline, Charlene K.
 SrA. McKeithan, Amorette
 SrA. Semedo, Kennedy C.
 SrA. Viteri, Johnny A.
 SrA. Williams, Stephen R.
 A1C Dufresne, Gerald E., Jr.

Enlistments

SSgt. Chen, Kevin P.
 SrA. Dworek, Walter J.
 SrA. Rodrigue, Dennon A.
 AB Carlin, Charles F., III

Reenlistments

MSgt. Crawford, Clifford
 MSgt. Driscoll, Robert E., Jr.
 MSgt. Keitt, William, Jr.
 TSgt. Katz, Howard B.
 SSgt. Benson, Brian H.
 SSgt. Bulluck, Carlton G.
 SSgt. Cangemi, Charles R., Jr.
 SSgt. Durand, Donald G.
 SSgt. Fareira, Charles A., Jr.
 SSgt. Gittens, Kenrick C.
 SSgt. Plouff, Christopher J.
 SSgt. Schmitter, Mark A.
 SSgt. Valladares, Neil B.

Wing Family Picnic

September 6

**A hearty salute to
 all our reservists
 and a big thank
 you to the families
 that support their
 service.**

Seat belt use can be habit forming

Consider these facts from a recent safety message: "In the U. S., every 14 seconds someone is injured in a traffic crash. Every 12 minutes someone is killed. When a traffic crash happens, you don't see it coming until it's too late. At the moment of impact, unbelted occupants continue to travel at the vehicle's original speed. Just after the vehicle comes to a complete stop, unbelted occupants slam into the steering wheel, windshield, or other parts of the interior." The message also points out that occupant ejection is one of the most injurious events that can occur in a crash: "Three quarters of ejected occupants are killed".

Try to imagine the possible long term consequences of a traffic crash. We don't do that enough. If we did, we'd probably take motor vehicle operation much more seriously than we do.

Life events associated with an automobile accident include quadriplegia, paraplegia, traction, broken bones, increased insurance rates, guilt, physical pain, emotional pain, physical therapy and a lot more.

A great deal of this travail can be prevented through proper risk management.

The hazards, (road rage, irresponsible drivers, poor weather conditions, fatigue, use of alcohol), are well known.

Control measures for reducing these hazards are equally well known. One of the most effective of these is the habitual use of seat belts.

Our most recent survey, conducted during the August UTA, revealed 62 per cent seat belt usage at Westover Air Reserve Base. We all know that to be an unhealthy figure.

If you don't do this already (and 30 to 40 percent of you don't), wear your seat belt each and every time you get into an automobile, as a driver or as a passenger.

In a reasonably short time, you will find yourself instinctively going for your seat belt as the beginning of a life-long (or a long life) habit.

EDITORIAL



by Lt. Col. Dave Moore
Chief of Safety

Congress considers 1998 Defense Bill

As the summer progresses, you may be reading about what is, or is not, included in the Fiscal Year 1998 Defense Bill being considered by Congress.

One item both the House and Senate authorization bills agree on is to terminate the mobilization income insurance program. The House specifies that all benefit payments that are due will be paid in full, and remains receptive to new proposals from the secretary of defense to provide protection against the loss of income by activated reservists.

In addition to paying back the benefits,

the Senate also requires the secretary of defense to refund all premiums paid by reservists who have not received benefits under the program. It also requires a report on why the program failed, if there is a need for the program, and if so, to recommend an improved program.

Only after the joint conference committee completes their work and the completed bills are sent to the president for signature will we really know what the new fiscal year brings us.

by Maj. Gen. Robert MacIntosh
AFRC Commander

Briefs

Vezina named senior NCO of the quarter

MSgt. Tammy Vezina of the 439th Mission Support Squadron has been named Senior NCO of the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 1997.

SSgt. Donald Martel of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron is NCO of the quarter and SrA. Julie Kycia of the 439th Operations is Airman of the Quarter. The three will compete for annual honors.

The next local awards committee meeting is set for Sept. 6 at the Center for Excellence to select Airman, NCO and Senior NCO of the year.

Commanders are reminded that nominations for the first quarter of FY 98 are due at QI no later than Nov. 7 using AF Form 1206.

JOLDS seminar here in October

A Junior Officer Leadership Development Seminar, entitled 'Leaders in Action' will be conducted at Westover Oct. 10-13.

Topics of discussion will include teamwork, negotiating results and confronting difficult issues. Point of contact is TSgt. Nicole Girard at DSN 589-2657 or commercial (413) 557-2657. The e-mail address is deborahfuller@MGD_CC@westover.

Flu shots available

Flu shots will be administered to members of the 439th Airlift Wing during both Unit Training Assemblies, October through January.

Members of the 439th MDS will provide flu immunizations and tuberculosis testing (IPPD) at the 337th Airlift Squadron's briefing room in the Base Hangar from 0830 to 1530 Saturdays and from 0930 to 1130 Sundays.

Anyone allergic to flu shots must report to the clinic during September to document the allergy. Reservists are reminded to bring immunization records when they receive shots.

Sept. UTA dates
A UTA Sept. 6-7
B UTA Sept. 20-21

Fuel cell will provide power and save money

Article and photo by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Westover will soon be generating electricity.

According to John Czuber, the base's energy coordinator, a fuel cell is currently under construction that will provide the base with electricity and as a by-product, hot water for use in the heating plant.

"The 40,000 pound cell will provide approximately one-seventh of the base's daily electrical needs and should save about \$54,000 per year in electricity," he said. "The hot water that is created by the equipment will then be added to our four central heating plant boilers for even more savings."

The project is part of the Department of Defense's Fuel Cell Demonstration Program, aimed at spurring wide commercial use of the technology that converts natural gas into electricity.

Westover is one of thirty military installations and one of only three Air Force Reserve Command bases selected for installation of the \$700,000 cell. The Army Corps of Engineers conducted the selection process.

"Two factors were taken into consideration during selection," said Czuber. "One was the relatively high cost of electricity and the other was the reasonable cost of natural gas in the Northeast."

Fuel cells are electrochemical power generators with the potential for attaining very high electrical energy conservation while operating with minimal polluting emissions, Czuber explained.

"The cell produces power and heat by combining hydrogen and oxygen electrochemically. The technology is not new," he said. "Fuel cells were discovered in the late 19th century but never really became popular until NASA got interested. They have used fuel cells for many years as the primary power source for space missions and are currently employing the system in the space shuttle program," Czuber said.

Manufactured by Onsi Corp, in South Windsor, Conn., Westover's cell is being assembled next to the power plant on Hangar Avenue. B & G Mechanical of East Windsor, Conn. is installing the cell and expects to complete the project in October.



HEAVY LOAD -- Two cranes were needed to lift the 20-ton fuel cell onto its final resting place adjacent to the base heating plant. The cell will convert natural gas into electricity to be used on the base.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Shawn Godley of Plymouth, Mass., and 2,632 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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