

# PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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**FLIGHT CLEARANCE** — SSgt. Richard Spoor, 337th AS loadmaster, keeps a close eye on the top of the NASA cargo that fit into the C-5 cargo bay with only

inches to spare. The 439th Airlift Wing offloaded the launch site materials at Kodiak Island, Alaska in cold, drizzling rain on July 8.

## 439th AW ferries NASA cargo to Alaska

article by SSgt. Nancy Robbins  
photos by MSgt. Sandi Michon

The arrival of the giant C5A at the tiny Kodiak Island, Alaska airport didn't escape the eyes, or the camera lenses, of the melting pot of people living on the lush green island. Not more than 12 hours after landing on the black strip of runway that cuts a path toward the cold waters of the Gulf of Alaska, the front page of the local daily paper announced that the Galaxy had landed.

But more important to many residents was not the hulking C-5A dwarfed by the ancient volcanic mountains rising up into the clouds, it was what the big bird was carrying in its gigantic cargo bay that drew the most interest.

What was on board seemed to be the question of the day for many, including the 15 members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing who flew on the first of what will be several National Aeronautics and Space Administration support missions.

In mid-July, leaving behind days of searing heat in the Northeast and making the almost eight hour trek across several time zones, the crew transported a giant white box strapped tightly to a huge flatbed trailer coupled to a tractor-trailer truck cab.

The box contained the culmination of years of planning, testing, re-testing and construction.

But the box was essentially empty. Empty to the laymen, who could not  
*Article continued on pages 6 and 7*



## Who are we?

This month I wanted to pass on to you my perspective of us. Who we are at the 439th Airlift Wing. There may be some that feel this is unfair. How can he know? He's only been here a couple of months. This is true. I haven't come close to meeting all of you. Maybe it would be more comfortable for me to share with you the essence of who I think we are.

I have come to a conclusion by observing the things you do and listening to the things you say. Actions and performance have a language unto themselves, and the sheer fact that you make the sacrifice to be a part of this organization speaks loud and clear!

So, who are we? First and foremost, we are individuals — Moms, Dads, brothers, sisters, family members and civilians. We have lives we lead that are separated far from military duty. We are leaders and followers—movers and shakers in the civilian community.

Second, we are military and civilian professionals and volunteers—we choose to be with the 439th. This fact, above all else, makes us unique and separates us from active duty. As an Air Force Reserve, we are about 85% prior active duty. We have chosen to continue our contribution to National Defense. We make this sacrifice for our country by giving up time with our families and employers to take on this added responsibility. As reservists we have the only "part-time" job that requires us to take an oath.

George Washington once said, "When I assumed the citizen, I did not lay aside the soldier." George Washington was speaking about us. New folks who have never served on active duty join us and together we have taken on the additional role of Citizen Airmen. Together with the hundreds of civilian professionals who serve at Westover we consciously elect to be part of an organization that values integrity, trust, teamwork and respect. These values are standards we use to guide our day-to-day efforts.

Third, we (reservists, civilians and ARTs) support the Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. We are motivated and disciplined. We serve with a sense of personal responsibility, and we are accountable. We believe in each other. We have demonstrated organizational excellence and will continue to meet any challenge thrown at us in this new millennium.

So, who are we? In short, WE ARE WESTOVER! Dedicated professionals, members of the first team, and we do it as volunteers—something to be proud of.

**Col. Martin M. Mazick**  
439th AW commander

## COMMENTARY

## Briefs

### New Air Force policy

The Air Force has a new policy that takes effect immediately regarding per diem and the wearing of uniforms for AF military witnesses.

When active duty members are going to testify before a committee, they will travel on per diem and testify in uniform. Air Reserve Component members will follow the same rules if they are on duty. If not on duty, they travel and testify as private citizens—pay their own way and appear in civilian attire. The uniform for testifying is Class A unless specifically approved otherwise.

### Family Day picnic will be held Sept. 11

The 439th Airlift Wing will celebrate Family Day on Sept. 11 from noon to 5 p.m.

All Westover reservists and civilian workers are encouraged to bring their families to the base for the day.

Activities will include hayrides for the children, clowns, ice cream, horseshoes, volleyball, raffles, souvenirs, face-painting etc.

Events will take place on the ball fields adjacent to the Wing Headquarters building.

### Services expands rental services

The Four Seasons Rental Store has more to offer than just camping and recreational supplies. A new line of household equipment is now available. Items include: power washers, leaf blowers, lawn spreaders, hedge trimmers, lawn mowers, post hole diggers, electric hedgers, and weed whackers. DoD civilian employees are also eligible to use the Four Seasons. For more information on what the Four Seasons offers, call ext.2974.

**August UTA schedule**  
**A UTA Aug. 7-8**  
**B UTA Aug. 21-22**

# PATRIOT

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# 439<sup>th</sup> security forces come home from Kuwait

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Eight members of the 439th Security Forces Squadron recently completed a 30-day tour of providing security at a Kuwait Air Force base only 35 miles south of the Iraqi border. The security team returned home on June 27 after performing a variety of security missions at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, in support of the Southern Watch denial of air space to the Iraqi military.

Those who served in the detachment were: TSgt. Randy Bates, SSgt. Kimberlee Ayuyu, SSgt. David Rondeau, SSgt. Kevin Harford, SSgt. Philip Syriac, A1C Kathryn Pouliot, A1C Chad Klein and A1C Joseph Wilkinson.

Operations out of Ali Al Salem Air Base are a joint effort of U.S., British RAF and Kuwaiti forces that keep an eye on the nearby Iraqi military. U.S. radar domes watch the skies, while RAF Tornados patrol southern Iraq. Rescue C-130s and a Kuwaiti helicopter unit also operate out of the air base. An Army Patriot missile battery guards against Iraqi Scuds.

"We were considered the head of the spear because we were the closest air base to Iraq," said Bates, who served as senior NCO of the Westover contingent.

"The Iraqi border is only about 35 miles away. Ali Al Salem is on permanent Threat Con Bravo, but as far as the cops are concerned, we were always acting as though we were on Threat Con Charlie," Bates said.

During their 30-day tour at the air base, they saw the British Tornados depart to conduct several strikes in the Iraqi no-fly zone. Tensions also increased when Iran launched several Scud missiles at Iraq.

About a month before the Westover security specialists arrived, a suspect was apprehended taking pictures of the base perimeter. During their tour, there were other incidents of suspicious individuals and vehicles outside the perimeter. Outside the perimeter, patrolling security mobile fire teams had to stay alert for unexploded ordnance from Desert Storm.

The eight Westover security specialists were the only reservists among a detachment of about 130 active duty U.S. security members. They worked closely with the RAF Regiment, British airmen with a force protection mission similar to Air Force security squadrons.



photos courtesy of the 439th Security Force

**DESERT TORNADO** — Members of the 439th Security Forces posed in front of the British fighter jet while in Kuwait are: second from left: A1C Kathryn Pouliot, SrA. David Rondeau, TSgt. Randy Bates, SSgt. Kevin Harford, A1C Joseph Wilkinson, A1C Chad Klein and SSgt. Philip Syriac. The two individuals on the ends are not identified.

"During the last week we were there, two U.S. and two RAF members patrolled the exterior of the perimeter together as a fire team. The RAF Regiment is super. We trained with them in England last year," Bates said.

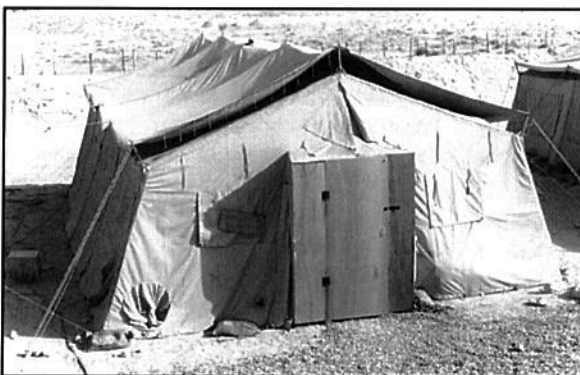
During their tour, the security specialists employed a full array of the skills in which they train. Four-member mobile fire teams in humvees patrolled the flight line and perimeter, armed with an M-60 machine gun and M-203 grenade launcher in addition to their M-16s. Thermal imagers to pick up heat signals and night vision devices were used after dark. On gate duty, the detachment searched vehicles with K-9 dogs and mirrors.

The duty days were from 10:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., plus assembling and maintain-

ing gear, three days on and one off. Temperatures during the day averaged 125 degrees Fahrenheit.

The security specialists lived in temper tents with TVs and refrigerators. On non-duty days they could take a shuttle to Kuwait City for shopping and walking along the Persian Gulf beach. Security rules in Kuwait City required staying together as a team, with a team leader of staff sergeant or above.

MSgt. William Jebb, TSgt. Gary LeBlanc, SSgt. James McSherry and SSgt. Stewart Swain of the 439th SFS departed on June 30 for a 30-day tour at Al Jaber Air Base near Kuwait City. SrA. Joseph Losano and SrA. Neil Bogonovich of the security squadron were scheduled to deploy to Kuwait in July.



**ALL THE AMENITIES** — Though only 35 miles from the Iraqi border, members of the 439th Security Force still had some of the comforts of home, like this shower tent.



# Is your home computer ready for the year 2000?

***If you find anything wrong with your computer, it can most likely be fixed with a software patch or by manually setting the date of January 1, 2000. The important thing is to catch the problem before January 1.***

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

The Westover Air Reserve Base online home page has made it easy to check to see if your home computer is Y2K compliant — and you don't have to be a computer geek to figure it out.

Even if you purchased your computer recently, it may be beneficial to take a few minutes to make sure everything will work properly on Jan. 1, 2000.

The Web page was created by TSgt. Bill Pope, Westover webmaster and public affairs craftsman, along with Maj. Pat Hanford, who is in charge of the Y2K projects on base.

Point your World Wide Web browser to [www.afrc.af.mil/units/439aw/default.htm](http://www.afrc.af.mil/units/439aw/default.htm) and follow the link to the Y2K page to find the simple instructions. First, click on the "Family Y2K Checklist & Info," which sums up the Y2K issue and will get you started.

The checklist says the first thing you should do is inventory programs that use date information, then perform a quick test: set the clock for 11:58 p.m., on 12/31/99 and see what happens after two minutes. If you see the clock flip over to 1/1/00 on a Saturday, you probably won't have any problems. However, Pope says you still should do further testing.

Also on the checklist are several commercial Web sites where you can download free testing software to check your computer. One link will download testing software directly.

"The software will tell you everything you need to do to make your computer Y2K compliant. This may be as simple as turning the computer off before midnight of the New Year," Pope said.

Another link on the page will take you to the Microsoft Year 2000 Web site where you can download the Microsoft Year 2000 Product Analyzer. This user-friendly software will examine all your systems and applications and within a few minutes provide you with

a report that shows how the year 2000 will affect them. This software even provides you with Internet links to find information for specific programs.

Be sure to check your computer manufacturer's Web site to see what information they've published on Y2K. They may have already identified issues, which will save you the time of testing your computer.

For those who have Microsoft software but do not have access to the Internet, call 1-888-673-8925, Option 4 and Microsoft will send 2000 Resource CD free of charge.

If you find anything wrong with your computer it can most likely be fixed with a software patch or by manually setting the date of Jan. 1, 2000. The important thing is to catch the problem before that date.



## Toward a zero mishap rate

by Lt Col Dave Moore  
Chief of safety

Accidents are not inevitable.

The Air Force's ground safety record, expressed in terms of Class A mishaps per 100,000 people during the year, has continually improved throughout the last ten years. Between 1988 and 1998, for example, the on-duty Class A mishap rate was reduced from 3.26 to .83 per 100,000 people. That's progress. The off-duty Class A mishap rate went from 25.17 to 13.61. But we haven't yet driven that rate to zero, no matter how hard we've tried.

Now, Air Force safety experts say, the only way to reduce the current rate to zero is by aggressively focusing on human error.

That's where Operational Risk Management (ORM) comes in. ORM is not a safety program. It is a process that needs to be worked into everything we do.

**ORM is a six-step process:**

**Step One: Identify Hazards.** Develop a system for hazard identification. What hazards affect our operation? For example, the hazards of a flight operation include mission complexity, adverse weather, crew duty day, airfield support, and overall aircrew experience.

**Step 2: Assess Risks.** That's what we do when we use a Risk Assessment Matrix. A risk assessment matrix is a tool which is used to weigh the cumulative risks of a

particular task. A score is developed. From the score a **risk level** is derived. You've seen examples of this in your introductory ORM training

**Step 3: Analyze Control Measures.** What can we do to reduce or eliminate risk? Perhaps wait until the weather gets better, use a more experienced supervisor, or, if unable to reduce or eliminate risk, elevate the decision to proceed to a higher level.

**Step 4: Make Control decisions.** Essentially, that means to decide on what control measures, if any, you will make. Note: This step should create a trail of accountability. Someone needs to be accountable for this decision.

**Step 5: Implement your control decision(s).** Empower people to implement the risk control.

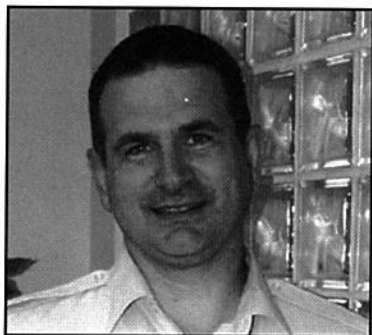
**Step 6: Supervise.** Evaluate, get feedback from the folks, and continuously improve on your ORM process.

As you can imagine, we must protect our human and physical resources in order to remain in business. Everybody needs to be trained in the use of ORM. Introductory training has already been completed for almost all members of the wing. Next is mission/workplace specific training, which applies ORM to your specific mission or workplace. Commanders should be actively performing this training now. Call the Safety Office for any help. We're at exts. 3587/3122/2583.





**SSgt. Sirita Day**



**TSgt. Tim Crowder**

## New recruiters team up with base reservists

by Amn. Amber Ryals

Barely a month into their new positions as 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing recruiters, TSgt. Tim Crowder and SSgt. Sirita Day have sparked an old program with new emphasis.

Under the title of "Get One" the program is designed to reward reservists for introducing new people to Air Force Reserve. When a new member enlists and a reservist has played a role in the process they will receive a "bonus gift."

Questions can be directed to either recruiter, Day works out of main office on base, while Crowder concentrates on the N.Y. area from his Albany office.

Crowder is a 15-year active duty veteran and has been a recruiter for six years.

Day, who recently graduated from Recruiting School in March, cross-trained from a combined ten-year career on active duty and reserve as a maintenance technician.

# 58th APS shines at ORI

Teamwork reaps awards

It was their spirit among the insects and snakes of the Deep South that inspired the 58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron's success during a recent Operation Readiness Inspection.

During their trek at Little Rock, AFB, Jul. 12-17, the 58<sup>th</sup> APS earned the Air Mobility Command Total Team award and received outstanding ratings in three categories — Initial Response, ATSO (Ability to Survive and Operate) and Mission Support.

According to Lt. Col. Peter A. DeTone, Commander, 58<sup>th</sup> APS, this was the first time a Reserve unit was given the AMC Total Team award.

"This is the height of my career," DeTone said. "I feel like I'm at the top of the mountain."

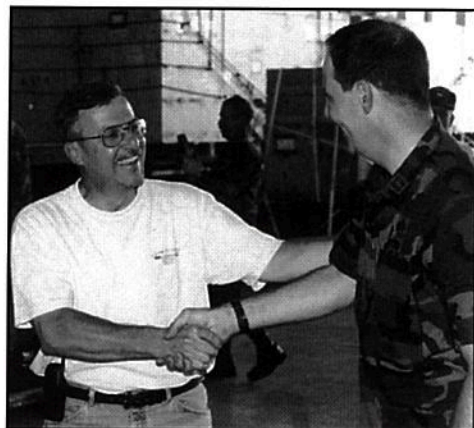
However, he explained, the real credit goes to 33 traditional reservists, about 25 percent of the 58<sup>th</sup> APS, who participated in this extremely challenging exercise.

"We had excellent leadership and troop performance," he said. "They worked and trained hard, and knew their jobs well. They should be very proud of their accomplishments."

The team's senior enlisted staff, SMSgt. John F. Robert and MSgts. Steven N. Charest, Steven J. McCauslin and Thomas Shaughnessy, harmoniously chimed in with accolades for their Officer-In-Charge, Capt. John P. Mailo.

It was the most organized ORI he has seen in 18 years, said Robert, NCOIC of the Air Terminal Operations Center.

The unit began training for the inspection more than a year prior during three exercises held at Pease AFB, Savannah, Ga.



MSgt. Tom Allocco

**WELL DONE —** Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander, welcomes and congratulates Capt. John Mailo, ORI team chief for the 58<sup>th</sup> APS upon their return from Little Rock AFB, Ark. in July.

and Grand Forks, N.D. They also practiced donning their chemical warfare gear during the hottest times of day, to prepare them for the hot, humid weather of the South.

During the ORI, they filled 12-hour days with pallet building and a barrage of evaluation questions from the IG that they flawlessly answered in addition to discovering all the "planted" discrepancies, plus three more, catching the inspection team off guard.

There was tremendous support from leadership above, according to DeTone. Col. Martin M. Mazick, Commander, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, traveled with the troops to Little Rock and spent the first two days with them wearing the 58<sup>th</sup> APS signature green ball cap with its eagle emblem.



MSgt. Tom Allocco

**OUTSTANDING TEAM —** The 58<sup>th</sup> APS ORI cadre pose in front of the C-130 that flew them back from Little Rock, Ark. in July.



# Westover launches



**MAINTENANCE** — TSgt. Paul Gagnon, crew chief, and TSgt. Kenneth Marowski check fluid levels shortly after landing.



**TEAM EFFORT** — Aircrew members and civilian employees in Alaska offload the last pallet of NASA equipment.



**CINCHING THE WINCH** — TSgt. John Szapko, 337th AS loadmaster, ties down the winch used to pull the tractor trailer into the cargo bay.



**CHAIN GANG** — MSgt. Bruce Westcott and SSgt. Derek Ouimette, from transportation section, use tie-down chains to secure the cargo to the anchor rings in the floor.





# NASA airlift project



**EARLY WAKE-UP CALL** — At 3:30 a.m., Westover aircrews were on the job loading the cargo for the return trip from Kodiak Island, Alaska to Andrews AFB, MD in July.

## *NASA airlift... continued from page 1*

tangibly measure the joint effort between NASA, Lockheed Martin, Orbital Sciences Corporation, the Alaskan Aerospace Development Corporation, and Goddard Space Flight Center, with oversight from Wallops Flight Facility.

To the group of 13 engineers, scientists, and researchers on board the flight, how the box got to the brand new remote Kodiak Launch Center was the most important thing.

Orbital Science Corp's Mike Koenig, lead mechanical engineer for the Vegetation Canopy Lidar (VCL) satellite set to launch in August of 2000, says this mission was to simulate conditions and do a dry run for the "real thing" next year.

"Our main goal is to see what, if any, kinks or problems may need to be ironed out before the actual launch. NASA, in conjunction with the University of Maryland, is build-

ing the satellite that will help measure the relationship between the Earth's vegetation and our climate.

"Alaska provides convenient access to a high-inclination orbit, desirable when launching the satellites," Koenig said.

The newly-erected facility on the island will become a permanent operation, where many different entities can utilize the facility to launch satellites, Koenig added.

Mike Thompson, traffic manager for Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, was high in his praise of Westover's reservists during the mission.

"These reservists set all kinds of records for on- and off-loading, and I am extremely happy with the professional, can-do attitude I have had the pleasure of working with. This sets the stage for a long-term, silent partnership between Westover and the

many NASA-related missions that will be coming down the road," Thompson said.

The mission itself went off like clockwork, according to 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron Loadmaster SMSgt. Tom Dzwonkus.

"This type of mission is excellent training for our aircrew and support personnel. Instead of transporting the usual pallets and equipment, this mission required using a heavy-duty winch and odd-sized cargo. The scope of training given to this crew is something we always strive for, and the success of the mission opens the door to several more equally challenging trips in the near future," Dzwonkus said.

You can check out more about the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at [www.afrc.af.mil/units/439AW/default.htm](http://www.afrc.af.mil/units/439AW/default.htm)

For more information on NASA, click on <http://essp.gsfc.nasa.gov>



# MXS, AGS keep Galaxies in the sky

by Capt. James G. Bishop

When a major piece of the C-5 frame was found to have corroded through the bolt holes, Lockheed representatives said the part, called a logeron, was no longer in production. It would cost nearly \$100,000 to retool machines and make the part and some spares.

Instead, workers at the 439th MXS, the maintenance squadron, used the computer-operated mill machine to replicate the Lockheed blueprints.

The estimated cost? About \$1500.

With 354 authorized and 282 currently assigned, MXS, commanded by Maj. Jacquelyn Crothers, is the biggest maintenance squadron in the Air Force Reserve.

Together with the 287 people of the 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron, led by Maj. Daniel Allen, the two squadrons keep Westover's 16 C-5A Galaxy aircraft safe and ready to fly.

Now comes the first quiz. *Which squadron has two people pack their toolbox and go with every flight to troubleshoot and fix problems?*

That's AGS. *Which performs the major teardown inspection of each C-5 about every 400 days?* That's MXS.

Got it? AGS operates on the flightline: fueling, launching, and maintaining the aircraft during flight, takeoff and landing, and at remote stations. MXS performs the regular back shop maintenance and tackles the tougher problems. AGS, for example, would pull out and replace a "black" electronic box. MXS would fix it.

AGS are like in-depth first responders. MXS are like the surgeons who also do preventative work. "First responder," however, covers a lot of territory, including everything from switching out one of the four 7900-pound engines to changing any of the aircraft's 28 tires.

There is some necessary overlap between the two squadrons. AGS, for example, would examine the 6200 square feet of wing area for damage during pre-flight and post-flight inspections.

MXS would examine it more closely during their regularly-scheduled teardown inspection. Most specialties in MXS, with the

exception of fabrication and fuel cell repairs, would also be found in AGS.

MXS is comprised of 15 separate work centers such as machine and welding, non-destructive inspection (where they X-ray aircraft parts to make sure they're not cracked), sheet metal (where they replace some of the approximately 1000 C-5 panels, some costing up to \$130,000 if purchased from Lockheed), propulsion, repair and reclamation, aerospace ground equipment, fuel systems, electro-environmental, survival, guidance and control, structural maintenance, and pneumatics shops.

MXS is the most spread-out squadron on base, covering most of Hangar 7, half of Hangar 9, Building 2426 for Avionics, the DC Hangar, and part of the Pull-Through Hangar.

AGS is split into four teams, each with responsibility for four airplanes. Now it's

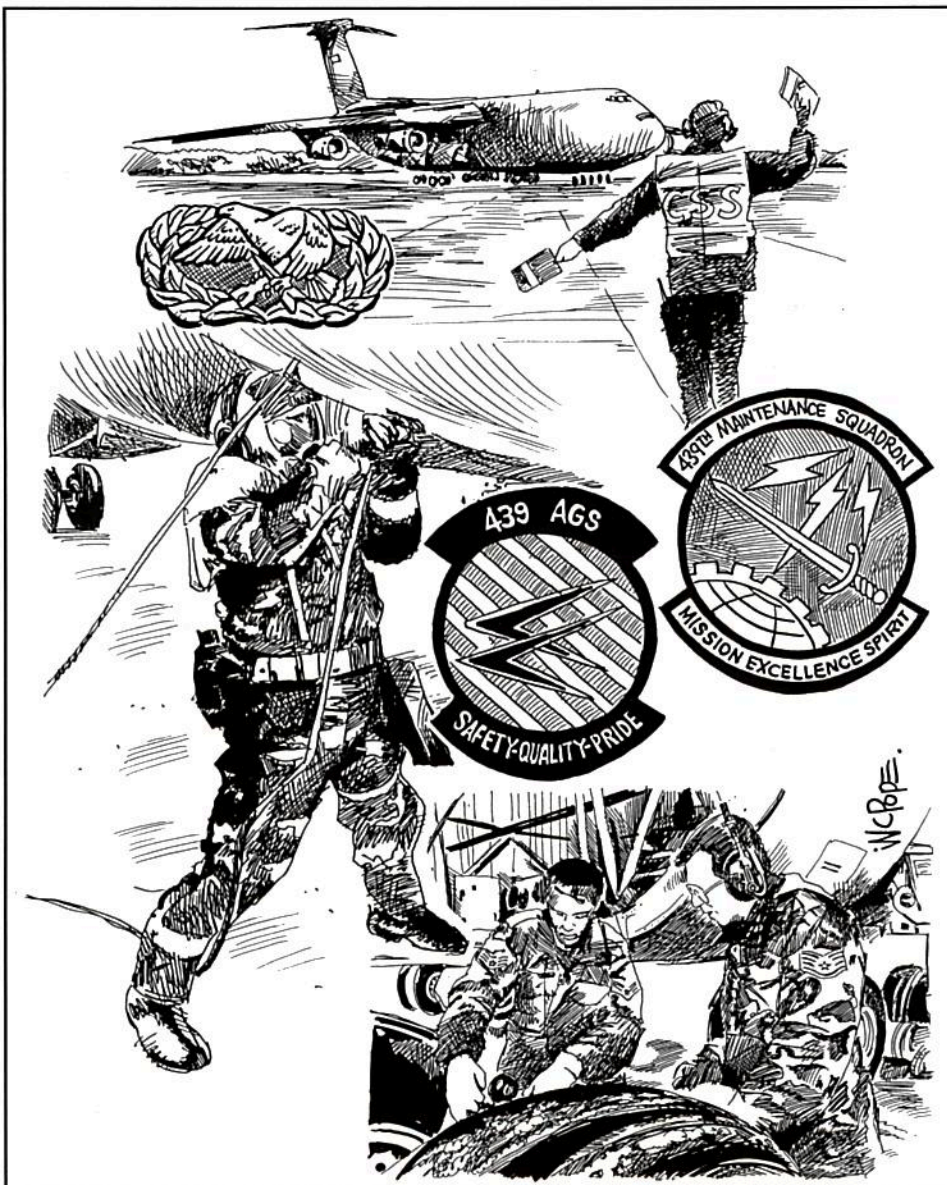
time for the second quiz. *What do those red and blue stripes across the tail mean?*

They show which AGS maintenance team the plane belongs to—Raider (red) or Bandit (blue). Between the four fully equipped teams, Bandit 6 and 7 and Raider 6 and 7, the planes have maintenance coverage when it's needed.

During the Gulf War, the command required quick turnarounds, so a supervisor from AGS would coordinate concurrent actions from refuelers, AGS crews and specialists from MXS, getting the C-5 back in the air within three hours.

Last year, AGS was the number one team in the Basic Post Operation at the Rodeo maintenance competition, scoring above all other active and reserve teams.

A sampling of the areas that the two



*continued on next page*



## 439th MDS continues winning ways

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Westover medics recently continued their winning tradition when they captured top Air Force Reserve Command honors.

The 439<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron was named AFRC's Outstanding Unit with a Medical Generation Mission. First Lieutenant Robert Oliveri was honored as Outstanding Medical Readiness Officer, and Capt. Elaine Tucci as Outstanding Reserve Officer.

"Winning the Outstanding Unit award is very special," said Maj. Robert Sousa, 439<sup>th</sup> MDS administrator. "Although we've won the award three out of the last four years, the competition gets more and more competitive."

The unit is judged on overall performance, such as an Excellent rating during their last Health Services Inspection, and additional tasks, including humanitarian missions like their annual tour helping natives in Guyana last year.

Lieutenant Oliveri's award honors his monitoring of the unit's readiness requirements, a feat noted when his unit was 100% compliant during the recent HSI.

"We work very hard to keep our unit members trained in all aspects of readiness," Lieutenant Oliveri said. Training requirements for the medical squadron include

mass casualty, alert recall, wound management and nuclear, biological and chemical warfare training.

"The award is definitely reflective of a team effort," he said. "It also belongs to Medical Readiness NCO MSgt. Karen Ross, who works with me to ensure our 87 members have completed all phases of readiness training."

Captain Tucci garnered kudos as AFRC Outstanding Reserve Officer Assigned to a Non-Deployable Unit. She is the Officer in Charge of both the Infection Control and Laboratory Services sections.

"I am very honored," Capt. Tucci said. "The award is attributable to the hard work of my co-workers and the encouragement, support and confidence of the unit's senior leadership."

"Captain Tucci is a real team player," said CMSgt. George Kudla, 439<sup>th</sup> MDS Senior Air Reserve Technician. "She is the kind of person who goes out of her way to help other units as well as her own."

Two other reservists won honors at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force level. TSgt. Nicole Girard, medical services craftsman, was named Outstanding NCO in a Non-Deployable Medical Unit, and SSgt. Stacy Lakeman, aeromedical journeyman, was recognized as Outstanding Airman in a Non-Deployable Medical Unit.

## 439th ASTS takes unit award, Lackman earns top honors

By SSgt Anne Kymalainen

The 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron received top awards in the medical field this year by prevailing over other counterparts in AFRC. The squadron is 1998's Outstanding Medical Staging Squadron (100 beds) and medical services journeyman Senior Airman Michael E. Lackman is the outstanding reserve medical airman assigned to an Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

This is the third time within the past five years the unit has won the outstanding medical squadron award, said Lt. Col. Karlene DeVine, the squadron's awards and decorations monitor.

"I attribute it in part to the excellent rating on the Health Services Inspection that we earned in April, 1998," said DeVine, "as well as to an exceptionally high degree of teamwork within the ASTS."

DeVine explained the significance of the teamwork within her squadron by attributing it to "seamlessness of the ASTS," which is how the commander of the 86<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Facility described Westover's squadron while working with them overseas.

"I let people know we were reservists," said DeVine, speaking about the Mirror Force operational tour, which coincided with the American Embassy bombings in Africa and turned into a real-life scenario.

She credits the people of the unit such as SrA Lackman for enhancing their reputation. "It's people like him who make us 'seamless'. An example of this is him taking the initiative to teach the active duty folks how to use a NATO litter carrier, a piece of equipment that they weren't trained to use" DeVine said, "he took the lead to ensure safety among the members of his team."

## Maintenance squadrons...continued from page 8

squadrons maintain includes

- about 103 miles of wiring
- more than five miles of control cables
- approximately four miles of hydraulic tubing, replacements of which are made by MXS
- pressure and environmental control system, including an air conditioning system with a cooling capacity of 24 tons, enough to keep eight average sized homes cool
- the on board trouble-shooting system, which automatically tests 800 areas for malfunctions
- 49,000 gallons of fuel, as well as the nitrogen back-fill, which prevents the presence of any volatile fumes that a stray bullet could ignite
- a rudder area that is the same as the total wing area of the F-104G Starfighter
- and four engines with air intake diameters of 8.5 feet, delivering 41,000 pounds of thrust each
- all in a plane that would cost about \$184 million to replace.



# Reservists encouraged to invite bosses to Westover

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

The 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing will again hold its annual Employer Appreciation Day during both Unit Training Assemblies in October.

Reservists are encouraged to invite their boss to spend the day at the base and to take an orientation flight aboard a unit C-5A.

Members who normally drill during the A UTA should bring their boss on Saturday of the October A UTA while those who are normally here on Saturday of the B UTA are asked to bring their supervisor on the B UTA.

Col. Martin M. Mazick, commander of the 439<sup>th</sup> AW, urges all reservists to take part

in the program.

"We need to let your employers know that without their support and understanding, we cannot fulfill our mission. Invite them here and let them see what you do when you put on your uniform. I'm sure that once they have visited us and see what we do, they will be more understanding the next time you have to ask for time off to serve your country," he said.

Reservists are asked to have their employer report to the Westover Club at 8:30 a.m. where Colonel Mazick will kick off the day's activities with remarks and a question and answer period.

An orientation flight for employers will take place at approximately 10:30 a.m. The flight will last for about an hour and a half. Following the flight, reservists are encouraged to invite their boss to their on-base workstation.

Reservists may invite just one supervisor. Only reservists assigned to the flight crew will be allowed to fly.

To make reservations, fill out the application form that appears on this page and return it to the Public Affairs office. For further information, please call ext. 2020.

## EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY APPLICATION

Reservists's name, rank and unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's name and title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of UTA:

Oct. 2 ( A UTA ) \_\_\_\_\_

Oct. 16 ( B UTA ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

Return this form to:

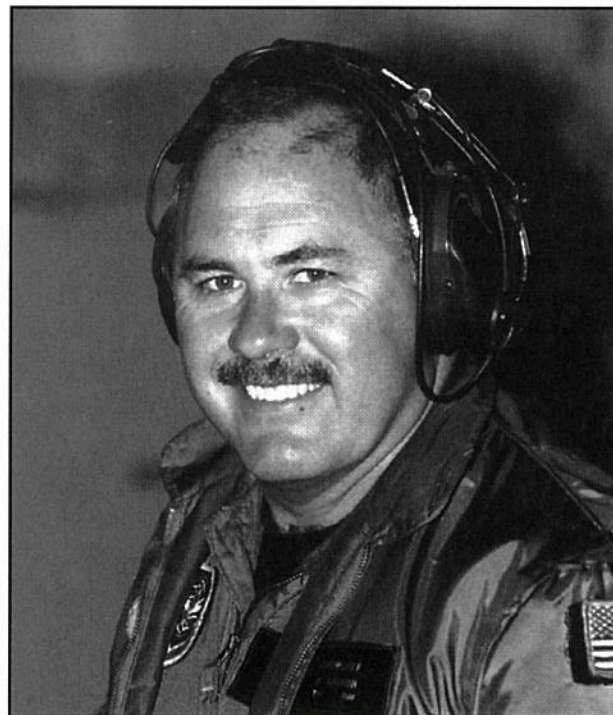
439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103  
Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

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



## Patriot People

**Name:** Paul Gagnon  
**Rank:** TSgt.  
**Age:** 42  
**Address:** E. Hartford, Conn.  
**Unit:** 439th AGS  
**Position:** Crew chief  
**Civilian position:** ART  
**Favorite food:** Prime rib  
**Years of service:** 20  
**Favorite sport:** Football  
**Favorite hobby:** Riding antique Harleys  
**Ideal vacation:** Camping  
**Best way to relax:** Hang around house with kids  
**Preferred entertainment:** Camping  
**Favorite hero:** Gary Josefiak  
**Favorite music:** Rock  
**Favorite book:** Any Tom Clancy book  
**Favorite aircraft:** C-130  
**What I would do if I won \$1 million:** Buy an oceanfront home



MSgt. Sandi Michon

TSgt. Paul Gagnon

## Patriot Praises

### Promotions

SMSgt. Cessna, Thomas E.  
 SMSgt. Grady, Michael P.  
 MSgt. Bready, Richard D.  
 MSgt. Chevalier, Ronald G.  
 MSgt. Gaglione, Thomas  
 MSgt. Wheeler, Mirinda M.  
 TSgt. Benard, Roger N.  
 TSgt. Berry, Daniel P.  
 TSgt. Cahill, Jeffrey M.  
 TSgt. Dawson, Kelly E.  
 TSgt. Dill, Gregory  
 TSgt. Guertin, David J.  
 TSgt. Kelso, Donna J.  
 TSgt. Savage, Steven P.  
 TSgt. Smith, Jason E.  
 TSgt. Rodriguez, Arturo  
 TSgt. Rodriguez, Teresa  
 TSgt. Tyburski, Stephen J.  
 SSgt. Andrews, Frederick  
 SSgt. Brodmerkle, Warren  
 SSgt. Goodwin, Michael J.  
 SSgt. Longo, Dynelle  
 SSgt. Mathieson, Darryl J.  
 SSgt. Moraitakis, Markos  
 SSgt. Otis, Jeffrey  
 SSgt. Rondeau, David L.  
 SSgt. Schabek, Mark E.  
 SSgt. Zimmerman, Joseph G.

SSgt. Snay, Shawn K.  
 SrA. Babcock, Cornelia  
 SrA. Bernier, Michael J.  
 SrA. Carlin, Charles F.  
 SrA. Deyette, William J.  
 SrA. Mullally, Desmond B.  
 SrA. Myers, Chad A.  
 SrA. Riplett, Autumn E.  
 SrA. Rysedorph, Lori A.  
 SrA. Stanford, Jimmy D.  
 SrA. Tavares, Paul M.  
 A1C Pouliot, Kathryn A.

### Enlistments

TSgt. Loya, Charles E.  
 SSgt. Beaudoin, Louis G.  
 SSgt. Belisle, Gary R.  
 SSgt. Fairman, Matthew L.  
 SrA. Dancier, Harry L.  
 SrA. Dunn, Valerie A.  
 SrA. Jones, Starina A.  
 SrA. Rochon, Michael J.  
 A1C Martinez, Rita M.

### Reenlistments

SMSgt. Brault, Glenn R.  
 SMSgt. LePage, Robert E.  
 MSgt. Brown, Kevin R.

MSgt. Cote, Beverly A.  
 MSgt. Lagasse, James H.  
 MSgt. Matteson, Gary L.  
 TSgt. Mathurin, Edward O., Jr.  
 TSgt. McCorkel, Michael P.  
 SSgt. Babin, Kimberly A.  
 SSgt. Ballestas, Orlando J.  
 SSgt. Benoit, John H.  
 SSgt. Booker, Andrew A.  
 SSgt. Campbell, Melvin E.  
 SSgt. Canarelli, Melissa  
 SSgt. Foster, Leo  
 SSgt. Freeman, Patricia  
 SSgt. Green, Jeffrey A.  
 SSgt. Griffin, Thomas F.  
 SSgt. Halat, David M.  
 SSgt. Jeleniewski David  
 SSgt. Mora, Christine M.  
 SSgt. Pyatt, Darryl A.  
 SSgt. Tynan, David E.  
 SSgt. Wysocki, Michael A.  
 SrA. Kleinebeker, Carl E.  
 SrA. Olsen, Patrick J.  
 SrA. Patterson, Careyann

## Awards and Decorations

### Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Maureen McCarthy  
 439 OPS/GP

### Air Force Commendation Medal

TSgt. Robert J. Cirillo  
 439 AGS  
 SSgt. Eric D. Harris  
 439 AGS

### Air Force Achievement Medal

TSgt. Steven D. Ferreira\*\*  
 439 MXS  
 TSgt. John J. Prechtl\*\*  
 439 OSS  
 SSgt. Michael J. Downs\*\*  
 42 APS  
 SSgt. John A. Masaitis\*\*  
 42 APS  
 SSgt. Jason E. Smith  
 439 AES

\*\*second award



## Area elected officials treated to C-5 orientation flight

by SSgt. Andrew Reitano

More than 40 municipal leaders embarked on an orientation flight on June 25 as they experienced the exciting sensation of a C-5 mission.

Col. Martin M. Mazick, commander of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing addressed the group during breakfast at the Westover Club prior to the orientation flight and briefed the guests of the base's mission and recent involvement in NATO's Operation Allied Force.

"We're the largest base in the Air Force Reserve, but many people around us either don't know we're here, or don't understand our role in the nation's defense," he said. "It's consequential that we increase civilian awareness and understanding of the Air Force Reserve mission at Westover. When we open our doors to the community, it instills public trust and support toward our credibility. These types of programs also establish a reputation for us as a good neighbor," he added.

The 90-minute aerial tour took the visitors along the East Coast of New England up to Kennebunk Port, Maine before turning toward the lakes region in New Hampshire and following the Connecticut River back to Western Massachusetts. During the flight, the passengers were escorted from the troop compartment for a once-in-a-lifetime view of the terrain below from the C-5 flight deck.

For a majority of the officials, it was the first time they had ever flown on a C-5. Having gone through the experience gives them



**LOFTY PUBLIC RELATIONS — Maj. Craig Tommila, 337th Airlift Squadron pilot, explains the functional areas of the C-5 flight deck to one of more than 40 area elected officials who were treated to an orientation flight June 25.**

*photo by*  
SSgt. Andrew Reitano

fresh insight to the Westover mission, said Al Chwalek, Galaxy Community Council. "Every month I receive a briefing on what's going on at the base. This [flight] makes the picture a lot clearer," said Chwalek. "I've been on the council for four years; this is my first time flying on a C-5." To the dismay of

its passengers, the mission eventually came to an end when the C-5 touched down at Westover. However, the passengers were more than delighted with the mid-morning flight. Chwalek spoke for the group when he said, "it was fantastic. I wish we didn't have to go back."

# PATRIOT

**PATRIOT online:** <http://www.AFRC.AF.MIL/UNITS/439AW/Default.html>



Published monthly for Patriots like MSgt. Vikki Stokes, of Chicopee, Mass., and 2,412 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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