

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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HUMANITARIAN AID — When members of the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron traveled to Honduras in March for their annual tour, they brought along

much-needed supplies for those still recovering from Hurricane Mitch. Among the supplies were clothing, shoes and school supplies.

Reservists build school, friendships in Honduras

Article by TSgt. W.C. Pope
Photos by TSgt. Alan Bailey

The 439th Civil Engineering Squadron spent its annual tour building relationships and rebuilding a community in Honduras that had been destroyed by Hurricane Mitch last fall.

The Westover group deployed to El Progreso, Honduras, March 13 as part of Joint Task Force Sula, the first of several humanitarian operations to help rebuild schools, clinics, bridges, culverts and dig wells. Along with the 43 Westover reservists, under the

guidance of NCOIC MSgt. James Serra, the operation included another 417 members of the Army National Guard and Reserve.

"It was a great experience working with the army in a joint operation," said Lt. Col. Tali Maidelis the 439th CES commander. "It was excellent combat-type training without the bullets."

The engineer's mission, during this two-week deployment, was to finish construction on a schoolhouse that had been started six weeks before by three other Air Force Reserve units. The building itself was a thirty-by-ninety foot cement block con-

struction with a three-stall bathroom. It was 70 percent complete when they arrived and complete when they left. Despite one hundred-degree heat, they also installed a septic system, did landscaping, poured ninety-five feet of sidewalk, and painted.

During the school construction, the more experienced members of the 439th trained Army troops just out of technical school. They finished the school building ahead of schedule and jumped into other projects, one of which was to upgrade, Base Camp Ganadero. The 439th heating, ventilation and

continued on pages 6-7)

Y2K Tiger Team poised to swat millennium bug

Article by SSgt. Nancy Robbins
Artwork by TSgt. W. C. Pope

The so-called millennium bug, also known as the Year 2000 (Y2K), has been flitting around since the advent of the modern day computer. Now, however, it has grown wings, and will touch virtually every aspect of our lives when the two-digit years roll over to the year 2000.

Because to a computer, when 1999 - read as 99 - rolls to 2000, it may as well be the year 1900.

Sound confusing?

Well, it is, sort of - but not to fear, Maj. Pat Hanford and the Y2K Tiger Team is here.

Hanford, a reservist assigned to the 439th Support Group, has set up shop for a 90-day "tour-de-2000". Hanford said his primary duty is to find potential Year 2000 problems and coordinate their resolution, along with ensuring Westover complies with Y2K guidance from AFRC and above.

But your everyday computer problems only scratch the surface. Hanford said Westover is depending on utility companies, such as telephone, water and electric, to do their part outside the gate so things run smoothly inside the gate.

Hanford is not waging a one-man battle against the millennium bug, though. The Y2K Tiger Team, an on-base contingent comprised of representatives from various base agencies, are meeting and working to-

gether to offer up their suggestions and improvements to the 439th Airlift Wing Y2K Contingency Plan.

"This plan, required by higher headquarters, is extremely well thought out and thorough. The ideas and contributions to the plan by our own Tiger Team are tremendous," Hanford said, adding the members of our geographically separated unit have been enormously invaluable, as well.

Hanford said although all critical Air Force systems will be 100 percent ready by Dec. 31, 1999, there could very well be some things that were not anticipated.

For those, even such systems that aren't expected to have problems have back-up plans waiting in the wings.

Brig. Gen. Gary Ambrose, director of the Air Force Year 2000 Office, says, "Our approach is to work hard to reduce the risk that something will happen, but to always assume a failure will occur. That way, if the unexpected does happen, we've already thought through how to handle it."

Ambrose adds, "The bottom line is that the Air Force is going to be absolutely 100 percent mission ready on Jan. 1, 2000. We're going to take care of our people. We're going to be able to do the mission; everyone's going to get paid; the personnel system's going to work; and you'll be able to get medical care."

Questions or suggestions can be directed to Hanford at (413) 557-3342.



Info available on anthrax vaccine

The Air Force Reserve Command has declared that all reservists will receive the anthrax vaccination because as members of the Total Force, they take part in many of the same missions as their active-duty counterparts.

Reservists who have questions about anthrax or the vaccine may get information from the following websites:

http://www.defenselink.mil/other_info/protection.html

<http://sg-www.satx.disa.mil/moasgop/pubhlth.cfm>

<http://wwwcdg.gov/ncidod/dbmrd/diseaseinfo/anthrax.a.htm>

http://wwwsam.brooks.af.mil/eh/html/ph_serv.htm

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Reservist learns valuable lessons while TDY in Haiti

By SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

Andrew Reitano knew the malnourished, middle-aged Haitian was dehydrated before the man begged him for water — of which the staff sergeant had plenty.

"I reached for some bottled water and the marine security guard stopped me," Reitano said of his first experience in "Brothers," a medical compound run by monks located in the slums of Port au Prince. "He told me if I gave that guy water we'd have a riot on our hands and the other people would probably kill him for it."

Allowing the man to suffer was more humane than satiating his thirst. This was a paradox Reitano would witness again and again during his 98-day stint as editor of the military newspaper in Haiti, and is just one example of how the 28-year-old's outlook on life changed from the experience.

As part of the United States Support Group in Haiti, Reitano, a member of Westover's Public Affairs Office, served as editor of *Semper Purpura*, a newspaper that covered humanitarian missions and training exercises of visiting units. The name of the newspaper is Latin for Always Purple, and reflects the blending of the different military branches that deploy to Haiti to train and help maintain a military presence.

Most of Reitano's "war stories" don't involve his numerous expeditions chasing deployed units with a reporter's notebook and digital camera, although this professional experience will add an impressive bullet to his resume. He talks about how he busied himself with humanitarian relief, which included assisting surgeons as they operated on cancer-ridden Haitians, doling out cold rice to the poor, and comforting sick or dying babies at an orphanage.

"While visiting an orphanage I saw this one tiny two-year-old and I wasn't sure I could hold him because he looked so frail. The nurse told me it was okay, and when I picked him up all I could feel were ribs. I held him for an hour, and I believe that that hour of affection made a difference in his life. It was all I could do."

The medical-compound Brothers was an oasis of optimism found in a desert of despair. When Reitano first arrived, he gagged on the stench of urine and feces that wafted in from

just beyond the concertina wire surrounding the compound. The people waited in line to see military doctors, who during a four-hour session would treat approximately 600 people. Medical personnel performed all surgery outside, often calling on volunteers to clean or stitch wounds. While shooting photographs for the weekly newspaper, the staff sergeant witnessed one doctor pull a golf-ball size malignant tumor out of a man's shoulder and plop it down on a bench beside him.

"That was when I began to realize how fortunate we are in this country," he said. "I now appreciate the simple things, like having enough to eat or drink, like I never have before."

Reitano's proudest moment was when he and 19 other service members trekked up a 6,000-foot mountain to move a 1,000-pound solar oven to an orphanage. Skinny Haitian children of all ages gawked as the camouflage-clad NCOs muscled the oven off the truck and over rough terrain to the location where it would cook food for the over 450 orphans.

Afterwards, the men and women played with the orphans, and some attended a Catholic service to celebrate Ash Wednesday.

"Morale can be pretty low at times but moving the oven made everybody feel better," said Reitano. "I'll never forget how happy the kids were to see us, and how they



"I now appreciate the simple things, like having enough to eat or drink, like I never have before."

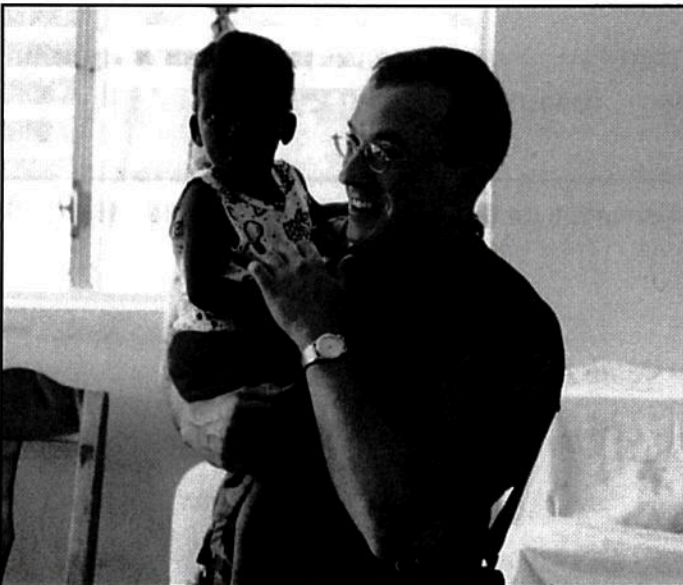
SSgt. Andrew Reitano

grabbed our hands and legs because they wanted attention."

When he wasn't assisting with humanitarian relief, Reitano toiled as a journalist and editor, writing stories about events like the ones mentioned above. Professionally, the experience was invaluable: "I was in charge of what ran in the paper, and that was a lot of responsibility," he says.

Reitano, who returned to Westover in March, knew volunteering for duty as a public affairs specialist in Haiti would help him professionally, but he never anticipated his renewed appreciation for life.

"Not being able to give that man a drink of water was the hardest thing for me. I remember a few years ago I was home in Somerville on a hot day when some men were paving my road. One guy came to my house to ask for some water, and I of course gave it to him—there was nothing to it. But in Haiti it was a different story—now a simple thing like giving a man water could have been met with dire consequences. It really makes you value what we've got."



TAKING TIME TO CARE —
During his 98-day stint in Haiti, SSgt. Andrew Reitano, 439th AW public affairs specialist, was a frequent volunteer to a local orphanage.

Employer appreciation days set for October

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

The 439th Airlift Wing will once again conduct Employer Appreciation Days in October and all reservists are encouraged to invite their boss to the base for the day.

The highlight of the day for employers will again be an orientation flight aboard a unit C-5A. Reservists assigned to the A UTA should ask their bosses to come on that weekend while B UTA reservists may invite their employers on that weekend.

Col. Martin M. Mazick, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing, urges all reservists to

take part in the program.

"Without continued support of employers, reservists of this wing would have to choose between duty and employment. Without their support, the Air Force Reserve Command cannot complete its mission. We must let your employers know that your participation here is vital to the defense of this country. Employer Appreciation Days are our way of letting them know exactly how important your service is," he said.

Employers are asked to report to the Westover Club at 9 a.m. where Col. Maz-

ick will kick off the day with a short greeting and question and answer period.

An orientation flight aboard a C-5A for employers will start at approximately 10:30 a.m. Reservists should also invite their boss to visit their work center.

Each reservist is allowed to invite one supervisor only. Reservists will not be flying on the orientation flight unless they are assigned to the crew.

To make reservations, fill out the application form on this page and return it to the Public Affairs office. For further information, please call PA at Ext. 3500.

EMPLOYER APRECIATION 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:

October (A UTA) _____

October (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

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

Maj. Jackie Crothers: leads teams to their best

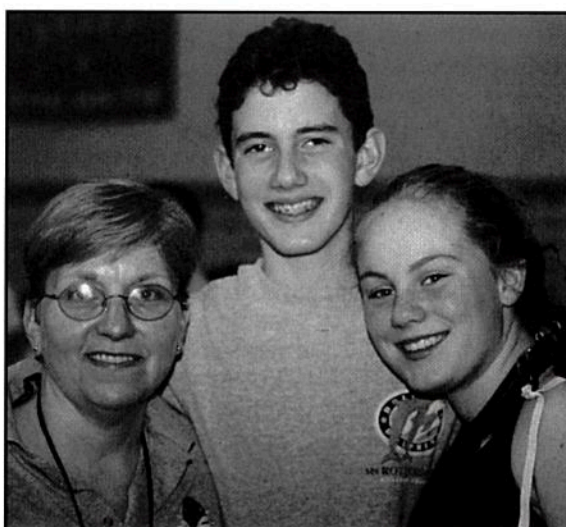
Article and photos
by SSgt. Anne Kymalainen

Maybe Maj. Jackie Crothers should get into recruiting. In the five years she has been coaching the North Shore Piranhas swim team in Marblehead, the team size has doubled.

Crothers dove into the swimming profession 11 years ago by volunteering to help when her six and seven-year-old daughters joined the Hanscom Air Force Base swim team and the swim coaches were so impressed with Crother's style they asked her to stay on as a coach.

Crothers did stay and has been coaching ever since. Her team, the North Shore Piranhas have competed in the New England Jewish Community Center championships five years in a row, and reigned as champions for the past four.

Crothers attributes her team's success to a high level of training, and a low attrition rate. "I focus on individual performance, by trying to make every kid better. In my mind, there is no difference between recreation and competitive training," said the commander



DIFFERENT STROKES... — Coach (Maj.) Jackie Crothers shouts encouragement to her swim team member (above). At left, Crothers and two of her swimmers are all smiles after a come-from-behind victory.



"I maximize the good points and minimize the weak ones. By letting people achieve

their own personal goals, it's best for the organization."

Maj. Jackie Crothers

of the Maintenance Squadron.

Whether she is coaching 95 swimmers, ranging in age from five - 19 years old, or commanding a 300-member MXS, Crothers' mission is the same - to make sure everybody reaches his or her potential. "If everyone tries their hardest," said Crothers, and "the team is the best, regardless of whether or not they win."

She believes in giving both her troops and her swimmers the best resources and letting them grow. Commenting on her leadership style, she said, "I maximize good points and minimize weak ones. By letting people achieve their own personal goals, it's best for the organization."

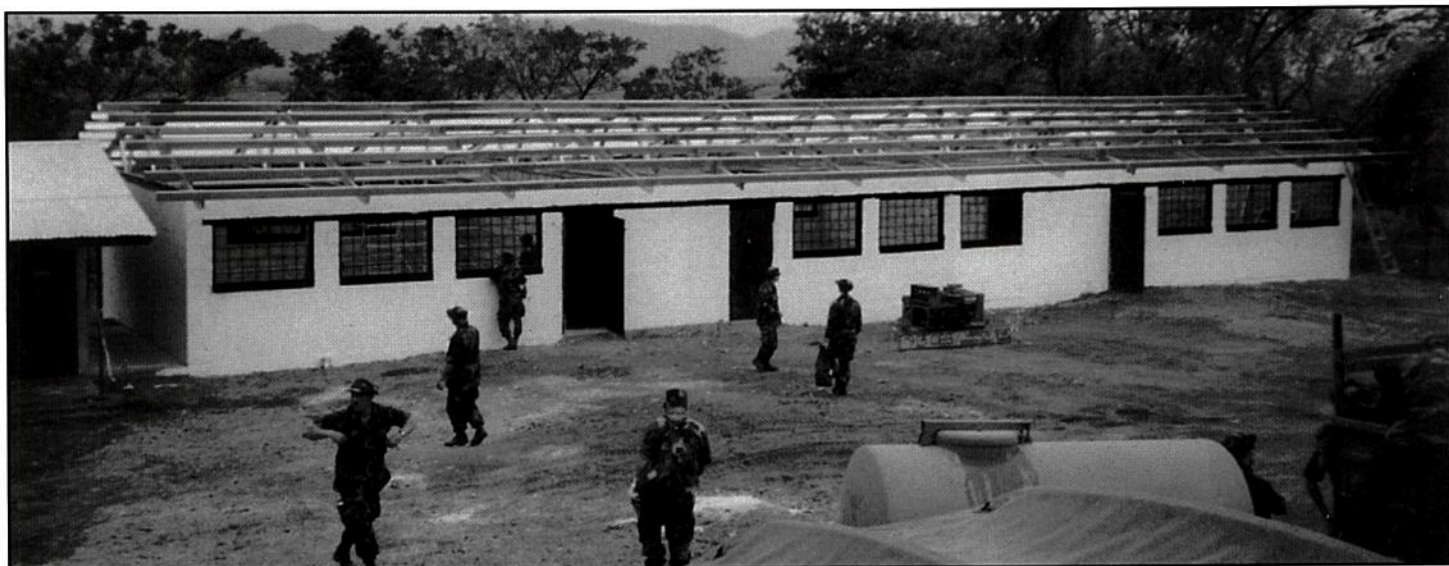
Crothers grew up in Winthrop, Mass., near the ocean, and has been swimming since she was five-years-old. She still swims a mile three times a week. "Technique is everything," said Crothers, a member of the American Swim Coaches Association.

In March, Crothers traveled to the Jewish Community Center in Hartford, Conn., where the junior division (ages 10 and under) placed second. "Well, our kids were ferocious," she said. "We won the meet by well over two hundred points. I was very proud and a bit relieved. The competition is getting tougher every year."

Although Crothers' coaching and leadership style is similar, her swim team takes liberties her reservists would not. After winning a major competition, her reservists would not toss her into the pool as her swim team did after a recent swim meet.

"I escaped the 'victory dip' for five years, but they caught up with me," said Crothers. "I barely had time to hand my glasses to one of the parents. Everyone was having a jolly time - even me," she admitted.

Crothers' military training in disaster preparedness came in handy, she said, as she had packed some dry clothes for just such a contingency.



RAISING THE ROOF — Air Force and Army reservists work to complete construction of a 30 feet by 90 feet cement block schoolhouse in Honduras.

Working in the sweltering heat, the 439th CES members finished to roof of the building and completed other projects.

Annual tour training reaps rewards in Honduras

Continued from page 1

air conditioning specialists kept the air conditioners, ice machines and coolers running and power production specialists worked on the backup generator system.

SMSgt. Richard "Rock" Labrecque helped spearhead the collection of humanitarian donations such as school supplies, pens, pencils, books and paper, that they distributed to the children.

"We really tried to emphasize education supplies, because we believe that an education

will last forever," Labrecque said.

In their spare time, the Westover reservists also installed a basketball hoop and donated a basketball that was signed by the crew. They also helped to distribute a truckload of humanitarian supplies that included clothing and shoes.

They visited one home where nine children and four adults were living and who were most grateful to receive the donations.

Before leaving, the reservists were touched when the local community, includ-

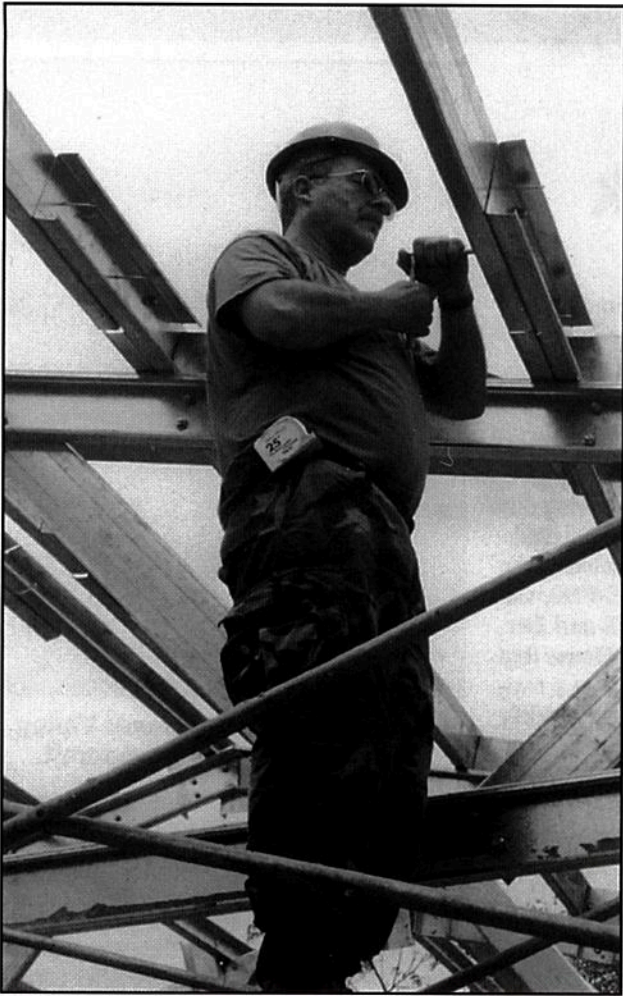
ing 250 children and adults, honored the civil engineers for their work. Children brought signs thanking them for the work on their school. A plaque depicting the four units that worked on the project was placed on the school.

"It was a great learning experience, not just in civil engineering but in how the people in Honduras live," said SSgt. Ron Aickelin, squadron training and education manager.

"In the end, we had dirty boots, but we really shined," he said.



GOOD SPORTS — CMSgt. Joseph Cullen, of the 439th CES, hands a basketball to a Honduran youngster after unit members, in their spare time, installed a basketball hoop for community kids.



IT TAKES A RESERVE UNIT...— Forty-three 439th CES members from Westover (below) combined their talents to complete a school building and other projects during their annual tour in Honduras in March. At left, TSgt. Peter Morgestern tightens roof trusses on a school building. In photo above, TSgt. Alan Bailey levels framing for a sidewalk as part of the unit's contribution in the Central American country that was devastated last fall by Hurricane Mitch.

photos courtesy of TSgt. Alan Bailey



The road less traveled...

20 great places for after work

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Publication of privately-owned businesses listed is not intended to be an endorsement by the U.S. Air Force. The information is offered to assist reservists who are not familiar with the local area.

by Capt. James Bishop

It's 6 p.m. Saturday night. You're miles from home, but still on familiar turf—Westover ARB. What is there to do?

You know the well-traveled paths: the "strip" along Route 5, or the movie in your room. It's time for something different. The following list of favorite diversions came from the people at Westover. Suggestions ranged from the tasty, to the athletic, to the scenic.

Great Food:

Try the Chicken Etouffe with crawfish tails on top at Chef Wayne's **Big Mamou**, specializing in Louisiana cuisine. Billed and confirmed as the best cajun restaurant in the area, the restaurant's dinner prices range from \$10-\$15. It's BYOB, no credit cards and street parking only at Big Mamou, located at 63 Liberty Street in Springfield. 732-1011. And yes, you can order cajun-cooked "alligator."

Visit **The Student Prince**, also called **The Fort**, for tasty, authentic German food in a restaurant that has become a Springfield landmark. The décor adds to the charm, with long rows of beer steins displayed along the dark, wooden walls of the multiple dining halls. Dinner prices range from \$15-\$30. Located at 8 Fort St., just off Main St., the Fort's number is 734-7475 or 788-6628.

For good traditional Italian food, moderate prices, and all the breadsticks you can eat, go to **Spaghetti Freddy's** at 1500 Main St. in Springfield, 787-2113. Or, for slightly more pricey fare (\$12-\$20) that's well worth the extra cash, visit **Mulino's Deux** at 280 Bridge St. in Springfield, 736-8900.

Award-winning New-York style Jewish delicatessen food for eat-in or take-out can be found at **Gus and Paul's**, with locations at 1500 Main St., 781-2253, and 1209 Sumner Ave., 782-6629.

For "American cuisine with a flair" in a picturesque, collegiate atmosphere, try **Windows on the Common**, across from the green in Mt. Holyoke college, 25 College St., South Hadley, 534-8222. Or, go to **The Tailgate Picnic**, 532-7597, for a zippy deli meal (the horseradish will make your eyes water), lo-

cated in a wonderful collection of restaurants and novelty stores called The Village Commons.

For good food within easy driving distance from the base, visit the Route 5 establishments in West Springfield, including the Italian restaurant **Bertucci's**, 788-9900, with its brick-fired oven, **Chili's Grill and Bar**, 746-8827, **The Outback Steak House** (but come early or be prepared for up to a two-hour wait), 746-5700, and **The Piccadilly Pub**, 746-2444.

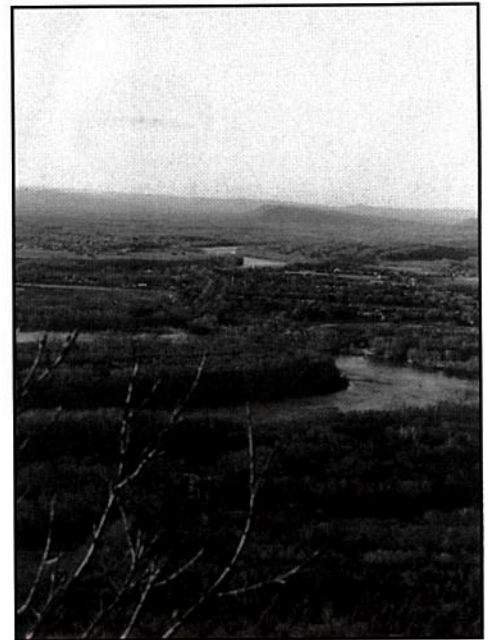
Two more quick suggestions: for an "upscale" night out, order the blackened scallops at **Eastside Grill** 19 Strong Ave. in Northampton, 586-3347. Or, still in the upscale dining department, try **Yankee Pedlar** on 1866 Northampton St., Holyoke, 532-9494, for traditional New England menu in a renovated historic inn.

Outdoor and Sports Attractions:

During late April to early June, see the **Fish Elevator** below the South Hadley bridge during the migration of the shad, Atlantic salmon, and lamprey. Hundreds of thousands of anadromous fish, the ones that spawn in fresh water but live in salt water, are lifted using an elevator with visible sides for viewing. Go out the Fairview gate onto James Street, bear right at fork after Blockbuster to stay on James Street, take left at second light and cross the bridge. Take your immediate right into the parking lot.

Bike the 8.5-mile **Norwottuck Rail Bike-Trail** that stretches from Amherst and Hadley to Northampton. The smooth rail-bed trail crosses farmlands, runs past shopping centers and across an old railroad trestle bridge. The trail is flat and free of any motorized vehicles. You can rent a bike at MWR for \$8-\$10 on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To start at Elwell State Park, take Exit 19 off I-91 north. Continue straight off the exit ramp, crossing Route 9, on Damon Rd. The park is on the right. For information, call Elwell State Park at 586-8706.

Skinner State Park in South Hadley offers breathtaking views of the Connecticut River Valley for a one-hour climb up Skinner Mt. A network of trails allows you to



Scenic view of the Pioneer Valley from Skinner mountain summit.

explore the summit or even hike 6 miles across seven ridges, called the Seven Sisters, to the Notch. During tourist season, you can drive to the top of Skinner Mt. and visit The Summit House, a walk-through museum. Take 33 north to 116 north, then turn left onto Route 47 in South Hadley just after Mount Holyoke College. You'll see the marked entrance in about 2.5 miles. 586-0350

In our own back yard lies a terrific 18-hole golf course, the **Westover Golf Course**. "Twilight rates" of \$14 for weekends begin at 4 p.m. for all the golf you can get in before dark. The Twilight deal is first-come, first served, and the wait ranges from no time to one hour. Call the pro-shop at 547-8610.

Experience boating or fishing at **Quabbin Reservoir**. This 39-square mile, man-made reservoir supplies Boston's water and has boat rentals, wildlife bird trails and an observation tower. (Leave the pets and alcohol at home, however.) 323-7221

Visit the **Basketball Hall of Fame**. The three-level, \$11.5 million structure boasts interactive videos, a hoop shoot for visitors, a virtual reality game with Hall of Fame player Bill Walton and numerous exhibits. Take I-91 south to Exit 7. Continue straight for one mile. The Hall of Fame is on the right. 781-6500. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children age 7-15. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Go **catfishing** at night on the Connecticut. Find a place offshore, or rent a boat from MWR, 557-2974, for \$10-\$40, depending on the size and horsepower, then put in at the free launch just below the South Hadley bridge, or pay to put in at Brunnelle Marina, 536-3132.

Four seasons rental store ready for summer fun

by SSgt Nancy Robbins

Even though some days don't feel like it, the calendar says spring has arrived. And seeing those days when it just gets warm enough to catch a few rays is bound to make New Englanders conjure up images of lazy days in the sun.

Westover's Four Seasons Rental Store is armed and ready to make your warm-weather plans materialize.

From 16-foot campers to sleeping bags, from fishing rods to 16-foot boats with water ski packages, Four Seasons can put the "fun" in family.

Here's a smattering of some of the other items available to rent:

- Party Tents, from \$50.00/day;
- Sports equipment, like volley ball sets and golf clubs;
- Mountain bikes;
- 4 - 6 person tents, from \$12.00 - \$15.00/day;
- Gas grills, coolers, water jugs and much more!

In addition to these rental items, the Four Seasons store also sells name-brand bicycles at great prices. And, going on now is the "Great Westover Winter Sale", where top of the line equipment and clothing are on sale at 25% to 75% discounts over already low prices. Four Seasons (557-2974) is open Monday - Friday 0930-

Chapel offers a place to relax

by Capt. James Bishop

Add another option to the list of things to do off-duty.

The Chapel Center hosts an open house on the Saturdays of the A UTA from 7 to 10 p.m.

People can gather and relax in the chapel lounge with a large color T.V., soda, popcorn, games, movies and "the best reception on base," said Senior Chaplain Richard Meisel.

The Chapel Center, which Meisel said has been called "the best chapel facility in the reserves," will also host a movie and discussion of the cold-war classic, "Dr. Strangelove" on Saturday, May 1, at 7 p.m. Maj. Byron Breese, who is a lecturer in philosophy and religion at Elmira College in New York, will lead the discussion.

The idea of a lounge and movie discussion were the two most popular suggestions received from approximately 45 people surveyed about what service they'd like provided on a Saturday night. "People wanted a place to sit and relax," Meisel said.

The Chapel Center also plans other options, such as guest speakers and presentations on current issues. Westover members are always invited to make suggestions or volunteer to help, Breese said.

The chapel also offers a Protestant communion service and Catholic Mass on Saturdays of the A UTA at 1600, as well as Catholic, Protestant, and evangelical services Sundays of both UTA at 7:30 a.m.

Reservists should heed travel regulation changes

by SSgt. Andrew Reitano

Reservists who live within commuting distance of Westover ARB, or are frequently TDY should familiarize themselves with the recent changes to the Joint Travel Regulation. Several of the changes deal with how personnel are going to be reimbursed for their travel expenses while on active duty.

"Although the majority of these changes affect reservists within the commuting area of the base, all personnel should review the updates because certain ones will eventually impact them also," said Daniel McCarthy, 439th Financial Services Officer.

A major change to AWI 65-101 is how locations will be determined if they fall within commuting distance of the base. Installation commanders are authorized to set the criteria for what qualifies as commuting distance. A 60-minute driving time from Westover (utilizing the most practical route) will now determine who lives within commuting distance of the base. Previously, home-of-records in a 50-mile radius of the base were considered to be within commuting distance. According to JTR Volumes 1, 2, the use of the

DTOD is now mandatory for computing official travel payments for driving time and mileage. Although actual driving times may vary, the driving time calculated by the DTOD will be used in the official determination of commuting status. For exceptions to this regulation, refer to 439 AWI 65-101, which is available on Infobase. Additional information on the DTOD is available at <http://dtod-mtnrc.belvoir.army.mil>.

One of the changes tangent to the DTOD is occasional meal entitlements. Initially, individuals could claim up to two occasional meals on their travel days while on active duty. Effective immediately, reservists who live within commuting distance of Westover ARB are no longer entitled to reimbursement for meals purchased on the first and last days of an active duty tour. Also, tolls paid within commuting distance of the base are no longer reimbursable.

Individuals who are going TDY and require a commercial flight to their destination, need to be aware of the duration they'll be gone, especially if they are parking their vehicles at the airport, explained McCarthy. When using a privately owned conveyance

to and from a common carrier terminal, reservists will be reimbursed for their mileage and parking fees limited to the cost of a round-trip taxi fare, including 15 percent tip. "Before deciding on a mode of transportation, individuals should research mileage and parking costs and compare them to a round-trip taxi fare," said McCarthy. "The duration period is what will force individuals to exceed the limit if they leave their cars at an airport, especially if the TDY is a month long." Once again, mileage will be directly derived from the DTOD.

In relation to reservists securing flights for TDYs, it is Air Force policy to use routing, tickets, and accommodations given to them by the traffic management office or commercial travel office. In the case a member must self-procure common carrier services, he or she must first obtain a statement of nonavailability from the TMO/CTO before making any official travel arrangements. According to McCarthy, self-procurement of official travel not within the specified guidelines, could cost Air Force people the price of their official travel.

For more information on these changes, contact the finance office at Ext. 3464.

Patriot People

Name: Cari L. Lennon
Rank: TSgt.
Age: 37
Address: Rome, N.Y.
Unit: 439th AES
Position: Health Services Administrator
Civilian position: Credit union teller
Favorite food: Mexican
Years of service: 12
Favorite sport: Football
Favorite hobby: Astrology
Ideal vacation: Deserted island with my soul mate
Best way to relax: Gardening
Preferred entertainment: Social situation
Favorite hero: Lucille Ball
Favorite music: Soft rock
Favorite movie: *Titanic*
Favorite aircraft: C-130
Pet peeve: Dishonesty
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Go on my ideal vacation...



TSgt. W. C. Pope

TSgt. Cari L. Lennon

Patriot Praises

Enlistments:

SSgt. Dechaine, Matthew P.
 SSgt. Gazaw, Edward J.
 SSgt. Giordano, Stephen P.
 SSgt. McKenna, John J., Jr.
 SrA. Hodgdon, Sean M.
 SrA. Sadin, Thomas K.
 A1C Gellner, Theresa M.
 A1C McCormick, Neil C.
 A1C Runions, Joseph A.
 Amn. Foti, Susan M.
 Amn. Kopp, Kimberly L.
 Amn. Moody, Christopher J.
 AB Cody, John A.

Reenlistments:

SMSgt. Dzwonkus, Thomas V.
 SMSgt. Hogan, Peter M.

SMSgt. Rowan-Stern, John F.
 MSgt. Angelastro, Michael C.
 MSgt. Bare, Douglas R.
 MSgt. Benson, Paul G.
 MSgt. Cessna, Thomas E.
 MSgt. Colucci, Anthony C.
 MSgt. Delgreco, Steven W.
 MSgt. DiBrindisi, Michael
 MSgt. Jones, Rosa D.
 MSgt. Newton, Catherine A.
 MSgt. Rehm, Stephen H.
 TSgt. Alabiso, Michele A.
 TSgt. Connon, Glenn G.
 TSgt. Cloutier, Paul L., Jr.
 TSgt. Deleon, Steven O.
 TSgt. Dirienzo, Michael F.
 SSgt. Chapman, John R.
 SSgt. Dotson, Marvin
 SSgt. Karcz, Robert D.
 SSgt. Leamy, Gerard M.

SSgt. Manley, Shawn A.
 SSgt. Matherson, Gary M.
 SSgt. Morgan, Stacy J.
 SSgt. Mundt, Sandra C.
 SSgt. Williams, Thomas R.
 SrA. Brodmerkle, Warren M.
 SrA. Krawiec, Ryszard S.
 SrA. Mondor, Brian M.

Retirements:

Maj Brown, Judith O.
 SMSgt. Tankis, John C.
 MSgt. Durand, Robert R.
 MSgt. Langevin, John B.
 MSgt. Supple, Marta S.
 TSgt. Costa, Martha F.
 TSgt. Dwyer, Richard H.
 TSgt. Patenaude, William J.

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Robert F. Ulich 337 AS
 MSgt. Paul N. Larochelle 439 OSS
 TSgt. Lori D. Boucher 439 MSS

Air Force Commendation Medal

TSgt. Louis T. Costanza 439 MSS
 TSgt. Michael W. Crochiere 439 LSS
 SSgt. Stephen A. Perreault** 439 LSS
 SSgt. Jonathan B. Stark 439 OSS

Air Force Achievement Medal

MSgt. Bruce L. Westcott 439 LSS
 TSgt. Frederick Bushnell*** 439 LSS
 TSgt. Jeffrey J. Casson** 439 LSS
 TSgt. James P. Cronin*** 439 LSS
 TSgt. Lauraine N. Tatko 439 OSS
 SSgt. Albert S. Czupkiewicz** 439 LSS
 SSgt. Ronald R. Girard, Jr. 439 LSS
 SrA. Samuel W. Buck 439 LSS
 SrA. Omar N. Runcie 439 LSS

** second award

*** third award

Community College of the Air Force

October 1998 graduates:

MSgt. Sandra M. Michon 439 AW
 MSgt. Pamela J. N. White 439 CES
 TSgt. Mark A. Kenyon 58 APS
 SSgt. Michael E. Allen 439 CES
 SSgt. James M. Boudreau 439 MXS
 SSgt. John A. Sandova 337 AS
 SSgt. Joseph P. Schneider 439 MXS

April 1999 graduates:

MSgt. Bruce E. O'Keefe 439 CES
 TSgt. Frederick J. Chaison 58 APS
 TSgt. Paul L. Cloutier, Jr. 439 MXS
 TSgt. Michael J. Corcoran 337 AS
 TSgt. Julianna M. Glahn 42 APS
 TSgt. Donald R. Martel 42 APS
 SSgt. Todd J. Lasky 439 AGS

Mothers in service to country

Happy Mother's Day!

For Mother's Day, we want to recognize the role that mothers of Reservists play in supporting us and giving us the peace of mind we need to serve our country. We feel that *our* mothers exemplify a high level of dedication and commitment.

For single parents and military couples with children, it is often other family members who allow us to participate, especially our mothers. For years, our mothers have taken care of our children so we could perform drill weekends, RMPs, man-days, and attend school and annual tour. Even for Reserve parents who have non-military spouses, mothers and in-laws frequently help.

The Friday before each UTA, Capt.

Todd packs up two toddlers and drops them off at their grandmother's on the way to Westover. Although grandmother works full time, she willingly

takes the babies from Friday night to Sunday night. When the boys were infants, she traveled to Westover and stayed in a hotel room so they could nurse at lunch time and after work. She has used vacation time to watch the children while Todd attended military conferences, and also helped out when Todd's husband was on annual tour.

Todd's mother says that part of this is selfish, because she loves to spend time with her grandchildren. But the other part of her dedication is due to the fact that she never had an opportunity to serve her country directly, so she is making her contribution by enabling her daughter to serve.

TSgt. Dunfield's daughters are almost old enough to stay home alone now, but she attributes her current success to her mother's and family's assistance. She has never missed a Reserve weekend, has performed seven annual tours, and attended various military schools, symposiums and training events. All of this has provided a rewarding Reserve experience – and none of this would have happened without her mother's help.

It's very comforting knowing that, if and when the call comes to serve in a wartime situation, the children will be in good hands. Dunfield's ability to "be there" for her unit is directly attributable to her mother and family.

Many other people help us to serve. We should thank the people on our dependent care plans for their willingness to take over at a moment's notice and live with the uncertainty of when we might return. We have to thank the people we have appointed as guardians, in whom we have so much trust and faith that we choose them to take over our most precious role if we have to make the ultimate sacrifice. Sometimes we take all these helpers for granted; sometimes while our work is being recognized and praised (and paid!), there is someone else behind the scenes taking care of our biggest responsibility.

This Mother's Day, let's take the time to really thank our moms and all the other people who help us serve, and remind them that they too, are serving their country through us. God bless you, Mom – and God bless the USA.

by TSgt Michelle Dunfield
and Capt Lydia Todd
439th ASTS

COMMENTARY

Briefs

Base Advisory Council offers shuttle service

The Base Advisory Council is looking for volunteers to drive a shuttle van to contract quarters downtown to the Westover Club and back during Unit Training Assemblies.

According to SSgt. Wade Chmielinski of the BAC, reservists will be picked up Saturdays at 1830 and 2030 at off-base hotels and driven to the Club. Vans will return passengers at 2300 and 2400.

Anyone wishing to volunteer is asked to call Chmielinski at Ext. 2800. Volunteers will be responsible for picking up and returning the van and making sure it is clean before returning it to the base gym.

Air Force launches online newspaper

The first official newspaper of the Air Force—U.S. Air Force Online News—is an electronic newspaper, available to everyone with a computer and access to the World Wide Web at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper>.

Readers have access to the paper, which will be published every Wednesday, through a variety of options. Besides logging onto the newspaper website, they will be able to subscribe via e-mail at <http://www.af.mil.newspaper>. For airmen assigned to units with limited computer or internet access, the paper will be available as a printable file so unit leaders can run off hard copies to distribute throughout the unit.

Softball anyone?

The 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron is seeking individuals who want to participate in an after-hours softball league during A Unit Training Assemblies.

Any unit interested in fielding a team is asked to contact MSgt. Mitch Skura at Ext. 2035 or by return e-mail.

June UTA schedule

A UTA June 4-5
B UTA June 26-27

Reservists flying Balkan missions

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — As of mid-April, KC-135 air refueling tankers and C-130 transport aircraft were providing most of the Air Force Reserve Command's support in the Balkans.

Eight KC-135 aircraft, 15 aircrews and dozens of support people are in Istres, France to refuel NATO combat aircraft in the region. Another two KC-135s and crews will provide refueling from Geilenkirchen, Germany, during the last two weeks of April.

Five C-130s, nine crews and support people are deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany. They are there to shuttle Kosovo refugees from the southern Balkans to other areas of Europe and to deliver much-needed supplies to other refugees and to NATO forces participating in the operation.

Most of the 327 reservists deployed overseas in support of Kosovo are in aircraft maintenance and other logistics specialties. Other participating career fields include aerial port, medical and communications.

Reservists involved in these kinds of missions usually remain overseas for two weeks and are then replaced by other reservists on a rotational basis.

"The number of KC-135s and people is about double what was originally planned," said Maj. Eric Sillery, tanker aircraft operations officer for Headquarters AFRC's directorate of operations.

(AFRC News Service).

Honoring Vietnam veterans

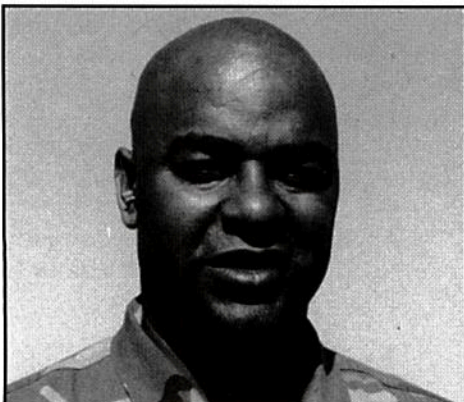


LIFTING THE FALLEN — Lt. Col. Charles Brown (left), 439th Logistics Group commander at Westover, and Lt. Gen. John Hall, 5th Air Force commander and commander of U.S. Forces Japan, lay a wreath on the Vietnam veteran's monument at a ceremony held at the University of Massachusetts in April. The ceremony was in conjunction with a leadership forum and ROTC appreciation day. To the right of General Hall is Brig. Gen. James Czেকanski, director of operations for Air Force Reserve Command, and former Westover commander.

(photo by TSgt. W. C. Pope)

PATRIOT

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



Published monthly for Patriots like MSgt. Leon K. Lashley, of Springfield, Mass., and 2,388 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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