

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB, MASS.
VOLUME 27, NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 2000



439th AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces.

Veterans Day formerly Armistice Day

KELLY AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – A celebration of worldwide peace has, in the past century, evolved into recognition of those who keep the peace world-wide.

"Armistice Day" started in 1921 when an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor – in England, at Westminster Abbey; in France, at the Arc de Triomphe.

These memorial gestures all took place Nov. 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated end of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., Nov. 11, 1918 – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a congressional resolution. Twelve years later, Congress approved the national holiday.

The national holiday recognizing peace on Earth would still be Armistice Day had WWI indeed been "the war to end all wars." Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

An answer to the question of how to pay tribute to those who had served in this latest, great war came in a proposal made by Rep. Edwin K. Rees of Kansas: Change Armistice Day to Veterans Day, and make it an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars. In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day.

On Memorial Day in 1958, the remains of two more unidentified Americans were interred in the plaza beside the unknown WWI soldier. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from the Vietnam conflict was placed alongside the others, but exhumed in 1984 and identified through mitochondrial DNA testing as Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie. Blassie was shot down near An Loc, Vietnam in 1972.

It has been decided that the crypt that contained the remains of the Vietnam unknown will remain vacant. An inscription on the crypt cover reads, "Honoring and Keeping Faith with America's Missing Servicemen, 1958-1975."

To honor all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps vigil day and night.

The memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns is the focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day. At 11 a.m. Nov. 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater.

Briefs

Public web site allows easy search for courses

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Air Force reservists interested in attending Professional Military Education or Continuing Education courses can now refer to a public web site for information.

By clicking on the Air Force Reserve Command public web site's News and Information icon and going to AFRC News Service, people can access a Microsoft Excel file containing titles, locations and course schedules for fiscal year 2001.

By making the schedule available on the public site (www.afrc.af.mil), reservists can browse the Excel file at their leisure from their home computer.

AFRC News Service

Revised commissary card reflects more visits

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, GA. – A revised version of the Reserve Component Commissary Privilege Card is effective Jan. 1, 2001.

The revised card contains 24 blocks to record the dates of 24 authorized visits. The current card, which expires Dec. 31, has 12 blocks.

The fiscal 1999 Defense Authorization Act, which was signed by the president Oct. 17, 1998, changed the entitlement from 12 visits to 24 for reservists in the Selected Reserve and reserve retirees younger than 60.

Air Force Command officials at Robins said unit reservists should receive the new cards during their December unit training assembly. AFRC News Service

November UTA schedule

A UTA Nov. 4 - 5
B UTA Nov. 18 - 19

Cover photo credit

The new control tower at Westover rises five floors, as construction continues. The 10-story, \$4.4 million project is slated to be completed in about one year.

-photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

PATRIOT

"This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *PATRIOT* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force."

"The content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated."

439th AW Commander
Col. Martin M. Mazick
Chief of Public Affairs/Co-editor
Gordon A. Newell
Wing Public Affairs Officers
Maj. Sally Morger
Capt. James G. Bishop
Public Affairs Specialist
Monica M. Lindberg

NCOIC/Editor
MSgt. Sandi Michon
Deputy NCOIC
MSgt. Tom Allocco
Deputy Editor/Illustrator
MSgt. W.C. Pope
Staff
SSgt. Charlie Cangemi
SSgt. Andrew Reitano
AIC Amber Ryals

Employers treated to aerial view of New England

by Capt. James G. Bishop

"I've been waiting my whole life to fly in a C-5," said Flight-Safety International Co. program manager Bob Hazel.

Hazel was one of 32 employers flying on the incentive ride during Employer Appreciation Day on Oct. 14. (The flight scheduled for the B-UTA was postponed due to mission requirements.)



FIELD STUDY — Bosses had a chance to see their employees in action during the Patriot Harvest deployment exercise held at Dogpatch in October. Col. Tom Mauzaka, 439th AW vice commander (at right) explains how the exercise is run as they wait for a C-130 to airdrop cargo in the area.

-photo by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Hazel, as a former crew chief for the T-33, T-37, and T-38 trainers and former Continental Airbus 300 pilot, is no novice to airplanes. "I feel quite at home," he said during the ride.

Hazel's employee, MSgt. Michael Angelastro, a flight instructor for FlightSafety International Co., was the military flight engineer for the C-5 ride that day. Since the pilot flew at low altitude—5,000 feet—Angelastro said he wouldn't have any time to view the foliage.

"We're too close to the ground for me to get distracted by the view today," he said during the flight. Not only were they closer to the ground, but the light aircraft traffic was much heavier than normal, he said.

"It's a gorgeous day, and everyone who owns a single-prop plane is out there flying," said Angelastro.

The C-5 flew up the Vermont-New York border, turned east and circled completely around Mt. Washington, the highest point in the northeast, then continued east over Maine at about 250 knots (that's 287.5 mph). Along the Maine coast, the plane cast a shadow larger than some of the islands it passed over.

"Very impressive," commented John Baske, director of operations at B.E. Aerospace. On the job, his team builds interior products—mainly seats—for all the major airlines.

Numerous people noted that the C-5 passenger compartment—with no windows, seats facing aft, more knee room, no overhead compartments, and ugly paint—didn't look like the civilian planes they'd

flown in. But they didn't expect it to look the same.

Looking out the large cockpit window at New England forests in full color, Manufacturing Manager Bill Ferris, from B.E. Aerospace, had a one-word reaction.

"Amazing," he said.

Not only did employers appreciate the flight, they appreciate their reservist employees. Mike Kline, manager of network services at KB Toys, said of SSgt. Norman O'Brien, "We brought Norm in as a temporary hire for Y2K. What he came in already knowing saved us two months of training."

As far as the time lost to military service, Kline said, "two weeks is a little tough but not unbearable."

The gathered employers represented a variety of occupations, from multinational corporations to small, independent businesses, public schools, local and state police, postal workers and car sales.

During the two-hour, low-altitude flight, employers took turns walking from the troop compartment to the flight deck to view the foliage and ask the pilots and flight engineers questions.

Before the flight, Col. Martin Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander, told employers that the active duty drawdown—from 726,000 in 1972, to the current number, 354,000—has placed a higher demand on reservists.

"Today we have more people stationed overseas on temporary duty than we had there full-time during the height of the Cold War," he said.

"We are both looking for good people," Mazick told employers during breakfast. "We end up sharing that resource."

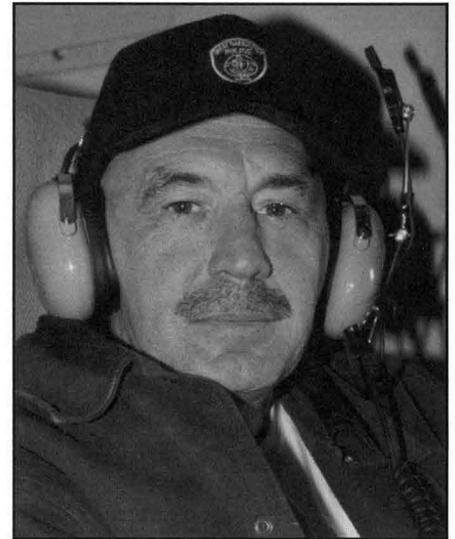
The role of the Reserve, he said, has changed beyond the full-scale mobilization to many smaller-scale volunteer, temporary assignments to hot-spots around the globe.

"Not a day goes by that we don't have someone overseas," he said, noting that during the first Aerospace Expeditionary Force cycle, a one-year time period, Westover sent 143 people to cover 210 overseas taskings.

Jose Nogueira, set-up administrator and lead man for the Rock-Tenn Corp. in Chicopee, lives in Ludlow and often sees a Westover aircraft flying above his house.

"Every time I see a C-5 flying overhead I say, 'I wish I could fly in one of those.'"

On Oct. 14, he got his wish.



ALONG FOR THE RIDE — Police officer Merritt Heady, a supervisor at the Holyoke Police Dept., listens to the flight operators' traffic during the employee incentive ride Oct. 14.

-photo by Maj. Sally Morger

Base recruiter related to first black mayor of Selma

by Capt. James G. Bishop

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, just after midnight, TSgt. Sirita Day's phone rang. It was her mother in Selma, Alabama.

Day had been waiting for the results of the most closely watched mayoral race in the country this year, where former segregationist incumbent Joe Smitherman was seeking his 10th term in office. Day's uncle, James Perkins, Jr., was trying for an upset, and a spot in the history books, by becoming the first black mayor in the city that stood at ground-zero for the civil rights struggle during the 1960s.

"Your uncle is the mayor," Day's mother said.

Day screamed so loud she woke her two kids, then yelled, "Thank you, Lord!" She stayed on the phone, talking with friends and family at campaign headquarters, until her 13-year-old cousin said, "I gotta go. The president's on the other line."

Day, articulate and personable, spoke from her office at Westover's recruiting station. She was born and raised in Selma, and her "Uncle Perk" has been like a second father to her through the years.

"He's been a mentor in my life since I was knee high to a duck, to use a Southern expression," she said. His lessons stayed with her: the importance of education, believing in yourself, and believing in God.

Day kept a scrapbook of news clippings about her uncle as he tried unsuccessfully to wrest the mayor's seat from the man who referred to himself as "the last white mayor of Selma." Perkins was sworn in as Selma's mayor Oct. 2.

Day knew those first two attempts, in 1992 and 1996, were long shots, but "I wanted the kids to know they had an uncle who tried" to take on a powerful opponent, she said.

This time, however, Smitherman won by just 300 votes in the Aug. 22 general election, forcing a runoff election between the two. Since the other two blacks running for mayor wouldn't be on the ballot to split the vote, Day said she felt "eighty-five to ninety percent hopeful" that Perkins would win. When the results came in, the tally stood at 6,220 for Perkins and 4,884 for Smitherman.

Smitherman, 70, has been mayor since 1964, eight years before Day was born. Six months into his first term, Smitherman witnessed "Bloody Sunday," when state police attacked a crowd of about 600 trying to march from Selma to Montgomery to protest voting rights. At the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, state police used horses, tear gas, and billy clubs to turn back marchers.

Day's great grandfather brought young Goldie Page, Day's mother, to Broad St. to watch the marchers go by.

Smitherman later renounced segregation. Through it all, Selma's predominantly black voters elected him nine consecutive times.

Day met Smitherman while she was in high school. Smitherman told Day and the other athletes they were doing a good job. "The man I met seemed personable," she said.

When she was 12, Day traveled to Washington, D.C., to visit Perkins and his wife. They toured the White House, and he took Day to Camden Yards in Baltimore to see her first major league baseball game. It was her first big trip, and the experience gave her a taste for life beyond the Deep South.

Selma didn't strike Day as a racist city growing up, until her senior year. That year, 1990, proved to be a watershed year for Selma High — and for Day. The school, integrated at that time, is now 99 percent black. "A lot of white families pulled their kids out to private schools after that year," she said.

Day said she also saw racism up close in 1990. The predominantly black track team got into trouble one time for drinking beer. Since school officials couldn't narrow down who did it, the whole team, including Day, was suspended. The same year her debate team also got into trouble for coming very late to school after a field trip. The predominantly white team was dismissed with a warning, and the matter was dropped. Then the first elected black superintendent was fired. There were marches and angry protests.

"It felt like I was back in history," she said. It wasn't a good feeling. "I took the quickest way out of Selma as possible." She joined the Air Force.

Day went to RAF Alconbury, England, as a munitions systems specialist, then moved to Wards AFB, Calif., as a member of the elite NASA space shuttle recovery team. After a bad experience with a supervisor at her next station in Ramstein AB, Germany, she left active duty.

She learned from that experience. "I let my supervisor determine my next move," she said, and resolved not to repeat the mistake. Soon after leaving the Air Force she decided she wanted to keep the camaraderie of military life.

In Selma, Day joined the Reserve and helped her uncle run "one of his many businesses," a consultant/writing service and a temporary employee agency, she said. Day was the first "temp" Perkins would send out to a company, to prove the company's quality.

Then in 1998, she accepted an offer to go to recruiter's school and begin a four-year active duty tour as a reservist. She lives in Chicopee with her three-year-old son Keylon and her eight-year-old daughter Keristen. Her husband, Leon, an active-duty Air Force munitions inspector, is currently in Southwest Asia.

In the Northeast, Day stands out among recruiters. "You're going to remember me," she tells potential recruits. "I'm the only black female recruiter around."

She's good at it. "Very good," said CMSgt. Gary Anderson, senior recruiter at Westover. Day was the base's top recruiter for two quarters running. "She has all the characteristics you want recruiters to have," he said.

Recruiting headquarters agreed. When the *Air Force Times* wanted to interview a recruiter, the Deputy Director of Reserve Recruiting, Lt. Col. Kevin Reinert, gave the reporter Day's name as one of his best.

"I enjoy my job," Day said. "That's why I'm here."

But with the coming changes in her hometown, she also feels drawn back to Selma.

"I love to see anyone prosper," she said. "For it to be my own family member in the history books is something overwhelming to me. I feel truly blessed to be a part of this."

"He's been a mentor in my life since I was knee-high to a duck, to use a Southern expression."

-TSgt. Sirita Day



Climbing new heights: Westover bio-technician hikes Mount St. Helens 20 years after eruption

Editor's note: In August, Karl Lindberg from Bioenvironmental Engineering Services at Westover took a day's leave after a conference on hazardous material management in Portland, Ore., to hike one of the most famous peaks in the Northwest: Mount St. Helens. The volcanic mountain erupted on May 18, 1980, killing 57 people and forever changing the landscape. What follows are excerpts from an account of his hike.

by Karl Lindberg

PORTLAND, Ore. — Archie Archambeau and I went to an REI (hiking) store half a mile from our hotel, and asked about some good day hikes. They told me I couldn't summit Mount Hood without crampons, an ice ax, cold weather gear, and, oh yeah, experience with all of the aforementioned items. So, I asked about Mount St. Helens, and the REI dude looked at Archie and I and said, "You guys look like you're in pretty good shape." We laughed, but I said OK, what do I need?



HIGH VIEW — Mt. Rainier is visible over the crater and blast zones of the volcano, Mount St. Helens.
-photo by Karl Lindberg

He gave me a map of St. Helens, and directions to Jack's Store/Restaurant near the mountain. I also bought a book about 50 hikes on Mount St. Helens. The guide said

that the hike I was looking at was considered "STRENUOUS." The climb was 4,600 feet in 4.6 miles (one way, 9.2 total) to the "new" summit of Mount St. Helens, which has an altitude of 8,365 feet.

I did question the altitude and my ability since I've never been above 6,000 feet. I thought for about 10 seconds, and said, "What the hell - you only live once, and I may never be out here again."

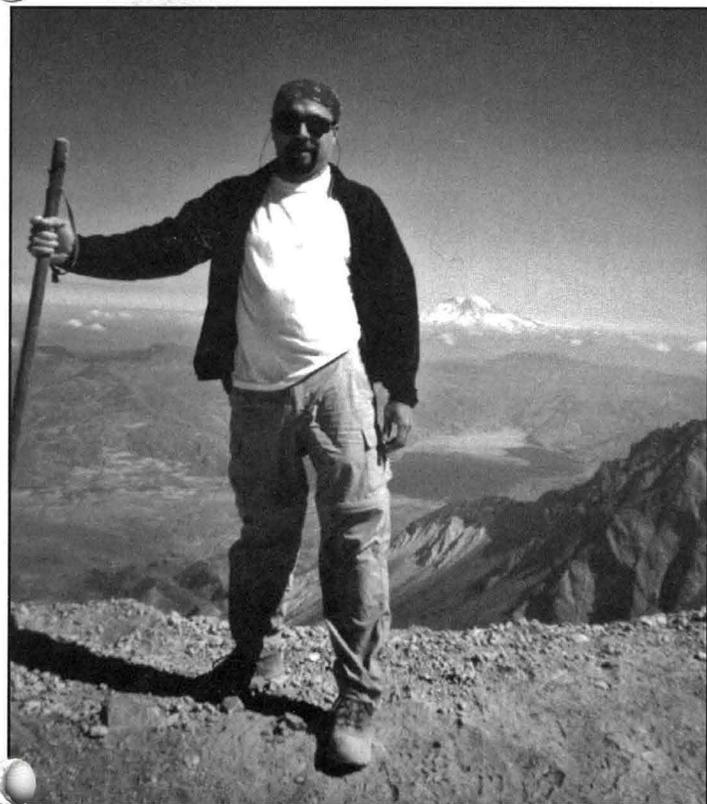
Archie and I drove to Jack's Wednesday afternoon. (The conference was over). I had directions to the Climber's Bivouac (the start of the climb) so we decided to take a look

at what I was getting myself into. We got lost but it was a nice ride a quarter of the way around the mountain. We made it back to Jack's for the 5:30 p.m. lottery of 50 climbing passes (needed to go above 4,800 and to the summit). It turns out there wasn't more than 50 people, so we all got passes (for \$15)!

I got up at 4 a.m. on Thursday, drove Arch to the airport and then headed for Mount St. Helens. Got to Jack's at 7 a.m., logged in, and rented a hiking stick for \$5. Thirty minutes later, I was on the trail, hiking through the tallest spruces and hemlocks I've ever seen. Some had to be 4 - 5 feet in diameter. I passed a few people in the first two miles. I was a little "jacked up" - did the first two in about 45 minutes, but it was only a 1,000-foot vertical climb in those first two miles. After the two-mile point, I hit tree line. The views were amazing. Mount Hood was visible to the south, above sporadic, low clouds.

Then, the climb began. After the first two miles, the trail became the Monitor Ridge trail, named because that's where a lot of the seismic equipment was before the volcano blew in 1980. I passed about a dozen people in the next mile, and was passed by one "dude" who had crampons and an ice ax on his pack. I was hiking next to glaciers for the first time ever. The trail was clear of all snow and ice. The REI guy had described the hike as SLOGGY. That turned out to be the best word, real or not, to describe it! On every step, when not on rocks, your boots lost an inch or two into the gravel/ash mixture. It was like walking

Continued on page 10



YOUNG MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN— Karl Lindberg stops for a moment on top of Mount St. Helens.

Practice makes perfect: Patriot Harvest exercise tests reservists' skills

Article and photos
by MSgt. Sandi Michon

While many civilians probably spent the weekend leaf peeping in New England in October, Westover reservists were training hard.

The weather was balmy and the foliage brilliant as more than 350 reservists from 12 base units participated in Patriot Harvest to test their deployment skills in a realistic environment.

During the two-day exercise held in the drop zone called Dogpatch, reservists responded to different attacks and changing requirements in the field dotted with tents, wooden structures and vehicles. Other units tested their skills while supporting the exercise.

"The wing commander has to be confident the wing can mobilize and deploy — and this exercise is the best way to accomplish that," explained Col. Tom Mauzaka, 439th AW vice commander. "You can read a book about football, for instance, but you don't really know football until you actually play," he said.

According to Mauzaka, the exercises are held yearly, alternating local and remote locations. "This is really a practice EORI," said Mauzaka, referring to the Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection coordinated through the Air Mobility Command every five years.

"In June, the wing practiced processing personnel for deployment, now we practice the actual deployment," said 1st Lt. Kelly Braudis, 439th MPF commander. "In the front end, we figure out who's going where, what they are taking and make sure everything



TOO LATE — A CES reservist "dies" because his fellow reservists could not get his chemical warfare gear on in time.

is in order. The actual deployment means getting where you're going and knowing how to function there," she explained.

Shortly after setting up camp at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, the reservists were "attacked." Four were "killed-in-action" and 15 wounded. Medical teams tended the wounded and Services processed the dead.

Marines from the 474th Marine Wing Support Squadron, Detachment Bravo, also benefited from the exercise as they spent part of the morning on embarkation training — operating heavy equip-



TYING YOUR PATIENTS — War "casualties" are loaded and secured to the cargo floor of the Quonset Point, R.I. C-130 to be transported for further treatment during the Patriot Harvest exercise in October.

ment to load the C-5.

"We don't do it enough," said Marine Corporal Stuart Gardener, "Until today, all we have done is read about it."

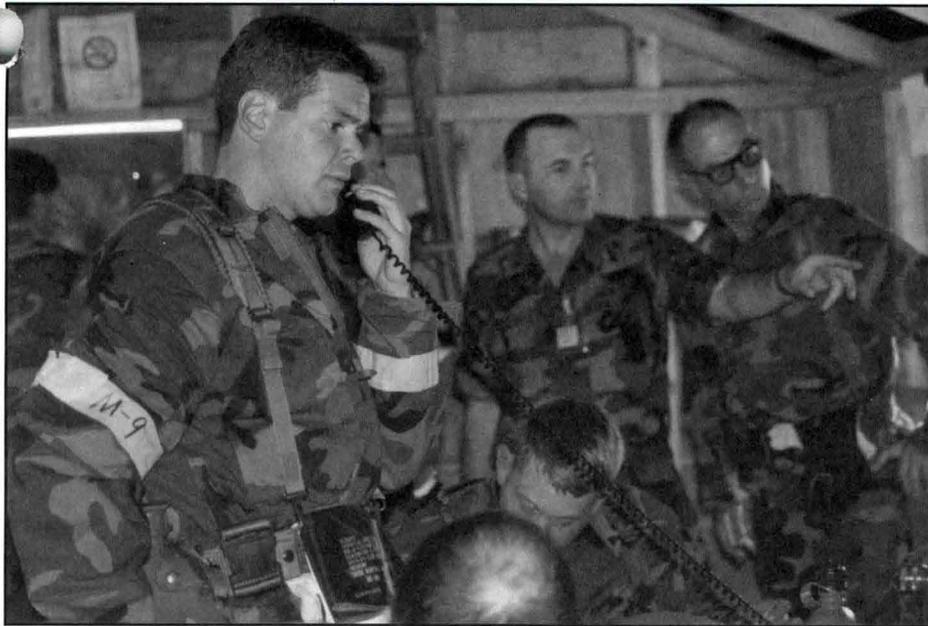
Between "attacks," C-130s from the Quonset Point Air National Guard, R.I., flew low-level drops similar to those needed to bring supplies to troops in a war theater. The Quonset Point C-130s regularly train at Westover as there is no drop zone in Rhode Island for the heavy cargo drops.

After one attack, while the C-130 engines were still running, a truck filled with casualties backed up to the rear ramp. Members of the 439th AES loaded litters and equipment, battling the hot exhaust blast. Patients were secured to the cargo floor in minutes and the C-130 taxied out.

Just as the din of departing C-130s died down, hundreds of reservists sprang into action for a "scud attack, MOPP4" indicating a chemical attack in progress.

As green smoke wafted across the camp, Col. James Carey, heading the Survival Recovery Center, struggled with damage control and communication. In the command hooch, sweat poured freely as

Continued on next page



COMMAND AND CONTROL — Patriot Harvest exercise in October tested the wing's ability to respond to challenging changes. The Survival Recovery Center, left, was the hub that responded to "attacks", and coordinated airlift of equipment and wounded personnel. Rhode Island C-130s (below) provided airlift, and the ANG practiced low-level drops and loading procedures.



Patriot Harvest exercise tests skills

Continued from previous page

"players" worked in the heavy chemical warfare gear. The camp loudspeaker squawked commands, reservists studied chemical concentration levels, and barked reports from the different units in the field.

Civil engineering personnel in a bunker scrambled to strap on and zip up their chemical warfare gear. They struggled to help an "unconscious" reservist don his gear as he was already twitching from chemical exposure. They took too long and he "died." It was sobering to hear the evaluator say, "All right, this guy is dead. Now you have to decide if you leave him here or not." They discussed the merits of the choices.

"The more you sweat in peacetime, the less you bleed in wartime" Braudis quoted from an anonymous source.

Training exercises like Patriot Harvest have a two-fold purpose. One is ATSO (the ability to survive and operate in a conventional or chemical attack), the other is operations training — knowing your job cold and functioning in changing environments.

Bobby Knox, chief of readiness, coordinates the exercises, and advance planning takes months.

"Planning started months ago, and reached a high pace last week. Coordinating the airflow from Quonset Point took the most time," said MSgt. Al Dedinas, readiness technician. "The flurry of calls in the last week was incredible," he said.

Braudis said the exercise is a lot of work, but it's the only way to get even a limited idea of what a wartime scenario would be like as you're putting on the your mask and diving under tables.

"It's [the exercise] a very effective tool, Braudis said. "It targets newer personnel and more veteran reservists who haven't been out in the field for a while."

After two days in the field, evaluators filed their reports that will become a source for valuable training checklists for the months to come.

So, while Westover reservists may have missed a foliage drive in the country, they trained to fulfill a deeper drive to defend their country.

FAST FOOD



MOBILE KITCHEN TRAILER — Folks working the chow wagon during October's exercise spent a lot less time over the heat thanks to their reconfigured mobile kitchen trailer. The trailer was converted early this year from a fuel-burning to a generator-run unit in a joint effort of the dining facility and the civil engineers. The conversion sliced the food preparation time of three hours in half, snuffed the flames making it safer, and made it easier to transport since no fuel is needed.

-photo by Maj. Sally Morger

Base Honor Guard duty increased 300 percent

by Capt. James G. Bishop

During a funeral in Charlemont, Mass., MSgt. Thomas Roe stood ramrod straight while Taps played, folded the American flag, then presented it to the widow of the deceased veteran. She clasped Roe's hand in an emotional grip and held on.

"You can see in their eyes how much it means to them," said Roe, superintendent of the base honor guard.

Because of a recent change in the law, the number of funerals performed by Air Force honor guard teams has increased twelve-fold since January 2000, according to Air Force officials. Locally, the number of military funerals has increased about 300 percent, said Roe.

The new law, the National Defense Authorization Act, Public Law 105-261, which took effect Jan. 1, said that anyone who has served in the military is entitled to military funeral honors. Before the change, rendering military honors occurred when the mission allowed for it, Roe said. Now, it's a requirement.

Adding to the increased workload set in motion by the new law is also dwindling active duty forces and an increased number of World War II veterans dying.

Based on Veterans Administration statistics, within eight years, the number of veteran deaths will rise to 620,000 annually, for a daily average of 1,700 funerals.

Before the law change, Westover's honor guard had an average of one request every six to eight weeks. After the change, the number of requests jumped to one every other week.

An honor guard detail of at least two people will render military funeral honors for an eligible veteran at no charge if requested by the family. The Air Force requests at least 48 hours advance notice to organize the funeral honors detail.

Eligible members include:

- Military members on active duty
- Military retirees
- Members and former members of the Selected Reserve
- Eligible U.S. veterans of any war
- Other U.S. veterans who served at least one term of enlistment and separated under conditions other than dishonorable.



ATTENTION — Members of the Base Color Guard display the American, German, and 439th Wing flags during a VIP ceremony outside the Base Hangar.

-photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

The honor guard does more than funeral details, however. They also perform dining-ins, dining-outs, military retreats, change-of-commands, parades, dedications, civilian inauguration ceremonies (such as mayors), and VIP receptions.

The base honor guard even performed in front of more than 60,000 fans at Foxboro for the New England Patriots-Miami Dolphins football game in Sept. 1999.

Westover's responsibility is to augment the honor guard at Hanscom AFB, Mass., which has an area of responsibility for the six New England states and the northern half of New York state.

To meet the honor guard's increasing obligations, Roe is always on the lookout for "people who have pride in themselves and the military and want to give something back to those that have served before us."

To learn more about military funeral honors or the honor guard, visit www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil or call 1-877—mil-honr (1-877-645-4667). Locally, contact Roe at 413-557-3342 for more information.

DOD: Flu vaccine delayed this season

by Capt. James G. Bishop

For the 2000-2001 influenza season there will be a delay in the availability of influenza vaccine throughout the United States, including the Department of Defense.

In response to the national delay in the availability of influenza vaccine for this season, the DOD has announced its plan for prioritizing immunizations to maintain optimal military readiness and protect its most vulnerable populations.

"The Department will delay organized influenza vaccinations campaigns until early to mid-November, pending receipt of adequate supplies of vaccine," according to Dr. J. Jarrett Clinton, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Locally, the vaccine may be ready by the November B-UTA, said CMSgt. George Kudla, health services manager at the 439th medical squadron.

The delay has been created by two factors -- a slow-growing component of this year's vaccine formulation, along with production problems at two of the four pharmaceutical companies that produce influenza vaccine, according to a DOD spokesman.

Currently, available supplies will be administered first to operational military

personnel, health-care workers with direct patient contact, and defense enrollment eligibility reporting system enrollees (both active and non-active duty) who have high-risk medical conditions.

To the extent possible, these groups will be done simultaneously. Next in order of priority will be military trainees, groups in close contact with high-risk persons, all other military members and mission critical DOD civilians at facilities outside the continental United States, and all other beneficiaries.

Nationally, the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control expects the same number of flu vaccinations to be administered this year, "but a substantial amount of vaccine will reach providers later than usual," according to a CDC press release dated Oct. 6.

The CDC expects a national distribution of approximately 75 million doses this year, compared with about 74 million doses distributed last year.

In previous years, most vaccine doses usually become available to providers by October, with 99 percent of doses available before December.

This year, health officials predict that as many as 18 million doses will be distributed in December alone.

For more details on the flu vaccine



Illustration by MSgt. W.C.Pope

and the delay in the vaccine's availability, visit the military health system/Tricare web site at www.tricare.osd.mil

For more information about the national delay in the distribution of influenza vaccine from the CDC, visit www.cdc.gov.

Annual awards announced

An awards selection board was convened on Oct. 14, 2000 to select the annual outstanding Airman, NCO, Senior NCO, Company Grade Officer, Civilian Employee, and Civilian Supervisor of the year.

Congratulations to the following individuals:

Airman:	Pinto, Donahue R.	SrA.	439 ASTS
NCO:	Pashko, Scott M.	TSgt.	337 AS
Senior NCO:	Bradshaw, Anna P.	MSgt.	439MSS
Officer:	Barden, Michael J.	Capt.	439 LSS
Civilian:	Syriac, Mary	GS-09	439AW
Civilian/Supv	Reith, Linda S.	GS-11	439MSS

The Westover annual awards will be presented at the December Commander's Call in the base hangar. These individuals will also be in competition for the AFRC-level awards. The outstanding contributions these individuals have made to their respective units and the 439th Airlift Wing is highly commendable and deserving of recognition.

Firing range reminder

Trespassing on the small arms range at Westover Air Reserve Base is not only illegal, but is also dangerous due to live fire.

If valid entry is needed to the firing range located on Training Avenue, please contact SMSgt. Michael Grady, Ext. 2060 or TSgt Quinn Moriarty, Ext. 2032 at the 439th Security Forces Combat Arms section.

McMillan gate closed ThreatCon Alpha

Until further notice, the McMillan Gate, also known as Gate 2, Granby, will be closed due to ThreatCon Alpha considerations.

Climbing... continued from page 5

through a slushy New England storm.

The guide book described the hardest part of the climb between 6,000 and 7,000 feet, but I thought otherwise. The last 800 - 900 feet was a pure pumice/gravel, soggy mixture. I kept looking up to the summit - where the wind was blowing the ash over the tip of the crater rim - thinking, the summit wasn't getting any closer.

The trail behind me was full of dots slowly making their voyage up to the Promised Land. I stopped a lot to snap pictures and drink water (3 quarts by the end). I had unzipped the legs off my pants and taken off my fleece jacket at tree line, but put them both back on near the top.

I made it to the top (false summit) in 3 hours and 16 minutes. (The book called for a round trip time between 7 and 12 hours). I

stayed there for a view, thinking about how I had never been that high - EVER. I could see Mount Rainier (elevation 14,410 feet) to the north over the crater and blast zone of St. Helens. Spirit Lake still has logs/trees in it from the blast.

The lava dome, 2,000 feet directly below into the crater, had steam coming out of it. That reminded me I was on a volcano! The sun was shining the whole time. I took pictures, then pulled out the guide book, which reminded me that the true summit was still .3 miles around the crater rim clockwise. I told a few of my new "friends" that I was going to the summit and they said, "What?" I showed them the book, and most said that this was close enough for them.

The rest of the trail looked pretty hairy, and it was. It followed the rim of the crater through the soggy mess, just above the Dryer Glacier. On the way, the "pucker factor" was intense. I caused a few minor slides that fell down onto the glacier. Thank God for the hiking stick. That part of the trail was the width of two foot steps, side by side, on a very steep section. I made it to the REAL summit in another 15 minutes. I looked back at the false summiteers, held the hiking stick above my head, and let out a good yell. Made it back to the false summit - feeling all brave and victorious and was congratulated by the false summiteers.

The guy with the ice ax and crampons asked how it was and I told him about the pucker factor. He responded with, "Dude, that's what this is all about." I wished him luck and sat and enjoyed my water and beef jerky lunch. I looked over at the summit and watched the guy make it up, and snapped a picture of him. When he returned he said the trail was pretty intense and thanked me for my warning. I had to clean my glacier glasses because of all the ash. Every foot step created a minor dust storm.

I began heading down after about an hour at the top.

CCAF Graduates: October 2000

MSgt. Kevin R. Brown	439 AES
TSgt. Carol Carrington	439 AES
TSgt. Michael W. Crochiere	439 LSS
TSgt. David Fallon	439 OSS
TSgt. Deborah Housely	85 APS
TSgt. Susan R. Jimenez	85 APS
TSgt. Shane Robitaille	439 MSS
TSgt. Lisa Spence-Elder	439 AGS
SSgt. Kenneth Chouinard	439 MXS
SSgt. Sabine Dietrich	439 MDS
SSgt. Frederick McElligott	439 AW
SSgt. Wendell O. Mutia	439 LSS
SSgt. Steven G. Peterson	337 AS
SSgt. Justin E. Thurber	439 MXS

Patriot Puns

by MSgt. W.C.Pope



Dedicated to those involved in Airlift Rodeo, Readiness Challenge, and Fuels Rodeo

CORRECTED AWARDS AND DECS (from September 2000 issue)

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. William Spence	439 AW
MSgt. Anna P. Bradshaw	439 MSS
MSgt. James V. Divita**	439 AW
MSgt. Martha A. Marten	439 MSS

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt. Daniel J. Carr**	439 LSS
MSgt. Ann Fluegge	439 MSS
MSgt. William S. Thorne III	439 LSS
TSgt. Augustin Cardonna	439 LSS
TSgt. James P. Garrity	42 APS
TSgt. Steve Z. Kukawka	42 APS
SSgt. Gerard A. Cote	42 APS
SSgt. James M. Payne	42 APS

**second award

On the way down, I crossed paths with a few people I had passed on the way up (and a few new faces). I wished them luck and told them "you can spit that far," and that they had plenty of sunlight left! On the way down I went down to the Dryer Glacier and walked around for a while, and made a snowball on August 17th! I had to stop on the way down and get the soggy mess out of my boots.

The trees were even more amazing on the way down. I made it back to the car after 3 hours and 45 minutes (total-including the summit rests). I went to Jack's, registered back in, returned my stick, and celebrated my record-high climb with a beer and a bowl of cheddar chowder.

Patriot People

Name: Kim Heard
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 32
Address: Brooklyn, NY
Unit: 722nd ASTS
Position: Medical Technician
Civilian position: Corrections Officer
Favorite food: Salmon, baked potato and salad
Years of service: 13 years
Favorite sport: Swimming, basketball
Favorite hobby: Singing
Ideal vacation: Trip to Jamaica
Best way to relax: Read a good book
Preferred entertainment: None
Favorite hero: Iyanla Vansant
Favorite music: Jazz
Favorite movie: "Ghost"
Favorite aircraft: C-5
Pet peeve: None
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Feed the homeless and buy a new house



Photo by TSgt. John Jackson

SSgt. Kim Heard

Patriot Praises

Enlistments:

SSgt. Fitzgerald, Robert J.
 SSgt. Joy, Nadine A.
 SSgt. Kramer, Brian G.
 SSgt. Labelle, John D.
 SSgt. Squier, Reid A.
 SSgt. Ward, Leah D.
 SrA. Baptiste, Wayne A.
 SrA. Brady, Richard K.
 SrA. Hamner, Kevin D.
 SrA. Holms, Christopher M.
 SrA. Kuhlman, Patricia A.
 SrA. Martineau, Shawn P.
 SrA. Menta, Michael, Jr.
 SrA. Montague, Ronald K.
 SrA. Payton, Toure J.
 SrA. Prudhomme, Debra R.
 A1C Kitchens, Parthangia R.
 A1C Miguel, Ligia D.
 A1C Molitor, Patrick J., Jr.
 A1C Notto, Tracy L.
 A1C Pietrantonio, Michael R.
 A1C Roberts, Charity M.
 A1C Thompson, Lee A., III
 A1C Westbrook, Lauren M.
 AB Castro, Dairen M.
 AB Davis, Rodney A.
 AB Kouffie, Shane L.
 AB Rainey, Mark J.

Reenlistments:

CMSgt. Brogis, Roger J.
 CMSgt. Brosseau, Roy R.
 CMSgt. Gilbert, Kenneth J.
 SMSgt. Dimartino, Joseph S.
 SMSgt. Karrasch, Robert W.
 SMSgt. Lamontagne, Paul J.
 SMSgt. Olenick, Michael L.
 SMSgt. Westcott, Bruce L.

MSgt. Avey, Marie R.
 MSgt. Helems, James A., Jr.
 MSgt. Jones, David P.
 MSgt. King, Kenneth B.
 MSgt. McGinnis, Robert J.
 MSgt. Mottor, David A.
 MSgt. Post, Steven F.
 MSgt. Stawasz, Robert L.
 TSgt. Balboni, Susan M.
 TSgt. Boucher, Lori D.
 TSgt. Campbell, Patrick K.
 TSgt. Colon, Miguel A.
 TSgt. Cote, Gerard A.
 TSgt. Dill, Gregory
 TSgt. Florian, Daniel G.
 TSgt. Glahn, Julianna M.
 TSgt. Greenwood, Edward J., Sr.
 TSgt. Jedrey, Richard A.
 TSgt. Kearney, Deitra E.
 TSgt. Langford, Keith A.
 TSgt. Langhill, David A.
 TSgt. MacDougald, Kenneth
 TSgt. Paradis, Bruce W.
 TSgt. Pelletier, David J.
 TSgt. Popiak, John P.
 TSgt. Rosica, Peter
 TSgt. Sims, Michael W.
 TSgt. Sneed, Robert R., Jr.
 TSgt. Weber, Gary M.
 TSgt. Willabay, Lauraine N.
 TSgt. Wood, Jean Pierre
 SSgt. Bellerose, Michael R.
 SSgt. Curry, Thomas F.
 SSgt. DeJordy, Daryl D.
 SSgt. Eastman, David C.
 SSgt. Fitzgerald, Robert J.
 SSgt. Gauvreau, Richard W., Jr.
 SSgt. Hellyar, Ryan M.
 SSgt. Howell, Clayton A.
 SSgt. Joy, Nadine A.
 SSgt. Kelly, David A.

SSgt. Kramer, Brian G.
 SSgt. MacNevis, Scott A.
 SSgt. Manning, Michael D.
 SSgt. Merritt, Gary A.
 SSgt. Miceli, Robert C.
 SSgt. Padden, William C.
 SSgt. Rhodes, Judith D.
 SSgt. Smith, Kurt W.
 SSgt. Squier, Reid A.
 SSgt. Stewart, Kim M.
 SSgt. Theriault, Scott T.
 SSgt. Ward, Leah D.
 SSgt. Williams, Sean E.
 SrA. Baptiste, Wayne A.
 SrA. Brady, Richard K.
 SrA. Fisher, Katie L.
 SrA. Holms, Christopher M.
 SrA. Kuhlman, Patricia A.
 SrA. Lemay, Brandon H.
 SrA. Leonardo, Stephen A.
 SrA. Lincoln, Peter J.
 SrA. Losano, Joseph A.
 SrA. Menta, Michael, Jr.
 SrA. Mercado, Wanda Y.
 SrA. Montague, Ronald K.
 SrA. Prudhomme, Debra R.
 SrA. Serricchio, Jennifer L.
 SrA. Sifuentes, Aaron M.
 SrA. Spruill, Brent S.
 SrA. Williams, Jemel L.
 A1C Miguel, Ligia D.

Newly Assigned:

Capt. Baglione, Emily B.
 Capt. Putnam, Robin C.
 CMSgt. Cullen, Hugh G.
 2nd Lt. Thong, Jean Siew Lin
 2nd Lt. Waseda-Hida, Kyoko
 TSgt. Ptxey, Marshall J.
 SrA. Dickinson, Jason E.

SrA. Billeci, Craig J.
 SrA. Stager, Eric J.
 SrA. Subjects, March J.
 A1C Frost, Stacy J.

Retirements:

TSgt. Wade, Stephen M.

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Paul T. Babin** 439 CES
 SMSgt. Thomas F. Galloway 439 CES

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt. Beverly A. Cote** 439 MSS
 MSgt. Andrew J. Dupuis** 439 OSS
 TSgt. Tracie A. Aube*** 439 OSS
 TSgt. Louis T. Costanza 439 MSS
 TSgt. Jason C. Harder 439 ASTS
 TSgt. Richard R. Michaud 439 CES
 TSgt. Francis Robles 439 CES

Air Force Achievement Medal

1st Lt. Russell L. Baker 439 CES
 SSgt. Thomas E. Audet 439 CES
 SSgt. David A. Jeleniewski 439 CES
 SSgt. Arthur H. Riley 439 CES

second award *third award

Congress adds more military construction projects

by Jim Miller
AFRC Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — During the past three years, Congress annually added tens of millions of dollars to the president's military construction budget for Air Force Reserve Command. The fiscal year 2001 Military Construction Appropriations Act, which took effect Oct. 1, is no exception.

Under the president's budget for FY 2001, which was announced Feb. 7, the Reserve was to get \$14.9 million for two major construction projects, unspecified minor construction projects, and planning and design.

The major projects are constructing a C-130 assault strip at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., and altering a hangar and installing a fire suppression system at Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa.

When President Clinton signed the act July 13, it contained another three major construction projects for an additional \$20.7 million plus an extra \$1 million for planning and design for a total AFRC "MILCON" of \$36.6 million. The additional major projects are an add-on and more alterations to the fire station at Homestead ARS, Fla.; a second phase in constructing the services complex at Grissom ARB, Ind.; and altering and repairing airmen's quarters at Westover ARB, Mass.

"Our capital investment program for facilities, while never enough, is being im-

plemented with unparalleled success," said Col. John W. Mogge Jr., the AFRC civil engineer. "Our construction agents continue to work through tough issues and get the money working for us.

"The real heroes in this process are the AFRC project managers who are working the details and making the contract awards happen," he said. "For the third year in a row, we have awarded all projects in the same year of appropriation."

Last year the president recommended \$12.2 million to pay for part of five major projects with another \$16.4 million in FY 2001 to complete those projects. Another \$35 million was to follow in later years. However, Congress decided to move up the timetable and tacked on another six major projects for a total AFRC MILCON of \$64.4 million.

For FY 1999, the president proposed \$5.2 million for a major project, \$2.9 million for minor projects, and \$2.4 million for planning and design. Congress added close to \$24 million for seven more major projects for a total AFRC MILCON of \$34.4 million. The previous year the president recommended \$14.5 million, and Congress doubled that with a \$30

million appropriation. For FY 1997, the Reserve military construction recommendation was \$52 million, and Congress tacked on another \$1 million.

With the exception of the Coast Guard, the Department of Defense's reserve components submit construction requirements separately from the active duty but compete with the active force for military construction dollars.

Military construction projects for the reserve components represent only a fraction of the Department of Defense's military construction program.

The Air Force Reserve's portion of the total Air Force military construction appropriations has been less than 5 percent for the past five years. By contrast, the Air National Guard received four to six times more in appropriations than the Reserve.

At Westover, the existing three-story air men's quarters have not been renovated since construction in 1957.

The \$7.45 million project renovates two 23,360-square-foot dorms, each with 71 visiting airman rooms. Repairs include installing elevators and converting from central latrines to private bathrooms, as well as renovating rooms, lounges, hallways and covered exits. (AFRC News Service)

"The real heroes in this process are the AFRC project managers who are working the details and making the contract awards happen,"

**— Col. John W. Mogge Jr.,
AFRC civil engineer**

PATRIOT

PATRIOT online: <http://www.afrc.af.mil/units/439aw>



Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Mary Kate Casey of Brimfield, Mass., and 2,402 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

439th AW/PA
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE
100 Lloyd Street
East Wing, Suite 103
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #43
CHICOPEE, MA