

PATRIOT

THE TEAM OF CHOICE

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB, MASS.

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OCTOBER 2000

42nd aerial porters become 'Patriot Partners' in Guam

by SrA. Bradford Harrison
42nd Aerial Port Squadron

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam – Patriot Partner 2000 demonstrated the viability of the Air Force's Total Force Policy when three units—including 40 members of Westover's 42nd Aerial Port Squadron—came here to work Aug. 5-19.

In all, 86 men and women made the trip halfway around the world to complement the 634th Air Mobility Support Squadron for two weeks.

In addition to Westover's troops, 20 people deployed from the 46th APS, Dover AFB, Del. The Guard's 145th APS, Charlotte, N. C., provided the rest.

Members of the units worked all three shifts, and each of the three sections – passenger service, air terminal operations center and airfreight – had an average of eight reservists or guardsmen on duty during each shift.

The purpose of the exercise is to bring in Reserve and Guard units to run an active-duty aerial port. While there may have been some apprehension among active-duty members, they quickly stepped aside to let the visitors show what they could do.



READY TO ROLL — A C-5 sits on the ramp at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, during the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron trip in August.

—photo by SMSgt. Scott Reed

"I was impressed by the synergy that everyone brought to this," said Senior Master Sgt. Garry Monroe, 634th AMSS superintendent.

After one week, the combined units had serviced more than 60 cargo and passenger aircraft, from the smaller military C-9 to the large commercial Boeing 747. The

reservists and guardsmen processed 1,145 passengers and handled 1,257 tons of cargo. Those amounts nearly doubled by the end the second week.

Other aircraft serviced included Navy C-130s, and Air Force C-5s, C-17s and C-141s, in addition to commercial cargo aircraft that carry military cargo as part of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet.

During the first week, Typhoon Ewinaria forced Kadena Air Base, Japan, to evacuate its aircraft and reroute much of the cargo and many passengers through Andersen. Reservists and guardsmen assisted that effort, providing fleet service to aircraft and processing passengers and aircrews. They worked in the airfreight section, which combined cargo processing and ramp services, passenger service and the ATOC.

"ATOC was really impressed with the Reserve and Guard," said Staff Sgt. Willard Bryant, the 634th AMSS reserve component liaison. "Usually we get the two-weekers in for training, but this was different."

Different is a good choice of words. The training was all on-the-job and real-time, with aircraft on the ground, cargo to be moved and

"Part of me was happy..."

Panamanian native reflects on U.S. withdrawal

By SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

On Dec. 31, 1999, Genetta Staple-Ward returned to Balboa High School, her alma mater set on an U.S. military base in Panama. She watched several Panamanians tear down the American flag and replace it with their own two-star flag.

The sanctity and peacefulness of this occasion contrasted sharply to the time the Panamanians tried this years earlier. Back then several Panamanians were arrested for trespassing and inciting a riot. A couple of people were killed in the melee.

"I had mixed feelings about the whole thing," said Staple-Ward, referring to the U.S. transfer of control over the Panama Canal to Panama. "One part of me was happy that these people were free to walk where they wanted to walk in their country, but the other part of



SSgt. Staple-Ward

Continued on page 10

Continued on page 10

Recruiting and Retention

You may remember that back in December I laid out my priorities for the wing. They are 1) Readiness, 2) Recruiting and Retention, 3) One Standard, 4) Infrastructure Improvement and 5) Quality of Life Improvement.

I want to talk about the second priority this month. It's no surprise to anyone that our business is people-intensive. You are a critical resource we happen to share with your family and your employer. It is especially noticeable when your shop is undermanned. Keeping you in the Wing is critical to our continued success.

We are working hard to improve things around the base so Westover is a place you enjoy. You already know the improvements that are underway in lodging.

We are trying to predict future events to give you time to plan for them. Implementing AEF and forecasting future taskings are ways the Air Force is attempt-

ing to give us longer lead times to allow for planning. This past year, our command took the initiative to push through our gaining command the enlisted grade enhancements.

Despite our efforts, we still have folks that feel they must retire or make a change that causes them to hang up their reserve spurs. To that end, we have an intensive on-going effort to recruit from those separating from active duty and in the non-prior service area. At the Air Force's high point for manning in the mid-80's, there were about 45,000 airmen separating every year. Today, there are about 11,000 airmen separating from active duty each year and these potential applicants are sought after by the reserve and the guard.

After two years of hard work, we are finally fully manned with qualified recruiters, but there are only nine to cover from the tip of Maine down through Rhode Island and from the East Coast to upper New York state. Here is where you can help. If you know someone in your local community or a friend separating from active duty, tell them about us, tell them what we have to offer and that we are **HIRING!** With their permission, pass their name onto one of our recruiters or give them our phone number.

At the September newcomers' orientation, there were six people who had joined the wing because one of you told them about us. A personal recommendation goes a long way. We could potentially have 2000 recruiters working to bring folks into our Wing. Our future depends a great deal on our ability to recruit new members and retain each one of you.

Thanks for all you do!

by Col. Martin M. Mazick
439th AW Commander



Commentary

Briefs

USO seeking new executive director

The Pioneer Valley Chapter USO is looking for someone to assume the position of Executive Director to replace Sandy Wakefield who is leaving that position.

The successful applicant will primarily be responsible for helping military members and their families. Skills include planning, organizing, communicating (both written and oral), networking and fundraising.

Experience working with non-profit, volunteer or military organizations is a plus. The work schedule is flexible but would require 15-20 hours per week. A monthly stipend is provided.

Anyone interested may contact either Maj. Dave McGrath at (413) 568-9151 Ext. 1242 or Wakefield at (413) 593-6395.

Voucher information available of web

Travel vouchers submitted by civilian and military personnel must have a minimum of three copies of the 1351-2, two copies of all orders, amendments and supporting documents.

For reimbursable items such as rental cars, lodging and conference fees, two copies of receipts are required. One copy must be the original.

For further clarification, refer to the travel voucher guide, which may be accessed at <https://cefmt05/orgs/aw/fm/fmdHOME.htm>.

Correction

The name of TSgt. William Forbes was inadvertently omitted from an article that recognized awards won by Westover's medical units that appeared in the August issue of the Patriot.

Forbes, a member of the 439th ASTS, was selected as the Outstanding Air Reserve Technician.

October UTA schedule
A UTA October 14-15
B UTA October 28-29

PATRIOT

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Workplace safety policies protect moms and babies

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

As a major employer, Westover is a leader in recognizing that every job, whether it's keeping office files or fueling an airplane, has inherent dangers, which must be addressed. The obligation to ensure a safe workplace takes on a special urgency when a reservist or civilian employee is pregnant.

As soon as a pregnant woman knows she is pregnant, she should notify the 439th Medical Squadron to talk to a doctor about the health of herself and her fetus. The consultation covers a range of health issues beyond the workplace, such as the risks to the fetus of toxoplasmosis, an infection transmitted by cats and undercooked meat.

The next step is an interview with Marian Mathieu, chief of the 439th Support Group Bioenvironmental Engineering Services, about work conditions. Mathieu also serves as the contact for civilian employees.

She may follow up the interview with a visit to the reservist's workplace and interviews with supervisors. They need to get a clear picture of workplace hazards to the mother and her fetus and assure that guidelines are established and followed to ensure safe working conditions.

"The fetus has a brand new developing system and is much more susceptible to developmental problems from exposure to chemicals or radiation," she said.

"Because their system is still developing,

exposure could stop development of certain organ systems or limbs. A fetus's nutrition comes through the placenta and any chemical that can get into the mother's blood stream would cross right over and go directly into the baby's blood stream," she said.

Every job has unique hazards and no job is exempt from the need to take precautions. It's easy to understand how someone working with paint, fuel or a cleaning solvent may be exposed to chemicals, which could be dangerous to the fetus.

Less obvious are such factors as that in the first and third trimester a mother becomes more easily fatigued. "This is something that a supervisor should recognize. For example, if she's on her feet constantly, she should be given more frequent breaks," Mathieu said.

Other challenges arise when a mother can no longer fit into personal protection equipment. She will find that with changes in her weight and body shape, her center of balance is changed, making it more difficult

and dangerous to step on a stool to reach something in an office.

Those who have jobs which involve potential exposure to chemicals or radiation are either exempted from those tasks or subjected to more frequent monitoring of their level of exposure.

Respirators cannot be worn to avoid an additional strain on the heart and lungs of the mother. Pregnant reservists are also restricted from flying status and cannot deploy.

After giving birth, a mother who is breastfeeding must take precautions to avoid chemical exposure in order to keep their milk pure," Mathieu said.

Obstetricians recommend that a new mother take a minimum of six to eight weeks off from work to have time for her body to recover and to bond with her baby," she said.

"Fortunately, our supervisors have had an excellent attitude about protecting the safety of

mothers and their babies. That's just human nature. We have yet to see a problem," Mathieu said.

For more information, about pregnancy and workplace safety, call Bioenvironmental Engineering Services at Ext. 2663.



Westover aircrew transports bronze-medal aerobatic fliers

Photo and article by Capt. James Bishop



STUNT PILOT — Pilot Chris Panzl (right) pushes his Staudacher S-300D to the Base Hangar.

Eight single-engine planes from the U.S. Aerobatic Team fit snugly—sideways—in the cargo bay of the C-5 from the 439th Airlift Wing. The planes, along with nine civilian pilots, returned Aug. 23 from the 2000 World Aerobatic Championships in Muret, France.

The U.S. Men's Team earned the overall bronze medal, while being edged out by Russia and France for the gold and silver medals. The U.S. Women's Team also won the overall bronze medal.

The team consists of three women and six men. Kirby Chambliss took the gold medal in the Free Program and the bronze medal in the Four Minute Free category. Chambliss, a 40-year-old airline pilot for Southwest Airlines, has over 17,500 hours in the cockpit. When he was hired by Southwest at age 24, he became the youngest pilot hired by the company. His 1993 Edge 540 aircraft weighs around 1,100-pounds and is designed to withstand 12 times the force of gravity.

During the competition, pilots flew five flights. First came the warm-up flight, then the freestyle, in which the pilots make up their own sequence of events. The final three programs are given to the pilots by the judges, and the pilots are not allowed to practice before the competition.

During the 13-day competition, some 75 pilots competed in four flight categories.

Lt. Col. Maidelis is Support Group deputy commander

By Maj. Sally Morger

Lt. Col. Talimadis I. Maidelis, a reservist at Westover for 20 years, is the deputy commander of the 439th Support Group. He moved into the job Aug. 1, after serving as commander of the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron.

In civilian life, Maidelis works in the avionics and telecommunications business as a manufacturing engineer manager with D&E Technology. He travels to Westover from his home in Cheshire, Conn.

In talking about his years at Westover, Maidelis quickly points out that he is the last of the C-123 navigators still actively serving on base. He's also one of Westover's last two remaining C-130 navigators, sharing the honor with 439th Air Wing Vice Commander Col. Thomas Mauzaka.

The 439th flew the C-123 Provider between 1974 and 1982, then the C-130 Hercules until 1987.

Speaking of his new job, Maidelis says he's looking forward to working closely with the personnel, especially mentoring the young squadron commanders in the Group.

Awards and Decs Board Fiscal Year 2001 schedule

The following is the Awards and Decoration Board schedule for fiscal year 2001. Anyone interested in sitting on a board please contact Career Enhancement at Ext. 3953. Board members need to be MSgt. or above.

DATES:

- October 15 (A UTA)
- November 5 (A UTA)
- December 21 (Thursday)
- January 18 (Thursday)
- February 15 (Thursday)
- March 11 (A UTA)
- April 8 (A UTA)
- May 17 (Thursday)
- June 21 (Thursday)
- July 8 (A UTA)
- August 16 (Thursday)
- September 9 (A UTA)

2001 UTA Schedule

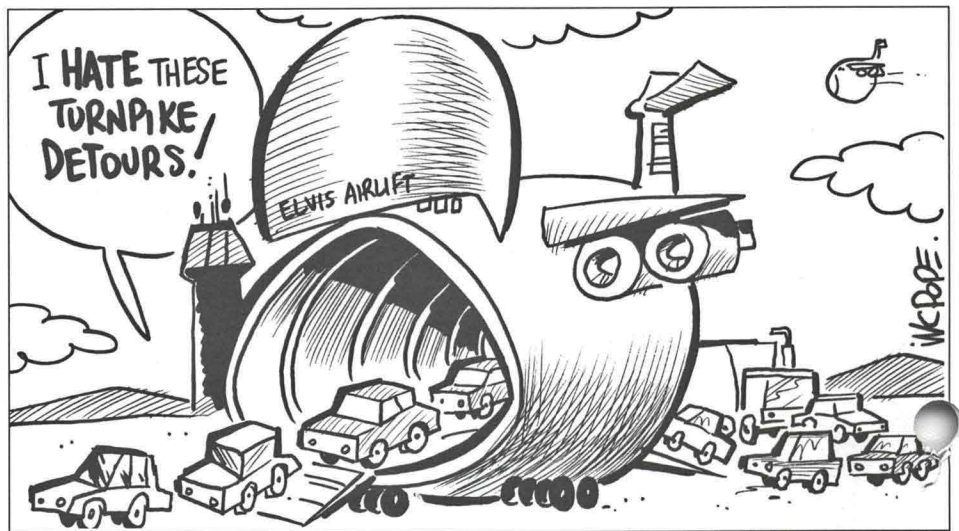
The following is the combined UTA schedule for Westover ARB and geographically-separated units for Fiscal Year 2001.

Holidays and other important dates:

- 9 Oct – Columbus Day
- 10 Nov – Veterans Day
- 23 Nov – Thanksgiving
- 25 Dec – Christmas
- 1 Jan – New Year's Day
- 15 Jan – Martin Luther King Day
- 19 Feb – President's Day

- 15 April – Easter
- 13 May – Mother's Day
- 28 May – Memorial Day
- 17 June – Father's Day
- 4 July – Independence Day
- 3 Sept – Labor Day

	A-UTA	B-UTA	85 APS	722 ASTS
October	14-15	28-29	14-15	7-8
November	4-5	18-19	4-5	4-5
December	2-3	9-10	2-3	2-3
January	6-7	20-21	6-7	6-7
February	3-4	24-25	3-4	3-4
March	10-11	24-25	3-4	10-11
April	7-8	21-22	7-8	7-8
May	5-6	19-20	5-6	5-6
June	9-10	23-24	2-3	2-3
July	7-8	21-22	7-8	7-8
August	4-5	18-19	4-5	11-12
September	8-9	22-23	8-9	8-9



Special Family Readiness Supplement to the Patriot

Family Westover Air Reserve Base Readiness

Oct - Dec 00

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Family Readiness Center Takes On New Look

In the past three years, the Family Readiness Center has been developing a new smarter way to do business to better serve its customers. Many folks don't realize that we provide service to everyone who is assigned to Westover (including DOD civilians and their families), retirees and members of other military services and their families.

The office is developing into an extensive information and referral

agency. While we are not experts on everything you might need help with, chances are we either have the information on hand or can locate it quickly through our network of resources across the military and civilian communities.

We've been developing lots of resources for you on parenting, relocation, careers, family life and personal financial management. Be sure to look on the last page for a

listing of new books, tapes, brochures, etc., each quarter.

The addition of this quarterly newsletter along with a new website opening off the base website by 15 Oct are opening new doors for us to tell you about new materials and programs going on. We hope you like our new look and share with your family members.

Linda Rieth

Financial Fitness Coming Your Way

by Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- In this day and age, one thing's for certain -- you need financial savvy to manage your money well. Besides familiar checking accounts, savings accounts and credit cards, there is online banking, the debit card and the lure of Internet shopping.

In an effort to help service members maintain financial fitness, DOD developed a CD-ROM-based personal financial management training program. DOD began mailing out 4,000 of the six-disk packages in late February to family centers and Army

Community Service centers at 375 installations, said Ollie Smith, deputy director of the Office of Family Policy here.

DOD officials are considering distributing the training course to the Coast Guard as well, she said.

(Continued on page 4)

Special Family Readiness Supplement to the Patriot

Page 2

Family Readiness Needs Volunteers

Looking to meet new friends, acquire new skills, or simply get out of the house for a while? There are no wrong reasons for wanting to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering in a visible atmosphere, learning some new administrative skills, or sharpening the skills you already have, call the Family Readiness Center at 557-3024. If you have that friendly, outgoing and helping attitude, we can provide you with the opportunity to assist people everyday.

Old Soldiers' Home Needs Christmas Cards

The Family Readiness Center will begin accepting Christmas cards addressed "To A Veteran" after Thanksgiving until 20 Dec. Open your hearts to remember a veteran this Holiday season.



Family Care Plans Make Separations Easier

Air Force Instruction 36-2908 FAMILY CARE PLANS establishes responsibilities and outlines procedures governing family care plans. This instruction applies to everyone in the regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve (AFR), and Air National Guard (ANG) members.

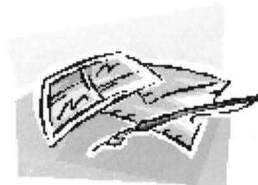
Who will have a family care plan? All Air Force members with families will have family care arrangements that cover all reasonably practical situations, both short and long term. It will detail and provide a smooth, rapid transfer of responsibilities to another individual during the absence of the member.

Who must complete the AF Form 367? Single parents, dual military couples, and those who have a unique family situation (as

determined by the commander) will complete an AF Form 357. Members will notify their commander or first sergeant immediately, or within 60 days if changes in your personal status or family circumstances require you to complete an AF Form 357. These include; birth or adoption of a child, loss of a spouse, assumption of sole care for an elderly or disable family member, absence of a spouse.

How do you develop a family care plan?

Consult with the Staff Judge Advocate, Military Personnel Customer Service, Financial Services Office, Chaplain, and



Family Readiness Center. Make arrangement for the designee or caregiver to have access to; adequate funds to support family members during your absence, the use of Base Exchange and commissary (if applicable in your area). Execute a power of attorney to allow for medical care and enrollment in school. Ensure your care provider gets a copy of your AF Form 357.

You can receive a copy of a sample Family Care Plan by calling the Family Readiness Center at 557-3024.

Military Family Week 19—26 November 2000

The Family Readiness Center will be celebrating Military Family Week by giving away family games and puzzles to the first 10 families who send in narratives on why their military

family is the best. Narratives should be sent to 439 SPTG/DPF, 570 Patriot Avenue, Box 27, Westover ARB, MA 01022 not later than 29 Oct. (Pictures will be accepted as well.)



Growing Reliance on Reserve Component Brings Family Concerns

A letter from the wife of a Reservist - read at a family conference at the Army National Guard helps explain the urgency that Defense officials have placed on family readiness in the Reserve Component.

Gail McGinn, Principal Director of OSD's office of Personnel Support, Families and Education, used the letter to illustrate some of the challenges that face why a Family Readiness Strategic Plan is vital.

Reserve Component members and their families. The fact that Reserve families are isolated from the main

stream of the Active Duty military community was clearly reflected in the letter.

"Active Duty families get indoctrinated in the beginning and have access to base facilities and services," the wife wrote. "They also have other base families who are going through the same deployment cycle. Reserve families in most cases have never been on or near a military base... they do not have a cadre of friends and neighbors facing a similar situation."

Ms. McGinn told attendees at the Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Strategic Planning

Conference "what any service member or family most wants during deployment is peace of mind. Service members - whether they are Active Duty, National Guard, or Reserve - want to know that when they deploy, their families will be all right."

She said that the vision of their strategic plan is "to promote peace of mind for America's peacekeepers and their families."

The September conference was the beginning of a carefully planned initiative to ensure that the readiness of families in the Reserve Component is comparable to that of



Active Duty personnel.

The focus on family readiness in Reserve units is part of the QoL Executive Committee (EXCOM) effort to do a more effective job of supporting service members who are assigned to duties that are far from military installations.

A copy of the Strategic Plan can be found at www.raweb.osd.mil or call the Family Readiness Center for a copy.

SGTMOMS.COM

By MSgt Debbie Malek
Family Readiness Technician

I often think about the educational opportunities that would have passed me by had it not been for the Air Force Reserve. Recently, I had the fortunate opportunity to attend the DOD Quality of Life Technology Symposium in Seattle, WA. There were many inspiring speakers and demonstrations, however; I'd like to share one in

particular that will be of interest to you.

I met a young mother named Carrie Lee Gissiner who maintains a website called Sgt Mom. This site is dedicated to you - the "purple" suiters of the military and your families. Surfing here will lead you to links on any subject imaginable that would be of interest to military members. A sampling includes: pen pals to support our troops, family life resources, parenting, families in crisis, health links, veteran and re-

tiree links, education, bereavement support groups, etc.

Take a stroll to the website "www.sgtmoms.com" and spend hours perusing the myriad of information about benefits earned for defending our country.

A special *thank you* goes out to Carrie Lee as she continues this "labor of love" for all department of defense military members and the families who support them.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Testing for Military Spouses

A great benefit of a reserve military member is the ability of you, the spouse, to take the CLEP and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) Subject Standardized Testing (DSST) examinations FREE OF CHARGE.

This examination program is unique to the reserve components so you are only able to test at national guard or reserve Education Offices (including ours). Also, the spouse is the only family member eligible to participate and you must have been issued a DD Form 1173, Dependent Identification Card.

As a non-stocking center, tests are ordered for specific

individuals. Therefore, advance notification is required prior to actual testing. It takes about 30 days to obtain the test and it can be kept on file for only 45 days. If not taken within the 45 days, it is returned to the issuing agency.

More information is available from the Base Education and Training Office. A copy of the reference material is also available at the public library and local book stores.

As a non-stocking center, tests are ordered for specific individuals. Therefore, advance notification is required prior to actual testing. It takes about 30 days to obtain the test and it can be kept on file for only 45 days. If not taken within the 45 days, it is returned to the issuing agency.

If you are contemplating college or attending a university now, check with your college counselor to see what their policies are on accepting CLEP or DANTES examinations for college credit. If they or you have any questions, contact SMSgt Kristine Seney at the Base Education and Training Office via email to kristine.seney@westover.af.mil or telephone (800) 367-1110 (Ext. 2042).

Also, more information about these exams can be found at <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/exam/DSST.htm> and <http://www.collegeboard.org/clep/html/indx001.html>.

Great Internet Websites

www.momsonline.com

The parentally challenged will find plenty of company and help here.

www.sgtmoms.com

Advice from hundreds of military moms.

www.lifelines4qol.org

Multi-Service website created by the Navy to distribute hot-off-the-press family information

New Materials Available at FRC

My Family is a Military Family—Child's activity booklet packed with things to do while his/her parent is TDY.

Deployment Guide - Lots of great information on being prepared for deployment or TDY.

Call the Center to have one mailed to you.

Financial Fitness Coming Your Way (Continued from page one)

Family policy officials are also exploring the possibility of making more packages because of requests for additional copies." Smith said. The CDs contains a self-paced, interactive course that provides the basic financial tools needed to make sound financial decisions. Smith said the course is geared to appeal to people aged 18 to 25 and features 11 stand-alone training modules. Available training topics include: Principles of Per-

sonal Finance; Planning and Budgeting; Banking and Checking Accounts; Pay, Allowances and Benefits; Getting Insurance; Using Credit Wisely; Large Purchases; Fixing Financial Problems; Saving and Investing; Consumer Scams, Bad Habits and Getting Help; and, Relocation. The Family Readiness Center is currently working on making copies to distribute to units for check out by the November A UTA.

Westover's MPF chief trains with foreign forces

by Capt. James G. Bishop
photos by 1st Lt. Kelly Braudis

Not all countries run their Reserve forces like Americans do.

First Lieutenant Kelly Braudis, military personnel flight commander here, reconfirmed that truism during her week at the seventh International Junior Officer Leadership Development Seminar held at the site of the Dutch Air Force Academy on Woensdrecht Air Base in Bergen Op Zoom, Netherlands.

One discovery: many Reservists in other countries don't get paid. Citizen soldiers she met from the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, France, Italy, Germany, Estonia, and Finland all volunteer to work for free after a one or two year mandatory period of service. They had to buy their own uniforms, and most did not receive pay during their week at IJOLDS. Some even had to pay for their airline ticket to attend.

Unlike reservists in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States, reservists received no medical or retirement benefits, and had to buy their own uniforms, although in many countries the government provided medical and retirement benefits to all citizens.

Nearly 90 participants — all Reserve junior officers — represented 12 countries at IJOLDS, which ran July 1-7.

Braudis discovered other differences. To the Estonians, for example, the American first lieutenants' uniforms looked out of place, since the single bar denotes a junior enlisted rank in their military, Braudis said.

One Army Reserve officer from Norway didn't

own a uniform. Since he worked full time at an Air Force base as a civilian, he borrowed an Air Force uniform to wear during the seminar.

The best experience to Braudis was

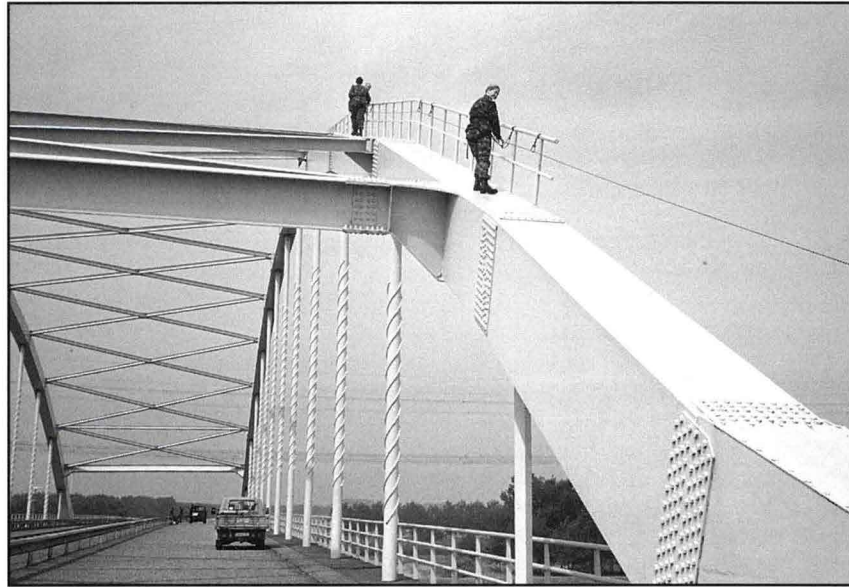
son was a professional actress, hired to have a "panic attack" deep in the mine.

"She was really convincing," Braudis said. "She was hyperventilating and broke into a sweat." The woman was one of a core of actors at the Dutch

Air Force Academy who create "disturbances," then discuss the group's reaction.

Braudis was the leader during the panic attack.

On July 4, the Dutch hosts brought the IJOLDS participants to the seacoast, where they toured the dykes and locks, some over one mile long. A whole section of the country sits below sea level, so Dutch



HIGHER EDUCATION — Participants at the International Junior Officer Development Seminar scale a bridge during a training exercise. The week-long conference brought officers from 12 nations together.

meeting the people from other countries and finding out about them.

"I was amazed at their level of dedication and their patriotism," she said. When she asked why the foreign reservists serve for free, to a person, they pointed to their chests and said, "Because it's my country."

She noticed many of her international counterparts' leadership styles seemed more laid back. The Europeans, conversely, were amused by the fact that Americans jump into a problem, as on the leadership reaction course. The European officers struck Braudis as more contemplative.

During one confidence-building exercise, their Dutch hosts had attendees rappel down the side of a bridge, then walk over the top of the steel bridge supports, roped in.

One of the most interesting exercises took place in an old chalk mine in the southern Netherlands near the French-German border. The mine had been used during World War II to hide Jews, and had 75 kilometers tunnels and maze-like paths.

The group was told that another person would be joining them on the tour. What the group didn't know was that the new per-

engineers built an intricate system of locks to keep out the sea. "Driving across the top of the locks, you can see the land on one side, three to five feet below the level of the sea," she said.

"The Dutch were wonderful hosts," she said. On their first day, the Dutch bussed the participants to Amsterdam, where they toured the famous canals and watched a film about Holland's culture, such as smoked cheese, fishing, wooden shoes (as a novelty, not as regular clothing item), and they toured the house of 17th century artist Rembrandt.

That evening, the group ate in a restaurant next to the house where Anne Frank and her family hid during World War II.

Braudis had just read "The Diary of Anne Frank" within the year, so she slipped out of dinner early to tour the house and the neighboring museum that American director Stephen Spielberg built with the profits from his movie, "Schindler's List." The museum had the original data cards from the concentration camp where the Franks were sent and information about the family that hid them.

She highly recommends the IJOLDS experience to junior officers.



ON BELAY — First Lieutenant Kelly Braudis hooks to a safety line at the leadership seminar at Bergen Op Zoom, Netherlands.

Panamanian native reflects on U.S. withdrawal... *continued from page 1*

me was like 'this is my high school you're trampling on.'"

Staple-Ward, a staff sergeant working in information management here, is a Panamanian native of West Indian descent, yet was heavily influenced by U.S. culture growing up in Panama City. Her "mixed feelings" about the turnover stem from this dual identity.

Staple-Ward, 34, was born in Gargos Hospital, a U.S. Army hospital located in the Canal Zone Territory of Panama. Americans, who were granted control of the Canal Zone in 1904 after helping Panama achieve independence from Columbia, built the hospital in the early 20th century to provide medical care to migrant canal workers like Staple-Ward's great-grandparents who came from Jamaica and Barbados.

"There were people from all over the Caribbean Islands who came to work on the canal," she said.

In 1978, Congress authorized gradual takeover by Panama of the canal and withdrawal of U.S. troops by the end of 1999.

For twenty years Staple-Ward lived in Panama City and spoke Spanish amid mixed ethnicities. She played with kids of all colors — Mestizos, West Indians, Indians, and whites — as well as mixed social classes. At home with her family she spoke English with a Caribbean lilt.

In contrast to this Central American community, she visited well-kept Army bases, celebrated American holidays (including the Fourth of July and St. Patrick's Day), and was educated in English along with children of military members.

The staff sergeant's mother, now retired, worked in the emergency room admitting office at Gargos. Because the hospital was run by the United States, she and her family were granted health care and education benefits. Staple-Ward and her brother were allowed to attend Balboa High School, which was made up of 98 percent American students, taught by

American teachers.

Staple-Ward perceived Americans as enigmatic then. "They walked differently — taller with head held high. They were confident. They had money. Civilians who worked at the bases received better health care and better education. It was one of the best jobs to have."

The other two percent of students at Balboa were sons and daughters of civilian employees or wealthy Panamanians who paid heavy tuition. These were the only Panamanian kids shuttled to pristine base schools.

"The bases were beautiful: clean, green, and well kept. Appearance was important to Americans and it was obvious they spent a lot of money on making things look good," she said.

Because of the transient nature of military families, upon graduating from high school Staple-Ward found most of her friends had left Panama. This helped prompt her decision to move to New York in 1986 and enroll at LaGuardia Community College in Queens.

Three years ago she joined the Air Force Reserve. Last year she became an American citizen.

Despite her U.S. citizenship, her military membership, and her early immersion in American culture, she still sometimes feels like an outsider. "Sometimes I still refer to Americans as 'they,'" and people look at me weird," she said.

She felt this way when the Panamanians tore down the American flag. She was ambivalent: delighted that the Panamanians had complete control of their country, yet dismayed at the ungratefulness directed toward the United States. Staple-Ward wasn't sure if she supported the turnover or not.

That was until a recent visit. She says that the Canal Zone area is much different and she believes it may not have been advantageous for Panama to encourage American troops to leave. Her parents, who are still

there, report that the minimum wage has fallen from \$5 to \$2 per hour and many jobs have been lost.

"And it's a lot dirtier now," she added, referring to the poor, unkempt conditions of what used to be the military base.

"I understand wanting independence. But the U.S. military helped the Panamanians, yet many act as if it took something away," the Chicopee resident said. "I don't think many of them appreciate what the military has done for them."



FULL CIRCLE — SSgt. Genetta Staple-Ward speaks with Guatemalan villagers earlier this year.

Recently Staple-Ward returned to Central America, in an Air Force uniform, to serve as an interpreter for the 439th Medical Squadron that deployed on a humanitarian mission to Guatemala.

When she tells the story about her trip, she talks like an American. She still has her Caribbean accent, but now she replaces the "they" with "we."

"While in Guatemala I realized what makes us different," she said. "We walk differently; we walk like kings, like we have a purpose, like they teach you in boot camp. We act that way, we perform that way, we believe in that way. And the Guatemalans looked at us like we were God. I know how they felt because I've been there."

Now she knows how it feels to be an American.

Patriot Partner from page 1...

passengers needing immediate attention. Members of the partnership rose to the challenge and blended in quickly with their active-duty counterparts.

Monroe's impression of Patriot Partner 2000 was similar.

"I've never seen active-duty, Reserve and Guard units come together like this," he said. "For some of my people, it's the first time they've ever done this."

Each year Andersen serves as a training site for 12 to 15 Reserve and Guard units to perform their two-week annual tours.

"It (the deployment) exceeded my expectations," said Maj. David

Murphy of the 145th APS, commander of the three visiting squadrons.

While at Andersen, the visitors received training on materials handling equipment, including two 60K "Tunners," the Air Force's newest aircraft loaders. They also worked with the Global Air Transportation Execution System, a computer-based processing system, and handled explosives, household goods and cargo bound for Navy ships, foreign bases and the continental United States.

"We will definitely have another one (Patriot Partner) here again," said Bryant. "It's been great."

Patriot People

Name: Michelle Greene
Rank: A1C
Age: 28
Address: Worcester, Mass.
Unit: 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
Position: Medical Administration
Civilian position: Child Care
Favorite food: Salad
Years of service: Less than one year
Favorite sport: Volleyball
Favorite hobby: Taking dance classes — tap, ballet, and jazz
Ideal vacation: Beach in Hawaii
Best way to relax: Listening to music
Preferred entertainment: Going to a Broadway show
Favorite hero: My mom Donna
Favorite music: All types of music
Favorite movie: "When A Man Loves A Woman"
Favorite aircraft: F-117
Pet peeve: Lazy people
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Go shopping and invest some of it.



Photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

A1C Michelle Greene

Patriot Praises

Promotions

SMSgt. Dube, Marilyn A.
 SMSgt. Knutson, Robert N.
 SMSgt. Martin, Robert J.
 SMSgt. Rampino, Joseph A.
 MSgt. Curto, Louis C.
 MSgt. Ford, William H.
 MSgt. Jackson, Barbara A.
 MSgt. MacGee, Donald E.
 MSgt. McCarthy, Shelli A.
 MSgt. Robinson, Trevor O.
 MSgt. Surozenski, Gary J.
 TSgt. Aickelin, Ronald A.
 TSgt. Daunais, Robert A.
 TSgt. Foote, Steven J.
 TSgt. Greer, Maryann V.
 TSgt. Hall, Curtis A.
 TSgt. Iannuzzi, Michael
 TSgt. Langhill, David A.
 TSgt. Laroche, Edward F.
 TSgt. Markelonis, Brian A.
 TSgt. Mello, Herbert J., Jr.
 TSgt. Niemiec, Joseph
 TSgt. Olexa, John A.
 TSgt. Parker, Julie A.
 TSgt. Primiano, Dennis M.
 TSgt. Quigley, Shawn M.
 Tsgt. Robert, Theresa M.
 TSgt. Swain, Stewart P.
 TSgt. Troy, Stephen P., Jr.
 TSgt. Tuller, Eric W.

TSgt. Zona, Sabatino P., Jr.
 SSgt. Antoine, Amber M.
 SSgt. Creamer, Bryan D.
 SSgt. Delesline, Charlene K.
 SSgt. Foley, Paul M.
 SSgt. Giardini, Anthony C., Jr.
 SSgt. Kennedy, Jason M.
 SSgt. Little, Dustin J.
 SSgt. Murray, Petra V.
 SSgt. Patterson, Careyann M.
 SSgt. Polson, Paul A.
 SSgt. Rabel, Stephen M.
 SSgt. Singh, Tony J.
 SSgt. Tardy, Jerome M.
 SSgt. Tubman, Daniel T.
 SSgt. Vongphakdy, Bobby S.
 SSgt. Warmsley, Floyd, III
 SrA. Beadle, Robert J.
 SrA. Gleason, Michael D.
 SrA. Ouimet, James A.
 SrA. Pouliot, Kathryn A.
 A1C Cody, John A.
 Amn. Plummer, Elroy O.

Enlistments:

SSgt. Parker, Julie A.
 SSgt. Theriault, Scott T.
 SrA. Williams, Jemel L.
 A1C Antezana, Ronald M.
 A1C McCaughey, Deborah A.
 A1C Park, Young Eui

Newly Assigned:

Capt. Domhoefer, Vanessa J.
 Capt. Livote, Joanne
 Capt. Macauley, Colleen R.
 Capt. Maurer, Thomas R.
 1st Lt. Carter, Susan F.
 2nd Lt. Lonergan, Daniel J.
 MSgt. Knight, Jeffrey D.
 SrA. Billeci, Craig J.

SrA. Krueger, Sandra D.

SrA. Lemay, Brandon H.
 SrA. Orosman, Matthew J.
 A1C Choi, Ernest D. H.

Retirements:

MSgt. Barrett, John W.
 MSgt. Brown, Kevin R.
 TSgt. Buehler, Albert P.

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Christine A. Gryclik*** 439 ASTS
 MSgt. Jack E. Nelson** 439 ASTS

Air Force Commendation Medal

TSgt. Benjamin C. Sudduth 439 CES

Air Force Achievement Medal

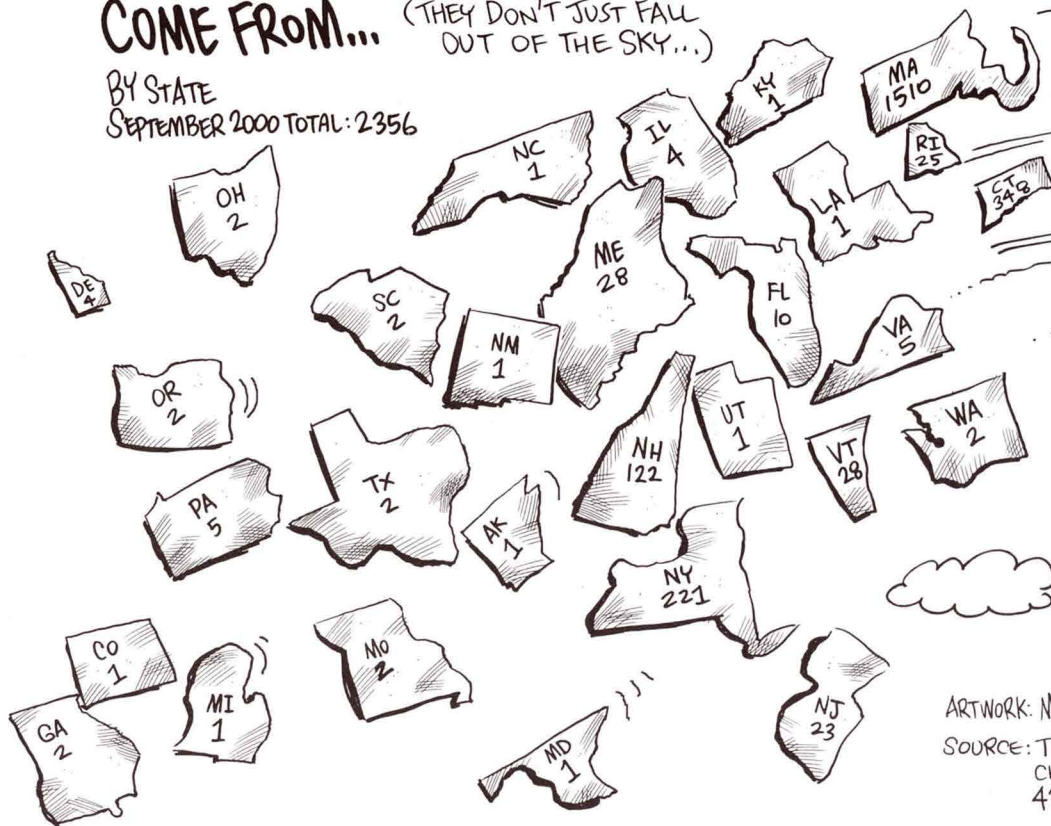
Capt. Michael J. Hack, Jr. 439 ASTS
 SSgt. Arthur Savard, Jr. 439 ASTS

**second award

***third award

WHERE DO WESTOVER RESERVISTS COME FROM... (THEY DON'T JUST FALL OUT OF THE SKY...)

BY STATE
SEPTEMBER 2000 TOTAL: 2356



ARTWORK: MSgt. W.C. POPE
SOURCE: TSgt. GREG LIBBY
CHIEF PERSONNEL SYSTEMS
439th MISSION SUPPORT SQUADRON

Reservists will soon be eligible for TRICARE dental program

WASHINGTON — The DOD's new TRICARE Dental Program will allow reservists and their families to enroll. Current changes take effect Feb. 1, 2001.

"One of the most significant changes is that reserve component members and their families will be eligible to enroll," said Navy Capt. Lawrence McKinley, Tricare adminis-

trator. For more info, call 1(800) 211-3614 or visit the web at www.humana-military.com/dental/home.htm. Look under "Hot News."

PATRIOT

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



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Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. Maida Yeh of Brooklyn, N.Y., and 2,356 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.