

PATRIOT

THE BEST IN THE AIR FORCE

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2002



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

Patriot Update

It was with regret that I announced the cancellation of the 2002 Great New England Airshow. I reached this decision because our wing has been tasked with a high level of commitment to support the war on terrorism along with stepped-up requirements for the Air Expeditionary Forces.

The airshow is important because it is the largest public outreach event that this installation hosts. In January, when I assessed our ability to go forward with the show, I anticipated a steady state in the requirements for the wing. But then, in February, the Air Force Reserve Command moved our window of support for the Air Expeditionary Force from next year to now. This has resulted in additional tasking and deployments for our people. We will soon reach over 1,200, almost 50% in the number of reservists in the wing that have been mobilized to support our nation's efforts. To put things in perspective, I am told that the Desert Storm / Desert Shield number was 1,501. No unit is untouched, as every squadron in the wing has reservists mobilized to active duty. This ranges from entire organizations to just a few members. There are also many of you who have stepped up to voluntarily fill 90-day tours. To date we have deployed over 350 people in support of overseas rotations with no end in sight. I had to take a hard look at our ability to focus on job #1 - our support of the "War on Terrorism" and our ability to put on the airshow. It was apparent to me we could not do both.

Since September 11, your performance and our ability to focus on our mission have resulted in a 100% successful return rate of every person deployed or TDY. Insuring that each of you deploys with the right equipment, receives any last minute updates to training, and gets the latest intelligence on the area they are going to has meant that all of you have come back safely to your families and to us. Our aircrews have already flown more than 100% of last year's flying program in the first five months of this year all around the globe without an accident. The outstanding effort our maintainers put into our aircraft has allowed Westover's C-5As to accumulate "been there, done that" patches from all over the world, including places that end in "stan." All of your successful efforts are a tribute to our training, safety consciousness and ability to maintain focus. Your continued success demands this, and that is exactly what we will continue to focus on.

Your outstanding response to step up when called and your superb performance to date has received accolades from all of the Air Force leadership, from the CSAF, General Jumper, through our boss, Lt Gen. Sherrard. As your commander, I am extremely proud of the way you are tackling this challenge.

Thanks for all you do!

by Col. Martin M. Mazick
439th Airlift Wing Commander

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

Public Affairs Air Reserve Technician

SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Wing Public Affairs Officers

Lt. Col. Sally Nutt Morger

Capt. Wilson Camelo

NCOIC/Editor

SMSgt. Sandi Michon

Deputy NCOIC

MSgt. Tom Allocco

Illustrator

MSgt. W.C. Pope

Staff

TSgt. Andrew Reitano

SSgt. Duane Meszler

SrA. Thomas Ouellette

Administration

SrA. Amber Ryals

Briefs

'Sip & Chat' offered

The Community Support Center, Chapel, and USO invite single mobilized parents and spouses of mobilized people to attend a monthly "Sip & Chat" program. The program is held on the Saturday of the A UTA from 2-3:30 p.m. in the support center at 100 Walker Ave. It is also scheduled for every other Tuesday from 6-7:30 p.m. "Sip & Chat" is designed to provide facts about dealing with mobilization.

The support center seeks volunteers to provide childcare services that are offered in Bldg. 1100 during "Sip & Chat." For more information and reservations, call the center at 557-3024 or toll-free (866) 690-2161.

Tricare information available at base clinic

Activated reservists may call Westover's Tricare representative, 1st Lt. Robert Driscoll, at the base clinic with questions about the program. He is available 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Tuesday - Friday. For more information, call 557-2666.

Award winners announced for second quarter

Westover's Quarterly Awards Board has selected the following second quarter award winners for Fiscal Year 2002.

Airman: SrA. Tracy L. Notto, 439 ASTS

NCO: TSgt. Steven L. Marx, 439 ASTS

Sr. NCO: SMSgt. Chip Connolly, 439 AW

Officer: Capt. Kelly Montolio, 439 ASTS

Civilian: Jill Baush, 439 SFS

Supervisor: Freeman P. Wiley Jr., 439 SPTG

April UTA schedule A UTA April 6-7 B UTA April 20-21

Cover Photo

Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander, places the Outstanding Unit Award streamer on the wing flag at Commander's Call on March 2. This year's award is the third time for the wing and recognizes Westover's mission accomplishments from Oct. 1, 1999 to Sept. 30, 2001.

—photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

439th EOD flight activates in February to respond to incidents

Article and photo by
SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

With a motto that reads "Initial Success or Total Failure," the stakes are pretty high for Westover's smallest but most critical units.

The seven members of the 439th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight respond to a variety of explosive-related emergencies. They became one of the latest units to be activated at Westover in February. The flight is on standby 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. EOD can respond to aircraft ground or in-flight emergencies, incidents or accidents where explosive hazards may exist.

The EOD team is tucked into a small office in the corner of Hangar 7 and falls under the 439th Civil Engineer Squadron.

TSgt. Thomas Cowern recently displayed the equipment that EOD members wear. It can withstand some of the most lethal blasts from explosives. Second Lt. Jason Rose, flight chief, lent him a helping hand as Cowern slipped on a bomb suit constructed of 60 pounds of Kevlar. It's fire retardant and a lot more flexible than the older suits he wore during his active duty days at Nellis AFB, Nev. and Rhein-Main, Germany, Cowern said.

"I like the challenge ... the variety of things you deal with," Cowern said, raising his voice inside the mask. "You can do this for 20 years and there's still stuff to learn. If I'm going to be serving my country, this is what I want to do."

Westover's unit is the only one in the western Massachusetts area, Rose said. EOD officers and NCOs all go through the same technical school. It is seven months long and is

run by the Navy at Eglin AFB, Fla.

Rose said the school is long because of the knowledge and sophistication of so many different types of weapons. The team has facts and figures on 6,000 pieces of ordnance.

"We've got to be able to handle things like in-flight accidents," he said. "The munitions loaders are not going to touch that."

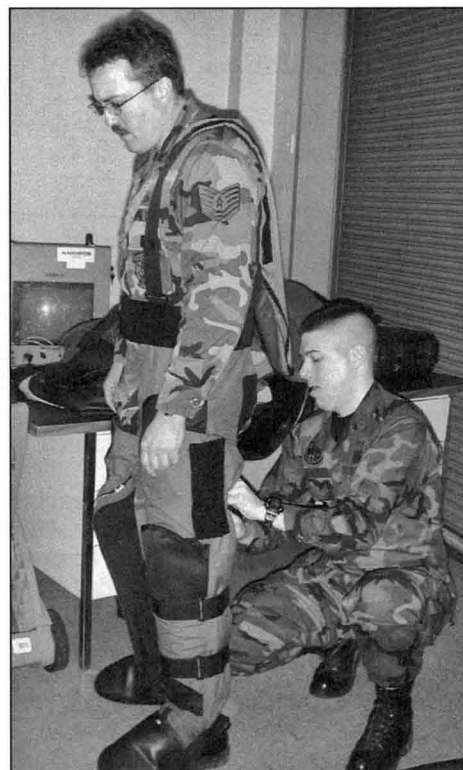
Rose is no stranger to the EOD career field. With nine years of training under his belt, he was a technical sergeant with the Massachusetts Air National Guard at Otis ANG Base on Cape Cod until November 2000. The other EOD members are MSgt. Nicholas Santoro, TSgt. Thomas Conboy, TSgt. Keith Latarski, SrA. Arthur Derderian and SrA. Jason Cebula.

The EOD unit's role is homeland defense. Rose said they will split their duties with the EOD team at Otis ANGB.

Springfield Bomb Squad and base EOD members were quickly on the scene during the annual Family Day activities in September 2001. Someone reported a suspicious-looking lunch box had been sitting in a bathroom, and that person took what EOD called the right steps — the first of which was to report it. As it turned out, the lunch box turned out to be what everyone had hoped — just a lunch box.

"People need to be vigilant," Rose said. "They shouldn't be afraid to call 911. They should leave the package where it is, evacuate the area, and notify the law enforcement desk. They should remain in the area so we can talk to them about the package."

Cowern warned that complacency is one way a tragedy can happen. Instead, peo-



SUITING UP — Second Lt. Jason Rose, EOD flight chief, assists TSgt. Thomas Cowern with a 60-pound bomb suit.

ple need to be especially vigilant at all times to help the security police do their jobs. "People think it's not going to happen to them," Cowern said. Then it's too late," he said.

That moment could come and go in an instant, Rose added. "We've got to be ready for anything," he said.

Wing activates more reservists

Feb. 4, 22 call-ups bring more than 1,150 to war effort

Forty-two reservists from three different squadrons were the latest of the men and women from Westover to be activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The reservists called up on Feb. 22 included those from the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron, 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, and the 439th Security Forces Squadron.

The same mobilization line that formed in the base hangar on Feb. 22 also involved several members of the 439th Logistics Support Squadron who fulfilled Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) deployments.

Earlier in the month, reservists from six different career fields at the base joined the more than 1,000 men and women activated to support Operation Enduring Freedom. The Feb. 4 activation called up members from six different areas, including three 439th Airlift Wing support agencies: chaplain, plans, and staff judge advocate. Other units called up included the 439th Communications Squadron, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron,

and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit of CES.

This time around, the mobilization took place in the clinic rather than the Base Hangar where lines formed last fall. The group received several briefings, information, and immunizations. Although there were far fewer wing members activated on Feb. 4, the latest mobilization still drew attention from the local media. Reporters from Channels 22 and 40 and the *Springfield Union-News* were on hand at the clinic to interview some of the men and women.

Members of the 439th AW have seen continuous activations since the fall of 2001 when Operation Enduring Freedom began. Units include the 337th Airlift Squadron, 439th Security Forces Squadron, and 439th Maintenance Squadron. The activation orders for Westover reservists are for one year. The number of reservists activated by Feb. 22 at Westover reached more than 1,150.

Returned males visit school to return mail to students

by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

He towered above her in his battle dress uniform. The quiet, serious, little third grader peered up at him tearfully and asked, "Mister, are we safe?"

Her question broke TSgt. Bruce Yargeau's heart, but her few words spoke volumes about why he served his country — and brought fresh perspective to a difficult holiday deployment that was the first of more to come.

The third grader was one of hundreds of school children who had written to Westover reservists deployed overseas from November into January. In February, a cadre of 14 maintenance reservists visited five schools to personally thank the kids for their support and deliver return letters. The visits delighted school children, but did much more for the reservists.

While recounting the visits, the reservists explained how surprised they were to receive so many cards while deployed. Their expressions hardened as they recalled the initial deployment month of long work days with no days off, the overcrowded billeting conditions, the lack of sleep, and the homesickness through the holidays. But, when the conversation turned to the kids' cards and letters, their eyes sparkled with enthusiasm as they interrupted each other to tell their part of the story. They explained how they decorated their bunks or workplaces with the cards, and it was obvious that each reservist had saved the cards as treasured possessions.

TSgt. Shawn Manley, 439th AGS crew chief, jumped up. "I've got the cards in my truck — I'll go get them!" They pointed to drawings and recounted funny questions posed in the children's letters. One child wrote, "My father is Polish, I am Polish. Are you Polish?" Students asked about the weather, if reservists had learned Spanish, and older children asked detailed questions about serving in the military.

Many questions were serious and showed that, even very young children, had a grasp of current events. "Don't let the Tali-man get you," and "Did you get the bad guys?" were common themes. Students thanked the reservists for "saving our country."

"Please don't die," conveyed simple, yet profound, concern. After Sept. 11, young people around the country struggled to process their feelings. According to feedback from local teachers, writing to deployed reservists has helped children to vent their feelings, and it has helped both sides to cope.



THE ART OF PATRIOTISM — Elementary school children sent the above artwork to Westover reservist deployed overseas. It says, "Thank you for saying are country."



RETURN ADDRESS — TSgt. Charles Thompson, 439th AGS mechanic, signs a C-5 poster for a student at Assumption School in Millbury, Mass. The class sent cards and letters to deployed 439th members.

Westover reservists visited at least 550 kids on Feb. 6 at five schools in Ware, Warren and Millbury, Mass. Reservists signed complimentary C-5 posters and the 439th AGS presented each teacher a certificate to thank them for their thoughtfulness and patriotism. Kids crowded around their military heroes.

"The kids were in awe — you'd think we were the New England Patriots," said MSgt. Earl Duncan. After a brief pause, the 439th AGS first sergeant quipped, "I guess we *are* New England patriots — but we make a lot less money."

Duncan is part of the activated maintenance team and admits that he is losing money while activated. "We don't do the job for the money. We're here for these kids' future," he said, relating that the school visits really helped solidify that concept.

At one school assembly for about 200 students, SMSgt. Brad Tryba, 439th AGS aerospace prop superintendent, called out names from the front of the room. As the students stood, he held up the letter he received from them, and thanked them personally.

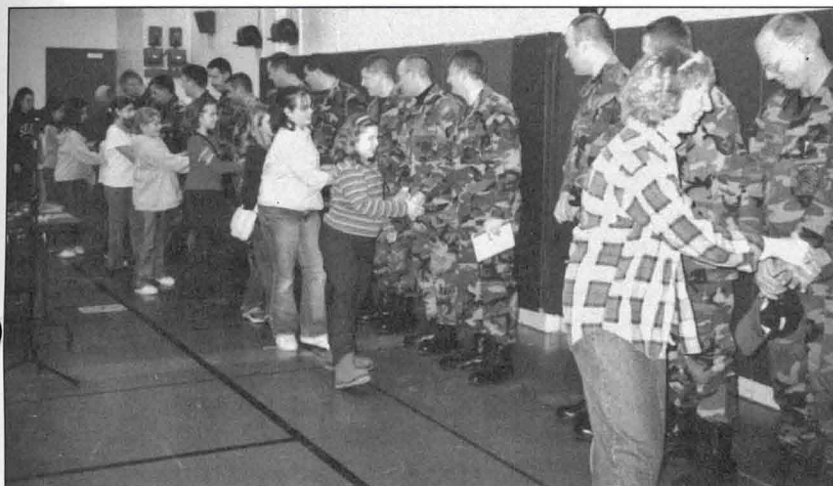
Reservists only had time to visit designated classrooms, but other students craned their necks to see the reservists pass through the hall. As the camouflage crew exited a sixth-grade classroom, they were surprised to see five classes of fourth and fifth graders lining the walls. The halls resounded with the students' rendition of Lee Greenwood's "Proud to be an American" as the patriotic procession passed by. The reservists returned high fives and personal greetings as they left the school. "I don't know who enjoyed the visit more, the kids or me," said Sister Janice, principle of St. Mary's school in Ware.

TSgt. Randy Gray, 439th AGS crew chief, was delighted by the reception. Gray was on active duty during Desert Storm, but said this community support is different. "In Desert Storm, we were welcomed home, but this support started right from the beginning," he said.

For many deployed reservists, the letters reminded them of their own children they missed. TSgt. Tom Budington, an electrical/environmental systems specialist, has a three-year-old daughter, and her preschool sent pictures overseas to the troops. "Even at her young age, she has a sense of what's going on," he said.

The maintenance squadron plans to visit 600 more students in other local schools.

"These kids are our future. They will be backfilling us in the next generation," said Duncan, who is organizing the community visits.



Back to school

Fourteen members from Westover's maintenance squadrons visited five area schools in February to thank classes for their cards and letters during a recent deployment — and to bring them return letters. The artwork (upper left) was sent overseas, and now hangs near the Hangar 9 break room.

Photos courtesy of the 439th AGS

Westover cop wins top AFRC security forces award

by SrA. Thomas Ouellette

A Westover security specialist was awarded one of Air Force Reserve Command's most prestigious honors.

SSgt. Christopher F. Kellam, from the 439th Security Forces, Combat Arms, is the 2001 Outstanding Security Forces Air Reserve Component NCO of the year.

"Kellam is one of our sharpest troops. That's why Maj. MaryAnn Lutz, Maj. Brent E. French and I nominated him," said SMSgt. Michael Thorpe, superintendent of combat arms.

AFRC accepts nominations of reservists nationwide in two categories, traditional reservists and Air Reserve Technicians. Kellam won the traditional reservist award.

The award recognizes an individual who demonstrates exemplary duty accomplishments and outstanding performances in both military and civilian activities.

Thorpe cited numerous reasons why he nominated Kellam, but highlighted a couple of main accomplishments.

"Whatever job you give him, you know the task will get done. He always goes above and beyond what is asked of him," said Thorpe. "But the major reasons Kellam deserved the award was his work setting up our Squad Engagement Training System and orchestrating the 439th Security Forces

live fire nighttime exercises at Fort Devens," said Thorpe.

Kellam explained what he did.

The \$600,000 Squad Engagement Training System, or SETS, arrived at Westover about a year ago. SETS allows military personnel to practice simulated live fire training without using live ammunition, saving the military money, said Kellam.

"The company that manufactures SETS did not know how we wished to set up the projectors, either from the floor or ceiling, so they didn't send us any brackets for the set up," said Kellam.

"I approached Sergeant Thorpe with an idea about the set-up of the system. I recommended specific brackets that could do the job," he said. "Brackets and supplies were ordered, I built racks in the ceiling for the projectors and used the brackets to install the 20-foot screen."



SSgt. Christopher F. Kellam

Suicide awareness key workshop topic toward prevention

By SMSgt. Sandi Michon

Suicide is such a harsh, shocking event that we tend to avoid talking about it. But rising rates of suicide, particularly with post-September 11 stresses, make it an issue the military is forced to face.

"I've had people that could have easily gone down that road [suicide]," said Maj. MaryAnn Lutz, commander of the 439th Security Force Squadron — one of the first, high-profile squadrons activated at Westover after 9/11. Lutz was one of 84 reservists who attended the two-day suicide prevention workshops hosted at the base in February. "Activation reveals issues that can be easily hidden when you only see someone two days a month.

Activation, especially during the initial phase, presents a myriad of challenges — separation from loved ones, different living arrangements, loss of finances, deployment, increased physical risks, and loneliness are among those most cited.

At the workshop, MSgt. Earl Duncan, 439th AGS first sergeant, alluded to suicide-risk situations in his squadron, shortly after they were activated in November. "It was awful. We had two or three issues in a short time and we were jumping through hoops trying to get help," he said.

"Awareness is key," said Chaplain (Lt. Col) Richard Miesel, referring to the primary objective of the workshops. "We want to make people more comfortable dealing with these issues — and thereby more effective.

"People think if you mention the word 'suicide' to someone, it will make it more likely to happen," the chaplain said. "Just the opposite is true. Broaching the subject is often a key bridge to meaningful, caring dialogue."

During the two days, workshop participants discussed different social attitudes toward suicide, learned how to recognize people at risk and how to provide immediate support, and how to direct people to appropriate referral agencies for long-term help.

As 439th Operations Squadron First Sergeant, MSgt. William Jebb attended

"People think if you mention the word 'suicide' to someone, it will make it more likely to happen," the chaplain said. "Just the opposite is true. Broaching the subject is often a key bridge to meaningful, caring dialogue."

Lt. Col. Richard Miesel



the workshop to learn how to better recognize potential suicide risks. "It's my job to look after the morale and welfare of our troops," he said. As a local police detective, Jebb has encountered suicide issues in his reserve position and in the civilian sector.

While the workshop contained some lighter moments, it also personalized the somber reality of suicide when participants shared how it had stolen the lives of some of their loved ones.

CMSgt. Lou Salerno, a security police superintendent with the Air National Guard in Scotia, N.Y., led the workshops, along with Capt. Melanie Howard, from the 109th Medical Squadron, also in Scotia. Salerno said more than 150,000 people completed the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills and Training (ASIST) workshops.

The interest level at Westover is high, and the chaplain's section expects to schedule additional workshops. (Call Ext. 3031 for information.)

Newborn daughter is best homecoming gift

TSgt. Joseph Montanez had to wait more than three weeks to hold his newborn daughter, Hannah Faith, born the evening of Feb. 4. Montanez, a 439th MXS reservist, was deployed overseas on her due date.

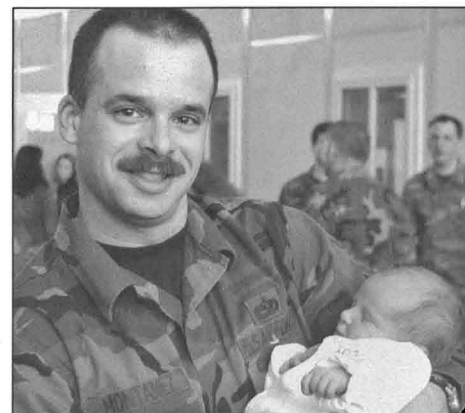
"The week before the birth, it was on my mind all the time. I hoped everything would go okay," said Montanez. He said friends called every hour from the hospital to give him an update, and teammate MSgt. Ron Philbrick stayed up all night with him until he received news of the birth.

"It was tough, but I couldn't ask for a more supportive maintenance team," he said of reservists who tried to help.

His wife Michelle, daughter Samantha and baby are all doing better — now that "Dad" is home. "My daughter will have two birthdays now because of the time-zone differences," he quipped.

To augment the helpful content of the workshop, Miesel underscored the value of support provided by "communities of faith." When an elderly woman in his parish died from anthrax exposure in November, Miesel said it created a sense of vulnerability that could have been overwhelming. "Support within a community of faith is a tremendous resource for encouragement, a sense of hope and resiliency," said Miesel. "Armed with a strong conviction of faith in God — and a sense of participation in God's plan for the future — it can quell anxiety and bring comfort," he said, encouraging reservists to participate in the communities of faith on the base or locally.

The chaplain's section hopes to build a comprehensive base support network. "This [suicide] is not going to go away," said Miesel. "We don't want to wait for a negative outcome. We need to intervene early in the process. This is a total base effort."



PROUD PAPA — TSgt. Joseph Montanez finally holds his newborn daughter, Hannah Faith, who was born while he served on an overseas deployment.

Air Force remains committed to AEF rotations

by TSgt. Tim Dougherty
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The combination of America's war on terrorism and steady state commitments worldwide has put increased strain on the Air Force's aerospace expeditionary forces. However, except for a few stressed career fields, officials at the Pentagon say normal rotations should be back soon.

"Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper is committed to the AEF construct — a three-month deployment with a 12-month period at home," said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kohler, director of operational plans, deputy chief of staff for air and space operations.

"Given the war on terrorism, we had to go through a momentary blip in our rotation schedule," he said. "However, it looks like we're going to be on time in bringing home about 90 percent of the people who are currently deployed. We will rotate the forces deployed for operations Enduring Freedom, Northern Watch and Southern Watch so that those who deployed first will be allowed to rotate home first to the maximum extent possible."

There are some exceptions, Kohler said. While Air Force leaders are working hard to come up with a solution, a very small number of career fields may not be able to rotate as scheduled, he said.

"We know that there are some stressed career fields, such as security forces, combat communications and firefighters, that might have to stay a little longer," Kohler said. "But that's not to say that absolutely everyone in those career fields will be staying longer."

The deployment picture will start to come into focus by the middle of February

when the Air Force begins scheduling for the rotation in March, he said.

"It might work out that only one or two unit type codes out of an entire civil engineering squadron might be the stressed career field," Kohler said. "We just don't know yet because we haven't gotten down to that level of fidelity."

The tremendous performance of the AEF in Operation Enduring Freedom is what caused the stress on certain career fields in the first place, Kohler said.

"The reason we are stressed is simple — we do such a great job. We went out and set up these bases and started generating sorties as soon as we were asked."

— Maj. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kohler

"The Air Force is sort of a victim of its own success," Kohler said. "The reason we are stressed is simple — we do such a great job. We went out and set up these bases and started generating sorties as soon as we were asked. I think the results speak for themselves in the war on terrorism in Afghanistan. The (U.S.) Central Command commander in chief could not have done what he did without the superb work of all the airmen who went out and set it up."

To ease the problems the Air Force has in stressed career fields under current requirements, about 10 percent of the people will stay

deployed a little longer — some up to 135 days; others, up to 179 days, Kohler said. To cover the overlap, the second part of the solution will be to reach into the next AEF and bring replacement unit type codes forward about 45 days. Any reduction in current requirements may get the AEF cycle on track a little bit quicker, he said.

Another way to relieve some of the burden on our deployed people is to find additional airmen who normally do not deploy and place them in an AEF library.

"This crisis has caused us to look a little bit deeper," Kohler said. "We'd like to be able to find people who we haven't originally had in an AEF library who can deploy but normally don't deploy. For example, Air Education and Training Command has instructors who have special skill sets, and the AETC leadership has said that there may be periods in the year when they can rotate. This is just one example and we're looking at all options."

Other fixes for stressed career fields are going to take some time and may only be resolved with increased manpower. Although the Air Force has asked for an end-strength increase of about 22,000 with 7,000 requested for this year, because of training requirements, this is more of a long-term solution, Kohler said.

"This is an extraordinary time for the Air Force and our country," Jumper recently told commanders. "The nation is grateful for the sacrifices our airmen continue to make in meeting our commitments to fight the war on terrorism and defend the American homeland. The secretary and I are proud of the job you are doing and we are personally committed to maintaining the AEF rotation schedule to the greatest possible extent."

Tax tip reminders for activated Westover reservists

For activated personnel now working in the state of Massachusetts, there is no requirement to file in this state. Massachusetts has a specific exemption for military personnel.

Those reservists unable to complete tax returns prior to April 15 must complete an IRS Form 4868 to receive an extension through Aug. 15, and must also complete a state form. Those who cannot file their tax returns prior to Aug. 15, will have to complete an IRS Form 2688 in addition to the Form 4868 to receive an additional extension to Oct. 15. Reservists need to check with their

respective states to see if there is an additional form or if the original state extension allows the full six months (which many do).

Reservists unable to complete their tax returns prior to Oct. 15 should then complete a power of attorney so someone else can complete and sign their returns on their behalf. They may use the IRS official power of attorney — Form 2848 or a special power of attorney specifically providing for taxes or a general power of attorney.

For reservists actually in a combat zone, the deadline to file taxes is automatically ex-

tended 180 days from the day they leave the combat zone.

Other types of pay may also be excluded from taxable income. Finance will calculate which pay is taxable and which is not. The W-2 will explicitly spell out whether pay is includible in income or not.

Some states offer special deductions or exclusions of all or a portion of military income. Reservists should review their state individual income tax instructions for further guidance.

Westover crew airlifts 100-foot mini-sub to Pearl Harbor

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

A Westover loadmaster took charge once again with the airlift of a U.S. Navy mini-submarine from Washington state to Hawaii.

The flight was the third such mission for SMSgt. Thomas Dzwonkus, a 31-year veteran of the 337th Airlift Squadron who led the uploading and offloading of the Northrup Grumman mini-sub. Dzwonkus and 14 other crew members left on Feb. 21 for McChord AFB, Wash., to upload the sub. The C-5 then headed to Hickam AFB, Hawaii, on Feb. 22 and returned to Westover on Feb. 24.

The mini-sub had undergone more underwater testing in western Washington before being shipped back to Pearl Harbor, Dzwonkus said, adding the C-5 is the only aircraft in the world capable of carrying the mini-sub, also called the Advanced SEAL Delivery System.

Dzwonkus said the mission was a success, despite some problems with the sub's trailer. "It was challenging. There are some weight distribution and clearance problems right now (with the trailer)." The upload took about two hours at McChord. The mini-sub weighs 168,000 pounds. While the C-5 can easily take on that tonnage, the sub is still a challenge to handle, but Dzwonkus welcomes the task before him.

"I like to develop procedures and to see if we can make it happen," he said.

The offloading at Hickam took

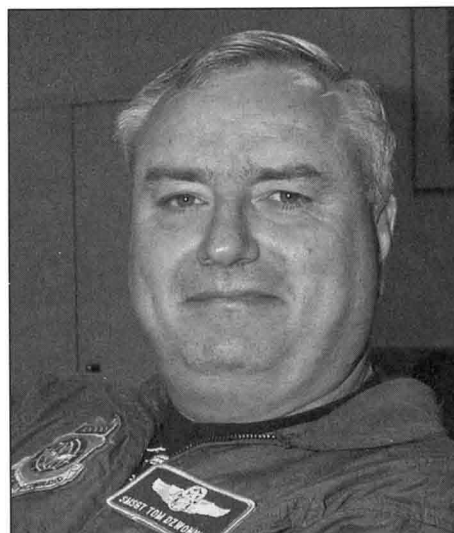
about 90 minutes, Dzwonkus said. He plans to put together a video to distribute to other C-5 loadmasters throughout the Air Force that shows how to load the mini-sub.

His prior two missions included one earlier in February. The first one Dzwonkus supervised was a June 2000 non-stop mission with the mini-sub and its support personnel from Andrews AFB, Md. to Hickam AFB, Hawaii. The total weight of the load was 197,000 pounds and one aerial refueling was necessary to make the trip to Hawaii. It was the first time the sub had been moved by air. Dzwonkus trained the other Westover loadmasters on the mini-sub loading during the mission.

Dzwonkus is the wing standardization/evaluation loadmaster. He joined the Air Force Reserve in 1971, back when Westover's 905th Military Airlift Group flew the C-124 Globemaster II. Shortly after he joined the unit, the 905th MAG converted to the C-130 Hercules. Since then, Dzwonkus has become a qualified loadmaster on the C-130B and E models and since 1987, the C-5A. He recently reached 10,700 hours as a loadmaster.

"I've known him for 20 years. DZ's an outstanding loadmaster," said Lt. Col. Mike Marten, assistant squadron commander. "He shows a high level of interest and an attention to detail. He has a lot of interface with headquarters - he's the 'go-to guy.'"

The mini-sub trailer was constructed so it can be dismantled for transport



SMSgt. Tom Dzwonkus

aboard a C-17, the Air Force's newest airlifter, but two C-17s are needed to carry the submarine and its support equipment. Dzwonkus explained.

The mini-sub can be carried on the decks of specially outfitted Los Angeles-class submarines that are also stationed at Pearl Harbor. The sub was designed to deliver a team of Navy SEALs anywhere in the world. In 1996, Dzwonkus worked closely with the Navy to develop C-5 loading procedures for the Mark V Special Operations Craft, that is now routinely moved around the world aboard the giant Galaxies.

"It all goes with the territory," Dzwonkus said.

Integrity is cement holding aircrew together on missions

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Whether long or short, a mission works because the aircrew works together. There is nothing abstract about words like "trust" in an aircrew member's life. It's as real as a 3 a.m. wake-up call.

It may be OK to be late, but don't ever be the last one to arrive at the alert bus, they joke. That means "we all depend on you, don't ever break the bond of trust or make others have to pick up after you."

"I can't come to work and have a bad day. No airplane in the Air Force inventory is as complex systems-wise," said SMSgt. Fred, flight engineer, on a recent Enduring Freedom mission. It requires an extremely high degree of situational awareness and

technical application... equipment and lives on the line."

There's something different every day. You can't count on hitting a button and the same thing comes out. Every load has its own problems," said loadmaster, TSgt. John.

"If something's wrong with the load you can't say it's somebody else's problem. The buck stops with us," he said. A loadmaster for more than 12 years, his skill level, like every crew member's is subject to the scrutiny of a check ride, when he gets grilled by an evaluator on everything from pallet weight to the reasons for wear on a visor wear strip.

If you see a group of people walking quietly, they are probably not aircrew. Aircrew members have a touch of swagger and brashness based on the confidence of those

who do a tough job well.

"A mistake can make the difference in safety of flight. You can become a hazard. That means you better know your job," MSgt. Rich said.

To aircrew members it's called being a "learner," mentally alert and retentive. "When you go on the road if you don't learn something new, it's a waste of time," TSgt. Tom said.

"A loadmaster has to know something about the flight engineer's panel. You talk to the flight engineer during a long leg over the ocean. It really comes down to being curious.

"Everybody's got a job to do. This is the one I like," he said.

Reservists rescue crash victim

by MSgt. Tom Allocco
photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

Quick thinking and disregard of their own safety enabled two Westover maintenance specialists to save an injured driver trapped in a burning car moments before it was engulfed in flames following a four-car accident on Route 91 on Feb. 27.

TSgt. Thomas Evangelisto and SSgt. Anthony Gambardella arrived at the scene moments after a string of collisions on Route 91 near the Forest Park curve, about 11 p.m. The two aerospace maintenance specialists were returning to their Enfield hotel following a night shift with the 439th Aerospace Generation Squadron when brake lights and vehicles off both sides of the road signalled trouble.

Gambardella was in the passenger seat. "As we were driving by I heard someone yell, 'I can't feel my legs,'" Gambardella said.

"It was pretty chaotic. I think he yelled for me to pull over," Evangelisto remembers.

Gambardella grabbed a flashlight out of the back seat and tried to make sense out of what was happening around them amid the cold, the dark and the yelling. There was only one state trooper and other people milling around the scene. The two Westover reservists saw an car in the highway and another smashed into a building. A bloodied man lay face down, 10 feet from the car.

"I think the state trooper was relieved when he saw our military uniforms," Gambardella said.

The reservists determined the man on the ground had a compound leg fracture and worked to keep him calm.

"At that point we heard a little poof, like glass breaking," Evangelisto said. It was the sound of combustion under the hood of the smashed car.

"I yelled out, 'Is anybody in the car?' Somebody said, 'Yes.' I don't know who said it. At that point the person on the ground started screaming to get him out of there," Evangelisto said.

They saw flames licking out of the hood of the car. "At that point everything happened really fast," Evangelisto said.

Evangelisto helped move the injured man a safe distance away from the burning car. As a half dozen others started moving away, Gambardella moved toward the burning vehicle to help the state trooper. The officer had discharged a fire extinguisher which failed to dampen the spreading flames.

The passenger door was open and the injured, barely-conscious driver was and trapped behind the steering wheel of his crushed vehi-

cle. "He was in bad shape...a lot of cuts and bruises," Gambardella said. He and the state trooper got their arms around the man and pulled him out. With the assistance of Evangelisto, they got the injured man onto a back board and moved him another 25 feet away as the car became totally engulfed in flames.

As more state troopers and EMTs arrived on the scene, the situation became more orderly. "When it was over, a state trooper said 'you saved a couple lives tonight. I just want to thank you,'" Gambardella said.

Although the episode only lasted about 40 minutes, it seemed a lot longer and it left them shaken. "When we got back to the hotel we played volleyball in the pool to take our mind off it," Gambardella said. "The adrenalin was really going," Evangelisto said.

Gambardella, of East Haven, Conn., works for a truck leasing firm, and Evangelisto, an ART from Pittsfield, have been serving on active duty since Oct. 17.



TO THE RESCUE - SSgt. Anthony Gambardella and TSgt. Thomas Evangelisto, 439th AGS members, saved an injured driver trapped in a burning car on Route 91 South, on Feb. 27.



RESERVE ROCKERS— The rock band Reserve Generation performs for thousands across the country every year. They will perform at the Westover Club on April 12.

-AFRC photo

USAF Reserve Band to perform at base in April

by Lt. Col. Sally Nutt Morger

Five performing groups of the Band of the USAF Reserve will arrive at Westover on Wednesday, April 10, for four days of concerts scheduled throughout New England. The groups are the Dixieland Express, Pipe Band, Woodwind Quintet, Brass Quintet, and the rock group Reserve Generation.

The 37 musicians from Robins AFB, Ga., will perform in high schools, malls, and children's and veterans' hospitals across Massachusetts as well as in New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Through music and the media, they will reach out to potential recruits and the community at large to raise awareness of the Air Force Reserve.

Reserve Generation will perform especially for the men and women of Westover on April 12, at the Club from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. The 9-piece band will set up outside for a true block party at the Westover Club, moving inside if weather demands. Airmen from the 439th AW as well as civilians and military members of Westover's tenant units are invited to bring their families to enjoy the Reserve Generation's mix of contemporary and oldie, rock and country favorites.

When firm, the schedule for the five performing groups will be posted on the 439th AW's Daily Bulletin, and on the public affairs hotline at 557-3660. Further questions can be answered at the recruiting office at Ext. 2125.

Company Grade Officer of the Year



by Lt. Col. Dave Moore
Chief of Safety

Operational Risk Management (ORM) is not a safety program. It's a process that all of our members put to work for them, on and off duty. The purpose is ***mishap prevention***.

Following is a simple risk assessment worksheet that you can apply to an operation.

RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET					
			PAGE _____ OF _____		
1. MISSION/TASK:	2. DATE/TIME BEGIN:		3. DATE PREPARED:		
4. PREPARED BY: (Name, Name, Duty Title)					
5. HAZARDS	6. RISK LEVEL	7. CONTROL(S)	10. HOW TO IMPLEMENT	11. HOW TO SUPERVISE	13. ARE CONTROLS EFFECTIVE (Y/N)
8. OVERALL RISK LEVEL AFTER CONTROLS ARE IMPLEMENTED (Circle one)				9. RISK DECISION AUTHORITY	
LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREMELY HIGH		

Remember the four principles that govern all actions associated with risk management. These are applicable before, during, and after all tasks and operations.

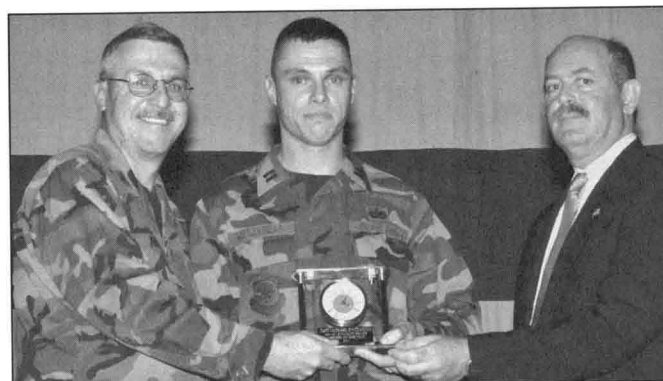
- Accept no unnecessary risk.
- Make risk decisions at the appropriate level
- Accept risks when benefits outweigh the costs
- Integrate ORM into planning at all levels

The safety staff at Westover are trained in ORM application and integration. We are ready to assist you in applying the process. Call us at 3587 for additional information and a free ORM pocket guide.

Plan for a mishap-free 2002.

CCAF Graduates, April 2002

Vincent Bovino	SSgt	439 MXS
Andrzej Widor	SSgt	337 AS
Michael Denekamp	SSgt	439 ASTS
Lesli Creighton	TSgt	439 AMDS
Richard A. Spoor	TSgt	337 AS
Erik D. Smith	SSgt	439 AGS
Lowell T. Manning	SSgt	85 APS
William H. Clark	SSgt	439 AGS
Colleen M. Hitt (2)	TSgt	439 ASTS
Charmaine M. Mallett	SSgt	439 LSS
Daniel P. Lacombe	SSgt	337 AS



TOP COP - Capt. Michael Owczarsak, 439th Security Forces Squadron, receives the Company Grade Officer of the Year Award for 2001, from Col. Martin M. Mazick, wing commander, and John Winkler, deputy assistant secretary to the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. Owczarsak received the award at Commander's Call during the December UTA at the Base Hangar.

- photo by TSgt. Don Talbot

Fifty years of service



FIFTY YEARS - Helen Lemiech receives a certificate from Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander, noting her 50 years of civil service to the United States government. In a letter from Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, he said, "Congratulations on completing 50 years of federal service. This career milestone is attained by few others and speaks volumes about your commitment to our Air Force." Lemiech works in the 439th Communications Squadron.

- photo by Gordon A. Newell

Patriot People

Name: Janet M. Bicho
Rank: TSgt.
Age: 45
Address: Belchertown, Mass
Unit: 439th Airlift Wing Legal Office
Position: Law office manager
Civilian position: Analyst
Favorite food: Italian
Years of service: 17 years
Favorite sport: Basketball
Favorite hobby: Don't really have one
Ideal vacation: Anywhere near the ocean
Best way to relax: There's no way to relax—I have kids. But I enjoy them!
Preferred entertainment: Listening to the radio
Favorite hero: My dad
Favorite music: Rock
Favorite movie: "The Patriot." I liked that period in American history.
Favorite aircraft: F-117A
Pet peeve: Stupid questions
What I would do if I won \$1 million: I would definitely retire and have fun.



Photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

TSgt. Janet M. Bicho

Patriot Praises

PEP Promotions:

CMSgt. Skalecki, Catherine
 SMSgt. Fluegge, Ann M.
 SMSgt. Pierrepont, David C.
 MSgt. Bodley, Keith A.
 MSgt. Boyer, Timothy
 MSgt. Gates, Aaron D.
 TSgt. Brenker, Frederick
 TSgt. Chasse, Lyle J.
 TSgt. Dukette, Lyn F.
 TSgt. Karol, Jason F.
 TSgt. Reitano, Andrew V.
 TSgt. Schneider, Joseph P.
 TSgt. Towilson, Richard J.
 TSgt. Zanzanian, Moises

Reenlistments:

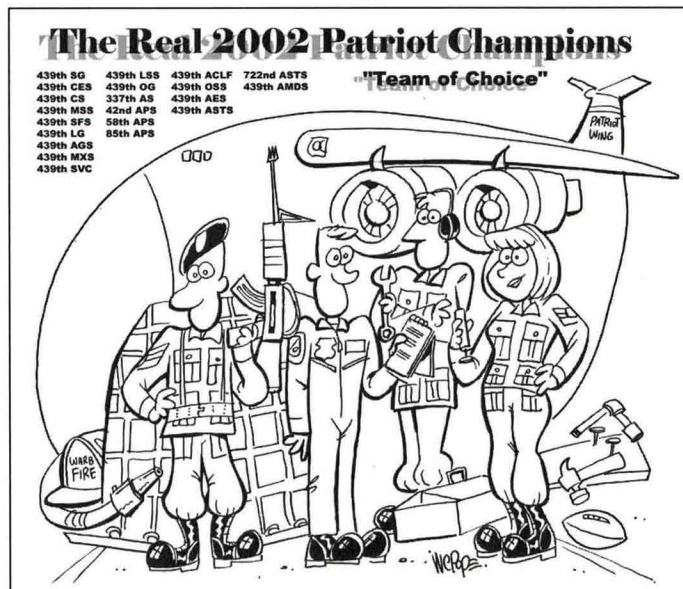
SMSgt. Robert, John F.
 SMSgt. Seaton, Robert C.
 MSgt. Clark, John W.
 MSgt. Jackson, John J.
 MSgt. Pashko, Scott M.
 TSgt. Aickelin, Ronald A.
 TSgt. Baisi, James
 TSgt. Corey, Susan P.
 TSgt. Erpenbeck, Regina
 TSgt. Marsters, Paul E.
 TSgt. Trainor, Bruce S.
 TSgt. Zona, Sabatino P., Jr.
 SSgt. Fydenkevsk, James J.
 SSgt. Harris, Kenyatta L.
 SSgt. Rivest, James W.
 SSgt. Williams, Anton L.
 SSgt. Zawistowski, Alan T.
 SrA Crosman, Matthew J.

Promotions:

SMSgt. Hoskeer, Norman N., Jr.
 SMSgt. Lue, Lana
 SMSgt. Molina, McDonald R.
 SMSgt. Mottor, David
 SMSgt. Schille, Dawn
 MSgt. Delude, Harry D.
 MSgt. Benoit, John H.
 MSgt. Ferriter, Mary P.
 MSgt. Hamm, Tamara M.
 MSgt. Manville, Duane S.
 MSgt. Pare, Donald R.
 MSgt. Ruel, Craig G.
 MSgt. Turner, David W.
 MSgt. Veresko, Paul S.
 MSgt. Wells, David A.
 TSgt. Burnett, Ellen
 TSgt. Cutt, Pamela J.
 TSgt. Delesine, Charlene
 TSgt. Fagullar, Corey E.
 TSgt. Falcone, Michael P.
 TSgt. Farrell, Susan A.
 TSgt. Isaacs, Daniel R.
 TSgt. Kleinbeckel, Carl
 TSgt. Larson, Wesley G.
 TSgt. MacNevens, Scott A.
 TSgt. Moloney-Cook, Eileen E.
 TSgt. Murdza, Michael D.
 TSgt. Murphy, Joseph S.
 TSgt. Newhart, Shane L.
 TSgt. Oboyle, Edward R.
 TSgt. Ruel, Mark J.
 TSgt. Singh, Tony J.
 TSgt. Smith, David K.
 TSgt. Swain, Patrick
 TSgt. Tourigny, Mark
 TSgt. Tynik, Andrew J.
 TSgt. Williams, Anton L.
 TSgt. Wilson, Reginald L.
 SSgt. Bonaldi, Angela M.
 SSgt. Grasso, Mary

SSgt. O'Brien, Christopher C.
 SSgt. Parker, Scott W.
 SSgt. Pina, Rebecca L.
 SSgt. Prieto, Peter E.
 SSgt. Serricchio, Jennifer
 SrA Antezana, Ronald M.
 SrA Grasso, Kara D.
 SrA Joyce, Chelsey A.
 SrA Marcoux, Karen M.
 SrA Matthews, Melissa
 SrA McCullough, Amanda
 SrA Meulenaere, David P.
 SrA Ortiz, David

SrA Ouellette, Thomas R.
 SrA Schmitter, Nikolaus J.
 SrA Rivera, Glenn E.
 SrA Rodriguezmunoz, Andres
 SrA Wojcik, Kristie M.
 Amn Ellis, Lateef S.
 Amn Fogg, Christopher J.
 Amn Johnson, Elizabeth D.
 Amn Sambrook, Erika L.
 Amn Sambrook, Leanne J.



Reservists visit Leeds VA hospital

by SSgt. Andrew Reitano

A group of Westover reservists took time out of their busy schedules on Feb. 14 to spend some time with veterans at the VA Hospital in Leeds, Mass.

Every year, base personnel are invited by the Northampton Veterans Administration to participate in the National Hospitalized Veterans Celebration on Valentine's Day.

For the past five years, CMSgt. Kathy Wood, 439th Performance Planning Office, has been organizing the annual visit on behalf of the Westover Chief's Council. "These types of visits let the veterans know that those that are still serving appreciate them," said Wood. "Veterans are amazing people and did so much to make our country the way it is today; we were there to celebrate them and make them smile."

Topics of conversation covered a variety of issues, but one in particular gave Wood special pride. "We discussed lots of things. In my case it was the stripes on my arm," said Wood. "Most of the older veterans are men, and they didn't see too many women wearing stripes during their service days. The women they saw were nurses. In fact, most of them figure that's what I am until I begin talking to them and explain my job." Although most of the veterans were elderly, there were some Desert Shield/Storm veterans that were familiar with the "modern" military and provided Westover members a chance to discuss current events.

While most of the visitors wore the uniform of the day, several, including six members of the security forces squadron, went in full service dress uniform. "The veterans just love it when they see uniforms," said Wood. "Some of them grab your hand and hold on to it while talking to us."

Of the 20 volunteers who visited the hospital, the visit was a first for several of them. "They couldn't believe how large the hospital is," said Wood, adding that some asked her why the visits weren't done on a regular basis.

According to Wood, everyone left feeling very emotional. SrA. Richard English and SrA. Cynthia Lapriore, from the 439th

Aerospace Medicine Squadron, met a gentleman who who offered them a map he used in France during World War II to find his way around. The veteran offered it to them in case they needed to go over there.

MSgt. Shane Robitaille, 439th MSS, was one of the first-time visitors. "The veterans couldn't contain their enthusiasm at seeing uniformed service members from Westover. They showered us with praise for coming out to see them," said Robitaille. "If this is the least I can do for those who have served before me, then I can say I had a pretty good day."

July 18 – Employer Appreciation Day

Reservist's name, rank and unit: _____

Reservist's home address: _____

Reservist's daytime telephone number: _____

Employer's name and title: _____

Employer's company name: _____

Breakfast for employer: YES _____ NO _____

Breakfast for reservist: YES _____ NO _____

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

Signature _____

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

Return this form to:

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

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

PATRIOT

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



Published monthly for Patriots like Amn. Mary Gallagher, from Dedham, Mass., and the 2,475 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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICOPEE, MA
PERMIT #43