

PATRIOT

THE BEST IN THE AIR FORCE

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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

Another set of challenges

To date, we have faced a host of requirements that were set in motion following the events of September 11. We have responded in an absolutely superb manner at all levels of the organization. When we needed volunteers, you volunteered. When we were faced with activation, you volunteered to be activated. If the war effort needed any portion of the 439th AW and we had it to give, you gave it.

We are up to 1,212 personnel activated, with many of you deploying. You are successfully accomplishing JOB ONE – our support of the war on terrorism. You have done this through our number one priority – readiness.

I believe this is reflected in the selection of the 439th AW as the winner of the **ARMSTRONG TROPHY** for 2001 as the best Reserve unit in 21st Air Force. A well deserved pat on the back for all of us. Congratulations to every member of the wing.

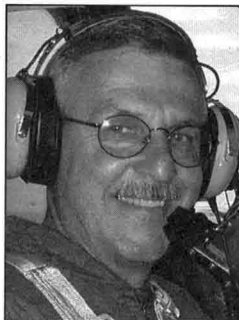
In May, we face another set of challenges - a host of inspections. We will host the AFRC/IG from April 30 to May 5 for our Unit Compliance Inspection. At the same time, the AF Inspection Agency (AFIA) will be administering a Health Services Inspection (HSI) to the 439th AMDS. On May 6, 21st Air Force begins the site visit for the Aircrew Standardization/Evaluation of the 439th Operations Group, including the 337th AS and 439th AES, through May 13. Then on May 16, a different AFIA team will be here to administer the HSI to the 439th ASTS through May 19.

These inspections bring "BIG PICTURE" feedback to our daily operations. They give us another set of eyes to make sure we are staying on course. We stand to learn from each of these. I expect you to take the time to answer any questions the team members have and show them all they ask to see. These learning opportunities are important for us as we can improve by listening and applying the feedback we get during these inspections.

Remember the three B's: Be Cordial, Be Open, and Be Honest. This way we stand to gain the most from their visits. Remember - what will distinguish us as a unit is not the grade, but rather what we do with the feedback given by these teams to improve our organization!

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!

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



Col. Martin M. Mazick

PATRIOT

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Briefs

Golf scramble set for May 16 in Westfield

The ninth annual Air Force Association Spring Golf Scramble is scheduled for May 16, at 9:30 a.m., at the Shaker Farms Country Club in Westfield, Mass.

The scramble benefits nine local schools involved in the USA Today Visions program. The entry fee is \$70 per person and 36 four-person teams may enter on a first come-first served basis. The fee includes greens fee, golf cart, and lunch and dinner.

Trophies will be awarded in the following categories: first, second, third, and last place finishes; men's and women's longest drive; men's and women's closest-to-the pin.

Interested golfers should contact Sue Alexander at Ext. 2851 for more information.

Westover Club to host membership night

The Westover Club will host a membership benefits night on May 4 offering numerous free activities to members.

The event will feature a wine and beer tasting and plenty of mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres to be served from 5-7 p.m., said Larry A. Pepin, club manager.

Live entertainment by the rock band "Memphis Flyers" is set to start at 7 p.m. in the club's lounge, Pepin said.

Unlike the club's past membership benefit nights, this event will have various booths, staffed by personnel to explain available privileges for members, he said.

Members may also attend free with on guest. Additional guests may attend for a nominal fee and non-members can join at the door during the event. For more information, contact the club at 593-5531.

May UTA schedule A UTA May 4-5 B UTA May 18-19

Cover Photo

THE BIG FIX — SSgt. Ron Corliss, 439th AGS aerospace propulsion journeyman, lower right, removes a part from a spare engine with TSgt. Paul on March 27 at an airbase in Spain. Corliss returned to Westover while TSgt. Paul is on a 90-day tour.
- photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

39th unveils "Let's Roll!" nose art at C-5 hangar ceremony

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Local congressmen, Air Force Reserve leadership and a crowd of Westover reservists gathered with a C-5 in the pull-through hangar on March 15 for the unveiling of the "Let's Roll!" nose art.

"Let's Roll!" were the last words from passenger Todd Beamer over his cellular phone. Beamer was among the passengers on United Flight 93 who fought back against terrorist hijackers before the jetliner crashed in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001. Earlier this year, the Air Force directed that the artwork would be applied to one aircraft in every flying unit throughout the service until Sept. 11, 2002. Westover leadership decided that C-5 number 90017, which already displays the "City Of Chicopee II" on its side, would be the suitable choice.

Scores of Westover reservists attending the nose art ceremony included the maintenance workers who work on tail number 017. The patriotic decal on the aircraft reminded one of its crew chiefs of the giant transport's contribution to Operation Enduring Freedom. "It gives you a lot of pride," said MSgt. Harry Herbert, a 29-year member of the 439th Airlift Wing. Herbert oversees the maintenance on number 017.

Local congressmen thanked the 439th AW for their dedication to duty in the war on terrorism. "The men and women of the American military have performed brilliantly during the past six months," said Congressman Richard Neal (D-Springfield). "It's an extraordinary challenge to all of you. But, at the same time, I can't think of a base that any congressman could be more honored to represent than I am here at Westover, and indeed, the city of Chicopee."

Maj. Gen. James Bankers, 22nd Air Force commander and a former commander of the 439th AW, spoke of his pride in their sacrifices for the war on terror. "As far as I am concerned, you are all heroes in my book," he said. "It's an honor for me to serve with people like you." Bankers called the nose art a symbol of American determination following the devastation from the terrorist attacks. "The nose art is going to represent the spirit of 9/11," he said. "The spirit of 9/11 is one of solidarity ... it's also a warrior's call."

For TSgt. Mark Willette, C-5 017 crew chief, the sight of the



MISSION REMINDER — Celebrating the unveiling of the "Let's Roll!" nose art on a Westover C-5 are: (from left) Congressmen John Olver and Richard Neal, Chicopee Mayor Richard Kos, Maj. Gen. James Bankers, 22nd Air Force commander, and Col. Martin Mazick, 439th AW commander.

nose art on the C-5 reaffirmed his contribution to the war and his patriotism. "I feel pride for what we do all the time," he said. "It's a nice tribute to the passengers on Flight 93. I wish it was on all of the aircraft, but I'm glad it's on mine."

"The City of Chicopee II" was added to number 017 in December 1999. That Galaxy was the first to join the 439th AW in October 1987. The original "City of Chicopee" name belonged to a B-52 Stratofortress assigned to the 99th Bombardment Wing at the base in the 1950s and 1960s.

439th AW named top Air Force Reserve unit in 21st Air Force

The 439th Airlift Wing was recently named the Air Force Reserve winner of the 2002 Lt. Gen. Malcolm B. Armstrong Trophy, which is awarded annually to the best active-duty, Air Force Reserve Command or Air National Guard unit that falls under 21st Air Force. Westover's 439th AW reports to 21st AF in time of mobility.

The awarded is named after Lt. Gen. Malcolm Armstrong, who during his tenure as 21st Air Force commander, wanted to annually recognize the outstanding wings that come under the numbered air force's command during wartime.

"I can't say enough of the dedication and professionalism of the men and women of the

wing," said Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander. "From the success of the EORI to winning the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award to supporting current real-world operations, the Patriot Wing has continued to shine. Every person in this wing, their families and employers should be as proud as I am of this award as it took a team effort to earn this prestigious distinction," he said.

During the award period, the 439th AW participated in a number of real-world contingency mission, including supporting the Sept. 11 attack response, Operation Enduring Freedom and the homeland defense mission called Operation Noble Eagle. Other highlights included humanitarian missions,

and "excellent" rating for initial response and operations during the Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection, a banner year for recruiting, numerous quality of life initiatives and a safety program that prevented flight mishaps.

Westover last won the Armstrong Trophy in 1999.

"We've clearly proven that our motto of 'Team of Choice' is fitting. 2001 was a busy year for us and despite the high tempo, we continuously performed at a level worthy of this recognition," Mazick said. "We will remember 2001 for the way in which it changed our lives, but I will also remember it for the way in which we responded to the call."

Westover teams maintain C-5 support overseas

EDITOR'S NOTE: Air Force Reserve security guidelines prohibit use of surnames for reservists serving overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

By SMSgt. Sandi Michon

A single mom leaves her only daughter behind, a loadmaster is on the road for 35 out of the last 39 days, troops spend three months in cramped quarters in a foreign country, and a dad exits a C-5 at Westover and runs to greet his wife and two small kids — he's missed half of his baby's life while away.

The story of Operation Enduring Freedom is told not only with dollars and cents, activation figures and deployment rotations, but in the lives of real reservists at Westover.

Snapshots of nearly 100 of these lives were taken on a C-5 mission to Spain, March 26-28. Approximately 40 Westover reservists departed for a 90-day deployment swap-out, as an equal number eagerly waited to pass the baton and get back home.

The mood was somber in the C-5 rear troop compartment as reservists settled in for



OUTWARD BOUND — A line of base commanders and supervisors shake hands with Westover troops as they board the C-5 for deployment in March. The troops were replacing an overseas team ready to return home.

the eight-hour flight. Each person faces unique challenges of separation — some have already been removed from home because of activation — now all will be far from home. Few looked forward to the deployment, but all interviewed were proud to do what needed to be done. "No one wants to leave home and family, but we're glad to do our part," said MSgt. Dave, from the 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron.

TSgt. Joaquim, with the 439th MXS, said he will miss his wife and two kids, but his deployment is actually a return trip, and it carries bittersweet memories. He served on an Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation almost two years ago, and it was the last time he saw his father alive. Joaquim, a native of Portugal, still owns a home there and was able to visit his ailing father. Referring to his current deployment, he said, "I actually like the food and the culture here."

While Joaquim is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish, most others are not so fortunate, making acclimation to the culture more difficult.

Acclimation to working at a foreign base is also difficult. It's like working in someone else's garage — they don't have the same tools, and they don't store spare parts for your car model. During their first full day in Spain, incoming and outgoing teams met to brief the "garage." They explained current projects, took bench stock inventories, and briefed protocol procedures.

The maintenance mission is to support all C-5s transiting through the air base and help with any other aircraft as needed. The four C-5s on the ground on March 27 provided instant work for the incoming crew, including an engine change.

"Their contributions are superb," said Lt.

Continued on next page

Team effort provides childcare for 90-day deployment

By SMSgt. Sandi Michon



TSgt. Teresa*

Supervisors are known to look after their people, but it's not often that they take care of their people's people.

But that's exactly what happened when TSgt. Teresa's* supervisor, SMSgt. Gary Hebert and his wife agreed to care for Teresa's 14-

year-old daughter, Monica, during her mom's 90-day deployment.

"Enduring Freedom is a team thing... we wanted to help Teresa concentrate on what she needs to do while deployed and minimize the stress on Monica," explained Hebert, shop chief with the 439th MXS hydraulics shop. Hebert credits his wife Laurie as a key player on the "team" and said she had also helped out during Desert Storm

when a couple in the hydraulics shop struggled to balance childcare demands between opposite 12-hour shifts. Both have known Teresa since 1983, when she served on active duty at Travis AFB, Calif.

"She's a good mom and she's done a good job raising her daughter," Hebert said.

As Teresa came off her first 12-hour shift providing C-5 maintenance in Europe, she already missed her daughter, but she knew she was where she needed to be. "It's important to support Enduring Freedom; we're all pulling together for the same thing," she said.

Teresa, who lives in Chicopee, made long-term dependent care arrangements with her sister in Kentucky. While activated at Westover, mom and daughter were able to continue their lives as normally as possible, but a 90-day deployment posed unique problems. "I didn't want my daughter to have to switch schools and be uprooted from her friends," Teresa explained.

She discussed her conflict with her supervisor. Hebert then spoke with his wife and the two offered to have Monica stay with them and their two teenaged children.

"I'm very thankful for their support," said Teresa, "Monica is happy there and I'm comfortable with the arrangements."

Teresa has been a single parent through a portion of her 29-year military career, so she is no stranger to dependent care challenges. But, both mom and daughter have developed a mutual respect in the process. "She is such a great kid," said Teresa, her eyes glistening. When the maintenance commander presented wing coins to deploying reservists as a token of appreciation, Monica brought the coin to school. She shared her pride as she explained to her friends and teachers that her mom got it for serving her country.

Teresa's three-month deployment stint is just beginning, but she is resolute. "I miss my family already, but I remind myself each day that we'll get through this."

Col. Mitch Witherspoon, the airbase squadron commander. "Westover reservists are true professionals, highly skilled, real team players. We have other support, but they have been our anchor," he said.

To welcome the new maintenance team, the outgoing team hosted a barbecue — under a pavilion they built themselves. Westover reservists also built picnic tables, and a complete footbridge to contribute their talents to the rather austere base. Burgers sizzled and footballs flew as reservists completed the handoff of responsibility to the new crew. During the barbecue, reservists shared their experiences with media representatives on the mission. It was clear that they had gelled as a team. "You get really close," said SSgt. Mark Schabek, 439th MXS aircraft mechanic. "When you can't be with family — this becomes family," he said, gesturing toward the surrounding reservists. Many nodded knowingly when he talked of missing little things. "I miss my own room, my stereo, a private bath, driving my car — so many things you work so hard for."

They also offered advice on coping with deployment. When asked when do you adjust to being away, one member quipped, "when you get back to Westover!"

"You have to psyche yourself up before leave," said TSgt. Dave Sadler, in a more serious tone. SSgt. Ron Corliss agrees. "You have to put it out of your mind and focus on the job. You have to put family and home in the back of your mind, or you get negative," he said.

An anxious group waited to board the

Continued on page 6

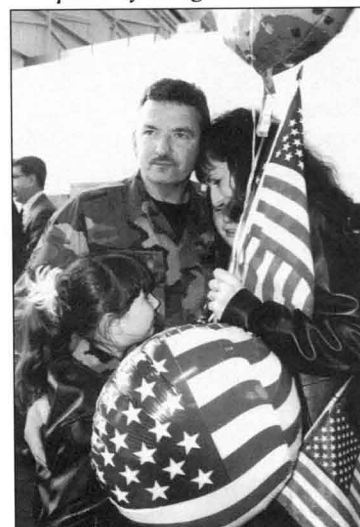


- photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon



- photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

COMING AND GOING — Local media representative were on board a Westover C-5 mission in March to swap out deployment teams to Spain. In the photo above, Channel 22 reporter Ellen Cheng, interviews TSgt. Joaquim*, aircraft maintenance craftsman, on the first day of his deployment. At left, 1st Lt. Jeff Milligan, outgoing deployment OIC, passes command to 1st Lt. Joseph* before boarding the C-5 on March 28. At right, the family of SMSgt. Mike Barrick welcome him home in Hangar 9 at Westover.



- photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe



DADDY'S HOME — SSgt. Ron Corliss, aerospace propulsion journeyman with the 439th AGS, meets his family at the fence by Hangar 9 minutes after the C-5 parked on the Westover tarmac. Corliss was deployed for 90 days to Spain, missing nearly half of his 8-month-old son's life.

- photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

C-5 support overseas... continued from previous page

C-5 early morning on March 27. As they waited by the passenger terminal, TSgt. Tim MacDonald revealed their eagerness. "Let's get our bags on the truck — it's one step closer to getting on the plane," he said.

During the eight-hour flight home, Westover's aircrew was back in the saddle, providing a vital link for Enduring Freedom. The nine-member, augmented crew totaled 41,900 flying hours between them — that's 4.78 years in the air. "That's 'wheels in the well' time, and doesn't include preflights, postflights, uploading or downloading," explained SMSgt. John Duffy, the 337th AS loadmaster who has spent most of the last month and a half in the air. His stats illustrate the sacrifice aircrew members make as the operations tempo continues to increase in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Once back at Westover, family members waiting at the fence by Hangar 9 craned their necks to catch a glimpse of loved ones departing the C-5. Even the media representatives exiting the aircraft became emotional seeing Corliss run to the fence to greet his wife and two little ones.

The homecoming tears and embraces pen the details of the evolving story of Operation Enduring Freedom — a story not told by fact and figures — but by personal sacrifices in the call of duty.

Aroma therapy for frequent flyers

By SMSgt. Sandi Michon

The scent of pancakes, bacon and eggs wafts through the C-5 flight deck, overpowering the ever-pervasive odor of jet fumes and oil. SMSgt. Gary Miller, 337th Airlift Squadron flight engineer, cooks breakfast for the aircrew halfway through a mission that began with a briefing just after dawn and ended time zones later as they ferried troops overseas for a deployment swap-out on March 26-28.

It's aroma therapy for the aircrew and a taste of home that they seldom enjoy as they fly frequent back-to-back missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

"It's a morale builder. It helps pass the time and gives everyone something to look forward to," said SMSgt. John Duffy, 337th AS loadmaster, who prepared chicken parmesan and black bean rice on the return leg of the mission.

According to Duffy, logging hundreds of hours in the air is taxing on aircrew health and a typical C-5 mission with an augmented crew averages between 16-26 hours.

He grimaced as he figured the number of box lunches a typical aircrew member eats in a year. "When we cook, we eat healthier," he said, "You also work better when you eat well."

Cooking "gourmet" meals in a C-5 galley is no small challenge. The galley consists of a small refrigerator, coffeemaker, a 15x15-inch convection oven and a small countertop. "It takes a lot of planning," joke Duffy, and said some crews created cooking kits for trips. "You have to be creative," he said, citing electric frying pans, and crockpots as useful cooking tools.

It's also become a friendly culinary rivalry between aircrew sections. Informal aircrew polling reveals Maj. Vito Addabbo capturing top recognition for the pilot section — with repeated kudos for his lasagna. Maj. Lou Shogry and Maj. Matt Warren earned honorable mention in the same category.

Miller, MSgt. Jeanie Beadle and TSgt. Steve Bryant have prepared memorable mobile meals as flight engineers, and SMSgt. Tom Dzwonkus (439th OG), MSgt. Dan Hogan and SSgt. Eva Swedock were highlighted as top cooks in the loadmaster section.

The 337th organized a chili cook-off in February to compare culinary talents. MSgt. Joe Fitzgibbons, 439th AW command and control journeyman, won according to 337th Airlift Squadron First Sergeant MSgt. Pam White. "His chili was very, very hot," she said, adding that the chili entries had to be cooked on base.

Apparently, Westover's maintenance folks are catching on. Reservists catching sleep en route to a 90-day overseas deployment were comforted as the rear troop compartment filled with the delicious aroma of "home-baked" chocolate chip cookies.

"It was a nice touch," said one of the maintenance members.



BON APPETIT — SMSgt. Gary Miller, 337th AS flight engineer, serves up breakfast while en route to Spain.

Representative proposes lowering minimum reserve retirement age

Legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives Feb. 28 to lower the minimum age required to claim reserve retirement pay.

Currently, reservists must wait until age 60 before applying for this retirement benefit. If adopted, the resolution would lower the age to 55.

H.R. 3831, introduced by U.S. Representative Jim Saxton of New Jersey, seeks to amend Title 10 of the United States Code, which includes details on who may receive military retirement pay and benefits.

To qualify for reserve retirement, reservists must complete 20 qualifying years of service with the final eight qualifying years spent as a member of a reserve component.

Before reaching age 60, they are classified as "gray area" retirees, a cate-

gory that allows them to claim many reserve benefits but not retirement pay.

Although introduced in the House, the resolution has a long road to travel before becoming law. The appropriate committee must first review the proposal before it is considered by the full House, and the U.S. Senate has to concur with the wording or consider a comparable bill. During the often-lengthy process, the wording of the bill may be modified in order to reach a consensus.

If approved by both chambers of Congress, the proposal is included with other legislation and sent to the president for his approval and signature.

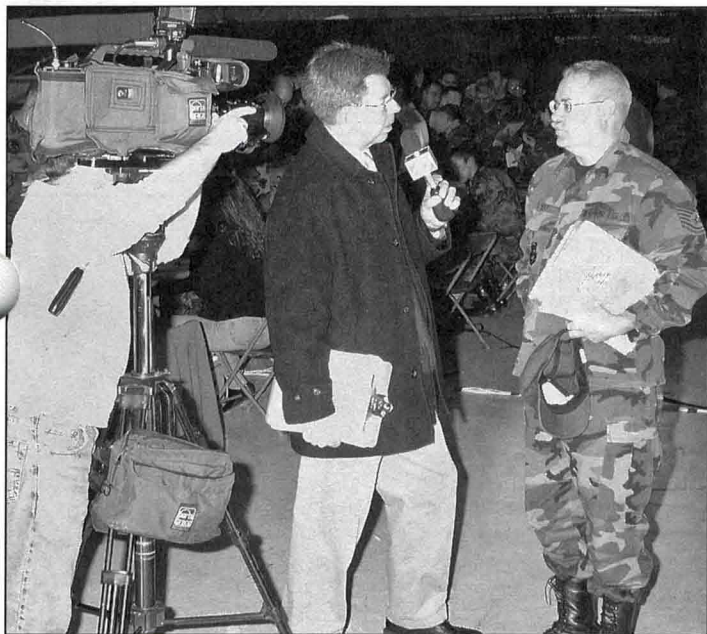
People can learn more about the proposal by going on the Web and accessing www.house.gov.



RIBBON CUTTING — Col. Sarah Waterman, 439th ASTS commander, and Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander, cut the ceremonial ribbon signaling the official opening of the squadron's renovated facility March 16.

-photo by Capt. Wilson Camelo

Activated airmen on the air



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTIVATION — Channel 40 reporter Ray Hershel interviews TSgt. Michael, 58th Aerial Port Squadron, about his activation on March 8. By the end of March, half of the 439th Airlift Wing's people — 1,212 men and women — had been called up for Operation Enduring Freedom.

-photo by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Computer users first line of defense against intruders

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — It's always there, available at the touch of a key. Although the Internet streamlines Air Force Reserve Command business and speeds up communication, it's vulnerable — that is, unless computer users protect it.

If users neglect basic security precautions, the Internet capabilities AFRC users need may not be there to carry vital mission information.

Reservists and others throughout the Department of Defense routinely use the Internet despite its vulnerability. The vulnerability is underscored by the number of recent attempts to break into it. In 1999, DOD computer security systems and specialists foiled nearly 22,500 would-be intruders and another 24,500 in 2000. There is no let up in sight.

Computer users should follow these security tips:

- Use the automatic screen saver feature so the monitor goes dark when you leave your desk and lock your machine when you walk away from it by selecting Ctrl, Alt, Del and Lock)
- Scan all discs for viruses using McAfee Virus Scan or Norton Symantec before opening them.
- Do not use any unlicensed software on AFRC computers, including programs you may be using on your home computer.
- Do not download software from the Internet. See your workgroup administrator so he or she can get the software you need from a secure source.
- Report any suspicious e-mails or virus warning notices to your workgroup administrator. Do not open any suspicious e-mails or attachments.
- Change your password often, using at least eight characters from three of four groups — uppercase, lowercase, number and special character. The system automatically enforces a 90-day password change as required by Air Force Instructions.

Griffin Services marks two-year base anniversary

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Griffin Services marked its two-year anniversary in March with a celebration held at the Westover Club. Griffin took over as the base operating contractor in March 2000.

The Atlanta-based company is responsible for the general day-to-day operations at Westover, the largest Air Force Reserve Command base in the United States. James Griffin, chief executive officer of Griffin Services, joined Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander, and Griffin employees for the event at the club.

Mazick recently reflected on the changeover, which he called the most significant personnel realignment at Westover since the Air Force Reserve took over the base in 1974 from the active-duty Air Force. The colonel had only been on base for a few months when it took place. "It definitely had its growing pains, only because it was a change," Mazick said. "Any time you change people's lives, people tend to react."

Jim Faye, supply and fuels accountable officer, has been at Westover since 1970. He agreed with Mazick about the significance of the Griffin change. After the last active-duty people left Westover in 1974, it was up to the federal government to staff many of the civilian areas on the base. That no longer was the case in March 2000. "It was a negative change - people lost their jobs," Faye said. "It was a rough beginning. We had to come to understand the contract. There was a learning curve."

Faye said Mazick was instrumental in smoothing out relations between the military and the contractor. "Colonel Mazick was a big part of it because he stepped up," Faye said. "His attitude to work with the contractor as a partner with the base personnel was a very important part of the changeover. He had to face a hostile bunch of people that were looking at many unknowns ... they could be real tough cookies. It was their livelihood that could be affected. It was their living."

But as the days and months went by, the atmosphere improved between Griffin and the employees, Faye said. "It didn't take long to

settle into a better relationship," he said. "Griffin hired a lot of our civil service employees that were in supply."

Griffin's job is to maintain Westover day-to-day. While the base was much larger as a major SAC base some 30 years ago, the remaining base property is still large. Griffin crews mow more than 1,600 acres of grass. That land is part of the 2,500 acres that makes up Westover. Griffin employs 90 men and women, said project manager Charlie Cotter. About a year ago, crews cleared six feet of grass and brush on either side of the fence that surrounds the base. Its perimeter stretches 18 miles.

Griffin handles all supply operations. The contractor processes about 30,000 transactions per month, Cotter said. Griffin also handles real property maintenance, the traffic management office, vehicle maintenance, and fuels. Since Westover is the closest fully-operational base to Europe, military flying units often stop at the base on their way to or returning from overseas locations. Workers for Maytag Aircraft Corp., a Griffin subcontractor, are often the first faces of Westover visiting aircrews see. The Maytag workers drive the "follow me" trucks on the airfield and assist pilots with parking their aircraft.

To keep communication flowing, Griffin management and the senior Westover leadership hold monthly meetings to discuss projects on the base and any other problems. "We're integrating into functional areas like base ops and civil engineering," Cotter said. "We're still working at trying to be one team. There is still some work to do."

While Griffin celebrated the anniversary, another era passed as well, when it was announced in March that project manager David Rauhecker would be moving to Atlanta to be director of Air Force contract. Griffin also has contracts at other reserve bases including Dobbins ARB, Ga., Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y., and Willow Grove ARS, Pa.

Cotter, 49, arrived in September and was hired as the deputy project manager. He is a retired Air Force colonel who served for 26 years in a variety of senior management positions. While Cotter's experience

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Quick-thinking MSgt. averts disaster at shoppette gas station

by SSgt. Duane Meszler

An off-duty security forces master sergeant put out a car fire that flared up a few feet away from the base shoppette's gas pumps in March.

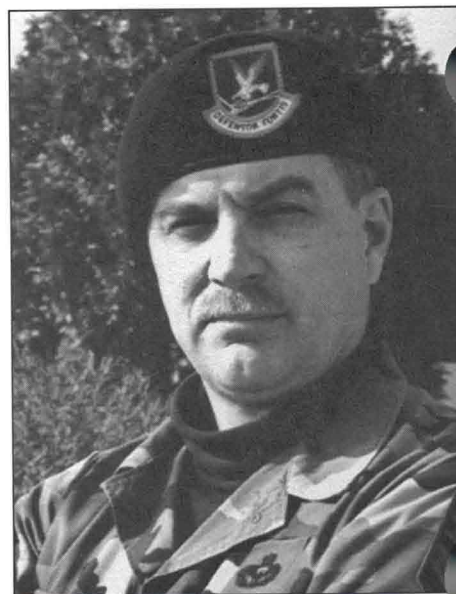
MSgt. Michael Gallant was off-duty and inside the store picking up groceries when an Army reservist burst inside to tell the clerk his car was on fire. While the clerk dialed 911, Gallant ran out of the store to check on the man's car.

"When I ran out of the shoppette you could see the flames coming from under the hood," said Gallant, who quickly grabbed a fire extinguisher. "I gave it a couple of

good blasts from the extinguisher and it was out. It was a good thing the extinguisher was right there." After the flames were out, Gallant and other customers pushed the man's car safely away from the gas pumps. The man's father later arrived to pick him up while the car was towed, said MSgt. Kevin Cahill of the 439th Security Forces Squadron.

"The scene was secured even before the fire department arrived," Cahill said. "Had Sergeant Gallant not been there and taken swift action, the situation could have been disastrous," he said. Maj. Mary Ann Lutz, 439th SFS commander, said Gallant's actions were exemplary. "I would hope that all my SF's - whether on duty or off, could react in such a fine matter," she said. "Sergeant Gallant is always a responsible guy."

Lutz said she has put Gallant in for an Air Force Achievement Medal for his quick thinking at the shoppette on March 11.



MSgt. Michael Gallant

Security forces patrolman with famous last name carries on family tradition

Articles and photo by
SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

History, family, and Westover have a lot in common for SSgt. Paul LeMay Jr. He doesn't have to look beyond Westover to find the other two.

His father, Paul LeMay Sr., was assigned to the base from 1975-1984. Decades before that, another LeMay - a cousin - occupied an office in Bldg. 1100 while he savored his hallmark cigars.

That relative was Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, who commanded Strategic Air Command (SAC) from 1948-1957. Before he assumed command of SAC, the general was assigned to Westover's headquarters in the early 1940s as the operations officer for Eighth Air Force.

These days, SSgt. Paul LeMay can't help feeling nostalgic when he sees Bldg. 1100. One of its offices features a large picture window - the same one from which the famous general peered from long ago. The vintage structure now houses the retiree affairs office, the chaplain, and family readiness, but long ago housed the headquarters of SAC's Eighth Air Force and, later on, the 57th Air Division.

"I always look over there," LeMay said, as he gestured toward Westover's oldest

building. "I try to imagine him there."

So when the young LeMay meets people, they often think of the highest-ranking one first, he said. "Retirees know the general. They say 'I served with him.'"

Paul LeMay Jr.'s grandfather - Joseph LeMay - was a cousin of General LeMay. "I'm carrying on a family tradition," said Le-

"It's outstanding I'm serving on the base he was at. The general was a strategic genius."

- SSgt. Paul LeMay Jr.

May, 33. Paul LeMay Sr., worked in the public affairs office as a photographer and in recruiting and base supply.

"I am proud of the fact that we're all related," said Paul LeMay Sr., who recently spoke on the phone from his house in northeastern Maine. He's glad his son is continuing the family's presence at Westover. "I'm proud of my son. He is loyal and dedicated."

Like his son, LeMay was often on the receiving end of some comments from servicemembers who caught his last name. "I would get razed a lot of times," he said. "I didn't want to make a big deal of it."

Paul LeMay Sr. admired General LeMay's "all-out" warfighting strategy. "That's what made him a great leader ... he accomplished phenomenal things," he said.

The junior LeMay got out of the Navy in 1997 after working aboard an amphibious assault ship. His ship got some high profile recognition while he was aboard. "They filmed our ship in the movie 'Apollo 13,'" he said.

LeMay learned of an Air Reserve Technician (ART) opening at Westover and promptly took the job in 1999. He first joined the Navy and worked aboard an amphibious assault ship. LeMay said he didn't join the Air Force because of his name. "I didn't think I had the smarts," he said. "I was afraid they were going to expect too much out of me because of my last name."

But his career didn't turn out that way. "They treated me according to my rank," he said, adding how much he admires his renowned cousin.

"He (the general) and his wife - they built the Air Force," LeMay said. "It's outstanding I'm serving on the base he was at. The general was a strategic genius. He totally re-arranged our bombing runs. He told 'em straight up. He

General LeMay was 8th AF ops officer at base in early 1940s



Decades ago, Westover was home to one of the most well-known Air Force generals of the 20th century and considered by many to be the pioneer of Strategic Air Command (SAC).

Gen. Curtis E. LeMay was the operations officer for Eighth Air Force at Westover in the early 1940s. Then a lieutenant colonel, LeMay quickly rose through the ranks to become one of the youngest officers to pin on general. He was SAC commander in chief from 1948-1957. Shortly after he left his SAC post to become Air Force vice chief of staff, LeMay returned to Westover and made aviation history.

LeMay flew a record-setting flight in a KC-135 from Westover to Buenos Aires, Argentina on Nov. 12, 1957. He was at the controls of a 13 hour, 2 minute, 51 second flight that spanned 6,322.85 miles.

The general later became the Air Force chief of staff. He retired in 1965. He died on March 3, 1990 in California at the age of 83.



FAMILY FOOTSTEPS—SSgt. Paul LeMay Jr., 439th Security Forces Squadron, stands in front of Bldg. 1100 that once housed the office of then Lt. Col. Curtis E. LeMay.

didn't care what politician you were. It's too bad that we weren't in at the same time."

LeMay has a 5-year-old son. He hopes young Zachary will some day wear the uniform too. "Whatever he chooses ... I'll help groom him towards it." Meanwhile Paul LeMay Jr. is continuing a family tradition. "I serve the people who have gone before me," he said, as he got ready for work. "They made America what we stand for today."

Wing fitness challenge set for May 4

With a heavy emphasis on fun and teamwork, the second annual 439th Airlift Wing Fitness Challenge is scheduled for May 4.

"It's fun, everyone has a great time," said Col. Thomas Mauzaka, special assistant to the wing commander.



"It's a great way to keep in shape and enjoy the healthy competition. I'm looking forward to it," said 1st Lt. Kelly Braudis, military personnel flight commander.

The challenge involves a 2.7-mile run, canoeing approximately one and a half miles around Wade Lake's perimeter, a 3-mile mountain bike trek, and completion of an obstacle course.

The fitness event is a team competition and all teams must be coed.

Participants may use their own bikes, canoes and bike helmets. However, equipment will be provided.

Teams must enroll by May 2 for the free event. Call the fitness center at Ext. 3958 to join and for more information.

PATRIOT best in AF

Westover's monthly newspaper, "The Patriot," recently took first place for best newspaper in the Air Force for 2001. This was the second year in a row that Westover's public affairs staff had won the award. "The Patriot" led the small funded newspaper category that competed in the Air Force Media Contest. In addition, the PA staff also won the "best series" category in the contest.

The three-part series highlighted benefits of serving in the Air Force Reserve. Staff writers included Capt. Wilson Camelo, TSgt. Andrew Reitano, and SSgt. Brad Harrison, a member of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron.

Fitness month to feature road race, mountain climbing in May

The Base Gymnasium is gearing up for "fitness month," offering various activities throughout May for reservists' enjoyment and health.

"Throughout the month, servicemembers can come to the base gym for health assessments and personal training by professional trainers. We will have tournaments and leagues as well," said CMSgt. Christopher Menard, director of services.

"All of the following events are free (except marathon)," said Menard.

Y A 5-mile road race is scheduled to take place at Westover for servicemembers, Menard said. The times, dates, and possible awards will be announced.

Y The Westover Base Bowling Center will hold bowling tournaments during May. Contact the Bowling center at Ext. 3033 for more information.

Y Leagues are being formed for both softball and basketball.

Y Softball leagues include both coed and male teams. A meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 1 at the Fitness Center for all interested participants. Game times will be announced at the

meeting. Dependent on the number of female participants, a women's league is possible.

Y A basketball tournament is slated to begin in May. The tournament plans to follow a half-court, 3-on-3-team format. Contact the Base Gym at Ext. 2417 for more information.

Y A mountain climbing challenge is slated for May. Using the gym's mountain climbing machine, climbers will complete for trophies, said Menard. No date for the event was available at press time.

Y Interested in running a marathon? Westover is forming teams now to send to the U.S. Air Force Marathon held at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio on Sept. 21, 2002. Cost is \$35 dollars to enter and reservists are responsible to pay for own lodging and transportation. Westover plans to provide team T-shirts for the race. TSgt. Amy Morin, of the 439th Services Squadron, is coordinating the event.

For more information about the marathon, lodging, and travel arrangements, contact Morin at Ext. 2056.

Force Protection Tip of the Month

Office Security Tips: Ensure that all persons working in an office are trained to be alert for suspicious activities, persons or objects.

Arrange office interiors so that strange or foreign objects left in the room will be immediately recognized. Example, remove obvious obstructions behind which, or within, improvised explosive devices could be concealed such as draperies, closed waste baskets, unsecured desks and filing cabinets. Force Protection Office: Ext. 3872, 3807

Griffin Services... continued from page 8

includes commands of an air base wing at McClellan AFB, Calif., and a mission support squadron, he also was assistant executive officer to Gen. H. Norman Schwartzkopf, commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf War, for 18 months.

Mazick remembered that one of the first things Griffin people showed him was their desire to accomplish the mission.

He recalled how Rauhecker, a retired colonel, wanted to start Griffin off on the right foot. "The message that was sent to me was that the site manager understands mission accomplishment — not just getting the job done — but mission

accomplishment," Mazick said. "So a lot of the progress made has definitely been credited to Mr. Rauhecker for his ability to apply his Air Force know-how to doing business in a real Air Force mission business sense.

Cotter intends to carry on that business sense. "This is like being in the Air Force, except I'm just not doing it in a blue suit anymore," he said, as his eyes widened with enthusiasm. "We're at 24-7 in many areas on base. We're here to accomplish the mission of the 439th."

"We're here to serve," Cotter said.

Patriot People

Name: David P. Jones
Rank: MSgt.
Age: 40
Address: Belchertown
Unit: 337th Airlift Squadron
Position: Flight engineer
Civilian position: Flight simulator instructor
Favorite food: Mexican
Years of service: 23
Favorite sport: Football
Favorite hobby: Computers
Ideal vacation: Relaxing on the beach
Best way to relax: Taking a vacation
Preferred entertainment: Theater
Favorite hero: None
Favorite music: Classic music, '70s, '80s
Favorite movie: Dances With Wolves
Favorite aircraft: C-5
Pet peeve: Poor leadership
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Take my family vacation



Photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

MSgt. David P. Jones

Awards and Decorations

Air Force Achievement Medal

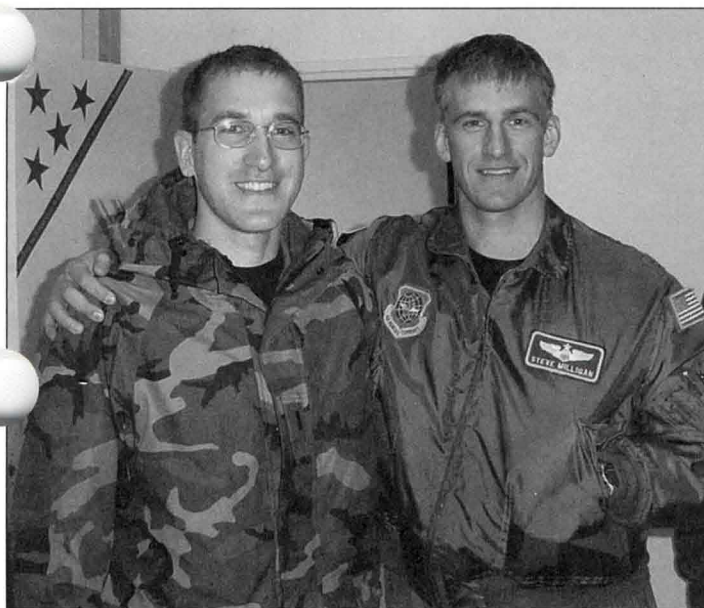
MSgt. Shamett, Serge M. 42 APS
 TSgt. Goguen, Richard J. 42 APS
 TSgt. Gorman, James M. 42 APS
 TSgt. Nunnally, Vonsicia S. 42 APS
 TSgt. Thibodeau, John L. 42 APS
 SSgt. Fernandez, Joseph Jr. 42 APS
 SSgt. Howell, Clayton A. 439 OSS
 SSgt. Kochis, James F., Jr. 42 APS
 SSgt. Tynik, Andrew J. 42 APS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. McGhee, William O. 439 AES
 Capt. Moon, Changkun 337 AS
 Capt. Nicholson, Michael 439 AES
 MSgt. Colon, Miguel A. 42 APS
 MSgt. Grybko, Kim L. 439 OSS
 MSgt. Whittington, Charl A. 439 AMDS
 TSgt. Kratochvil, Kathleen A. 439 AMDS
 SSgt. O'Boyle, Edward R. 42 APS
 SSgt. Tracey, Scott A. 42 APS

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Carey, James P. 42 APS
 Lt. Col. Mobley, Archie S., Jr. 439 AES
 Lt. Col. Ryan, Christine M. 439 AES
 SMSgt. Goldberg, Michael L. 42 APS
 Capt. Hoffman, Andrew P. 337 AS
 MSgt. Cullen, Constance M. 439 OG



AIR FORCE FRATERNITY — It was a deployment reunion when 1st. Lt. Jeff Milligan, met up with his brother Steve, a major, passing through an airbase in Spain.

- photo by Lt. Col. Dan Allen

Recruiting for volunteers

Recruiting is looking for assists with mail shows in the following states -
 Mass., Conn., N.Y., Vt., N.H., and R.I.
 For more information contact
SMSgt. Ron Tyson 413-557-3923

Reservists, schools trade community kindness

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

The hectic pace of activations and deployments has not affected the community spirit of Westover reservists who have visited local schools to spread the word about the 439th Airlift Wing's contribution to the war on terror.

The kindness has been mutual. Schools in Southboro, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow, and Deerfield have sent boxes of greeting cards and cookies to Westover. Many of the boxes have been placed on Westover's C-5s bound for wing members on rotations to overseas destinations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

A Westover senior NCO appreciated the letters from local schoolchildren during his recent three-month deployment overseas. "It was really nice to see the support," said SMSgt. Brad Tryba, production superintendent with the 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron. The way the kids express themselves is amusing ... it's kind of uplifting. It's a little touch of home."

Reservists who have visited schools include:

- TSgt. Bill Vargus, a loadmaster with the 337th Airlift Squadron, spoke to 18 first-graders on Feb. 25 at Harwich Elementary School in Harwich, Mass. about his role in the 439th AW. Vargus plans on visiting the school again in May.

- SMSgt. Sandi Michon of the 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office visited the Faith Baptist Christian Academy on Feb. 27. She was among the guest speakers for the academy's annual Great Americans' Day and spoke with students about being an Air Force reservist.

- Members of various squadrons from Westover visited Belchertown High School for Remembrance Day on March 11. CMSgt. Alan Rogers, 439th Maintenance Squadron, gave a 5-minute speech to about 800 people. Other reservists included: Maj. Mike Smith, Capt. Steve Taylor and MSgt. David Jones, MSgt. Gary Smith and TSgt. Shawn Harris (all with the 337th AS); SSgt. Kathy Busch, 42nd APS.

- In February, Westover maintenance workers signed their autographs on C-5 pictures provided to students in Millbury, Ware, and Warren, Mass. MSgt. Earl Duncan, 439th AGS first sergeant, was among a group of airmen who returned to St. Mary's School in Ware on March 21. The group returned to thank the students for their support during their recent deployment overseas. The squadron plans to visit more schools this spring.

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 TSgt. Kimberly Babin, from South Hadley, Mass., and the 2,524 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

439th AW/PA
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