



PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base
April 2003 • Vol. 30, No. 4

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

DÉJÀ VU – all over again

Well, so much for the 30-day surge. It has come and gone and we are still as busy as ever, 24 hours a day/7 days a week and mobilization is upon us once more. Didn't we just do this last year? For a lot of you the answer is yes. I want to thank you once more for answering the call to duty.

We are up to 900 and will grow a little more to bring on the support folks that will look after all those that are mobilized. The bulk of the mobilized force is serving at Westover with a

Commentary

few areas tasked for overseas deployment. It looks to stay this

way for now, but it could change rapidly as our president decides on the next course of action.

Geography plays an important part for why we at Westover are working so hard today. Dover and Charleston AFBs are critical to the Department of Defense as East Coast cargo generation ports. What we provide the Air Force today is the closest installation to Europe that you can run a major airlift operation from, and this is a major airlift operation.

We have been called upon to service and maintain the C-5s that are headed to points east and provide their first opportunity for TLM (Tender Loving Maintenance) upon coming home.

In the midst of all this we have had the opportunity to service Marine, Army and Navy forces passing through on their last stop before the desert. Everyone has jumped at the chance to treat these folks well and the many I have talked to are very appreciative.

As the months proceed we will continue to do our part because it is our duty and it is Westover's legacy. Whether training bomber crews during World War II on their last stop before Europe, sending supplies to Germany for the Berlin Airlift, serving as an airlift hub and return point during the Gulf War, or today as the East Coast C-5 stepping off point and maintenance base of choice, Westover people are making it happen.

Many folks today remember Westover's legacy to the Gulf War. As each day passes you are writing our present history and many will be appreciative of the fact that you are.

Thanks for all you do!

by Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick
439th Airlift Wing Commander



Briefs

Photos not permitted without PA approval

For security reasons, photography is not permitted on the flight line or on the transient aircraft parking ramp without permission from the Public Affairs office. People wishing to take pictures should first contact the PA staff at Ext. 3500.

Reservists encouraged to donate to fund drive

Patriot Wing members are asked to donate this spring to the Air Force Assistance Fund, a long-time military donation program.

AFAF was established to raise funds for charities that provide support for members of the Air Force family in need.

These organizations include the Air Force Aid Society, the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, and the Air Force Enlisted Foundation.

Contributions, which can be made during the annual AFAF drive that runs until May 1, can be made directly to unit key workers with a cash donation, or by payroll deductions.

For more information, call MSgt. Gregory A. Libby, Westover installation project officer, at Ext. 3877.

PA provides bi-weekly Patriot Express news

Because of the surge in operations at Westover, the Public Affairs office began producing a bi-weekly newsletter on Feb. 25 that covers the expanded role of the base.

The "Patriot Express" newsletter is distributed every Tuesday and Friday on base. The newsletter can also be seen online at www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

Cover photo

LAST MINUTE CHECK-

SSgt. Frank M. Falcone, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, prepares a C-5 Galaxy for its mission. More than 800 Patriot Wing maintainers were activated in February to support an air bridge for the buildup in Southwest Asia (see article and additional photos on page 3).
— photo by MSgt. Tom Allocco

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Westover hangs out "last chance for gas" sign

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

When the word came in early February from Air Mobility Command that the nation needs an air bridge to move troops and equipment across the Atlantic, the Patriot Wing saluted smartly and went to work. Starting with the help of volunteers, the wing began around-the-clock operations on Feb. 2 to support an armada of C-5s.

From day one, maintenance and fuels started working two 12-

ON THE AIR-A camera crew from Citizen Airman interviews SSgt. Randy King and MSgt. Robert Sneed, 439th MXS.



photos by MSgt. W.C. Pope

hour shifts to provide "gas and go" service for aircraft carrying all branches of the service. When troops here need meals or billeting, services and transportation fill the bill. Aerial porters and the USO have set up a passenger terminal operation that guarantees that troops going overseas will know the meaning of Westover hospitality.

On Feb. 19, 850 reservists, mostly maintenance and operations members, started a one-year activation to help put muscle in the war on terrorism. With clockwork efficiency, the 439th Military Personnel Flight conducted mobilization lines in the dining hall, addressing needs from immunizations to family and employer support.

For the majority of those activated, it was the second call to duty. Following the September 11 terror attack, about half of the 2,500 Westover reservists were activated. Most were released in August and September, although security police remained on duty.

The latest round of activations and high ops tempo place the wing in the forefront of a great national effort.

"Once again, Westover stands at a critical junction of the airbridge of troops and equipment, just as it did before Desert Storm," said Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander.

"Since the September 11 attacks on America the Patriot Wing has

By the numbers - as of March 13

Aircraft: 438
Passengers: 2,599
Cargo: 8,856,403 pounds
Jet fuel issued: 3,475,079 gallons

Box lunches: hot meals (1,959),
 lunches for flyers (1,894),
 for duty personnel (690)

Activated reservists: 896
Reservists deployed: 66

Reservists on MPA days: 140
Twelve units activated

been a key player in the war on terrorism. When called, our men and women have performed admirably at home and abroad. They have done so at personal sacrifice to themselves, their families and their employers. I know that as America braces to confront this stubborn crisis, our activated reservists, our volunteers and the rest of our Westover community will again live up to the confidence that the nation has placed in them," the wing commander said.



OUTBOUND-
 A C-5 from
 Travis AFB,
 Calif., taxis
 out from its
 spot on the
 east ramp.

Lackland Texans from 433rd AW experience New England chilly

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The Texans who came to New England knew a lot about airplanes, but not much about snow. The 125 maintainers from the 433rd Airlift Wing, Lackland AFB, spent the first two weeks of February on the Westover flightline experiencing one of the worst stretches of a bitterly cold, snowy season.

When they were activated last week, the reservists from San Antonio went home with stories to tell about blizzards and below zero weather.

"You guys deal with something I've never experienced in my life. Cold takes on a whole new meaning," said TSgt. V

"I hadn't seen snow since 1984 when it snowed two or

three inches in San Antonio," said TSgt. Jose Landeros. "Working in the cold makes everything more difficult. The cold is hard on the airplanes. There's more maintenance on the seals," he said.

"It was two below zero here and they told me it was 70 degrees in Texas," said SSgt. Al Hyatt. "I've got to get home and cut the grass. And get hay for my horses," he said.

Hyatt is a true Texan who was featured in Citizen Airman magazine in 2000 when he won a steer team roping event in the Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association. But he hadn't experienced a New England winter. "I never saw a river freeze before," he said.

722nd New Yorkers leave one front line for another

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The 722nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical specialists don't know where they may be going to war, but they know why they are going.

For the medical specialists of the Patriot Wing's geographically separated unit, the war on terrorism is as real as a slap in the face. From where they work it's possible to go up a tall building and see the gap left in the Manhattan skyline since September 11. That gives a sense of common purpose to the squadron's 30 medical specialists who were activated for Operation Enduring Freedom on Feb. 26 and went through a mobilization line here on March 3.

"We had a group go down to Ground Zero after September 11 to take a look and see the devastation and why we put the uniform on every day and serve," said MSgt. Anthony Tomchak, 722nd ASTS first sergeant.

"Everyone knows someone who was a victim, involved in the rescue or worked around the Wall Street area," said TSgt. Worrell Francis, squadron senior ART. He and the first sergeant spent hours accounting for the safety of all squadron members. Many members felt a sense of disappointment when they were not activated as part of the call-ups following September 11.

The Patriot Wing medical specialists of the geographically separated unit serve at Fort Hamilton, an Army post located in Brooklyn within miles of the World Trade Center.

They went through a mobilization line here in anticipation of deploying to Southwest Asia. They remained at Westover last week undergoing weapons qualification and performing other administrative duties before returning to Fort Hamilton to await orders on Friday.

SrA. Joseph, a medical technician whose last name can't be used because he is among those deploying, was at Fort Hamilton on September 11. "You could smell the smoke. Even

the next morning I walked out of my building and it hit you," he said. All day his frantic wife tried to reach him, but every telephone was down.

A long-time family friend was among the firefighters never found. "His wife didn't hear from him for days. Slowly we came to the conclusion that we had lost him," SrA. Joseph said.

Fort Hamilton overlooks the Verrazano Narrows Bridge between Brooklyn and Staten Island. The squadron of about 115 members is the only Air Force Reserve unit stationed at an Army garrison. During the Gulf War the squadron served more than six months at King Khalid Military City and Daharan, Saudi Arabia.

The 30 activated aeromedical specialists

include a doctor, nurses, emergency medical technicians, biomedical, dietary, pharmacy and supply specialists. The 722nd ASTS members are trained and equipped to set up an aeromedical staging facility to provide medical care and evacuation of patients. The activated group includes a Critical Care Action Team to provide emergency care to critical patients.

MSgt. William, a medical technician and Gulf War veteran, was in Manhattan on September 11. He saw the anxiety of co-workers for their families and spent hours crammed on subways as people fled the stricken city.

"We will be fighting terrorism to keep it away from our families and our own city, away from our back yard. That's the message to convey to our families," he said.



INFO UPDATE - At the end of the processing line, members of the 722nd ASTS make sure their personal information is updated in the 439th Military Personnel Flight's database.

photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

Medical, airlift control teams activated for deployment

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Orders to activate and prepare to deploy overseas came for Patriot Wing aeromedical and airlift control members in February.

The 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron activated four four-member teams who will soon deploy to different locations, including Southwest Asia. The 16 members went through the 439th Military Personnel Flight mobilization line in late February.

Eleven members of the 439th Airlift Control Flight under Lt. Col. James Hosey, flight commander, went through the mobilization line on March 3. The airlift control flight is organized to provide command and control for airlift operations at a deployed location.

The activated airlift control team includes pilots, operations specialists, loadmasters and an information management specialist. The activated squadron members have not yet been notified of their specific follow-on tasking, said SMSgt. Bob Seaton, 439th ALCF superintendent.

The four teams of medical specialists are designated as aeromedical evacuation liaison teams. Each team is made up of a medical services

officer, flight nurse and two radio operations. They will work with all branches of the service to request patient aeromedical evacuation that could range from forward locations to hospitals in the United States.

The 439th AES has a proud record supporting Enduring Freedom. Squadron members have served 100-day tours overseas at Bagram AB, Afghanistan and in Pakistan. During Desert Storm squadron members served overseas, including Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

"Every time I've called, they've stepped forward. The support and enthusiasm of the members upon being called to duty has been amazing," said Lt. Col. David Zamorski, 439th AES operations officer.

Members of the 439th ALCF were previously activated during the Gulf War when they served for three months at King Khalid Military City in northern Saudi Arabia near the Iraq border. They set up an airfield operation to return troops, primarily the Army VII Corps, to their home bases following hostilities.

42nd APS puts wings on fleet of Army National Guard trucks

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Patriot Wing aerial porters are in the business of filling C-5 bays with outsize, heavy cargo. So it was just in their nature recently when they thought to match up three empty C-5s with rows of heavy-duty trucks.

The result of a little initiative proved to be a major savings for the Massachusetts National

Guard. Westover aerial porters teamed with C-5 aircrews and helped a local Army Guard unit complete their deployment to Fort Bragg, N.C.

Members of the 42nd APS loaded 25 trucks belonging to the 1166th Transportation Company onto the C-5s beginning Feb. 28. The large trucks came from Ware. While the guard unit still had some 50 trucks remaining to take by flatbed to Fort Bragg, the airlift still saved about \$50,000, said CMSgt. Bruce L. Westcott, 42nd APS operations superintendent.

Westcott, who is also an air reserve technician at Westover, regularly attends wing staff meetings, where he learns of future C-5 missions leaving the base. On his way to a recent meeting, he spotted the rows of trucks sitting in front of wing headquarters. That same morning, Westcott learned of three empty C-5s going to Pope AFB, located next to Fort Bragg.

"I saw the (C-5) missions start popping up," he said. "The plans office here was involved initially, so they handed us the guard unit's phone number. I called the sergeant major, and it went from there."

Within five hours, the trucks were on their way to being airlifted. However, there was much more involved than simply driving the

trucks aboard the Galaxies. Westcott said the aerial porters cleaned and inspected them before the onload. In all, 25 trucks went aboard the C-5s. Each load, which weighed in at about 188,000 pounds, took about 30 minutes.

"We brought the trucks into a hangar," said SSgt. Michael Cormier, a 42nd APS loader. He then drove the trucks through the back end of the massive airlifters, and assisted loadmasters with the correct placement of each vehicle. "Once you get the routine down, it's easier," he said.

Westcott said the aerial porters carried out the mission with great enthusiasm despite the late hours and February's sub-zero temperatures. "You have to see their faces when they hear about this kind of thing," he said. "They just light up. The cold weather motivates you too. That airplane's like a wind tunnel."

Lt. Col. James Carey, 42nd APS commander, said the effort was typical of his squadron's readiness to accept a challenge. "It's indicative of the quality of people we have," he said.

The last of the three C-5s delivered its load of trucks to Pope on March 1.



photo by MSgt. Tom Allocco

ARMY MOBILITY - Sergeant First Class Trevor George inspects rows of five-ton trucks with the National Guard's 1166th Transportation Company from Ware which staged at Westover in February.

Army Guard assists 439th reservists with base security

Article and photo

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

New faces and slightly different battle dress uniforms began greeting motorists at the Westover gates in mid-February.

About 50 Massachusetts Army National Guard soldiers are on one-year orders here to assist the 439th Security Forces Squadron with protecting Westover, said 1st Lt. David H. Long, platoon leader of the 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, of the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment of Melrose.

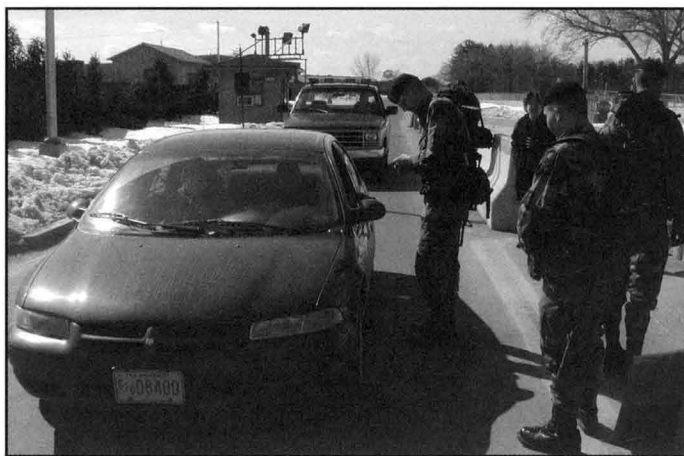
SSgt. Joseph Geyster, an Army guardsman from Athol, checked ID cards at the Industrial Gate in a chilly wind on Feb. 25. Geyster is billeted in a base dormitory and is able to make it home to see his family on his days off. He is pleased with the accommodations at Westover. "They're taking good care of us," he said.

The activation orders this time around carried a far different meaning than having to travel halfway around the world, Long said. He and Geyster deployed to Bosnia last year for seven and a half months.

"It's nice to be close to home," Long said. "This area is in some of the guys' backyards. It works out well." Long, who lives in Brockton, has assigned the guardsmen to not only work the base gates, but also work with 439th reservists on patrols all over Westover's 2,500 acres.

Base security officials welcomed the help from the Army Guard.

"Everything's become a joint operation," said Maj. Tim Donnelly, acting commander of the 439th SFS. "This is an opportunity for a joint



ID CHECK - SSgt. Joseph Geyster, Massachusetts Army National Guard, verifies the ID card of a motorist at the Industrial Gate.

service operation. It's a training opportunity."

About 140 people in the 439th SFS have been activated since shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Donnelly said. Some will be allowed to leave the base as the Army Guard troops settle in, while others reservists who volunteer will stay on.

Around Westover



photo by MSgt. W.C.Pope

COLD GRIP - A maintenance crew de-ices the tail of a Westover C-5. This winter's deep freeze kept its icy grip on the region well into March.



photo by MSgt. Tom Allocco

TUNNER TEACHING - MSgt. Albert Hayford, 42nd APS air transportation supervisor, checks out SSgt. John Taylor of the 27th APS, Minneapolis IAP, on handling of the 60K Tunner during testing of the 12th class of the Westover Tunner School. As of the one-year anniversary of the founding of the school, aerial porters from 17 units across the country have trained in the two-week classes. To qualify, students must pass a confidence course of figure eights, a "walk-around" test to identify assemblies and functions of the loader and a written test. Other instructors include MSgt. Antony Mongelli, 85th APS; TSgt. Terry Lovett, 42nd APS; and TSgt. Fred Brinker, 58th APS.



photo by MSgt. W.C.Pope

HELLO FROM HEALEY - Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey talks with news media during her visit to Westover on March 7. Healey stopped at the base on her way to East Longmeadow.



photo by MSgt. W.C.Pope

ON SWEDISH TV - First Lt. David Peters, a pilot with the 3rd Airlift Squadron, Dover AFB, Del., is interviewed for Swedish Channel 4 by Stefan Borg.



GALAXIES GALORE - As part of the surge that began in February, C-5s from all over the United States have stopped at Westover on their way to and from the military buildup in Southwest Asia. The aircraft arrive for refueling and maintenance checks before continuing on their missions.

photo by MSgt. W.C.Pope

Air Force implements stop-loss effective May 1

by Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON - The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower & Reserve Affairs) has authorized the use of Stop-Loss in order to retain specific skills needed to meet national security objectives. Effective May 2, 43 officer and 56 enlisted specialties are stop-lossed.

"We do not take this action lightly," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche. "Stop-Loss is designed to preserve critical skills essential to supporting the Global War on Terrorism, while ensuring we're prepared to meet other contingencies."

"We've implemented Stop-Loss to ensure we have the necessary skilled personnel to conduct operations," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper. "We'll use it only as long as necessary to accomplish our mission."

Stop-Loss is being implemented across the total force (active duty, Air Force Ready Reserve, and Air National Guard) for the above career fields and affects all airmen in the rank of colonel and below, according to Maj. Teresa L. Forest, chief of Air Force retirements and separation policy at the Pentagon.

Both the secretary and chief of staff are acutely aware that the Air Force is an all-volunteer force and that this action, while essential to meeting the service's worldwide obligations, is inconsistent with the fundamental principles of voluntary service.

"We take Stop-Loss seriously and are working hard to ensure the lives of our airmen, their families and their civilian employers are not disrupted any longer than is necessary to meet our national commitments," Jumper said.

Therefore, a waiver process will be implemented for those people with unique circumstances.

"We are doing our best to minimize this disruption," Roche said. "And we will look at unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis and do all we can to offer appropriate relief."

"We understand the individual sacrifices that our airmen and their families will be making," Jumper said. "We appreciate their unwavering support and dedication to our nation."

For more information about Stop-Loss, members can contact their local military personnel flight or the Air Force Personnel Center's Stop-Loss Control Center (SLCC) at (210) 565-2374 DSN: 665-2374 or www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

www.af.mil/news/biographies/roche_jg.html
Gen. John P. Jumper
www.af.mil/news/biographies/jumper_jp.html
Air Force Stop Loss Center
www.afpc.randolph.af.mil
Westover MPF
www.westover.af.mil/439aw/sections/mpf

AFFECTED AFSCs

Stop-Loss will be implemented on the following AFSCs beginning May 2:

A. OFFICER (Applies to PAFSC regardless of prefix/suffix except where indicated):

11AX	Airlift Pilot
11BX	Bomber Pilot
11EX	Test Pilot
11FX	Fighter Pilot
11GX	Generalist Pilot
11HX	Helicopter Pilot
11KX	Trainer Pilot
11RX	Recce/Surv/Elect Warfare Pilot
11SX	Special Operations Pilot
11TX	Tanker, C-12 CTP Pilot
12AX	Airlift Navigator
12BX	Bomber Navigator
12EX	Test Navigator
12FX	Fighter Navigator
12GX	Generalist Navigator
12KX	Trainer Navigator
12RX	Recce/Surv/Elect Warfare Navigator
12SX	Special Operations Navigator
12TX	Tanker Navigator
13BX	Air Battle Manager
13DXA	Combat Rescue
13DXB	Special Tactics
13MX	Airfield Operations
14NX	Intelligence
31PX	Security Forces
32EX	Civil Engineer
43ex	bioenvironmental engineer
43hx	public health
43tx	biomedical laboratory
44EX	Emergency Services Physician
44MX	Internist
45AX	Anesthesiologist
45BX	Orthopedic Surgeon
45SX	Surgeon
46FX	Flight Nurse
46MX	Nurse Anesthetist
46NXX	Critical Care Nurse
46SX	Operating Room Nurse
48ax	aerospace medicine specialist
48gx	general medical officer
48rx	residency trained flight surgeon
51JX	Judge Advocate
71SX	SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR

B. ENLISTED (Applies to CAFSC regardless of prefix/suffix except where indicated):

1A0XX	In-Flight Refueling
1A1XX	Flight Engineer
1A2XX	Loadmaster
1A3XX	Airborne Communications & Electronics Systems

1A4XX	Airborne Battle Management
1A5XX	Airborne Mission Systems
1A7XX	Aerial Gunner
1A8XX	Airborne Cryptologic Linguist
1C0X1	Airfield Management
1C1XX	Air Traffic Control
1C2XX	Combat Control
1C3XX	Command Post
1C4XX	Tactical Air Command & Control
1C5XX	Aerospace Control & Warning System
1N0XX	Intelligence Applications
1N1XX	Imagery Analysis
1N200	Signals Intelligence Analysis Manager
X1N2XX	Aircrew Signals Intelligence Production
1N3X4	Far East Cryptologic Linguist
1N3X5	Mid-East Cryptologic Linguist
1N3X6*	African Cryptologic Linguist
1N3X7*	Turkic Cryptologic Linguist
1N3X8*	Polynesian Cryptologic Linguist
1N3X9*	Indo-Iranian Cryptologic Linguist
1N4XX	Signals Intelligence Analysis
1N5XX	Electronic Signals Intelligence Exploitation
1N6XX	Electronic System Security Assessment
1S0XX	Safety
1T1XX	Aircrew Life Support
1T2XX	Pararescue
2E2X1	Com, Network, Switching & Crypto Systems
2F0X1	Fuels
2T3X2A	Special Vehicle Maintenance (Fire Trucks)
2T3X2B	Special Vehicle Maintenance (Refueling Vehicles)
3C0X1	Communications - Computer Systems Operations
3C2X1	Communications - Computer Systems Control
3E000	Electrical (CEM)
3E0X2	Electrical Power Production
3E4X1	Utilities Systems
3E4X2	Liquid Fuels Systems Maintenance
3E5X1	Engineering
3E7X1	Fire Protection
3E8X1	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
3E9X1	Readiness
3H0X1	Historian
3N0XX	Public Affairs & Radio/TV/Broadcast
3P0XX	Security Forces
4A1XX	Medical Material
4A2XX	Biomedical Equipment
4B0XX	Bioenvironmental Engineering
4E0XX	Public Health
4H0XX	Cardiopulmonary Laboratory
5J0X1	Paralegal
7S0X1	Special Investigations
8D000	Linguist Debriefing
9L000	Interpreter/Translator

*APRIL 2003 CONVERSIONS

Related links

Dr. James G. Roche

Military personnel flight racks up unit, individual awards

by TSgt. Andrew Reitano

Command officials have recognized the 439th Military Personnel Flight as an outstanding unit that has earned flight and individual awards.

MPF members recently earned the 2002 Gerrit D. Foster Jr. Outstanding MPF Achievement Award, presented to the best Reserve military personnel flight.

Besides the outstanding unit award, two MPF members also received command-level awards: Capt. Kelly Braudis, MPF commander, Outstanding USAF Personnel manager of the Year; and SMSgt. Shane Robitaille, MPF superintendent, the General Horace Wade Innovation Award.

"I'm very pleased that the MPF won these awards. Their professionalism is indeed a shining example," said Maj. Richard Cockley, 439th Mission Support Squadron commander. "There are more than 30 people in the MPF who worked very hard to make it the best MPF in the command."

Mobilizing reservists during the early days of Operation Enduring Freedom was at the top of the list of challenges for the MPF. Following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on America, the MPF specialists mobilized 1,309 reservists from 20 units - more reservists than any other unit in AFRC.

Braudis said the MPF mobilized more than 900 of these reservists even before their own personnel specialists were mobilized. The flight has also received calls from units throughout the Air Force asking about its mobilization techniques and plans. AFRC headquarters has placed the 439th MPF mobilization guide on the command website as a model



Braudis

for other military personnel flights to study.

Robitaille created the prototype of the web-based DD Form 214 now being used for the Virtual MPF. The new 214 replaces the Legacy-based (PC-III) product that was being used to generate 214s. The Virtual DD Form 214 is more efficient, accurate, and less time-consuming method for active-duty, reserve and guard MPFs.

"We have so many benchmark products coming out of the Westover MPF, that it's nice to be recognized for the high-level customer service that we provide," said Braudis. "Winning awards validates the fact that we have continued to improve and build upon past successes. We always go the extra mile for our customers."

Braudis credits the dedication of the MPF people as the reason for the unit's outstanding performances. "I don't have to tell them what to do - they pick up the ball and run with it," she said. "We have so many self-starters, whether they're ARTs, reservists, or civilians who refuse to do mediocre work. Not only do they know what has to be done, they do it to the best of their abilities."

While in the midst of yet more mobilizations in March, Braudis and Robitaille awaited the Air Force-level competition. "We have a long road ahead of us and it's easy to burn out when feeling overwhelmed," Braudis said. "We've had little time to breathe between the last demobilization and the present mobilization, but the MPF culture of getting the job done will carry us through some tough times and allow us to accomplish our mission objectives."



Robitaille

MSS personnel specialist wins \$500 AFRC scholarship

by SrA. T.R. Ouellette

A Westover reservist's educational goals recently gained a financial boost by being awarded a \$500 Air Force Reserve Command-wide scholarship.

SSgt. Robert J. Beadle, a personnel employment specialist with the 439th MSS, received the award, called the Total Force Top 3/USAA scholarship, due to his high grade point average, his solid Air Force record, and his exemplary writing skills.

"I was surprised to win. I've applied for other nationwide scholarships but never won before," Beadle said.

Beadle discovered the scholarship through an e-mail message sent base wide from Westover's training and education office.

The award will be used toward his pursuit of a master's degree in communication at Syracuse University in New York. He begins classes in June.

Beadle recently graduated from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst last May earning a bachelor's degree in communication and a minor in political science with an overall 3.7 grade point average.



Beadle

AFRC scholarships open to E-8 and below who are pursuing degrees

The scholarship is open to Air Force reservists, or their family members, with the rank of senior master sergeant or below pursuing an associate's, bachelor's, or master's degree.

To be eligible, the reservist/family member sponsor must be a member in good standing with AFRC, maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0, and write a two-page essay concerning the applicant's educational goals and direct Air Force affiliation. The applicant is also required to write a follow-up letter of feedback stating their year-long accomplishments approximately one year after receipt of the award.

The base training and educational office has more information on the Total Force Top 3/USAA and other scholarships, as well as other educational financing information. The staff is located in Bldg. 1875 or can be reached at Ext. 3115.

Reserve gets nearly 4 percent of Air Force budget request

WASHINGTON – The president's proposed defense budget for next year seeks \$3.5 billion in funding and an end-strength of 75,800 reservists for Air Force Reserve Command.

The fiscal 2004 request, which covers the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, 2003, asks for 200 more Air Force reservists.

Senior Department of Defense officials announced the overall defense budget request of \$380 billion Jan. 31. The Air Force is to get \$93.5 billion.

AFRC has traditionally received funding from three separate appropriations – operations and maintenance, reserve personnel, and military construction.

However, this year's budget request has a significant twist. For the first time since the advent of the Total Force in the early 1970s, the budget request for reserve personnel funding is contained in the active duty's military personnel

appropriation. Most of the AFRC portion of the FY04 President's Budget request – \$2.179 billion – is earmarked for O & M funds to train, organize and administer the command. The Reserve received \$2.15 billion in O & M funds in FY03.

Another \$1.33 billion is identified in Budget Activity 7 of the active-duty military personnel appropriation for Reserve requirements. This funding includes a military pay raise ranging from 2 percent to 6.25 percent, targeted by rank and years of service, and the addition of 162 full-time Active Guard and Reserve people. The requested reserve personnel appropriation represents a \$94.9 million increase compared to that received for the FY03 reserve personnel appropriation.

Requested funding for military construction in FY04 is \$44.3 million, which includes seven major projects in three states.

In this fiscal year, the Reserve is getting \$67.2 million for military construction, which includes major and minor projects, planning and design, and funding to cover judgments to contractors on construction projects in prior years. Under his FY03 budget, the president had recommended \$31.9 million, but Congress tacked \$35.3 million more onto the request to fund 11 more major projects.

In addition, Congress added another \$12.5 million to help the Reserve in FY03 – \$10 million in the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation and \$2.5 million in aircraft procurement.

Congress uses the President's Budget as a blueprint to draft legislation. After both houses of Congress approve their version of the bill, it is sent to the president to be signed into law.

(AFRC News Service)

Command steps up efforts in health-care benefit awareness

by 2nd Lt. John Fage
AFRC Public Affairs

ROBINS AFB, Ga. – As reservists increasingly deploy, they need to be aware of what health-care benefits they are eligible for and how to receive attention through the TRICARE medical system.

Active-duty service members and their families often find themselves on or near a military base where medical support services and advice on TRICARE are easily accessible.

Mobilized reservists enter the same medical support system, but their families, especially those not located near a military installation, are often left behind without the support of a base medical facility to help them. This results in reservists' families having to comprehend and navigate the complexities of the TRICARE system, which may lead to denied medical bills and changing physicians to use TRICARE benefits.

To help families understand what their benefits cover and what medical care is available to them, the TRICARE Management Activity is conducting direct-mailing campaigns and a series of news articles and fact sheets.

Air Force Reserve Command is working to improve medical benefit awareness through newsletters and e-mails. Headquarters AFRC's directorate of health services keeps medical units that are not on active-duty bases informed through regularly scheduled teleconferences. It also works with the directorate of personnel's family readiness branch to ensure information is communicated to families.

"When there is something that affects people across the board, we push it through each Reserve medical unit," said Lt. Col. Alexander Alex of the Headquarters AFRC's directorate of health services. "Sometimes the information gets to the members, but not to the spouses. That may be because they feel it doesn't involve them at the time, or they may not understand the information enough."

Alex is a reservist who left his own business as a health-care consultant when he was called to active duty in December 2001. His civilian job allowed him to stay well-informed about health-care plans and providers.

"I can honestly say that the benefits I get through TRICARE are equal to or better than most civilian health-care plans," he said. "And I've obviously seen a lot of different ones."

He said the key to accessing TRICARE benefits is knowing the coverage guidelines and obtaining assistance through TRICARE service centers or the TRICARE regional contractor. The TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil can help reservists and their families gain information.

According to Alex, the Department of Defense and the families of reservists share the responsibility of increasing benefit awareness.

His office has been working with lead agents and TRICARE regional contractors to help expand coverage areas. About 70 percent of Reserve families don't live near a military medical facility, so it is more difficult for them to get the services they need.

Alex cited Westover ARB as an example of an area where communication has improved. He said Westover's TRICARE provider network was limited in the recent past but has made great improvements in building and retaining relationships with medical providers in that area.

Reserve families who do not qualify for TRICARE Prime can take advantage of reduced costs using TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra through the TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project. TRFDP offers reservists waived annual deductibles, eliminates the need for non-availability statements for non-emergency inpatient care and will pay up to 115 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge. Alex said important points about using TRFDP are remembering to ensure the physician is an authorized TRICARE provider and the services being sought are covered by TRICARE so claims are not denied.

Medical coverage does not end immediately upon demobilization. TRICARE's Transitional Assistance Management Program provides for 60 or 120 days of transitional benefits for reservists and families. TAMP also includes limited dental/space-available-only care in military facilities. Upon demobilization, reservists and families can obtain dental coverage through the TRICARE Dental Program (www.ucci.com).

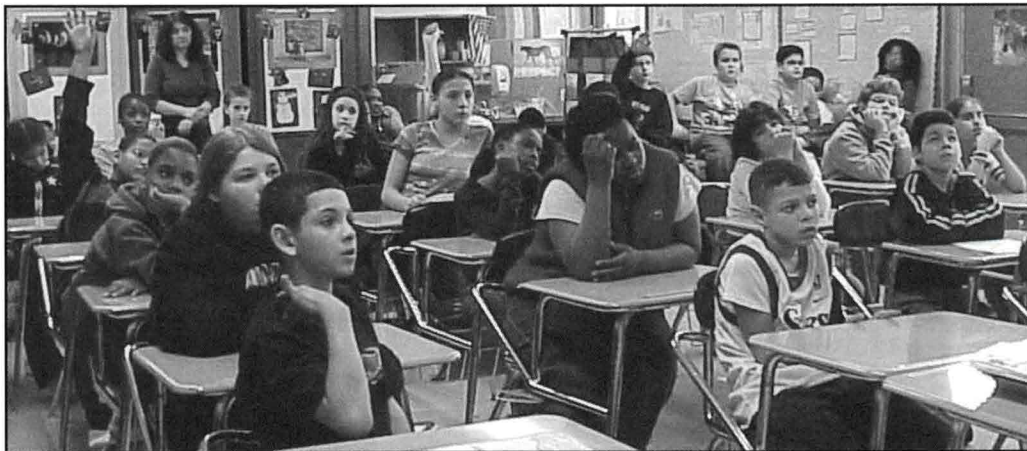
(AFRC News Service)

TRICARE is located in AMDS building

The Westover TRICARE office is located in the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron's medical facility in Bldg. 2235 on Walker Avenue.

For more information, call SMSgt. Charles Whittington or SSgt. Cynthia Lapriore at Ext. 2666.

Guest speakers



photos by TSgt. Bonnie Bell

Glickman School fifth-graders in Springfield talk with Jim Kelly, 439th Services Squadron, and MSgt. Lisa Spence-Elder, military equal opportunity office, on Feb. 26. Kelly and Spence-Elder discussed topics ranging from Black History Month and teamwork to the importance of education and women in the military.

Deployment offers tax options; not filing is not one of them

ROBINS AFB, Ga.—Mobilized Air Force reservists deploying overseas are not automatically excused from filing their federal income tax return, according to Air Force Reserve Command staff judge advocate officials here.

Deploying reservists have four options when it comes to filing taxes. They can file before they leave, authorize their spouse or trusted friend to sign and file for them, have their non-military or non-deploying spouse sign and file their joint tax return on their behalf, or use an extension if authorized.

Before deploying: If reservists have not received their Form W-2 in the mail, they can access it online by using a personal identification number via "My Pay Account" on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>.

Most active-duty locations offer a tax assistance program.

Members can electronically file their returns and opt for direct deposit of any refund into their checking accounts.

Authorizing another to file: To allow someone else to sign and file their return, reservists must:

- Be unable to sign the return because of disease or injury,
- Be absent from the United States for a period of at least 60 days before the due date for filing the return, or
- Get permission from the Internal Revenue Service office in their area to have another person file on their behalf.

They can authorize their agent to sign and file by using a special power of attorney or by using IRS Form 2848, which is available on the Web at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-fill/f2848.pdf> (instructions at <http://www.irs.gov/>

pub/irs-pdf/f2848.pdf).

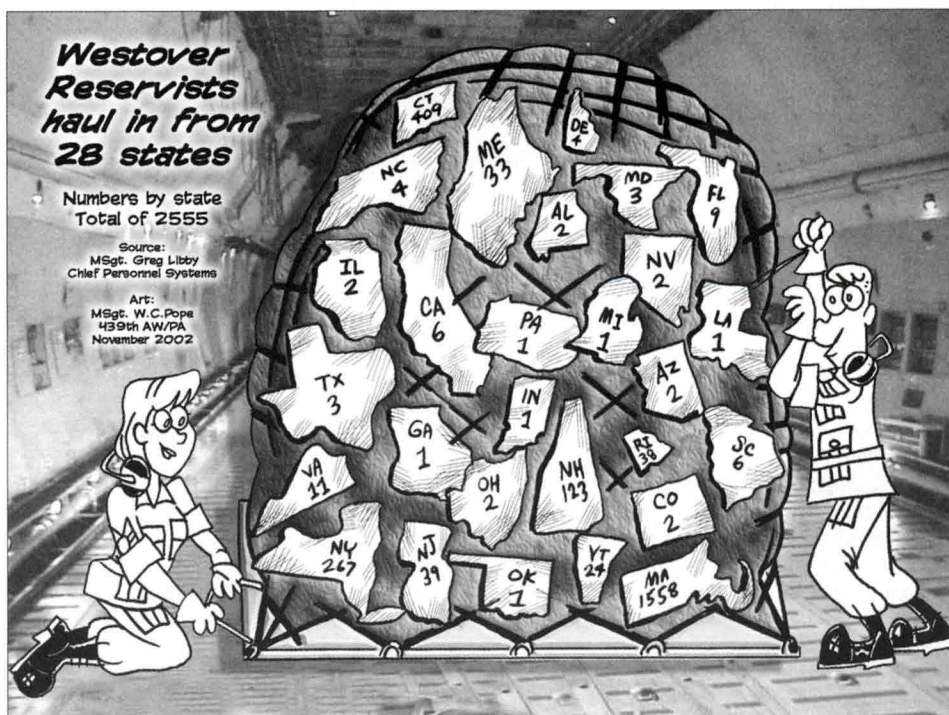
Filing a joint return: In this situation, a special power of attorney or IRS Form 2848 is not required. Married couples filing separate returns cannot take advantage of this option.

Using an extension: Deployed military people can usually take advantage of a filing extension for service in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area. Before claiming these extensions, reservists should check with a tax

preparer or a legal assistance officer to ensure that the area where they are deployed has been declared a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area.

To find out what a state requires when reservists are deployed, they should consult with a tax preparer or a legal assistance officer. Some states have rules that are similar to the federal rules.

(AFRC News Service)



Patriot People

Name: Stacey L. Balicki
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Age: 27
Address: Westfield, Mass.
Unit: 439th AMDS
Position: Immunizations officer in charge
Civilian position: Nurse
Favorite food: Maine lobster
Years of service: 10
Favorite sport: Softball
Favorite hobby: Spending time with my husband
Ideal vacation: One that you don't have to come back from
Preferred entertainment: Attending Springfield Falcons hockey games
Favorite hero: Col. Charles Brown
Favorite music: I love all music
Favorite movie: *Superstar*
Favorite aircraft: A-10
Pet peeve: People with a lack of common sense
What I would do if I won \$1 million: First, buy a house, followed immediately by hiring a housekeeper.



photo by SrA. T.R. Ouellette

2nd Lt. Stacey L. Balicki

Patriot Praises

Enlistments:

TSgt. Bullock, Charmetri A.
 SSgt. Bisceglia, John A.
 SSgt. McCormick, Joseph D.
 SrA. Baird, Tyrone A.
 SrA. Hernandez, David A.
 SrA. Morrill, Thomas A.
 SrA. Palmer, Sean C.
 SrA. Scott, Joe L., Jr.
 A1C Acosta, Stephanie E.
 A1C Aho, Leanna E.
 A1C Alnutt, Aubrey Rose D.
 A1C Aponte, Jason D.
 A1C Bading, Michael N.
 A1C Chetuck, Michele M.
 A1C Christy, Seth D.
 A1C Dowling, Stephen P.A.
 A1C Hawes, Meghan E.
 A1C Haynes, Dawn Y.
 A1C Jones, Michael B.
 A1C Lamonica, Daniel J.
 A1C Mello, Brian K.
 A1C Meyer, Christopher D.
 A1C Narkiewicz, Lauren E.
 A1C Parsons, Craig J.
 A1C Perry, Nicole J.
 A1C Rigdon, Jason E.
 A1C Ryan, Christopher J.
 A1C Treaster, Sarah B.
 A1C Trexler, Micah J.
 A1C Wright, Tocarra T.
 A1C Young, Shawn W.
 Amn. Muncy, Christopher S.
 AB Conderino, Daniel C.
 AB Laplante, Jeremy M.
 AB Preval, Calixte
 AB Rocha, Ricardo II
 AB Young, Dustin L.

Reenlistments:

CMSgt. Connolly, Owen F., Jr.

CMSgt. Gilyard, Mark S.
 CMSgt. Ingham, Michael G.
 SMSgt. Dedinas, Alan P.
 SMSgt. Herens, Michael L.
 SMSgt. MacIntyre, John D.
 MSgt. Boyer, Timothy
 MSgt. Duncan, Earl E., Jr.
 MSgt. Ernst, Daniel R.
 MSgt. Fish, Ronald M.
 MSgt. LaBonte, Ronald J.
 MSgt. Pangilinan, Joseph P.
 MSgt. Savage, Steven P.
 MSgt. Schanzer, Patricia E.
 MSgt. Simone, Francis T.
 MSgt. Wheeler Pettit, Mirinda M.
 MSgt. Yost, Kathleen M.
 TSgt. Berkebile, David A.
 TSgt. Brenker, Frederick
 TSgt. Brown, Eric R.
 TSgt. Cardin, Edward A.
 TSgt. Evers, Richard C.
 TSgt. Foley, Paul M.
 TSgt. Kline, Craig M.
 TSgt. Larsen, William M.
 TSgt. Lawrence, John E.
 TSgt. Pedro, Joaquim H.
 TSgt. Surette, John A., Jr.
 SSgt. Leclerc, Brian D.
 SSgt. Rebman, James P.
 SrA. Baird, Tyrone Anton
 SrA. Scott, Joe Louis Jr.

Newly Assigned:

Col. Morrone, Belinda R.
 Maj. Healy, John P.
 Maj. White, James B.
 Capt. Otto, Roger C.
 Capt. Salerno, Alexander G.
 Capt. Stokes, Rebecca L.
 MSgt. Claunch, Donald R.
 TSgt. Aragon, Chris A.
 SSgt. McGuire, Thomas J., Jr.

SSgt. O'Brien, Shirley L.
 SrA. Cook, Lisa A.
 SrA. Irby, Shutasica D.
 SrA. Zaleski, Peter C.
 A1C Taylor, Marhia R.

Retired:

Lt. Col. Halista, Scott M.
 Capt. Cadarette, Alton J., Jr.
 Capt. Todd, Lydia M.
 CMSgt. Fetherston, Robert B.
 SMSgt. Lomax, Clarence E.
 MSgt. Anson, Frank H.
 MSgt. Ashman, Michael R.
 MSgt. Biros, Timothy P.
 MSgt. Gallant, Michael A.
 MSgt. Hausman, Paul

MSgt. Hickey, Daniel P.
 MSgt. Konunchuk, James J.
 MSgt. Malek, Deborah A.
 MSgt. Matchie, Paul A.
 MSgt. Middleton, Jack W.
 MSgt. Pease, Richard L.
 MSgt. Rehm, Stephen H.
 TSgt. Backlund, Kenneth H., Jr.
 TSgt. Beaudin, Philip C.
 TSgt. Emo, Douglas W.
 TSgt. Greenwood, Edward J., Sr.
 TSgt. June, Bradford J.
 TSgt. Leisenfelder, Robert J.
 TSgt. MacDonald, Glenn A.
 TSgt. Spoor, Richard A.
 TSgt. Trickett, Frederick L.
 TSgt. Winters, Abram L.
 SSgt. Brotherton, Peter A.

CCAF GRADUATES:

April '03 Graduating Class:

TSgt. Renatta K. Martine, 439 ASTS
 TSgt. Jeffry M. Shank (2), 439 OSS
 TSgt. Charles A. Fareira (2) 439 MSS
 SrA. Kathy J. Kutrubis, 439 ASTS
 SSgt. Kevin Harford, 439 SFS
 SrA. David M. Aucoin, 439ASTS
 TSgt. Lauraine N. Willabay, 439 OSS
 SSgt. Bobby S. Vongphadky, 439 CES
 A1C Jaoa B. Vicente, 439 AES
 SSgt. Jonathan M. Labier, 439 LSS
 SSgt. Gregory Diaz, 439 MXS

Websites can link families and supporters with troops overseas

With thousands of Americans asking what they can do to show their support for servicemembers, especially those serving overseas in this time of war, the Pentagon is encouraging people to use several organizations that are sponsoring programs for members of the Armed Forces overseas.

People are being asked to not flood the military mail system, which includes family support centers, with letters, cards and gifts. The military mail system cannot accept items to be mailed to 'Any Servicemember' because of security concerns and transportation constraints.

Pentagon officials said some people have tried to avoid the Pentagon's request by sending large numbers of packages to an individual servicemember's address, which however well intentioned, clogs the mail and causes unnecessary delays.

Many people have contacted Westover about donating food to the troops, and some of those donations are being handled by the Pioneer Valley USO on base and the family support center. Both are located in Bldg. 1100 on Walker Avenue.

"The family support center is spearheading the Community Involvement Committee that is brainstorming methods to keep the community actively involved since we can no longer send mail items to servicemembers overseas," said MSgt. Deborah Malek.

Stars and Stripes, the overseas military newspaper, announced in March that it began the "Messages of Support" program designed to give family and friends of deployed service members a chance to pass their greetings, words of encouragement and announcements free.

"Messages of Support" can be e-mailed to Stars and Stripes 24 hours per day at messages@stripes.com, and are limited to 50

Internet sites for supporting the troops:

www.operationuplink.org

www.OperationDearAbby.net

www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html

messages@stripes.com

words or less and will be printed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For other ways to express support, people can visit the web site www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html for a list of organizations that are shipping items to servicemembers overseas.

More information on supporting the men and women at Westover is available at the family support center at Ext. 3024. The USO, which has volunteers staffed at Westover's passenger terminal handing out free coffee and doughnuts, may be reached at Ext. 3290.

June 26 - 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/address: _____

Lunch for employer: YES _____ NO _____

Lunch 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

PATRIOT

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

April UTA schedule

A UTA April 5-6

B UTA April 26-27



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

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