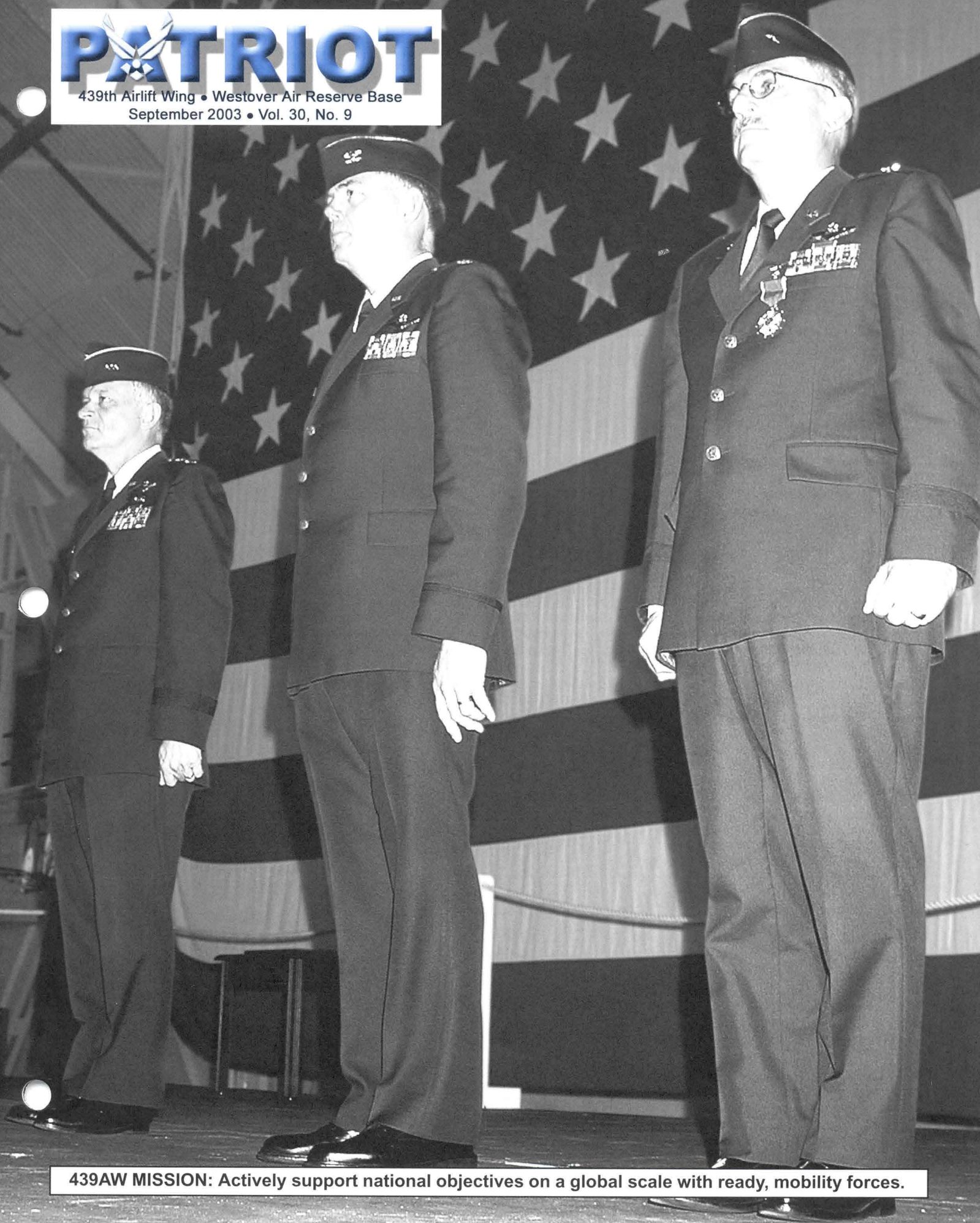


# PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base  
September 2003 • Vol. 30, No. 9



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



## Patriot Wing enters era of transition

The August change of command ceremony marked the end of a successful and significant chapter in the history of Westover ARB. I'm sure General Mazick felt the gratitude of the formation for his leadership. Although expected, that type of event gives us a reason to reflect on past accomplishments and future challenges. It also points out the need to develop the future leaders of Westover to maintain continuity in the years ahead.

We have begun a process to return the base to a more normal operations tempo consistent with mission requirements. The objective is to allow our people and equipment to return to pre-mobilization level of readiness. Reservists will focus on training and equipment repair as necessary. None of this diminishes the

achievements of those individuals deployed or mobilized. They continue to perform at a world class level. Our mobilization taskings will be forwarded for review on a monthly basis with the expectation that those personnel no

longer needed will be released from active duty.

I encourage as many of you as possible to take part in the Family Day events planned for Saturday of the September UTA. It is important to take time to appreciate the people and experiences that go along with being a part of Westover. It will be a great opportunity to meet Colonel Farris as he begins his tour as wing commander. See you there!

**Col. Thomas A. Mauzaka**

by Col. Thomas A. Mauzaka  
Special assistant to the 439th Airlift Wing commander



### Commentary

## Ground Zero ceremony to honor 9/11 heroes

MSgt. Mike Angelastro, 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron flight engineer, who rode his motorcycle to all 50 states last year, raising the American flag in every state capital to honor the heroes and victims of the 9/11 attack, will participate in ceremonies at Ground Zero of the World Trade Center on Sept. 14.

Angelastro will ride with a contingent of motorcyclists from the Bergen County Court House parking lot, Hackensack, N.J. at 11 a.m. to Ground Zero.

At Ground Zero he will present the "Five Flags of Freedom" which he raised in

the state capitals, to representatives of the New York City Fire and Fire Departments, the Port Authority Police of New York and New Jersey and the Air Force Museum. Following the ceremony, food and beverages will be served at Solari's Restaurant, Hackensack.



**Angelastro**

Angelastro's 48-day, 24,000 mile motorcycle trek was featured in the December 2002 Citizen Airman magazine.

To participate or learn more, send an e-mail to Nancy Duthie at [nduthie@nj.rr.com](mailto:nduthie@nj.rr.com).

## Briefs

### Awards board selects fourth quarter winners

Westover's Quarterly Awards Board selected the following fourth quarter award winners for the fiscal 2003.

**Airman:**

SrA. Michael E. Kaminsky, 439 AMXS  
**NCO:**

TSgt. Shane E. Stabile, 439 SFS

**Senior NCO:**

SMSgt. Michael P. Grady, 439 SFS

**Civilian:**

Shelli A. McCarthy, 439 ASTS

**Civilian Supervisor:**

No submissions

**Company Grade Officer:**

Capt. Deresa D. Helems, 439 ASTS

### Motorcyclists to gather for photo in front of C-5

Reservists with motorcycles are invited to line up in front of a Westover C-5 for a photo shoot on the September A UTA. The group will meet at the parking lot of the 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron (Base Hangar) on Sept. 6 at 4:45 p.m.

MSgt. Mike Angelastro, project organizer, said the uniform of the day will apply. The photo shoot will take place at 5 p.m. Rain date for the shoot will be 11 a.m. on Sept. 7.

For more information, contact Angelastro at [casualhero007@hotmail.com](mailto:casualhero007@hotmail.com)

### Four Seasons has RV storage lot for rent

Four Seasons has RV storage lots available for rent. The lots are open for rent to active-duty military members, reservists, retirees and civilians working at Westover. The costs to rent lots are \$25 monthly and \$275 yearly.

For more information, visit Four Seasons (Bldg. 1700) or call Ext. 2974.

### Cover photo

**COMMAND CHANGE - Maj. Gen.**

James D. Bankers, 22nd AF commander, Col. Wade Farris, new 439th AW commander, and Brig. Gen.

Martin M. Mazick, outgoing wing commander, stand at attention during the change of command on Aug. 9. Farris is the Patriot Wing's 11th wing commander (see article and photos on page 3).

— photo by SSgt. Andrew S. Biscoe

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2003

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

**439th Airlift Wing commander**

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**Chief of Public Affairs/Co-editor**

Gordon A. Newell

**PA Air Reserve Technician/Co-editor**

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**READY FOR THE CHANGE** - Three generations of wing commanders at Westover salute during the National Anthem at the change of command on Aug. 9. From left are Maj. Gen. James D. Bankers, 22nd Air Force commander, Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, and Col. Wade Farris. Bankers was the 439th AW commander from May 1997 to March 1999.

## Colonel Farris takes command of Patriot Wing

*New commander assures safety, adherence to Air Force core values*

Article by MSgt. Tom Allocco  
Photos by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

Col. Wade Farris evoked the heritage of Westover and promised to build on it as a hands-on leader when he accepted the flag of command of the 439th Airlift Wing before a mass formation in the Base Hangar on Aug. 9 of the AUTA.

During a change of command ceremony rooted in martial tradition, Command CMSgt. Jeffrey B. Sherwin handed the blue flag to Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick. The outgoing wing commander passed the wing flag to Maj. Gen. James D. Bankers in a symbolic relinquishing

of command upon completing his mission. The 22nd Air Force commander held out the flag for the new wing commander to hold up as a token of his acceptance of responsibility to lead the men and women of the Patriot Wing.

Farris came to the 439th AW following three years as commander of the 914th Airlift Wing, which flies C-130s out of Niagara Falls ARS, N.Y.

In his first words to Patriot Wing members assembled by squadron, Farris noted that he will command a wing and base which have earned laurels in war and peace from World War II to the successes of the War on Terrorism under Mazick's leadership.

"In the last two years after 9/11 this wing proved itself over and over again, proved that the nation can count on it. I'm proud to take part in that heritage. I will do my very best to build on it," he said. The new commander gave an overview of "a philosophy which has served me well." A focus on people, core values and safety will be the wing's roadmap, Farris said. "People are my first priority," he said. In return, each Patriot Wing member will be guided by Air Force core values of integrity, service and excellence.

Service before self is evident on every drill weekend and even more evident since the 9/11 mobilizations that have taken wing members away from families and jobs, he said.

The new commander promised MBWA. "Management by walk around; you will see my six-four frame among you. I look forward to doing that. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. It is my honor, pleasure and privilege to command you," Farris said.

The change of command was a formal affair marked by a review of the troops, the playing of Ruffles and Flourishes in honor of Bankers in his role of Presiding Officer and the Advancement of the Colors.

Bankers pinned the Legion of Merit, first oak leaf cluster, on Mazick in recognition of exceptionally meritorious performance. Lt. Col. Armand P. Tourangeau served as master of ceremonies; Maj. Michael F. Pirrone, Commander of Troops; and Maj. Patrick S. Ryan, Wing Adjutant. SrA. Leanne J. Sambrook sang the National Anthem and Air Force Song.

Bankers spoke of a proud record achieved  
**see COMMAND CHANGE on page 9**



**EYES FRONT** - Members of the 439th Operations Group, led by acting OG commander Lt. Col. Michael B. Kohut, stand at attention during the change of command. More than 1,000 Patriot Wing reservists took part in the ceremony held in the Base Hangar.



# Colonel Marten takes helm of 337th as Colonel Vinskey retires

Article and photo  
by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

The top leadership spot of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing wasn't the only position to change hands during the busy August A UTA.

Lt. Col. Michael J. Marten, a 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron pilot with more than 20 years of experience, took command of the squadron on Aug. 10 at the base conference center from Lt. Col. Michael A. Vinskey.

Anticipation and nostalgic emotion were the two most obvious elements at the ceremony, held in the base conference center. The transition featured a review of Marten's plans and goals as the new commander, followed by a heartfelt farewell from Vinskey to the men and women of the squadron he had commanded for nearly four years.

Vinskey, who retired after 24 years of service in the military, also took time for a nod to his family's support of his career as he presented flowers to his wife, Patricia.

Lt. Col. Michael B. Kohut, acting 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Group commander, awarded the Meritorious Service Medal to Vinskey during the ceremony. Kohut stood with Marten and Vinskey as the squadron guidon was passed.

Shortly after, Marten spoke about his new leadership role with the squadron. Acknowledging he had "some shoes to fill," Marten included, safety, training, and solid communication as among his objectives. "Safety is our number one goal," he said. "And we have to keep the eye on the ball and our focus on training ... to sustain the mission."

Marten said open communication would help continue the 337<sup>th</sup>'s operations day in and day out. "(It is) being able to communicate with people so we can identify the problems and get solutions," the veteran C-5 pilot said.

When it came time for Vinskey to say goodbye, emotion choked his voice. He relied on several long pauses to help get the words out to the men and women seated in front of him in their blue uniforms — many of whom he had worked with for his 15 years in the squadron.

"People truly are our most valuable asset ... in this day and age we can't afford to squander anybody's abilities and talents," Vinskey said, his voice beginning to tremble.

***"Through it all, you never failed me. You got the job done. I salute each and every one of you."***

***-- Lt. Col. Michael A. Vinskey, former squadron commander, to the men and women of the 337th AS, following the change of command at the base conference center***



**TIME OF CHANGE** - From left, Lt. Col. Michael A. Vinskey, Michael J. Marten, and Michael B. Kohut prepare for the 337th AS change of command. Vinskey turned command of Westover's 54-year-old flying squadron to Marten at the base conference center on Aug. 10.

"I am looking forward to it (retirement) but I am envious of all of you ... you guys do some of the most incredible stuff you can imagine ... you guys get to fly the C-5."

The colonel again paused as he surveyed the audience.

"The days are long, the missions are numerous, the family separations are constant," Vinskey said. "Through it all, you never failed me. You got the job done. I salute each and every one of you."

Just as the ceremony came to a conclusion, Maj. Gen. James D. Bankers, 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force commander who attended the ceremony with some of the senior base leadership, suddenly stood up to congratulate Marten and Vinskey.

Bankers was the wing commander at Westover who appointed Vinskey to his position in October 1999. He thanked Vinskey for his leadership and his service to his country, and wished Marten success as the new commander.

"Congratulations Mike," Bankers said. "You're probably never going to have a better job — never going to have a harder one either. 'I know you've got all of the support of your folks in your unit and that's really what it's all about.'" Bankers then turned to the entire room. "I watch every day, I see the numbers, I see where your airplanes are, I see what you're doing," he said. "Thank you for the superb job you do every day."

## New wing staff judge advocate arrives for duty at base

Maj. Laura Feltman is the new 439<sup>th</sup> AW staff judge advocate. Feltman arrived at Westover in July from Keesler AFB, Miss., where she served as chief of military justice for Second Air Force under Air Education and Training Command.

She is the staff judge advocate for both the 439<sup>th</sup> AW and the 914<sup>th</sup> AW, a C-130 unit assigned to Niagara Falls ARS, N.Y. Feltman advises commanders on issues including employment, la-



**Feltman**

bor, contract, and environmental law.

She also represents the Air Force before state and federal administrative courts and boards, and provides legal assistance to eligible Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine personnel with detachments at Westover and the local Military Entrance Processing Station. Feltman also assists retirees and their spouses.

Feltman advises the staff of the reserve legal office that serves reservists during UTAs.

She earned a bachelor of arts degree in economics from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and received her commission through ROTC in May 1988.

In August 1994, Feltman enrolled in law school under the Funded Legal Education Pro-

gram. After graduation in May 1997, she was admitted to the Virginia bar in October of the same year.

In addition to Keesler, her other legal office assignments have included Ramstein AB, Germany and Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. Feltman also was assigned as a weapons director and senior director aboard the E-3A Sentry AWACS. As an AWACS crewmember, she deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Both the legal office and the reserve legal office are located in wing headquarters, Bldg. 1850.



## Patriot Wing hosts 22nd AF Senior NCO Leadership Class



**TRUST US** - MSgt. Douglas S. Huey, 913th AW, Willow Grove ARS, Pa., "falls" into the arms of his classmates during a "trust" exercise at the Senior NCO Leadership Class.

**Article and photo  
by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe**

Energetic instructors whisked more than 50 NCOs through a fast-paced weekend agenda during the first 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force Senior NCO Leadership Class held at Westover in eight years.

Classmate interviews kicked the course off bright and early on the Saturday morning of the July B UTA. Facing a deadline, the NCOs extracted as much information as they could from each other for concise briefings. Each briefing lasted less than 30 seconds.

Some of the class members didn't have to travel far from home to receive the instruction. "I have enjoyed the communication exercises the most," said MSgt. Jennifer A. Lavigne, a 439<sup>th</sup> AW reservist who lives in nearby Dudley, Mass.

Lavigne decided to take the course to improve her leadership skills. She came away from the course satisfied and confident with her future as a senior NCO and leader. "I understand myself better with what my leadership role should be," she said. "I can apply that to my troops to mentor them to be good leaders."

Of the 52 NCOs assigned to various 22<sup>nd</sup> AF locations who attended the course, 21 came from Westover. Everyone got a chance to learn managerial and leadership skills during the two-day class.

Command CMSgt. Charles A. Lowe, from 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force headquarters, visited Westover during the UTA to oversee the course with 439<sup>th</sup> AW Command CMSgt. Jeffrey B. Sherwin. "Hopefully they'll learn a little bit about themselves and they'll learn about why people think like they do," Lowe said. "It's non-stop. This is team-building, plus really getting to know yourself more as a leader and what kind of supervisor you are."

MSgt. Michael McRobie, with the 512<sup>th</sup> AW at Dover AFB, Del., said he never once felt his eyes glaze over as can easily happen to some people in a one-way lecture atmosphere. "Your mind's totally going a mile a minute," he said. "The instructors are well-motivated."

The NCOs also learned about how to write award packages, an important skill not known by some who attended. "There were six or seven NCOs in my group that had never written awards," Lavigne said.

"The instructors help you learn that you're dealing with people," said MSgt. Gale Fry, also with the 512<sup>th</sup> AW. "They cover just about every aspect of your job as a senior leader."

For Fry and McRobie, "field trips" outside the classroom were the most enjoyable part of the two days spent at Westover, when blindfolded NCOs put their trust in the hands of their classmates, and "fell" backwards from tables until their arms.

After class ended on the first day, Fry remembered that the time went by quicker than when he was back home. "It seemed like less than a normal work day," he said.

Lowe said each numbered air force in Air Force Reserve Command holds the classes quarterly. "Hopefully they'll take all these managerial skills and supervisory skills into their toolbox and take it everywhere they go," he said.

Food and beverage donations to the base from a local supermarket didn't go unnoticed by the students, Lavigne said. "Some students I talked to were impressed with the community support," she said. "They said some of their bases don't have that kind of support."

The good relations between the base and the community also apply to the military's impression of Westover too, Sherwin said, as he watched the NCOs file out of the classrooms for a coffee break. "It's very good publicity for this base," he said. "This class is one more thing that Westover does to show what kind of wing we have here."

## Chain of command gets class in session

**Article and photo  
by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe**

Command CMSgt. Jeffrey B. Sherwin finally got to see the reward of three months of preparation.

The 439<sup>th</sup> AW command chief worked with people in his chain of command to facilitate a two-day senior NCO leadership course at the wing readiness building during the July B UTA.

It was the first time in eight years Westover has hosted a 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force senior leadership course, he said. The 439<sup>th</sup> AW reports to 22<sup>nd</sup> AF, which is one of three numbered air forces assigned to Air Force Reserve Command.

Sherwin explored the idea of having the course back at Westover with CMSgt. Charles Lowe, 22<sup>nd</sup> AF command chief, in April. Not only did he find out it could return, he got even better news for the base. "Once we decided we had the logistics to be able to do it, I talked Chief Lowe into us hosting the course every July," Sherwin said.

Out of the 52 that attended, 21 senior NCOs from Westover came to the leadership course. "This gives us a great opportunity to put four times as many people from our wing through this course," Sherwin said. "And it saves the base money because we're hosting it. Normally we only get three seats per class. We had



**HERE'S THE SCOOP** - MSgt. Teresa I. Culpepper reads her notes from an interview of MSgt. Alice L. Mitchell, left, during the Senior NCO Leadership Course.

two years' worth of students in this class alone."

Sherwin coordinated with squadron first sergeants to get the Westover students enrolled. He credited excellent logistics support from the base as reasons for the success of the course. MSgt. Teresa I. Culpepper, 439<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, got to class only after she knew her shift of dining facility workers was ready to serve hungry reservists. "She still made time to prepare the coffee for the course," Sherwin said.

MSgt. Earl E. Duncan Jr., 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS additional duty first sergeant, volunteered to assist as well. "He picked up coffee, assisted the instructors with computer services and ran errands all over the base," Sherwin said.



# Civic leaders get first-hand look at Air Force operations at Tinker

by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

A group of Westover-area civic leaders saw the Air Force up-close and personal during a trip to Tinker AFB, Okla. on July 29-30.

In one of his last flying missions as 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, and as a former wing commander at Tinker, Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick piloted the C-5 and escorted the tour – designed to promote partnership between the civilian and military communities through education and experience.

Community leaders like Chicopee Mayor Richard J. Kos recognized the dedication of the men and women of the Air Force.

"I have a better appreciation of the military's successes, commitment and accomplishments," said Kos on the return flight from Tinker. Kos praised the great relationship Chicopee enjoys with the base, but said the trip really enhanced his respect for reservists. "Everywhere we went at Tinker, we saw dedicated, talented professionals. It vicariously gives us a greater appreciation for Westover – they have the same caliber of personnel," the mayor said.

Local educators were impressed by the training and career opportunities available through the Air Force. Ann Beggetta, Chicopee Comprehensive High School assistant principal, was impressed meeting so many disciplined, sharp young people. "I now see the military as a very viable career option," she said.

New Hampshire's Attorney General Peter Heed said the civic leader's flight had a particular impact on him. He saw a parallel

***"I have a better appreciation of the military's successes, commitment and accomplishments... Everywhere we went at Tinker, we saw dedicated, talented professionals. It vicariously gives us a greater appreciation for Westover – they have the same caliber of personnel."***

*-- Richard J. Kos,  
mayor of Chicopee*

between his role in protecting citizens on a state level and the military's role on a national level. "The trip also shatters the popular misconception that reservists are 'play soldiers' and helped me to see reservists as fully-trained, major players in national defense," said Heed, who has no prior military service.

Also onboard were members of New England chapters of the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve. They got a closer look at those they serve and spoke with employers in the audience at Tinker. "In view of current events, reservists need our support more than ever before," said Carl R. Venditto, Conn. ESGR chairman.

The fast-paced tour shuttled the 33 civic leaders around the 5,000-acre base that employs 26,000 people, making it the largest single-site employer in Oklahoma. They toured the Air Logistics Center – a building 7/10ths of a mile long, and one of the Air Force's four maintenance depots. They crawled down into the boom control belly of the KC-135 and learned about the Air Force's "gas-station-in-the-sky."

They toured the computer-laden E-3 of the 552d Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing, and learned how the active duty and reserve members seamlessly perform worldwide missions. After a visit to the Navy component at Tinker, they were impressed by "spit-and-polish" welcome by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Combat Communications Group, dubbed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Herd. As troops stood at attention, "3<sup>rd</sup> Herd." Commander Col. Carl Williamson honored American Legion commander Victor Olizarowicz.

Between tour stops, the bus was a moving classroom as civic leaders peppered General Mazick with technical questions from the previous stop. Having served more than three years at Tinker, Mazick was an apt teacher.

A trip bonus was an evening tour of the Oklahoma City Memorial commemorating the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building. Along with vivid memories of the September 11 bombing of the World Trade Center, it underscored the role of the military's role to protect the American people.

On both legs of the flight, every civic leader spent time in the cockpit as the C-5 crew manned their stations. No matter how many times they fielded the same questions, Westover reservists gladly explained the answers.

Back at Westover, the group took more than their baggage off the C-5. They took a deeper knowledge of how Westover citizen airmen serve their country.



**BELLY UP TO THE BOOM** - With a civic leader watching, 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Tinker AFB, Okla., concentrates on refueling operations.





photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon  
him closely, TSgt. Frank Valley, a boom operator with the  
as the KC-135 moves closer to a receiver aircraft.



photo by Capt. Jon Carlson  
**FLYING WITH THE BOSS** - Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, then 439th Airlift Wing commander, Chicopee Mayor Richard Kos, middle, and Superintendent of Schools Basan Nembirkow, pause for a photo during the civic leaders flight on July 29.

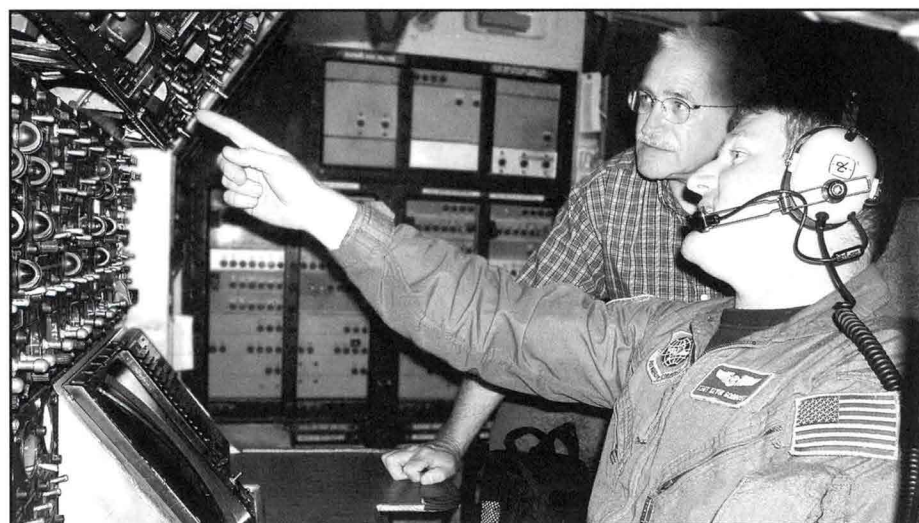


photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon  
**ENGINEERING EXPLANATION** - TSgt. Kevin P. Godbout, 337th AS flight engineer, explains the C-5's navigation systems to one of the 33 civic leaders.



photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

**AWACS TOUR** - The civic leaders tour one of Tinker AFB's E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft on the flight line at the Oklahoma base. The AWACS tour was a part of an extensive visit to the base. Tinker also houses the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center and the Air Force Reserve's 507th Air Refueling Wing, equipped with KC-135s.



# Last of 433<sup>rd</sup> AW maintainers return to Lackland AFB

Article and photo

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

The last 60 maintenance reservists from Lackland AFB, who joined forces with Patriot Wing crews to launch the most C-5s throughout the Air Force last spring, left Westover in late July to return to Texas.

About 150 maintainers, assigned to the 433<sup>rd</sup> AW, a C-5A-equipped unit like Westover's, began arriving in March — during one of the coldest and longest winters on record in New England.

The unrelenting weather blew bone-chilling blasts of wind across the flight line daily as the maintainers kept up with a constant flow of C-5s, 24 hours per day. The Lackland crews showed their dedication in extreme weather that many had never experienced in the warmer climate of Texas.

"They had to work through one of the worst winters here," said Lt. Col. Christopher F. Skomars, deputy commander for the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group. "They didn't try to get in any of the trucks — they didn't try to skate out of it. These guys didn't miss a beat. It was phenomenal."

As the spring thaw finally arrived, Westover was in the midst of a record-breaking stage operation as millions of pounds of cargo came through the base on its way to the area of responsibility (AOR).

Equally impressive was the launch of 1,103 C-5s from Feb. 2 to May 31 — the most Galaxies put airborne in the entire Air Force. Westover and



**TEXAS BOUND** - The last group of maintainers from the 433<sup>rd</sup> AW, Lackland AFB, boards a bus outside the Westover Passenger Terminal on July 29 for the flight home to Texas.

headed back home.

As of August, the 439<sup>th</sup> AW maintainers were still activated. Their primary task since the winding down of the surge was to ensure the C-5s are "reconstituted," maintenance speak for back in flying order, following hundreds of hours more of flying time this year.

Lackland maintainers also posted an 80.8 percent C-5 reliability rate at the same time.

The performance, attitude, and experience level of the Lackland maintainers — combined with Westover's maintenance veterans, formed an efficient team that sent the C-5s on their way as quickly as possible. Just as Westover's maintenance crews have been cited as among the best C-5 maintainers in the Air Force, Lackland's crews also brought a wealth of experience with them that combined for a C-5 maintenance team unparalleled in the Air Force, ready to handle the massive influx of the huge airlifters.

"The Lackland folks merged right in with ours," Skomars said. "As of June 13, we were the busiest C-5 base in the Air Force. Without them, we couldn't have done that."

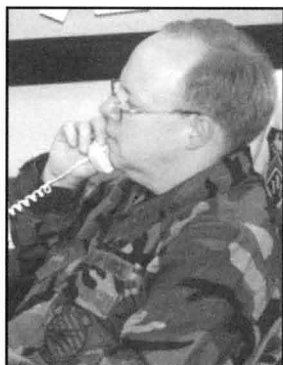
Skomars and Col. Charles A. Brown, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group commander, saluted the troops for a job well done during an improvised thank-you that took place in Hangar 3 on July 29.

The Lackland group then boarded a bus and, within a few moments, were aboard a Westover C-5

## Patriot Wing maintenance supervisor recounts Iraq experience

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

One of the final members of the Patriot Wing serving in Iraq completed duty when Maj. Jeffrey Mullen, 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS maintenance supervisor, returned home in early August. Mullen served three months at Baghdad International Airport, during which time he witnessed the evolution of airport operations from the early days of liberation when the pall of battle and Saddam Hussein still hung in the air.



**Mullen**

Speaking by telephone from the Baghdad airport in July, Mullen described how the allied forces were remaking the airport, starting with a significant name-change. Immediately after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division rolled in, Saddam International Airport became Baghdad International Airport.

When Westover's security police and airlift control specialists had served earlier at the airport, everyone wanted a souvenir picture in front of a Saddam poster. "The Saddam posters were painted over. The photo op is no longer there... the Saddam International Airport sign was pulled down," Mullen said. On the other hand,

dinars, the Iraqi currency with pictures of Saddam, were still cheap and plentiful souvenirs to be brought home.

Just a few weeks earlier, the maintainers at the airport had enjoyed a big step forward when three maintenance tents were set up to house a tool room, operation control center, aerospace ground equipment and aircraft supplies. "Progress is being made," Mullen said.

Until the end of June, battle damaged runways were still being repaired. In a sign of progress, an increasing number of Iraqis were being employed in commercial operations on the civilian side of the airport.

"It was chaotic at the beginning. We're bringing order to it. It's amazing how quickly changes are being made. I had been told it was like the wild west. Now it's getting like a real Air Force installation as far as flightline operations, getting to be a military organization with a semblance of order," Mullen said.

Mullen served as chief of aircraft maintenance turning around C-5s and C-17s during his tour with the 447<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group on the military side of Baghdad International Airport. Besides the Galaxies and Globemasters, the flightline handled U.S., British and Australia C-130s, and C-141s, C-21s, Army helicopters and just about anything else that can land.

The maintainers lived 10 to a tent, with one MRE and two hot meals served daily in a chow tent. The meals were a big step up from the three daily MREs when Mullen arrived in May.

Living at Baghdad airport makes you appreciate the infrastructure and small luxuries — from a telephone to a shuttle bus — of life back at home,

Mullen said.

"Everything started from the ground up — tent city, shower tent. There was no base supply, transportation, things you take for granted. We just got phones and computers. Before you had to stand in line for them. Little things you take for granted at home are a lengthy process here," he said.

In July, the temperature averaged above 110 and Mullen had seen it hit 122 degrees one day. Bats at night helped keep the insect population in check. Several times operations were hampered by sandstorms.

The hardship and challenge were tough, but also contributed to a sense of achievement for those serving under austere conditions. "The morale of the majority of people is staying pretty high. From the ground floor we're setting up a maintenance structure. Not a lot of people have the opportunity to do that. It's 'history' from that point of view," Mullen said.

"Care packages" off incoming aircraft were a morale booster to supplement the small tactical field exchange. To make up for a missed wedding anniversary and birthday, Mullen stayed in touch with his wife, son and daughter with two 15-minute morale calls a week and e-mail.

Twelve to 14-hour workdays at the airport also made Mullen and his maintainers witnesses to the scope of Iraqi Freedom and reminded them of the importance of their contribution to the war effort. "We work next to a medical staging unit. It's a very sobering thought when you see the number of injured coming in and out of the airport," he said in July.



# Maintainers take time away from aircraft to paint house

Article by SrA. T.R. Ouellette

Photos by MSgt. Vanessa Simmons, 439th AMXS

Armed with paint brushes and ladders, 27 maintenance specialists rolled up their sleeves to better the community and the lives of a local family.

Members of the 439th AMXS, LSS and MXS and Texan reservists from Lackland AFB's 433rd AW joined forces and spent three days in July painting a neglected house on Monmouth Street in Springfield.

Their efforts not only eliminated a neighborhood eyesore, but paved the way for Grace Goodrich, a single mother, and her four children to move in a home previously abandoned for more than 10 years.

The project began when MSgt. Vanessa U. Simmons, 439th AMXS, and MSgt. Troy A. Pearson, 433rd AMXS, searched for a way to be active in a local volunteer project with other maintainers. Pearson said they thought about helping in the local area and how they could apply their skills while remaining in the Springfield area.

Pearson suggested they make a call to Habitat for Humanity, a worldwide, non-profit organization that builds or renovates homes with low-income families living in substandard housing.

Simmons took Pearson's advice and called. The Habitat people told her a family planned to move into the Monmouth Street home by July 21, but the house still badly needed to be painted and that no volunteers were available.

Simmons and Pearson wasted no time and quickly pitched the volunteer idea to other reservists. Within five days, maintenance members accepted the challenge. Some reservists also had their spouses help.

According to Pearson, the Monmouth Street house is not just the envy of the street but of the neighborhood too. Pearson and Simmons said they felt proud to be part of the Habitat project.

"It is during opportunities like these that unity and oneness are most heartfelt," Pearson said.



**FACELIFT** - Some of the 27 volunteers from the 439th AW and the 433rd AW, Lackland AFB, Texas, are seen here painting the front of the Springfield house in July.

## Westover, Lackland reservists join forces in Habitat for Humanity effort

The following volunteers from Westover and Lackland participated in the Habitat for Humanity project:

439th AMXS: Col. Daniel W. Allen, CMSgt. John M. Budenas, SMSgt. Michael C. Barrick, MSgt. Vanessa U. Simmons, MSgt. Heather A. Zackaricz, TSgt. Edward F. LaRouche, TSgt. Donna J. Miranda, SSgt. Frank M. Falcone, SSgt. Joann K. LaFleur, SSgt. Kenneth L. Watson, SrA. Michael E. Kaminsky, SrA. Anthony D. Marlak, Brenda Huard-Ames, and Nancy L. Budenas.

439th LSS: MSgt. Carla A. Letourneau, TSgt. Charmaine M. Mallet, SSgt. Karla M. McGrath, and SrA. Christopher G. Malooly.

439th MXS: Capt. Joseph M. Zackaricz

433rd AMXS: MSgt. David W. Brietzke, MSgt. James Markle, MSgt. Troy A. Pearson, MSgt. Aurelio Zamot TSgt. John K. Barry Sr., and TSgt. Salvador Moreno.

433rd MXS: MSgt. Gilbert Acuna and MSgt. Daniel Rodriguez.



**BRUSHING UP** - Capt. Joseph M. Zackaricz, 439th MXS, pauses for a smile as he paints the Monmouth Street house.

## CHANGE continued from page 3

by the Patriot Wing under Mazick. "Our country was attacked directly and the country turned to you to respond. It turned to you for Operation Noble Eagle, then Operation Enduring Freedom. It turned to you for Operation Iraqi Freedom and you responded...an absolutely magnificent response...Westover continues to support our nation's defense, never more than now."

Of Mazick, who succeeded him as Patriot Wing Commander, Bankers said, "I turned over to an incredibly capable and accomplished commander...we've been very lucky to have him."

Mazick will serve as special assistant to Lt. Gen. James E.

Sherrard III, Air Force Reserve Command commander, at Robins AFB, Ga.

Mazick's farewell words to his command were a salute to the Patriot Wing. He recalled last winter's snowstorm that shut down the East Coast. "In 17 hours you were launching C-5s when no one else could...we really made things happen in the last four years...and you have done it well..."

"We can send Westover people anywhere in the world and by the time you leave, people will be sorry you left because of the way you performed. You don't get that reputation by sitting around..."

"I bid you fond farewell...thanks for all you have done."



# Air Force unveils plan to wear test new utility uniform

by TSgt. David A. Jablonski  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON**—Air Force officials announced plans Aug. 6 for the wear test of a new utility uniform that could replace the current battle dress uniform.

The blue, gray and green tiger-stripe camouflage ensemble is a departure from the current woodland-pattern uniform and includes many new features that are intended to increase functionality and provide a distinctive look for airmen of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, officials said.

Three hundred uniforms will undergo wear testing from January to July at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Langley AFB, Va.; Luke AFB, Ariz.; McChord AFB, Wash.; Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Robins AFB, Ga.; Vandenberg AFB, Calif.; and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The test will generate feedback about fit, durability and functionality.

"Our intent is to create a uniform that will be distinctive, practical, easy to maintain, comfortable and, most important, a uniform you will be proud to wear," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper.

***"We have become a more expeditionary force, with less time at home to spend caring for the uniform."***

**-- Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff**

"We have become a more expeditionary force, with less time at home to spend caring for the uniform," Jumper said. "In the last 20 years, material technology has improved greatly. As a result, we have designed one uniform that can satisfy our various climates and utility needs, while eliminating the need for professional ironing to provide a polished appearance."

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray said great care is being taken to ensure the best possible uniform is created to meet future needs.

"I believe that one of the great strengths of our Air Force and its airmen is the ability to adapt to new missions, new technologies and an ever-changing world landscape," he said. "This new utility uniform is another example of seeing a need for improvement and moving forward."

A key step in bringing any new uniform item into service is feedback from airmen in the field, Murray said.

"I believe it's a uniform fitting of the world's greatest expeditionary Air Force and one that we will be proud to wear," he said. "We want your feedback as well — not shoot-from-the-hip feedback, but feedback that

comes from seeing the uniform in action and thinking about how it will meet your needs based on your work environment," Murray said.

According to officials, the wash and wear uniform will be easier to maintain and will not require professional laundering or starching. Officials estimate that home laundering can save up to \$240 in laundry costs over the course of a year.

Unlike the current BDU, the new version comes in men's and women's cuts. The separate women's uniform reflects the growth in the number of women in the service.

In the late 1980s women comprised less than 13 percent of the total force; today nearly one in five airmen are women.

Officials said other possible advantages to the uniform include:

- Using the same fabric identified by the Marines as the optimum material for wash and wear characteristics;

- A camouflage pattern that corresponds to the jobs airmen do in most situations that require a utility uniform,

- Recalling the "tiger stripe" camouflage pattern used during the Vietnam War, but with the distinctive Air Force logo embedded into a color scheme that preliminary testing indicates may provide better camouflage.

Officials are also considering maintenance-free boots and alternative T-shirts.

The uniform patterns are being cut, with production to begin in November. Data collection and analysis, and any potential adjustments, will occur from August through October 2004. A final decision on the uniform is expected in December 2004.

If approved, production could begin as soon as 2005, with a phase-in date to be determined. (AFRC News Service)



Second Lt. Arcelia Miller of the Air Force's special security office puts the Air Force test utility uniform through its paces at an entry control point here. (U.S. Air Force photo by MSgt. Jim Varhegyi)

## Airmen get sneak peek at new uniform

by TSgt. David A. Jablonski  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON**—A prototype of the new Air Force utility uniform was unveiled July 9 in various duty sections at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and Bolling AFB, D.C.

SMSgt. Jacqueline Dean, from the Air Force uniform board, enlisted the aid of eight airmen to demonstrate both the men's and women's version of the blue, gray and green tiger-stripe camouflage uniform for photographers.

Opinions varied, but were largely positive.

SMSgt. Vicky Jones, from Bolling AFB's 11th Security Forces Squadron, observed other security forces members in the uniform.

"I like it; the material reminds me of the old fatigues," Jones said. "It's lightweight (and) it looks like it conforms better to the

body. And it's Air Force blue, ooh-rah! It's good to be back in the Air Force."

In another flightline environment, SSgt. Crystal Cardinale tried out the uniform while working on a District of Columbia Air National Guard F-16 Fighting Falcon at Andrews.

"I like the T-shirt," the 113th Fighter Wing crew chief said. The T-shirt is a black, three-button Henley-style shirt with the Air Force logo on left breast and the wearer's name embroidered on the right.

The wear test period officially begins in January, when 300 uniforms will endure the rigors of Air Force life, indoor and out. Wearers and observers alike will be able to record their comments and observations on an Air Force Web site, noting the good, the bad and the ugly.

Officials say production, if approved, could begin as soon as 2005, with a phase-in date to be determined.



## Patriot People

**Name:** Tania A. Khan  
**Rank:** A1C  
**Age:** 19  
**Address:** Albany, N.Y.  
**Unit:** 439 MXS  
**Position:** Aircraft structural maintenance apprentice  
**Civilian position:** Starting college soon  
**Favorite food:** Ice cream  
**Years of service:** 1  
**Favorite sport:** Wrestling  
**Favorite hobby:** Working on aircraft  
**Ideal vacation:** Going to China  
**Best way to relax:** Drawing  
**Preferred entertainment:** Listening to the guys in the shop talking about going bald  
**Favorite hero:** Batman  
**Favorite music:** Everything  
**Favorite movie:** I don't have one - I watch everything  
**Favorite aircraft:** B-2  
**Pet peeve:** People who lie  
**What would I do if I won \$1 million:** I don't really need that much of it, so I'd probably donate a lot of it overseas.



photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

A1C Tania A. Khan

## Patriot Praises

### Newly Assigned:

Maj. Gault, Constance R.  
 SSgt. Tombs, Kristen M.  
 SrA. Falcon, David M.  
 SrA. Steiger, Kennan L.

### Enlistments:

SSgt. Mulvaney, Patrick D.  
 SrA. Bartley, Sean P.  
 SrA. Geisser, William A., Jr.  
 SrA. Rivera, David  
 SrA. Stevens, Darnell M.  
 SrA. Walsh, Stacey A.  
 A1C Calderon, Manny A.  
 A1C Cargile, William J.  
 A1C Cowley, Michael J.  
 A1C Cummings, Joseph M.  
 A1C Easton, Dean A.  
 A1C Green, Clarissa M.  
 A1C Kumar, Sonia K.  
 A1C Lasky, Shara R.  
 A1C Milligan, Starla O.  
 A1C Ouimette, Kate J.  
 A1C Pinkerton, Stephen E.  
 A1C Quattlebaum, Israel  
 A1C Roberson, Nicole A.  
 A1C Shores, Laura L.  
 A1C Torres, Christopher L.  
 Amn. Gonzalez, Anthony  
 Amn. Turner, William G.  
 AB Amsden, Sherry J.  
 AB Hill, Jeffrey T.  
 AB Vayneris, Konstantin

### Reenlistments:

CMSgt. Skawski, Zigmund D.  
 SMSgt. Cullen, Constance M.  
 MSgt. Carter, Thadius A.

MSgt. Chouinard, Roger J.  
 MSgt. Culhane, Timothy E.  
 MSgt. Garrity, James P.  
 MSgt. Perreault, Stephen A.  
 MSgt. Sjogren, Jean Claude  
 MSgt. Turner, David W.  
 TSgt. Francis, Worrel A.  
 TSgt. Ives, Brandon W.  
 TSgt. Kasaras, Jeffrey R.  
 TSgt. Marshall, John E.  
 TSgt. Merritt, Gary Alan  
 TSgt. Savoie, Craig A.  
 TSgt. Tetreault, John P.  
 TSgt. Wildes, Dennis M.  
 SSgt. Blake, Kevin R.  
 SSgt. Digiosio, Robert B.  
 SSgt. Harris, Cynthia J.  
 SSgt. Lawler, Bruce J.  
 SSgt. Mulvaney, Patrick D.  
 SSgt. Quinn, Shawn P.  
 SrA. Bartley, Sean Patrick  
 SrA. Geisser, William A., Jr.  
 SrA. Steiger, Kennan L.  
 SrA. Stevens, Darnell M.

### Retired:

Lt. Col. Cunha, Barry J.  
 MSgt. Baldwin, Ronald C.  
 MSgt. Grybko, Kim L.  
 MSgt. MacGee, Donald E.  
 MSgt. Sweet, Richard R.  
 TSgt. Anderson, Andrew M., Sr.  
 TSgt. Lanier, Cheldon O., Jr.  
 TSgt. Manzelli, Michael A.  
 TSgt. McCorkel, Michael P.

## Awards and Decorations

### Air Force Achievement Medal

TSgt. Raymond J. Circe  
 SSgt. Daniel J. Howard  
 SSgt. Anthony C. Giardini, Jr.  
 SSgt. Todd A. Kreuzburg  
 SSgt. Craig M. Labrecque  
 SSgt. Cheryl L. Mottershead  
 SrA. Anthony Baptiste  
 SrA. Eric G. Marjault

### Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. Alton J. Cadarette, Jr.  
 Capt. Gregory M. Federico  
 Capt. William Gonzalez  
 Capt. Gregg R. Southworth  
 Capt. Stephen N. Taylor  
 MSgt. Ronald A. Aickelin

MSgt. Gregory F. Quill  
 MSgt. William R. Richardson  
 MSgt. Stephen B. Valley  
 TSgt. Susan M. Balboni  
 TSgt. Paul E. Cyr  
 TSgt. Keith L. Jones  
 TSgt. Richard T. Schmoke  
 TSgt. Shane E. Stabile  
 SSgt. John A. Evelyn, Jr.  
 SSgt. Anthony C. Giardini, Jr.

### Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Christine A. Gryglik  
 Maj. Dana J. Packer  
 Capt. Kenneth A. Parsons  
 MSgt. Michael J. Conboy  
 MSgt. William B. Dillon  
 TSgt. Neil A. Delisle

## Patriot Puns

by MSgt. W.C. Pope





## One potato, two potato, three ...



photo by SrA. T.R. Ouellette

**FAMILY FUN**—Kids take part in a potato sack race during Westover's 2002 Family Day picnic. This year's picnic, which is expected to draw more than 2,000 people, will take place on Sept. 6 from noon until 5 p.m.

## More than 2,000 expected for annual Family Day on Sept. 6

Organizers were putting the final touches in August on this year's Family Day picnic, which will take place on Sept. 6 from noon until 5 p.m. The event will be held in the ballfield on Patriot Avenue. Security measures. Personnel and vehicles entering the installation are subject to inspection at the gate or on the installation.

Scheduled activities include model airplane flying, hay rides, face painting, horseshoes, volleyball, raffles, and much more. Security forces personnel remind families to plan accordingly for increased Family Day is open to all 439th AW reservists, DoD and Griffin Services employees, and Army National Guard security forces augmentees at Westover. For more information, call CMSgt. William R. Currier at Ext. 3521 or CMSgt. John J. Tavares at Ext. 2592.

**PATRIOT**

[www.afrc.af.mil/439aw](http://www.afrc.af.mil/439aw)

September UTA schedule

A UTA Sept. 6-7

B UTA Sept. 20-21



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

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Published monthly for Patriots like Capt. Deresa D. Helems, Southamptn, Mass., and 2,445 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.