

PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base
July 2004 • Vol. 31, No. 7

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HOOKING UP - A Patriot Wing C-5A Galaxy maneuvers up to the boom of a KC-135R Stratotanker of the 459th Air Refueling Wing, Andrews AFB, Md., in May. The refueling training mission took place at about 21,500 feet southwest of Presque Isle, Maine.

photo by MSgt. Tom Allocco

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

Leadership eyes wing future

When you read this, your commanders, first sergeants, and chiefs will have met to discuss some very important topics: recruiting, retention, and the direction this wing will go in the coming years.

The result for all of you will be a clear focus on what we want to accomplish and where the 439th is going in the future. Why did we decide we needed this meeting?

The first reason was that as Westover transitions from an almost "active-duty" wing back to a Reserve organization, we have to examine just where our priorities should be, especially given the limited amount of time and availability our reservists have to offer.

The second reason we met was to look at what we can do to

improve recruiting. Our overall manning is at a low point. In fact, we are almost at the bottom in Air Force Reserve Command, a place I know none of us wants to be. Our recruiters are working

overtime to bring more people into our wing. However, they need some help in this effort and we, the men and women of the 439th, can give them that help.

How?

The "Get One" program is the answer. An article on Page 4 in this *Patriot* will explain the nuts and bolts of this program, but the basic idea is for you, the wing member, to bring in your friends, family members, co-workers, and fellow students into our organization. Then, you get rewards for doing so. The obvious benefits are that the 439th gets someone into the wing that we know, and you get something for your effort. This is definitely a win-win scenario.

While recruiting is important, I consider retention to be even more critical. Our meeting this month also focused on ways to retain as many of you as we can. We have invested a lot of time, effort and resources to train you and make you a valuable member of the Air Force Reserve. My philosophy is that we also need to invest time, effort and resources to keep you. I have tasked my commanders, chiefs, and first sergeants to help me come up with ideas on how to do that.

Now I ask all of you to do the same. Use your chain of command, your Junior Enlisted Advisory Council representative, or e-mail me with ideas you have on making Westover an even better place than it is. We are fortunate here to have control of many of the processes that govern the way we perform our mission and run the base. Therefore, with the exception of higher headquarters directives and Air Force regulations, if we are doing something that doesn't make sense and can be done better, we have the power to change it. My goal is to keep all of you as happy, productive members of this wing as long as we can. I believe that if we do that, we will have no problems with recruiting, retention and, of course, accomplishing the mission of the 439th: doing our part to defend our country.

by Col. Wade Farris
439th Airlift Wing commander



Commentary

Briefs

GNEA breakfast tickets on sale at public affairs

Tickets for the Great New England Air Show breakfast are on sale. They are \$15 for people who work at Westover (reservists, USO, civilian employees, and contractors) and \$20 each for all others.

The breakfast will be held Aug. 13 in the fuel cell hangar.

For more information, call Gordon A. Newell, chief of public affairs, at Ext. 3500.

Air show covers both UTAs in August

Because of the Great New England Air Show in August, no B UTA will be held that month. Both the A and B UTAs will combine for the weekend of Aug. 14 and 15.

Club serves meals in place of dining hall

The Consolidated Club is open for breakfast and lunch during the UTAs. The dining hall is closed for the next 18 months for renovations.

Box lunches may be ordered through MSgt. Gary McNab at Ext. 2417.

Case lot sale set for July A UTA in Base Hangar

The Base Hangar will be the site of another case lot sale on the July A UTA. The sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 10 and 11 and features discounted household items.

Parking is available on the north side of the hangar. For more information, call MSgt. Lisa McCurdy at Ext. 2804.

Union president's number changes

The phone number for the union president of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 3707 at Westover has changed. The new cellular number for Gerald R. Gagnon is (413) 210-8007.

The union's office phone number is Ext. 2069.

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439th Airlift Wing commander

Col. Wade Farris
Chief of Public Affairs/
Co-editor

Gordon A. Newell
PA Air Reserve Technician/
Co-editor

TSgt. Andrew S. Biscoe
Wing Public Affairs Officers
Lt. Col. Sally Nutt Morger
Maj. Wilson Camelo

NCOIC
SMSgt. Sandi M. Michon
Deputy NCOIC
MSgt. Tom N. Allocco



Illustrator

MSgt. W.C. Pope

Staff

MSgt. Anne C. Ward
SrA. Tom R. Ouellette
SrA. Michael S. Lanza

Administration

SrA. Mary E. Gallagher
Stephen P. Lambert

439Patriot.Editor@westover.af.mil

- (413) 557-3500 -

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

Patriot Wing's oldest C-5 takes off for last time

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

It was the last roar for 304.

Maintenance members and flight engineers stood under the final idle of the mammoth engines of C-5A #66-8304 May 11. They, along with a small crowd gathered on the flight line, bid farewell to the aging airlifter.

Inside the C-5, crew members preflighted the jet for the last time. With the preflight completed, it was time to go.

The signature siren-like howl of the engines pushed the massive jet forward from its parking spot. Following a long-standing military tradition, fire engines parked on either side of the aircraft showered a cascade of water onto its fuselage and wings. As the crew turned to taxi toward the runway, streams of water dripped off the C-5's wings.

Like most other C-5 takeoffs, the aircraft taxied to the end of Westover's Runway 23. Its engines went to full throttle, and about 6,000 feet later, it was wheels up from the Westover surface for the last time.

After takeoff, the crew flew around the base and approached Westover for the aircraft's curtain call. Col. James R. Hosey, aircraft commander and 439th AW vice commander, tipped the wings to the crowd below on the flight line. In a matter of minutes, the Galaxy's familiar post-takeoff growl faded into the clouds and blue sky.

The C-5's destination was the Air Force "boneyard" at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. Built in 1966, it was the oldest Galaxy on Westover's flight line, and the oldest Galaxy still flying in the Air Force. The Air Force is retiring 14 of its oldest C-5As in a cost-saving measure designed to provide more money to upgrade the remaining 62 in the A-model fleet.

Colonel Hosey said this was his first trip taking an aircraft on its final flight to Davis-Monthan. Along for the trip were a handful of senior Westover aviators, some of whom flew C-130 Hercules transports at Westover in the 1980s.

"It was a privilege to be with my buddies to do something like this," the colonel said. "We've been flying together a long time here."

Once the aircraft arrived at Davis-Monthan, the colonel said, workers quickly stripped the aircraft of its parts, including the engines. "We landed, and they tugged it over to another area. They took off all of the parts that can be put back in distribution."

SMSgt. Garth O. Parker, a veteran 337th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, was also on the flight. "This aircraft was a good piece of equipment. It was sad to see it go," he said. "304 was a piece of history. We took her home."



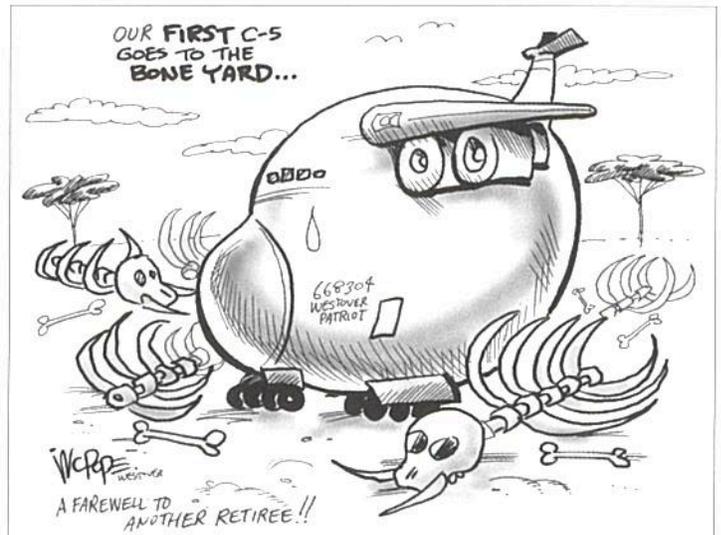
photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

FINI FLIGHT - Crew members pause for a photo shortly before takeoff May 11. They are, from top to bottom: CMSgt. Kenneth J. Gilbert, SMSgt. Garth O. Parker, Lt. Col. Sandy Whittier, Col. James R. Hosey, Lt. Col. Jay Milkey, Lt. Col. Gregory Symonds, SMSgt. Gary Miller, retired MSgt. Ken Schworm, one of the aircraft's first crew chiefs; TSgt. Mark Gilbert, TSgt. Mark Theroux, 439th AMXS crew chief; and SSgt. Ken Steiger. These veteran wing members were among the first cadre of fliers who were at Westover when the C-5s first arrived in 1987.



photo by SMSgt. Neal Jason, 439th AMXS

WHEELS UP - The crew retracts 304's wheels from the Westover runway for the last time. A few minutes after this photo, Col. James R. Hosey, aircraft commander, tipped the wing as a tribute to the base before he and the crew climbed out of Westover's airspace, bound for the "boneyard" at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



HOME TEAM SUPPORT - Deployed Airmen from the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing show their support for the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots even though they are thousands of miles away in the Persian Gulf. These fans met while wearing team apparel in the dining hall. They coordinated this photo in front of a KC-10 Extender. Farthest to the left, a Westover reservist is among those pictured. He is Maj. Michael P. Pirrone, 380th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron. Major Pirrone is from Belchertown, Mass.



photo by Capt. Angela Smith, 380th AEW Public Affairs

'Get One' rewards reservists for referring new members

The 439th Airlift Wing – the fourth-largest Air Force Reserve Command unit in the nation – faces manning challenges.

Of particular concern to senior leader-

ship are shortages in several Patriot Wing units, including the aeromedical staging, aerospace medicine, aeromedical evacuation, aircraft maintenance and maintenance squadrons, and the 42nd and 58th Aerial Port Squadrons, said Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander.

Colonel Farris reminds reservists about the "Get One" program, which rewards people for referring recruits to the wing. He said reservists are already out in their communities in their civilian lives and jobs. The opportunities are already there to spread the word.

"We have more than 2,300 reservists assigned to this unit, and these folks come from 20 different states," the colonel said. "With the solid reputation that this wing has, I wouldn't doubt that our folks often talk about Westover in their civilian jobs. They can take this a step further and explain to their co-workers, families, and friends just how good this part-time job is too."

The Air Force Reserve began the Get One program in October 2000 to involve reservists – not just recruiters – in the process of enticing more people to join the Reserve. According to statistics from the 439th AW recruiting office, there were 139 leads to new recruits from the Get One program in fiscal 2001. That number dropped to 39 in fiscal 2003.

The Get One program web site is: <http://www.afreserve.com/getone/>

People can log on to the site and load information on a potential recruit into a cen-

tral database. Recruiters use the information in this database to make personal contacts and begin the recruiting process.

There are two other ways reservists can refer potential recruits:

- * Fill out referral cards, which are available in the print version of *Citizen Airman* magazine and at local Reserve recruiting offices;

- * Call the Get One toll-free number, (877) 786-2372

For every referral made, reservists receive a nominal gift from the AFRC commander, as a token of appreciation. For the first referral, reservists also receive a sponge; for the second, a luggage tag; and the third, a sports bottle; and the fourth, a squeeze light; and the fifth, a glass mug.

When referring someone, recruiting officials said it's critical that reservists make sure they provide all of the requested information. Otherwise, they may not get credit for the referral.

When a referral actually joins the Reserve, the person who provided the information receives additional prizes. For the first enlistment, the reservist receives a portfolio with a calculator; for the second enlistment, a Get One wristwatch; and the third enlistment, a set of brass coasters.



photo by MSgt. Matt Proietti, March ARB Public Affairs

OPENED UP – A Westover C-5A was among static display aircraft at the March Air Reserve Base, Calif., air show in April. Westover's Great New England Air Show, set for Aug. 14-15, will also feature static displays of military aircraft and aerial demonstrations on both days by the USAF Thunderbirds, the Army Golden Knights, and the Shockwave jet truck. For more information about the air show, visit www.greatnewenglandairshow.com

Get One information:
www.afreserve.com/getone/
Call: (877) 786-2372
439th AW recruiting: Ext. 2125

Mrs. Farris to announce new support program on UTA

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

A new family support outreach program, designed to ease the hardships of separation between reservists and their families, will be introduced to the 439th Airlift Wing on the July A UTA.

Kim Farris, wife of Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, will brief squadron commanders and first sergeants about the Key Family Member program.

"We must take care of the families of our reservists. We have to be proactive," Colonel Farris said. "We have to be ready to deploy. To be ready, we have to be informed. It's better to be prepared all the time."

Colonel Farris backed up his words with proof that the idea worked at his previous assignment as a commander. He and Mrs. Farris began a Key Family Member program with the 914th AW at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y., in early 2003.

"We knew we would be activated," the colonel said, as he recalled the momentum of the operations tempo at Niagara following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. "I talked with an active-duty friend of mine assigned to Pope (Air Force base, N.C.). There was a key spouse program there. I talked with Kim, and she decided she would head it up with family support."

Mrs. Farris devoted months to getting

**Key Family Member program
information: Ext. 3024,
Westover Family Support
Center, 100 Walker Avenue**

the Niagara program started. She talked with the families of the deployed members and set up a base of volunteers, a phone tree, a newsletter and, eventually, a web page. Among the first to deploy from Niagara were members from Niagara's 914th Security Forces Squadron.

"It was a colossal team effort," said Mrs. Farris. "It revolved around volunteering," Colonel Farris added. "We had 30 to 40 really good key volunteers who assisted with many issues such as rumor control." Colonel Farris said the program's ingenuity caught the eye of senior Air Force Reserve Command leadership.

"This program has gotten Maj Gen (John J.) Batbie's attention," he said.

The Niagara program still runs today at the base.

Laura Coseglia, family support director at Niagara, said the program has evolved well since it began in early 2003. "It really stepped into high gear when the troops were activated in February 2003," she said. The support program running at Niagara today has volunteers keeping track of reservists sup-

porting the Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF).

Ms. Coseglia added that while separation from loved ones is never easy for families, the Key Family Support allows relatives of deployed reservists to talk with someone. "I think we have a lot more families that are comfortable with their folks being deployed. At least they have a point of contact. They have somebody else to talk to, and they're actually talking with them on the phone."

She credited Mrs. Farris with helping get the program going at Niagara. "When you have leadership support behind what you're doing, that makes all the difference in the world," she said.

Now, the colonel and Mrs. Farris have turned their focus to what they can do with Westover's people – a considerably bigger task because Westover is much larger than Niagara ARS.

Mrs. Farris will be the chairperson for the program. She said it will lessen the workload off the family support staff at Westover. "This will allow them to get back to the basics. They will be able to count on volunteers making phone calls to keep touch with deployed and activated family members."

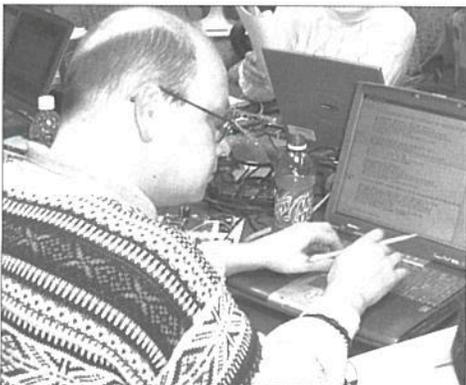
The program idea encouraged MSgt. Thomas F. Demers, Westover Family Support **see SUPPORT continued on Page 8**

Wireless Purple Martin intrudes on base computer network

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

State-of-the-art technology that the Air Force wants to install nationwide at bases logged onto Westover in April.

Members of the 439th Communications Squadron (CS) hosted a group of computer experts from various Air Force computer units as part of Project Purple Martin. Their intent was to hack into the base network



Courtesy photo

LOGGING ON - Robert K. Mersincavage, wing information protection officer, validates initial set-up instructions for a sensor.

wirelessly and demonstrate the detection capabilities of the sensor-based Wireless Intrusion Detection System (WIDS), said Robert K. Mersincavage, wing information protection officer.

Military and civilian employees from the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, N.Y., and the Air Force Information Warfare Battlelab from Lackland AFB, Texas, teamed up to initiate the WIDS project at Westover.

The sensor-based WIDS system is the first of its kind in the Air Force. The tests done in April were part of a "proof of concept" demonstration of the system, said Paul F. Braudis Jr., 439th CS. The tests determined whether someone was testing the wireless network or was attempting unauthorized access.

"This is the testbed – we are doing a demonstration," said Capt. Matthew J. Smith with the information lab from Lackland. Captain Smith said the Air Force chose Westover because it is close to Hanscom AFB, Mass., where the Combat Information Transfer System (CITS) is. And there were geographic reasons.

"It rains a lot here and it's cold," Cap-

tain Smith said. "You're up here where the weather changes. If a wireless system can work well here, it can work pretty much anywhere in the United States."

Captain Smith said that the wireless network's portability and ease of operation can enable the Air Force to communicate even more efficiently.

"This is real-time connection wherever you go. Wireless technology gives you the flexibility to move around and always be on the network," he said. "A maintenance crew fixing a plane can order a part on the spot (on the flight line) instead of having to call back in."

Mr. Mersincavage hoped that the WIDS program would be part of Westover's future. "Setting up a wireless network is easy and fast," he said. "These sensors make our lives a lot easier."

Mr. Braudis said having the computer teams at Westover was an exciting opportunity for the 439th CS. "This is huge," he said. "It all started with us being selected for the field service evaluation site for all of the Air Force. We were the first Air Force unit to install, configure, and test the CITS standard wireless infrastructure."

Wartime veterans add realism

Article and photos
by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Members of the New England military and civilian medical community, many of them tempered by wartime experience, came together for the 14th Team Yankee exercise in Dogpatch and the Base Hangar on the May B UTA.

The 2004 Team Yankee followed the cancellation of last year's exercise when many military medical people were on duty in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Participants agreed that the 2004 Team Yankee, recognized as the premier military medical exercise in New England, benefited from the experience gained since 9/11.

In Team Yankee, Westover Civil Air Patrol and Young Marines volunteers were moulaged to mimic wounds, but many participants had seen the real thing.

MSgt. Daniel E. Kibe, 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron medical technician, contributed lessons learned flying medical evacuation missions between Ramstein AB, Germany and Iraq last fall. "It's an eye opener....traumatic amputations, gunshot wounds, burns, broken bones...young airmen, young soldiers in such a horrible situation. They're so young, you want to ask them, should you be here," he said.

"The reality of the situation is that we

watch TV action movies, but there's no reset button in life. It's sad, however it's the most rewarding thing I've done in my career.

"I could actually use all the skills I've been taught," Sergeant Kibe said.

Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Ismael Santana served five months at Bethesda Naval Hospital, Md. "We treated mostly burns, amputees, broken bones, kids with psychological problems. I've been dealing with this for years," he said.

"Any person who does this type of job, psychologically you have to be prepared. You have to react on your training," he said.

This year's Team Yankee scenario projected a local terrorist attack that could have been written from real world headlines. The scenario included an SA-18 shoulder fired surface to air heat seeking missile attack and casualties caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

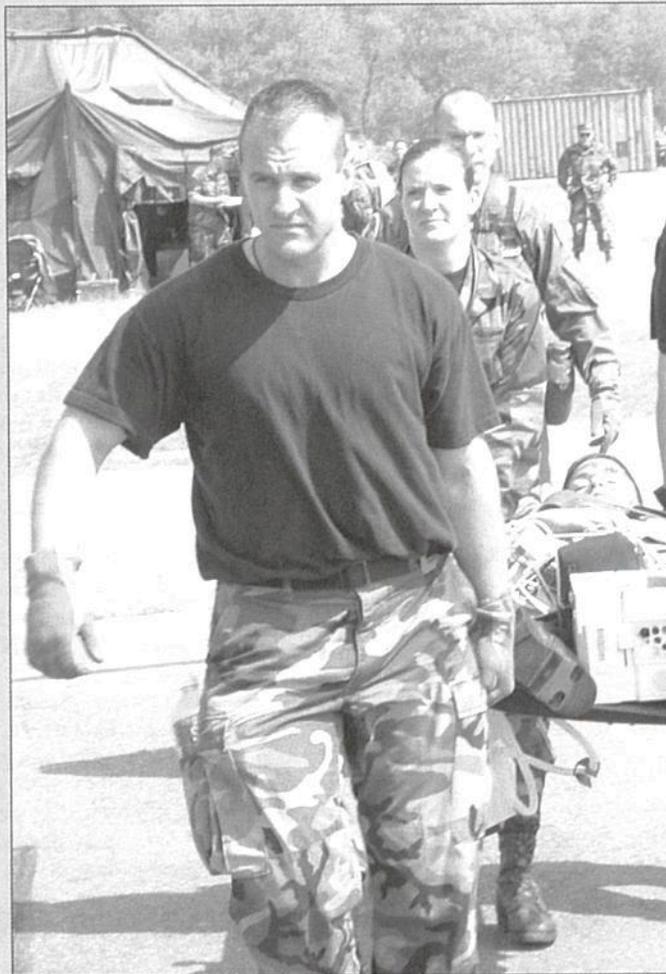
"We all need to be prepared to utilize our skills in a homeland defense scenario and for the military and civilian communities to speak a common language when responding," said Team Yankee officer in charge Navy Capt. Carolyn Ryan.

Medical specialists of all branches of the service and Massachusetts disaster medical assistance team volunteers rehearsed treatment and evacuation of casualties.

The 439th AES loaded patients aboard a pair of C-130s from the 914th Airlift Wing, Niagara Falls, N.Y. and the West Virginia Air National Guard. The 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron treated them in the Base Hangar.

The exercise was a full team effort, including maintenance members setting up lighting and generators and the 439th Services Squadron cooking hot breakfast.

Capt. Warren D. Smith, 439th AES disaster preparedness officer in charge, credited previous Team Yankee exercises for helping him and his team hit the ground



LITTER BEARERS - Medical specialists with the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron transport a patient to a C-130 during an aerial evacuation from the mobile aerial hospital.



INITIAL CARE - A Navy medical specialist gives initial care to a Civil Air Patrol volunteer who is simulating a casualty.

running at "K-2" air base in Uzbekistan during a 90-days deployment in 2002. "Right from the start we were doing all the different pieces of the air evacuation puzzle when we got to K-2. "This is a joint service operation and you get used to dealing with other services. Over there we worked very closely with the Army," he said.

Team Yankee gives participants a taste of the austerity they will experience overseas. "K-2 was an old Soviet base. It was filthy. There was a crashed MiG fighter sitting there," Captain. Smith said.

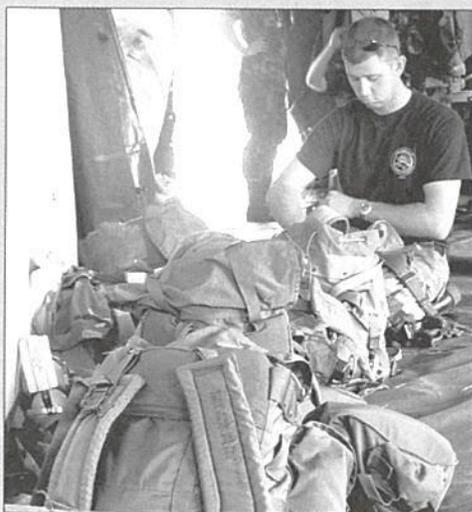
Capt. Denise A. Claffey, 439th AES nurse, returned in March from six months at a former French Army base in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. "For some people there were no cots. Cots were a luxury," she said of the deployment.

She will never forget the mosquitoes, see **YANKEE** continued on next page

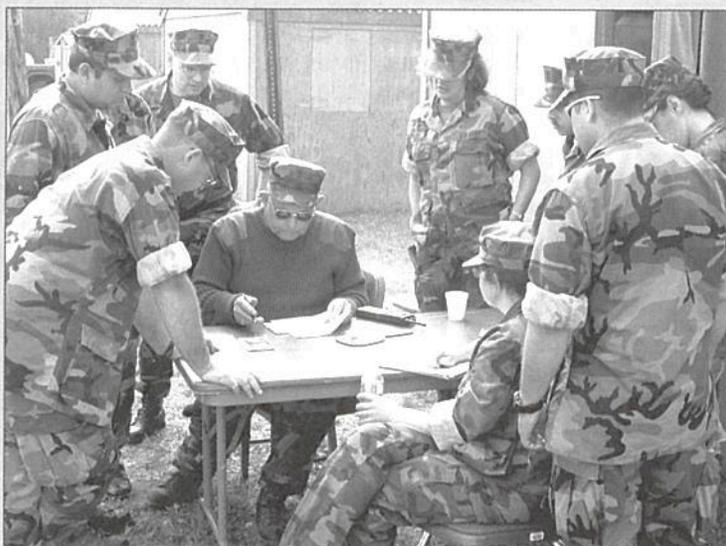
m to Team Yankee exercise



Evacuation Squadron carry a patient to a field medical facility.



GEARING UP- Left, SrA. Kevin M. Preston, 439th AES medical specialist, organizes his web gear and load bearing equipment in the mobile aerial staging facility.



“What you learn is to work with joint services. I’ve been with the Army two times and that’s been a great experience. Not all services are the same. If you’re open-minded you can survive in any field,”

- TSgt. Shane L. Newhart, 439th AES communications specialist

NOW HEAR THIS- Navy HMC Rick Walker (center) conducts a last-minute field briefing at the kick-off to Team Yankee.

YANKEE continued from Page 6

flies and heat. “I couldn’t comprehend how hot it could be until I got over there...now I’m sharing my experiences with people. When you are overseas you learn what to keep and what to throw away, how important something as simple as powder can be,” she said.

SSgt. Andrew J. Monahan, 439th AES communications specialist, spent six months in tents in Kuwait and Qatar last year. “You get adapted to the heat and the sand getting everywhere and sleeping on cots for months on end. Team Yankee isn’t as hot as it was overseas, but they get a little taste,” he said.

Team Yankee is also about developing the right mental attitude, said TSgt. Shane L. Newhart, 439th AES communications specialist. He’s a veteran of Uzbekistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

“What you learn is to work with joint

services. I’ve been with the Army two times and that’s been a great experience. Not all services are the same. If you’re open-minded you can survive in any field,” he said.

“No matter who you are with you build up a sense of camaraderie, especially in an austere environment,” said Capt. Mark J. Bialas of the 439th AES, who served at two northern Iraq air bases.

“A sense of humor works very well in an austere environment. I think you need to be flexible in completing the mission. One of the big things is to be able to adapt,” he said.

Team Yankee participants experienced the urgency of an evacuation mission early in the exercise when the AES Mobile Aerial Staging Facility (MASF) evacuated 10 “patients” and a critical care action team. The medical technicians wore ear protection dur-

ing the C-130 engine running onload.

No sooner did the Hercules depart than the medical specialists were alerted to an NBC threat. “Have your suits on... masks ready... attack is probable... drink water...hydrate,” their NCOs called out.

Their OIC, Capt. Marc A. Dargis, liked what he saw during the first up-load. “We should do even better this afternoon. This is not a bad job for our first attempt. I’m darned impressed with my troops. They set up a fully functional independent treatment facility,” he said.

Before he could finish, he was alerted by 2nd Lt. Maria R. Romanoff, AES flight nurse. “There’s an ambulance coming. We don’t know if anyone is on it,” she warned.

“OK, we’ll keep on our toes,” he said.

AMDS provides medical care to thousands in Peru

by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

With dark brown eyes and a wide toothy grin, 5-year-old Eddie is a favorite among the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron members working a humanitarian medical mission in Arequipa, Peru in late spring. In fact, judging from the hundreds of digital photos taken by TSgt. Katy Kratochvil during the annual tour, it would seem there were no adults in Peru.

But tour statistics show the medical cadre treated nearly 4,000 adults in three villages on the outskirts of Arequipa as well as 1,300 children. Westover's 23-member medical team, augmented by five active-duty and reserve people, included physicians, dentists, medical technicians, pharmacy and optometry specialists. Physicians and medics treated more than 5,000 patients, providing diagnosis and dispensing medications, mostly for parasite problems. Optometry provided eye exams and fitted glasses, and the dental section treated nearly 900 people extracting more than 1,150 teeth.

"It was like a mini-residency in oral surgery," said Maj. Michael Szostak, Westover dentist. "I pulled more teeth in one day in Peru than I pull a year in my private practice," he said.

As Westover's Chief of Dental Services, Lt. Col. Steven Johnson enjoyed the interaction with Peruvian military dentists. While serving the three villages, personnel from Peru's army, air force and navy provided translation, medical assistance and security for the Westover crew.

Westover coordinated the humanitarian tour through the Peruvian Ministry of Health. After an eight-hour KC-135 flight, reservists settled into dorms at a military academy in Arequipa and worked 10-hour days most of the tour.

Even though Arequipa is the second largest city in Peru, most of the medical treatment was provided in the villages on the outskirts of the city where Westover reservists were struck by the poverty and cinderblock structures, often without roofs. Most had no running water, but it was still a more urban setting compared to previous annual tours many reservists had performed in Guyana and Guatemala.

MSgt. Joseph Letourneau, 439th AMDS lab manager, was praised by his peers for taking the lion's share of logistics for the medical tour. He coordinated meals-ready-to-eat, medical equipment and supplies for each section and was designated purchasing agent during the trip. When three active-duty pediatricians deter-



Eddie

AMDS members on Peru deployment

Col. Joel Bogner
Col. Proinnssias O'Croinin
Lt. Col. Steven Johnson
Maj. Ari Fisher
Maj. Frances Mclure
Maj. Michael Szostak
Capt. Robert Driscoll Jr.
SMSgt. Barbara Bender
SMSgt. McDonald Molina
SMSgt. Andy Vanlingen
MSgt. Jean Allison
MSgt. Michael Gendron

MSgt. Joseph Letourneau
MSgt. Ruth Rodriguez
TSgt. Ellen Burnett
TSgt. Lesli Chambers
TSgt. Patricia Freeman
TSgt. Martin Gosselin
TSgt. Kathleen Kratochvil
TSgt. Edward Parson
TSgt. Ellen VanLoon
SSgt. Richard English
SrA. David Rivera

mined a drug shortage, Letourneau was authorized a trip to Lima to purchase \$10,000 worth of pediatric medicine. "I guess I could say I'm probably the only reservist to get \$10,000 to buy drugs in Peru," he quipped.

After the 18-hour, C-130 flight back to Westover, team members felt a sense of gratification having used their reserve skills to help others. "I live for this kind of thing," said Letourneau who said, even as a boy, he wanted to be a part of humanitarian missions. He added that the unit's contributions were particularly relevant in light of military reputations recently sullied by the actions of a select few.

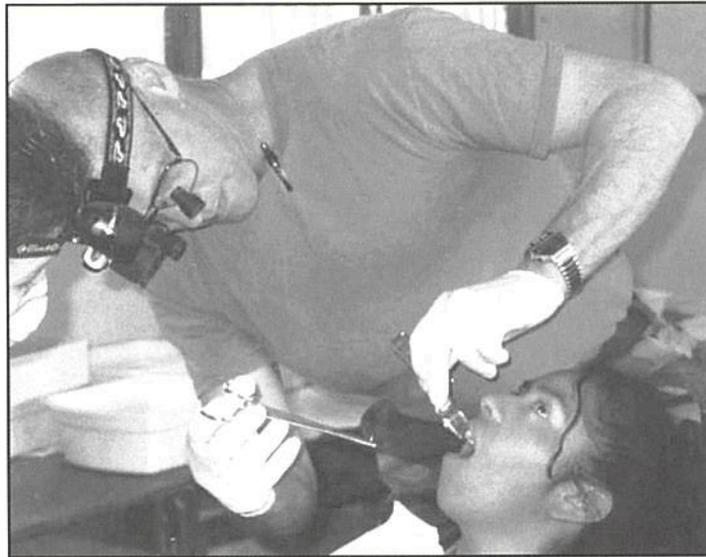


photo by TSgt. Lesli Chambers

TOOTH SERUM - Lt. Col. Steven Johnson, Westover chief of dental services, prepares to extract a tooth from a Peruvian girl in a village on the outskirts of Arequipa. Members of the 439th AMDS participated in a medical humanitarian mission to Peru in late spring.

SUPPORT continued from Page 5

port Center superintendent. He and the staff at the center handled the needs of more than 1,000 activated reservists at Westover in early 2003 during the surge of C-5 operations. They remain busy with scores of Westover reservists still activated and deployed.

"It's a worthwhile program, and it has a lot of plusses," Sergeant Demers said. "It'll help when it is supported by the commanders and first sergeants. A network like this can resolve issues with families."

A volatile world situation and the fre-

quent deployments are among the reasons this program is so important, Mrs. Farris said.

"We believe the families of the reservists are integral to the accomplishment of the wing's mission. You have to let the families know they are cared about. The mission statement of the Key Family Member program is to ensure the well-being of family and friends of activated and deployed reservists by providing information, communication, and resources."

Mrs. Farris said she and the commander

will seek a consensus on how the support program should get under way with the Patriot Wing. "We're going to find out from the people how they want to start the program here. When you bring together people with similar situations when problems occur, they will be able to solve their own problems. We're really hoping to get the families on board. We're inviting everyone to get it on the act."

People with questions about the Key Family Member program may call the family support center at Ext. 3024.

Reservists' involvement can influence legislation

by CMSgt. Jeff Sherwin
439th AW Command Chief

We are no longer the Reserve of the 50s and 60s when we worked with antiquated equipment and prepared for World War III to start. Decades ago, the average enlisted reservist who served 20 years retired with an average pension of \$4,500 a year at age 60. That's a nice bit of pocket change, but hardly a major part of anyone's retirement income.

Times have changed.

Since the first Gulf War, reservists, who proved their mettle in that war, have been called upon again and again to supplement an over-stretched active duty force. Today, nearly a quarter of the forces in the Middle East are reservists.

Reservists are being called to active duty for up to 24 months and are being routinely asked to fill Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotations and short-falls. Leaving their civilian employment for long periods of time has hurt many financially, so our military retirement pension, which seems so far away, will become a necessary part of their retirement income.

The World War II generation is also passing us by. Thirty years ago, more than 60 percent of congressmen were veterans. Today that number is down to a mere 20 percent meaning many of these lawmakers do not understand the hardships that reservists and Guardsmen experience.

That is where professional military organizations come in. Organizations like Reserve Officers Association (ROA),



Chief Sherwin

Reserve Enlisted Association (REA), Air Force Association (AFA), Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) and Noncommissioned Officers Association (NCOA) lobby Congress on our behalf; educating them on what our needs are and urging them to pass legislation to benefit us. The more people that these organizations represent, the more clout they have in their lobbying efforts. That is why your membership in a professional military organization is so important.

I was recently asked to be the main speaker at the AFSA Division One annual convention, which covers the six New England states and New York. Although the convention involved seven states, only about 90 people, mostly World War II and Korean War veterans, attended the banquet. I am a member of all the enlisted organizations, but this is just a typical example of the lack of involvement by today's reservist.

Congress wants desperately to pass a major piece of legislation this year to show their support for the Guard and Reserve, such as a bill to lower the retirement age from 60 to 55. Despite the heroic efforts by these professional organizations to lobby Congress to pass favorable legislation, especially since the Department of Defense is telling Congress they cannot afford it, Congress tells these organizations that they have heard nothing from their constituents.

Congress likes to do things for their constituents because that could translate into re-election votes. Most of these organizations have links to inform us of pending legislation, and some have ready-made letters and e-mails that we merely have to sign and send, or personalize as needed. A few months ago, I looked up the co-sponsors of HR 742 and found that not one of the 10 Massachusetts congressmen had signed on as co-sponsors of

"The more people that these organizations represent, the more clout they have in their lobbying efforts. That is why your membership in one of these organizations is so important."

-- Chief Sherwin

the bill, and neither of my senators had signed on as co-sponsors of the Senate companion bill, S-1035.

I wrote to the 10 congressmen and both senators, and within two weeks five congressmen and a senator had signed on. My one e-mail made that much difference. Imagine the impact 2,500 reservists from 21 different states (who represent Westover) could have.

However, let me be very clear that there are a few rules involved in contacting your representatives.

* You cannot write your elected officials as representative of the reserves. You must contact them as a constituent, who happens to be in the Air Force Reserve.

* You must also write from a personal or home computer; as government computers may not be used to write government officials about pending legislation.

My father once told me that I had no right to complain about anything, unless I was willing to do something about it. If you are looking for a particular piece of legislation to pass, you have no right to complain that it didn't, if you didn't make every effort yourself to influence your representative to vote for its passage.

It is also important to remember that there are two parts of every bill; the authorization (the law itself) and the appropriation (the money to fund it). Make sure that you inform your representative to vote for both the authorization and the appropriation.

The U.S. military is at its highest point of popularity in years. Let's take advantage of that to obtain the benefits which the reserves both have earned, and need to make our participation (financially) possible and to give us parity with our active-duty counterparts when we serve side-by-side with them.

Web sites provide information on voting, legislation

The following web site is one of a number of web sites for researching pending legislation.

Information includes who is sponsoring it, and how to locate a congressional representative. Also on the web site are examples of ready-made letters that can be sent electronically asking representatives to support a pending bill.

The site's address is:
http://www.ncoausa.org/capitaloffice1/Legislative_Issues/Legislative_Action.htm#top
Information about national, state and

local elections can be obtained on the 439th Airlift Wing Voting Assistance Intranet site.

This site is accessible any time. It provides updated and timely voting news, voting registration and absentee ballot information, and links to various voting information resources.

To access the site, click on the voting assistance information link on the Westover Intranet homepage or directly via the following URL:

https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/439aw/msg/mpf/mssvote/mssvote_index.htm

Program here to stay; Westover doing OK so far

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is the fifth in a series that will help Patriot Wing members meet the new Air Force fitness standards which went into effect Jan. 1.

Maj. Patrick Ryan is the wing fitness program manager.

by Maj. Patrick Ryan

There's an old journalism rule that maintains that you should never open a column with a question.

So I began this article with the above sentence - a way to break the ice before actually stating my purpose for writing this which is:

What are the two questions I hear that are asked the most frequently regarding the new physical fitness test?

Question number one:

How long will this new fitness program last until they get rid of it for something else?

I have no 100 percent foolproof answer for this particular question, but all indications point toward this program having staying power. It has been receiving kudos through the ranks - from Airmen to generals. The new fitness program has medical science backing and hasn't demonstrated the high injury rate some people predicted.

Of course there may be minor "course corrections" - some tweaking of the numbers, perhaps making the standards either more or less strict depending on this year's results. Overall though, there has been no indication in either print or other media that says anything except that this is a program that will be around a very long time.



Major Ryan

Question number two:
How is the program going? This is easier to answer. Let's talk hard numbers first since they're difficult to argue with.

439th Airlift Wing

- * Twenty percent tested
- * Excellent: 15 percent
- * Good: 64 percent
- * Marginal: 9 percent
- * Poor: 12 percent

USAF

- * Twenty-three percent tested
- * Excellent: 15 percent
- * Good: 66 percent
- * Marginal: 9 percent
- * Poor: 10 percent

This is sort of like looking into a mirror. The statistics show that Westover isn't breaking the curve in either direction. We're testing people at the same rate with only two days a month to do so. We're passing and failing at the same rate despite demanding civilian careers.

This indicates that the Westover team is on the right path. Units are getting out and exercising as a group on the UTAs. Gym attendance is up across the board. Some time next year, Air Force leaders hope to see a downward trend in weight levels and an rising fitness scoring levels.

These are great indicators that people are embracing a healthy lifestyle that will not just benefit the waistline, but the entire gamut of personal health both in the short, and more significantly, long term.

You're doing terrific work Westover - as always. Keep those questions coming. It demonstrates that we are engaged and focused on the target!

Commander honors top fitness test performers

The following 38 reservists scored 90 or above on their fitness tests. Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, presented each a certificate at Commander's Call during the June A UTA. Those who scored 96 or above also received a wing coin, and the top 12 received a gym bag in recognition of May fitness month.

- Lt Col. Thomas G. Clark
- Lt Col. Udo K. McGregor
- Lt Col. Theresa A. Negron
- Maj. Patrick Cloutier
- Maj. Richard Cockley
- Maj. Timothy S. Donnelly
- Maj. Jennifer Farrelly
- Maj. Andreas S. Hau
- Maj. Farris C. Hill
- Maj. Dale Maynard
- Maj. Michael Smith
- Maj. Stephen N. Taylor
- Capt. Kelly Braudis
- Capt. David Capuano
- Capt. Elaine Chaloux
- Capt. Jonathan Carlson
- Capt. Joseph R. Freitas
- Capt. Richard C. Ropac
- First Lt. David C. Quinn
- CMSgt. James R. Brady
- CMSgt. Claude G. Drouin
- CMSgt. Sharon L. Lausier
- CMSgt. Catherine J. Skalecki
- CMSgt. Tammy Vezina
- SMSgt. Michelle Dunfield
- SMSgt. Lana L. Lue
- SMSgt. Sandra M. Michon
- MSgt. David P. Jones
- MSgt. Gary Smith
- MSgt. Theresa Robert
- TSgt. David Benson
- TSgt. Ronald F. Donofrio
- TSgt. Christopher Hellyar
- TSgt. Christopher S. Lane
- TSgt. Dana Seddon
- SrA. Erika L. Sambrook
- A1C Daniel Orcutt
- A1C Adnan Ramadani

AFRC rules Patriot Wing legal assistant as command's best

Kathleen M. Kies has been selected as the Air Force Reserve Command's Outstanding Legal Service Civilian of the year for 2003.

Mrs. Kies, who has been working in the base's legal office since 1989, will receive the Maj. Gen. Harold R. Vague Award. The award is



Kathleen Kies

named in honor of General Vague, who is a former Judge Advocate General of the Air Force.

Maj. Laura Feltman, Westover's full-time legal officer, said Mrs. Kies is more than deserving of the honor.

"Kathy is the heart and soul of my office," she said. "I rely on her immensely. Not only is she one of the most dedicated and hardworking people I've known, but she is also one of the most patient and kind. She is a great ambassador for this office and the JAG Corps."

The award is presented annually to the legal service civilian who is selected as the most outstanding civilian based upon demonstrated excellence, initiative and devotion to duty. Civilians (excluding attorneys) employed by or serving with the Judge Advocate General's Corps and providing legal and/or administrative support to the Air Force legal offices are eligible for this award.

Mrs. Kies graduated from Holyoke Community College in 1990 with an associate's degree in Legal Science. She resides in Easthampton with her husband, Bob.

Patriot People

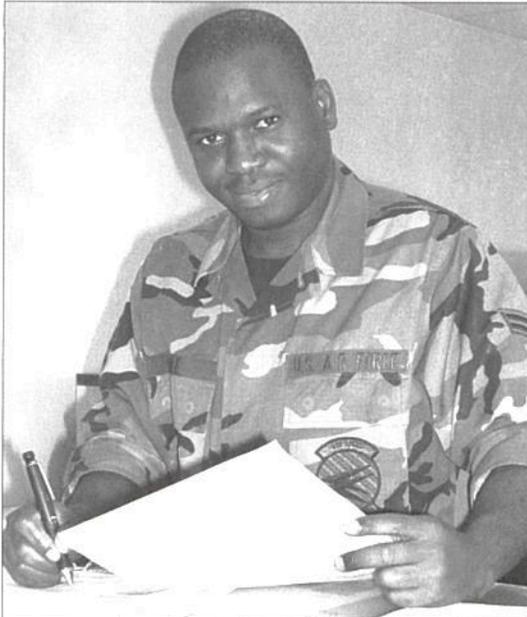


photo by MSgt. Anne Ward

AIC Bamidele E. Onile

Name: Bamidele E. Onile
Rank: AIC
Age: 30
Address: South Weymouth, Mass.
Unit: 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Position: Information management
Civilian position: Computer network administrator, City of Boston
Favorite food: Chinese
Years of service: One
Favorite sport: Soccer
Favorite hobby: Music
Ideal vacation: Cruise to the Bahamas
Best way to relax: Sleep
Preferred entertainment: Movies
Favorite hero: My dad
Favorite music: Contemporary gospel music
Favorite movie: Man on Fire
Favorite aircraft: F-22 Raptor
Pet peeve: An unclean environment
What would I do if I won \$1 million: Give 10 percent to my church and other charities; buy a beautiful house and give money to my parents, brothers, and sisters (seven in all)

Patriot Praises

Reenlistments:

CMSgt. Kathleen M. Wood
 SMSgt. Santiago J. Begue
 SMSgt. Jerry L. Kaulback
 SMSgt. Joseph A. Rampino
 SMSgt. Jon M. Sorak
 SMSgt. Tracey T. Turner
 MSgt. Anthony Albano
 MSgt. Jean A. Beadle
 MSgt. Marc A. Bourgeois
 MSgt. Richard D. Bready Jr.
 MSgt. Teresa I. Culpepper
 MSgt. Virginia M. Griffin
 MSgt. Ronald M. Jordan
 MSgt. Mark W. O'Connell
 MSgt. Jennifer F. Picard
 MSgt. Anita L. Schmitz
 TSgt. Christopher G. Ames
 TSgt. Cornelia Babcock
 TSgt. William F. Brooks III
 TSgt. Thomas M. Evangelisto
 TSgt. Corey E. Fagullar
 TSgt. Steven J. Foote
 TSgt. Marie E. Greenwood
 TSgt. Michael W. Guntor
 TSgt. David M. Halat
 TSgt. Daniel J. Howard
 TSgt. Brian Joseph Johnson
 TSgt. Christopher F. Kellam
 TSgt. Joseph W. Montanez
 TSgt. Mark J. Nowak
 TSgt. Marian D. Therrien
 TSgt. Daniel J. Vankruiningen
 TSgt. Thomas Lloyd Warren
 TSgt. David L. Yuhus
 SSgt. Leonard Filomeo
 Delorenzo
 SSgt. Timothy J. Kane
 SSgt. William G. Kennedy Jr.
 SSgt. Paul A. LeMay II
 SSgt. Lindsey Catherine Migala
 SSgt. John J. Miller
 SSgt. Natalie T. Tabois

SSgt. John J. Vescovi
 SSgt. Laurie Ann Weber
 SrA. Conary Dean Beckford
 SrA. David Allen Cunningham
 SrA. James Eric Dupuis
 SrA. Christopher Michael Migala
 SrA. Kevin D. O'Leary
 SrA. Goel Surendranauth Parboo
 SrA. Paulo Pereira

Retired:

Lt. Col. Joseph M. Mastrangelo
 Maj. Edmund P. Gaines III
 Capt. Claire L. Gaudreau
 CMSgt. Robert B. Fetherston
 SMSgt. John E. Kida
 SMSgt. Daniel J. Major
 SMSgt. Richard A. Ricci
 SMSgt. Robert J. Rock
 SMSgt. William J. Roberts
 MSgt. Elaine A. Evers
 MSgt. Robert W. Fredette Jr.
 MSgt. Michael J. Healy
 MSgt. Deborah S. Housley
 MSgt. Wesley A. Ormerod
 MSgt. Robert E. Smith
 TSgt. Judith A. Clark
 TSgt. Norman A. Faucher
 TSgt. Stephen D. Stavros Jr.
 TSgt. Fredrick L. Trickett
 SSgt. David S. Koretsky

Airman Leadership School Graduates:

SrA. Mary E. Gallagher
 SrA. Christopher Harry

Awards and Decorations

Legion Of Merit

Col. Charles A. Brown
 Col. Thomas A. Mauzaka

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Michael J. Barden
 Maj. Charles R. Zaorski
 SMSgt. Calvin C. Brown
 SMSgt. Steven D. Mackay *
 MSgt. Roy T. Bradshaw
 TSgt. Paul A. Dufresne Jr.

Air Force Commendation Medal

CMSgt. Thomas A. Smith **
 MSgt. Robert J. Andreoli *
 MSgt. Daniel P. Aube
 MSgt. Timothy A. Day ***
 MSgt. Aaron D. Gates **
 SSgt. Patrick R. Overly
 TSgt. Bonnie C. Bell
 TSgt. Jessie Downing **

Air Force Achievement Medal

MSgt. James P. Garrity *
 MSgt. Jean Claude Sjogren
 MSgt. Timothy G. Williams
 MSgt. Daniel C. Witt, Jr. *

TSgt. Robert A. Bathgate
 TSgt. Robert L. Bray III *
 TSgt. Thomas A. Beaudry *
 TSgt. David A. Berkebile
 TSgt. Gerard A. Cote *
 TSgt. William J. Czarniecki
 TSgt. Dana A. Dupuis *
 TSgt. Mark R. Farrington
 TSgt. Michael G. Kudron
 TSgt. Michael S. Laffond *
 TSgt. Daniel P. Lawlor *
 TSgt. John A. Masaitis **
 TSgt. Ronald Mink
 TSgt. Phillip W. Nadeau
 TSgt. Kevin R. Nee
 TSgt. Stephen A. Paris *
 TSgt. Manuel J. Ray
 TSgt. Robert J. Taylor *
 TSgt. Charlotte F. Teel
 TSgt. Scott A. Tracey *
 TSgt. Jesse K. White *
 SSgt. Michael C. Cormier
 SSgt. Stephen P. Gioriano
 SSgt. William Hamm, Jr. *
 SSgt. Jeffrey D. Kingsbury ***
 SrA. Charles F. Carlin III *
 SrA. James D. Stack

*First oak leaf cluster
 **Second oak leaf cluster
 ***Third oak leaf cluster

Major cited by New York for volunteer mental health work

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

For Maj. John P. Cornish, it is not enough to serve as a reservist officer in charge of mental health here and a mental health professional for New York State. On top of a full schedule, he was recently honored for his volunteer work to help provide health care to New Yorkers with mental and developmental problems.



Major Cornish

Major Cornish was named Surrogate Decision Maker Committee Panelist of the Year by the New York State Commission of Quality Care for lending his professional expertise to a committee which serves as a health care advocate.

As a volunteer panel member, he helps make recommendations on health care for those not capable of making their own decisions. He serves as a medical expert on a panel that includes legal, family representatives, social workers and other advocates who make potentially life and death decisions on whether patients have the capacity to understand

care in light of risks and benefits and if procedures are in their best interests.

The commission was founded in 2000 to act as an advocate watchdog agency to help assure quality care is delivered to people with mental health problems and developmental disabilities.

Major Cornish has served on more than 120 panel reviews for patients living in a large area of Central New York, which encompasses his hometown of Rome, N.Y.

Major Cornish brings to the advocacy commission his extensive experience as a military and civilian mental health professional.

He has more than 32 years of experience as a registered mental health nurse for the New York State Office of Mental Health. As residential program assistant he oversees operations and daily functions for two state community residences for long term mental ill patients.

During Desert Shield, Desert Storm Major Cornish deployed to King Fahd AB, Saudi Arabia with the predecessor medical squadron of the 439th ASTS, which at the time was stationed at Griffiss AFB, N.Y.

He also served for three months last at Ramstein AB, Germany last year. As OIC of mental health, Major Cornish oversees two mental health nurses and seven mental health technicians in the 439th ASTS.

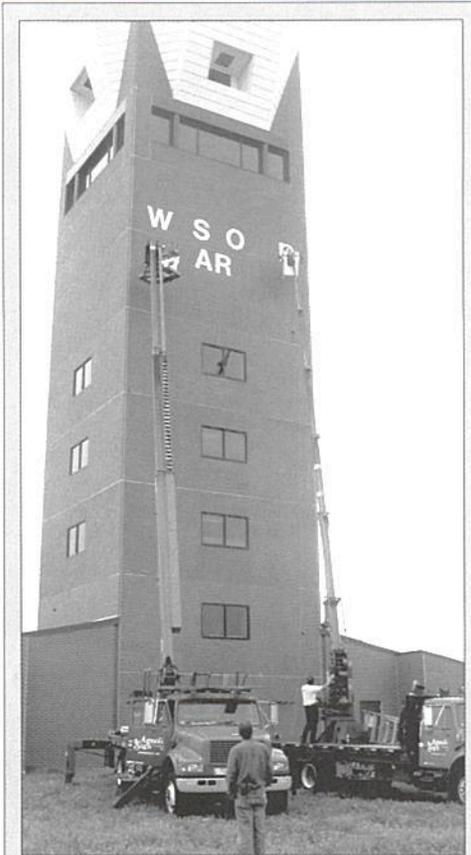


photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

TOWERING LETTERS – A crew installs “WESTOVER ARB” on the control tower in May. The 123-foot-high building displays the base name on its north and south sides. Built in April 2003, it is staffed by Department of Defense air traffic controllers who guide a variety of military aircraft besides the Patriot Wing C-5As. Aircraft that often transit the base include C-130s, A-10s, KC-135s, and P-3s.



www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

July UTA schedule
A UTA July 10-11
B UTA July 24-25



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

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Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Brian K. Mello, Providence, R.I., and 2,317 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.