

# PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base  
November 2004 • Vol. 31, No. 11



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

## The importance of giving thanks

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving. I know you have all heard it and seen it in print that you should reflect and give thanks this time of year for all your blessings. I'm sure many of you take the time to do that. In that spirit, I would like to remind you of a few things to include on your list to be thankful for.

### Commentary

The last three years have been a very busy time for Westover - in fact, the busiest since Desert Shield/Storm, and for many of you, the busiest ever. All of us in the 439<sup>th</sup> should give thanks that during this busy time we had no major accidents or serious injuries. Also, be thankful that Westover had the ability: our men and women possessed the drive and dedication to accomplish our mission these last three years in a superb manner. In fact, we have done it so well that we have been recognized at the highest levels, including winning the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award two out of the last three years.

That is definitely something to be thankful for.

I know over the last few years the support of your families has been important. I am absolutely sure I wouldn't be where I am today with my accomplishments without the support of my wife Kim. In addition, I know many of us received invaluable support from our friends, neighbors, co-workers, employers, and from the communities where we live and work. Don't forget to add them to your Thanksgiving thank-you list.

Finally, let's be thankful for this great country we are charged with defending. From my travels all over the world I can honestly say that this is absolutely the best nation on the planet. We are very fortunate to live here.

So this Thanksgiving, as you sit down to your turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie, don't forget to pause for a few moments and give thanks for all our many blessings.



**Col. Wade Farris**

439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander

## Briefs

### Fourth quarter award recipients announced

Westover's Quarterly Awards Board has selected the following fourth quarter award winners for the fiscal 2004.

#### Airman:

Senior Airman Patrick Carlin, 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron

#### NCO:

Tech. Sgt. Richard D. Chapp, ASTS Senior NCO: Senior Master Sgt. Anthony DelDuco, 439<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron

#### Civilian:

Robert Andreoli, 42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron

#### Civilian Supervisor:

Robert Ford, 439<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron

#### Company Grade Officer:

Capt. Mark Bialas, 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

## Base snow line provides weather updates

A snow line keeps reservists and base employees updated in the event of inclement weather. The phone number is 1-800-367-3444.

## Article lists incorrect phone for IG office

An article that appeared in the October *Patriot* listed an incorrect office phone number.

The 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Inspector General's office phone number is Ext. 3137, DSN 589-3137.

## Cover photo

**CHOPPER ABOARD** - One of two Air Force Reserve H-60 helicopters is loaded onto a Patriot Wing C-5 at Westover Sept. 30. Members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadrons, along with crew members of 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, loaded the choppers for their trip back to Patrick AFB, Fla. The aircraft had been relocated from Patrick just before the string of hurricanes that devastated Florida in September.

- photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

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# Colonel 'truly thrilled' to lead staging squadron

by Senior Airman Tom Ouellette

Col. Robert A. Sousa took command of the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at a change of command ceremony Sept. 25 at the Westover Conference Center.

Colonel Sousa, the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron's administrator since 1994, succeeded Col. Sarah F. Waterman upon her retirement.

"To the proud men and women of the 439th ASTS, I'm truly thrilled and honored to join your team. Thank you for already making me feel at home," Colonel Sousa said during the ceremony.

The new commander also acknowledged the co-workers of his former unit. "Thank you for the friendship and support that you've offered over the last 20 years - I will truly miss you," he said.

Colonel Sousa's military career has been served almost entirely in the 439th AMDS. As an enlisted member, he reached the rank of master sergeant in the unit before receiving his commission in 1985. As an officer, he remained in the 439th AMDS serving in



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

**REPORT REVIEW - Col. Robert A. Sousa reviews a performance report with Senior Master Sgt. Michelle M. Dunfield, 439th ASTS first sergeant. Colonel Sousa took command of ASTS Sept. 25.**

many roles. Since 9/11, Colonel Sousa was named officer in charge of Westover's air base medical facility responsible for supporting the medical needs of activated and transient troops on base.

Colonel Sousa's job performance has

included solid administrative skills in the medical field. Two years ago, he earned the Brig. Gen. Donald B. Wagner Administrative Excellence Award, which honors officers' outstanding administrative leadership. In addition, his contributions led in part to the 439th AMDS success in consistently receiving top honors as one of the Air Force Reserve's best units.

Colonel Sousa called on ASTS members to embrace the Air Force's core values. In addition, he stressed two tenets of his leadership philosophy he wanted his unit to know. The first is his belief in fostering a "meritocracy," or making sure those who contribute are rewarded. Secondly, he plans to learn as much from them as they may learn from him.

The colonel was a high school English teacher and musical director for more than 20 years. Borrowing a line from the musical "The King and I," the last musical he directed, he wanted his unit to hear this: "It's a very ancient saying. But a true and honest thought: 'If you become a teacher, by your pupils you'll be taught.'"

## Wing mourns loss of former command post superintendent

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

The Patriot Wing suffered a loss in its ranks in September as cancer took the life of Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Fitzgibbon.

Sergeant Fitzgibbon, 45, former command post superintendent, died Sept. 21 at Beth-Israel hospital in Boston due to complications from leukemia.

Chaplain (Capt.) William S. Wiecher officiated the sergeant's funeral. Sergeant Fitzgibbon posthumously received the Meritorious Service Medal. Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, presented the folded American flag to Sergeant Fitzgibbon's wife, Jamie, at the Sept. 23 ceremony.

Sergeant Fitzgibbon was activated during the surge of operations in early 2003 when more than 2,000 C-5s passed through the base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While under Sergeant Fitzgibbon's leadership, the wing command post took best in Air Force Reserve Command for 2003.

Sergeant Fitzgibbon served in the Army and Army National Guard before joining the Air Force Reserve at Westover in June 1990. As a flight engineer, he accumulated more

than 2,000 hours in the C-5. He was activated from 1990 to 1992 and served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Sergeant Fitzgibbon moved to the command post in June 1998.

In mid-2003, as he became ill with leukemia, and was in intensive care at Beth-Israel Hospital at the same time when Lt. Col. Armand Tourangeau, former wing performance planner, was being treated for his cancer. Colonel Tourangeau died in October 2003.

Master Sgt. Nelson A. Serrao, air reserve technician and acting command post superintendent during Sergeant Fitzgibbon's illness, worked with the sergeant for 14 years. Both had similar military backgrounds as C-5 flight engineers. Sergeant Serrao remembered how this experience helped them at the command post.

"We knew we could make a difference with our backgrounds," Sergeant Serrao said. "The backgrounds helped out in a big way. We know how to communicate the message of the problem to maintenance. We know the components. Having people know the airplane is a big plus."

Lt. Col. David Maloy, officer in charge of the command post and chief of command and control, spoke about Sergeant Fitzgibbon's dedication on and off the job. "He was a true professional that showed a zest for every endeavor, yet always connected to the importance of compassion and

the safety of others," Colonel Maloy said. "Joe's extraordinary technical skills were balanced by such examples as receiving a commendation for saving a drowning swimmer. He never failed to seek ways that might enhance the safety of aircrews and aircraft yet was easily at home when hosting a cookout at the base for his fellow reservists. Joe was a manager, a pro and a friend. His contributions cannot be measured but will serve as a beacon for others."

Besides his wife, Sergeant Fitzgibbon is survived by his three children, Joseph, Michael, and Mary Kate of Ware, Mass., and his parents Joseph and Mary.



Sergeant Fitzgibbon

### Donation information

Funeral donations in memory of Sergeant Fitzgibbon may be made to:

**Bone Marrow Transplant In-Patient  
7th Floor, Feldberg Edward Robert  
George  
Beth-Israel Deaconess Medical Center**

**330 Brookline Avenue  
Boston, Mass. 02215-5400**

Checks should be made out to BIDD. Donors should make sure to write "In Memory of Joseph Fitzgibbon" on the memo sections of their checks.

# Colonel McGregor recounts one day of war

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Lt. Col. Karl McGregor, 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Group commander, oversaw the movement of 40,000 troops in July while deployed to Kuwait on an air expeditionary force mission. Colonel McGregor served as commander of the 386<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group commander at a deployed location in Kuwait, in June, July and August.



**Colonel  
McGregor**

In an e-mail in August, he wrote: "We have airplanes flying into Iraq to support OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) all day long and every hour and we also support OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom) into Afghanistan a number of times each week."

Colonel McGregor's expeditionary operations group was rotating Soldiers and Marines and delivering cargo throughout the AOR, including Kuwait City; Al Asad, Balad, Baghdad, Tallil and Mosul, Iraq; and Al Udeid, Qatar.

In his e-mail message, Colonel McGregor offered a first-hand account into one individual's experience of a single day in the war against terrorism. Following is Colonel McGregor's recollection of that day.

I flew on August 1 and the day went something like this:

The crew alerted at 0500 for an 0800 departure. The departure is a balmy 89 Fahrenheit. We meet at the DFAC (dining facility) which is run by a contractor 24 hours a day. Breakfast choices at that time of the morning are cereal, fruit, pop tarts and any kind of juice you could want. The full breakfast starts at 0600 and includes everything edible that anyone could remotely want for breakfast.

We depart the DFAC on the dot at 0600 and catch crew transportation to Hangar 17, which houses our mission control, intelligence and tactics sections. The crew gets the latest briefings from Intel and Tactics, sanitizes their uniforms by removing all patches, picks up their secrets, signs out the night vision goggles, loads up the coolers with ice, water, frozen pizza, frozen burritos and then heads out to the aircraft.

Maintenance has the C-130 ready and it's no time at all before the passengers and pallets show up behind the aircraft. The troops we're hauling are fully configured for going into Iraq. They have

their helmets, flak vests, backpacks, guns and water.

It is now 0730 and the temperature has risen to 105 degrees. We taxi out, take the runway and we're off the ground in a matter of minutes. As we climb to altitude, the crew members run the combat entry checklist, put on their flak vests and helmets, arm the missile defense system and brief the planned arrival into Balad Airfield, Iraq.

We are airborne about an hour when it is time to descend, so the loadmasters take their position in the troop doors and everyone puts eyes in the windows to look for ground fire and missile launches. We land without incidences and fast taxi to the end of the runway and exit onto the cargo pad.

The plan is to keep the engines running, open the aft ramp, remove the pallet with a forklift, deplane the troops onto the waiting buses, deplane the troops leaving Iraq, load their pallet, close and leave. The entire process normally takes less than 15 minutes.

Today, however, as we begin the onload the warning sirens sound and the ground crew immediately scatters, heading for the bunkers. The temperature is about 110 Fahrenheit. The C-130 crew immediately shuts down all engines,

chocks the wheels and follows the ground crew and troops into the bunker.

In the bunker, with helmets and flak vests in place, we listen as mortars and rockets hit the airfield and the counter-batteries return fire. On this day the attack is very heavy and we spend an hour waiting for the all clear signal. When it finally sounds, we hurry to the airplane, call for passengers, grab more water and then the warning horn sounds again and we head back to the bunkers.

On this day we have three distinct attacks and we manage to be on the ground for all of them. When we finally leave we have spent three and a half hours on the ground, but it seems like more.

Finally airborne and headed back to Salem with our troops and cargo, we reach the relative safety of high altitude and cross the southern border back into Kuwait. After we land, the aircraft is refueled, more troops are put on and we head to Baghdad for the next leg which is mostly uneventful. The ground temperature this afternoon is 135 Fahrenheit on the flight line.

The crews perform this dance every other day with 24/7 support from maintenance and all the agencies stationed here.



*Courtesy photo*

**PATIENT TIME** - Maj. Robert D. Rostedt, left, and Tech Sgt. Richard D. Chapp, deployed members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron, prepare one of their patients in September at Balad Air Base, Iraq. Sergeant Chapp is also the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's noncommissioned officer for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004.

# Deployed civil engineers keep UAE air base humming

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

At Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, planes don't take off and land without the skills of Patriot Wing civil engineers.

The civil engineers are everywhere on base, fixing cranky air conditioning, maintaining water supply, and restoring electricity that fails in the extreme desert heat.

About 50 civil engineers of the 439<sup>th</sup> CES arrived at the United Arab Emirates air base on the Persian Gulf at the beginning of September. They will be there through the holidays, and are scheduled to come home in January.

The carpenters, plumbers, electricians, firefighters and other Patriot Wing civil engineers have left their mark on deployments around the world. The UAE mission is a unique opportunity to be at the center of the action.

"We probably do more here that is directly related to the overall mission of the wing than we have done anywhere in the past," said Chief Master Sgt. Joseph J. Cullen, chief of operations of one of a flight of civil engineers with trades skills.

"In other places we build a building or a school or fix something. Here, aircraft depend on us to take off or land. What we do here is make or break for the mission. If they don't have power, or don't have air conditioning, they can't do the mission. These are the services we provide and you have to have them for aircraft to take off," he said.

The civil engineers are providing services for the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing at the UAE base, where the main mission is aerial refueling and aerial surveillance. The Patriot Wing teams are part of the 380<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. Reservists make up more than 90 percent of its ranks.

For the civil engineers, sustaining a base on the Persian Gulf is like trying to keep machinery running inside an oven. Every day they get lessons in what triple digit heat can do to equipment.

"The air conditioning trades are the busiest. Breakdowns are going on non-stop. They're working around the clock repairing air conditioning," Chief Cullen said. "All the shops are busy. The electricians are repairing equipment that is faulty because of the heat. It's starting to cool. Today it was 110 degrees. When we first got

here it went up to 120. We find ourselves getting use to it. They say that in the cooler months it will only be 90 during the day," the chief said.

Immediately after 9/11, troops and aircraft began to flow into Al Dhafra. In three years the base quadrupled in size. Now the carpenters and construction trades are working overtime to repair and maintain facilities at the bustling base. Al Dhafra produces its own power at a plant maintained by power production specialist. Plumbers also struggle to maintain water storage and waste disposal. "Once or twice a day we lose water supply and have to go to alternate pumps and tanks," Chief Cullen said.

Besides the trades flight of electricians, plumbers, carpenters, air condition specialists and others, about a dozen Westover firefighters are on base. Many of the firefighters previously deployed to Kuwait in 2002. Master Sgt. Mark A. Czmyr serves as base fire chief. The engineering flight includes Maj. Anthony R. Sheeran, Maj. Paul E. Goliber and Maj. Anthony F. Williams. Senior Master Sgt. Alan P. Dedinas heads the base readiness flight. Senior Master Sgt. Dean L. Pursell and Master Sgt. Robert A. Harris are serving as readiness specialists at Kirkuk, Iraq. Readiness specialists respond to nuclear, biological and chemical threats.

The base has some amenities. Although most people live in tents, they can visit Pizza Hut, Baskin Robbins and Dunkin Donuts in trailers. Work days are 12-hours plus, but there are occasional "morale passes" to the nearby capital city of Abu Dhabi where souvenirs can be bought.

Telephone calling cards provided by the VFW, are a big morale-builder and are distributed by the Westover Support Center. When calling, the reservists have to take into account that they are eight time zones away from home.

"The hardest part is being away from families. Being away for the holidays is going to be tough," said Chief Cullen, who was days away from missing his son's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

As they have done in deployments around the world, the civil engineers are taking the good with the bad and getting the job done, the chief said. "There's a positive attitude. People are pleased with their work because they feel they are doing something important. That makes it a good experience," he said.

## Memo improves employment protection for reservists

**WASHINGTON, Sept. 30, 2004**—Attorney General John Ashcroft and Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao signed a memorandum of understanding to protect the employment rights of men and women returning from military service.

The memorandum strengthens enforcement of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, commonly known as USERRA. Congress passed the act to safeguard the employment rights and benefits of service members returning to civilian life.

The memorandum deals exclusively with each department's role and responsibilities in the enforcement of USERRA. The attorney general has delegated his USERRA responsibilities to the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorneys' offices.

The Department of Labor has delegated its USERRA responsibilities to the Veterans' Employment and Training Service and the Office of the Solicitor.

The memorandum will streamline the enforcement process, allowing the two agencies to work closely and effectively to ensure the protection of USERRA rights.

When a complaint raises an "issue of immediate and significant harm" and each agency agrees that the complaint appears legitimate, it may be referred for enforcement immediately, officials explained. This prevents two agencies from working on the same issue, wasting time and resources.

In late September, the Department of Labor issued new regulations strengthening USERRA protections.

In addition to the new regulations, Chao and the DOL's Veterans' Employment and

Training Services have taken other steps to reduce the rate of USERRA violations, to include:

- \* Providing briefings to more than 158,000 service members and others on USERRA;

- \* Responding to almost 26,000 requests for technical assistance;

- \* Distributing more than 240 televised public service announcements, with a second announcement to be released shortly; and

- \* Addressing most of the major human resource and employer organizations.

(American Forces Press Service from a Department of Justice news release.)

## Westover Marines return from duty in Iraq



photos by Master Gunnery Sgt. Lee Forester, Marines Peacetime Wartime Support Team

**FAMILIES WAIT** - Family members of the Marines Air Support Squadron-Six await the arrival of their loved ones while standing and holding thank-you signs in front of the 2nd Lt. Michael J. Casey Marine Corps Reserve Training Center.



**GROUP HUG** - Family members hug Marines Gunnery Sgt. John M. Leach upon his return to Westover Aug. 27. Sergeant Leach was among a group of Marine Corps members from Westover who came home after serving seven months in Iraq.

## Combined Federal Campaign kicks off with breakfast, tour

### Article and photo

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A kickoff breakfast at the Westover Club got the Pioneer Valley Combined Federal Campaign under way Sept. 28.

Tech. Sgt. Glenn Connon, an aircraft electrician with the 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS, is the CFC co-chair for the second consecutive year.

Sergeant Connon said this year's campaign goal is to exceed the benchmark set last year. "Our number one goal on base is 100 percent contact, 50 percent participation," he said. About 20 key workers from each unit at Westover are helping raise the money, which goes to charities throughout the Pioneer Valley, locally and nationwide.

The Pioneer Valley CFC is a federal employee program that supports charity organizations through tax-deductible donations.

Ninety people lined up for the breakfast at the Westover Club for the campaign, which ends Dec. 15. In addition to coordinating the breakfast, Sergeant Connon and Senior Master Sgt. James Mitchell, a CFC co-chair and also with the 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS, arranged a C-5 tour with the Westover Public Affairs Office staff for 20 of the guests.

The kickoff preceded six weeks of solicitations on the base that wraps up Nov. 15, Sergeant Connon said. Solicitors will contact the base populace through the weeks and during the November UTAs.

Col. Wade Farris, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, urged reservists to donate to the campaign. "For just a dollar coming out of your paychecks, you are helping organizations who in turn help people," he said. "This donation amounts to about what it costs to pay for a cup of coffee." Reservists can make one-time donations, while civilian workers may have their donations taken out of their paychecks through allotments.

A CFC charity run is planned for the November A UTA, Sergeant Connon said. It will take place with the annual Turkey Trot at the fitness center Nov. 6 at 11:30 a.m. For more information about the Pioneer Valley CFC can visit its web site at [www.cfcvalley.org](http://www.cfcvalley.org). People with questions about the Westover campaign may call Sergeant Connon at Exts. 3296 or 2074 or any keyworker.



**TOUR TIME** - Tech. Sgt. Donald G. Durand, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group quality assurance inspector and volunteer tour guide, takes Combined Federal Campaign key workers through a C-5 Sept. 28. The tour and breakfast at the Westover Club kicked off this year's CFC efforts in the Pioneer Valley.

## Command selects former 10th AF chief for top post

by 1st. Lt. Lance Patterson  
Air Force Reserve Command  
Public Affairs

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.**— Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett will become Air Force Reserve Command's command chief master sergeant later this year, said AFRC officials Sept. 28.

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, selected Chief Winsett from among 20 nominees for the position. Air Force reservists from all categories – traditional reservists, individual mobilization augmentees, air reserve technicians and Active Guard Reserve members – applied for the command's top enlisted position.

Chief Winsett has been the command chief for 10th Air Force at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, since May 2000. He will be the fourth command chief that AFRC has had since its inception as a major command in 1997 and the 12th person to hold the job in the Air Force Reserve since March 1973.

The position of AFRC command chief master sergeant is a 3-year controlled tour at Robins AFB. The duties involve com-



Chief Winsett

municating with the commander on problems, concerns, morale and attitudes of the enlisted force and, in turn, ensuring the commander's policies are known and understood by the enlisted force.

"My concern is for the enlisted force and the utilization of the force," said Chief Winsett. "I anticipate working hard for the next 36 months ensuring the needs of the enlisted corps are met."

Chief Winsett will succeed Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl D. Adams, who has served as the AFRC command chief master sergeant

since February 2001. She was the first African-American woman to hold the title of command chief on active duty for a major command. Chief Adams is being considered for a position within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. If selected she will report for duty in the Pentagon as early as Dec. 1.

Chief Winsett entered the Air Force Reserve in 1981 after serving initially on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1969 with tours in Berlin, Germany, and in the Republic of Vietnam.

His duties in the Air Force Reserve included assignments as an administrative specialist, military personnel flight specialist, group career advisor, first-sergeant and command chief master sergeant.

He served as the senior enlisted advisor for the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo., before becoming the command chief for 10th Air Force.

In his civilian career, Chief Winsett worked for the Federal Deposit Insurance Co. and owned a consulting firm. He retired from both occupations, devoting the last three years to full-time service in the Air Force Reserve.

Chief Winsett has lived in Lexana, Kan., since 1989 where he has been a traditional reservist. He is married and the father of one daughter and two sons.

Chief Winsett holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and business and a master of arts degree in business and counseling. (AFRC News Service)

## Citizen Airmen follow same political activity rules as active duty

by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** - Citizen Airmen serving in the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve follow the same rules governing political activity as their active-duty compatriots.

Questions about what Airmen can or cannot do abound in this presidential election year, and some situations have become national news. The rules on political activity are largely the same for all Airmen in uniform, but one area differs. Although active-duty Airmen are prohibited from holding public office, reservists and guardsmen can, said Philip Donohoe, Air Force Reserve Command director of general law. "But fulfilling the duties of these offices must stop once a reservist or guardsman puts on the uniform and reports for duty," Mr. Donohoe said.

Air Force reservists and guardsmen who are serving on active duty under Title 10 of the U.S. Code for more than 30 days must comply with the active-duty rules contained in Air Force Instruction 51-902, "Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force." Reservists and guardsmen who are on active duty less than 30 days follow the more general guidelines set out in Paragraph 8 of AFI 51-902.

All reservists and guardsmen must refrain from participating in any political activity while in uniform and from using government facilities for political activities. Guardsmen who per-

form duties in Title 32 USC status should be aware of any special restrictions on political activities imposed by their respective state authorities.

While active-duty Airmen may not campaign for, or hold, elective civil office, reservists and guardsmen are not so constrained. As long as they are not serving on extended active duty - defined to be active duty under a call or order for more than 270 days - reservists may campaign for, and hold, partisan or nonpartisan civil office. It must be held in a private capacity and must not interfere with the performance of military duties. When reservists and guardsmen campaign for elective office, they must be careful to avoid using their military status as a political selling point.

For example, a reservist campaigning for office should not use political flyers that show the reservist in his or her military uniform. Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty," gives guidance to all military branches and is the source for AFI 51-902. Political activities of civilian federal government employees fall under the guidance of the Hatch Act, and the Joint Ethics Regulation, DOD 5500.7-R, Chapter 6, "Political Activities."

Westover reservists with questions should contact Lt. Col. Peter H. Babcock, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate at Ext. 3180. Civilian employees should contact Maj. Laura Feltman, active-duty staff judge advocate, at Ext. 3513. The legal office is located in wing headquarters (Bldg. 1850) on Patriot Avenue.

# Practice ma

## October mobility exercise



**LINING UP** - Airmen process through the mobility line in the Base Hangar on the October A-UTA during the processing exercise. The mobility training included weapons and mobility bag draws as well as making sure mobility folders were up to date.

### Article and photos by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

With the onset of the October A-UTA two-day mobility exercise, the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing is going full-throttle gearing up for the wing Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for August 2006.

The exercise kicked off at 8 a.m. Friday before the October UTA and wrapped up Saturday afternoon. Mobility processing involved about 185 people and 100 tons of cargo within four chalks.

Though the first in several years, the base-wide training exercise was successful in exercising all parts of the deployment machinery in one comprehensive practice preparing for the upcoming ORI, according to Lt. Col. Forrest D. Price, 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron officer. He is responsible for planning and conducting regularly scheduled deployment exercises.

"The purpose of this exercise was to help get the wing prepared for the ORI and to improve our ability to deploy our reservists anytime we are tasked," said the colonel. "We tried to involve as many people as possible with a small percentage of personnel from each unit."

The exercise went very well considering it was the first since July 2001, with the last ORI conducted March 1997, he said.

"We had a few minor problems and worked at correcting them — this is exactly what we wanted to happen," Colonel Price said. "Overall we had fewer problems than anticipated."

This begins a series of large-scale training exercises with a weeklong deployment exercise scheduled for March 2005 to Savannah International Airport, Ga.

Within the last six years the ORI structure has changed due to global commitments and Aerospace Expeditionary Force requirements reflecting AEF unit



**BATTLE BAGS** - Airmen gather their mobility bags in the Base Hangar. More than 180 Airmen with the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing participated in the readiness exercise.

type code tasking by unit versus whole organizations, Colonel Price said.

"Now we have gone back to the larger wing training exercises and ORIs to lessen the footprint on individual units which has proven to be more efficient and cohesive," he said.

After-action briefings identified strengths as well as areas needing improvement.

"One strong area was cargo processing conducted by Griffin Services, 439<sup>th</sup> Traffic Management Office," Colonel Price said. "They conducted their operations in an outstanding manner exhibiting superior skill in being very responsive to unit needs."

Also identified was the need for additional training of individuals selected for equipment custodian positions responsible for deploying with cargo, equipment or weapons, he said.

Cargo processing for the exercise was accomplished on day one. Passenger processing went through the mobility line at the Base Hangar on day two for chalks 2,3, and 4. Processing was well ahead of schedule, completed within 45 minutes rather than the scheduled hour and a half timeframe, said Col. James R. Hosey, 439<sup>th</sup> AW vice

see **EXERCISE** continued on next page

# kes perfect

## aves way for ORI preparation



**A WEIGH TO GO** - Griffin Services worker Jamie J. Beauchemin weighs a chalk during the mobility exercise. Griffin teamed up with the Patriot Wing reservists during the two-day exercise designed to test the wing's ability to deploy.



**TAGS CHECK** - Readiness areas, such as verifying dog tags, were all part of the processing line during the exercise. Records reviewed included shot records, mobility folders, and wills and powers of attorney.

*"The purpose of this exercise was to help get the wing prepared for the ORI and to improve our ability to deploy our reservists anytime we are tasked. We tried to involve as many people as possible with a small percentage of personnel from each unit."*

*-- Lt. Col. Forrest D. Price,  
439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness  
Squadron officer*

### **EXERCISE** continued from page 8

commander.

"We had great participation, everyone was here," said the colonel. "Exercises will have some glitches but it gives us the chance to learn where to make corrections as we go — before the ORI."

Many participants, both mobility veterans and new members, said they were pleasantly surprised at how quickly and smoothly processing was accomplished and that the exercise realistically mirrored an actual overseas deployment.

"I've been doing mobility for the better part of 14 years and this was the best exercise I've seen so far," said Staff Sgt. Christopher C. O'Brian, 439<sup>th</sup> LRS vehicle dispatcher. "It was well planned and executed from start to finish - they didn't tie us up any longer than necessary and the hangar was large

enough to quickly process everyone at once."

"The longest part of the day was the wait in between chalk times. Other than that, everything went off without a hitch since we were well briefed and provided with assistance every step of the way," said Senior Airman Mark T. O'Connor, 439<sup>th</sup> LRS driver, on his first exercise.

Ongoing mobility training will be conducted in conjunction with the Savannah deployment, said Colonel Price.

"We will continue to have mini local wing exercises to sharpen our skills and put into practice what we've learned along the way," he said. "Keeping the end goal in mind of doing well on the ORI is only one aspect, improving our deployment capability to safely and successfully support our worldwide mission at a moments notice, anytime, anywhere is the ultimate goal."



*Courtesy photos*

**THROW TO THE PLATE** - MEPS softball player Bruce Stackpole throws one of his opponents out during the Sept. 2 game at Westover.



**SWING BATTER** - MEPS softball player David Pettigrew readies his swing in action between the Skyraiders and the Westover Military Entrance Processing Station in September. Also pictured are catcher Ray Saccoccio and umpire James Quinlan. The Skyraiders are a mixed team of Westover military and civilian workers.

## Westover teams battle for softball championship

## Patriot Wing reservists score 90 or above in fitness tests

The following 439th Airlift Wing reservists have scored 90 or above in this year's physical fitness tests:

Lieutenant colonel

THOMAS G. CLARK  
STEVEN A. JOHNSON  
UDO K. MCGREGOR  
LOUIS SHOGRY

Major

RICHARD COCKLEY  
PATRICK CLOUTIER  
IAN COOGAN  
TIMOTHY S. DONNELLY  
COLLEEN KELLEY  
DOUGLAS CROW  
VANESSA DORNHOEFER  
RODNEY B. FURR  
FARRIS C. HILL  
DALE MAYNARD  
MARGARETMCNERNEY  
ELAINE TUCCI  
STEVEN THOMPSON

Captain

KELLY BRAUDIS  
DAVID CAPAUO  
LISA B. HOULE  
RICHARD ROPAC  
STEVEN TITIL

MICHAEL A. TRVALENT  
DAVID P. WALSH  
JOSEPH M. ZACKARICZ

Chief master sergeant

JAMES R. BRADY  
OWEN F. CONNOLLY JR.  
CLAUDE G. DROUIN  
SHARON L. LAUSIER  
CATHERINE J. SKALECKI  
TAMMY VEZINA

Senior master sergeant

CONSTANCE CULLEN  
MICHELLE M. DUNFIELD  
MICHAEL P. GRADY  
LANA L. LUE  
JOHN D. MACINTYRE  
SANDRA M. MICHON  
LAWRENCE RODRIGUES  
KIMBERLY S. SCHULZ  
PETER J. STEEVES  
TRACEY TURNER

Master sergeant

DAVID P. ADAMS  
DANIEL P. AUBE  
KENNETH R. BELANGER  
DAVID E. BERUBE  
THOMAS J. CESTRONI  
LINDA COLUCCI  
SCOTT S. CRAWFORD  
TIMOTHY A. DAY  
MICHAEL A. GENDRON  
SCOTT G. GRIFFIN  
MICHAEL GUERIN

RICHARD W. HALLA  
DEAN S. LUND  
JOSEPH P. NASH  
STEVEN R. NOGAS  
SABATINO P. ZONA  
ROBERT MAJEWSKI  
THADDEUS MALYSZ  
KEVIN PIETROWSKI  
BERT QUICK  
NICOLE D. REMY  
THERESA ROBERT  
EDWARD M. SIERZEGO JR.

Technical sergeant

KEITH M. BEAUDRY  
KENNETH R. BOUCHER  
LESLI A. CHAMBERS  
MICHAEL G. CLEVELAND  
THOMAS F. CURRY  
DAVID HALAT  
CELIO G. HERNANDEZ  
BRUCE LAMAY  
KEITH W. LANDRY  
CHRISTOPHER S. LANE  
EDWARD F. LAROCHE  
RONALD J. LEBRETON  
MICHAEL E. LEE  
SCOTT D. MALONE  
RICHARD MESSENGER  
PETER MURPHY  
ARTHUR RILEY  
DAVID M. SHATTUCK  
DARLENE ST. GEORGE  
GEORGE H. VADNAIS JR.  
MICHAEL VOGT  
CHRISTINA M. WALAS  
DONALD R. RICCHI  
JOSEPH RUSSO

Staff sergeant

GERALD M. ATKINS  
LATHIA BELL  
MARCUS L. CEBALLOS  
MANUEL D. CHAVEZ  
PAUL DOYON  
RICHARD B. ENGLISH  
WILLIAM HICKS  
RANDALL J. KING JR.  
RONALD C. PHELPS  
WILLIAM A. PRINDLE JR.

Senior airman

HARLEY J. BASETT  
ALFRED CHAGNON  
TREVOR CHAN  
ELLERIEL FULLER  
ANDREA LAMOUNTAIN  
NICOLE LUDWIG  
SHELLY MARTIN  
WENDELL MENDOZA  
CHRISTOPHER MEYER  
PATRICK J. MOLITOR JR.  
CHRIS J. RAYMOND  
ERIKA L. SAMBROOK

Airman first class

ADNAN RAMADANI  
PHILIP S. MCCARTHY  
KEVIN J. WEAGLE

Airman

DENNIS J. FORD

# Imaging cameras, technology help secure base

## Integrated base defense concept protects Westover

by Staff Sgt. Paul Flipse

In August, more than 300,000 people watched the Thunderbirds streak across cloudy skies at the Great New England Air Show. Little did they know, a host of electronic eyes were watching along with them as Westover's new \$3 million, state-of-the-art security system was being put through its paces.

The new equipment, collectively known as the Integrated Base Defense System (IBDS), is a direct result of defense spending in response to the war on terror.

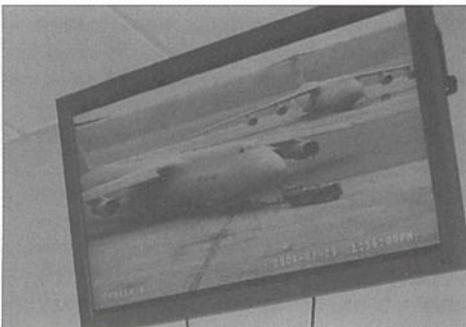
In the days following 9/11, the Department of Defense provided the active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard \$351 million for

technology and security upgrades. The camera systems now operating at Westover reflect the first money spent here from that allotment, and are the first phase of a security upgrade that will continue through the summer of 2005.



**Sergeant Daigneault**

Installed during the two months prior to the air show, the new system consists of 12 color cameras that can zoom in on virtually every square foot of ground inside the gates, and two thermal imaging cameras that are so sensitive they can



*photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe*

**LIVE SHOT** - This television screen, from the 439th SFS central security control room, shows the power of the new thermal imaging cameras. Security forces workers get a clear view as seen with a C-5 being towed on the East Ramp.



*Courtesy photo*

**CAMERA PERCH** - Diop worker Phil Hannon tests the installation of the Diop thermal imager camera atop the Westover control tower. The new technology brings a state-of-the-art security capability directly onto TV screens in the central security control room of the 439th Security Forces Squadron.

detect a mere three degree heat differential from more than a mile away.

Overseeing the new system is Master Sgt. Scott C. Daigneault, Westover's anti-terrorism and force protection noncommissioned officer. Sergeant Daigneault has held the position since four days before the Sept. 11 attacks, and is enthusiastic about the new technology. "This is a force multiplier, and gives us an advantage we never had," he said. "It's (also) very user-friendly. It only took a few minutes before I had it down."

An invaluable feature of the system is that it has integrated the command post, base operations, maintenance control center, and central security control, previously independent systems. All four offices are now connected by fiber optic cables and can view the same images simultaneously.

The camera system is only the beginning. Soon to come are high impact wedge barricades, able to stop a 20,000-pound vehicle traveling at 70 miles per hour; a Doppler-based ground surveillance radar system that can track anything moving on the ground at distances up to 20 kilometers; and new "Smart Gate" entry gates - still in development - that will allow entry to the base by access card and biometric fingerprint readers.

Sergeant Daigneault added that, once completed, the new system will put Westover in the vanguard of security technology, and provide a safe, secure, comfortable working environment for base Airmen and employees.



*photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe*

**RADAR CHECK** - Honeywell contractor Alfred DeFalco inspects a perimeter surveillance radar system in the Dogpatch training area at Westover.

***In the days following 9/11, the Department of Defense provided the active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard \$351 million for technology and security upgrades.***

# Charge card conveniences tempt Westover Airmen

## Commanders plan action on reducing delinquency

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

The convenience of a credit card can be irresistible - even when it's the government's plastic.

For Westover Airmen, however, that temptation can result in buying trouble, while earning a spot on a delinquency list.

Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, recently directed that commanders remind reservists of the seriousness of being on this list.

"Delinquency on the government travel card is a serious matter and requires serious attention from individuals and from commanders," the colonel said.

Commanders have recently submitted action plans to address and reduce Westover's current travel card delinquency rate, especially those more than 60 days delinquent. The plans also contain specific actions against individuals commanders will take to address the problem.

These include counseling members more than 30 days delinquent to more serious actions for those more than 60 days late such as letters of reprimand, letters of counseling to more serious administrative actions. Because paying a bill only one day late will place a person on the 30-day delinquency list it is imperative individuals take

a proactive approach, Colonel Farris said. That includes checking off the mandatory split disbursement box on the travel voucher form and allocating the appropriate dollar amount to be paid directly to their government travel card account.

In addition, reservists can now pay their bills online through "MyEasyPayment" at [www.myeasypayment.com](http://www.myeasypayment.com). To use the system, cardholders need to know the amount they want to pay, the account number, account security code, and their checking account and bankrouting numbers.

Cardholders can check their account balances and payment due date by calling the toll free number on the back of the card.

"The bottom line is there are numerous procedures in place to ensure our people can pay their travel card bills on time," Colonel Farris added. "While there are times where circumstances outside of your control can make you a little late, there is no excuse for the delinquency rates we're currently seeing, and it's time we step up the enforcement actions available to commanders."



Illustration by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

## Reservists still need to log in employer information

Time is running out for reservists who still need to provide important civilian employer information to the Air Force.

Military personnel flight (MPF) officials with Westover's 439th Mission Support Squadron must report the number of Patriot Wing reservists who have entered their civilian employment information into a database to the Air Force Reserve Command leadership.

Called the Civilian Employment Information (CEI) program, the database information will help the Department of Defense better assess mobilization impact across the services. As of early October, 17 percent of the assigned members had complied, with this requirement said Chief Master Sgt. Tammy Vezina, MPF superintendent. "We've found that an effective way to manually track this requirement is to have the member print the last screen and turn it in at sign-out, but please use whatever method works best for your unit," the chief said.

As of March 31, all reservists were required to register information about their civilian employers with a Department of Defense database. The announcement of the mandatory pro-

gram was first made in the May issue of the *Patriot*.

"The Air Force Reserve vice commander has directed that we provide a count of who has complied by the Tuesday following the November UTA," Chief Vezina said. "Please take time on the A UTA to log on and complete this." The CEIP program website for reservists to enter their civilian employer information is: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>

Members having technical difficulties with the web site may contact Richard (Jamaal) Lockett, e-mail: [Richard.Lockett.CTR@osd.pentagon.mil](mailto:Richard.Lockett.CTR@osd.pentagon.mil); phone: (530) 634-1818, DSN 368-1818; or Myra Golphenee, e-mail [Myra.Golphenee@osd.pentagon.mil](mailto:Myra.Golphenee@osd.pentagon.mil) Phone: Commercial (831) 583-2400 ext: 4151, DSN 368-2400.

Additionally, the Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center staff have created an online customer service website where customers can access a database of frequently asked personnel questions. They have recently added information concerning the CEI Program as well. The online Customer Service website is: <https://arpc.custhelp.com>

## BX hours change for Saturdays of A UTAs

The base exchange is now open longer on Saturdays of the A UTAs. The new hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call the BX at (413) 593-0232.

## Pay site has new on-line capabilities for reservists

The Restricted Access Personal Identification Number (RAPIN) allows members to provide a spouse or trusted individual with a view-only PIN. This is especially useful for deployed reservists.

The member can set the RAPIN by signing into myPay. From the main menu click on the "Personal Settings" page; then click on the "Restricted Access PIN."

For the spouse/family member to use the RAPIN, they sign into myPay with

the member's social security number under "LoginID" and then enter the provided RAPIN. With the RAPIN the spouse or family member can view and print the leave and earnings statement and W-2, but they cannot make pay changes.

In addition, reservists can now receive important pay information by providing their e-mail addresses through setting up their "Personal Preference" pages.

For a new PIN, reservists can log on to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. Click on "Need a

New PIN". Request the PIN, and a temporary PIN will be sent directly to your e-mail account.

A myPay kiosk is located in the base billeting office on Airlift Drive. The finance office is in Bldg. 1800 next to the fitness center.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Lavigne in the finance office at Ext. 2044 or go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. (Courtesy of Defense Finance and Accounting Service)

## Critical incident team helps war veterans cope with stress

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

A community of people, who have experienced the stress of war and who come home hoping to put it behind them, is growing at Westover. Because it takes more than a long plane ride to escape strong emotional experiences, Westover's wartime veterans are welcomed home by a team with a cross-section of skills to help them move from war zone to family and home.

In the language of professionals who work with people exposed to trauma, any experience of high stress is a "critical incident". The Westover Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team meets with individuals and small groups to help them safely release the pressures that build from an overseas tour in the war on terror.

"The Westover CISM team takes a proactive approach to help people recognize that even when they are not aware of it, they may be affected by what they have been through while deployed. They see things, they see military people and civilians hurt. That is traumatizing to our military folks, it really is. And it has a tendency to put a lot of mental stress on our people," said Roy

Green, retired director of the Westover Family Support Center. He is a CISM team member who works with Chaplain (Capt.) William S. Wiecher, team chief. The team includes staff of the chaplain's office, family support center and Westover medical community.

"People come back home quick, but emotionally they are still over there," said Mr. Green. "Returning takes time. They don't have time to process coming back and their families are just happy to have them home and aren't looking for signs of problems."

Sometimes just talking can help people gain a better understanding. In a group setting, it helps people to know that their feelings are not unique, that they share with others common experiences and common problems. Team members will encourage an individual or small group to follow their own instincts on where they want a conversation to go.

The CISM process is being used nationally since it was developed to help first responders, such as firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians.

"Since Vietnam we've been more aware that problems don't go away, that you need

to talk about issues and get help for mental health problems. Even today, in the VA, there are World War II veterans who for years wouldn't talk. Now they are getting help. There is an old adage that if I talk about a problem, I'm considered not strong. We're kind of losing that old tag and that's beneficial," Mr. Green said.

"We discuss what they were involved with, what they saw and how they are doing now. We talk about how individuals process a horrific event by tucking it inside so they don't have to talk about it or deal with it. However, as we've seen in the past, an emotional crisis can arise down the road because of the things they've been exposed to," Mr. Green said. "Our job as CISM team members is to help them through their time of return, to be better able to stay on a healthy mental track. The process includes group discussions, an awareness of what to look for that may create a problem, and things to do to prevent these problems from escalating," he said.

The family support center staff in Bldg. 1100 may be called at Ext. 3024. The chaplain's office is in the same building and can be called at Ext. 2193.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

**RETURN CUSTOMERS** - Lined up behind a C-130 transport from Morocco in September are jets from Gabon, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Spain, and Pakistan. Delegates from the countries spent a week at the United Nations General Assembly meeting held in New York City. Base operations officials said the return of the United Nations aircraft, which had parked on the North Ramp in September 2003, was because of last year's professional reception from Westover's Maytag transit alert crews.

## Westover Highlights

### Colonel Waterman retires from ASTS

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A senior medical squadron officer prepared to hang her uniform up for good in September, bidding farewell to Westover during a change of command ceremony at the conference center.

**Col. Sarah F. Waterman**, former commander of the 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron, handed the squadron colors Sept. 25 to **Col. Robert A. Sousa**.

Colonel Waterman served for 15 years on active duty at various locations including Keesler AFB, Miss.; Rhein-Main AB, Germany; and Andrews AFB, Md., where she was charge nurse at the Malcolm Grow USAF Medical Center. She arrived at Westover in 1991.

For the next six years she served as nurse administrator with the 439<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron. In 1997, she took command of the 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS.

During Colonel Waterman's tenure as commander also included the ASTS earning Outstanding Air Force Reserve Aeromedical Staging Squadron honors in 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2002. She was also the Outstanding Air Force Reserve Nurse of the Year for 1993.

### Westover members earn distinguished awards

Two Westover people earned distinguished awards at an area federal workers' annual luncheon held in Holyoke, Mass., in September.

**Senior Master Sgt. Michael Barrick** won in the Distinguished Federal Manager category at the Federal Executive Association of Western Massachusetts' Excellence in Government Awards luncheon held at the Log Cabin Sept. 23. Sergeant Barrick is an air reserve technician and squadron flight chief with the 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

**Ida Hackett** was honored as Administrative Assistant of the Year. Mrs. Hackett is an administrative

assistant with the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Operations Squadron.

### Officer attends international seminar

by Senior Airman Michael Lanza

A Westover maintenance officer was selected to participate in the International Junior Officers Leadership Development Seminar in Grantham, England in August.

**Capt. Jeffrey P. Milligan**, 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, participated in the joint exercise designed to share insights on leadership among international forces while developing team strategies necessary for completing missions in a multinational coalition.

The one-week seminar is open to junior officers within international armed forces reserve components, including the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. Events such as the leadership reaction course challenged officers to overcome obstacles as a team despite cultural boundaries, the captain said. The seminar included 40 officers. About half came from the U.S. military.

"I usually only deal with officers in maintenance- it was interesting to see the different leadership styles and share insights into other officers' experiences," Captain Milligan said.

Captain Milligan joined the Air Force Reserve in 1997 and worked in Charleston AFB, S.C. and Hill AFB, Utah as an aircraft maintenance officer before arriving at Westover in 2000.

### Commander honors workers for service

**Col. Wade Farris**, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, honored the following civilian workers for their service to the government during the Civilian Commander's Call held Sept. 22 at the Westover Club:

Twenty-two years of service: **Mark Sadowski**

Twenty years: **Thomas W. Boucher**, **Edward A. Cardin**, **Gordon A. Newell**,

**Mark Seitz**, **Sharon E. Silva**, **Mark R. Theroux**, **David W. Turner**, and **Bruce A. Yargeau**.

Ten years: **Gary A. Merritt** and **Albert R. Raymond III**

### Marines bring in 37 pints of blood for Red Cross

by Sgt. Sherry L. Haetinger  
**Marines Peacetime  
Wartime Support Team**

The Red Cross Bloodmobile brought in 37 pints of blood during a drive held in September at Westover.

**Master Gunnery Sgt. Lee Forester**, Marine Corps Site Support Element at Westover, asked the American Red Cross Blood Mobile to visit the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Michael J. Casey Reserve Training Center.

The blood drive was open to everyone at Westover. Air Force, Marine Corps and the civilian personnel were present to donate. Among them was a Marine stationed at the Marine Enlistment Processing Station (MEPS) at Westover.

"I just wanted to give back and help out those who need blood," said **Cpl. Geann Pereira**, a MEPS testing administrator. "Who knows, maybe someday I'll need it too."

USO members were also on site with cookies, pastries and juice to assist the Red Cross.

### ASTS member honored as Vermont EMT of year

A Vermont reservist earned emergency medical technician of the year honors during a state convention held earlier this year.

**Tech. Sgt. Michael S. Linnehan** received the EMT-Basic of the Year award at the convention attended by Vermont Gov. Patrick Leahy, who personally congratulated him.

The sergeant is a member of Southwestern Vermont Regional Ambulance. At Westover, he is a medic with the 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron. Sergeant Linnehan was deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in 2003 as well.

He lives in Whittingham, Vt.



**Colonel  
Waterman**



**Captain  
Milligan**

## Patriot People

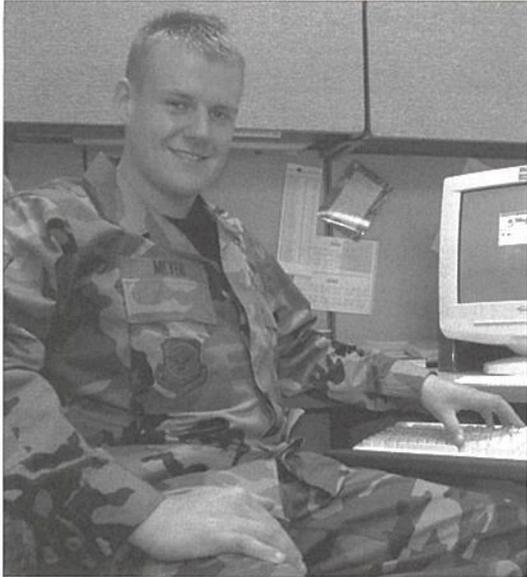


photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Flipse

**Senior Airman Christopher Meyer**

**Name:** Christopher Meyer  
**Rank:** Senior airman  
**Age:** 23  
**Address:** Hingham, Mass.  
**Unit:** 439th Communications Squadron  
**Position:** Communications computer systems operator  
**Favorite food:** Pizza  
**Years of service:** One  
**Favorite sport:** Tennis  
**Favorite hobby:** Car repair  
**Ideal vacation:** Swiss Alps  
**Best way to relax:** Sleeping  
**Preferred entertainment:** Skiing  
**Favorite hero:** Peter Griffin (Family Guy)  
**Favorite music:** Rage Against the Machine  
**Favorite movie:** The Shining  
**Favorite aircraft:** C-17 Globemaster III  
**Pet peeve:** Brown-nosing  
**What would I do if I won \$1 million:** Buy a condo in the Caribbean and jet-ski all day.

## Patriot Praises

### Newly assigned:

#### Major

Oneida D. Blagg  
 Patrick R. Krake

Capt. Matthew J. Russell

#### First lieutenant

Kimberly A. Blevins  
 Sean D. McGrath

#### Staff sergeant

Lyle T. Armstrong  
 Farina J. Dannita  
 Brian P. Rose  
 John M. Takach  
 John W. Weber

#### Senior airman

Pedro J. Chavarria  
 Steven M. Pepper  
 Donald P. Merrill  
 Paul B. Silvia Jr.  
 Mathieu J. Tebo

#### Airman first class

Bridgette M. Alexis  
 Mark W. Belyea

### Retired:

Col. Sarah F. Waterman

Master Sgt. Jeffrey A. Whitehead

## Awards and Decorations

### Meritorious Service Medal

Michael J. Lieb  
 Jesse K. White

Wendell B.O. Mutia  
 Richard H. Page  
 Kimberly A. Powell\*\*

### Lieutenant colonel

Margaret L. Schoenemann\*  
 Elmer S. Whittier Jr.\*\*

Tech Sgt. Louis F. Vezina Jr.

David C. Sala  
 Alexander F. Sullivan

### Air Force Commendation Medal

Janet Walker\*  
 Thomas M. Wilk

### Senior master sergeant

Bradley S. Tryba  
 Albert C. Hayford  
 Ann O'Brien

Chief Master Sgt. Lawrence N. Milliken\*

Staff Sgt. Michael J. Rochon

Master Sgt. Andrew P. McGovern

### Air Force Achievement Medal

### Master sergeant

James P. Cronin  
 Michael J. Golenski  
 Richard D. Greene  
 Kurt C. Kohler  
 Lisa R. Laudenslager

### Technical sergeant

James F. Anthony  
 Kathleen M. Bush  
 Gregory Dill\*  
 Albert Dudley\*\*  
 Nadine A. Joy  
 Richard C. King\*\*

### Technical sergeant

Douglas A. Anderson  
 Ryan M. Cool  
 Laray Deveaux  
 Richard C. Evers  
 William H. Hughes

\* First oak leaf cluster \*\* Second oak leaf cluster

### Technical sergeant

Holly Durham  
 Brian A. Emmons  
 Antonio Lebron  
 Teresa Rodriguez  
 Louis F. Vezina Jr.

Mathew D. Chouinard  
 Lommie L. Jones  
 John S. Licciardello  
 John F. Sevigne Jr.

Mark A. Cohen  
 Danielle C. Ford  
 John T. Griffith  
 Joseph P. Hernon  
 Christopher M. Merullo  
 Rayan A. Rosa  
 Rosemarie M. Rossi  
 Derrick M. Taylorgillard  
 Michelle L. Vlahakos  
 Jenna M. Willis

### Senior airman

Nicholas E. Clark  
 Katrina A. Fortin  
 David H.E. Martinez  
 Randall L. Riddle Jr.  
 Victor M. Wilson

Airman Denise M. Bishins

### Enlistments:

#### Technical sergeant

Richard C. Evers  
 Joseph A. Sanctuary Jr.

Airman first class

Airman Basic Narisar Mackenzie

#### Staff sergeant

Hervey A.R. Barber

# ESGR program, web site assist reservists in transition

As a uniformed service member, reservists have rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), Title 38, Chapter 43, United States Code. The following information explains those rights and lists helpful web sites and phone numbers for more information.

### Your rights:

- Military leave of absence (up to five years of voluntary service)
- Prompt reinstatement back into your job
- Accumulation of seniority, including pension plan benefits
- Reinstatement of health insurance, regardless of pre-existing conditions
- Training or retraining of job skills, including accommodations for disabled
- Protection against discrimination

### Your responsibilities:

- Before Reporting for Duty: Provide prior notice to employer (preferably in writing)
- While Performing Duty: Serve under honorable conditions
- After Release from Duty: Return to work in a timely manner

### Reemployment timetable:

- Less than 31 days of service
  - Report next work day after safe travel home and 8 hours of rest
- 31-180 days of service
  - Apply for reinstatement within 14 days of release from active duty
- Over 180 days of service
  - Apply for reinstatement within 90 days of release from active duty

### How to resolve an employment issue:

- Inform your unit/military chain of command
- Contact ESGR (1-800-336-4590, ncesgr-ombud@osd.mil or www.esgr.org)
- If not resolved, contact the Department of Labor (1-866-4-



**EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF  
THE GUARD AND RESERVE**

usa-dol or www.dol.gov)

May consult a private attorney (at own expense, precludes ESGR assistance)

### How to recognize a supportive employer:

- Nominate them for an award from ESGR
- Go to the ESGR web site at; www.esgr.org
- Click on 'Military Members' and then 'Patriot Award'
- Fill out and submit the Patriot Award nomination form right on line!

### Other helpful web sites:

- www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve, information on TRICARE coverage
- www.sba.gov/vets, information for small business owners
- www.soc.aascu.org, information for college students
- www.usmilitary.about.com/od/sscra, Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)
- www.militaryonesource.com, on-line counseling, information and resources

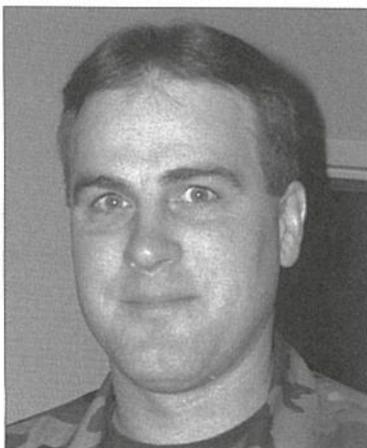
Westover reservists with questions may contact Col. William Anholt, 439th Maintenance Group commander and ESGR liaison at Westover, at Ext. 3816.

The ESGR toll-free line is 800-336-4590; web site: www.esgr.org

**PATRIOT**

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

November UTA schedule  
A UTA Nov. 6-7  
B UTA Nov. 20-21



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