

# PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base  
April 2004 • Vol. 31, No. 4

## Inside

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*photo by Lance Cpl. Richard Court, Cherry Point MCAS*

**HELPING HAITI** - Marines and the first of five light-armored vehicles drive aboard a Patriot Wing C-5 at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, N.C., on March 2. The Galaxy airlifted more than 150,000 pounds of cargo and 49 Marines to Port-au-Prince Airport in Haiti.

## Westover aircrew flies one of first missions to Haiti

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

A 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing aircrew was among the first C-5 missions that airlifted Marines into Haiti in early March in response to the turmoil in that country.

On Feb. 29, President George W. Bush ordered U.S. Marines into the Republic of Haiti as the leading element of a multinational peacekeeping force sanctioned by the United Nations.

The Patriot Wing Galaxy airlifted Marines and five light-armored vehicles from Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, N.C., to Haiti March 2.

Another C-5A unit, the 105th Airlift Group from Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y., flew supplies to Haiti before

Westover's C-5 arrived. C-17 Globemaster III and C-130 Hercules transports also joined in the American airlift effort.

Aircraft commander Lt. Col. Michael W. Davis, 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, said the Westover aircrew picked up 49 Marines and 150,700 pounds of cargo at Cherry Point.

Accounting for the cargo and fuel aboard, the C-5 weighed 700,000 pounds as it lifted off from Cherry Point's 8,400-foot runway.

The mission headed to Port-au-Prince Airport in Haiti. Colonel Davis said the mission had quickly taken the place of an original one from Westover that was supposed to take the aircrew overseas.

Once the aircraft was on the ground in Haiti, the five loadmasters quickly off-loaded

the cargo, Colonel Davis said.

"We were on the ground less than an hour during the off-load," he said. "And we had our engines running."

The loadmasters who supervised the off-load were SMSgt. Garth O. Parker Jr., SMSgt. Michael J. Marrone, TSgt. Shawn M. Harris, TSgt. Gregory S. Levangie, and TSgt. David M. Benson.

The other crew members were Maj. William J. Rolocut and Capt. Travis M. Board, pilots; and four flight engineers: SMSgt. Jim McKelligan, MSgt. Daniel G. Hartling, and SSgts. Gary W. Bacon Jr. and Ryan Connolly.

Flight time was about nine hours, which included a return trip from Haiti to Dover AFB, Del., Colonel Davis said.

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

## Colonel Mauzaka bids farewell

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Col. Thomas A. Mauzaka, special assistant to the wing commander, retires in April. A retirement party will be held April 2 at 6 p.m. at the Westover Club. Colonel Mauzaka's retirement ceremony is set for April 4 at 8 a.m. in the Westover Conference Center. An additional story about the colonel's career may be found on page 3.*



**Col. Thomas A. Mauzaka**

I feel fortunate to have been a reservist here at Westover for more than 20 years. Certainly, it doesn't seem possible this much time passed so quickly. As retirement approaches, there are numerous people, events, and experiences I enjoy remembering. Combining them all gives a picture of the culture and personality that defines Westover

### Commentary

reservists. The personality combines the best of military professionalism with a wide variety of civilian backgrounds. I think there is even a bit of "rag tag militia" rebelliousness in all of us that takes pride in getting the job done regardless of the obstacles.

Success is one of our traditions. This is not to say that there haven't been some difficult times. I remember ORI's and exercises in the snow, multiple large scale evaluations, and operational taskings that grew in unforeseen ways. Each challenge was met with quiet confidence and a spirit of cooperation. I've seen the satisfaction you took in doing what "couldn't" be done. Last year is a great example. We moved the largest number of airplanes through Westover that I can remember and took care of our people in the process.

People make things happen. We talk about units and squadrons but I can look back and remember the individuals that took charge of a situation or moved a project forward. Sometimes leadership and initiative came in unexpected ways. Some of us worked together for many years building a team that represents one of the fundamental strengths of the reserve program. It could have been on the flightline, deployed to a forward operating base or working late in a mobility line, but I always knew who to count on when the going got tough.

Please accept my gratitude for the many friendships that evolved during my time here. Stay safe and make the most of every day.

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## Briefs

### Second quarter award recipients announced

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

#### Company Grade Officer:

Capt. Calvin A. Mellor, 439th Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron

#### Senior NCO:

SMSgt. Kristine M. Seney, 439th Mission Support Squadron

#### NCO:

TSgt. Paul M. Foley, 439th AES

#### Airman:

SrA. Christopher P. Harry, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron

#### Civilian:

Patrick M. Conway, 439th Aero-medical Staging Squadron

#### Civilian Supervisor:

Ruth A. Parker, 439th Operations Support Squadron

### Site gives information affecting reservists

A web site that offers important information for reservists from Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., is available.

The March bulletin's "Commander's Column" on the web site includes comments from Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander.

The site is: [www.re.hq.af.mil/rei/](http://www.re.hq.af.mil/rei/)

### Mission support offers officer opportunities

The 439th Mission Support Group will soon select several candidates to be commissioned under the enlisted commissioning program.

These positions will be within various MSG units. Candidates requirements include: under 35 years old at time of commissioning (not waiverable); a bachelor's degree; and qualifying Air Force officer's test (AFOQT) scores.

Airmen interested in this opportunity should send the following to Michelle Booker, 439 MSG/CCA: a resume; a copy of college transcripts; AFOQT scores; and dates available for training

All submissions must be received by April 4. The selection board meets on the May A UTA.

Mrs. Booker may be reached at Ext. 3044.

# Wing taps Colonel Hosey as vice commander

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Col. James R. Hosey, a Patriot Wing member for 28 years, was named 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing vice commander in February.



**Col. James R. Hosey**

Colonel Hosey will report to Col. Wade Farris, wing commander, for the training and readiness of 2,500 Patriot Wing members and will assist in directing wing activities. He succeeded Col. Thomas A. Mauzaka, special assistant to the wing commander, who is scheduled to retire in April. Colonel Hosey most recently served as commander of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight. He commanded the Air Force's first tanker airlift control element (TALCE) to open up Baghdad International Airport in the early weeks of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In April, 2003, he led a 26-member 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight command and control team to Baghdad which served as the core of the TALCE operation of 235 members, including maintenance, aerial port, medical and security specialists. They facilitated the Baghdad International Airport strategic airlift of troops returning home, the deployment of fresh troops and equipment into the AOR and the delivery of humanitarian aid until July 2003.

A native of Worcester, he has served his entire career in the Patriot Wing. Colonel Hosey was commissioned following graduation from Norwich University, Vt. in 1975.

The new vice commander is a command pilot with more than 6,500 flying hours. He served here as a C-130 pilot and later



*Courtesy photo*

**FRONT LINES** - Then-Lt. Col. James R. Hosey, far right, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight commander, stands with Maj. Michael A. Buoniconti, center, and MSgt. Jeffrey D. Knight, at Baghdad International Airport shortly after completing an aerial site survey in May 2003. Colonel Hosey led the first tanker airlift control center in Iraq during the opening weeks of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The new 439<sup>th</sup> AW vice commander was promoted to colonel on Feb. 16.

as a C-5 instructor pilot.

A veteran of Desert Shield/Storm C-5 airlift missions, Colonel Hosey holds the Meritorious Service Medal with two devices and the Air Medal.

see COLONEL HOSEY continued on Page 4

## Colonel Mauzaka recalls memories with the Patriot Wing



*Courtesy photo*

**OTS TIME** - Cadet Thomas A. Mauzaka displays his officer Training School uniform at Lackland AFB, Texas, in 1974. Now a colonel, he is retiring in April after having served 30 years in the military. Colonel Mauzaka spent 21 of those years with the Patriot Wing, having served in various leadership positions, including commander of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Element.

by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

At 8 years old, Tom Mauzaka watched DC-3s land at a Connecticut airport and thought, "Wow, that looks like fun."

Forty-five years later, Col. Thomas A. Mauzaka ends a 30-year Air Force career and says flying was fun.

"I see the '80s and '90s as a 'golden age' for me," the colonel said. "Successes are a blend of hard work, right-place-right-time, and good people."

The colonel's aviation career began in the 1970s after receiving his degree in economics from Southern Connecticut State University. He spent seven years on active-duty service as a C-130 navigator instructor before joining the 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron here. He served as command post officer in charge and 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Element commander before assuming his most recent position as 439<sup>th</sup> AW special assistant to the commander.

Rounding out a 30-year military career, the colonel hasn't lost much of his collegiate look, but he has gained treasured memories and decades of even higher education.

He recounts his first command position as a career highlight. "When you come up through the ranks, you always wonder what

you would do if you were in charge," he said. "When you're finally in charge, you put your experience to the test and live with the results."

One result he is especially proud of is an ORI exercise at Biggs Army Airfield in Texas in March 1997 when his team turned 19 out of 20 aircraft on time. "The only late aircraft was the one we arrived in," he said, smiling.

Colonel Mauzaka also mentions his two activations – to Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm, and six months duty at Westover in 2003. He is quick to praise the reserve program, saying it blends the best of the military and civilian worlds. He recalls the ad-

see COLONEL continued on Page 4

***"When you're finally in charge, you put your experience to the test and live with the results."***

-- Col. Thomas A. Mauzaka,  
439<sup>th</sup> AW special assistant to  
the commander

# Patriot Wing 'SAVvy' with 22nd AF assessment

Staff assistance team spreads across base to assess areas

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

After months of preparation and planning, the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing experienced its first staff assistance visit in four years when about 80 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force assessors visited Westover March 4-7.

The SAV team members examined nearly 30 functional areas throughout the wing during their visit to provide each area a road map for improvement and to recognize superior programs and people.

The culmination came during the SAV

out brief on March 7 when the assessors provided their overall comments and observations.

"My team and I were impressed with the culture of excellence here at Westover," said Col. Paul Groskreutz, SAV Team Chief. The colonel added that while the team observed areas that needed to be addressed, he was impressed with the amount of "best-seen-to-date" and "benchmark" programs his team members found at Westover.

He also said he appreciated the positive response and willingness on everyone's part to address and fix issues on the spot. "It was not our intent to inspect; we came up here with the intent to look at the people and programs here to identify strengths and areas where you could use some assistance,"

Colonel Groskreutz said.

"You worked really hard the last several months preparing for the SAV and obviously it paid off," Col. Thomas A. Mauzaka, special assistant to the wing commander, told commanders, senior enlisted leadership and team chiefs during the out briefing.

Colonel Groskreutz said the final SAV report with all the observations was expected some time in April.

"We now have to stay on top of the observations that came from the SAV and fix those areas that need some improvement," said Col. Wade Farris, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander. "I'm proud of everyone. You showed the SAV team what we're made of here at Westover."

**COLONEL HOSEY**  
continued from Page 3

"My vision is to continue the excellent job that Colonel Mauzaka has done," Colonel Hosey said. "We have been through very challenging times. Westover has served as the nation's 24/7 airbridge and Patriot Wing members have deployed worldwide as individuals and units. In looking ahead we can expect to see more challenges. I am confident the wing will take on each new challenge as it comes," Colonel Hosey said.

"In my long tenure here, I've come to know the people, the organizations and the infrastructure of the base. I truly look forward to working with them as we continue to move forward," he said.

Colonel Hosey resides in West Yarmouth, Mass., and is employed as a corporate aircraft pilot.

**COLONEL continued from Page 3**

vice of a former flying associate, Lt. Col. Paul Torpey, who always reminded him "when the going gets rough, people always come through - just tell them what you want and they'll figure out a way to do it."

As an illustration, the colonel took out a maintenance graph from 2003 that showed Westover as the busiest C-5 base in the world for that time period based on departures and arrivals. He finds personal satisfaction in wing successes.

While he can't believe 30 years has gone by, Colonel Mauzaka can't think of a single regret. "I can't think of a thing I would change, I guess that says something," he said.

Colonel Mauzaka's wife Pam is also retiring and the couple plans to start a small landscaping business in their hometown of Strong, Maine.

## MXS leadership changes hands

Article by SrA. Tom Ouellette  
Photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Maj. Michael J. Barden took command of the 439th Maintenance Squadron during change-of-command ceremonies on March 2 in Hangar 7.

The major, Westover's Company Grade Officer of the Year in 2000, took over for Lt. Col. Patricia J. Hale, who recently retired.

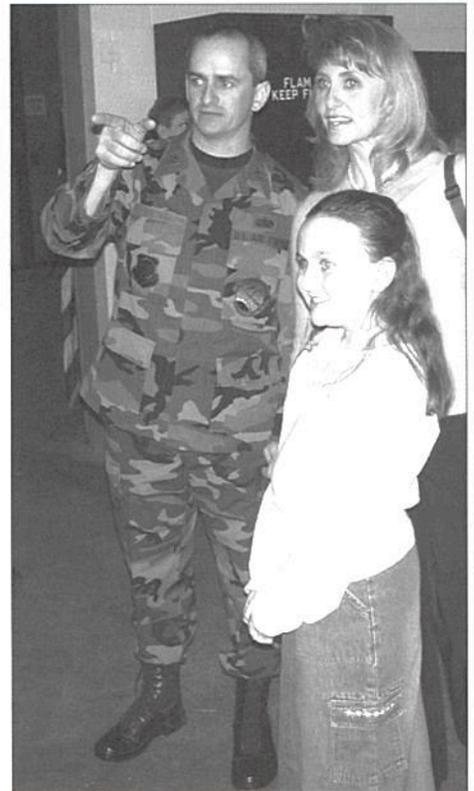
"I am really excited and grateful to have this opportunity," Major Barden said. One of his primary goals as the new commander is to help the squadron's men and women be ready to respond whenever Air Mobility Command (AMC) calls. AMC is Westover's gaining active-duty command headquartered at Scott AFB, Ill.

After his commission in 1990, Major Barden was on active-duty at Kirtland AFB, N. M. and Travis AFB, Calif. He then took an 18-month break from service before coming to Westover in November 1996.

Since his arrival here, Major Barden has been activated twice. From December 2001 until March 2002 he deployed overseas as a member of a 40-member maintenance team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

From February 2003 until March 2004, he was activated and served here in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A native of Readville, Mass., Major Barden credited his wife, Jacqueline, and children for helping his career progress.

"I can never really thank my wife and children enough for the support they've given me over the years," he said.



**FAMILY TIME** - Maj. Michael J. Barden, 439th Maintenance Squadron commander, points out areas of his squadron's work area in Hangar 7 to his wife, Jackie, and daughter Leslie. Major Barden took command of MXS from Lt. Col. Patricia J. Hale on March 2.

# Recruiter's career treks all five services

by SrA. Tom Ouellette

Many reservists have made impressive military accomplishments, but few, if any, can share bragging rights with one Westover reservist.

TSgt. Kenneth Graham, a Patriot Wing recruiter, has the unique distinction of having served active-duty service in all five military branches.

He credits his experience in the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard as the reason for his latest accomplishment, "Top Rookie Recruiter" for 2003.

"There's no doubt my military experience is a selling point," Sergeant Graham said. "I can honestly say I've been in every branch and compare the advantages and disadvantages of each to a potential recruit."

His journey through the military branches was never by design, but rather a result of life experiences that prompted the moves, he said.

Sergeant Graham's trek began in 1987, when he joined the Navy as an explosive ordnance assistant. After five years there, he entered a four-year stint with the Coast Guard as an aviation survival rescue swimmer.

The Marines came next, where he spent a year as a radio operator. Then he joined the Army, working as a recruiter. Finally, in May 2002, the Air Force became his last stop.

"I'm proud of my time in each service. I don't know anyone



**ROOKIE RECRUITER** - TSgt. Kenneth Graham, left, talks with CMSgt. Ronald J. Tyson, 439th Airlift Wing senior recruiter. Sergeant Graham, who has served in all five branches of the U.S. military, recently earned the "Top Rookie Recruiter" for 2003.

else that did it," Sergeant Graham said. He handles 439th Airlift Wing recruiting efforts from his office in Hadley, Mass.



*Air Force photo*

**ON ITS WAY** - The Air Force official aerial demonstration team, the Thunderbirds, will fly its six F-16C Fighting Falcons over the skies of Westover Aug. 14-15. The Thunderbirds' performance is the headlining event for Westover's two-day Great New England Air Show. This year's theme is "A Salute to the Citizen Soldier." The air show will also feature static displays of current and vintage military aircraft, and many other outdoor and indoor displays. For more information, log on to the Great New England Air Show web site at [www.greatnewenglandairshow.com](http://www.greatnewenglandairshow.com)

## PA, maintenance earn command awards in media contest

The staff of the 439<sup>th</sup> AW Public Affairs Office took third place in the 2003 Air Force Reserve Command Media Contest for best newspaper in the command.

TSgt. Andrew S. Biscoe, co-editor of the *Patriot*, earned first place honors in AFRC for best stand-alone photograph. The picture featured SMSgt. Glenn Brault's daughter, Samantha, jumping into the sergeant's arms in July upon his return from a deployment overseas. The front page of the August 2003 *Patriot* featured the photo.

SMSgt. Robert W. Bennis Jr., 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, received second place in the stringer photographer

category. Sergeant Bennis' photo featured SrA. Chelsey A. Joyce dressed as a Christmas elf guiding a C-5 to its parking position in December 2002.

A panel of three professional journalists judged 146 separate entries from 26 units in the command.

Unit publications were judged on content, writing, design and photography/graphics. Writers were evaluated on writing quality and mechanics.

On the photo entries, the judges focused on selection, photo editing and technical quality. Plaques and certificates will be sent to winning units.

# Checklist ensures fitness success for reservists

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is intended to assist 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**

I loved the tagline from the movie Jaws 2 I saw when I was a kid:

"Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water"...and I lived on a lake!

In honor of that great piece of horror marketing comes another checklist even after the staff assistance visit concluded during the March A UTA. It's the dreaded *fitness checklist* <insert evil mad scientist laugh here>.

Reservists must take the following steps before accomplishing their first fitness evaluation:

1. Complete a fitness prescreening questionnaire. This is done every year starting with a baseline that should have

been done in March. It is then completed the UTA prior to taking the test every time you take it thereafter.

2. Self-identify any changes in medical status that would preclude you from testing to your supervisor immediately. This includes pregnancy.

3. Attend the test in proper fitness attire (keep in mind varied climate of New England). Sneakers/running shoes are mandatory to participate in the test.

4. Inform your unit PT Leader if you reschedule the UTA when the test is taking place. This is only allowed once – you must test the following UTA.

5. Arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the test to stretch and warm-up.

6. Have fun!

That's it.

Six steps – a mere half of those expensive 12 steps other organizations charge and these are free. Again, if you have any questions at all contact your unit PT leaders as they are your best resource to passing this test.

Good luck!

## What are you doing to prepare for the new fitness standards?



**"I normally go to the gym and I run. I try to stay fit. I always have."**

-- MSgt. Brian P. Major, 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron



**"At work I walk at lunch time for an hour. I just moved next to a park and I plan to ride my bike and run."**

-- TSgt. Louisa J. Gonzalez, 439th AW



**"I run three miles three days a week. Once a week I run one and a half miles to test how fast I do. I've been practicing my push-ups and sit-ups too."**

-- SrA. Erika L. Sambrook, 439th AW



**"I already took a practice test with my unit and I did well. I used to work out every day so I was not surprised. I plan to keep it up."**

-- A1C Jasmin P. Rendon, 439th Services Squadron



**"I have been doing push-ups and sit-ups at night. Due to bad weather, I have been on the bike for about 40 minutes four times a week"**

-- SMSgt. Clifford M. Wittman, 439th Mission Support Squadron

## Males 35-39

### Aerobic Fitness

Component 1.5 Mile Run Time (mins.)	3 Mile Walk Time (mins.)	Component Points
≤9:48	≤33:24	50.00
9:49-10:12	33:25-34:42	47.50
10:13-10:24	34:43-36:12	45.00
10:25-10:54	36:13-38:12	43.50
10:55-11:24	38:13-39:36	42.00
11:25-11:54	39:37-41:12	40.50
11:55-12:30	41:13-42:24	39.00
12:31-12:54	42:25-43:18	37.50
12:55-13:36	43:19-44:06	36.00
13:37-14:24	44:07-45:30	34.00
14:25-14:54	45:31-47:12	32.00
14:55-15:18	47:13-49:00	30.00
15:19-15:48	49:01-51:36	27.00
15:49-16:24	51:37-53:48	24.00
16:25-16:54	53:49-56:00	21.00
16:55-17:36	56:01-58:42	18.00
17:37-18:12	58:43-61:48	15.00
18:13-18:54	61:49-64:54	12.00
18:55-19:42	64:55-66:36	9.00
19:43-20:36	66:37-68:48	6.00
20:37-21:30	68:49-71:06	3.00
>21:30	>71:06	0.00

### Body Composition

Abdominal Circumference (inches)	Component Points
<32.50	30.00
32:50	28.75
33.00	27.50
33.50	26.25
34.00	25.00
34.50	23.75
35.00	22.50
35.50	22.35
36.00	22.20
36.50	22.05
37.00	21.90
37.50	21.75
38.00	21.60
38.50	21.45
39.00	21.30
39.50	21.25
40.00	21.00
40.50	18.00
41.00	15.00
41.50	12.00
42.00	9.00
42.50	6.00
43.00	3.00
>43.00	0.00

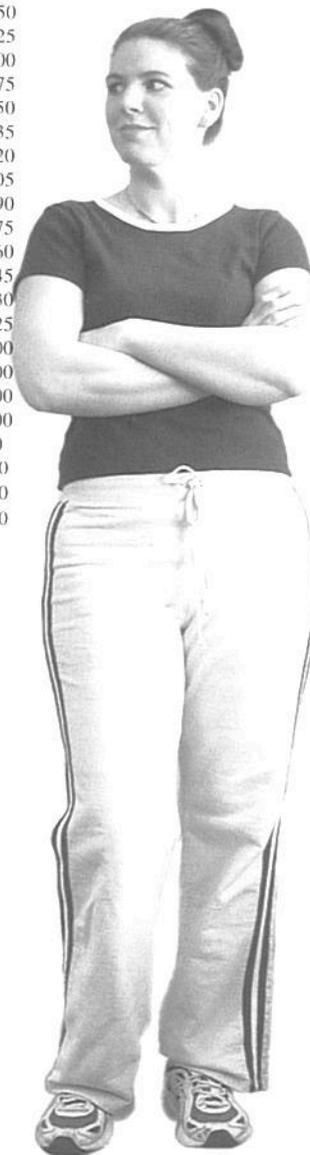
## Females 30-34

### Aerobic Fitness

1.5 Mile Run Time (mins.)	3 Mile Walk Time (mins.)	Component Points
≤11:54	≤35:36	50.00
11:55-12:30	35:37-36:36	47.50
12:31-12:54	36:37-38:24	45.00
12:55-13:12	38:25-40:06	43.50
13:13-13:36	40:07-41:18	42.00
13:37-14:24	41:19-42:18	40.50
14:25-14:54	42:19-44:06	39.00
14:55-15:18	44:07-46:18	37.50
15:19-15:48	46:19-48:12	36.00
15:49-16:24	48:13-49:18	34.00
16:25-16:54	49:19-50:54	32.00
16:55-17:36	50:55-53:06	30.00
17:37-18:12	53:07-55:48	27.00
18:13-18:54	55:49-57:18	24.00
18:55-19:42	57:19-59:12	21.00
19:43-20:36	59:13-61:06	18.00
20:37-21:30	61:07-63:24	15.00
21:31-22:30	63:25-65:42	12.00
22:31-23:36	65:43-67:54	9.00
23:37-24:48	67:55-70:36	6.00
24:49-26:06	70:37-73:18	3.00
>26:06	>73:18	0.00

### Body Composition

Abdominal Circumference (inches)	Component Points
<29.50	30.00
29.50	28.75
30.00	27.50
30.50	26.25
31.00	25.00
31.50	23.75
32.00	22.50
32.50	22.30
33.00	22.00
33.50	21.80
34.00	21.50
34.50	21.30
35.00	21.00
35.50	18.00
36.00	15.00
36.50	12.00
37.00	9.00
37.50	6.00
38.00	3.00
38.00	0.00



SrA. Witt, Jr., 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, is just above the average age of the female reservist at Westover (32). The standards indicated in the charts above are among those Airman Sambrook must meet in order to pass the new fitness test.

SrA. Leanne J. Sambrook, 33, 439th AW, is just above the average age of the female reservist at Westover (32). The standards indicated in the charts above are among those Airman Sambrook must meet in order to pass the new fitness test.

Sources: USAF Fitness Charts, Westover Military Personnel Flight

Your fitness level is determined by adding four individual scores, placing you in one of four categories: more than 90-Excellent; 75-89.9-Good; 70-74.9-Marginal; less than 70-Poor. Additional charts and scores from push-ups and crunches are available on the web site listed below.

All fitness charts can be found at [http://www.af.mil/news\\_USAF\\_Fitness\\_Charts.pdf](http://www.af.mil/news_USAF_Fitness_Charts.pdf)

# Stakeholders Report reviews 2003 events

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The 2003 Stakeholders Report is a review of the 439th Airlift Wing's major operations for that year. The information includes events, deployments, and individual unit accomplishments.*

by Col. Wade Farris  
439th Airlift Wing commander

## Mission and Priorities:

The 439th Airlift Wing will actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces. Priorities for 2003 were Readiness, Recruiting and Retention, One Standard, Quality of Life Improvement and Infrastructure Improvement.

## Stakeholders:

Wing members and their families, Westover tenant units, Griffin Services Inc., Galaxy Community Council, State of Massachusetts, 22nd Air Force, 21st Air Force, Federal Aviation Administration, Tanker Airlift Control Center, Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC), Air Mobility Command (AMC), Air Combat Command (ACC), United States Transportation Command, Air Force Material Command, United States Strategic Command, Air Force Space Command, United States Southern Command, Air Force Electronic Systems Command, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Drug Enforcement Agency, United States Customs Service, Defense Accounting and Finance Services, Air National Guard, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and National Command Authorities.

## Milestones:

The Patriot Wing started the year with a display of resilience when members rebounded in one day from a Nor'easter that paralyzed New England.

The Saturday of the **January** UTA was cancelled due to snow-covered roads, but the wing was back in operation by Sunday. In support of the War on Terror, 767 members were mobilized, including 126 deployed. The 439th Communications Squadron was selected by the Air Force to conduct a year-long test of wireless networks.

In early **February**, 850 aircraft maintenance and operations troops were activated for one year when the wing went on 24-hour operations when the nation needed an air bridge to move troops and equipment for what became Operation Iraqi Freedom. To help in the effort at Westover, 160 activated maintenance troops came from the 433rd Airlift Wing at Lackland AFB, Texas. In addition, 50 Massachusetts National Guard infantry soldiers augmented base security.



photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

**CHANGE OF COMMAND** - Col. Wade Farris, right, took command of the 439th AW from Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick during a change of command in the Base Hangar. Maj. Gen. James D. Bankers, 22nd AF commander, presided. Colonel Farris became the 439th's ninth wing commander in August 2003.

Following a visit by the AMC vice commander, the wing was selected to be the lead wing for all C-5 mission originators. Aerial porters laid out the welcome mat for Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines on the ground from a few hours to a few days during "turn-arounds." A hangar was transformed into a full-service passenger terminal with snacks, cots, computer games, TV videos, telephones and an armory.

Activation orders were cut for 57 deploying members of the 722nd ASTS, 42nd APS and 439th ALCF. Another 41 aerial porters were activated for home station. Our PA office published a bi-weekly newspaper, "The Patriot Express," to inform and motivate the surge effort.

Westover's high profile brought dignitaries in **March**, including the Massachusetts lieutenant governor. She witnessed the panorama of 21 Galaxies from six bases on the flight line. The 439th ASTS deployed 17 members to Ramstein AB, Germany, where they converted a sports center into a 100-bed contingency staging facility, the first since Desert Storm. Two air evacuation liaison teams (AELTs) joined the USN Comfort hospital ship. Twenty AES medical specialists in AELTs began serving at advanced aid stations.

An EOD officer deployed to ACC HQ to help manage the largest Air Force EOD program. To provide food service, lodging and more for the 24/7 operations, 21 services squadron members were activated with another 18 coming from Niagara Falls ARS, N.Y.

The 439th AMDS activated 29 members to provide medical support and five

activated finance specialists provided financial support. AFRC recognized the wing with the Outstanding Military Personnel Flight Achievement Award and two top individual awards.

**April** started with more accolades when the 42nd APS was cited as AMC's Aerial Port of the Year and the Command Post was named best in AFRC. Aerial porters loaded nine C-17s with 700,000 pounds of National Guard communications equipment. Another 55 aerial porters, communications and other specialists were activated. The wing deactivated 25 security specialists who had been on duty since shortly after 9/11. Deployments included 20 58th APS aerial porters to Guam and a finance specialist to Baghdad where 13 Patriot Wing security specialists were serving.

An 11-member 439th ALCF team deployed to Baghdad International Airport to serve as the command and control core of a Tanker Airlift Control Element that opened the airport to strategic airlift of troops returning home, the deployment of fresh troops and equipment and the delivery of humanitarian aid into the AOR.

We welcomed home the first Iraqi Freedom troops from active duty units. Our USO volunteers hosted a special homecoming, with Miss USA greeting troops. At month's end, the wing held a ceremony to honor more than 60 volunteers and congressional officials helped celebrate the openings of two new dormitories.

In **May**, the return of medical and security specialists marked the first homecoming of Westover members. The "Westover Welcome" had become famous, thanks to **STAKEHOLDERS continued on Page 9**

**STAKEHOLDERS** continued from Page 8

our USO, Family Support Center and other volunteers. Two LSS members deployed to Prague, Czech Republic to provide support and 45 civil engineers used annual tour to build five homes in New Mexico for Navajo families.

More than 150 members from all services benefited from the annual mass casualty exercise, Team Yankee, hosted by the 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS. The AF News Service featured Westover in a video record of our air bridge.

A C-5 orientation flight and lunch with the wing commander honored 37 employers in **June**. Junior Achievement cited 12 Patriot Wing members for their work with local children. Seven life support specialists deployed to Willow Grove ARB, Pa.

A security squadron officer was awarded the Bronze Star for duty in Afghanistan. The surge officially concluded, with our maintainers and aircrews recognized for leading all C-5 bases by launching 1,167 C-5s, more than 1,400 missions, moving more than 300 million pounds of cargo and troops and exceeding our own normal flying time by 7,000 hours.

**July** started with news that our wing commander was selected to serve at AFRC HQ. His final duties included flying 33 civic leaders to the Air Logistics Center in Oklahoma. Three EOD members deployed to Iraq to find and destroy unexploded ordnance and two ALCF members deployed to Puerto Rico in support of Army counter-drug efforts. Eight AES medical specialists returned home. At home plate, we had our second annual Chiefs vs. Eagles softball game, where once again the Eagles soared. The 439<sup>th</sup> AW was privileged to host the AFRC Senior NCO Leadership Course for 52 senior NCOs, including 21 of our own. A local family benefited when 27 maintainers remodeled a home as Habitat for Humanity volunteers.

A change of command ceremony bid farewell to our wing commander and greeted the new commander in **August**. A 24-member 42<sup>nd</sup> APS team deployed to Uzbekistan. A maintenance officer returned from three months of duty in Baghdad where he implemented the first heavy maintenance operation. A Family Day picnic in **September** was among the highlights when the chief master sergeant of the Air Force visited on the A UTA. While here CMSAF Gerald Murray applauded the wing's readiness rates as 20 percent higher than other C-5 bases. State officials helped us celebrate the opening of a Military Entrance Processing Station on base. One hundred maintainers and five AMDS members started the first of three deployments to Dover AFB, Del., in support of Iraqi Freedom.

In **October** 18 Patriot Wing members earned Community College of the Air Force degrees. AMXS cheered the news of their

selection of 22<sup>nd</sup> AF and AFRC Maintenance Effectiveness Awards. The 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron stood up, consisting of supply, transportation and logistics plans specialists. The 439<sup>th</sup> LSS was renamed the Maintenance Operations Squadron. Eighteen AES volunteers cared for patients airlifted from Baghdad and Kuwait to Andrews AFB, Md.

Wing members participated in a successful base-wide NBC exercise in **November**. An AES flight nurse deployed to Djibouti to support the Navy. A team of 59 civil engineers completed "Silver Flag" training in Florida. Deployed ASTS medical specialists returned from nine months in Germany. Our civil engineers were selected as best in AFRC and the AMDS/ASTS won eight higher headquarters awards. Westover exceeded the AF participation rate in the first AF Climate Survey taken by AFRC wings.

A **December** Nor'easter dropped 16 inches of snow, canceling Saturday of the UTA. Westover people did their part when the CFC goal was exceeded by \$4000 and by pumping \$183 million into the area economy in the past year. The year ended on an upbeat note when first, our maintainers, 42<sup>nd</sup> aerial porters and EOD specialists made it home for Christmas and second, when the wing was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the second time in three years, lending credence to the boast that we are the "TEAM OF CHOICE."

## Outlook:

2003 was another great year for the 439<sup>th</sup> and I know 2004 will be as well. However, we will face some very big challenges.

The first is meeting the demands of the Air Force airlift needs with a greatly reduced full-time force since we won't have so many of our troops activated. This will place a bigger burden on our ART and Reserve work force to get the job done. I'm sure we can handle the task.

The next challenge we face is filling our AEF tasking this year. Although many wing members just finished up to two years of activation, some may be asked to spend time deployed as part of or AEF commitment. While recruiting and retention are always a challenge, this year they will be even bigger issues as many of our personnel reach their 20-year mark or the end of their enlistment and decide the demands of the reserves are just too much for their families and civilian careers.

Our challenge is to get our folks demobilized and back to their jobs and families with as little turbulence as possible. Hopefully, most will decide to stay with us for a while.

After a four-year absence, we will put

on an air show this year. Those who have been around know what a massive challenge this is. It will take all wing members working hard (and smart) to pull it off successfully, and more important, safely! During my short time as commander of the 439<sup>th</sup>, I've seen enough outstanding performance to know that if anyone can meet these challenges it's the great team we have at Westover!

## Conclusion:

Last year was nothing less than action-packed for Patriot Wing members. Being mission-ready allowed us to answer the nation's call with high level accolades streaming in daily. What was originally thought to be a 30-day surge, turned into five months of 24/7 operations. During that time, our troops processed 8,487 passengers on 2,731 aircraft, fueled by 17,948,283 gallons of JP-8 fuel, carrying 30,954,049 pounds of cargo.

Labeled as AMC's "crown jewel" for mission capability, Westover supported up to 27 C-5s on the flight line at one time, breaking all records.

These statistics could not have been achieved without the dedication of our support personnel, to include our contractors, and the local volunteers like the Pioneer Valley USO. The Westover family was tested and strengthened throughout the year and proved to be one of the Air Force's outstanding units.



photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

**TAILS IN A ROW** - The towering tails of C-5s from all over the Air Force were a common sight during the 2003 surge. More than 2,000 Galaxy flights passed through Westover from February through June.

# Electrician's efforts shine through 2003 surge

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Base leadership recently honored a Griffin Services electrician for his around-the-clock lighting work that ensured Westover's main runway remained operational for last year's surge of operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Michael Barber led a team of electricians onto the airfield during the winter of 2003 to repair runway lights so that aircraft could fly in and out of the base 24 hours per day, seven days per week. More than 2,000 C-5 flights came through Westover from February to May 2003.

Mr. Barber's work allowed the aircraft surge to run its course until construction crews could install new lights in the runway. Most of that work had been completed by December 2003.

Col. Wade Farris, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander, presented Mr. Barber a 439<sup>th</sup> wing coin in front of the wing leadership during a staff

meeting earlier this year.

"This lighting work was crucial to the surge of aircraft coming through Westover," the colonel said. "Mike's dedication shows that our Griffin folks are absolute team players with the reservists and our mission here. The results of his hard work are one of the reasons Westover's surge operation received accolades from Air Force leadership all the way up to Gen. John W. Handy, commander of Air Mobility Command."

Mr. Barber and his crew often arrived in the middle of the night to locate an errant light. Westover's main runway is 11,600 feet long. "We were searching all over for them," he said. "We fabricated some temporary



**Michael Barber**

lights too. We had to dig up the transformers in the ground. We did this between 30 and 35 times."

Griffin Services is the civilian contractor at Westover. Its employees handle many of the day-to-day operations at the base, and were a key element in the 2003 surge. Jon Wyman, real property manager with the 439<sup>th</sup> Base Civil Engineer Section, said Barber was among those critical elements.

"Mike responded at least twice per week after hours and often during severe weather to repair the outdated runway edge lights," Mr. Wyman said.

Maj. Michael Pirrone, airfield operations manager, also credited Mr. Barber's dedication. "His efforts were, without a doubt, above and beyond the minimum requirements of the base operating support contract."

Mr. Barber joined Griffin Services in 2002.

## Employer Appreciation Day informs bosses about mission

Employer Appreciation Day has been scheduled for June 24.

To have invitations sent to their bosses, reservists should fill out the application form below and return it to the Public Affairs office located in wing headquarters. A letter will then be sent from Col. Wade Farris, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander, to each employer.

This year's Employer Appreciation Day will get started at 9 a.m. at the Westover Club where employers will be treated to coffee and refreshments.

Employers will be bussed to the flight line at approximately 10:30 a.m. where they will board a unit C-5 for an orientation flight.

Reservists who wish to join their employers for lunch after the flight must pay in advance. The price will be announced in a *Patriot* edition later this spring. Each reservist will be allowed to invite just one supervisor. Only those reservists assigned to the aircrew will be allowed to board the C-5 for the orientation flight.

Further information is available at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1850, or by calling (413) 557-3500 or 2020.

Reservist's name, rank and unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's name and title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's company name/address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch for employer: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch for reservist: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103

Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

## Patriot People

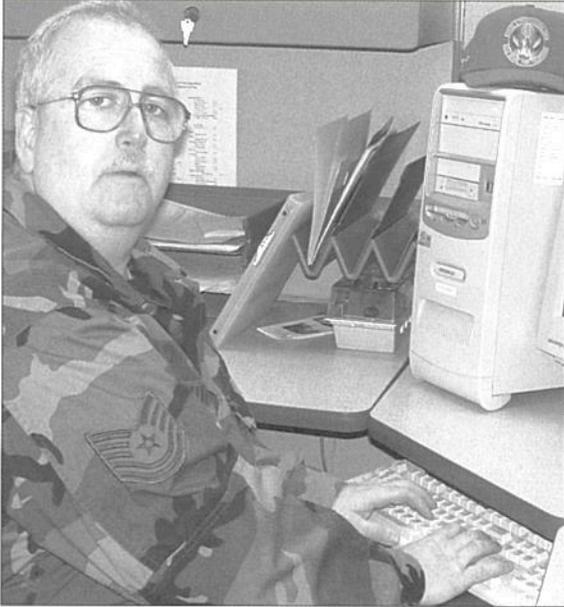


photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

**TSgt. Michael D. Hurley**

**Name:** Michael D. Hurley  
**Rank:** TSgt.  
**Age:** 51  
**Address:** Springfield, Mass.  
**Unit:** 42nd Aerial Port Squadron  
**Position:** Administration manager  
**Civilian position:** Mount Holyoke College painting supervisor  
**Favorite food:** Low carb (lots of meat)  
**Years of service:** Thirty-two  
**Favorite sport:** Hockey  
**Favorite hobby:** Sports memorabilia  
**Ideal vacation:** Seashore with wife and kids  
**Best way to relax:** Reading  
**Preferred entertainment:** Rock concerts  
**Favorite hero:** My son, Kevin  
**Favorite music:** Rock  
**Favorite movie:** The Goonies  
**Favorite aircraft:** P-51 Mustang  
**Pet peeve:** Mean people  
**What would I do if I won \$1 million:** Retire at Myrtle Beach, S.C.

## Patriot Praises

**Reenlistments:**

SMSgt. Michael R. Brunetti  
 SMSgt. James J. Cubetus II  
 SMSgt. Henri M. Drenthe  
 SMSgt. William D. Groeber  
 SMSgt. McDonald R. Molina  
 SMSgt. Fred W. Perret

MSgt. Robert F. Bieniek  
 MSgt. Patrick C. Cassidy  
 MSgt. Mark A. Czmyr  
 MSgt. Scott G. Griffin  
 MSgt. Gary P. Lane  
 MSgt. William Palmieri  
 MSgt. Dennis M. Primiano  
 MSgt. Karen Rachel  
 Ross Tuncok  
 MSgt. Joseph Szczechanek  
 MSgt. Frederick P. Williams

TSgt. Keith M. Beaudry  
 TSgt. Paul R. Brandt  
 TSgt. Joseph T. Dordine Jr.  
 TSgt. Matthew J. Egan  
 TSgt. Leopoldo J. Flkins  
 TSgt. Michael J. Latter  
 TSgt. Eugene D. Lussier  
 TSgt. Frank A. Manegio Jr.  
 TSgt. William M. Palaia  
 TSgt. Jeffrey D. Sidebottom  
 TSgt. Jeffery G. Vanderpool  
 TSgt. Catherine A. Vigue

SSgt. Ernest S. Allender  
 SSgt. Michael J. Bailey  
 SSgt. Chad M. Klein  
 SSgt. Ronald A. Knight  
 SSgt. Joann K. Lafleur  
 SSgt. Darren A. Padilla  
 SSgt. Donald T. Picca  
 SSgt. Daniel G. Sullivan  
 SSgt. Joseph C. Wilkinson

SrA. Leonard D. Camidge

SrA. William D. Rauf  
 SrA. Casey Scott Roberts  
 SrA. Chris Tobin  
 Newly assigned:

Maj. Rodney B. Furr  
 Maj. Edward J. Miller

Capt. Wesley A. Thiel  
 Capt. Sheila K. Thompson

SSgt. Gerald M. Atkins  
 SSgt. Orlando J. Ballestas  
 SSgt. Thomas M. Odorcich III

SrA. William D. Rauf  
 SrA. Melissa Smith

A1C Ryan E. Abrams  
 A1C William J. Cargile  
 A1C Ronald L. Stephen  
 A1C Michelle H. Kulewicz

AB Christina M. Fernandez

**Enlistments:**

TSgt. Robert A. Corona  
 TSgt. Richard J. Levitt  
 TSgt. Steven R. Peletier

SSgt. Michael A. Filice  
 SSgt. Jeffrey A. McCauley  
 SSgt. Caitlin M. Sweeney  
 SSgt. Raymond F. Theriaque

SrA. Edward E. Basset Jr.  
 SrA. Michael H. Korman  
 SrA. Mark R. Lis  
 SrA. Joseph M. McWilliams  
 SrA. Leigh F. Musicof  
 SrA. Robert Nicasio  
 SrA. Hal N. Scholinick

SrA. Laura A. Tardif  
 SrA. Thomas K. Young-Raine

A1C Ronald J. Andreeoni  
 A1C Anna C. Ball  
 A1C Joseph D. Bertonazzi  
 A1C Arthur F. Brown  
 A1C Pete J.J. Corretjer  
 A1C Christopher R. Crane  
 A1C Timothy J. Ferris Jr.  
 A1C Jessica A. Galante  
 A1C Damien J. Jepson  
 A1C Trisha L. Lewis  
 A1C Jared R. Lucas  
 A1C Rick F. Marrama  
 A1C Christopher D. Medeiros  
 A1C Nathaniel E. Parker  
 A1C John E. Parkinson  
 A1C Jennifer L. Rogers  
 A1C Robert L. Spitzagel Jr.

A1C Jennifer D. Stryer  
 A1C Kara P. Vautour  
 A1C Samantha L. Vieu  
 A1C Anthony P. Walker  
 A1C Kevin J. Weagle  
 A1C Alexander J. Zaleski

Amn. Morgan I. Nitz

AB Michael D. Arriaga  
 AB Daniel J. Cimini  
 AB Jessica M. Fontaine  
 AB Zachary J. Manko  
 AB Amanda M. Partridge  
 AB Laquanda C. Sharpe  
 AB Kathleen E. Sterling

**Retired:**

SMSgt. Marilyn A. Dube

## Community College of the Air Force graduates - April 2004

SMSgt. Calvin C. Brown  
 SMSgt. Jennifer Lavigne  
 SMSgt. Lana Lue  
 MSgt. Joseph G. Fournier  
 MSgt. Lisa A. McCurdy  
 MSgt. Elisa Overton  
 MSgt. James S. Rooney  
 MSgt. Elisa Overton  
 TSgt. Terry L. Burke  
 TSgt. Patrick Conway  
 TSgt. Aidan F. Evelyn  
 TSgt. Steven L. Marx  
 TSgt. Richard Nii  
 TSgt. Thomas Pitts

TSgt. Gregory Smith  
 TSgt. Mark Tourigny  
 TSgt. Todd R. Wesoloski  
 TSgt. Michael Wysocki  
 SSgt. David M. Aucoin  
 SSgt. James M. Bowler  
 SSgt. Richard Garcia  
 SSgt. Karen M. Hutchinson  
 SSgt. Deborah McCaughey  
 SSgt. Michael S. Nemeth  
 SSgt. Albert R. Raymond III  
 SSgt. Margaret Sullivan  
 SrA. John F. Wieland II

# 439<sup>th</sup> AES medics provide in-flight TLC for wounded troops

by SrA. Tom Ouellette

Patriot Wing medical specialists have again answered the nation's call to deploy overseas in support of the war on terrorism.

More than 20 medical specialists from the 439th Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron rotated in 30-day deployments at Ramstein AB, Germany to administer in-flight patient care for troops serving in the Enduring Freedom/ Iraqi Freedom efforts from last October until 2004.

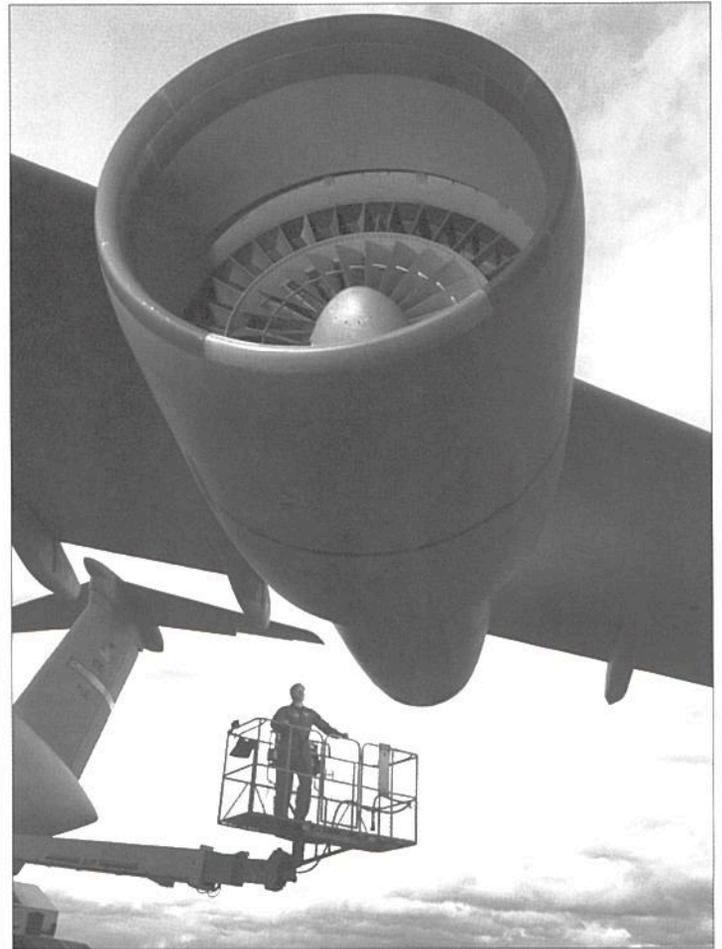
The 439th AES was assigned to the 791st Expeditionary AES, McGuire AFB, N.J. Besides transporting troops from Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan to Ramstein AB, they also cared for patients' enroute to the United States from Ramstein AB, said TSgt. Dale E. Reed, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 439th AES mobile aeromedical staging facility (MASF).

The 439th AES cares for patients' basic needs, such as the maintenance of vital signs and the administration of medication. In-flight transportation of patients also involves special medical concerns, Sergeant Reed said. Patients can suffer additional problems caused by the vibration and air conditions on flights and may also suffer from additional pain increases due to the plane's attitude.

"The 439th AES' mission was strictly focused on the in-air transportation of wounded troops," Sergeant Reed said.

AES members coordinate all patient airlift movement requirements, functioning like an ambulance dispatch by securing transportation for patients to medical facilities both in and out of country.

Another deployed AES member, Capt. Denise A. Claffey, was scheduled to return from Djibouti in Africa in mid-March after serving as a flight nurse at Camp Lemonier since November 2003.



*photo courtesy of Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

**GETTING A LIFT** - Maj. David P. Smith, 337th Airlift Squadron, takes a look at the engine of a C-5 during a recent photo shoot held by the major's alma mater, Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Major Smith is a 1989 WPI graduate. The shoot was part of the college's commemoration of the 100th year of flight. This photo appeared on the front page of a recent edition of "Transformations," the college's magazine.

**PATRIOT**

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

April UTA schedule  
A UTA April 3-4  
B UTA April 17-18



Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. Kevin P. Godbout, Huntington, Mass., and 2,318 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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