

PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base

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SFS training manager pins on Bronze Star

Sergeant Bates earns medal from deployment in Oman

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

MSgt. Randy J. Bates, 439th Security Forces Squadron, joined an elite military brotherhood on Jan. 10.

That was when Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, pinned the Bronze Star Medal on his uniform during Commander's Call ceremonies. The presentation took place in front of the entire wing and invited guests, including Sergeant Bates' parents.

Sergeant Bates is only the third Patriot Wing member and the wing's first enlisted airman in the War on Terror to earn the coveted wartime service medal for exceptional overseas performance.

Earlier recipients are Lt. Col. Maryann Lutz, former 439th SFS commander, and Maj. Timothy S. Donnelly, current squadron commander, who served in the Enduring Freedom AOR.

Sergeant Bates was recognized for his service as Security Forces Intelligence NCO with a contingent of 439th SFS members at Masirah AB, Oman from November 2002 to May 2003. His citation noted that during that period, coalition forces suffered no losses. At the same time the expeditionary wing flew 5,000 combat hours in direct support of Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

At Masirah, Sergeant Bates was part of a team of 11 Westover security specialists headed by Colonel (then Maj.) Lutz. For more than half of the team, it was their second tour in the AOR.

Sergeant Bates is only the third Patriot Wing member and the wing's first enlisted airman in the War on Terror to earn the coveted wartime service medal for exceptional overseas performance.



photo by MSgt. Anne Ward

BRONZE HONOR - MSgt. Scott C. Daigneault, 439th Security Forces Squadron force protection manager, congratulates MSgt. Randy J. Bates, 439th SFS noncommissioned officer in charge of training, on receiving the Bronze Star during the January Commander's Call. Sergeant Bates is one of two SFS personnel still assigned to the unit to have received the medal during Operation Iraqi Freedom for outstanding achievement in a combat zone.

"The people I deployed with were top notch. The whole crew was good to work with. We were a family before we left and even became closer when we got there," Sergeant Bates said.

The Patriot Wing security specialists were part of a headquarters element of an expeditionary security forces squadron. Before deploying, Sergeant Bates underwent a two-week intelligence school at Fort Dix, N.J.

At Masirah, his duties included briefing base commanders on security issues and briefing security members deploying on missions in the AOR. During the tour, Sergeant Bates flew to Bagram AB, Afghanistan, on a security mission to escort sensitive equipment.

Sergeant Bates was assisted in intelligence duties by MSgt. (then TSgt.) Michael Bellerose, who was on his second tour.

Duties ranged from investigating reports of security patrols on the air base perimeter to tracking and analyzing threats from throughout the AOR. The two intelligence NCOs also developed briefings on local conditions when security members deployed. Masirah supported operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Horn of Africa.

The Omani Air Force base is on the island of Masirah, which faces the Indian Ocean and includes an oasis with date palms. In addition to Omani and Royal Air Force aircraft, squadrons of Air Force C-130s and KC-135s came to the base as part of the

see **BRONZE** continued on Page 4

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

439th AW excels at home and away

Mobilization, demobilization, MPA tours, extensions, deployments, homecomings - many of you have experienced one or all of these over the past two years.

By this month, many Patriot Wing people will have served on active duty for more than a year. Many more will have served for two years. Some of these men and women will extend on MPA tours or serve for the remaining year of their two-year activation while the majority will choose to return to their civilian lives.

No matter the location during the past two years, Westover people did an outstanding job. Hundreds of you remained at Westover and worked your tails off supporting the mission and the surge of aircraft operations. From our aerial porters in Afghanistan, to our airlift control flight, explosive ordnance disposal unit and intelligence folks in Iraq, to our aeromedical staging and aeromedical evacuation squadrons in Germany, and



Commentary

our maintainers keeping the C-5s flying at Dover AFB, Del., and all the other 439th troops at worldwide locations, you all supported our nation's defense. Every 439th organization - whether deployed or at home station - got "rave reviews" from the people they supported. In many cases, our people ended up being the "lead dogs" at their locations, as they showed the young, inexperienced active-duty troops how to get the job done. Our people represented Westover and AFRC in an outstanding manner.

For those of you who remain mobilized, keep up the great work. For those demobilizing, it is time to start thinking about the transition back to being a "citizen soldier." What does that mean? It means re-establishing your relationship with your employer at your full-time job. Thank him or her for their support during your activation. Do your best to make up for the time that you were gone.

If you feel your job is in jeopardy or that your mobilization adversely affected it, you may contact the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). People in this organization have information and contacts to help you deal with your employer. ESGR works with employers of reservists to ensure positions vacated by activated reservists are still available upon their return.

The other relationship you have to work on is with your families, especially for those of you who deployed. In the coming months, be sure to try and put them first. That means ahead of both your civilian job and ahead of your job here. They deserve that time for all the support they gave you while you were activated or deployed. Remember, if you lose your job, retire from or quit the reserve, you will always need your family to be there for you. Please treat them right.

I thank you, your families and your employers for all you do for the mission here, and for the national defense of the United States.

by Col. Wade Farris
439th Airlift Wing commander

Briefs

Commissary brings items for sale on A UTA

The commissary staff from Hanscom AFB, Mass., will hold a truckload case sale during the February A UTA in the Base Hangar.

Food and household items will be discounted from 30 to 50 percent off regular commissary prices on Feb. 7 and Feb. 8.

Customers are asked to use cash or checks for payments. The sale will take place from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call (781) 377-3372.

New food service rates in effect for fiscal year

Food service rates in the dining hall for Fiscal Year 2004 are:

Breakfast	\$1.70
Lunch	\$3.30
Box meal	\$3.30
Dinner	\$3.30

For more information, call the dining hall staff of the 439th Services Squadron at Exts. 2026 or 3523.

Postal service donates phone cards to troops

The U.S. Postal Service held "Operation Phone Card" in December at its Indian Orchard, Mass., Bulk Mail Center to support of military troops deployed in Iraq.

Postal employees wishing to help troops keep contact with family members at home were encouraged to buy a phone card at \$8 and donate it to Westover's Family Support Center. Some Westover reservists were present at the event to answer postal employees' questions and collect the phone cards.

Postal workers donated more than 50 phone cards to the reservists.

Family support offers financial counseling

For activated reservists who will return to civilian status, there may be some financial issues and challenges that can occur from differences in pay.

The Westover Family Support staff offers financial counseling from balancing a checkbook, to establishing a budget and developing a savings plan. For more information, call the staff at Ext. 3024.

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Civil engineers nail best in AFRC

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe
and SrA. Tom Ouellette

The Patriot Wing's civil engineer units, forming a side-by-side success story as a single unit, collectively proved they are the best at what they do by recently earning the top Air Force Reserve Command unit award.

They're known as "CE" across the base, but the small-sounding acronym belies the organization's huge array of responsibilities. The 152 reservists of the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron and 98 civilians of the 439th Base Civil Engineering Section are tasked with everything from building a new runway at a remote site to fixing a stuck door here. They build and maintain America's largest air reserve base, with its 2,500 acres and 123 buildings featuring 1.4 million square feet.

As the command award attested, throughout 2003, no air reserve base had better electricians, linemen, heavy equipment operators, carpenters, welders, plumbers, fuel specialists, surveyors, heating and air conditioning specialists, firefighters, machinists, readiness experts, power production workers, explosive ordnance experts, and environmental specialists that make up Westover's CE units.

Buddy LaFleur, chief of construction, received the award at a November command civil engineers conference at AFRC headquarters at Robins AFB, Ga.

Leroy Clink, a base civil engineer for 14 years, said the award honors CE for all of the effort they put into Westover.

"Receiving the award is proof that CE is appreciated," he said.

Myron Popowski, CE's chief of resources, echoed Clink's comments and offered some insights as to why CE won the award.



File photo

GOING UP - Members of the 439th Civil Engineer Squadron build the pavilion behind wing headquarters during the summer of 2003. They are, from left, MSgt. James M. Serra, SSgt. Daniel R. Robichaud, and SMSgt. Dawn S. Schile. More than 240 reservists and civilians combine to form the Westover CE team, which is responsible for the upkeep of the nation's largest Air Force Reserve base.

"The impact of the hard work and the dedication of the civil engineering organization and squadron were clearly visible to Headquarters AFRC/CE. All CE and CES members worked very hard to achieve this award," Mr. Popowski said.

A CE reservist credited the knowledge and job support of the military and civilian CE areas.

"We have a lot of talented, smart people here and a lot of good training. That's why we perform very well," said MSgt. Michael Paquette, an electrical shop supervisor.

CE's commander, Lt. Col. Paul T. Babin Jr., cited the units' background and work ethic as the key to their success by saying the troops are very knowledgeable in their respective fields and work very hard to get the job done.

Indeed they did. The Patriot Wing's CE

experts made numerous accomplishments in 2003, highlighted by some key events.

In support of America's war on terrorism, CE deployed three members from its explosive ordnance unit to Iraq and mobilized five EOD technicians in response to Operation Noble Eagle. In Iraq, CE's troops cleared and disposed of more than 4,500 ordnances at and around an Iraqi airfield. In addition, EOD's 1st Lt. Jason E. Rose was hand-picked for deployment to Air Combat Command's Headquarters staff at Langley AFB, Va., in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Humanitarian projects, community service, and enhancing the environment were CE hallmarks as well in 2003.

CE deployed 45 engineers to Gallup, N.M., to build five homes for Navajo Indian

see CE continued on Page 5

Aerial port members team up to help quake victims

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Westover aerial porters, who worked with just a few hours of advance notice, loaded more than 20 tons of cargo onto a C-17 in December to help the people of a country ravaged by a catastrophic earthquake.

Twelve aerial porters from the 42nd and 58th APS joined forces to get a Massachusetts emergency medical team on their way to Iran on Dec. 27 from Westover.

Sixty doctors and other medical experts left the base aboard the C-17 for the

Middle East country, which suffered the earthquake just hours after Christmas.

The aerial porters only had hours to prepare for the operation, said TSgt. Janet L. Walker, who works in the 42nd APS air terminal operations center. The reservists came from both the 42nd and 58th APS.

An 8 a.m. phone call notified the squadrons that the C-17 was on its way from Charleston AFB, S.C., Sergeant Walker said. That meant the aerial porters had to work quickly to be ready. The cargo had to be unloaded from trucks and then placed on the pallets onto the big airlifter, which was on its way to Europe from Charleston AFB,

S.C. Supplies placed on four pallets included power generators, bottled water, cots, tents, sleeping bags, and meals ready-to-eat (MRE's).

Amid the Christmas holidays and a weekend that most expected to be quiet, the aerial porters originally anticipated they would complete some training, Sergeant Walker said. They normally report on non-UTA weekends as part of a mission support team.

This time around, a real world event took the place of the training. "This happened to make their whole weekend worthwhile," she said.

Medical units earn multiple honors

AMDS, ASTS gather eight awards at command luncheon

by TSgt. Andrew Reitano

The 439th Airlift Wing walked away with eight awards at the Air Force Reserve Command Medical Awards Luncheon held in San Antonio, Texas in November 2003.

Both the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron earned unit awards as well as three individual awards each for 2002.



Colonel Chartoff

Lt. Col. Stanley E. Chartoff won the Outstanding Reserve Officer Assigned to an Aeromedical Staging Squadron. Colonel Chartoff deployed in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

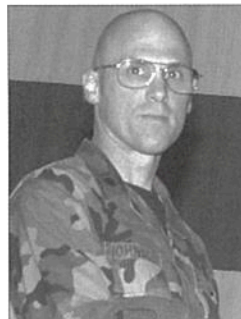
The award for Outstanding Air Reserve Technician Noncommissioned Officer Assigned to an Aeromedical Staging Squadron went to **MSgt. William J. Forbes**, who deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003. Sergeant Forbes deployed to Ramstein AB for eight months to support a CCATT at the Germany base.

SSgt. Joseph T. Dordine Jr. was the Outstanding Reserve Noncommissioned Officer Assigned to an Aeromedical Staging Squadron Award.

With the activation of the 439th Air Base Clinic, all assigned AMDS personnel provided customer service in occupational health, aerospace medicine, immunizations, audiology, dental, clinical laboratory, logistics, and medical intelligence in addition to 24/7 on-call cov-

erage for temporary duty personnel, aircrew support, and deployments.

Lt. Col. Steven A. Johnson captured the Outstanding Reserve Officer Assigned to a Non-Deployable Medical Unit category. Colonel Johnson, the sole dental officer activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom for the 439th Airlift Wing, handled a variety of taskings to support Westover's activated reservists that included



Colonel Johnson

dental screenings, referrals, and informing reservists about the Tricare benefits program.

The Outstanding Air Reserve Technician Noncommissioned Officer Assigned to a Non-Deployable Medical Unit Award went to **CMSgt. George J. Kudla**. The chief helped plan the air base clinic concept in support of Operation Enduring Freedom throughout 2002.

SrA. Cynthia L. Lapriore received the Outstanding Reserve Airman Assigned to a Non-Deployable Medical Unit Award. Airman Lapriore was activated throughout 2002 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Patriot Wing medical specialist earns German Army badge

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

MSgt. Jeffrey Picard of the 439th AMDS returned home from Ramstein Air Base with a unique honor presented to him by a German colonel recognizing him as an honorary German Army medical technician.

Sergeant Picard, who serves here as a biomedical equipment craftsman, deployed to Ramstein from last March to November to assist in the medical staging and evacuation of patients from the Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom AOR. He was part of a medical contingent of 439th ASTS and other medical specialists who ran a Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF).

Using his skills as a medical technician and EMT specialist, Sergeant Picard

helped move patients from the Ramstein flightline to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, five kilometers south of Ramstein, and eventual evacuation to Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

During that period, American POWs returned home through Ramstein and Landstuhl. Picard was involved in the aeromedical evacuation of United Nations employees injured in the terror bombing of the UN Baghdad headquarters.

Sergeant Picard was among a handful of medical specialists selected by a German Army flight surgeon to be honored for exceptional performance. The German colonel gave him the medical technician badge worn by German soldiers. With it came a certificate, acknowledging Sergeant Picard's "excellent medical and professional care" in support of NATO and German patients.

Sergeant Picard is employed as a biomedical equipment specialist at Bay State Medical Center in Springfield.



Sergeant Picard

BRONZE continued from Page 1

Iraqi Freedom build-up after a Red Horse squadron improved the runway.

The climate on the low-lying island is hot and humid, but Sergeant Bates gave credit to a great MWR program, including sports events and holiday celebrations, that made life easier. The toughest part of the deployment was missing all the big holidays. He was also overseas during his daughter's birthday and his own.

Sergeant Bates serves as the 439th SFS Air Reserve Technician Training NCO. He served on active duty for six years, including in Germany and Alaska, and has served at Westover for 12 years.

Suspended from a red, white and blue ribbon, the Bronze Star is embossed on the front with a small star and on the other side with the commendation, "Heroic or Meritori-

ous Achievement." The Bronze Star is the 10th highest citation awarded by the Air Force. In order of precedence, it is just behind the Airman's Medal and ahead of the Purple Heart.

The Bronze Star has been awarded in connection with military operations against an armed enemy since it was authorized by President Roosevelt in World War II.

AES nurse runs medical facility in Djibouti

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

While the Air Force has sent many reservists to the more well-known fronts in the war on terror, a 439th AES flight nurse is carrying on in a location that many might know even exists.

Capt. Denise A. Claffey is deployed to Djibouti, Africa. The country is located near a more well-known neighbor, Somalia, on the eastern side of the continent.

Captain Claffey is part of a three-person air evacuation crew working in Djibouti, about 20 miles east of Mogadishu. She spoke about her deployment mission and living conditions by telephone in December.

"When someone gets injured, we help get the people taken care of," she said. "In the event the need arises to air evac a patient, the attending physician notifies me."

She communicates with the military doctor about the patient's diagnosis, classification, destination for the a medical facility, and whether the movement of the patient is urgent, priority, or routine.

In fact, Captain Claffey recently helped get a man with chest pains quickly onto an Air Force aircraft that was already ready to take off.

"The only opportune aircraft was a C-20," she said in a January e-mail. "I was told about the patient while I was at chow; I sent the crew to get ready and I went to the hospital."

The captain saw the only aircraft she could get the man out on warming up on the flight line.

"I was thinking, OK, if this is urgent, this is the plane I'm using. I got to the hospital to find both doctors very concerned! It was a guy having chest pain ... I told them I needed to know if they wanted this guy out of here."

The doctors nodded.

"So I called the (control) tower and told them who I was and that we had an urgent mission and I needed that plane to turn around. Well, they turned around without any questions. It was pretty awesome. The plane was on its way to a

location about three hours from here."

Captain Claffey is on duty 24 hours per day, seven days per week. "We live and sleep in a tent. Being co-located with work makes it easier," she said. "I get a lot of exercise working around here."

In her civilian life, the captain is a diabetes nurse at the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston.

"My employer has been very supportive," she said. "There is

some similarity between my civilian job and what I'm doing here. We have treated people here with Type 2 diabetes."

The captain hopes to come home by mid-March, but admitted she wasn't sure if that was a definite just yet. "I don't know who my replacement is going to be," she said.

About 2,000 military people make up the Joint Task Force at Camp Lemonier.



Courtesy photo

WIRED - Capt. Denise A. Claffey, 439th AES, stands in front of concertina wire at her deployed location at Camp Lemonier in Djibouti, Africa. Captain Claffey said one of the most challenging aspects of her deployment was shaking off the jet lag when she arrived for duty after flying halfway around the world.

"There are a lot of reserve and guard. We're a tight-knit family here," she said. The captain is among about 50 Air Force people assigned.

Halfway around the world from home, she thinks about her family a lot. Captain Claffey's parents live in Vermont. Being so far away has its difficult moments, she said, but the most trying were when she first arrived in Djibouti.

"It's tough in the beginning because of the time change," she said. "Your body is so messed up when you first get here. The morale phone calls are really good."

The odor of burning trash wafts over her every night from a nearby town, but she puts her living situation in perspective.

"They burn trash every night," Captain Claffey said. "There is a nice little haze over the camp each night. Overall the camp conditions are very good. They keep the showers clean. It's kind of a nice treat."



U.S. Department of State graphic

CE continued from Page 3

families. More than 4,500 man-hours within a month was expended in support of the Southwest Indian Foundation projects.

Locally, CE reduced air pollution and saved taxpayers money when they converted the base heating system into a cleaner and more cost effective system.

They completed a controlled burn of 60 acres on base successfully in April 2003. The burn was designed to encourage the nesting habitat of endangered bird species at Westover.

CE recycled 66 tons of paper, 32 tons of cardboard, 51 tons of scrap metal, 32 tons of glass, plastic, and metal, and 68 tons of wood of the base's waste products in fiscal year 2003.

The Patriot Wing's CE organizations also proved they could

handle emergencies quickly and effectively. They responded to two major fuel spills from C-5 aircraft and prevented injury to persons, property damage, and harm to the environment.

The efficient response of CE firefighters to a hangar fire last fall not only greatly reduced damage to the burning hangar, but extinguished any potential damage to neighboring hangars.

"Based on its long list of successes, it's clear that both the civilian CE unit and the reservist CE squadron accomplished plenty throughout 2003," said Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander. "Judging them independently would be impressive alone, but when judging them collectively, one thing becomes obvious, they're the best."

Aerial port deployers come home from this ...



Courtesy photo

Deployed members of the 42nd APS stand with a sign that shows the dangers of the area they worked at for four months in Uzbekistan. From left are, (top row) SrA. Christopher P. Harry, TSgt. Kevin R. Nee, MSgt. Andrew P. McGovern, TSgt. Michael J. Downs, and CMSgt. Bruce L. Westcott. Bottom row: TSgt. Danial C. Breckinridge and MSgt. James P. Garrity.



photo by SrA. Michael Lanza

HUGS – TSgt. Mark R. Farrington gets a hug from wife Monique and son Michael shortly after stepping off the bus that picked up the aerial porters from the C-5.

... to this!



photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

DOUBLE-TAKE - CMSgt. Bruce L. Westcott, NCOIC of the deployed aerial porters, pauses for a smile after locating his wife, Donna, shortly after his arrival at Westover. The chief said Mrs. Westcott, who previously had blonde hair, dyed her hair red while he was away on the four-month deployment.



photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

GIVING HIM A HAND - MSgt. Albert Hayford shakes hands with Col. Thomas A. Mauzaka, special assistant to the wing commander, as Col. Dana S. Marsh, 439th Mission Support Group commander, and Lt. Col. Thomas G. Clark, 42nd APS commander, wait their turn.



TELL US MORE - With his American flag glistening in the rays of the sun, SrA. Christopher Harry explains his deployment duties to Springfield TV reporter Michelle Brown from Channel 40. Airman Harry also met Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld during his deployment.

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Arriving just ahead of Santa Claus, more than 20 members of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron touched down on Dec. 19 to their delighted families.

The aerial porters, who arrived in a Patriot Wing C-5, stepped off a stairway to handshakes from senior leadership of the 439th Airlift Wing, and faced cameras and microphones from local media. Across the flight line, anxious families lined up outside the passenger terminal in Hangar 3 and waited for their loved ones.

As the bus wheeled its way around the parking area near the terminal, wives and children cheered. Many of them held onto colorful welcome home signs.

Photographers and news cameramen worked their way in between the reunited families to capture the emotion of the moment. Long hugs, kisses and a few tears quieted the crowd until everyone prepared to head home from the base.

The aerial porters were deployed for four months in Uzbekistan, Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, and Al-Udeid AB, Kuwait.

CMSgt. Bruce L. Westcott, NCOIC of the aerial porters in Uzbekistan, said it was longest deployment in his career, but also one of the most memorable. The pace of the work and the quality of life were among the highlights, he said.

"We handled an average of 12 aircraft per day," Chief Westcott said. "There were a lot of C-130s and C-17s and some Russian aircraft too. And it was the best food in the AOR." On some days, the menu included steak and lobster.



photos by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

HUGS FOR ALL - SrA. Timothy Bishins tries to hug his family all at once after arriving at Westover on Dec. 19. Airman Bishins' wife, Denise, holds daughter, Megan, who proudly eyes her dad while clutching her American flags.

2004 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

Years of Service

	Under 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over 26
O-7	858.76	898.64	917.12	931.80	958.32	984.56	1,014.92	1,045.20	1,075.56	1,170.92	1,251.48	1,251.48	1,251.48	1,251.48	1,257.80
O-6	636.48	699.24	745.12	745.12	747.96	780.00	784.28	784.28	828.84	907.64	953.88	1,000.12	1,026.44	1,053.04	1,104.72
O-5	530.60	597.72	639.12	646.88	672.64	688.16	722.12	747.04	779.20	828.48	851.96	875.12	901.44	901.44	901.44
O-4	457.80	529.96	565.32	573.20	606.04	641.24	685.04	719.20	742.88	756.48	764.40	764.40	764.40	764.40	764.40
O-3	402.52	456.32	492.52	536.96	562.68	590.88	609.16	639.24	654.84	654.84	654.84	654.84	654.84	654.84	654.84
O-2	347.76	396.08	456.20	471.60	481.32	481.32	481.32	481.32	481.32	481.32	481.27	481.27	481.27	481.27	481.27
O-1	301.92	314.20	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80
O-3E	0	0	0	536.96	562.68	590.88	609.16	639.24	664.56	679.04	698.84	0	0	0	0
O-2E	0	0	0	471.60	481.32	496.64	522.48	542.48	557.36	557.36	557.36	0	0	0	0
O-1E	0	0	0	379.80	405.64	420.60	435.92	450.96	471.60	471.60	471.60	0	0	0	0
E-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	502.56	513.96	528.32	545.24	562.20	589.48	612.56	636.88	673.96
E-8	0	0	0	0	0	411.40	429.60	440.84	454.36	469.00	495.40	508.76	531.52	544.16	575.24
E-7	286.00	312.16	324.08	339.96	352.28	373.52	385.48	397.36	418.64	429.28	439.40	445.56	466.40	479.88	514.00
E-6	247.40	272.16	284.16	295.84	308.00	335.48	346.16	358.04	368.44	372.12	374.64	374.64	374.64	374.64	374.64
E-5	226.68	241.80	253.48	265.48	284.08	300.12	311.96	315.72	315.72	315.72	315.72	315.72	315.72	315.72	315.72
E-4	207.76	218.44	230.24	241.88	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20
E-3	187.60	199.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40
E-2	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36

Civilian pay chart*

Annual Rates by Grade and Step

*This will be effective until whether Congress passes the Omnibus bill, at which point an additional increase might be effective.

GRADE	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6	STEP 7	STEP 8	STEP 9	STEP 10
GS-1	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,568	\$ 18,133	\$ 18,695	\$ 19,262	\$ 19,595	\$ 20,152	\$ 20,715	\$ 20,738	\$ 21,263
2	19,115	19,568	20,202	20,738	20,969	21,585	22,202	22,818	23,435	24,051
3	20,855	21,550	22,245	22,939	23,634	24,329	25,023	25,718	26,413	27,107
4	23,412	24,192	24,973	25,753	26,534	27,314	28,095	28,876	29,656	30,437
5	26,195	27,068	27,941	28,814	29,687	30,560	31,433	32,306	33,179	34,052
6	29,198	30,171	31,144	32,118	33,091	34,064	35,037	36,010	36,984	37,957
7	32,447	33,528	34,609	35,690	36,771	37,852	38,933	40,014	41,095	42,177
8	35,933	37,131	38,329	39,527	40,724	41,922	43,120	44,318	45,516	46,713
9	39,690	41,013	42,336	43,659	44,983	46,306	47,629	48,953	50,276	51,599
10	43,708	45,164	46,621	48,077	49,534	50,990	52,447	53,903	55,360	56,816
11	48,022	49,623	51,224	52,824	54,425	56,026	57,627	59,227	60,828	62,429
12	57,556	59,475	61,394	63,313	65,232	67,150	69,069	70,988	72,907	74,826
13	68,443	70,724	73,005	75,286	77,567	79,848	82,129	84,410	86,691	88,973
14	80,880	83,576	86,272	88,968	91,664	94,360	97,056	99,753	102,449	105,145
15	95,136	98,308	101,480	104,652	107,823	110,995	114,167	117,338	120,510	123,682

Articles for Patriot due by end of A UTA

Articles for the *Patriot* should be sent to the 439th AW Public Affairs Office by 4 p.m. of the Sunday of each A UTA, which is the deadline for each issue.

The PA staff plans each issue of the *Patriot* one month in advance.

Submissions, suggestions, and story ideas are welcome. Please send those to 439Patriot.Editor@westover.af.mil

For more information, call PA at Ext. 2020.

PATRIOT FOR THE PATRIOTS—SrA. Michael Hackett (third from right), Patriot Wing Honor Guard, marches with a joint-service color guard onto the Gillette Stadium field during a pregame ceremony for the New England Patriots on Dec. 27. The Patriots football team hosted more than 75 servicemembers in Foxboro, Mass., from all of the U.S. services at the game to show their appreciation for those who deployed overseas supporting operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.



photo by TSgt. Eric Grill, Hanscom AFB Public Affairs

Motorists urged to use caution when filling gas tanks

The 439th AW Safety Office staff reminds base shoppette customers to avoid problems with static electricity at gas pumps.

"Our shoppette gas station is a very busy place, and sometimes people can get in too much of a hurry while filling their gas tanks," said Lt. Col. David T. Moore, Chief of Safety. "Shoppette customers need to exercise extra care, especially when they step out of their cars to begin pumping gas, because that's when static electricity can build up."

In fact, according to Army and Air Force Exchange officials, in many parts of the country, static electricity build-up is most likely to occur during the fall and winter months, when the air is cool or cold and dry—the typical climate conditions for static electricity.

Static electricity can build up when a

motorist exits or re-enters the vehicle during fueling. Upon returning to the vehicle's fill pipe during or at the end of refueling, the motorist may experience a static discharge at the fill point, which may cause a flash fire or small sustained fire with gasoline refueling vapors.

Static electricity-related fires have occurred at AAFES' and other retail gasoline outlets. According to the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI), such incidents are on the increase.

To date, over 150 incidents have been reported to PEI that have resulted in numerous injuries, property damage and one fatality.

Motorists can avoid static electricity problems by staying outside the vehicle while

refueling. It may be very tempting to get back in the car during extremely cold weather, but the average fill-up only takes around two minutes. Staying outside the vehicle will greatly reduce the chance of any static electricity build-up that could be discharged at the nozzle.

In the rare event a motorist does experience a fire while refueling, it's important to remember to leave the nozzle in the fill pipe of the vehicle and back away from it. Motorists should immediately notify the station attendant to shut off all dispensing devices and pumps with emergency controls.

For more information, call the Westover safety office at Ext. 3587.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some of this information was also provided by AAFES News Service.

Feedback helps squadron maintain services programs

In February, the 439th Services Squadron will distribute the Headquarters Air Force Services Customer Feedback Survey to all personnel at Westover.

As part of this project, active duty enlisted personnel, officers, DoD civilians, reservists, and retirees who live in the local area will be asked about their perception of the quality of Westover's services programs and activities.

Survey packages will be mailed directly to all military members at their home residences. Civilians will receive the survey at their offices.

All surveys will include a pre-addressed return envelope to be returned through the base distribution system. Participation in the survey is voluntary and employee personal identification is not required.

The 439th SVS members encourage Westover people to participate in this survey. The feedback is essential in assisting the squadron to address and improve services programs and facilities on base.

Any questions can be directed to Sharon Coprich at the fitness center at Ext. 2845.

Patriot Wing runs toward fitness goals in 2004

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

by Maj. Patrick Ryan

George Carlin once spoke about his hatred of the slogan, "Lead, Follow, or Get out of the Way." He announced he'd choose option four: obstruct.

Now what does that have to do with the new fitness standards directed from Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper?

In a word – everything.

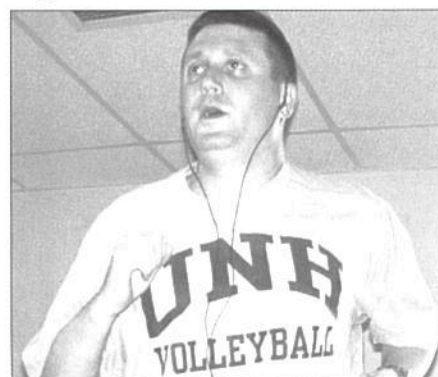
For those who don't know, I recently became the fitness program manager for Westover. I have the exact same qualifications as all of you having to

comply with this new program. In other words, we're in this together and we're going into new frontiers.

The command chose Westover as the pilot base for the program for all of AFRC. Once again we lead the way. The benefit is we can make sure the program works in the unique world of the reserve. The drawback is we have to make it work for the reserve.

More than anything else the program will rest on your shoulders as an individual. The units, the fitness center staff, and the wing leadership will all give you every chance to succeed, but ultimately, the will to make this program work rests with each of us as Air Force professionals.

These monthly columns on fitness will include tips, strategies, and hints on



Major Ryan

how to make this transition easier. We'll also provide guest columnists and expert opinion.

It's going to be a hard road, but just like everything else, Westover people take the lead. I'm assuming the best because you folks deliver it every single time.

So to close, look out George, your choice to obstruct is about to get trampled by 3,000 dedicated Patriot Wing members stampeding toward a goal of getting fit.

Fitness center has new hours

The following are new hours for the fitness center:

Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; non-UTA Saturdays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; closed on non-UTA Sundays and holidays; UTA weekends: Saturdays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sundays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The fitness center is located on Patriot Avenue. For more information, call the center staff at Ext. 3958.



photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Richard L. Miesel (left) and his wife, Amy Beth, and their son, Anthony, talk with Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, following the chaplain's retirement at the base chapel on Dec. 10. Chaplain Miesel served in the Air Force Reserve for 20 years, with all of that time spent at Westover. He worked his way up through the ranks starting as a junior chaplain in the spring of 1983, and later became senior Protestant chaplain. In 1996, he became the wing chaplain. Chaplain Miesel retired on Dec. 31.

Readiness staff offers tips on handling suspicious packages

The staff of the 439th Mission Support Group Readiness Office offer these tips when handling what might appear to be a suspicious package:

- Do not open the envelope or package.
- Do not carry the package or envelope, show it to others, or allow others to examine it.
- Do not sniff, touch, taste or look closely at contents that may have spilled.
- Do not shake or empty the contents of any suspicious package or envelope.
- Do not move the envelope or package.
- Cover the envelope or package with a container or place in a plastic bag to prevent leakage of contents.
- If possible, shut off fans or ventilation system.
- Alert others in the area about the suspicious package. Leave the area, gently close any doors, and take actions to prevent others from entering the area.
- Notify your supervisor and remain in a nearby location to reduce potential exposures.
- Call 911 from an on-base phone.
- Wash hands with soap and water to prevent spreading exposure.
- List all people that came in contact with the suspicious envelope or package or were in the area when the package was identified.

For more information on package handling, call the readiness staff at Ext. 3808.

Patriot People

Name: Kathy L. Scholpp
Rank: TSgt.
Age: 46
Address: Montgomery, Mass.
Unit: 439th LRS
Position: Vehicle operator/dispatcher
Civilian position: Letter carrier
Favorite food: Cackleberries
Years of service: 26
Favorite sport: Foosball
Favorite hobby: River explorations by canoe
Ideal vacation: We kayak the Everglades
Best way to relax: With my husband and young family
Preferred entertainment: The birdfeeder after a blizzard
Favorite hero: Emmanuel
Favorite music: 91.1 mHz at 6 a.m. Sunday for three hours
Favorite movie: The Blues Brothers
Favorite aircraft: Stearman
Pet peeve: Finding the flag up ... and no letter!
What would I do if I won \$1 million: Harness a river, be a power company, and send WMELCO a monthly bill



photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

TSgt. Kathy L. Scholpp

Patriot Praises

Promotions:

Col. Joel S. Bogner
 Col. Christine A. Grylik
 Col. James R. Hosey Jr.
 Col. Michael B. Kohut
 Col. Theresa A. Negrón
 Col. Robert A. Sousa

SMSgt. Daniel P. Berry
 SMSgt. Stephen C. Mueller

MSgt. Michael R. Bellerose
 MSgt. Vincent T. Bovino
 MSgt. James M. Bowler
 MSgt. Timothy G. Brock
 MSgt. Paul E. Cyr
 MSgt. Kevin E. Kroyman
 MSgt. Joshua O. Lambert
 MSgt. Henry C. Lojkuc
 MSgt. Jeffrey C. Otis
 MSgt. Shawn K. Snay
 MSgt. David A. Steiner
 MSgt. Karl E. Sweikhart
 MSgt. Melissa Tavilla

TSgt. Louis G. Beaudoin
 TSgt. Cheryl L. Mottershead
 TSgt. Edward Parson
 TSgt. Ava M. Swedock

TSgt. Stephan J. Werner

SSgt. Timothy R. Bishins
 SSgt. Richard Byrd
 SSgt. Jeffrey T. Chamberlain
 SSgt. Matthew B. Dallachie
 SSgt. Richard D. Desousa
 SSgt. Barrington G. A. Dyer
 SSgt. Jose Gonzalez
 SSgt. Christy M. Manning
 SSgt. Michael R. Rosan
 SSgt. Kennedy C. Smedo
 SSgt. Laura A. Tardif

SrA. Benjamin Chambersmaher
 SrA. Mariah A. Dion
 SrA. Ashley L. Grant
 SrA. Adrianna N. Grijalva
 SrA. Michael Hyde
 SrA. Wendell D. Mendoza
 SrA. Sean C. Oconnor
 SrA. Leah O'leary
 SrA. Joaquin A. Rojas
 SrA. Erin M. Ronca
 SrA. Michael P. Schmitt
 SrA. Cory M. Schumacher
 SrA. Janice D. Swift
 SrA. Christopher J. Traietti
 SrA. Courtney K. Voiland

A1C Evelyn C. Albarran
 A1C Robert J. Avery Jr.
 A1C Daniel C. Orcutt

NCO Academy Graduate:
 TSgt. Howard Blackwood

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Theresa A. Negrón*
 MSgt. Michael J. Healy
 MSgt. Stephen A. Perreault
 TSgt. Francis L. Riel

Air Force Commendation Medal

SMSgt. Paul J. Servant
 MSgt. James H. Ferry
 MSgt. David E. Levreault
 MSgt. James P. Scott
 MSgt. Robert J. Smith**
 TSgt. Frederick W. Bushnell**

TSgt. Todd A. Chaffee
 TSgt. Mark S. Conover
 TSgt. Vanessa V. Simmons*
 TSgt. John R. Tanguay
 TSgt. James N. Weagle
 SSgt. Jonathan M. Labier
 SSgt. Bruce R. Lamay, Sr.

Joint Service Achievement Medal

SrA. Mary E. Gallagher

*First oak leaf cluster

**Second oak leaf cluster

New 'drop down' barriers add security at Westover Road gate

Reservists passing through the Westover Main Gate on the January UTA saw a pair of recently installed "drop down" gates which are the most recent in a series of upgrades of security incorporating high technology.

The new gates are part of a Department of Defense-wide program to harness the most advanced technology to the security mission.

Dubbed "leap ahead technology," the security effort is designed to give force protection specialists greater control with new tools such as barriers, wide angle surveillance system cameras, video motion and more.

The pair of new drop down gates are positioned at the in-bound and out-bound lanes of the main gate. Both are routinely kept up, but are positioned so they can be

immediately dropped to close the lanes to an adversary attempting to push onto Westover or flee off base.

"The drop down barriers are designed to give force protection greater control without slowing down traffic either way. All bases will have something similar," said MSgt. Scott C. Daigneault, 439th Security Forces Squadron anti-terrorism force protection project manager.

Employers can see wing mission up close on June 24

by Gordon Newell

Members of the 439th Airlift Wing will once again have the opportunity to invite their employer to spend the day at Westover this summer.

Employer Appreciation Day has been scheduled for June 24. Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, encourages all wing members to take part in the annual event.

"I am very supportive of Employer Appreciation Day," he said. "Continued

employer support is critical to our mission and never more so than today. Ask your boss to spend the day with us. I'm certain that they will have a greater admiration for what we do if they get to see it first-hand."

To have invitations sent to their bosses, reservists should fill out the application form that appears on this page and return it to the Public Affairs office. A letter will then be sent from the wing commander to each employer.

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

After welcoming remarks from the wing commander, 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. After the flight (which will last about two hours) they will be luncheon guests of Colonel Farris at the club.

After lunch, a tour of a maintenance facility will be offered.

Reservists who wish to join their employers for lunch must pay in advance. The price will be announced in the *Patriot* 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.

June 24 - Employer Appreciation Day

Reservist's name, rank and unit: _____

Reservist's home address: _____

Reservist's daytime telephone number: _____

Employer's name and title: _____

Employer's company name/address: _____

Lunch for employer: YES _____ NO _____

Lunch for reservist: YES _____ NO _____

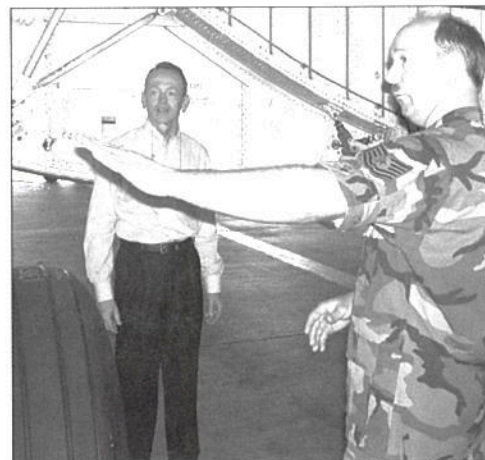
I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature _____

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

Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103
Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825



File photo

TSgt. Andrew T. Rivet, 439th MXS, describes the C-5's landing gear to Charles Mason, chief executive officer of Mason and Madison, a Connecticut public relations company, during last year's Employer Appreciation Day held in June. The 439th AW has scheduled another Employer Appreciation Day for June 24.

PATRIOT

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

February UTA schedule

A UTA Feb. 7-8

B UTA Feb. 21-22



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

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Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. Dana A. Dupuis, East Longmeadow, Mass., and 2,427 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.