



BRONZE BRAVERY - Five Patriot Wing members earned Bronze Stars for their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. From left to right are Master Sgt. Paul S. Veresko, Lt. Col. Christopher D. Kreig, Col. James R. Hosey, Tech. Sgt. John L. Szafko, and Lt. Col. Thomas G. Clark. For more on the Bronze Star recipients, turn to Page 3.

- photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

ESGR keeps rapport with employers

EDITOR'S NOTE: Col. William Anholt, 439th Maintenance Group commander, is also the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve representative for Westover. His article below explains what the organization is about. For more information about ESGR, call Colonel Anholt at Ext. 3816 or Master Sgt. Richard Gheen at Ext. 3440.

The mission of the ESGR is simple:

"Gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve." The ESGR offers this advice to head off problems at the unit level:

Communication. In today's lean times, very few employers can afford extra employees. When the reservist is gone, the employer has to figure out how pick up the load. While the law protects the reservist, he or she needs to protect their employer by keeping them informed of military schedules and giving as much notice as possible.

Teamwork. As reservists we enjoy tremendous public support and respect. I believe most employers share this view and are proud to lend their support. Reservists need to keep both their military chain of command and civilian supervisors involved. Open communication between the employer and commander with a willingness to work together can make the reservists life much easier.

Recognition. There are various awards at both the state and federal level to recognize those employers who support the troops. The ESGR provides an easy to use web site (www.esgr.org) to nominate your employer. Employers appreciate the formal recognition and feeling they are part of the team. Informal recognition, such as having a flag flown in their honor and presenting it with a certificate, can mean a lot to an employer. All the employers I visit truly appreciate recognition for the contributions they make by supporting our reservists.

Even with the best of communication and partnership between the reservist and the employer, questions and concerns do arise related to the consequences of military service. Your first approach should be to talk with your employer. Most often, a calm, objective discussion can lead to a workable solution if it is conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation. If you cannot find a solution, talk with your commander for advice and support. Even with their focus on mission, commanders have a vested, long-range interest in their people. Many times, your commander can suggest compromises or alternatives that will satisfy everyone's needs. If these attempts don't succeed, try the ESGR. While ESGR is not an enforcement agency and does not offer legal counsel or advice, they informally resolve more than 95 percent of requests for assistance. Dedicated reservists from Westover are serving around the world. With the continued support and cooperation of their employers, reservists can perform their military duties and our national defense will remain strong and ready.



Colonel Anholt

Briefs

Former commander nominated for 2nd star

WASHINGTON – A former 439th Airlift Wing commander was among seven Air Force Reserve brigadier generals and 14 colonels nominated by the president Nov. 26 for promotion to the next higher rank.

Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, director of operations at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, was promoted to major general.

General Mazick commanded the 439th AW from March 1999 to August 2003.

The promotions were to take effect upon U.S. Senate confirmation and by direction of the chief of Air Force Reserve.

(by staff and AFRC News Service)



General Mazick

Finance office, fitness center staffs relocate

The finance staff has temporarily moved to Bldg. 5600 at 751 Airlift Drive while its offices in Bldg. 1800 are being renovated. The staff does not expect to return to Bldg. 1800 until June. Phone numbers for each of the finance offices are the same.

The fitness center on Patriot Avenue has closed temporarily for renovations. Its temporary location is Bldg. 5102, located behind the base dining facility on Galaxy Road across from the base exchange. The fitness center's main number is Ext. 3958.

AFRC commander to speak at dining-In

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, commander of Air Force Reserve Command, will be the guest speaker at the Combat Dining-In set for the April A UTA. The Dining-In is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. April 9 in the Base Hangar.

This is the first time a sitting commander of Westover's gaining command has visited the base in its 30 years as an Air Force Reserve installation. More information will be available in the *Patriot* as soon as it becomes available.

January 2005

PATRIOT

Volume 32
Number 1

"This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *PATRIOT* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force."

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

439th Airlift Wing commander

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

Air Reserve Technician/Co-editor

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

NCOIC

Senior Master Sgt. Sandi M. Michon

Deputy NCOIC

Master Sgt. Tom N. Allocco

Illustrator

Master Sgt. W.C. Pope



Staff

Master Sgt. Anne C. Ward
Staff Sgt. Paul N. Flipse
Senior Airman Tom R. Ouellette
Senior Airman Michael S. Lanza

Administration

Staff Sgt. Mary E. Gallagher
Stephen P. Lambert

439Patriot.Editor@westover.af.mil

- (413) 557-3500 -

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

Six members earn Bronze Stars for service in Iraq

Six Patriot Wing members who earned one of the most prestigious medals in the United States military were honored at the December Commander's Call.

Five of the six members each received their medals from Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander Dec. 4 in the Base Hangar. Those honored were: Col. James R. Hosey, Lt. Cols. Thomas G. Clark and Christopher D. Kreig, Master Sgt. Paul S. Veresko, and Tech. Sgt. John L. Szafko. Each Airman's citation noted that the deployment took place in the midst of dangerous conditions including hostile fire and mortar attacks.

Each earned their Bronze Stars for their service to the United States while assigned to Baghdad International Airport during the opening months of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

Colonel Hosey, from West Yarmouth, Mass., is now the 439th AW vice commander. He was the 439th Tanker Airlift Control Element (TALCE) commander at Baghdad IAP.

Colonel Clark, 42nd APS commander, was commander of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group at Baghdad IAP. He lives in Nashua, N.H.

Colonel Kreig was 439th Tanker Airlift Control Element Operations Officer at Baghdad IAP. He is from Plattsburgh, N.Y. He is now commander of the 439th Airlift Control Flight.

Sergeant Veresko, from Johnston, R.I., was deployed as an airfield management craftsman with the 439th TALCE. He is also assigned to the ALCF.

Sergeant Szafko lives in Milford, Conn. He was a ramp coordinator with the 439th TALCE. He is a loadmaster with the 337th Airlift Squadron.

The sixth Airman, Senior Master Sgt. Tracey L. Turner, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, is scheduled to receive his Bronze Star in January.

One of the Airmen was glad to perform an important mission and to be able to bring everyone home. "We all went over there and everybody came back with ten fingers and ten toes," Colonel Kreig said. "It was a life-changing event." TV crews and newspaper outlets throughout New England covered the December Commander's



photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

MEDIA MAN – Tech. Sgt. John L. Szafko, 337th Airlift Squadron, talks with local media at the December Commander's Call. Sergeant Szafko was among six Airmen who earned the Bronze Star medal for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

Call awards. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to an individual who, while serving in or with the military of the United States, distinguishes him or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement service while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force.

President Roosevelt first authorized the Bronze Star Medal by Executive Order 9419 on Feb. 9, 1944. At that time, he made the medal retroactive to Dec. 7, 1941 to acknowledge the bravery displayed by military members during the Pearl Harbor attack on Hawaii.

January brings pay, benefits hike for military

WASHINGTON – Military people will receive a pay hike. If they qualify, they'll get larger re-up bonuses.

Reservists activated for 90 days or more can apply for extra money for college and continuing family health care.

These and other benefits are in the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act. The president signed the \$421 billion defense bill into law Oct. 28. The bill OK'd \$2.24 billion for Air Force Reserve Command to train reservists and run the command. A 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise starts Jan. 1.

Bonus authority goes up for people to enlist and reenlist in the Reserve. For ex-

ample, people with no previous military service who qualify for a 6-year enlistment bonus may receive up to a maximum of \$10,000. The same bonus in 2004 was \$8,000. Other examples of the changes are available in the Selected Reserve 2005 Enlistment/Reenlistment Bonuses chart. Reservists can take a lump sum payment or installments.

People who go to college full time using the current Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill draw a max of \$288 a month. That's equal to 29 percent of the active-duty program's \$1,004 per month.

Reservists activated to fight the war on terror can get more. Full-time students draw \$402 a month for 90 days to a year of service, \$602 for 1-2 years and \$803 for more than 2 years. The act makes early and transitional health care permanent for reservists activated for contingency support. People called up for more than 90 days can earn eligibility for Tricare standard family health care. For each 90 days of contingency support since Sept. 11, 2001, they are eligible

for a full year of coverage if they stay in the Selected Reserve.

Some programs won't begin immediately. For example, Congress wants the new Tricare standard enrollment program to start by April 25. Another change permanently sets family separation pay at \$250 per month. Also fixed is the increase in hostile fire and imminent danger pay to \$225 per month.

Air reserve technicians who perform the same job as civilians and reservists can take up to 44 days of military leave for overseas duty. The old law limited the leave to peacetime work. The new law permits the use of the leave to fight the war on terror.

Reservists no longer need to serve their last six years in the Air Force Reserve to qualify for a non-regular (reserve) retirement. Although reserve retirees can shop at the commissary and base exchange as soon as they retire, they don't start drawing retirement pay until age 60.

(AFRC News Service)

Wing honors year's top Patriots

Seven members recognized for exceptional service



Major Mellor



Sergeant Dunfield



Sergeant Feltner

Seven people with the 439th Airlift Wing took top honors as the yearly winners for the wing.

Maj. Calvin A. Mellor, chief of readiness with the 439th Aeromedical

Evacuation Squadron, is the Company Grade Officer of the Year.

Senior Master Sgt. Michelle M. Dunfield, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, is the First Sergeant of the Year.



Airman Carlin

Master Sgt. Wilbert Feltner, an aircraft hydraulic systems craftsman with the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is the Senior NCO of the Year. Master Sgt. Richard Chapp, a



Ruth Parker

cardiopulmonary technician with the 439th ASTS, is the NCO of the Year. Sergeant Chapp was still deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany with the in December.

Senior Airman Patrick Carlin, a medical technician with the 439th ASTS, is the Airman of the Year. An article featuring the Airman is on the next page. He was promoted to staff sergeant in

January while still deployed in Kuwait.



Patrick Conway

Ruth A. Parker, 439th Operations Support Squadron chief host aviation resource manager, is the Civilian Supervisor of the Year. Patrick Conway, 439th ASTS, is the Civilian Employee of the Year. Mr. Conway was an air reserve technician and technical sergeant with ASTS. He recently retired from civil service and moved to the Midwest.



Sergeant Chapp



ASTS med tech earns recognition from top leaders

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

When the top civilian leader, general and NCO of the Air Force tell you that you are doing a good job, then you have something to always remember. Staff Sgt. Patrick J. Carlin will come home from an Iraqi Freedom deployment with heirloom quality mementoes after receiving Air Force coins from the senior leadership of the Air Force at Ali-Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait.

Sergeant Carlin is a medical technician who was called out for special recognition when the Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche (recently retired); Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper; and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray toured the base in November. The three senior Air Force leaders each presented their personal Air Force coins to Sergeant Carlin in a surprise show of appreciation of his service during three Iraqi Freedom tours since 2003.

"They came through and toured our facility. I was called to meet them, but I wasn't expecting to receive anything special," Sergeant Carlin said. "They were very friendly. They asked me about how everyone was doing. They talked about patients I had treated. They checked up on them. They thanked me."

Sergeant Carlin is among 20 members of the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron who arrived at Ali Al-Salem in early September to serve a 120-day Iraqi Freedom deployment.

They are serving with the 386th Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility which maintains treatment of patients during aerial evacuation from forward hospitals to Germany on C-130s, C-141s, C-17s and other aircraft. They normally hold patients for about 72 hours and provide such routine care as changing bandages and monitoring vital signs. Sergeant Carlin's duties include checking vehicles which move patients. "We're

"They were very friendly. They asked me about how everyone was doing. They talked about patients I had treated. They checked up on them. They thanked me."

***-- Staff Sgt. Patrick Carlin,
439th ASTS***

always busy," he said.

The deployment to Ali-Al Salem is Sergeant Carlin's third overseas deployment. He earned an Air Force Achievement Medal during a tour at Baghdad and Balad Air Base between February and June 2004. At Balad, he was part of a rescue team of medical specialists who went into the tent city following a mortar attack. One airman was killed and two others wounded, including one who lost his foot.

He described the events in an e-mail.

"On that night we had been in alarm red almost all day and all night. We had been given permission to go out in alarm red to retrieve patients from the helo pad down the street. While out at the helo pad we had a few incoming mortars that landed within the field where we were located. When we got back to the CASF, we came out of alarm red and a few of us stepped outside. As we were standing outside talking, a couple of us saw a mortar hit a tent right across from the street from us. We all ran inside and grabbed medical supplies off the shelves. We were then given permission to go into tent city to provide medical treatment. There were a couple people that had been sleeping in the tent," he wrote.

In Iraq he was treated for glass in his eye after the windshield of his HUMVEE was cracked by what some investigators believe was a bullet while he was on the perimeter road of the airport.

Sergeant Carlin first went overseas in support of Iraqi Freedom in March 2003, when he served at Ramstein AB, Germany for most of the year.



Courtesy photo

MEETING THE LEADERS - Staff Sgt. (then Senior Airman) Patrick J. Carlin, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron stands with senior Air Force leadership in November 2004 at Ali-Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait. Flanking Airman Carlin from left to right are former Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper.

Mobility reminders

- Obtain a myPay personal identification number (PIN) to access your military pay account. The myPay web site is <https://mypay.dfas.mil>

- Settle any government credit card bills

- Upon notice of deployment con-

sider establishing "accrual travel payments" to help you pay your travel expenses while deployed.

For more information, contact the finance office or visit the virtual MPF web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This information*

was provided in the Airman's Manual. It is a handy reference guide available to all Airmen.

This column provides general mobility information to assist reservists.

Specific questions should be directed to unit deployment managers.

Key Family program organizes, gathers momentum

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A volunteer-driven program is gathering momentum while helping keep the spirits up of families whose loved ones are deployed across the world.

The Key Family Member Program, begun in September 2004 at Westover, now includes more than 40 volunteers. These men and women comprise reservists and family members of Patriot Wing reservists who use "phone trees" to talk with people whose husbands or wives are deployed.

With more than 300 reservists assigned to locations thousands of miles from New England, the moral support has resulted in at least one deployed reservist sending his thanks through an e-mail to one of the volunteers. "It's good to know the term 'Team Westover' doesn't just apply to members deployed here in the AOR and that their families look out for one another all the same," said Airman 1st Class Jeremy LaPlante, a Patriot Wing civil engineer assigned to a Southwest Asia base.

Kim Farris, wife of Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, chairs the KFMP. At the encouragement of Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, Mrs. Farris and Laura Coseglia provided an overview of the KFMP to AFRC leadership and family support directors reserve-wide during a family support conference at Air Force Reserve Command headquarters in late November. Ms. Coseglia is the family support director at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y.

"I explained how this program enables our volunteers to reach out and touch the families," Mrs. Farris said. "It went over very well." She and Colonel Farris will be briefing AFRC wing commanders and their spouses later this spring.

Mrs. Farris told General Batbie about how Westover volunteers had joined forces to get the KFMP organized with a computer program. "I briefed the general on the program created by Chief (David) Carbin and Master Sgt. Kym Shultz," Mrs. Farris said. "General Batbie took particular note of the Westover

Information

The next Key Family Member Program meetings will be held Jan. 12 at 10 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. (for day and evening convenience) in the wing commander's conference room in wing headquarters. For more information, call the Westover Family Support Center at Ext. 3024 or 1-866-690-2161.

program. He was impressed how the volunteers really stepped up to the plate."

Chief Carbin, 439th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, applied his computer knowledge with Sergeant Shultz and spent about a week devising the system which culls statistics on wing members from a database. "It's a tracking program," the chief said. "I just wanted to help make people's jobs easier." The computer program provides accurate service member information to KFMP volunteers while servicemember privacy is carefully considered.

Recruiters pitch referral program to 439th reservists

Recruiters with the 439th Airlift Wing are pitching the 'Get One' program to reservists as a way to keep numbers up.

"The recruiters are doing an awesome job, but we need your help," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert R. Starkey, senior Westover recruiter. Reservists are reminded it's a step toward bringing in the right people to the Patriot Wing. "All we want is a referral," Chief Starkey said. "We don't want them to qualify people – just refer them."

The Get One program is the number one program for sources of recruits, Chief Starkey said.

"We want people you know in our organization," said Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander. "The 439th is well-known throughout the military."

The *Patriot* will feature articles and information periodically to remind reservists about the 'Get One' program. "We want to keep it fresh in the reservists' minds," Chief Starkey said. A list of some of the incentives is as follows:

Quarterly awards:

MOST REFERRALS

- Early sign out, one hour, choice of month and coordinated with supervisor
- T-shirt and hat (provided by recruiting)

In order to compete for the local incentives 'Get One' referrals need to be sent to Patricia Simonds at the Westover recruiting office. There are three ways the information may be sent:

1. Call Mrs. Simonds at (413) 557-2125 or DSN 589-2125 let her know you have a 'Get One'
2. E-mail: Patricia.Simonds@Westover.af.mil
3. Or fax the information below to: 413-557-2126 or DSN 589-2126

For more information on the Get One program, call Master Sgt. Richard C. Roneree, wing recruiter. He may be reached at (781) 377-7883, cell (339) 223-0368, or e-mail, Richard.Roneree@Hanscom.af.mil.

REFERRAL INFORMATION

First name, middle initial, last name: _____
 Street address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home phone number: _____

YOUR INFORMATION

First name, middle initial, last name: _____
 Street address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home phone number: _____ Unit: _____
 Status (Traditional reservist, air reserve technician, etc.): _____
 Date of birth: _____ Rank: _____

- Certificate (signed by Colonel Farris)

- *MOST ACCESSED WITHIN THE QUARTER:*

1. Upgrade to chief/DV suite at billeting for one drill weekend
2. Certificate (signed by Colonel Farris)
3. Commander's Coin

Annual awards - Two categories: A squadron Traveling Trophy has been added that will be presented to the squadron commander.

- *MOST REFERRALS FOR THE YEAR*

1. Certificate (signed by Colonel Farris)
2. Base exchange gift certificate (\$25)
3. Chief's Group Award

- *MOST ACCESSED FOR THE YEAR*

- Among what this individual will receive:
- 1. Certificate (signed by Colonel Farris)
- 2. BX gift certificate (\$50)
- 3. SIMULATOR RIDE/ C-5 INCENTIVE RIDE

New chiefs carry on old rite of passage

Article and photo
by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

The newly-announced Patriot Wing chiefs aren't just wearing new stripes.

They are also carrying around a reproduction of a time-honored military tradition.

How can you spot a new chief?

He or she is the one carrying and closely safeguarding a toy 1/48th scale model jeep for the next two months. What does a jeep have to do with chief promotions?

Jeeps are a small but very significant symbol – part of a centuries-old initiation ritual now bestowed on Westover's newest, most junior ranking chief master sergeants.

Not to be taken lightly, the jeep represents the assumed responsibilities of being promoted to the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force.

"Being promoted to chief is the pinnacle of an enlisted career with sometimes daunting responsibilities and challenges," said Chief Master Sgt. Frank M. Puopolo, 439th Security Forces Squadron enlisted manager, who was inducted while deployed overseas.



JEEP CHIEF - A new Westover chief master sergeant will carry this 1/48th scale model jeep with him or her to announce their attainment of the highest grade in the enlisted ranks of the Air Force.

It was his idea to initiate the custom here through the Westover Chiefs Council.

"The Jeep Chief initiation is meant to be a humbling experience and reality check," he said. "It is a reminder to stay grounded and focused on the end goal – our people and mission. We achieve such milestones in our careers because of a team effort from the people who work for us and with us. Taking care of the jeep symbolizes taking care of the troops who got us here."

The Jeep Chief Award has been an Air Force custom since the late 1940s and is practiced at most Air Force installations, including Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. Originally adopted by the Navy as part of the chief petty officer initiation, the heritage dates back to the 1800s. Though the Navy uses various emblems and ceremonies, the Air Force adopted the jeep as its icon.

During the ritual, managing and protecting the jeep is conducted in the same manner supervisors care for their troops while on duty 24/7. Paperwork and instructions are provided. Like regulations and technical orders, there are penalties for non-compliance. Rules include the following:

- The Jeep Chief is charged with updating a daily log
- Collecting Words of Wisdom from unit commanders
- Keeping the jeep in view and within arms reach at all times
- Participation by wing members is encouraged and base personnel are charged with capturing the jeep when left unattended (no physical contact or altercations allowed).

"It's a fun tradition, a little rite of passage, so to speak," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey B. Sherwin with a smile. He was inducted in 2001 into the Jeep Chiefs for four months when he was selected command chief of the 439th Airlift Wing.

Civic duty



photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

CIVIC PRIDE - Civic leaders from the Springfield area tour Keesler AFB, Miss., Nov. 19. This visit at a specially-modified C-130 Hercules was among the group's many stops during a two-day visit with the 403rd Wing, the "Hurricane Hunters." The 27 leaders also visited a technical school dormitory, a K-9 training demonstration, and the Combat Readiness Training Center at nearby Gulfport, Miss. The group traveled to Mississippi aboard a Patriot Wing C-5 flown by Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, and aircrew members with the 337th Airlift Squadron. The trip was a chance for the group to see the Air Force Reserve up close and to understand how it supports the Air Force in national defense.

List shows bonus AFSC list in effect through April 2005

The following are specific bonus Air Force Specialty Codes for the 439th Airlift Wing for Oct. 1, 2004 to April 30, 2005. Questions may be directed to Master Sgt. Lori M. Boucher, wing career assistance advisor, at Ext. 3435.

AFSC	DUTY TITLE	2A571	Aerospace Maintenance	3E0X2	Electrical Power Production
1A1X1	Flight Engineer	2A6X1A	Aerospace Propulsion	3E3X1	Structural
1C0X1	Airfield Management	2A6X2	Aerospace Ground Equipment	3E7X1	Fire Protection
1N0X1	Intelligence Applications	2A6X4	Aircraft Fuel Systems	3E8X1	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
2A5X3A	Integrated Avionics Systems	2A6X5	Aircraft Hydraulics Systems	3M0X1	Services
2A5X3B	Integrated Avionic Systems	2A6X6	Aircraft Electrical/Environmental Systems	3P0X1	Security Forces
2A551J	Aerospace Maintenance	2A7X2	Nondestructive Inspection	3P0X1B	Security Forces
		2A7X3	Aircraft Structural Maintenance	3S0X1	Personnel
		2A7X4	Survival Equipment	4A0X1	Health Services
		2F0X1	Fuels		Management
		2R0X1	Maintenance Management Analyst	4A1X1	Medical Material
		2R1X1	Maintenance Production Management	4D0X1	Diet Therapy
		2T2X1	Transportation	4N0X1	Medical Service
		3A0X1	Information Management	X4N0X1	Medical Service
				4Y0X1	Dental Assistant
				6F0X1	Financial Management & Comptroller

NCO leadership program enrolls future leaders

Article and photo
by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

It's one of the flagship programs that represent Westover's stellar reputation in the Air Force Reserve.

The Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Development Course, held twice each year at Westover, has enrolled the largest classes in the command in recent years.

But last year, that began to change.

"The numbers started declining the last two years," said Senior Master Sgt. Kristine M. Seney, chief of education and training with the 439th Mission Support Squadron's military personnel flight. "I think deployments may have something to do with it."

Keeping long-range planning in mind, Sergeant Seney and her staff want to remind commanders, first sergeants and, most importantly the people who benefit from NCOLDP – mid-level NCOs.

Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Development Program

- Earns two credits in management which can be applied toward a Community College of the Air Force degree
- When: Twice per year
- Where: Civilian personnel conference room, Bldg. 1850 (wing headquarters)
- Who: For eligible staff sergeants and technical sergeants; taught by civilian and Air Force Reserve Command instructors
- Information: Tech. Sgt. Dawn Scaff, Ext. 3439; Air Force Reserve Command Professional Development web site: https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/hq/dp/dpi/home/Professional_Development_Center.htm

Although NCOLDP is not a required part of military education, NCOs who have taken the course have come away with a greater understanding of being a supervisor, said Tech. Sgt. Dawn E. Scaff, formal schools administrator.

"Students learn not only a lot about how to be better supervisors; they learn about themselves as people," she said. "It helps you understand yourself and other people. You work as a team. It allows people to think outside the box. Sometimes we become so wrapped up in our own squadrons that we don't see the big picture."

Two NCOLDP classes are usually held in the spring and fall of each fiscal year. The first five days include three with a civilian instructor. The other two cover the B UTA weekend and are staffed with military instructors. The instructors are senior NCOs who teach about military supervisory and team-building exercises. Students perform role-playing exercises to test each others' supervisory skills.

Tech. Sgt. Richard McLean, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, was class leader for the most recent class which wrapped up in November 2004. One of the most things he learned was the importance of team-building.

"The team-building showed that you need to consider what people can contribute," Sergeant McLean said. In his civilian life, Sergeant McLean is an employee relations specialist in the workforce effectiveness division for Electronics Systems Command at Hanscom AFB, Mass.

"The class was very appropriate for my civilian leadership skills," he said. Back at Westover as a reservist, he'll be able apply the skills too. "I'll exercise my leadership



STEP BY STEP - Tech. Sgt. Richard McLean assists a blindfolded Tech. Sgt. Thomas Beaudry as he walks amid a "minefield" of soft drink cans. Staff Sgt. Randy King, right, observes the team-building exercise during the November NCOLDP class.

skills in my functional area – which is special handling of cargo."

Sergeant McLean said NCOLDP reinforced teamwork among the class members, whose ages and experience levels varied. "We

NCOLDP continued on Page 9

Civilian instructor 'pays back' military with teaching



LEADERSHIP TRAINING - Carmen Brickner has taught the civilian portion of NCOLDP at Westover for more than eight years. She helps Westover's future leaders understand themselves as people through team-building projects and other teamwork exercises.

Article and photo
by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Carmen Brickner teaches NCOs as a tribute to her father. "This is because my dad was in the Air Force," she said. "This is my payback." Ms. Brickner's father retired as a chief master sergeant from the Air Force in the 1960s.

Ms. Brickner is the civilian instructor who picks the brains of mid-level noncommissioned officers at Westover to find about more about them – so the NCOs can learn about themselves.

Ms. Brickner spends three days for each phase of the class with the NCOs. For the past eight years, she has commuted to Westover from West Hartford, Conn., to teach management and leadership skills.

Originally an accountant, Ms. Brickner eventually found people more interesting than adding up revenues. "It was my natural tendency to find a mentally logical way to handle all these business systems," she said. "I got people adapted to using business systems, and helped them understand what they needed."

BRICKNER continued on Page 9

Health care improves for reservists, families

WASHINGTON – Reservists and guardsmen are getting improved family health care for fighting the war on terror.

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2005 makes other reserve Tricare options permanent. Last year's defense bill temporarily authorized these benefits.

The president signed the act into law Oct. 28.

Congress wanted to make it easier for military people in Air Force Reserve Command and the other reserve components to get health care.

In the past, reservists and their families could use Tricare for up to 90 days before the reservists were activated if they were scheduled to go on active duty for a contingency for more than 30 days. The new law makes this option permanent.

In addition, the Transitional Assistance Management Program became permanent. The program offers 180 days of transitional health care after reservists deactivate.

People called up after Sept. 11, 2001, who served or will serve continuously in a contingency for 90 days or more, may buy standard healthcare coverage for themselves or the entire family after they demobilize. Coverage begins when the 180 days of transitional care ends.

To qualify, people must agree to serve for one year or more in the Selected Reserve after their active duty ends. They get one year of coverage for every year of commitment. If they got off active duty before Oct. 28 or get off within 180 days of that date, they have one year to sign up for the program. Congress ordered the new Tricare standard enrollment program to start by April 26, 2005. For more information, go to the reserve affairs Web site at <http://www.defenselink.mil/ra>.

(AFRC News Service from a Defense Department news release)

Members can manage Tricare through web, phone

A recent downsize of activated members at the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron has resulted in no Tricare representative available at Westover, said Maj. Elaine Tucci, AMDS officer in charge.

Reservists can manage all Tricare business either online, by phone or through the nearest Tricare Service Center at Hanscom AFB, Mass. Its hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Bldg 1900, Room 330.

Health Net Federal Services is the current Tricare contractor in the North Region. Their website is: <http://www.healthnetfederalservices.com>. The toll free number is (877) 874-2273.

The 439th AMDS still has Tricare information available at its medical facility on Walker Avenue. Major Tucci outlined some important items for reservists:

- Any member on active duty for 31 days or more, must enroll in TRICARE and use a Tricare PCM for all care (initial assessment, treatment, referrals for specialists, referrals for PT, etc) arising from a

Line of Duty related to the current period of active duty.

- In order for reservists to enroll, active-duty orders must be updated in DEERS, which will make reservists eligible for Tricare medical, dental and pharmacy Benefits. If enrolling family members, reservists should make sure they are also in DEERS as listed dependents.

When enrolling, Westover reservists must choose Prime Remote Enrollment, since the nearest active duty location is more than 50 miles from the base.

Once off active duty orders, reservists are eligible for Transitional Benefits. Contact the Tricare customer service phone number for details at 1-877-TRICARE.

An additional healthcare option for active duty family members is US Family Health Plan. Contact the website www.usfhp.org for eligibility and enrollment. Enrollees must reside in zip codes around designated hospitals. Check the website for details.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Health Net Services	(Tricare) (877) 874-2273
(Benefits questions, appointments, Options, Mental Health)	
Billing Problems	(877) 874-2273
Hanscom AFB Tricare Service Center.....	(781) 377-2120
DEERS	(800) 538-9552
US Family Health Plan	(800) 818-8589

WEBSITES:

Health Net Services (North Region Tricare Contractor).....	www.healthnetservices.com
TRICARE	www.tricare.osd.mil ; www.mytricare.com
Tricare Prime Remote (Active Duty only).....	www.tricare.osd.mil/remoteparticipatingpharmacies
Participating Pharmacies.....	www.express-scripts.com
Dental for Active Duty Members.....	http://mmso.med.navy.mil
United Concordia (Tricare TDP tab)	
For Reservists and Active/Reservist Family Members.....	www.ucci.com
Tricare Retiree Dental Program.....	www.ddpdelta.org
Veterans Affairs.....	www.va.gov
DEERS (address changes).....	http://www.dmdc.osd.mil

NCOLDP continued from Page 8

had a good experience level in the class," he said. "I think more people would go after the class if they knew what it was about. It was about building team spirit and

camaraderie." That teamwork goes a long way toward building future leaders, said Sergeant Seney.

"We have a program that enables NCOs to build on their careers and their self-confi-

dence as future leaders," Sergeant Seney said. "To a large extent, this course is about the future of our Air Force Reserve leadership."

BRICKNER continued from Page 8

She worked for ABB, a combustion engineering company with 240,000 employees, handling internal consulting, customer service and quality leadership. Then she started her own company in 1991.

In 1996, when one of the professors from the University of Hartford couldn't cover a Westover class, she substituted – and was asked to come back permanently. Her track record has spo-

ken for itself. She has taught more than 500 people through the years. "I can't come on base without running into someone," Ms. Brickner said. E-mails still arrive in her in box from reservists.

"People gain understanding that not everyone sees the same world. People are unique. People have a different style. We encounter the world differently. This class teaches you to have tools to dialogue misunderstandings."

Briefs

Blandford Ski area offers free lift tickets for military

Reservists can enjoy a weekend at a local ski area that will offer discounts for military members.

Operation Family Ski Weekend will be held Jan. 28-30 at the Blandford, Mass., Ski Area. Free lift tickets will be available to all military people and their families. The ski area is 30 minutes west of Springfield, Mass. Reservists can show their military IDs or family military IDs at the ticket window.

For more information, call Jay Pagluica at (413) 848-2860 or sscskicom@aol.com. The web site is www.skiblandford.org

Number provides base status in bad weather

The Westover snow line provides up to date information on the status of the base during winter weather. The phone number is (413) 557-3444.

PA, historian plan squadron photo CDs

The 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office and the wing historian are starting up a photo collection on each squadron's activities at Westover.

Plans call for the photos to be organized and placed on CDs to be made available to all wing members. PA and the historian, Tech. Sgt. Gregory Smith, will provide more details as soon as they become available.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Andrew S. Biscoe at PA at Ext. 2020.

Security forces seek reservist augmentees

The 439th Security Forces Squadron seeks reservists interested in working MPA tours from now to September. Candidates will fill gate-entry control and flight line security positions.

Priority will go to applicants available at the earliest start date. Reservists must get approval their chain of command before applying. For more information, contact Maj. Wesley A. Thiel, chief of security forces, at Ext. 3875.

Westover Patriots

AMXS helps base exceed CFC goal

As of early December, the Westover community had donated more than \$40,000 to this year's Combined Federal Campaign fund-raiser. The drive raised 17.4 percent over the record set for last year's donations, said **Tech. Sgt. Glenn G. Connon**, the CFC co-chairperson for the 2004 drive.

"Hats off to everyone who worked this campaign," said **Col. Wade Farris**, 439th Airlift Wing commander. "And special mention goes to the members in aircraft maintenance." The colonel referred to the efforts of the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. The squadron's lunch-time fund raisers collected over \$1,100 for the CFC over six weeks.

Tech. Sgt. Steven P. Allen, also with the 439th AMXS, said the squadron raised \$446 on its raffle held for the CFC. Squadron members served nearly 600 people during their fund-raiser meals.

Reservists and civilians in the **439th Civil Engineering Squadron** had the most participation in this year's campaign.

The Pioneer Valley CFC is a federal employee program that supports charity organizations through tax-deductible donations. The local CFC coordinator, Ronald T. Lavoie, praised Westover's contributions. "I think these numbers are truly fantastic! Westover's results during the last two years

reflect not only a renewed commitment to the CFC but a sophisticated level of organization and campaign administration that would be envied in any CFC campaign. There has been no comparable level of increase in the Pioneer Valley CFC in many years."

The CFC kicked off Sept. 28 with a breakfast at the Westover Club and tour of a C-5 for key workers and representatives from the charities. The campaign wrapped up Dec. 15.

Reservists volunteer time for base campaign

The following 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron members volunteered their time to raise money for the CFC:

Senior Master Sgts. Rich Coda and James Mitchell, Master Sgt. Colin Mulcahy, Tech Sgts. Erik Aktiv, Jim Baisi, Tom Budington, Ron Corliss, Randy Gray, Bob Ingerson, Mike Laffond, Shawn Manley, Christine Walas, Mark Wasuk, Mike Witt, and Bruce Yargeau; Staff Sgts. Andre Greene, Mike Olszewski, and Kevin Uva; and Senior Airmen Joanie McConnell, Jim Preston, and Derek Rogers.

Holiday meal



photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

FIRST SERVE – First Sergeants Master Sgt. John R. Monopoli, 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Master Sgt. Micheal R. Bellerose, 337th Airlift Squadron, serve up the weekend holiday meal and some cheer Dec. 5 to Senior Airman Brent Byng, 439th Communications Squadron.

Patriot People



photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

Edward F. Glaszcz

Name: Edward F. Glaszcz
Age: 55
Address: Granby, Mass.
Unit: 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Position: Bus driver/mechanic
Favorite food: Home cooked meals
Years of service: Five
Favorite sport: Football
Favorite hobby: Fishing
Ideal vacation: Cruise
Best way to relax: Ocean fishing
Preferred entertainment: Getting together with family
Favorite hero: God
Favorite music: Country
Favorite movie: Any James Bond movie
Favorite aircraft: F-16
Pet peeve: People who drive and have no patience
What would I do if I won \$1 million: I would help my two children and my seven grandchildren

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Patriot periodically features civilian employees of the 439th Airlift Wing as well as reservists. Look for more civilians to appear in this section throughout the year.

Patriot Praises

Reservists scoring more than 90 percent on their fitness tests:

Col. Dana S. Marsh (100 percent)
 Maj. Patrick Dufraine
 Tech. Sgt. Regina Erpenbeck
 Tech. Sgt. Neal G. Normandin
 Staff Sgt. Albert Nothe
 Airman 1st Class James Pinkerton (100 percent)

Promotions:

Senior master sergeant
 Richard J. Copithorne

Master sergeant
 Richard D. Chapp
 Steven O. Deleon
 Robert J. Duval
 Daniel E. Ehlers
 Matthew S. Hoagland
 Vonsicia C. Nunnally
 John A. Sandova
 William F. Vargus

Technical sergeant
 David A. Adams
 Lyle T. Armstrong
 Lawrence P. Batherwich
 Paul J. Doyon
 David C. Kibe
 Jenny M. Koester
 Kimberly L. Kopp
 James F. Lowe
 Shane W. Mortimer
 John L. Szafko Jr.
 Peter C. Zaleski

Staff sergeant
 Guy M. Benson
 Rachel Garcia
 Tracy L. Notto
 Stacey E. Phillips
 Donahue R. Pinto

Ralph L. Santiago
 Chris Tobin
 John Vitullo

Senior airman
 Evelyn C. Albarran
 Robert J. Avery Jr.
 John W. Black Jr.
 William J. Cargile
 Seth D. Christy
 Shelia Colonsatos
 Owen B. Cornwall
 Michael J. Cowley
 Amber J. Folts
 Jordan M. Leduc
 Soina K. Kumar
 Philip S. McCarthy

Kristen M. O'Connor
 Daniel C. Orcutt
 Kate J. Ouimette
 Amesia C. Pageherd
 James R. Pinkerton
 Nicole Roberson
 Jennifer Torres
 Mark E. Williams
 Alexander Zaleski

Airman first class
 Sherry, J. Amsden
 Viktor R. Del Rio
 Oliver Del Rosario
 Jeffrey T. Hill
 Andrew Hiserodt
 Myles J. Mueller

Vincent L. Thornton
 Konstantin Vayneris

Airman
 Fritz K. Barthelemy
 Cory D. Copeland
 Jessica Fontaine
 Alanna C. Williams

Newly assigned:

Lt. Col. Diane Monico
 Maj. Christopher J. Lucia

Captain
 Thomas Barry Chafe
 Eric J. Colon

Awards and Decorations

Air Force Achievement Medal

Technical sergeant

Theodore T. Daniels
 Steven L. Porteus*
 Michael L. Vogt
 Michael L. Walbridge
 Stephan J. Werner
 Daniel J. Yankruiningen

Staff sergeant

Mary E. Gallagher*
 Daniel R. Reeve

Senior airman

Chelsea A. Joyce

Nikolaus J. Schmitter

Air Force Commendation Medal

Senior master sergeant

Michelle M. Dunfield

Master sergeant

Alexander J. Abrams**

Technical sergeant

Terry G. Lovett

Staff sergeant

Mark J. Nowak*

Meritorious Service Medal

Capt. Maureen A. McCann-Howard

Chief master sergeant

John M. Budenas*
 Sharon L. Lausier*

Master sergeant

Stephen A. Perreault*

Technical sergeant

Julie A. Parker

* First oak leaf cluster

** Second oak leaf cluster

Also earning the Air Force Commendation Medal was the late Staff Sgt. Frank P. Lalli

Westover enriches economy of Western Mass.

by Gordon A. Newell

The economy of Western Massachusetts received a boost of more than \$196 million from the 439th Airlift Wing during the past fiscal year.

The fiscal impact on communities with a 50-mile radius of Westover is estimated at \$196,656,172, from Oct. 1, 2003 to Sept. 30, 2004. During the previous year, the base impact was \$183,542,883.

Col. Wade Farris, commander of Westover's 439th Airlift Wing said, "The people

that make up this installation find themselves in a position of two-fold impact. The first is the strategic support of our national security. The second is to provide fuel to the economic engine of the Pioneer Valley."

About 3,613 people are employed by the 439th AW including 2,585 Air Force reservists. There are also 766 federal employees and 262 non-appropriated fund employees who work in such areas as the base exchange, civilian contacting, the gymnasium, bowling alley, shoppette-gas station and the Westover Club.

The total payroll for the base during the period was \$107,978,709. Military salaries totaled \$65,200,313 while civil service personnel accounted for \$40,347,355 and non-appropriated fund civilians and private businesses made an additional \$2,431,041.

Another \$19,397,096 was spent on construction projects during the year while service contracts cost \$12,889,283 and \$16,955,684 went to other expenditures including temporary duty for military personnel, both at home and other sites around the world.

Using a government formula, 1,076 jobs were indirectly created in the area, resulting in another \$39,435,400.

Westover is considered to be the largest Air Force Reserve base in the country and is the closest fully operational base to Europe.

In addition to housing the 439th Airlift Wing, the base is also home to several tenant units including Marine Corps Support Squadron Six; Marine Corps Support 474, Detachment B; a Massachusetts National Guard aviation support unit; the United States Corps of Engineers, the United States Armed Forces Reserve Training Center; Maytag Aviation Services (weather contract services); Army-Air Force Exchange Service; a Reserve Readiness and Mobility Squadron; TOW Platoon, HQ 4th Marine Division; the 226th Transportation Company (U.S. Army Reserve); Griffin Services (a civilian contractor which provides various services to the base) and a military entrance processing station.

The economic impact of these units was not used in calculating the totals shown in this article.



PATRIOT

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

January UTA schedule

A UTA Jan. 8-9

B UTA Jan. 22-23



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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICOPEE, MA
PERMIT #43

Published monthly for Patriots like Staff Sgt. Raymond Harris, Springfield, Mass., and 2,358 reservists of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.