

PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing - Westover Air Reserve Base
July 2005 - Vol. 32, No. 7

WELCOME PORTERS - Members of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron are welcomed home June 7 by family members (pictured below). The aerial porters returned from a four-month deployment in Kandahar, Afghanistan. They are, from left, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Wilk, Master Sgt. Louis Curto, Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Green, Staff Sgt. Daniel Reeve, and Tech. Sgts. Dana Dupuis and Gerard Cote. Turn to Page 5 for another photo of the deployers' return.

(photos by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope)



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

Teamwork brings inspection success

Mission and people are always a delicate balancing act.

Take care of your people because we cannot do the mission without them. We support the mission because that is the very essence of why we are here.

One thing that is always constant with the mission is change. With that comes challenges and opportunities. Look into the future and you can see our plates are full. While I realize that the ops tempo has been high since the events of 9/11, we need to ramp up one more time. In August we will have more inspections on this base at one time than I can ever remember. And after a short break we will start pushing on the preparation process for the big wing ORI in August 2006.

And by the way, we will have to react to the potential addition of an Armed Forces Reserve Center as the BRAC process unfolds over the next six months. If that happens, every agency and squadron on this base will be affected and will have to react in some way. All of this will be exciting. It means a lot of hard work. The demands are numerous: new committees, re-invigoration of old committees, new regulations, potential new construction and continuing to support the war effort and keep our people trained.

With limited resources there is only one way we will meet the challenges of the mission in the future. **Teamwork** will be the way to get there. We need to find solutions that support the mission and the people. "Turf battles," and they will erupt, have to be avoided. We have to approach the issues with the attitude of how can we make it happen, not why we can't do it. And at the same time, we take care of our people.

As you get older you look back and see there were times, and they do not happen often, that were really special in your life and your military career. There are times when all the right people - and that means you - are at the right place - Westover - at the right time - which is now. Whether you realize it or not, this is one of those times. You will look back with pride and say we got it done and we did it right.

When the inspectors leave, there would be nothing greater to hear them say, "Westover has their eye squarely on the mission." I already know that. We want them to know it. Outstanding results are what you, the men and women of Westover, expect and deserve. I look forward to sharing the satisfaction of a job well done.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Turn to page 7 for some pre-inspection tips from Colonel Marten.



**Col.
Michael J.
Marten**

439th Airlift
Wing vice
commander

Briefs

IG reminds AF members about their rights

The Inspector General (IG) of the Air Force reminds members they have the right to:

- File a complaint at any level without going through their supervisory channel.
- File a complaint with an Inspector General without fear of reprisal.
- Submit complaints anonymously.
- Submit a complaint even if the member is not the wronged party or was not affected by the alleged violation.

For information, call the 439th Airlift Wing IG, Lt. Col. Patricia Evans, at Ext. 3137 or DSN 589-3137.

No sick call available at medical facility

No sick call is available at the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron's medical facility on Walker Avenue until further notice.

For further information, call Ext. 3565.

Combat arms training staff seeks instructors

The combat arms section of the 439th Security Forces Squadron seeks instructors to train Patriot Wing reservists in weapons handling and firing procedures.

For more information, call Maj. Wesley Thiel at Ext. 3875 or Chief Master Sgt. Frank Puopolo at Ext. 3976.

Range is off-limits to unauthorized people

The small arms range is off-limits to unauthorized personnel. The range is located on Training Avenue across from the Dogpatch area.

"Trespassing on the small arms range is not only illegal, it is also dangerous because of live fire," said Master Sgt. Quinn D. Moriarty, noncommissioned officer in charge of combat arms. If there is a need for valid entry in the small arms range, call the combat arms section at Ext. 2060 or the law enforcement desk at Ext. 3557.

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CSAF-directed program protects sexual assault victims

At the direction of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, Westover's senior leadership has set up a sexual assault response program to protect victims of sexual assault.

Reservists who may have been sexually assaulted while on military status can call Maj. Marie L. Dufault, an air reserve technician assigned to the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. She is the point

of contact until a permanent employee is hired at Westover as the sexual assault response coordinator (SARC).

Major Dufault may be reached at (413) 687-3543. The alternate point of contact is Maj. Diane Baynon. Her number is 413-687-3544.

Only reservists who are on active duty orders or UTA status may use the program.

Col. Michael J. Marten, 439th Airlift

Wing vice commander, said that threat of anyone being sexually assaulted is taken very seriously by all levels of Air Force leadership.

"Sexual assault is no joke," Colonel Marten said. "Your confidentiality is respected. We want people to feel comfortable using this program, should they need to."

Senator Kerry tours base



photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

SENATOR'S TOUR – Sen. John F. Kerry (D-Mass.) talks with aircrew and maintenance members during his tour of a C-5 and the Westover control tower June 2. Senator Kerry, who is also a pilot, sat in the cockpit of the C-5 during his visit to the base.

Pending BRAC approval could see \$96 million in new base construction

Base officials expect to receive up to \$96.1 million in new construction funding if the current recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure Committee (BRAC) are approved.

Funding will be used to build the proposed new Armed Forces Reserve Center that may house over 1,000 soldiers and civilian employees from several Army reserve units in Massachusetts under BRAC recommendations announced in May.

Original manpower figures stated that Westover would gain 80 Army people, however Department of Defense BRAC officials recently refined their initial assessment and stated the base would gain 150 active-duty Army, 830 Army reservists and 82 full-time unit specialists.

The Department of Defense released the list to the BRAC commission made up of independent members who are responsible for reviewing and suggesting changes to the Secretary's recommendations before forwarding them to the President by Sept. 8.

The president will have until Sept. 23 to accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety and if accepted, Congress will have 45 legislative days to reject the recommendations in their entirety or they become binding on the department.

The BRAC Web page is www.af.mil/brac

Air Force finalizes new blue and gray utility uniform

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

WASHINGTON - Blue and green tiger stripes are out; the digitized pattern with subdued green, tan, blue and gray is in.

After reviewing more than 150,000 bits of feedback throughout the initial seven-month wear test of the proposed utility uniform, Air Force leaders recently decided to eliminate the original color scheme and conduct a limited field test of the new pattern.

Special operations and survival, evasion, resistance and escape Airmen will conduct a limited wear test of the new design at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Hurlburt Field, Fla., and Fairchild AFB, Wash., in June. "The sole purpose of the test will be to see if we can add any features to the uniform to make it a better uniform in the field and to determine if the new colors (and) pattern provide camouflage protection they need in the field," said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, Air Force uniform board superintendent. Airmen

see UNIFORM continued on Page 13

Top Echelon

Patriot Wing welcomes five newest chiefs

by Staff Sgt. Thomas R. Ouellette

The Patriot Wing held a special ceremony June 4 at the Westover Club to honor its newest senior noncommissioned officers.

The first-of-its-kind event, called the Westover Chiefs' Promotion Recognition Ceremony, welcomed Glenn R. Brault, 439th Airlift Wing Finance Office; Anthony C. Colucci and Thomas V. Dzwonkus, 337th Airlift Squadron; William D. Groeber, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Dennis Leydet, 439th Communication Squadron, to the rank of chief master sergeant.

The wing's newest chiefs join an elite group. Only one percent of the total enlisted force earns this top rank. The promotees bring to 31 the number of Patriot Wing chiefs.

Eighty-five guests, wearing mess dress and formal wear, attended the induction ceremony. One of the event's most unique and memorable features, the Chief's Candle Lighting Ceremony, took place midway during the party.

The five promotees took center stage and witnessed the lighting of nine candles, aligned in ascending order with each candle representing one of the enlisted ranks. The candles serve as reminders that each rank lights the path to the next rank. Additionally, candles symbolize the promotees charge to light the way for others to follow.

The ceremony's distinguished guest was Chief Master Sgt. Troy J. McIntosh, Superintendent of the Active Guard and Reserve Management Office of the Air Force Reserve. Chief McIntosh, who visited from the Pentagon, offered praise and encouragement to the promotees during his speech to the guests.

Providing a mix of rock 'n' roll, country and pop music during the festive event was the Air Force's Band of Liberty, "After-



photo by Maj. Casey Ajalat, 439th Communications Squadron commander

CHIEF'S MOMENT - Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Dzwonkus, chief loadmaster for the 337th Airlift Squadron, wears his medal at the Chiefs' Induction Ceremony June 4 held at the Westover Club.

burner," from Hanscom AFB.

The promotees' spouses were honored as well.

"The ceremony was to celebrate the promotees formal induction into the Westover Chief's Council and to formally recognize their promotion to Chief Master Sergeant," said Chief Master Sgt. Tammy H. Vezina, 439th Mission Support Squadron. "But it was also a time to recognize their spouses for being at their side during the good times as well as the bad times. It was the spouses who cared for the families when their duties prevented them from being there."

Chief McIntosh attends chiefs' ceremony, visits Commander's Calls

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

The distinguished guest during the Chiefs' Induction ceremonies held in June was Chief Master Sgt. Troy J. McIntosh, who was at the Pentagon during the 9/11 terrorist attack and continues to serve as Superintendent of Active Guard and Reserve Management in the Office of the Air Force Reserve.

Chief McIntosh joined the Air Force in 1981 as a security specialist. In 1991 he participated as a personnel specialist in Provide Comfort I, II and III, which airlifted aid to the Kurds of northern Iraq following Desert Storm. During the 1990s he served for seven years in the Air National Guard before joining the Air Force Reserve.

The chief's military awards include the Airman's Medal in recognition for his response while stationed at the Pentagon when it was hit during the 9/11 Attack on America. One month later he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the Personnel Director, Joint Forces Special Operations Command.

see CHIEF continued on Page 5



photo by Maj. Casey Ajalat, 439th Communications Squadron commander

SPECIAL VISITOR - Chief Master Sgt. Troy J. McIntosh (far left), Superintendent of the Active Guard and Reserve Management Office of the Air Force Reserve, was the distinguished guest at the Chiefs' Induction Ceremonies June 4 at the Westover Club. Also pictured are, from left, 439th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Sherwin, Col. Belinda R. Morrone, 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron commander, and Col. James R. Hosey, retired 439th AW vice commander.

CHIEF continued from Page 4

Chief McIntosh participated in enlisted and officers' Commanders Calls while at Westover during the June A UTA. He discussed from his perspective at the Pentagon a range of current issues in affecting the Reserve forces and be an advocate for and represent enlisted members of all services of the Reserve Component.

The Reserve Enlisted Association's mission is to support national security and homeland defense, with an emphasis on readiness, training, and quality of life issues affecting the welfare of Reservists and their families and survivors. Among goals of the Reserve Enlisted Association are to enhance the image of enlisted Reservists; support programs honoring veterans and promoting patriotic activities; and strengthen positive relationships among enlisted Reservists, and military and civilian communities.

Annual membership in the Reserve Enlisted Association is staggered from \$20 for Airmen to \$40 for senior NCOs.

Here's the catch



photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery, 332nd AEW Public Affairs

CATCH THIS - Staff Sgt. John Shepard plays catch with a boy during a recent humanitarian visit to a local village. He is a chaplain's assistant with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad Air Base, Iraq. Sergeant Shepard, a chaplain's assistant with the 439th Airlift Wing, is scheduled to be deployed until September.

Home at last



photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

HUGS AT HOME – Family members of Tech. Sgt. Kathleen Busch, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, welcome the deployed reservist home from her four-month deployment in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The aerial porters came home on a Westover C-5 June 7.

Point credit summaries available electronically

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials no longer mail point credit summaries to Air Force reservists.

Guardsmen and reservists received an Air Force Form 526, Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve Point Credit Summary, annually since October 1972. They must now use the virtual military personnel flight to print a copy of their point credit information. Air Force officials are also eliminating the form itself and will no longer place it on microfilm.

As a result, point credit information will reside in data form in the military personnel data system where specialists will obtain it by pulling products from the system. They will use these products to verify reservists' service. Reservists can print their summary of points using the vMPF and maintain copies in their personal files in the same manner as leave and earnings statements and other important documents.

Whether at home, at work or while deployed, reservists have the means to access their point credit information. For more information about credit of points, reservists can call ARPC headquarters at (800) 525-0102. They can access the vMPF online at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/.

Reservists with questions may call customer service section of the military personnel flight at Ext. 3874.

Team Yankee challenges Patriot Wing medical reservists

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

In the war on terror, wounded troops are living to return to their families because the best trained medical people in the world are with them, from front line to hospital bed.

The Patriot Wing's medical teams, many of whom have served in combat zones, did a dry run rehearsal of their life-saving skills in Team Yankee exercises across Westover during the May B UTA.

The medical specialists of the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron joined other Army, Navy, Marine and civilian medical teams from across New England to practice the medical expertise needed to save troops bloodied and burned in war.

This year's Team Yankee joint training event was the 15th in the series of what the participants consider the premier military military/civilian medical exercise in New England.

The scenario started with combat in Dogpatch after which young volunteers from the Civil Air Patrol and Young Marines were moulaged to show the effects of high explosives and fire.

In the real world war on terror, from the moment troops are hit, the clock began ticking to get them initial first aid, move them to an AES mobile aerial staging facility (MASF) near the front line for stabilization to be evacuated further back to an ASTS contingency aeromedical staging facility (CASF). The primary mission of the CASF is to ensure that patients are medically and administratively prepared for flight back to permanent hospitals. In the war on terror the CASF medical teams prepare casualties to be flown to Germany or the United States.

The annual Team Yankee brings together Westover medical specialists with those from every military service branch and New England civilian disaster medical assistance



photos by Maj. Reid Squier, 439th ASTS

CARRIED AWAY - Aeromedical reservists carry a "patient" near the Base Hangar during the Team Yankee exercise held in May. They are, from left to right: Senior Airman Michael Cormier, Maj. Constance Gault, Airman Glenn Busch, and Senior Airman Kenneth Collins.

volunteers, together with C-130 Hercules and Blackhawk helicopter aircrews. The joint service nature of the exercise is considered one of the most important benefits of the training.

"It is important that we learn to work with the other services. Team Yankee is one of the only times we get to practice on the aircraft. This is what we would do in a real world situation and so it is valuable to us," said Maj. Reid A. Squier, 439th ASTS executive officer, who has trained in four Team Yankee exercises and served in Kuwait.

During Team Yankee, Major Squire directed more than 100 ASTS medical specialists in a simulated CASF operation in the Base Hangar. The doctors, nurses and medical specialists contributed to the exercise a wide range of medical experience in the war on terror.

During much of 2003 ASTS medical specialists served at Ramstein AB, Germany treating casualties evacuated from Operation Iraqi Freedom. During OIF other ASTS treated patients at a base in the Middle East. Tech. Sgt. Jenny Koester and Staff Sgt. Patrick Corliss served at Balad, Iraq in 2004. In January of this year 22 439th ASTS members returned from four months service in Kuwait.

During Team Yankee scenarios two West Virginia Air National Guard C-130s delivered 20 simulated wounded troops. Four more casualties arrived on two Army National

Guard Blackhawks evacuation missions. AES medical specialists loaded patients by litter onto the aircraft in Dogpatch. When the Hercules and Blackhawks landed near the Base Hangar, teams of ASTS litter bearers were waiting to run to the plane and move patients to cots and medical facilities in the hangar.

The 15th Team Yankee joint training event at Westover concluded with the last patients stabilized and prepared for simulated evacuation to Europe or the United States. When it was over the diverse military and civilian medical teams had reaffirmed that when troops fall in the war on terror the best trained medical specialists in the world will be there to bring them home.

"Team Yankee is one of the only times we get to practice on the aircraft. This is what we would do in a real world situation and so it is valuable to us."

-- Maj. Reid A. Squier, 439th ASTS executive officer



ALL ABOARD - Reservists take a "patient" aboard a West Virginia Air National Guard C-130 Hercules during the Team Yankee exercise at Westover.

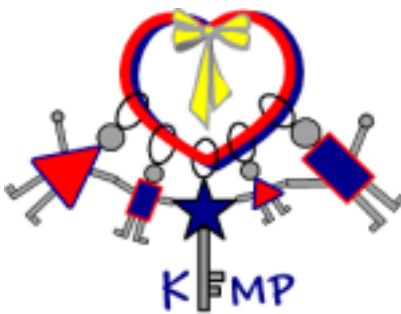
'Galaxy Adventure,' picnic set for September A UTA

The "Galaxy Adventure" will headline one of the busiest UTAs of the year in September.

"Galaxy Adventure," for school-age dependent children of Westover Air Force reservists, will be held Sept. 10 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. The Westover Family Support Center and Key Family Member Program volunteers are co-hosting the first-ever "Galaxy Adventure." This will be held the same day as the Family Day picnic.

The deadline for Westover reservists to sign up their children (between the ages of 5 and 17 years) is the end of the July B UTA. Reservists need to call the Family Support Center at (413) 557-3024 or toll-free (866) 690-2161, with their children's names and ages. The information may also be e-mailed to kimberly.babin@westover.af.mil.

Planned "Galaxy Adventure" events in-



clude tours of reservists' work areas, and a special Commander's Call for children, who will receive a Key Family Member coin from Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander. People with questions or who would like to volunteer for the morning event should call the family support center.

The Family Day Picnic will take place

from noon until 5 p.m. Sept 10. Scheduled events include hay rides, clowns, volleyball, face painting, a dunking booth, a model airplane demonstration, and much more. Family Day will take place across from the ballfields near Patriot Avenue.

Family Day is being held for all 439th Airlift Wing members and their families. The Westover Chiefs' Council organizes the bi-annual event. It is sponsored by the Galaxy Community Council. For more information on the picnic, call Chief Master Sgt. William Currier at Ext. 3521.

The wing volleyball tournament will also be held Sept. 10.

Any squadrons who wish to play should e-mail team rosters by the August B UTA to Senior Master Sgt. James Mitchell, at james.mitchell@westover.af.mil. His phone number is Ext. 3300.

Vice commander shares inspection preparation tips

by Col. Michael Marten
wing vice commander

At the end of the July A UTA we will have 21 days until the beginning of our inspection season.

All of these visits from higher headquarters will occur during the month of August - most of them during the first week.

While I know that by this time all self

inspection checklists should have been run, I am sure some last-minute items are being addressed. As overwhelming as this may seem, do not forget the basics:

Ensure proper military courtesies and customs are followed.

Make sure all members are in compliance with AFI 36-2903 (that means 35-10 for the more seasoned veterans).

And of course, make sure the shoes are shined.

In the work environment ensure that all

areas are neat and clean. Be professional and have a professional workspace.

Treat the inspectors as a guest in your home.

Make sure you highlight your benchmark programs and identify your superior performers. Remember Attitude, Attitude, Attitude. It can make the difference between a write-up and a casual observation.

Let them see that we are one team, with one mission, headed in one direction.



Weather report

WEATHER BRIEFING – Westover weather forecasters Robert Gentile, left, and Curt Osgood, explain how they forecast to students from Selser Elementary School in Chicopee during a base tour May 10. The students' visit was part of a school project. Also included in the tour was a visit to the flight line.

photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe



TAKING AIM - Students' marksmanship skills are tested at Westover's firing range, where accuracy is judged in timed sessions from multiple firing positions.



INSERT HERE- Tech. Sgt. Christopher F. Kellam, a Westover CATM instructor, teaches students weapon assembly during the three-hour classroom portion of weapons training.



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER - Reservists take apart and assemble their M-16A2 rifles.



FIRING SQUAD - Reservists check the front and rear sights on their weapons.

Ready... Aim... Fire

Security forces keep reservists aiming on target

Article and photos
by Senior Airman Michael Lanza

Deployed Airmen from across the gamut of careers are learning the importance of weapons training as they take up arms in areas of responsibility.

"We are in the military and it is possible to deploy to a hostile area. Just like you need to know how to put on chemical gear to protect yourself against chemical and biological attacks, you need to know how to defend yourself against enemy forces, which is a more common threat in today's deployed environment," said Master Sgt. Quinn D. Moriarty, noncommissioned officer in charge of the combat arms training maintenance section.

Combat Arms Training and Maintenance, or CATM, is a weapons training program run by Security Forces squadrons to ensure that every Airman is familiar with firing and maintaining their weapons.

The course includes a three-hour class on assembly, operation and the rules of engagement, and two hours at the firing range. Heavy machine guns and grenade launchers require up to six hours of training at the firing range in Fort Devens, Mass., Sergeant Moriarty said.

CATM instructors trained and qualified 1,032 reservists in 2003 on weapons including the M-16A2, M-4 carbine, M-249, M-60, M-240, M-9 pistol, M-870 shotgun and the M-203 Grenade Launcher, according to the 2003 Combat Arms Training Report.

Training frequency is based on arming groups, with a majority of reservists training every three years. Security forces members require the most frequent training at Westover, training twice a year.

101 Critical Days: Enjoy summer safely, sensibly

by Lt. Col. Patrick Cloutier
chief, wing safety

Summer is finally here and so are the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

What are the 101 Critical Days and why are they so important?

During the early 1970s, the Air Force had large numbers of fatalities throughout the summer months. The significant number of Air Force member deaths



**Colonel
Cloutier**

determined the need for a program to help reduce personnel losses; thus, the 101 Critical Days program was born. This Air Force-wide campaign has run annually since the early 1980s to counter the traditional increase in Air Force mishaps and fatalities that occur during the summer months. It runs from Memorial Day

to the end of Labor Day.

The 101 Critical Days Program is an intense safety campaign strongly supported by the Air Force Chief of Staff.

Although the Air Force maintains a vigorous safety posture throughout the year, the summer months' off-duty activities pose high risks to our people. It is only

logical that we increase our efforts to promote safety awareness and safety culture during the summer season. With involvement at all levels, this can be the safest summer ever.

Last year the Air Force lost 31 Airmen during the 101 Critical Days. Ninety percent of those were the results of off-duty mishaps. Most occurred while operating private motor vehicles. Twenty-three of those lost involved motor vehicles and 11, more than one-third, involved motorcycles.

What's killing our people?

The three critical elements are speed, night time and alcohol. During last year's 101 Critical Days, 16 of the fatalities included at least one of the factors: most had multiple factors.

How do we prevent it? I'd offer up the words of Gen. John P. Jumper as a start. He said: "Airmen, be good wingmen. Take care of each other. Step in if your wingmen need help. Enjoy the summer, but do so safely. We need every one of you. Make it a personal goal. Weigh the risk, before engaging in the activity."

We should all do that. Include your family as your wingmen. Take care of friends and family; take the keys if you have to. Think about what you are going to



do before you do it. Exercise that 101 seconds of personal risk management, then go out and have fun.

Lastly, for those of you that have a motorcycle, please take the Motorcycle Safety Foundation course. If you are on extended orders such as MPA or become activated, you must have the course in order to ride the bike, either on duty or off. Contact the Wing Safety office at Ext. 3122. We'll tell you how to get the course, and just as important, how we'll reimburse you for the cost!

Plan now for a safe summer in 2005.

Let's all enjoy the months of summer, but let's enjoy our off-duty time responsibly!

Looking out for each other helps prevent tragedy

by Chaplain (Capt.) William Wiecher
wing chaplain

According to the Center for Disease Control, currently there are slightly more than 30,000 suicides annually in the U.S.

That averages to 83 suicides per day, or one suicide every 17 minutes.

Tragically, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States. This trend has not left the Air Force Reserve community untouched. Last year, there were six suicide attempts and five completions documented by the Air Force Reserve Surgeon General.

As a community, suicide affects all of us either directly or indirectly, leading to a strong sense of loss; loss of a co-worker, husband, wife, brother, sister and or child. Moreover, suicide deprives the Air Force community of a valuable asset in time and talent. Each of us in the Air Force Reserve and at Westover has a responsibility to be aware, to care and reach out to one another, in short, to be a good wingman.

Being a good wingman means taking our suicide prevention briefings seriously. It also involves a careful learning and

growing awareness of the signs and indicators of stress, depression and possible suicide ideation.

Supervisors, co-workers, in short, the whole Westover community, has a mutual obligation to look out for one another, and to respond when one suspects the worst occurring in a fellow Patriot Wing member's life and emotional situation.

Often we are afraid to ask the question, "Are you considering suicide?" directly. However, when a caring person, even just asks the question, this will offer relief and a sense of hope for the person in despair.

Remember: How you ask the question is less important than that you ask it. Once the question has been asked, remember to take the time to listen and then most importantly, to refer them to someone who can assist them further toward the road to emotional stability.

Your willingness to listen and to help can rekindle hope, and make all the difference. Since almost all efforts to persuade someone to live instead of attempt suicide will be met with agreement and relief, do not hesitate to get involved or take the lead.

Taking such action, you as a wingman will be taking care of another and in doing so, will be a vehicle for hope and healing.



**Chaplain
Wiecher**

'Get One' nets recruits for wing

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: _____

Briefs

Chiefs' Council offers scholarships to enlisted

The Westover Chiefs' Council is offering its new enlisted scholarship program.

Citing education as vital for personal and/or technical development, the council wanted to show its support by providing three \$500 scholarships to be awarded to the winner.

Reservists assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing from airman basic through senior master sergeant are eligible to apply. They must have proof of a 3.0 grade point average. If an applicant is entering college for the first time, he or she must provide a letter of acceptance from the college.

Applicants need to complete the application form to include an essay entitled "My goals as an Air Force enlisted person."

The applicant should also include an autobiography and be recommended by a chief in the member's squadron and his or her squadron commander.

Applications must be submitted by Aug. 21 to Chief Master Sgt. Joseph J. Cullen, 439th Civil Engineer Squadron. Application forms are available through squadron chiefs. Recipients will be awarded the scholarship money in September.

Questions may be directed to Chief Master Sgt. Tammy H. Vezina at Ext. 3428 or Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood at Ext. 2876.

PATRIOT PLUNS

BY MASTER SGT. W.C. POPE



Retiree Appreciation Day to be held Sept. 10

The annual Retiree Appreciation Day, normally held in May, will be held Sept. 10 on the A UTA. Activities will take place at 10 a.m. in the Base Hangar.

For more information, please call Lisa Robert, wing protocol officer, at Ext. 3478.

Toastmasters meet on Wednesdays at club

The Westover Toastmasters Club meets each first and third Wednesdays at the Westover Club.

Toastmasters is a worldwide organization that helps people with improving their communications and leadership skills.

The Westover Toastmasters meet at 11:30 a.m. Plans call for meetings to be held later this year during A UTAs as well.

For more information on Toastmasters, e-mail Tech. Sgt. Andrew S. Biscoe at andrew24@earthlink.net.

Taking a stand

Maintenance workers move mountain of metal

Article and photo
by Staff Sgt. Tom Ouellette

Westover's massive, six-story-high stands used for inspecting C-5s have a new home, but getting them there wasn't easy.

The multi-million dollar structures, called isochronal inspection stands, needed to vacate the DC Hangar in April because of renovations there.

The 439th Maintenance Squadron's isochronal inspection team was charged with moving the thousand pounds of steel to its new home, the pull-through hangar, located on the flight line by the main runway.

"Those stands haven't moved in 15 years. We weren't sure how to get them there and we had to have them," said Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Cessna, 439th Maintenance Squadron flight chief.

Moving the multi-level stands quickly and correctly was essential. The stands "hug" a C-5 tight, engulfing every section of the aircraft to allow unlimited access. Without them, the ISO workers cannot do their jobs. C-5s require comprehensive inspections every 420 days and are grounded until the multiple tests and corresponding repairs are completed. The longer it takes ISO to do its job the longer a C-5 is grounded, possibly preventing Westover from meeting its airlift mission.

"We inspect the plane from nose-to-tail and wing-to-wing. Everything gets checked out; the hydraulics, electrical work, fuel cells, etc. One of the first things we do is remove more than 220 of a C-5's panels for inspection. That's just the beginning," said Sergeant Cessna.

Three ISO Airmen were instrumental in getting the moving process started. Master Sgt. Aidan Evelyn, Tech. Sgt. David M. Woelper and Staff Sgt. Paul Tatar grabbed tape measures and sized up the stands. They then sharpened their pencils and began drafting blueprints for the stands' new location. Once done, they placed markers on the pull-through hangar's floor so the ISO team would know exactly where to position the stands.

The measurements must be exact. The stands, which comprise of several sections, need to integrate together as one piece. "OSHA requirements say there cannot be more than two inches of separation between sections for safety reasons. They worry someone's foot may fall through the stands," said Sergeant Cessna.

Once satisfied with their blueprints, ISO began dismantling the stands. "They collapse. We took them down and we began towing each section one-by-one into the new hangar," he said.

Five ISO members, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Merchant, Tech. Sgts. Lawrence Snow, Peter Zaleski, Woelper and Sergeant Tatar, completed the job flawlessly in only seven days. ISO members said they predicted it would take longer because they anticipated



STAND UP - Maintenance workers gather near one of the towering stands that surround the C-5 once the aircraft is in the hangar. From left are, Master Sgt. Charles F. Darling, 439th Maintenance Group quality assurance; Tech. Sgt. David M. Woelper and Senior Airman Kyle M. Burton, 439th Maintenance Squadron.

many positioning adjustments.

"The stands fitted together perfectly on the first try," Sergeant Cessna said.

"The last time we did this, during the Persian Gulf War, it took us 15 days. We began this move on April 17 and were ready in time for the next scheduled C-5 inspection on May 2," said Sergeant Merchant, an ISO dock chief.

The stands were not the only thing transferred. Everything ISO has, from the office cubicles to the dozens of tool chests, had to move as well.

"We had everything in place in only 15 days. Everyone from ISO helped moving equipment," said Sergeant Merchant.

This won't be the last time the ISO unit will have to move the stands. The DC Hangar's renovations are scheduled to finish in November and the stands will move back there. "We're ready. If we could do it this time while keeping our inspections going, I don't see why we can't do it again," said Sergeant Merchant.

"The last time we did this, during the Persian Gulf War, it took us 15 days. We began this move on April 17 and were ready in time for the next scheduled C-5 inspection on May 2."

-- Senior Master Sgt. Robert Merchant

African-American woman first to command flying wing

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. – A former wing vice commander is the first African-American woman in the Air Force Reserve Command – and the Air Force – to command a flying wing.

Col. Stayce Harris accepted command of the 459th Air Refueling Wing in a ceremony here May 15.

Before replacing Brig. Gen. Richard Severson as commander of the 1,300-member wing, she was vice commander of the 507th ARW at Tinker AFB, Okla.

“I believe the Air Force and the military as a whole provides opportunities for all,” said Colonel Harris after the ceremony. “I am just an example of what we can do in the military.”

Colonel Harris was born in Los Angeles, the daughter of a career enlisted man. She gained an appreciation for travel and the military as the family moved from place to place.

In 1977, she graduated from 71st High School in Fayetteville, N.C. She was then accepted into the University of Southern California on an engineering ROTC scholarship. Colonel Harris spent her first year and a half in the Air Force as chief of industrial engineering and then as the squadron section commander of civil engineering at Hill AFB, Utah. She then attended pilot training at Williams AFB, Ariz., and became qualified in the C-141B Starlifter cargo air-

craft.

In August 1990, Colonel Harris separated from active duty and became an airline pilot for United Airlines. She flies a Boeing



photo by Maj. Rich Curry

AT THE CONTROLS - Col. Stayce D. Harris commands the 459th Air Refueling Wing which flies KC-135R Stratotankers at Andrews AFB, Md. Colonel Harris became the first African-American woman in the Air Force to command a flying wing May 15.

747-400 aircraft from the West Coast to Tokyo and Sydney, Australia.

For the last 14 years, she has balanced her Air Force career with her civilian airline career.

From April 1991 to February 1995, she was an air operations officer and C-141 pilot in the 445th Airlift Wing at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. She was a mobility force planner for the Air Force deputy chief of staff for plans and operations in the Pentagon from February 1995 to January 1997.

For the next three years, she served as an individual mobilization augmentee to the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon.

In February 2000, Colonel Harris returned to March ARB first as deputy commander of the 452nd Operations Group and then as commander of the 729th Airlift Squadron. From May 2002 to May 2005, she was vice commander of the 507th ARW at Tinker AFB.

“The Air Force has always been my passion,” she said, “so this is the job I really enjoy keeping because of the people. This is where my heart is.”

With more than 2,500 hours flying military aircraft and 8,000 hours flying for United Airlines, she will fly an abbreviated schedule with United Airlines out of Los Angeles while living in the national capital region. (AFRC News Service from a 459th ARW news release)

Ribbons on trees draw curiosity from base people

by Drew Milroy
civil engineering

Many people have noticed orange and yellow ribbons tied to trees on the urban side of Westover. Enough people have asked about the ribbons that we are providing the answer and other tree information base-wide.

The ribbons (also known as surveyor's tape) are part of a tree inventory conducted by a University of Massachusetts graduate student, Dan Lusty. Each tree is assigned a number. Most of the trees had metal tags attached in the initial inventory in 1998.

The tags have been removed from some trees, or have grown into them. The ribbons are temporary and mark the tree number until the location of the tree is recorded with a global positioning satellite system. People are

asked not to remove the ribbons. Burns and Roe, the base operating support grounds contractor, and I will use the inventory to schedule pruning and other care of the trees.

As proof of the base taking care of its natural resources, Westover received its 8th Tree City USA Award in April. This award is national recognition of the efforts of our community forestry program in 2004. Urban trees cool and beautify our base, serve as wind breaks, and help clean our air and water.

Per a declaration by Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, we celebrated Arbor Day on base in April. Matt Dodge, with our staff, had a native Sassafras tree planted in the courtyard behind Bldg. 1850.

He explained the value of native plants

and the blossoms, leaf shape, fall color, disease resistance and adaptable growth form that make Sassafras an excellent native urban tree.

Dr. David Bloniarz, US Forest Service Urban Tree expert for the northeast US, briefly discussed the importance of trees in the community setting and how to have an effective tree program. Colonel Farris commented on the value of our tree program, and other base senior leadership pitched in to help. Col. William Anholt, 439th Maintenance Group commander, Col. Dana S. Marsh, mission support group commander, and Lt. Col. Michael Kohut, 439th Operations Group, spread mulch around Westover's newest tree.

UNIFORM continued from Page 3
who participated in the initial wear test stopped wearing the more vibrant blue-green uniform March 1.

The original wear test involved more than 700 Airmen at 32 bases worldwide who kept detailed daily logs annotating likes, dis-

likes and wash-and-wear problems. They also completed three surveys. “Throughout the test, Air Force leaders actively solicited feedback from testers and observers alike to ensure this uniform developed into one that fit the needs of today's Airmen,” Sergeant Athnos said.

The uniform is scheduled to be procured in mid-2005, officials said. Airmen can expect to purchase the uniform sometime in fiscal 2007. The proposed uniform will be phased in over four or five years.

Chief retires



photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

CHIEF RETIRES - Chief Master Sgt. Chris Menard is congratulated at his retirement ceremony by Senior Airman Kate Ouimette, 439th Services Squadron. Chief Menard's retirement marked the end of his 30-year military career at Westover. The chief served as wing command chief for eight years, base administrator, enlisted quality officer, and with the services squadron, all at Westover. He remains in a civilian capacity at the base as the services director.

Wing commander honors volunteers for dedication to Patriot Wing

The 439th Airlift Wing commander honored the volunteers who contribute to the mission accomplishment of the wing May 4. Col. Wade Farris honored each of the volunteers during a ceremony held in Bldg. 1100.

"Without these people, we couldn't perform our mission here," Colonel Farris said. "Their unselfishness is appreciated by everyone on this base."

Pat Ames
Robert Baranowki
Karen Benoit
Lori Chandonnet
Margaret Cote
Shirley Demers
Charlotte Doiron
Erin Dziedzic
Pamela Fournier
Mary-Lou Goral
Suzanne Graham
Kathryn Grenier
David James
Marie Kaleta
Barbara Kovarik
Georgia Lavallee
Diane Lewandowski
Rachel Lyons
Verna McMahon
Shamus Mruk
Shannon O'Brien
Laura Pashko
Raymond Pimpare
Christine Sears
Nancy Shaw
Christina Smith
Allan Tracy
Dorothy Waite
Michael Nunziate
Clinton Driscoll
Gino Fugazzi
John E. Noonan
George Terault
Maurice Dion
Ben Madamba

Susan Austin
Christine Barry
Cecile Blustine
Scott Chapman
Melissa Cote
Bruce DeSellier
Marilyn Duff
Chris Fitzell
John Gannon
Gayle Gould
Grace Gray
Paul Grenier
Debra James
Candice Keddy
Diane Kurr
Richard Lavallee
Christopher Lizzotte
Martha Mangini
Olive Monks
William Murray
Lucille Pare
Cindy Patnode
David Rawson
Carmella Serafino
Frances Sheaffer
Frank Smith
Louise Trudeau
Delores Weise
Gino Cortesi
Walt Grunder
Virginia Tokarski
Henry E. Gadreault
Marian Paul
John Foley
Frank Monzillo

Carolyn Baranowki
Nadia Beloruski
Peggy Buoniconti
Maureen Corrow
Geri D'Agostino
Stanley Tokarski
Robert Duff
Gay Fleury
Laurence Gill
Christine Grady
Bonnie Grenier
Gloria Ilnicki
Christine Kaleta
Virginia Keddy
John Lauzon
Eileen Lepine
Malissa Lizzotte
Patricia Marois
Brendan Mruk
Lucille Niemiec
Amy Parnell
Dottie Pimpare
Susan Rutkowski
Carmelo Serafino
Daniel Sherman
Jane Socha
Clyde Waite
Frank Smith
Vic Viglione
Paul Wisniewski
Phil Knowles
Robert Stein
Ronald Akins
John Kimball
Robert Pozos

Forecaster tracks long careers of co-workers

EDITOR'S NOTE: Veteran weather forecasters Thomas L. Hinckley and Robert G. Bender retired from the weather station earlier this year after more than 30 years at Westover. The following article, written by weather forecaster Brenna MacDowell, is a tribute to the men for their service to the base.

The winds of change recently took hold of the Westover weather station with

the departure of two well-loved icons: Thomas Hinckley and Robert Bender.

Mr. Hinckley had observed at the remote observing site across the runway since July 1973. Mr. Bender joined Westover about one year after Mr. Bender. The two life-long friends monitored the weather with the precision of a well-oiled machine throughout the time they were here. The numbers of observations the two logged are close to a half million. The experience they held will be difficult to match.

Both men received weather training during the time they spent on active duty in the Air Force. They met and became friends while on remote tours in Korea.

After his year in Korea, Mr. Hinckley was stationed at Westover. After his discharge from active duty, he remained in the area to work as a civilian weather observer at Westover. Another position became available shortly after, and Mr. Bender packed up his belongings and moved to the northeast from his home in Indiana.

Mr. Bender relocated to Punta Gorda, Fla., where he purchased a home with girlfriend Donna Rokowski, to bask in the sunshine. Mr. Hinckley will remain in the area where he is lovingly known as "The Mayor" of South Hadley due to the close relations he has with the people of the small community.

Both will be missed dearly.



photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Filipse

Airman 1st Class Alana S. George

Patriot People

Name: Alana S. George

Rank: Airman 1st Class

Age: 30

Hometown: West Roxbury, Mass.

Unit: 439th Civil Engineer Squadron

Position: Information manager

Civilian position: Metered parking enforcement officer

Favorite food: Italian cuisine

Years of service: 1 ½

Favorite sport: Soccer

Favorite hobby: Dancing

Ideal vacation: Trinidad, West Indies (Caribbean)

Best way to relax: Reading

Preferred entertainment: Movies

Favorite hero: My mother Jane

Favorite music: Contemporary jazz

Favorite movie: Crimson Tide

Favorite aircraft: F-22 Raptor

Pet peeve: Giving up "easily" on the achievement of your goals

What I would do if I won \$1 million: Further my education, and establish an organization to aid the less fortunate

Patriot Praises

Reenlistments:

Technical sergeant

Scott M. Forbes
Teresa A. Fowler
John Gallagher
David R. George
Stephen P. Giordano
Eric R. Goodkowsky
Andre H. Greene
Thomas F. Griffin
Michael A. Hall
Gary R. Josefiak
Stephen F. Mello
Matt David Morgan
Craig A. Morris
Gary Alan Merritt
Christopher Pandolfi
Steven Richard Pelletier
Rebecca L. Pina
Sharon E. Silva
Richard M. Struthers
Daniel T. Sullivan
Joni M. Thomas
Richard P. Titcomb
Richard J. Towlson
Ellen M. Vanloon
William M. Watson
Debra J. Wilcox
Thomas R. Williams
Jeanpierre Wood

Staff sergeant

Orlando J. Ballestas
Guy Michael Benson
Aaron R. Charbonneau
Rebecca J. Duvall
Christian Escobar
Peter G. Gagnon
Jason A. Gendron
Russell A. Hedges

Victor M. Markey
Karla M. Mcgrath
Aluin Morales
Donahue R. Pinto
Robert Q. Steele
Paul J. Tatar II
Kerry Anne Trombly

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Jeffrey S. Mullen**
Chief Master Sgt. Tammy H. Vezina*
Senior Master Sgt. Shane C. Robitaille

Master sergeant

Joseph E. Barszcz
Joanne F. Boczanowski
Thomas A. Faraday
Karen G. Kennedy
Lawrence J. Savarese

Air Force Commendation Medal

Lt. Col. Rene A. Bloomer*
Capt. Matthew J. Russell*
Senior Master Sgt. Clifford M. Wittman**

Master Sgt. Robert S. Preble*

Technical sergeant
Robert J. Duval
Gerolyn J. Ridzon*
Phaly S. Walker

Air Force Achievement Medal

Technical sergeant
Daniel J. Foye
Heriberto Ortiz

Staff sergeant

Peter H. Lafreniere
Guy M. Benson*

* First oak leaf cluster ** Second oak leaf cluster

Jason J. Weaver
Jeffrey W. Zercie

Senior airman
Erin M. Cabral
Rafal P. Grzyb
James F. Kochis Jr

Daniel C. Lester
Eric G. Marjault
Jenny Rosanna Polanco
Marina J. Sedor
Matthew D. Shea
Michael Lovell Taylor

Patriot Wing spouses take flight over New England

Article and photo
by Staff Sgt. Tom Ouellette

The Patriot Wing sponsored a Spouses Orientation Flight May 15 to express its appreciation for the family support given to reservists.



SPOUSE FLIGHT - Martha Martel, wife of Staff Sgt. Ryan Martel, 439th Communications Squadron, listens to aircrew conversations during the May 14 spouse flight aboard a Westover C-5.

“We understand the sacrifices family members make to support us. Without you, we couldn’t do our job,” said Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, at a pre-flight briefing.

Spouse orientation flights also serve to familiarize military spouses of the Patriot Wing’s aircraft and mission and provide the opportunity to see firsthand what their spouses do every UTA. The nine family members flew for two hours aboard a C-5 over parts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The spouses encountered an in-flight treat. A KC-135 tanker from Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H., met the C-5 to practice a simulated refueling. The guests were allowed to sit in the cockpit and watch the KC-135 fly right above the C-5 and attach its boom, delighting the passengers.

“It was amazing. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity,” said Becky Thomas, wife of Master Sgt. Blain D. Thomas of the 42nd APS.

Spouses	Reservist
1. Marilyn DeTone	Lt. Col. Peter DeTone 58 th APS
2. Lynne Frappier	Senior Master Sgt. Paul Frappier 42 nd APS
3. Martha Martel	Staff Sgt. Ryan Martel 439 Communications Squadron
4. Karen O’Flaherty	Staff Sgt. Daniel O’Flaherty 42 nd APS
5. Charlotte Skawski	Chief Master Sgt. Zigmund 42nd APS
6. Chelsea Skawski (daughter)	Chief Skawski 42 nd APS
7. Gwen White	Master Sgt. Robert White 42 APS
8. Daniel Cote	Senior Master Sgt. Beverly Cote 439 th MSS
9. Becky Thomas	Master Sgt. Blain D. Thomas 42 nd APS

PATRIOT

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

July UTA schedule
A UTA July 9-10
B UTA July 23-24



439th AW/PA
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CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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Published monthly for Patriots like Tech. Sgt. Bob Serrichio, Palmer, Mass., and 2,423 reservists of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and the wing’s geographically separated unit.