

New Star

Colonel Farris selected
for promotion to
brigadier general

Story on page 5



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photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe



THE WAY TO AN AIRMAN'S HEART IS THROUGH THE MESS HALL >> Senior Master Sgt. Michael R. Brunetti, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron first sergeant, serves lunch to Tech. Sgt. Ryan M. Cool, 42nd APS. First shirts serving holiday meals is an annual holiday tradition at Westover.

EDITORIAL | Be sure your eligibility is updated before the ORI



Chief Vezina

Knowing and understanding deployment requirements is everyone's responsibility. With the IGX looming on the horizon, now is the time to ensure that all required personnel documentation is completed to achieve and maintain deployment eligibility.

The following personnel-related items will help everyone prepare for the Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI).

>> Basic eligibility requirements

Medical qualifications: Airmen in mobility status must be physically fit and cannot have medical limitations which would preclude them from performing their duties. It is your responsibility to contact medical personnel when a physical condition is detected that might limit your capability to deploy so that an AF Form 422, Physical Profile Serial Report, may be prepared.

AFSC and skill level requirements: You must have a qualifying Air Force Specialty Code and skill level

for the position in which you will be tasked. Appropriate paperwork awarding AFSC skill levels should be completed well in advance to allow time for system updates and data flow to deployment programs.

Valid security clearance or an interim clearance: You must have a current (no more than 10 years old) security clearance or obtain an interim clearance prior to deploying.

Expiration Term of Service (ETS): Anyone with an ETS expiring within 30 days after return from home station, must reenlist/extend prior to deploying or a waiver must be accomplished.

>> Mandatory documentation for mobility line processing

Your Common Access ("ID") Card (CAC): should reflect current grade and must not expire during your deployment period.

Virtual Record of Emergency Data (vRED): Emergency data card should reflect all family members and their current address. It is important to note that the Military Personnel Flight (MPF) no longer maintains copies of vREDs in its system, so you are responsible for updating your vRED in the virtual MPF when there are changes such as in marital status changes, upon the birth of a child,

death of a parent, etc. Your unit deployment manager (UDM) must have a copy to file in your mobility/deployment folder.

Identification dog tags: Each member should have two sets.

Shot records must be current and up-to-date. The flu shot is required to deploy.

>> Ensure personal affairs are in order

Comprehensive family care plans

Last will and testament

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance beneficiary information

Powers of attorney

Please do not wait until the last minute to verify your eligibility requirements or ensure your paperwork is in order. All IGX players should review their personnel data for accuracy prior to the February Initial Response Exercise to minimize unnecessary delays during deployment processing. Please contact your UDM or the personnel readiness office at the MPF to verify your deployment eligibility requirements.

Chief Master Sgt. Tammy Vezina
439th Mission Support Squadron

BRIEFS |

Quarterly winners announced

Westover's Quarterly Awards Board has selected the following fourth quarter 2006 award winners.

Airman:

Senior Airman Sean C. O'Connor, 337th Airlift Squadron

NCO:

Staff Sgt. Ryan Connolly, 439th 337th AS

Senior NCO:

Senior Master Sgt. Michael E. Thorpe, 439th Security Forces Squadron

Company Grade Officer of the Quarter:

First Lt. Maria R. Romanoff, 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Avilian:

Michael A. Wysocki, 439th Mission Support Group

Civilian Supervisor:

William J. Archambeau, 439th MSG

Patriot Wing has new public web site

A new public web site featuring the Patriot Wing includes copies of the *Patriot* newsletter, news, and links to Air Force web sites throughout the world. The address is: <http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil/>

Great New England Air Show cancelled

The Great New England Air Show will not be held at Westover in 2006 due to scheduling conflicts with the wing's Operational Readiness Inspection in August.

Barnes Air National Guard Base, located in Westfield, Mass., has scheduled its air show for June 24-25. The U.S. Navy Blue Angels flight demonstration team is scheduled to perform.

Digital yearbook submissions request

Members of the Patriot Wing are asked to provide digital photos for a CD yearbook that is being compiled by the 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office. The photos may cover such activities as deployments, changes of command, retirements, and other squadron activities during 2005. For more information, call PA at Ext. 2020.

Barber shop is open next to exchange

The Westover Barber Shop is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The barber shop is located next to the base exchange on Hercules Road. For more information, call (413) 593-1035.

Enlisted council meets each UTA

The 439th Airlift Wing Junior Enlisted Advisory Council (JEAC) meets with the wing commander each A UTA to discuss issues concerning the wing's junior enlisted members.

JEAC members are represented by all 17 squadrons on base.

The council functions as an advisory board to the commander, bringing to his attention any quality of life concerns or complaints junior enlisted members might have.

It also assists with major base events and community relations projects, such as visits to the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, Mass. The JEAC meets at 9 a.m. each Sunday of the A UTA in the wing headquarters building.

For more information, e-mail Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe at andrew.biscoe@westover.af.mil



File photo

COMMAND CHIEF >> Chief Master Sgt. Zigmund D. Skawski, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, stands at parade rest with squadron members during a change of command ceremony held in 2003 on the flight line. Chief Skawski brings more than 25 years of military experience to the senior leadership of the 439th Airlift Wing.

New command chief joins Patriot Wing senior leadership

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A former 42nd Aerial Port Squadron senior NCO begins the new year as the 439th Airlift Wing command chief master sergeant as of Jan. 1.

Chief Master Sgt. Zigmund D. Skawski was previously the air transportation manager with the 42nd APS since March 1998.

The command chief master sergeant advises the wing commander on matters influencing the health, morale, welfare and effective utilization of the more than 2,400 reservists assigned to the 439th AW. Chief Skawski is also the commander's representative to numerous committees, councils, boards and military and civilian functions.

Chief Skawski has been assigned

to Westover since 1978. His other duties have included deployments to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, as air transportation manager in 2004 and to Al-Udeid Air Base, Qatar, as chief of transportation from June to September 2002. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with one device, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and

the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with eight devices.

In 1981, he was the Air Force Reserve's Transportation Airman of the Year. He completed the Air Force Senior NCO Academy by correspondence in October 1993.

Chief Skawski lives in Suffield, Conn., with his wife, Charlotte, and their three children.

Q & A

Q. What are your goals as the new command chief master sergeant?

A. To continue the winning tradition of the 439th Airlift Wing. It may seem like a simple goal to have – simple is often best. This wing has a huge tradition of excellence, we can only get better. This is also an important year for the Patriot Wing. The coming ORI is our

report card to higher headquarters showing that we can do the job and do it right.

Q. How do you feel about being selected for the top enlisted billet on the base?

A. I feel extremely privileged to be selected command chief master sergeant. I am excited and look forward to take on such an awesome responsibility.

Q. What is your philosophy with how the enlisted force supports the mission?

A. The enlisted force needs to be well trained and highly motivated. It's really a team effort, from the airman just returned from technical school to the most senior of NCOs. This wing has consistently demonstrated its ability to work as a cohesive team over and over. Look at the many prestigious awards the wing has earned just these past few years.

Q. What will you expect from your first sergeants and senior NCOs so that you can bring issues to the wing commander's attention?

A. I expect any member of the wing to bring issues forward – not just the first sergeants and senior NCOs; there are several avenues available to wing members. In addition to the first sergeants, senior NCOs and myself, there is also the Junior Enlisted Advisor Council (JEAC). This group meets monthly with the wing commander and the command chief to bring forward quality of life concerns and issues from the junior enlisted members. I encourage all wing members to contact any of these groups with their concerns and issues. I plan to make myself readily available to any wing member; I encourage all members to contact me as I am out and about the base.



File photo

GENERATIONS OF WESTOVER GENERALS >> Maj. Gen. James Bankers, Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick stand with Col. Wade Farris during the Westover change of command ceremony in 2003. Colonel Farris will join them in becoming the eighth Westover commander to be promoted to brigadier general while serving as wing commander.

Commander selected for star

Colonel Farris to be eighth acting wing commander to make brigadier general

Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command officials announced that Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, will be promoted to brigadier general possibly as soon as spring 2006.

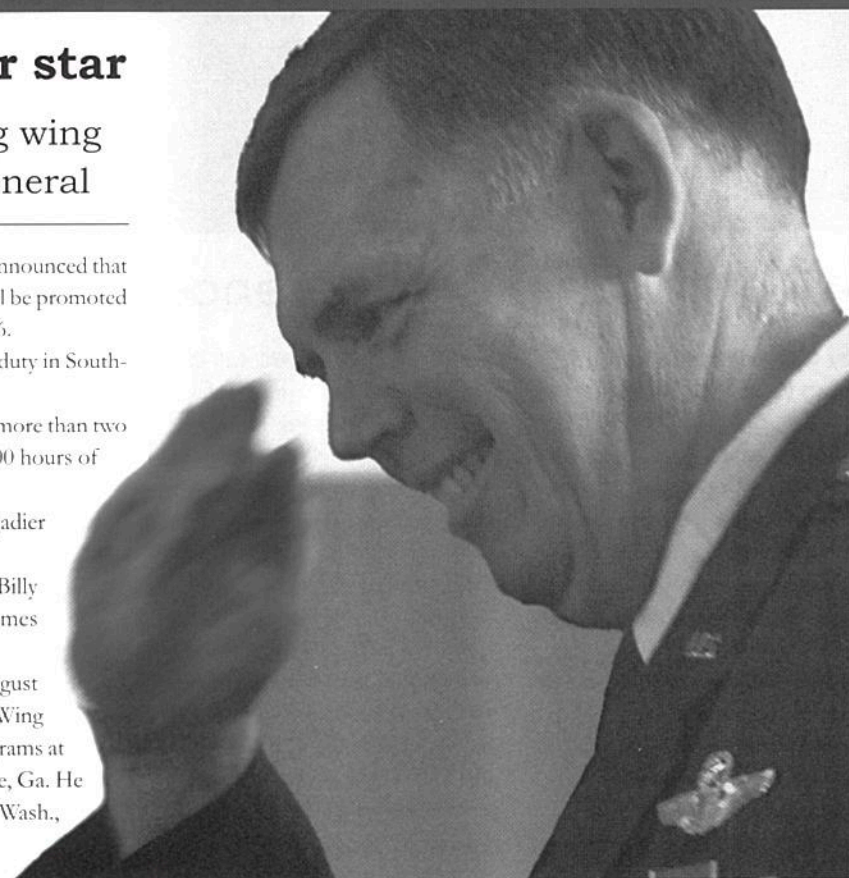
Colonel Farris is also scheduled to begin a four-month tour of duty in Southwest Asia in early 2006.

During his 31-year career, his leadership experience includes more than two years as 439th AW commander. He has logged more than 9,000 hours of flying in Air Force cargo and trainer aircraft.

He is the fourth 439th AW commander to be promoted to brigadier general while assigned to Westover and the eighth overall.

The other wing commanders promoted to general were: Billy Knowles, Donald Haugen, Jack Ferguson, Mike Walker, James Czekanski, James Bankers and Martin M. Mazick.

Colonel Farris assumed command of the 439th AW in August 2003. Previously he was the commander of the 914th Airlift Wing at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y. He was chief of programs at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Plans at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. He also has been assigned in various positions at McChord AFB, Wash., Maxwell AFB, Ala., and Minneapolis/St. Paul ARS, Minn.



Col. Wade Farris

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: 9,000+

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38, C-141, various models of the C-130 Hercules, C-5A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal - three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal - one oak

leaf cluster

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award - three oak

leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal - four oak

leaf clusters

Southwest Asia Service Medal - two devices

Humanitarian Service Medal

Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabian Gov)

Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)

Base community lights up with homemade holiday tree

by Airman 1st Class Timm Huffman

The Patriot Wing's Family Support Center and Chaplain's Office co-hosted a holiday tree lighting ceremony by the Westover Road gate on the December 3 A UTA.

A group of Westover members attended the Dec. 3 tree lighting in the freezing weather to show their holiday spirit and sing Christmas carols. They also warmed up on some refreshments including hot chocolate and candy canes.

Leroy R. Clink, base civil engineer, donated the 11-foot blue spruce tree. He and the civil engineering staff also planted the tree.

Five hundred white lights, donated by the Westover Chiefs Council, covered the tree. Maintenance workers installed the lights on the tree.

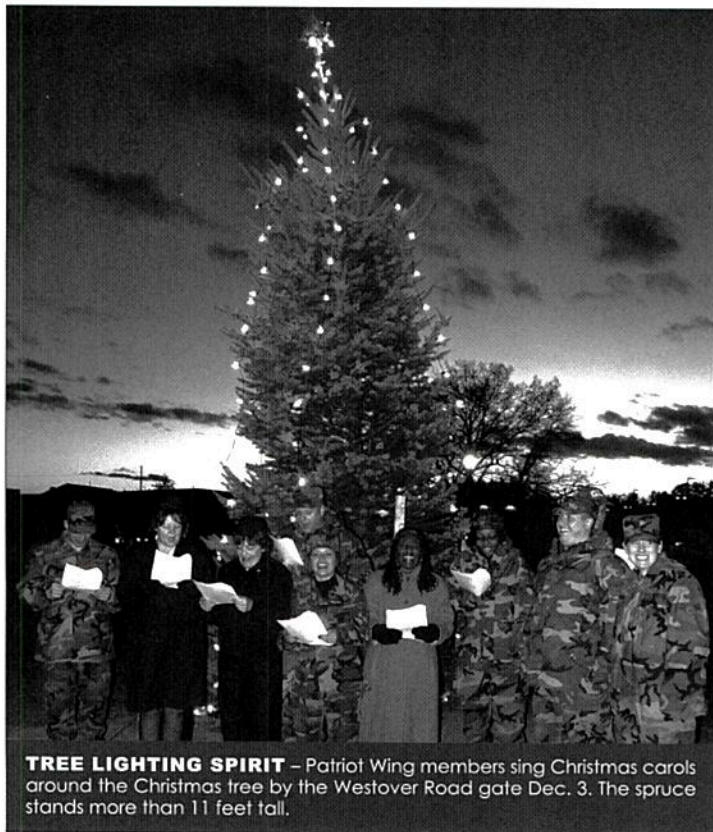
Chaplain (Maj.) William S. Wiecher, 439th Airlift Wing chaplain, designed the concept and the 439th Maintenance Squadron built the star that topped the tree from scrap metal.

The star is made up of a Star of David; with a five-point Christmas star inside of that and some circles and triangles inside of that to represent other religious groups.

"We are trying to be conscious and aware of the various religious celebrations occurring at this time of year, Chaplain Wiecher said.

Senior Airman Michael Hyde, 439th AW chaplain's assistant, came up with the idea for a holiday tree, but said that Master Sgt. Kimberly A. Babin, Westover Family Support Center, made the tree a reality.

Hot chocolate and cookies for the lighting were donated by Friends of Family Support. A local supermarket donated 300 candy canes.



TREE LIGHTING SPIRIT – Patriot Wing members sing Christmas carols around the Christmas tree by the Westover Road gate Dec. 3. The spruce stands more than 11 feet tall.

Wing standard of excellence bears four primary elements

by Col. Michael Marten
wing vice commander

By the time you read this, the new year has started and the holiday season is over. I hope that everyone took advantage of some well-deserved time off to devote to their families – thereby charging your batteries for the challenges of the upcoming year. We know we ask a tremendous amount out of you and it is your families that sacrifice the most. Please tell them that we do appreciate their support because without it, we cannot accomplish our mission.

That being said, the **attitude** of this wing is superb. We perform a full-time mission supporting the warfighter while continuing to prepare for what seems like an endless cycle of inspections. The big one on the horizon is the "big wing" Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI).

We will undergo the ORI with the folks from the 916th Air Refueling Wing at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., kicking off at the end of July. We will precede that event with various internal evaluations at home station plus a deployment to Volk Field, Wisc., during the first week of April.

We have people changing places and retiring. As always, there is someone right there to step up to the plate and perform. The key to this success is **teamwork**: all of us moving in the same direction in support of the mission. To do this we need to **communicate** and **coordinate** both internally within our units, our groups and the wing and externally with our ORI partners from Seymour Johnson.

The personnel - military and civilian - of the 439th are performing at an extremely high level of excellence. We set our standards high and attempt to exceed that

standard. The goal for the ORI is an **OUTSTANDING**. With the level of commitment and profes-

sion-ism that you exhibit every day, I am confident we will attain that goal.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

BE GOOD FOR SANTA >>> Santa Claus wishes a youngster season's greetings at the annual Christmas party held Dec. 10 at the Marine building, coordinated by the Pioneer Valley USO and services.

AF releases new mission statement, adds cyberspace capability

by Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new

ers, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said.

"With one hand the Air Force can

"We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent."

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman's calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

"If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts," they said. "If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them."

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, "The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do."

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the president, the combatant command-

deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

O. R. I. : will you pass?

CONGRATULATIONS to **Master Sgt. Brian M. Quirk**, 439th Communications Squadron, the first reservist who e-mailed the PA office the correct responses to the caption and questions from the December 2005 coverage. This is the second article designed to assist 439th Airlift Wing members with preparing for the August 2006 Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI). How well do you know how to deploy? Find out while testing your skills each month. E-mail your responses to 439patriot.editor@westover.af.mil

This month's questions:

>> A person wearing civilian clothes is seen with a backpack running toward a building on the base. You are the sentry. What do you do?

>> There is a demonstration at the base gate. You see two people holding weapons. What course of action do you take?

>> What is the acronym for checking the M-16 when it jams? Be sure to explain what each letter stands for.

>> What are the clearing procedures for the M-16?

>> List the procedure for the M-16 function check.



WHAT'S WRONG? >> A reservist shoulders his M-16 rifle. However, something isn't right about this Airman's weapon. The first person who replies with the correct answer(s) to the photo above and questions to the right will have his or her name printed in the February Patriot. The e-mail address is: 439patriot.editor@westover.af.mil

TALL TAIL >>

Scaffolding envelopes the six-story high tail of the C-5 Galaxy. Westover maintainers discovered a separated panel under the rudder of the aircraft's tail.

Whale of a tail

Article and photos
by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

Members of the 439th Maintenance Squadron wear on their unit patch the bywords Mission, Excellence, Spirit. The squadron's structural maintenance shop, with the help of fellow maintainers from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and Tinker AFB, Okla., lived up to that standard recently when they were confronted by a potentially long, costly problem.

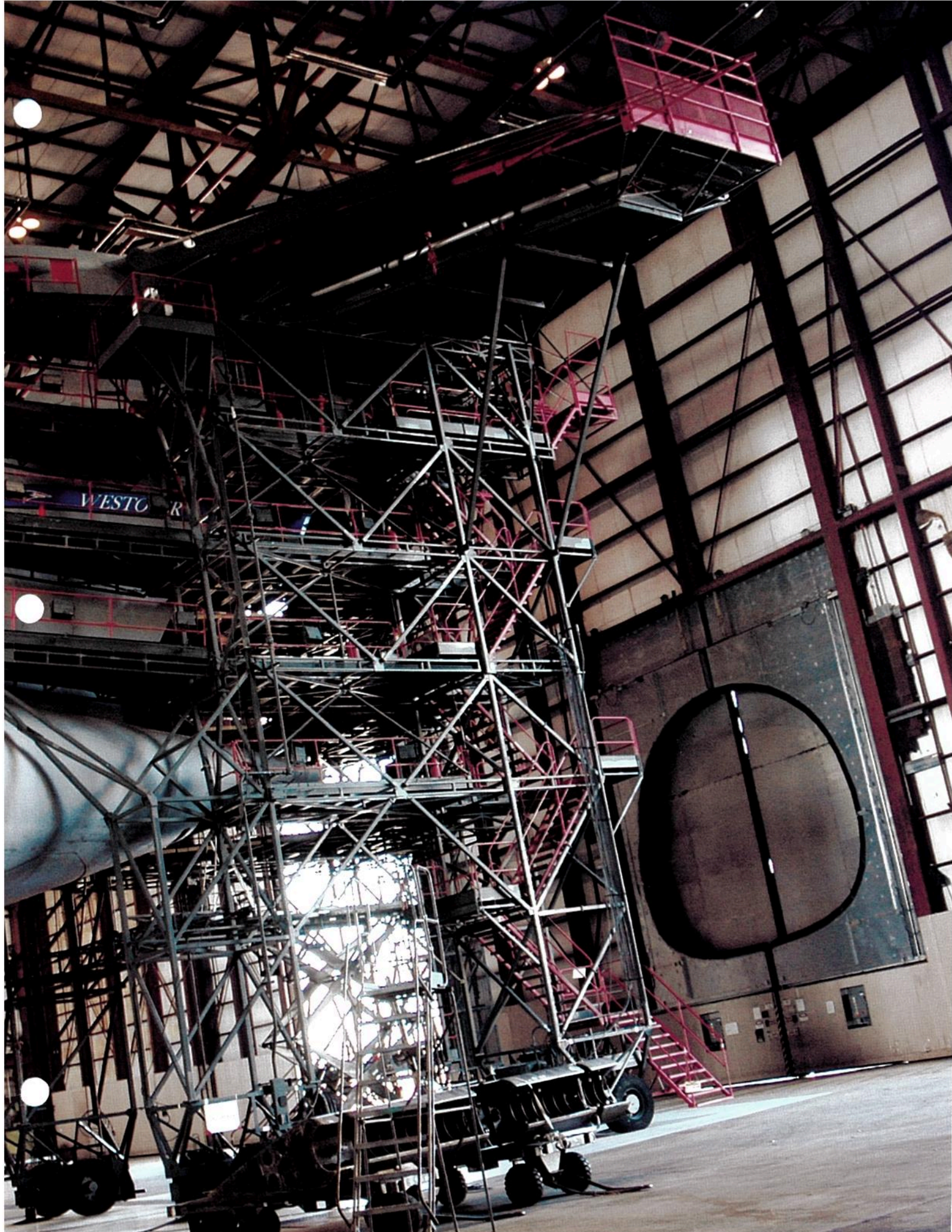
The repair job could have kept a Patriot Wing C-5 in a depot hangar, but the maintainers had a better idea.

When the maintainers discovered a separated panel in a hard-to-get-at spot under the rudder, nobody would have blamed them for sending the aircraft to the depot at Robins AFB, Ga., to make the C-5 mission-ready.

Instead, said their supervisor, they accepted a challenging maintenance job, rolled up their sleeves and made the Galaxy mission-ready in days, instead of weeks. At the same time, they saved the expense of flying the airplane to the Georgia depot.

"I really believe these people deserve a lot







TAIL WORK >> Tech. Sgt. David J. Pelletier, 439th Maintenance Squadron, works on the tail of the C-5.

of credit for what they did to turn the aircraft around,” said Senior Master Sgt. Michael F. DiRienzo, shop chief of the 439th MXS structural maintenance element. “They are professionals.”

During a periodic ISO inspection, Patriot Wing maintainers spotted a separation of the outer and inner face sheets of a panel in the extreme end structure of the C-5, the after body below the rudder. The maintainers had the good fortune that the problem appeared while experienced maintenance specialists from Lackland and Tinker were here to help on 60-day temporary duty.

It took a team effort to turn the airplane around at Westover instead of Georgia. The maintainers worked two shifts and overtime.

Squadron repair and reclamation shop workers removed the lower rudder to give the structural maintenance crews access to the panel. They pulled the panel, ordered a replacement, and then matched up to the separated one. They drilled holes in sequence with the old panel and installed new fasteners. The panel was sealed and repainted to finish the job before the lower rudder was restored.

“It was a complex job, and it took everybody working together to make the aircraft mis-

sion-ready quickly,” he said. “There was a lot of experience among Lackland and Tinker people, who helped expedite the job. We couldn’t have done what we did without their help.”

The structural maintenance specialists who did the job were: Master Sgt. Joseph M. Whalen, Tech. Sgts. Ronald J. LeBreton, Daniel O. Sullivan, Robert J. Delano, Christopher Davis and David J. Pelletier of the 439th MXS sheet metal shop; Tech. Sgts. John Enriquez and Gerardo O. Vasquez and Airman 1st Class John Scherwitz of Lackland AFB; and Master Sgt. James E. Longendelfer and Tech. Sgt. Melvin M. Tuggle of Tinker AFB.

New gate, pop-up barrier systems help protect Westover

Article and photo
by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

The earthmovers and gate closures are in the past as the focal points of the base have a new look.

A new entry control complex on Westover Road and pop-up barrier systems at both gates help ensure that the nation's largest Air Force Reserve base complies with the latest anti-terrorism and force protection standards for years to come.

The new Westover Road complex includes a vehicle inspection facility, a pass and registration office and gate shack. They are scheduled to be completed by late December.

There will also be a new visitor's center, where visitors and other non-

affiliated guests will be processed more efficiently onto the base.

"This will save a lot of time for visitors and for our security forces," said Scott C. Daigneault, 439th Airlift Wing anti-terrorism officer. "The new entry control facility provides a far more professional and military appearance for the base."

Motorists entering the Westover Road gate will find the curves a little slower.

"Although some may view this as an unnecessary inconvenience to their daily entries and exits, these requirements are mandated by the Department of Defense anti-terrorism and force protection guidance on entry control facilities to reduce the threat of a high speed gate penetra-

tion," said Rick Colburn, civil design engineer.

Westover Road is the primary gate through which most of the traffic flows onto and off the base.

In addition to the new entry control facility, huge popup hydraulic barriers are installed in the roadways at both gates. Mr. Daigneault said these barriers will stop a 15,000-pound vehicle traveling at 55 mph. The new barrier system will allow security forces to quickly react to a Vehicle Borne Improvised Device (VBID) threat and neutralize it before it can threaten Westover's people or resources, he said.

The security improvements totaled more than \$3 million. Mr. Daigneault is watching a project come to fruition

after more than three years of coordination with command level security and civil engineering officials. He is also a master sergeant with the 439th Security Forces Squadron and has been at Westover since 1993.

"It's exciting and satisfying to see all of the gate construction finally come together for the benefit of this base and its people," he said. Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, agreed.

"Scott put in a lot of long hours working this huge project with officials at many levels at headquarters," Colonel Farris said. "I appreciate seeing this happening for the security and safety of our people. I'm sure the base as a community will appreciate it too."



SMOOTH SURFACING >> Clayton Gray, with Secure Applications Inc., smooths out concrete over one of the pop-up barriers at the James Street Gate. The barriers are part of new security measures taken to protect Westover. Crews have installed the barriers at the new Westover Road gate as well.



TOTALED >> The basement of Senior Master Sgt. Ann Fluegge lies in destruction after a nearby beaver dam collapsed, flooding the surrounding area.

Tragedy and destruction of flooded home unites “family”

by Maj. Jennifer Christovich

She lost everything — from her son’s christening gowns to her hot water heater — it all disappeared in a matter of minutes.

At 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 15th Senior Master Sgt. Ann Fluegge was awakened to the sound of a waterfall. She immediately ran to the basement, but it was too late. Within minutes, seven feet of water wiped out years of hard work and memories.

“I cried,” she said. “In fact, no one would let me near the house for a few days after the flood because they knew I would break down,”

Without flood insurance, repairing the \$22,000 in damage has to come out of pocket.

The cause of the flood was a breach in a beaver dam at the top of the mountain where she lives. Though the breach was only a few feet wide, it caused major damage to Sergeant Fluegge’s basement, home exterior, yard and garage.

“We couldn’t get any emergency teams to help us because they said the area was a “danger zone,” said Sergeant Fluegge, who is a reloca-

tions specialist with the military personnel flight of the 439th Mission Support Squadron.

Four hours after the flood, teams arrived. “The damage to the streets was so bad and the water so high once the fire trucks arrived, one of the trucks tipped over on its side,” she said.

As a result of the flood water mixed with raw sewage mold formed throughout the house. To make matters worse, Sergeant Fluegge and her three sons, ages 18, 17 and 5, all have asthma.

“We’re having a hard time breathing in the house and we have to constantly run two dehumidifiers,” she said. Sergeant Fluegge has been to the doctor twice to treat symptoms associated with the mold.

According to Sergeant Fluegge, while the local town and Red Cross were of little help, people at the base saved her life.

“The base was unbelievable,” Sergeant Fluegge said with tear-filled eyes. “An hour after my supervisor found out what happened, family support handed me a \$500 check in Air Force Aid and the food pantry gave us tons of food. People who didn’t even know me brought boxes

of food and donated clothing to our house.”

Donations didn’t stop there. One of Sergeant Fluegge’s co-workers knew a couple in her church willing to donate their washer and dryer to the Fluegge family.

“Every time I didn’t know how I was going to pay the next bill, the base showed up with money they had raised,” she said, choking back tears.

Still filled with emotion, Sergeant Fluegge said she finally understands what it means to be part of the military family.

“I don’t know how to thank everyone enough. You don’t realize how much a family [the military] is until you go through something like this,” she said.

Could a flood like this happen again? Sergeant Fluegge fears it may.

“We’ve been fighting with the town selectmen, asking them to do something about the beaver dams but it appears the beavers have more rights than we do,” she said.

Yet she remains optimistic and humbled by all the help she received, with a renewed sense of “family.”

Westover sustains money, jobs in local economy

Article and graphic
by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

The economy of Western Massachusetts received a boost of nearly \$180 million from the 439th Airlift Wing during the past fiscal year.

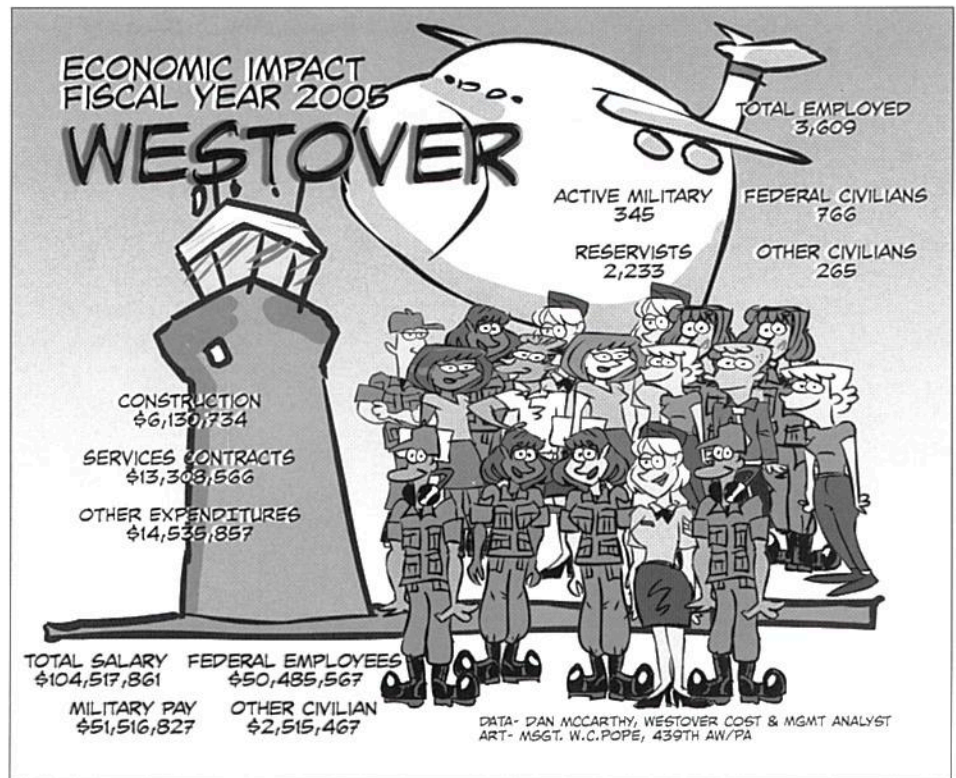
The fiscal impact on communities within a 50-mile radius of Westover is estimated at \$179,506,168, from Oct. 1, 2004 to Sept. 30, 2005. During the previous year, the base impact was \$196,656,172.

"This base continues to provide valuable economic stability to this region of the state," said Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander. "Westover's presence has a dual benefit. As a military installation it is vital to our national security, and locally, it is an economic engine for the Pioneer Valley."

About 3,609 people are employed by the 439th AW including 2,400 Air Force reservists. There are also 766 federal employees and 265 non-appropriated fund employees who work in such areas as the Base Exchange, civilian contracting, the gymnasium, bowling alley, shoppette-gas station and the Westover Club.

The total payroll for the base during the period was \$104,517,861. Military salaries totaled \$51,516,827 while civil service personnel accounted for \$50,485,567 and non-appropriated fund civilians and private businesses made an additional \$2,515,467.

Another \$6,130,734 was spent on construction, while service contracts costing \$13,308,566 and \$14,535,857 went to other expenditures including temporary duty for military personnel, both at home and other sites around the world.



Using a government formula, 1,065 jobs were indirectly created in the area, resulting in another \$41,013,150.

Physically, Westover's 2,500 acres make it the largest Air Force Reserve base in the country. It 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; 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); Burns and Roe (a civilian contractor which provides various services to the base), Phoenix Management Inc. (a subcontractor); and a military entrance processing station.

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

Reservist tops AFRC recruiting effort 16 months after joining

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — A 42nd Aerial Port Squadron reservist recruited eight people into the Air Force Reserve and earned its Get One Award for his efforts.

Staff Sgt. James J. Fitzell Jr. also helped Westover's 439th Airlift Wing attain 55 Get One accessions, the highest number in an Air Force Reserve Command wing. Runner-up for the most wing accessions was the 910th AW, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio.

AFRC's Get One Program encourages reservists to refer family, friends and coworkers, who may be interested in joining the Air Force Reserve, to local recruiters. Recruiters say the program introduces people to the benefits of the Air Force Reserve and allows them to work alongside others they know while serving their country.

Sergeant Fitzell credited his enthusiasm for the Air Force Reserve as the primary reason for his success. He enlisted in the Air Force Reserve May 1, 2004.

Before joining, he was in the Army National Guard and on active duty in the Marine Corps. Sergeant Fitzell said the Air Force Reserve is fully committed to the mission but at the same time 100 percent dedicated to the welfare of its members and is family-oriented.

The Air Force Reserve accessed 9,942 new Airmen in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. Air Force Reserve recruiters said the Get One program contributed greatly to that success.

(AFRC News Service and 439th AW Public Affairs staff)



WESTOVER PATRIOTS |

photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope



FLYER FAREWELL >> Lt. Col. Kenneth Riley, right, laughs with Maj. William Rolocut after getting hosed down by his fellow crew members following the colonel's final C-5 flight Nov. 17. Colonel Riley was a C-5 instructor pilot with the 337th Airlift Squadron and had flown more than 7,500 hours in the C-5 and C-130 at Westover.

Air Force environmental center picks Westover for new CE conference site

by Tech Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

More than 30 people attended an Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence conference held at Westover in mid-November.

The conference covered sustainable approaches to building material recovery. People at military bases who are responsible for non-hazardous solid waste learned about ways of recovering materials using the latest technologies, tools, and techniques.

The attendees included Air Force military and civil service personnel and Department of Defense contractors. The workshop

was offered through a project with the National Defense Center for Environmental Excellence. Leroy Clink, base civil engineer, said an Air Force Reserve Command inspector who visited Westover last summer chose the base as the location.

"Walter Volinski from the AFRC environmental staff was a team member on our last ESOHCAMP in August," Mr. Clink said. "He nominated Westover to AFCEE to host this first Air Force "Sustainability of Building Products" conference. "I believe he felt we had a lot going on and were able to talk about our successes."

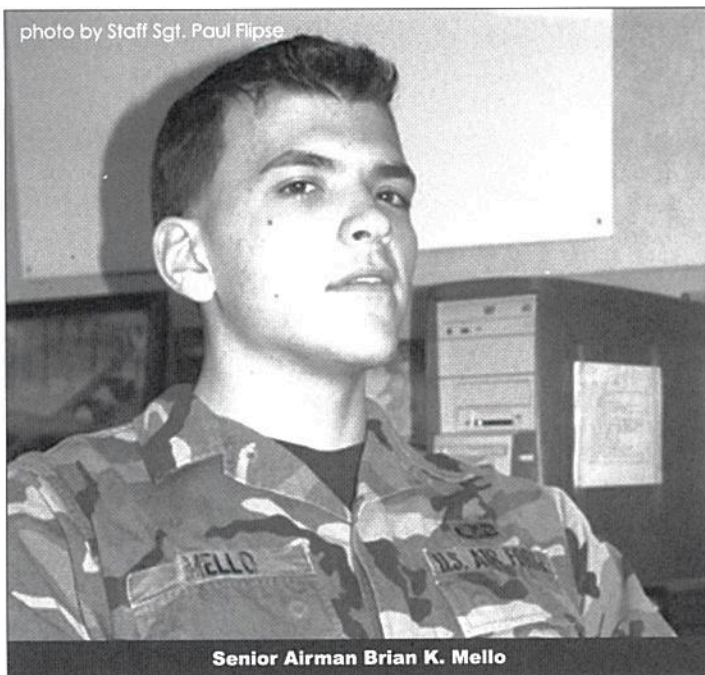
photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe



BASE BLOOD DRIVE >> Tech. Sgt. Merrill R. Pregeant, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, gives blood at the Base Hangar while Red Cross collection specialist Candace Johnson, monitors. Forty-seven Patriot Wing members gave blood in the Base Hangar Dec. 4.

PATRIOT PEOPLE |

photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Flipse



Senior Airman Brian K. Mello

NAME : Brian K. Mello
 RANK : Senior airman
 AGE : 22
 HOMETOWN : Providence, R.I.
 UNIT : 439th Maintenance Operation Squadron
 POSITION : Maintenance production journeyman
 CIVILIAN POSITION : Sales specialist
 FAVORITE FOOD : Steak
 YEARS OF SERVICE : Three
 FAVORITE SPORTS : Texas hold 'em
 FAVORITE HOBBIES : Improving my bass playing
 IDEAL VACATION : Ibiza
 BEST WAY TO RELAX : Reading
 PREFERRED ENTERTAINMENT : Film
 FAVORITE HEROES : Akira Kurosawa
 FAVORITE MUSIC STYLES : Jazz
 FAVORITE MOVIE : Would never be able to decide that
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT : MH-53J/M Pave Low
 PET PEEVE : People who sleep all the time

Get One Referral Information

'Get One' referrals need to be sent to Patricia Simonds at the Westover recruiting office. There are three ways the information may be sent: call Mrs. Simonds at (413) 557-2125 or DSN 589-2125 let her know you have a 'Get One.' E-mail: Patricia.Simonds@Westover.af.mil, or fax the information below to: 413-557-2126 or DSN 589-2126

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 _____

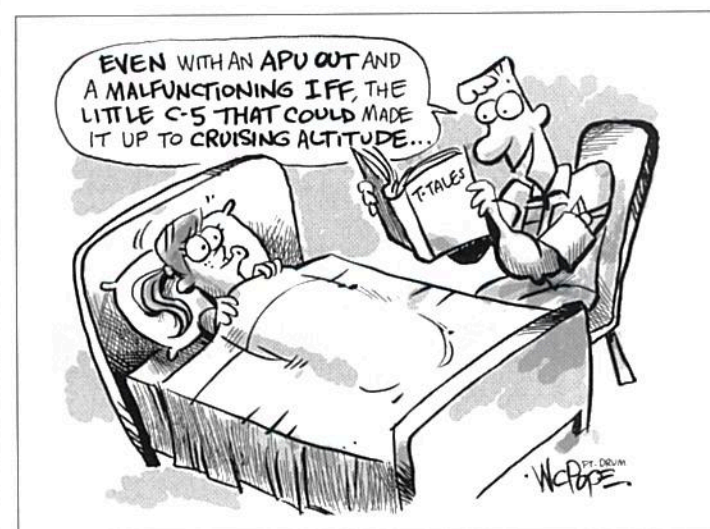
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone number _____ Unit _____

Status (reservist, air reserve technician, etc.) _____

Date of birth _____ Rank _____

PATRIOT PUNS |



PATRIOT PRAISES |

Awards & Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Technical sergeant
 Michael J. Downs
 Amy J. Morin
 Phillip W. Nadeau
 Kimberly Powell

Air Force Achievement Medal

Technical Sergeant
 Susan P. Corey*
 Ralph E. Knight Jr.*
 Richard A. McLean
 James M. Payne

Merrill R. Pregeant
 Judith D. Rhodes*
 Staff sergeant
 Arthur J. Mainor
 Jason J. Weaver
 Senior airman
 Nicholas Park

Reenlistments

Chief Master Sgt.
 David F. Carbin
 Senior master sergeant
 Barbara A. Bender
 Daniel J. Carr
 John J. Duffy

Earl E. Duncan Jr.
 Paul L. Frappier Jr.
 Jennifer A. Lavigne
 Michael J. Marrone
 Robert D. Merchant
 Sandra M. Michon
 Lawrence P. Rodrigues Jr.
 Michael J. Sullivan
 Thomas E. Sullivan
 Michael F. Thorpe
 Kenneth P. Wolff
 Master sergeant
 Eugene Bebeau III
 David E. Berube
 Ronald Bevilacqua

Keith A. Bodley
 Bruce B. Buechele
 Luisa V. Cabana
 James W. Elkins
 Robert F. Flynn Jr.
 Michael A. Gendron
 Michael Guerin
 Richard W. Halla
 Stephen E. Kida
 Kevin M. Layden
 Irving G. Little
 Andrew J. Martindell
 Steven J. McCauslin
 Henry M. Olearczek Jr.
 Charles E. Porter
 Roger P. Prinz

Civil engineers take command level awards

Westover civil engineers took command honors recently. Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi, AFRC vice commander, recently announced the selections for fiscal 2005:

Maj. Gen. Robert C. Thompson Award
– 439th Mission Support Group/CE Resources Flight.

The Thomas D. White Natural Resources Conservation Award (individual/team excellence) went to Andrew G. Milroy, 439th MSG/CE.

"I have a great job," Mr. Milroy said. "I work with great people who truly value natural resources in the context of our mission. Thanks to CE, safety, ops, judge advocate, USDA Wildlife Services and Forest Service, roads and grounds, contracting, public affairs and the command section for what is Westover's award."

Air Force Reserve Command nominated 23 civil engineers and eight units to compete for 35 Air Force CE awards.

The AFRC winners are competing against individuals and units from other major commands.

(AFRC News Service and 439th AW Public Affairs staff)



File photo

AWARD WINNER >> TV 22 reporter Sy Becker interviews Drew Milroy, 439th Mission Support Group civil engineer, in March 2004 during a burn of some 100 acres of grassland on the base. Mr. Milroy recently earned command honors as the winner of the Thomas D. White Natural Resources Conservation Award for individual/team excellence.

PATRIOT |

www.westover.afrc.af.mil

A-UTA | JAN 7 - 8 | B-UTA | JAN 21 - 22



Published monthly for Patriots like Master Sgt. Dale A. Edwards, South Hadley Mass. and 3,044 reservists and civilians of the 439th AW and the wing's geographically separated unit.

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