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439thAirlift Wing | December 2007 | Volume 33 No. 12

Actively Supporting National Objectives With Ready Mobility Forces

Plane Brains

Westover C-5s receive a cockpit upgrade

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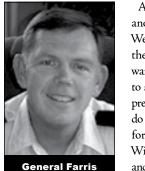
ustration by Senior Airman Michael Lanza

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Contents of the PATRIOT the Department of Defens	spaper is an authorized publication for a are not necessarily the official views of, o e, or the Department of the Air Force. t Wing Public Affairs Office, Westover A ess otherwise indicated.	or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, The content is edited, prepared and	Briefs
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	Waster Sgt. 10m Anocco	Evan Powers	



SIR-VING >> Brig. Gen. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, serves a Thanksgiving meal to Master Sgt. Aaron D. Gates, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, during the November A UTA. (photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Boynton)

EDITORIAL | Engaging shared-issues is the key to success



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As we conclude another great year at Westover, on behalf of the leadership here, I want to take the time to say how much I appreciate everything you do for our nation and for the 439th Airlift Wing. The dedication and service each of you demonstrates every day

to get the job done and to answer the call is still remarkable to me.

The best way to thank you is not just to say it, but to show it by taking care of you so you can take care of the mission

This concept, highlighted during the 22nd Air Force Human Resources Development Council workshop here in October, is not new. And I believe most of the supervisors here take care of their people wholeheartedly. However, we all need reminders from time-to-time to make sure we are "walking the walk" by addressing the concerns that keep you from accomplishing your mission.

Some of those concerns, like adequate billeting, have

BRIEFS

Top 3 food drive to help area needy

The Top 3 Council is asking for donations of non-perishable food items to benefit a local food bank.

Bring canned goods and other non perishable food to Commander's Call on Dec. 1. Collection boxes will also be set up around the base.

Open house Dec. 1

The Westover Family Support Center staff will hold an open house and tours for first-time visitors from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 1.

Turkey Trot winners

Celio Hernandez (0:19.11, males 31 and over), Timm Huffman (0:9.57, males 30 and under) and Colleen Picard (0:28.21, females) took first place in their respective categories in the annual 5kilometer Turkey Trot held Nov. 4.

a direct impact on morale, recruiting and retention. Realizing I can resolve some problems quickly, some take time and unfortunately some I cannot resolve due to budget and Air Force guideline restrictions, I promise I will make your interests and challenges my top priority.

But I need your help. Westover leadership cannot create viable solutions in a vacuum. We need your continual input to ensure we address the issues important to you, versus the issues we think are important to you.

first-hand.

benefit of the entire wing.

for Dec. 15. The party will be held in the fitness center from 1-3 p.m. Bounce houses, refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus are scheduled. This is open to all children of military and civilian employees at Westover.

Sign-ups are required by Dec. 3. The party is open to all family members of Westover Reservists.

Family members should sign their children up by calling the family support center at Ext. 3024 or toll-free at (866) 690-2161.

Nov. 5K runs help raise money for CFC

at Ext. 2856.

I encourage you to get involved in organizations like the HRDC, Rising Six, Company Grade Officers' Council, Top 3, etc. as a venue for communicating with us. Command Chief Master Sgt. Zigmund Skawski and I meet with many of these groups during the UTA to ensure we hear from our Airmen,

Many of you, through participation in our professional organizations, have affected change to the

As you look around Westover today, you can see the results of some of the initiatives generated by your fellow Airmen. For example, several people told me they wanted Westover to look more like an Air Force base, so they came up with a plan, presented it and achieved

their goal - placing aircraft models, representing our long and rich history, around the base.

As we enter 2008, we will continue to work diligently and to do our part to help all of us successfully carry out our mission. During the year, we will feature articles in the Patriot to highlight not only what will be done, but more importantly what is being done.

The challenges we face in our military and personal lives today are much different than the ones I faced when I first entered the military. Yet, you continue to adapt to many changes and challenges with exceptional results.

Kim and I wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season. May you enjoy them with your loved ones, and may the new year bring you continued blessings. Let us also keep all our deployed men and women and their families in our hearts.

Brig. Gen. Wade Farris 439th Airlift Wing Commander

Westover Christmas party is Dec. 15

Base organizers are planning the annual Children's Christmas Party

A November A UTA 5k run helped push the total donations of the Patriot Wing to the Combined Federal Campaign to about \$8,000. A second 5K run to benefit the CFC was scheduled for the November B UTA. The goal of the campaign, which will continue through the January A UTA, is \$42,000.

Support of the CFC effort is an annual tradition at Westover as part of the national campaign of military members and federal employees to assist charitable causes. Pledge forms are available at all units to support CFC.

"You never know when you are going to need the help of a program sup ported by CFC donations. Everyone has a family member or friend who will benefit," said Tech. Sgt. Ronald S. Case, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, this year's CFC project officer. For more information, call him

Commander's Call set for Dec. UTA

A Commander's Call is scheduled for 3 p.m. Dec. 1 in the Base Hangar.

The Commander's Call will include a Wingman Day, Retiree Appreciation Ceremony and Remembrance Ceremony. Senior leadership will honor more than 250 military and civilian retirees during this mandatory formation for all Reservists.

Survey continues

The second part of an occupational safety survey will take place on the January A UTA.

An assessment team will conduct interviews with leadership and selected groups of Reservists, Lt. Col. Patrick L. Cloutier, chief of wing safety, said. Results will be outbriefed early next year.



GLASS COCKPIT >> The modern look of this C-5 cockpit, following the Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) upgrade, shows the redesigned layout that aircrews will use when flying the airlifter on worldwide missions. (photo from Defense Link web site)

Maintainers, aircrews train for Galaxy cockpit upgrade

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Aircrews, maintenance workers and two Patriot Wing C-5s went to Dover Air Force Base, Del. in November to prepare for one of the biggest changes on Westover's flight line since the 1987 conversion from C-130s to C-5s.

The C-5s are undergoing surgery as part of the Avionics Modernization Program. The upgrade, a three-month process, includes replacing about 100 outdated components from the flight console, with high-tech, flat screen computers designed to improve navigation, communication and safety capabilities.

"The old instrumentation isn't as reliable as it used to be," said Senior Master Sgt. James T. Mitchell, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flight chief. "(The AMP) will bring the aircraft into the future."

autopilot computers, Sergeant Mitch- have to learn."

ell said. "We've been working with four to five autopilot computers. The AMP will take those down into one."

The first two flight engineers from the 337th Airlift Squadron completed their 2-week training course at Dover monitor fuel and engine gauges. One of the engineers, Master Sgt. long-term fix." Richard P. Titcomb, flew an upgraded C-5 from Dover.

"I got my check ride Nov. 14. You have to build a different habit pattern. There are new gauges and avionics," he especially for the pilots."

"In most situations, this would be called an aircraft conversion," said Lt. Col. Steven M. Thompson, 439th One such example of the modern- Operations Group training officer. craft maintenance at Westover and ization is the consolidation of older "It's whole new level of language we supervises about 50 other ARTs. designed to extend the life of the C-5

C-5 instructor pilot and chief of training at Dover. safety who flew in the AMP simulator, agreed that pilots will have a lot ics (Airmen), who work in AMXS to learn but also said the benefits are and in the (439th) maintenance worth the investment.

"We'll have a tremendous amount of information to use in the cockpit," have attended AMP training schools Colonel Cloutier said. "We'll be at Dover. Traditional reservists more situationally aware. The chal- will attend the classes beginning lenge for us when training in this, in January. is how the pilots will assimilate all in November. Flight engineers assist that information. We have to meet ed to Dover earlier this year for the pilots with flying the C-5 as they the precision requirements of future their training, which included aviation navigation, (and this is) a good computer training, time in the

The Air Force is outfitting the AMP on the first two Patriot Wing C-5s at Dover. These aircraft are scheduled to return in February and March of 2008, said Master Sgt. Robert S. Rodrigue, has completed work on 30 C-5s from said. "It's almost like a new airplane plans and scheduling supervisor with Dover and Travis AFB, Calif. the 439th Maintenance Operations Souadron.

> Sergeant Mitchell, an air reserve technician (ART), oversees all air-Knowledge of the new technology to 2040.

Lt. Col. Patrick L. Cloutier, a on the C-5s will require additional

"This has a big impact on the avionsquadron," he said. Eight of these full-time civil service technicians

An initial cadre of aircrew headsimulator equipped with the AMP modifications and a check ride aboard a modified C-5.

Some active-duty C-5s have already received the AMP. Lockheed Martin

There are 111 C-5s spread among active-duty. Reserve. and Guard units across the United States.

By September 2009, all 16 C-5s will have the new avionics, which are



SILVER SETUP >> Westover civil engineers construct a building frame during the October Silver -lag exercise held in Florida. (photo by Maj. Anthony Williams)

Civil engineers build base from ground up

by Senior Airman Timm Huffman

ivil engineers started from scratch and built a functional base during a recent Total Force exercise in the Southeast. Fifty-six members of the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron trained with Airmen from 15 other active-duty, Reserve and Guard units at the Silver Flag training site near Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., during the week of Oct. 15-19.

The engineers rehearsed a base deployment and beddown under chemical warfare conditions.

A beddown is a practice mobilization in which civil engineers move from one location to another, split up into crews and set up the base. Civil engineers establish all of the initial functions of a base including explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), emergency management and the fire department, said Maj. Anthony F. Williams, a 439th CES training manager and the lead Silver Flag beddown officer.

During the exercise they participated in hands-on training, classroom instruction and other civil engineering specialty areas, including repair, EOD and emergency management, Major Williams said.



Senior Airman Charles L. Putnam, an electric power production apprentice here, said Silver Flag gave him real-world experience to compliment what he studied in his Air Force career development courses.

how other specialties work."

civil engineers pressed on.

and focused." Major Williams said. CE squadrons attend Silver Flag once every 40 months as a training requirement.

"The most useful thing I learned was how the unit works as a whole," Airman Putnam said. "I spend a lot of time training in my own specialty, but I don't always get the opportunity to learn

Teamwork and camaraderie helped get the CE Airmen through some real-world challenges too. The exercise gained urgency when persistent heavy rains and a tornado strike in nearby Pensacola, Fla., complicated work conditions during the weekend. Despite the wet-weather and interruptions from tornado warnings, the

"We were soaking wet and working in a driving rain. No one grumbled and no one complained. I was amazed at the attitude... they were positive

UTA Wingman forum will focus on core values

by Capt. Justin Manna

The December A UTA wing-wide Commander's Call will feature a special Winaman Day forum inside the Base Hangar.

Following an address by Brig. Gen. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, people from Westover "helping agencies" will answer questions and provide information.

One of the goals of the Dec. 1 Wingman Day organizers is to inform members of these opportunities. Westover organizations will exhibit a "tradeshow-style" forum. Each group will have members working information booths during Commander's Call. Organizations scheduled to attend include the Company Grade Officers Council. Chief's Council, First Sergeants Council, 439th Services Squadron, Family Support, Wing Chaplain, Safety, Inspector General and Wing Education and Training.

"Beyond the concept of the guy next to you in the foxhole, there are a number of resources available to Airmen for support," said Maj. Kelly E. Hosey, Military Personnel Flight commander.

The Air Force instituted Wingman Day in 2004 in an effort to reinforce the service's Wingman culture among Airmen. Wingman Day is typically held on the last duty day before Veteran's Day, but Air Force Reserve Command is allowed to hold the event during the November or December UTA.

"The purpose of Wingman Day is to ensure that every staff, wing, unit and team has the opportunity to take time to refocus and deliberately revisit how they are living up to our shared core values," said Maj. Gen. Allan R. Poulin, AFRC vice commander.

"I don't believe so. The faster you can rotate someone out of the theater, the better their mental and family lives will be.' Senior Airman Michael Broadhurst security forces



'I was in Iraq for one year as a soldier. It (long deployments) affects morale and affects the mission. Senior Airman Lorraine Fernandez, mission support

The reviews are in:

Airmen give a

thumbs up to the new...

IN UNIFORM

Master Sgt. Charles E. Frey, 439th Security Forces Squadron, displays the new airman battle uniform. (photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza)

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

HE NEW AIRMAN BATTLE Uniform (ABU) is beginning to be worn around Westover and early opinions are that it lives up to its billing as a more comfortable and maintainable uniform.

ARMAN BATTLE

The new ABU uniform is being worn by 439th Security Forces Squadron Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) members who are able to purchase them through the internet with their clothing allowance. Maj. Gary Byrd, chief of Security Forces Operations, Master Sgt. Charles E. Frey and Tech. Sgt. Jayme Frey give the new uniform good marks for comfort and maintainability.

Sergeant Jayme Frey spoke for all three when she said she appreciates that the new uniform "saves time and money in dry cleaning, ironing and starching."

Her husband, Sergeant Charles Frey, rates the ABU as "a very functional uniform." He likes the extra pockets at the calf of the legs, the inside left arm and inside the cargo pockets. The additional pockets make life a little easier in the field when carrying maps, pens and other small gear.

UNIFORM

Major Byrd also finds the pockets convenient, but feels the ABU is "a little bit righthand centric." Keeping a pen or other items in that pocket on the left arm can get in the way for a left-handed person like himself who uses that arm more than a right-handed person, he said.

They have heard of published comments that the ABU is hot, but they have not experienced a problem. "I was in Mississippi when the weather was in the 80s and I was fine," Major Byrd said.

He noted that the ABU material may be heavier than the summer Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) but there is a trade-off in comfort because the ABU doesn't have starch which can make the uniform stiff and hold in heat.

A favorite feature is that the ABU really is





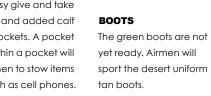






Trouse

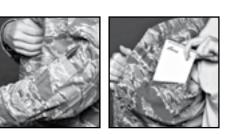
The pants now feature an elastic waistband foreasy give and take and added calf pockets. A pocket within a pocket will let airmen to stow items such as cell phones.



wash and wear item which you can take out of a dryer and put on. Those who wear it, say the ABU maintains its natural creases. In fact, starching and hot pressing of ABUs is prohibited because it will damage the uniform. Those who wear the ABU have been cautioned to check detergent ingredients to avoid "optical brighteners" which make the uniform more visible in low light and with night vision equipment. A current draw-back of the new uniform is

that cold and wet weather gear is hard to find. The only ABU cold weather gear available in November at the Hanscom AFB, Mass. Base Exchange were the Gortex boots.

Sergeant Jayme Frey said one of the best features for her is that the ABU comes in a version tailored for women, unlike the BDU that is cut for men and only comes in smaller sizes for women. The women's ABU buttons on the left-hand side.



BLOUSE >> Uniform officials added a slender vertical pocket to the blouse's left forearm. Inside, there is space to store maps or small notebooks.



COAT >> The Air Force All Purpose Environmental Coat is made from a material that repels windand water. It features a roll-away hood and six pockets.



READY FOR DUTY

airmen are authorized

Once the ABU is available in base clothing stores,

to wear it. In all, the new gear will cost about \$370 plus badges and rank.

> The ABU is designed for a better fit for everyone. The new uniform has 236 sizes, unlike the 57 sizes of the BDU. All three agreed that the ABU suede boot is lighter and more comfortable than the black combat boot, although Major Byrd wondered how well the suede will hold up in the snow. The boots will be available in a summer weight and a Gortex winter version. Kits for suede care will be available at the Base Exchange.

> In November a Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) spokesperson said the new uniform was not yet available at the base exchanges at Westover or Hanscom. There are several commercial web sites at which ABUs are available, although buyers must be careful to find uniforms that conform to military specifications.

The mandatory wear date for the ABU is November 2011.





Services serves up victory

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

At the end of the November A UTA, the 439th Security Forces Squadron was way ahead in Commander's Cup competition, but Services was moving up.

Commander's Cup volleyball play on the November A UTA saw Services come out on top when eight teams competed for points.

The Services volleyball players netted 11 points. Behind them were second place 58th Aerial Port Squadron, taking 8 points, and third place 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Team picking up 5 points.

Other teams who competed in the Commander's Cup volleyball competition were from the 439th Mission Support Squadron, 439th Security Forces Squadron and 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

Security forces continued to enjoy a comfortable lead in the overall competition, with 67 points, trailed by Services with 19 and the 439th AES at 14.

Security forces stacked up their points on the September B UTA with dodgeball and softball wins, and did the same thing again on the October A UTA. They followed up with a volleyball win on the October B UTA. Commander's Cup teams were scheduled to meet in H-O-R-S-E-basketball play during the November B UTA. H-O-R-S-E-basketball is also scheduled at the Westover Fitness Center at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1 of the December A UTA.

Commander's Cup competition will continue through the two November 2008 UTAs. The winning team will receive the Commander's Cup trophy on the December 2008 A UTA. Individuals who earn points can also apply them to the male and female Athlete of the Year competition conducted by the Westover Fitness Center. Services is hosting the Commander's

at Ext. 2417.

Cup competition. For more information, call Master Sgt. James K. Barnes of Services

Commander's Cup Leader Board

Squadron	Points
SFS	67
SVS	19
58 th	17
AES	14
ASTS	8
MSS	6
AMXS	5
AW	5
AMDS	1
337 th	0
42 nd	0
LRS	0

WESTOVER PATRIOTS



HERCULES RIDE >> Senior Airman Ulric Musmanno, left, and Staff Sgt. Stephanie E. Acosta, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, prepare to carry a litter during a squadron medical exercise with a C-130, in October. (photo by Lt. Col. Reid Squier)

Maintenance officer, cops run marathon

by Tech Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A 439th Airlift Wing maintenance officer and three security forces noncommissioned officers competed in a Marines marathon held in Washington, D.C., Oct. 28.

Maj. Luis M. Nunez, 439th Maintenance Group deputy commander, ran the 26-mile race in 4 hours, 37 minutes and 57 seconds. Major Nunez is an experienced runner, having participated in the past two Air Force marathons. He clocked in at 4 hours and 56 seconds at the finish line of September's Air Force marathon held at Wright-

future marathon in 3 hours and 30 seconds. "This is a work in progress," the major said. "My goal is to be true marathoner."

Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He plans to run a

Major Nunez said some 22,000 runners participated in the Marines marathon.

The other three Westover runners were Senior Master Sgt. John D. MacIntyre and Master Sgts. Daniel R. Ernst and Steven K. Pelletier.

Sergeant Pelletier also has experience with other marathons. He ran in the 2007 Boston Marathon in April with Maj. Wesley Thiel and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Grady.



by Tech Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A Patriot Wing senior noncommissioned officer recently became just the second chief in the Air Force to earn the German Gold Badge.

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Grady, 439th Security Forces Squadron, competed in the multi-disciplined German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (GAFBMP) event conducted at Fort Knox, Ky., from Oct. 8-10.

The German Army liaison conducted this event, in which Chief Grady completed a 200-meter swim, long jump, 3-kilometer run, shotput, 100-meter sprint, 25-kilometer road march with a 22-pound rucksack and a pistol qualification.

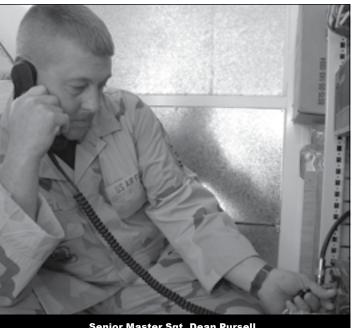
"USAF members rarely attend this," Chief Grady said. "I was fortunate to have completed this grueling event with drill sergeants from Fort Knox who were striving for the coveted Gold Badge as well," he said.

Members earn AF awards

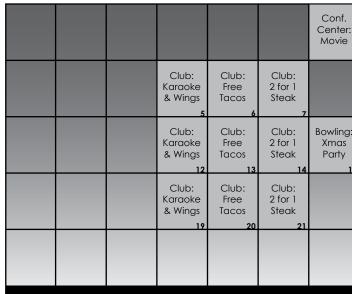
Three Patriot Wing members recently won command-level and reserve awards. Capt. Kelly H. Provencher, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, is the Reserve Officer Association Junior Officer of the Year.

Senior Master Sgt. Ann M. Cartelli, 439th Mission Support Squadron, is the Outstanding Personnel Manager Superintendent of the Year for Air Force Reserve Command. Sergeant Cartelli is NCO in charge of the relocations office in the military personnel flight. Master Sgt. Sharon I. Riley, 439th Maintenance Group, is the Career Assistant Advisor of the Year for AFRC.

PATRIOT PEOPLE



Senior Master Sgt. Dean Pursell



DECEMBER SERVICES CALENDER | www.westoverservices.com

PATRIOT PRAISES

Reenlistments

Master sergeant Laurie A. Briggs Michael F. Cadran Scott S. Crawford Jeffrey E. McCarthy Robert F. Metcalf Marianne S. Monbleau Ronald J. Moon

Technical sergeant James Baisi Ardith C. Gibbons Steven G. Langevin William M. Palaia William A. Prindle Jr. Margaret L. Sullivan George B.D. Tocher

Staff sergeant

Ronald M. Antezana Alfred A. Chagnon II Banlang Keokoummane Monica M. Noe

Senior Airman

Melissa M. Berry Christopher K. Malloy Richard A. Sitterley

NAME : Dean Pursell RANK : Senior master sergeant AGE: 48 HOMETOWN : Richmond, N.H. UNIT: Deployed 386th ECES/ Home 439th ECES POSITION : Chief, emergency management flight CIVILIAN POSITION : Union heavy equipment operator FAVORITE FOOD : Seafood YEARS OF SERVICE: 28 FAVORITE SPORT : Football FAVORITE HOBBY : Fishing IDEAL VACATION : The Caribbean on the beach BEST WAY TO RELAX : Read or watch a movie PREFERRED ENTERTAINMENT : Going to the casino FAVORITE HERO : Gen. Colin Powell FAVORITE MUSIC STYLES : Classic rock and blues FAVORITE MOVIE : Saving Private Rvan FAVORITE AIRCRAFT : F-16 PET PEEVE : Lazy people WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WON \$1 MILLION : Retire and buy a boat large enough to charter fishing trips

PATRIOT PUNS



Promotion

Chief master sergeant Michael F. Thorpe Bradley Tryba

Senior master sergean Eileen Moloney-Cook Craig A. Savoie

Master sergeant Charles E. Frev

Technical sergean Jonathan R. Ash

Robert P. Young Michael C. Cormier Paul H. Driscoll Christopher G. Malooly Lloyd K. Elliott

Staff sergeant

Stephen M. Mckunes Alexander J. Zaleski Shane D. Willis Justin L. Joslin Philip S. Mccarthy Christopher J. Anderson Victor M. Wilson



RETREAT REFLECTION >> Members of the 439th Security Forces Squadron pause to remember the sacrifices of veterans during the Patriot Wing's annual Veteran's Day retreat ceremony. (photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope)

PATRIOT

www.westover.afrc.af.mil

A and B UTA DEC. 1 - 2



Published monthly for Patriots like Senior Airman Jason D. Aponte, Cranston, R.I. and 3,053 reservists and civilians of the 439th AW and the wing's geographically separated unit at Hanscom AFB, Mass. PRSRT U.S. PO DΔ

