

## Rebuilding a Nation

439<sup>th</sup> colonel leads reconstruction team

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439Patriot.Editor@  
westover.af.mil  
(413) 557-3500  
www.westover.afrc.af.mil

439<sup>TH</sup> AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER  
Brig. Gen. Wade Farris

CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
Maj. Jennifer Christovich

WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS  
Maj. Wilson Camelo  
Capt. Justin Manna

NCOIC  
Senior Master Sgt. Sandi Michon

DEPUTY NCOIC  
Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

ILLUSTRATOR / PHOTO EDITOR  
Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

AIR RESERVE TECHNICIAN / EDITOR  
Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Senior Airman Michael Lanza

STAFF  
Staff Sgt. Tom Ouellette  
Senior Airman Timothy Huffman

ADMINISTRATION  
Senior Airman Julie Novak

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**AIRLIFT WORKHORSE** >> The C-54 Cargomaster, assigned to Westover in the late 1940s, was the workhorse of the Berlin Airlift. From June 1948 to September 1949, Westover was the hub for overseas missions heading out on that historic airlift's resupply to the people of Germany. ( photo reprinted from Westover – Man, Base and Mission history book )

## EDITORIAL | How good is your situational awareness?



Colonel Mounts

Last week, authorities arrested six self-styled jihadists for plotting an attack on soldiers at Fort Dix, N.J. According to news reports, all were foreign born, one actually a US citizen and three were illegal aliens. They all had serious intent to either facilitate or perpetrate

harm and to kill American military personnel using assault weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.

Early reports indicated their plans were not restricted to attacking and killing soldiers at Fort Dix. They also did surveillance on Dover Air Force Base, Del., and McGuire AFB, N.J. and sporting events where large numbers of military personnel could be targeted. Heaven only knows what tragedies would have been suffered had they managed to fully develop and execute their plots.

One suspect drove a cab; three were roofers, one worked at a 7-Eleven and another at a supermarket. The plot that led to their arrest was foiled by an electronic products sales clerk. The clerk contacted

authorities after receiving a video that was to be transferred to a DVD. What raised the clerk's suspicions were the images of up to 10 men shooting weapons and calling for jihad. Thankfully, the clerk raised the "flag" and alerted authorities.

Admittedly, in particular in the post 9/11-era, any reasonable person should have a heightened awareness of potential terrorist activity. Practicing good OPSEC (*Operational Security*) will ensure that potential enemies do not get information that could aid in their attacks.

The successful 9/11 attackers who went to flying schools were not concerned about taking off or landing aircraft. Then came the terrible events of Sept. 11, 2001.

The New Jersey "Six" represent a new type of danger, not unlike the danger being faced by our troops "over there." It is extremely difficult to pick out the "bad guys" from the "good guys" when there are no visual or other clues. We are seeing a brand-new form of terrorism, involving small, more loosely-defined groups that may not be connected to Al Qaeda but are inspired by its ideology.

These homegrown terrorists were even more dangerous than Al Qaeda. Three members of the New Jersey "Six" had lived in the US for more

than 23 years and were accepted as Americans by neighbors and friends. As a result, they were not suspected to be terrorists. Without some stroke of luck or overt act that tipped their hand and without situational awareness, we sooner or later would have had another event on our soil.

Our law enforcement and other security agencies are doing a difficult job very well but they can't do it all. Obviously, the New Jersey "Six" were not particularly sophisticated but mindless mayhem doesn't require great sophistication, just "tools" and resolve.

Thwarting their plot didn't require technology, while ironically use of technology led to their discovery. The key ingredients were situational awareness and the willingness to act. Danger is all around us — but by being vigilant (*situationally aware*), practicing good OPSEC and being willing to act, like that store clerk — we can increase our chances of thwarting a potential attack. Situational awareness is something we always need to have "switched on" whether at home or on the battlefield. Make sure yours is.

**Col. Michael R. Mounts**  
**439th MSG Commander**

## BRIEFS |

### Band plays in June

The USAF Big Band of Liberty will perform at 3 p.m. June 10 at the Enfield Rotary Park in Enfield, Conn. Lt. Col. Kevin P. Kennedy, 439th Communications Squadron commander, is the emcee for this free event which is open to the public.

For more information, go to the band's web site at <http://usafbandofliberty.com/perfinfo.html>.

### 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary ball in September

The Patriot Wing's Military Ball in honor of the Air Force's 60th anniversary is scheduled for Sept. 8 in the Base Hangar (*during the September A UTA*). Volunteers are sought to help with this project.

For more information, contact Senior Airman Stephanie Ellis at Ext. 3011.

### AFAF exceeds annual fundraising goal

The Patriot Wing's Air Force Assistance Fund topped its goal of \$3,350 by 163 percent as Reservists donated \$5,464, said Lt. Col. David Zamorski, project officer. The drive wrapped up on the May A UTA.

### Sergeants association meets at club

The Air Force Sergeants Association will meet at noon June 3 at the Westover Club. Several officer positions are available in Chapter 109.

For further information contact Master Sgt. Marylynn Scherlin at Ext. 3163 or Master Sgt. John Monopoli at Ext. 2538.

### Support Center hosts passport day

The Westover Family Support Center and Chicopee Post Office staffs will host a Passport Day at the Westover Club from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. June 2. People can apply for passports or renew their applications.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Kimberly Babin at Ext. 3024.

### Enlisted council meets on A and B UTA

The Patriot Wing's Junior Advisory Council (*JEAC*) meets on both the A and B UTAs at 8:30 a.m. in the wing commander's conference room in Bldg. 1850. JEAC members plan special projects for the base and bring concerns from the enlisted force to the attention of senior leadership. The JEAC is open to enlisted members in the grades of E-1 through E-6. For more information, call Senior Airman Stephanie Ellis at Ext. 3011 or e-mail at [Stephanie.Ellis@westover.af.mil](mailto:Stephanie.Ellis@westover.af.mil).

### AROWS available online for Reservists

The AROWS web site is available for all Reservists to monitor their annual training days and other orders paperwork. AROWS is short for Air Force Order Writing System.

The web site link is: <https://arowsr.afrc.af.mil/arows-r/>.

### Web site offers news, base information

The official Westover web site is a convenient reference resource for anyone seeking information about the base. You can easily access current and past issues of the Patriot; general tour information; a Westover services directory and the latest news from around the base.

The official site can be reached at [www.westover.afrc.af.mil](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil).



**TOP TACTICIAN** >> Lt. Col. Douglas R. Gernhard trains all 337th Airlift Squadron aircrews on tactics procedures to better ensure their survivability during wartime missions. Colonel Gernhard is the Air Force Reserve Command Tactician of the Year. ( photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza )

## Patriot Wing C-5 pilot wins AFRC Tactician of the Year

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A Patriot Wing C-5 instructor pilot has earned command-wide honors for his efforts in teaching his fellow aviators combat tactics.

Lt. Col. Douglas R. Gernhard, 337th Airlift Squadron chief of tactics, is the Air Force Reserve Command Tactician of the Year. The colonel's tactics program teaches pilots how to operate the Air Force's largest aircraft in some of the world's most dangerous regions.

His award package came out on top of candidates who fly combat aircraft -- such as F-16 and F-15 fighters.

Colonel Gernhard's selection for the award came as no surprise to Col. Udo K. McGregor, 439th Operations Group commander.

"He was put in for the award because of his Air Mobility Command (AMC) benchmark tactics program. No other unit built and executed their tactics training as well as Westover, largely due to Doug's extensive planning," Colonel

McGregor said. "It might seem a bit unusual that a C-5 unit would garner this award, but Doug's bomber background in Strategic Air Command, his ability to plan deeply and execute completely, and the overall excellence of the training he developed which allowed us to operate more safely in the combat theater, made him an obvious choice."

In addition to having flown the B-52 in the last years of the Strategic Air Command at Loring Air Force Base, Maine, Colonel Gernhard has more than 3,500 hours in the C-5 cockpit.

If there's a C-5 lumbering over the base during a training flight, quite often it will be Colonel Gernhard at the controls, training another 337th Airlift Squadron pilot. He supervises many of the local flights teaching pilots the craft of flying the Galaxy in steep banks and turns as part of tactics procedures used when flying into and out of Iraq.

"Tactics allow aircrews to exploit our enemies' weaknesses -- and our strengths," the colonel said.

He has trained 60 pilots since 2004.

Before the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, AMC flights had become fairly routine for C-5 aircrews. "We were only using instrument flying, which meant standard approach and departure procedures, similar to how airline pilots fly," Colonel Gernhard said.

After Sept. 11, that began to change. By the time Operation Iraqi Freedom began in the spring of 2003, C-5s were periodically flying into Iraq. But when shoulder-fired missiles hit a C-5, a C-17 and an A-300 Airbus, AMC leadership took a close look at the threats that faced these aircrews. Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, then the AMC director of operations, directed that the Air Force find a way for the aircrews to fly tactical approaches and departures, Colonel Gernhard said.

In April 2004, then-Major Gernhard flew to Balad Air Base, Iraq, and worked with air traffic control specialists, airspace coordination personnel, and intelligence, bringing his tactics training plan back home. Since that time, he and a cadre of other senior officers have become qualified on flying tactics. Colonel Gernhard said it isn't just the pilots

that get the training. All of the aircrew members are trained before flying missions into Baghdad and Balad.

"I modeled our training and airspace on the environment downrange and replicated it here," said Colonel Gernhard. He also coordinated with and with the Westover tower staff. "We built the program from the ground up teaching ourselves the maneuvers in the C-5 simulator first. We then moved into the aircraft certifying ourselves in the jet and began teaching the initial core of instructors."

Colonel Gernhard credited Federal Aviation Administration and Westover people for their help. He coordinated the new flying operations with Gary Fisk, a Bradley International Airport (Connecticut) air traffic controller.

Additionally, Senior Master Sgt. Larry Milliken and the Westover intel office staff help keep the program current by monitoring changing enemy tactics.

The AMC Inspector General recognized Colonel Gernhard's tactics program during the 2006 ORI and distributed his program across AFRC and AMC as well, Colonel McGregor said.



**BOSSLIFT** >> Bosses view the New England landscape from the cockpit of a C-5 during a recent Employer Day. (file photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Ouellette)

## Base hosts Employer Day on July A UTA

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

**W**estover's annual employer Day is scheduled for July 7 (*Saturday of the A UTA*) at the club.

Bosses are asked to arrive at the base by 11 a.m. for a day-long schedule of activities that includes lunch, an afternoon C-5 flight, simulated mobility line, a chemical warfare gear donning contest, and a mixer back at the club to wrap up the afternoon.

The purpose of Employer Day is to familiarize employers with the mission of the Air Force Reserve and to provide a venue for open communication with senior leaders here. Reservists are encouraged to invite supervisors who may have expressed concern over the members' absence in support of military duty or higher level managers

such as presidents, chief executive officers, and other senior management.

The 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office along with senior officers from the Massachusetts Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) coordinate and conduct this annual event. ESGR representatives will seek Statements of Support from the bosses as a way to reinforce support for their employees.

The deadline for signing up is June 15. For more information or to nominate employers call PA at Ext. 2020.

Reservists can also sign up through the Westover web site at [www.westover.afrc.af.mil/employerdaysp](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil/employerdaysp).

ESGR has representatives available for questions through their website at [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org). The ESGR website also includes general information on other employer recognition programs.

## USERRA assistance available online

**ARLINGTON, Va.** — Members of the National Guard and Reserve can now request assistance online from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve ombudsmen for employment issues arising from military service or mobilization.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act is the federal law that protects the employment of military reservists and prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of military service.

Guardsmen and Reservists can visit the ESGR website at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) and select the link, "USERRA Complaint Request" on the right side of the page. The service member is asked to provide contact information for him or herself and his or her employer, as well as a brief explanation of the issue. The information is stored on a secure server and ESGR assigns the request to one of its 900 volunteer ombudsmen for informal mediation. Guardsmen and Reservists are still able to use ESGR's customer service center at 1-800-336-4590 to initiate a request.

"The online request will complement the customer service center in making ESGR more accessible to Guardsmen and Reservists serving all over the world," said Philip T. Pope, acting executive director of ESGR.

The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. ESGR volunteers provide free education, consultation, and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees.

## Westover teams prepare for Rodeo

Thirty-five members of the 439th Airlift Wing will represent Westover during this summer's Air Mobility Command Rodeo at McCord Air Force Base, Wash.

The Patriot Wing is among more than 55 United States and interna-

tional teams slated to participate in the competition scheduled for July 22-28. Due to the Air Force's high operations tempo, this is the first Rodeo to be held since 2000.

The competition focuses on readiness and features airdrop, air refueling, and other events showcasing security forces, aerial port, maintenance and aeromedical evacuation members.

"Westover's reputation speaks for itself," said Lt. Col. John Healy, 439th AW team chief. "I'm confident that our competitors will show why we are professionals in every sense of the word."

Besides Colonel Healy, team leaders for Rodeo from the Patriot Wing are Maj. Glenn Melia, aircrew; Senior Master Sgt. Michael Bellerose, ground boss;

Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Kaulback, maintenance; Master Sgt. Nancy Clegg, AES team chief; Master Sgt. Steven Pelletier, security forces; and Tech. Sgt. Chris Harry, aerial port.

Some of the aircraft expected to take part include the C-17 Globemaster III, C-5 Galaxy, C-130 Hercules, KC-10 Extender and the KC-135 Stratotanker.

**BUILDING BONDS**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division contract engineer Sundus Ali, left, and Col. Paul T. Babin Jr., talk over projects managed by the Facilities and Transportation sector before departure on a visit to Baghdad area projects. (US Army photo by Leith)



# RECONSTRUCTIVIST

by Senior Master Sgt. Sandi Michon

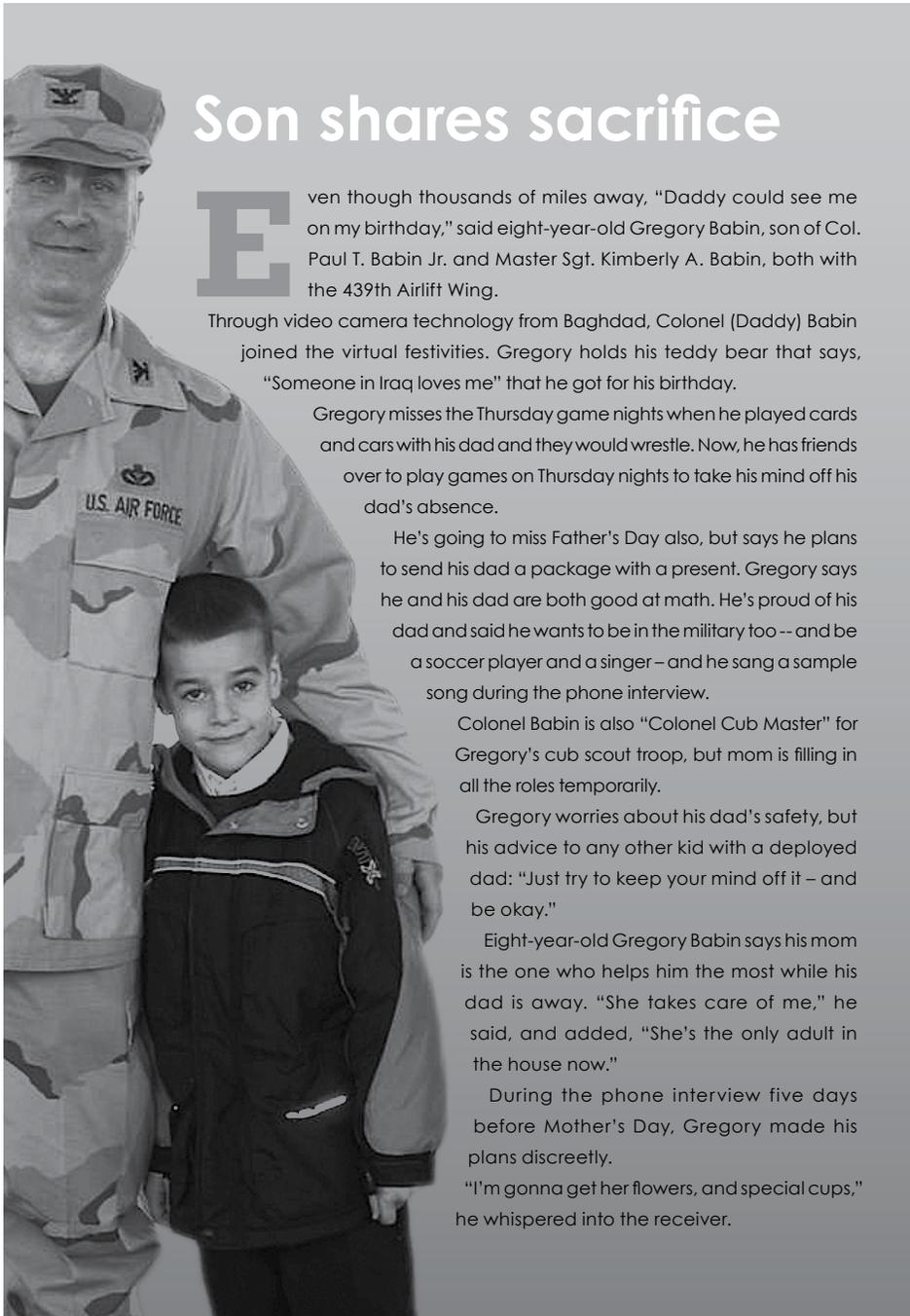
Westover colonel  
helps Iraqis rebuild  
war-torn Baghdad



**C**ol. Paul T. Babin Jr. brings his concern for the Iraqi people directly to the heart of Baghdad. As a Facility Sector Lead, Gulf Region deployed to Baghdad since early February, the former 439th Civil Engineering Squadron commander works directly with 13 different Iraqi Ministries to build or repair badly-needed resources throughout Iraq. Gen. David Petraeus, commander of coalition forces, appointed the colonel to be the liaison officer for the Ministry of Construction and Housing.

In the past two years, Colonel Babin's section has built 142 clinics, 811 schools, renovated 20 hospitals and 98 railway stations, repaired bombed bridges and roads, built security and police structures, and upgraded deteriorating utilities. They have also built prisons and are nearly done with a consolidated "Rule of Law" facility for courts, a police academy, witness protection and a place to hold prisoners and process detainees. "It's hard to explain if you're not here, but these people need help," he said. "It's encouraging to see progress."

All the accomplishments come with a cost beyond the \$2.2 billion Iraqi Reconstruction Relief Fund. Duty days run 12 to 14 hours, seven days a week with occasional Friday mornings off. Temperatures hover around 100 degrees each day – not counting the added layers of body armor. Living quarters are two to a flatbed-trailer "conex box" – the width spans his outstretched arms. The 27-year military veteran battled a bad cold and sounded understandably tired during the Sunday interview in early May at 10 p.m., his time. >>



## Son shares sacrifice

**E**ven though thousands of miles away, "Daddy could see me on my birthday," said eight-year-old Gregory Babin, son of Col. Paul T. Babin Jr. and Master Sgt. Kimberly A. Babin, both with the 439th Airlift Wing.

Through video camera technology from Baghdad, Colonel (Daddy) Babin joined the virtual festivities. Gregory holds his teddy bear that says, "Someone in Iraq loves me" that he got for his birthday.

Gregory misses the Thursday game nights when he played cards and cars with his dad and they would wrestle. Now, he has friends over to play games on Thursday nights to take his mind off his dad's absence.

He's going to miss Father's Day also, but says he plans to send his dad a package with a present. Gregory says he and his dad are both good at math. He's proud of his dad and said he wants to be in the military too -- and be a soccer player and a singer -- and he sang a sample song during the phone interview.

Colonel Babin is also "Colonel Cub Master" for Gregory's cub scout troop, but mom is filling in all the roles temporarily.

Gregory worries about his dad's safety, but his advice to any other kid with a deployed dad: "Just try to keep your mind off it -- and be okay."

Eight-year-old Gregory Babin says his mom is the one who helps him the most while his dad is away. "She takes care of me," he said, and added, "She's the only adult in the house now."

During the phone interview five days before Mother's Day, Gregory made his plans discreetly.

"I'm gonna get her flowers, and special cups," he whispered into the receiver.

There is the inevitable danger of working in a war zone. Most projects are "outside the wire" meaning they are not in securely-protected zones. "If you start getting too comfortable, something happens to remind you of the danger," he said.

"A couple of weeks ago, insurgents blew up a clinic that was almost done. All that was left was a pile of rubble," he said, adding that four others had been bombed around the country. "It feels pretty crappy. But, when a clinic opens and 300 people show up at a clinic designed for 100, it motivates you to keep working hard.

"You know the risks. You can't be afraid or you wouldn't be able to do your job."

Doing the job is no simple task considering the complexity of the cast. The Air Force colonel works under the Army Corps of Engineers (*with Navy and Marines*), with the Iraqi government and multinational coalitions. He supervises a sector with 60 people who supervise thousands below them.

"You have to build relationships before getting any business done. Trust is important," he said.

"It takes time to learn customs, diplomacy and protocol -- and working through the chains of command."

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**"You have to build relationships before getting any business done. Trust is important."**

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According to the colonel, the last five percent of projects are the most difficult. The new facilities are staffed entirely by Iraqis, so the finishing touches are staffing, equipment delivery and training. He said the Iraqi Ministry of Health is very grateful for the new clinics.

A highly-anticipated health facility is the Basra Children's Hospital in southern Iraq which will provide cancer research, teaching, and treatment to an area with one of the highest cancer mortality rates in children.

Colonel Babin spoke of his own son Gregory whose eighth birthday he missed in April. His absence was also poignant for his wife, Master Sgt. Kimberly Babin because it was their anniversary too. As Family Readiness NCOIC, Sergeant Babin has long been helping Westover's military families cope with deployments. Now, she intimately understands the challenges as she and their children try to bridge distance and time.

Her husband previously served a four-month deployment to Florida, but the Iraq trip has unique challenges. During a phone conversation a few days in-country, an alarm sounded and he ran out in full battle gear, ending the conversation. "Oh, my God! He just got there!" said Sergeant Babin staring at the silent phone. Everything was okay, but she and her kids don't watch the news and that helps them cope with Dad's danger.

Colonel Babin hopes to be home by the end of summer to his role as Individual Mobilization Augmentee with the 439th Mission Support Group. As he counts down his time left in Bagdad, he also works to minimize the U.S. role in Iraq. "Over half our staff is now Iraqi nationals and we are morphing into increased funding and project execution from the Iraqi people," he said.

The civilian electrical engineer began his Iraqi tour as a last-minute substitute for an active-duty officer, but working with the Iraqis has given the colonel one clear objective: to help them to be successful. "We've got a million things going on, but our one goal is to help the Iraqi people to do it on their own."

## ENDURING FREEDOM

Col. Abdul Majeed, left, commander of 209th Afghan National Army Corps, and a U.S. Army Special Forces company commander assigned to the Combined Joint Special Forces Task Force - Afghanistan assess a location for a new governor's headquarters in Sangin District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Keith Henning)



# Enabling Heroes

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

**W**HEN MAJ. JOSEPH REVIT is asked by his son what he did during the war against terror he can answer with an expression from earlier wars: "I wasn't a hero, but I served among heroes."

Major Revit served four months this year as one of the few Airmen at a Southwest Asia Army base coordinating the aerial movement to and from the front lines of special operations forces of all branches of the service. His AEF tour was a unique experience to work for the nation's most elite military teams, people he admires as heroes for taking on and succeeding at the toughest missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Just as Vietnam had the iconic Green Berets as the image of special forces, the people Major Revit worked for captured the popular imagination early in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Within weeks after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, Americans saw televised film of bearded American troops on horseback in Afghanistan. Among the first images of the U.S. confronting the Taliban were these pictures of special operations forces operating in rugged terrain at the end of the longest supply line in the world.

Today the highly-trained counterterrorism and unconventional warfare detachments of Special Operations Command forces don't often make headlines but continue to rack up successes in Afghanistan and Iraq disproportionate to their relatively small numbers, Major Revit said.

From January to May he served as officer-in-charge of movements for the J4 Logistics Directorate of Special Operations Command Central (SOC-CENT) with a forward-positioned command and control element. The job included moving the first Marine

Corps Special Operations Command forces and their equipment into the area of responsibility (AOR).

In day-to-day operations Major Revit's joint team served as a direct link with the pantheon of American special operations forces, including Army Special Forces, Navy SEALs and members of Air Force Special Operations Command Air Commandos, the "quiet professionals" with the credo to deliver "Special Operations power anytime, anywhere." His coordinators could be tasked at any time to assist small teams conducting reconnaissance, search and destroy and other missions demanding uniquely high levels of training and initiative. They were the link between special operations forces submitting movement requests in the field and the CENTCOM Deployment and Distribution Operations Center (CDDOC), further back in the chain.

"Every mission is important. We are responding to the requests made from the front lines by elite teams operating at long range from their bases. That

could mean emergency re-supply for forces engaged with the enemy," Major Revit said.

With the job, came the sense of pride of serving with heroes.

"It's satisfying to be working on a mission and sometimes see the headlines of a success afterwards. It's a great opportunity to be mov-

ing troops and their equipment to the fight. These guys are making a lot of inroads, doing a lot of good in the fight. We are moving the most professional fighters in the world," Major Revit said.

Major Revit returned home in May, two days before his son Michael's 10th birthday. He serves as an Air Reserve Technician (ART) operations officer in the 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron.



Major Revit

WESTOVER PATRIOTS |

## Patriot Wing honors area comrade

By Staff Sgt. Tom Ouellette

**M**ourners gathered on the Patriot Wing's flightline to honor a fallen soldier.

Army Sgt. Christopher Wilson, 24, of Chicopee and South Hadley, was killed by a rocket-propelled grenade while serving in Afghanistan March 29.

Sergeant Wilson's body was flown to Westover April 8 and carried to memorial services at the Second Baptist Church in South Hadley, Mass. Army records showed Sergeant Wilson as being from Bangor, Maine, but most of his family ties were in Chicopee.

Wilson's mother and other family members stood on Westover's tarmac as his flag-draped coffin was respectfully escorted to an awaiting hearse.

The eight-member Army Honor Guard lifted the coffin as Westover officials saluted.

This was the first time Westover had coordinated the arrival of a fallen soldier from Afghanistan, said Maj. Jennifer S. Christovich, chief of public affairs.

"Our role was to make sure Sergeant Wilson received the proper honors and to take care of and honor his family throughout the process," Major Christovich said.

The Patriot Wing Honor Guard provided colors during the body's transfer and was instrumental in training the Army's Honor Guard from Fort Drum.

"Some of their members had never escorted human remains before," said Master Sgt. John Masaitis, Westover's Honor Guard superintendent. "The Fort Drum soldiers came out the day before and we provided them training."

After Sergeant Wilson's memorial services, his body was returned to Westover and was flown to Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

Sergeant Wilson was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He leaves a 4-year-old daughter, Jayden.



**NEW HOME** >> Airman 1st Class Anthony Tassinary (left) and Senior Airman Greg Paczkowski install trim on a modular home built for Native Americans. ( photo by Senior Master Sgt. Michael Herens )

## Civil engineers deploy, build homes for southwest Native American tribes

by Senior Airman Timm Huffman

Forty-three members of the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron deployed across the United States to help Native Americans living in New Mexico and California.

Squadron members spent two weeks on a New Mexico Navajo reservation building homes and a new road into the San Pasqual Indian Reservation near San Diego, Calif.

"We built two full homes from the ground up, including all the electrical wiring and plumbing. Some of the officers also helped design larger four bedroom homes," said Master Sgt. James M. Serra, 439th CES structures superintendent.

Civil Engineers who went to San Pasqual Indian Reservation built a road to serve as a second way

in and out of the reservation. Senior Master Sgt. Clayton Hanright, supervisor of heavy equipment operations, said that a fire in 2003 ravaged the reservation which had only one road at the time. The new road will serve as a second point of access into the reservation and will help prevent such devastation from happening again, he said.

Sergeant Hanright said the project was part of Innovative Readiness Training that involves joint branches of the military. This allows the military a training opportunity and the communities to receive improvements.

The Southwest Indian Foundation provided the facilities and material for the homes. The foundation then gives the completed homes to families in need. Westover CES members also built homes during a deployment in 2003.



## Commander's wife earns AF award

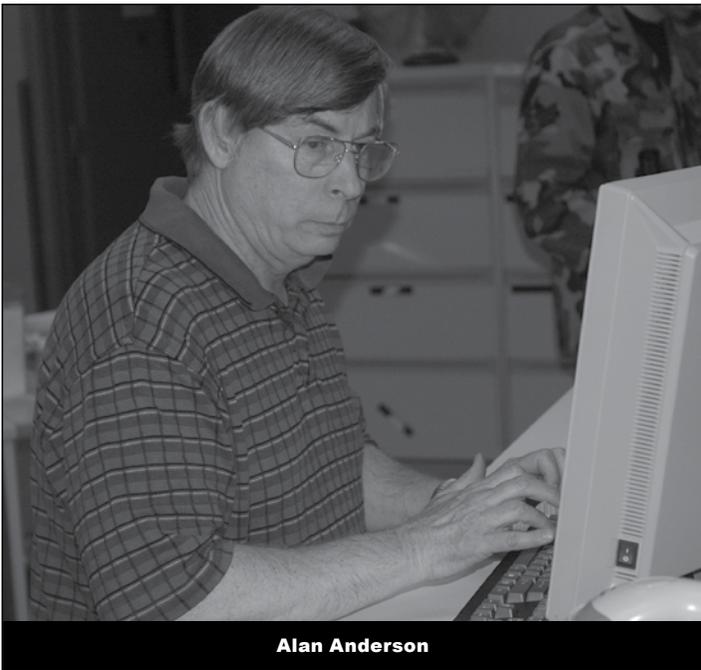
Air Force Reserve Command officials recently honored the wife of Westover's wing commander for her volunteering efforts.

Kim Farris, wife of Brig. Gen. Wade Farris, earned two awards during the April 26 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. She earned the 2007 Volunteer Excellence Award and the Headquarters AFRC Carol Eizonas Smith and Patricia Batbie Volunteer Excellence Award for 2006.

Mrs. Farris' award also caught the attention of the Air Force's top officer, receiving a certificate signed by Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force Chief of Staff.

"This is testimony to her tremendous volunteer efforts which strengthen our units, organizations and community," said Cheryl A. Kirkwood, director of the Westover Family Support Center.

PATRIOT PEOPLE |



Alan Anderson

NAME : Alan Anderson  
 HOMETOWN : South Hadley, Mass.  
 UNIT : 439th Mission Support Squadron  
 POSITION : Human resources assistant  
 FAVORITE FOOD : Spaghetti  
 YEARS AT WESTOVER : Four  
 FAVORITE SPORT : Baseball  
 FAVORITE HOBBY : Reading  
 IDEAL VACATION : Spending time with family  
 BEST WAY TO RELAX : Gardening  
 PREFERRED ENTERTAINMENT : Watching documentaries  
 FAVORITE HERO : My father  
 FAVORITE MUSIC STYLES : Classical  
 FAVORITE MOVIE : Harry Potter  
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT : B-47  
 PET PEEVE : Who wants to know?  
 WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WON \$1 MILLION : Build a house



PATRIOT PUNS |



PATRIOT PRAISES |

Family Support Volunteers

Charlotte Doiron  
 Staff Sgt. Jace Peters  
 Dr. Sherman Fein  
 Giovanna Renardson  
 Shutasica Irby

MEPS

Peter McCarthy  
 Milton Vazquez  
 Lisa Dugre  
 HMC Michael Curry  
 Jennie Gnacek

MWSS 472 Det B

Lise-Lotte Nichols  
 Mary Casatelli  
 Melissa Drye  
 Janis Johnson  
 Dick Ladner  
 Melanie McDonald  
 Carol Oliwa  
 Alice Whitney  
 Wanda Willis

Services

Margaret Cote  
 Melissa Cote

Machine Gun Platoon

Heidi Kalnowski  
 Marc Covalli  
 Patty Covalli  
 Pam Gorian

USO

Susan Austin  
 Nadia Belorusky  
 Cecile Blustine  
 Jennie Cwieka  
 Shirley Demers  
 Lynn Frain  
 Suzanne Graham

Bonnie Grenier  
 Kathryn Grenier  
 Paul Grenier  
 Joshua Hamre  
 Gail Mazza  
 Brendan Mruk  
 Karen Murphy  
 Alice Pont  
 Tiffany Prottengeier  
 Carmella Serafino  
 Carmelo Serafino  
 Francis Sheaffer  
 Jane Socha  
 Clyde Waite



**HERCULEAN CARE** >> Maj. Michelle L. Rowe, a flight nurse with the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, checks on her "patient" during a recent training flight aboard a Youngstown Air Reserve Station C-130 Hercules. The April flight also included members of the Fox 61 television station from Hartford, Conn., who interviewed AES members for a special broadcast shown in May. ( photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza )

**PATRIOT** |

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Published monthly for Patriots like Senior Airman Rosemarie Rossi, Stroudsburg, Pa., and 3,053 reservists and civilians of the 439th AW and the wing's geographically separated unit at Hanscom

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