

## *Holiday Horns*



**TROMBONE TROUBADOURS >>** Trombone carolers perform popular Christmas songs at the Military Entrance Processing Station Dec. 17. The musicians, part of the Air Force Band of Liberty from Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., also performed for the Westover community at the military personnel flight, civil engineering, wing headquarters, and the base exchange. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)



Major Christovich

Since this is the beginning of a new year and a time in which we traditionally evaluate the previous year's successes and challenges, we decided to change some things in the *Patriot*. Not only will you receive the *Patriot* in the mail,

at home, before the start of each A UTA weekend, but we are also adding a basic schedule of the weekend's events so you are better prepared when you drive through the gate. Additionally, you will see a difference in editorial-writers as we are including the group commanders and public affairs' staff this year. We hope you enjoy the change.

Looking back over the past year, ironically, it is clear that the only constant is change.

Read the headlines of any newspaper or turn on the television and it seems everywhere you turn, people are affected by change.

In 2008, we saw government intervention

take a seat at the table of financial bailout on a myriad of socioeconomic levels to the tune of over \$1 trillion in rescue and stimulus packages.

Well-established, global-market companies laid off employees, creating the highest unemployment rate in 26 years, according to the Department of Labor. Analysts predict the number of people filing for unemployment benefits will only increase this year.

The U.S. is officially in a recession that is impacting the entire planet. What once was, is no more.

To add to the unshakable uncertainty facing us this year, we will welcome a new commander-in-chief who, like any new person-in-charge, has different views than his predecessor. They are not necessarily going to be bad, just different.

Simply put, we do not know what the future holds . . . except change.

This is not some manic-depressive Happy New Year message, but an opportunity to encourage despite the changes. We are not victims of change, but can make active choices in our response to change.

Our response profoundly affects those around us.

You could spend your time focusing on the state of our world and work yourself into a frenzy that deems you completely ineffective.

Or, you could take the opposite approach and close your eyes to the world around you and remain blissfully ignorant.

The people with the greatest impact, however, are those who confidently and boldly face the winds of change, without wavering. They look to make a positive difference within their own circle of influence.

You may not be able to balance the federal budget but you can adjust your own spending habits. You may not solve unemployment but you can make a difference in the life of an unemployed neighbor.

One person, you, could affect change for the betterment of us all.

From the entire *Patriot* staff, we wish you a very Happy New Year.

**Maj. Jennifer Christovich**  
Chief of Public Affairs

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# PATRIOT

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## A UTA, JAN. 10-11 | General training and meetings schedule

### SATURDAY

- >> Medical, dental exams: 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., 439th AMDS, 390 Walker Ave.
- >> Combat arms training (M-16, M-4): 8:30 a.m.; security forces, Bldg. 2510
- >> Club meals (both days): Breakfast, 6 a.m.-7:15 a.m., lunch, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.; dinner, 5-7 p.m.
- >> Top 3 meeting: 2 p.m., Westover Club
- >> Newcomers briefings: 8 a.m., military personnel flight, Bldg. 1875

### SUNDAY

- >> Newcomers briefing/tour, 8 a.m., MPF
- >> Combat arms training (M-9): 8:30 a.m., Bldg. 2510
- >> CBRNE, Bldg. 2416, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- >> First sergeants meeting, 11:30 a.m., club
- >> Rising 6 meeting, Bldg. 1850 (wing headquarters, 8:30 a.m.)

## BRIEFS |

### UTAs reimbursed

Certain Air Force reservists who travel 150 miles or more from their homes to perform monthly drills may be eligible for round-trip travel reimbursements.

Qualifying reservists include those displaced by Base Realignment and Closure actions and programmatic changes or those serving in critical Air Force specialties. Questions should be directed to unit orderly rooms.

### Yellow Ribbon

Officials at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command recently directed that all AFRC wings enact the Yellow Ribbon Program.

The program helps minimize the stresses of military service, specifically when a reservist deploys and the family faces separation. The program also educates families on services and resources available to assist them.

For more information about Westover's Yellow Ribbon Program, call Master Sgt. Gerald Dufresne at Ext.3031.

### CAC login puts users on ARPC site

Airmen can now log into the Virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve using their Common Access Cards. This allows Airmen to associate their vPC-GR account with their CAC, eliminating the need to remember another password.

For more information, click on the Air Force Print News Story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123121794> or contact the Air Reserve Personnel Center Contact Center at 1-800-525-0102.

### CFC organizers top goal by \$15K

Hard work and multiple fund-raisers helped push the Patriot Wing \$15,000 past its \$35,000 Combined Federal Campaign goal in December.

By late December, the Westover community had raised \$50,000, said Lt. Col. Douglas Sudnick, one of this year's campaign project officers. Reservists and civilian workers hosted a chili cook-off in December that raised \$150. The Dec. 3 event, held in wing headquarters, was among a series of fund-raisers held throughout the fall.

Three Patriot Wing members took top honors for having the best chili. Lt. Col. Rick Tilburg, 439th AW, took first place while Maj. Kelly Hosey, 439th Mission Support Squadron commander, and Staff Sgt. Shutascia Irby, 439th Maintenance Squadron, took second and third, respectively.

In addition, a tournament held at the bowling center, with teams of three players each playing two games, raised \$196.50. Half of the proceeds went to the CFC.

A cookie contest took place during the December A UTA at the military personnel flight building.

Established in 1961, CFC is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country and the only campaign authorized to solicit and collect contributions from federal employees in the workplace.

### ESGR awards

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense agency, has opened the nomination season for the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. National Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have gone above and beyond in their support of military employees. Nominations will be accepted at [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil) until Jan. 19.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. government to employers for their outstanding support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

For questions regarding the Freedom Award nomination process, please visit [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil) or contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 703-380-9717.

# Eligible reservists may qualify for early retired pay

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** (AFNS) -- Department of Defense officials here have issued new guidelines for early receipt of retired pay for members of the Reserve components.

Instead of having to wait until age 60 to receive Reserve retired pay, eligible members may receive retired pay prior to age 60 but not before age 50.

Under interim changes to Department of Defense Instruction 1215.07, Service Credit for Reserve Retirement, issued under a law passed by Congress effective Jan. 28, 2008, Reserve component members are able to reduce the age at which they are eligible to receive retirement pay by three months for each cumulative period of 90 days served on active duty in any fiscal year.

Under the new law, members eligible to

receive retired pay earlier than age 60 must still wait until age 60 to receive health-care benefits.

Involuntary mobilization and voluntary active duty in support of a contingency qualify, but there is no requirement to be involuntarily mobilized, to support a contingency or to serve on active duty outside the continental United States to receive credit under the law.

Most active-duty time qualifies, including training, operational support duties and school tours. It does not matter whether active-duty time is paid for under military or reserve personnel appropriation accounts, provided such active duty is performed under the authority of 10 U.S. Code § 12301 (d).

The following time served on active duty is not creditable service for purposes of reducing retired pay age: as a member of the active

Guard and Reserve (10 U.S.C. § 12310); on annual tour (10 U.S.C. § 12301(b)); while in captive status (10 U.S.C. § 12301(g)); for medical treatment, medical evaluation for disability purposes or medical study (10 U.S.C. § 12301(h)); as a member not assigned to, or participating satisfactorily in, units (10 U.S.C. § 12303); under active-duty agreements (10 U.S.C. § 12311); for disciplinary/courts-martial (10 U.S.C. § 12315); or for muster duty (10 U.S.C. § 12319).

Qualifying active-duty service performed after Jan. 28, 2008, the date on which the fiscal 2008 National Defense Authorization Act was enacted, is creditable.

For more information, click on the Air Reserve Personnel Center Web site at [www.arpc.afrc.af.mil](http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil)

## Chart shows 3.9 percent raise in 2009 drill pay

Grade	Years of Service														
	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
O-8	1,206	1,246	1,272	1,279	1,312	1,366	1,380	1,431	1,446	1,491	1,555	1,615	1,654	1,654	1,654
O-7	1,003	1,048	1,070	1,087	1,118	1,149	1,184	1,220	1,255	1,366	1,461	1,461	1,461	1,461	1,468
O-6	743	817	870	870	873	911	915	915	967	1,060	1,113	1,168	1,198	1,228	1,289
O-5	619	698	746	754	785	803	835	872	910	967	994	1,021	1,051	1,051	1,051
O-4	534	618	661	669	708	748	799	840	867	883	893	893	893	893	893
O-3	470	533	575	628	657	689	711	746	764	764	764	764	764	764	764
O-2	405	462	533	550	562	562	562	562	562	562	562	562	562	562	562
O-1	352	367	443	443	443	443	443	443	443	443	443	443	443	443	443
O-3E	-	-	-	628	657	689	711	746	776	793	816	816	816	816	816
O-2E	-	-	-	550	562	580	610	634	650	650	650	650	650	650	650
O-1E	-	-	-	443	473	491	508	527	550	550	550	550	550	550	550
E-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	586	601	616	637	656	688	737	744	787
E-8	-	-	-	-	-	480	502	514	531	547	578	594	620	635	671
E-7	334	364	378	397	411	435	450	463	489	501	512	521	544	560	601
E-6	289	318	331	346	359	392	404	418	430	434	437	437	437	437	437
E-5	264	283	296	311	331	350	364	368	368	368	368	368	368	368	368
E-4	243	255	269	283	294	294	294	294	294	294	294	294	294	294	294
E-3	219	233	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247
E-2	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209
E-1	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186



**TUSKEGEE AIRMAN** >> Staff Sgt. Sadia Moore was the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's Tuskegee Airman of the Week in November 2008. Sergeant Moore is deployed from Westover's 439th Services Squadron and is a lodging specialist with the 332nd Expeditionary Force Support Squadron at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. (photo by Staff Sgt. Don Branum, 332 AEW Public Affairs)

## Reservists rack up awards, volunteering

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Patriot Wing reservists have continued to make their professional and volunteering presences known at one of the largest American military bases in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Sadia Moore was the Tuskegee Airman of the Week for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, in November. More than 25,000 members of the American military are assigned to Balad. Sergeant Moore, deployed from the 439th Services Squadron, streamlined lodging check-in and check-out procedures at Balad by migrating the office to an electronic system, reducing patrons' inprocessing and outprocessing times by an hour.

Senior Airman Julie Novak, deployed with the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, volunteers at the base hospital -- frequently after she has put in a 14-16 hour

workday.

Airman Novak, assigned to the 439th AW Public Affairs Office, had accrued almost 100 hours by November.

"I love helping people and having the patients know that there is always going to be someone there for them," she said.

The Airman works at the hospital helipad, assisting in transporting patients from the helicopter to the emergency room.

Senior Airman Stephanie Biza, deployed from the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, volunteers from seven to 12 hours weekly at the hospital.

"I feel I am contributing more and am thanking those who are 'outside the wire' for keeping us safer," Airman Biza said. "This has been a humbling and rewarding experience."

Click on [www.westover.afrc.af.mil](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil) to see more coverage of the Westover reservists' volunteer efforts.

## Statistics mark another busy year

Patriot Wing C-5s fly worldwide strategic airlift missions that primarily originate from Dover Air Force Base, Del., and Charleston AFB, S.C.

Most of these missions support American and coalition warfighters in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Other common missions in 2008 included Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) training, and channel missions to the areas of responsibility (AOR) at overseas bases.

>> By mid-December 2008, 337th Airlift Squadron aircrews flew more than 4,000 hours and hauled more than 10,000 tons of cargo.

>> Patriot Wing aerial port reservists processed more than 2,800 passengers and moved more than 2,200,000 pounds of cargo through Westover in 2008.

>> Air Force commitments to the Global War on Terror had kept more than 240 reservists deployed worldwide by mid-December.

(Statistics compiled by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe, 439<sup>th</sup> AW Public Affairs)



photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope



"Listen closely to the commanders on the ground who are in the midst of the crisis or situations and try not to make hasty decisions."

**Master Sgt. Madeline Herrera, maintenance operations**



"Find ways to empower the Airmen and ways to improve morale."

**Staff Sgt. Samantha Kouflie, mission support group**



"Our new CINC should visit Westover, build new hangars, and give a well-deserved pay raise to the maintenance folks."

**Staff Sgt. Francisco Ramirez, maintenance**

**TROOP TALK** | What advice do you have for our new commander-in-chief?



Very  
VTC bring

**A FAMILY CHAT >>** Omar Brown and Georgeanna Lamb listen to and watch Senior Airman Crystal Lamb saying hello to her family from thousands of miles away at her deployed location at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. (photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope)

# Touching Connection

Brings families to virtual reunion at conference center

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

The acronym VTC took on a different meaning for many family members who spoke to their deployed Patriot Wing loved ones in Balad, Iraq via video teleconference, Dec. 7.

Instead, VTC stood for a very touching connection as 12 deployed reservists and their family members were able to see each other for the first time since they deployed.

During the approximately three-hour VTC session, each reservist had about 15 minutes of private time to spend with their loved ones. While they waited for their turn, the family members were treated to movies and refreshments, courtesy of the Pioneer Valley USO.

"This was great, we're grateful for the opportunity," said Angela Schofield, wife of Staff Sgt. Steven Schofield from the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, who is on his first deployment. "Just not having him around has been the biggest adjustment," she said when asked how she and her son, Jared, are coping.

"It's going to be a quieter Christmas as he's the life of the party."

The idea for holiday season VTCs came when one of the squadrons with deployed reservists requested the use of the VTC to connect the reservists and their families, according to Marian Bein, manager of Westover's Conference Center.

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**HI AUNTIE! >>** Olivia Close, niece of Senior Airman Julie Novak, reacts to her deployed aunt's conversation during the Dec. 7 videoteleconference. Airman Novak was among 12 reservists who called into the Westover Conference Center's VTC room spoke with -- and saw -- their families for the first time since they had deployed. (photo by Maj. Wilson Camelo)

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Since Westover has many units deployed to Balad, VTC organizers expanded the opportunity to include members of the other units including the 439<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, 58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, 42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron and Public Affairs.

Coordinating a VTC during the holiday season was not an easy task, Mrs. Bein noted. While the request was made in early November, the approval didn't come until Dec. 2.

## Reservists talk with families

### 439th Services Squadron

Staff Sgt. Sadia Moore  
Senior Airman Efrain Ortiz

### 58th Aerial Port Squadron

Senior Airman Crystal Lamb

### 439th Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Steven Schofield  
Senior Airman Dana Grant-  
eed

### 439th AW Public Affairs

Senior Airman Julie Novak

### 42nd APS

Master Sgts. Daniel Lawlor  
and Robert White  
Tech. Sgt. John Vitullo  
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Szymanski  
Senior Airmen Kristopher  
Grimshaw and Stephanie  
Biza

The availability provided was only five days later on Dec. 7. The squadrons sprang into action to determine which reservists would

be available, and then to contact the family members to invite them to participate.

"I am very pleased that we could provide this holiday VTC to the reservists and their families," Mrs. Bein said.

"I want to give a big 'thank you' to the 332nd Expeditionary Communication Squadron at Joint Base Balad for helping to make this happen as well as all others who were part of the coordination effort."

# Retired NCO recalls harrowing crash landing in South Vietnam

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Ray Snedegar can easily recall the sunny afternoon of April 4, 1975.

It was a day that changed his life forever.

Then-Senior Master Sgt. Ray Snedegar was part of a massive Air Force airlift operation -- Operation Babylift -- that took women, children, and orphans out of harm's way from Saigon, South Vietnam.

Mostly flying C-141 Starlifters, the U.S. government also directed a C-5 Galaxy from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., to take part in the evacuation.

On board the C-5 were more than 280 evacuees and 16 flight crew members from the 22nd Military Airlift Squadron



Chief Snedegar

at Travis. Chief Snedegar was one of those crew members.

With the C-5 having been in the Air Force only five years in 1975, he was among the very first C-5 loadmasters. Also on board were 10 medical crew members, two combat photographers, and a command post coordinator from Clark AB, Phillipines.

Chief Snedegar spent some time in the cargo hold of a Westover C-5 in August 2008 with a National Geographic Magazine film crew. A TV show featuring the accident will air on the National Geographic television channel later this spring.

With some pauses and an occasional tear, he recalled his odyssey of the C-5's belly landing in a South Vietnam rice paddy -- still vivid more than 33 years later.

Takeoff from the massive Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon was normal and initial climb out was routine. Then, at nearly 24,000 feet, a loud noise -- a rapid decompression in the cargo compartment -- began what he remembered as "images burned into my brain."

A veteran of thousands of hours in C/AC-47s, C/AC-119s, C-130s, C-141s, and C-5s, he recalled the sound he heard that began a terrifying chain of events.

"It was an immediate and instantaneous bang," the chief said. "It was a tinny sound just exactly like I had heard when attending

recurrent altitude chamber training. There was an instantaneous fog in the airplane. It was very thick."

The emergency crew training every Airman goes through while preparing to fly in the C-5 became his mindset.

"I had to find out how grave the situation was. I grabbed the oxygen bottle on the wall. I saw the flight deck door was missing," he said. "The door that led to the cockpit was separated from the cockpit entry and was laying at the bottom of the crew ladder." Suction from the outside had forced the door off. He looked into the cargo deck.

"There was a lot of crying and yelling. There was rapid decompression. Debris was flying all over the place. I could see the control cables, which had been severed in the rapid decompression, dangling out the back of the airplane. The severed hydraulic lines, also cut in the decompression, had sprayed hydraulic fluid."

The C-5 went into a left bank, and he realized the aircraft was going down, while it sustained a loss of the rear cargo door.

"We were on four engines and ailerons. We started to climb up, then go down," he said.

The aircraft commander, Capt. Dennis Traynor and the other pilot, Capt. Tilford Harp, tried to get the C-5 back to Tan Son Nhut.

"These were innovative pilots," he said. "They tried adjusting airspeed."

Instead the pilots had to settle for putting the 247-foot-long jet down onto a rice paddy.

"They got the gear down. I elected to go back downstairs (to the cargo compartment)," Chief Snedegar said. He planned to assist the floor-loaded passengers and help with unload-

ing and evacuating. But as he tried to go to the compartment, the flight engineer pulled him back onto the flight deck.

He proceeded to the relief crew area where he strapped into the first seat at the table.

"We were seconds away from crashing," Chief Snedegar said.

He reached down, grabbed his seat belt and snapped it shut. Before he had time to tighten the seat belt, the aircraft impacted the ground the first time. It skimmed along the ground, became airborne, flew completely across the Saigon River, and impacted the ground the second time.

"Everything slowed down to in my mind and stayed that way until the aircraft came to a complete stop," he said.

The force of the jet hitting the earth ripped its main landing gear of 24 wheels out of the bottom of the fuselage.

"The tail had broken off and we were sliding along. The troop compartment broke off and the wings came off with all the fuel inside," he said. He was hanging upside down in his seat belt.

"There was an eerie silence. I fell on my head. I was lost at this point," Chief Snedegar recalled. "I stepped out on the ground into a swamp up to my armpits. I was in shock."

Despite his physical condition, Chief Snedegar was more concerned about the passengers. "

I looked for survivors, checked the conditions of others around the aircraft, and cared for both injured crew members and the few survivors in the cargo and troop compartments."

Chief Snedegar helped get the babies out of the aircraft. "Then the helicopters started coming in. Most of the crew were out."

Some of the slides opened on the C-5's upper deck on the first impact. But the devastating impact of the belly landing killed more than 170 of the passengers.

Five of the flight crew (three were loadmasters), three of the medical crew, both combat photographers, and the command post coordinator, also died.

"I'd been with these three loadmasters a long, long time," he said. "One of them survived for 17 days before he passed away."

Chief Snedegar and the other surviving crew members returned to Travis April 15, 1975. He wouldn't return to flying until September of that year.

## TV show on C-5 to air in spring

A film crew spent several days over two visits last summer to Westover's flight line filming C-5 flight operations and interviewing retired Chief Master Sgt. Ray Snedegar.

A film on the Operation Babylift accident is scheduled to air in the spring on the National Geographic TV channel.

Look for the listing in an upcoming issue of the *Patriot* and on Westover's official web site:

[www.westover.afrc.af.mil](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil)



WINNERS ALL >> Four of the five annual wing award winners pause for a photo following Commander's Call in December. They are from left, Master Sgt. Eric Harris, Staff Sgt. Jane Cowan, Senior Airman Christopher Cardella, and Capt. Corey Aiken. Not pictured is Alan Anderson. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton)

## Patriot Wing honors annual top performer Airmen

**Capt. Corey Aiken**, 337th Airlift Squadron, C-5 instructor aircraft commander

Years at Westover: Three and a half

Home town: Manchester, N.H.

Favorite aspect of Westover: "It's a second family being here on the UTAs; it's fun to see all those people. It's what keeps me here."

**Master Sgt. Eric Harris**, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron hydraulic supervisor, additional duty first sergeant

Years at Westover: Eighteen  
Home town: Kinderhook, N.Y.

Favorite aspect: "Being able to come out here on a monthly basis -- more often than that -- it's my second home. I enjoy coming out here and doing what I do."

**Staff Sgt. Jane Cowan**, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, health services management

Years at Westover: Four  
Home town: Hanover, N.H.

Favorite aspect: "I made a couple of good friends when I deployed

earlier this year. It's wonderful to see them because as reservists we don't necessarily live close to our unit. I love coming down to the base to see those guys."

**Senior Airman Christopher Cardella**, 439th Security Forces Squadron patrolman

Years at Westover: Three  
Hometown: South Hadley, Mass.

Favorite aspect: "Meeting all the great people. We have a lot from everywhere."

**Alan Anderson**, 439th Mission Support Squadron human resources assistant (military personnel)

Years at Westover: Six  
Home town: Belchertown, Mass.

Favorite aspect: "Westover was always my location of choice for work. The sense of accomplishment in helping people is phenomenal."

## Security forces squadron nabs Commander's Cup trophy

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

For Tech. Sgt. Christopher Webster, the glory of getting the 2008 Commander's Cup came at a price.

"It was nerve-wracking," said the captain of the winning 439th Security Forces Squadron team. "I don't like to be in front of a big crowd."

Sergeant Webster took the stage at Commander's Call Dec. 6 with SFS commander Maj. Wesley Thiel to receive the cup trophy from Col. Robert Swain Jr., 439th Airlift Wing commander.

The SFS members -- through physical fitness and solid participation -- beat out the other 17 squadrons on base to win

the year-long competition. More than 100 squadron members, from reservists, active guard/reserve technicians and civilians, participated. They competed in 20 events, including dodgeball, volleyball, soccer, bowling, racquetball, basketball, softball and an Air Force physical fitness testing session that included running, push-ups, and sit-ups.

By the summer of last year, Sergeant Webster knew he and his teammates had pulled away with a commanding lead.

"Nobody could really catch us from there," he said. "We had so many points gathered up."

"SFS took an impressive lead, and won this year's challenge by more than 100 points," said Christina Udas, services marketing assist.

That margin may be from the fitness level they maintain."

"Our squadron is probably the most in-shape on the base," Sergeant Webster said. "Our people just wanted to participate in the events."

Going into 2009, the SFS team has lost a few members to separations and retirements, but the core of the team is intact. Services Airmen and civilians oversaw the competitions, held on both the A and B UTAs. Sergeant Webster looked forward to the 2009 Westover competition.

"This year's team is looking promising as well," he said. We should be just as strong as last year's."

## PATRIOT PEOPLE |



Staff Sgt. Gary Latour

NAME : Gary Latour  
 RANK : Staff sergeant  
 AGE : 30  
 HOMETOWN : Lowell, Mass.  
 UNIT : 439th Services Squadron  
 POSITION : Services journeyman  
 FAVORITE FOOD : Pizza  
 YEARS OF SERVICE : Nine  
 FAVORITE SPORT : Football  
 FAVORITE HOBBY : Hunting  
 IDEAL VACATION : Bora Bora  
 BEST WAY TO RELAX : Read  
 PREFERRED ENTERTAINMENT : Movies  
 FAVORITE HERO : Superman  
 FAVORITE MUSIC STYLE : Rock  
 FAVORITE MOVIE : Braveheart  
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT : A-10  
 PET PEEVE : People who don't do their jobs  
 WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WON \$1 MILLION : Go on vacation

**SURVEY SAYS >>** Westover reservists may anonymously complete the 2009 services customer feedback survey on line. The deadline to complete it is Jan. 15. The link to the feedback survey is: <http://www.usafservue.com>.

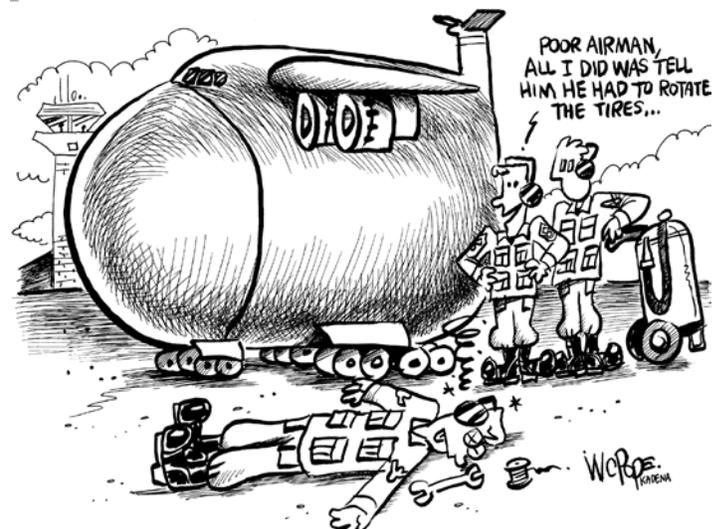
**CLUBBIN' IT >>** The Westover Club is open Monday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch is Mondays and Tuesdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu includes French dip made with slow-roasted prime rib and au jus and served with apple crisp and vanilla ice cream. For more information, call Ext. 2039

**GOING DOWNHILL? >>** Ski season is here and the outdoor recreation staff has many winter accessories for rent and some for sale. In other news, a new vehicle storage lot is under construction, with more spaces to be available. Information: Ext. 2192

**WILD WEDNESDAYS >>** Wild Wednesday s at the bowling center: During lunch, bowl your way to a free lunch (up to a \$5 value). Knock eight pins down or better on five separate lanes and lunch is free. Each try costs \$1. One free lunch per person per week.

**JANUARY SERVICES CALENDER |** [www.westoverservices.com](http://www.westoverservices.com)

## PATRIOT PUNS |



## PATRIOT PRAISES | Promotions

### Senior master sergeant

Laurie A. Briggs  
 Louis C. Curto  
 Gary D. Smith  
 Jason E. Smith

### Master sergeant

Martin A. Bray  
 Kathleen M. Busch  
 Mark W. Butler  
 Matthew Dallachie  
 Sonja L. Deyoe  
 Jared M. Kalagher  
 David M. Shattuck  
 Christopher M. Palmer  
 Ronald J. Lebreton

### Technical sergeant

Matthew J. Burlingame  
 William F. Brenner  
 Heidi L. Coleman  
 Francis M. Donadio  
 Arjel R. Falcon  
 Keith M. Feist  
 Andrew T. Fahey  
 Bradley S. Hann  
 James D. St. Hilaire  
 Ray E. Martin  
 Kevin M. Preston  
 Chris J. Raymond  
 Albert I. Saavedra  
 Jose A. Sanchez  
 Hollie C. Soule

Michael L. Ventura  
 James R. Willett

### Staff sergeant

Ivan Aponte  
 Sean P. Bartley  
 Mercy M. Bashir  
 Korey M. Bissonette  
 Matthew Borowski  
 Joshua Butterworth  
 Cecil A. Calvin  
 Raymond Chan  
 Christopher Eldridge  
 Christian Fassel  
 Cullen Gardner  
 John T. Griffith

Kristopher T. Grimshaw  
 Juan J. Hiciano  
 Nicholas L. Hotham  
 Jorhan O. Jurado  
 Jenna D. Marotte  
 Gordon D. Mearns  
 Doreen Mercado  
 Donovan Neiford  
 Trevor Phillip  
 Anthony C. Racco  
 Sean E. Robbins  
 Rosanna M. Rossi  
 Eric P. Zawatski

**Senior Airman Adam N. Conley**



**ECONOMIC ENGINE >>** The annual economic impact of Westover -- more than \$195 million in Fiscal Year 2008 -- continues to make the base one of the most significant contributors to the western Massachusetts economy. More growth will occur in 2009 on the base, as about 1,000 new Army people move into the Armed Forces Reserve Center now under construction on Eagle Drive. The center is scheduled to open in October. (Graphic by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope)

**PATRIOT** |

[www.westover.afrc.af.mil](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil)

A UTA | JAN. 10-11 | B UTA | JAN. 24-25



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Westover ARB  
Chicopee, Mass. 01022-1825

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Published monthly for Patriots like Capt. Jessica Rose, Tewksbury, Mass., and 3,053 reservists and civilians of the 439<sup>th</sup> AW and the wing's geographically separated unit at Hanscom AFB, Mass.