



photo by W.C. Pope



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## UTA SNAPSHOT |

### Saturday

Round robin training, 12- 4 p.m.  
-- Base Hangar/337 AS Auditorium  
-- Players participate in two, one-hour blocks: Player briefing in 337 AS Auditorium; ATSO/AATNA training, hangar floor

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**Sym-POSE-ium** Students from area schools gather for a group photo during the fourth annual Hispanic Youth Leadership Symposium April 27. Turn to pages 6 and 7 for more on the symposium.

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**HANGAR FACELIFT** Crews replace the front of Hangar 9 April 28. Renovations will continue on each hangar through this summer. The hangars, built in 1940 for maintenance of World War II bombers and fighters, now house offices and equipment. (photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)



Colonel Healy

We have worked tirelessly getting ready for the ORI. We've done ORTP's, ORE's, MOPping, slapping, donning, doffing, signing, countersigning, saluting, defending, i n j e c t i n g ... prepping. Now we

are ready to show the IG what we've got. We survived the snow of Alpena in March and need to apply everything we learned from our exercise. Through teamwork with the 109th and the 944th, a sense of urgency and purpose, attention to detail and pride in what we do, we will exceed all expectations during the ORI. There are some keys to succeeding beyond the catch phrases.

What it gets down to is education and practice.

The education that's needed is beyond your tech school basics. As crucial as

these basics of how to do your job are, you'll need more. You will need a third eye towards safety – not only for what you're doing, but for what others around you are doing. Cutting corners or doing tasks "the way they really do it downrange" will get us costly and unnecessary write-ups. Education involves not only knowing your technical job, but also your supervisors' and subordinates' jobs, in case they're removed from the inspection as part of the exercise. Education also involves having a basic understanding of how the information flows after various attacks. How does a PAR member's report get from the corner of your building all the way up to the ICC? What does the ICC do with that information?

An understanding of that flow will help you understand why we're wearing the masks for two hours and will help you know how to get out of them sooner. That education will also help you be innovative in solving a problem when the IG restricts a normal means of communication or

transportation.

Practice is what we've been doing for the last year plus. Practice is these last few weeks of getting that MOPP gear on in well under two minutes with no mistakes. Practice is what builds the muscle memory that allows you to work under a desk for hours drinking through a stale, rubber tasting tube. Practice is what will allow us to adapt to all the curveballs, delays and unpredictable events that will happen en route and while TDY in Alpena.

My task for the last six months has been to get the wing ready for the ORI. I can assure you, we are ready. Continue to ask questions and build upon your education. Continue to practice. Keep that sense of purpose, urgency and pride as we prove yet again that we are the best wing in the Air Force Reserve.

**by Col. John Healy**  
**439th Airlift Wing**  
**vice commander**

## BRIEFS |

### Bosslift Sept. 7-8

Employers of reservists with the 439th Airlift Wing are invited to fly on a Westover C-5 Bosslift Sept. 7-8 to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Scheduled visits include touring a reserve unit at nearby Randolph AFB, a Marine and Naval Reserve center, and the 149th Fighter Wing of the Texas Air National Guard.

Bosslifts are coordinated with members of the Massachusetts Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve.

Employers will fly from Westover and may sign up for the Bosslift by calling the 439th AW Public Affairs Office at 557-2020. E-mail: 439aw.pa@westover.af.mil

The ESGR web site is [esgr.org](http://esgr.org)

### Leadership changes hands on UTA

Two changes of command will take place on the June A UTA.

-- Col. William Kountz will relinquish command of the 439th Maintenance Group at 10 a.m. June 4 to Col. Kerry Kohler in the Base Hangar. Colonel Kohler comes to Westover from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., where he was commander of the 403rd Maintenance Group.

-- Col. Bruce Finley will assume command of the 439th Mission Support Group at 3 p.m. June 4 in Hangar 3. Colonel Finley was the 452<sup>nd</sup> MSG deputy commander at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., before his assignment here. He is taking command of MSG from Lt. Col. Kenneth Lute, acting MSG commander.

### Omega Travel going away

Omega Travel, which assists military members with travel arrangements, closed May 31. Starting June 1, arrangements will instead be centralized through a new travel call center. For more information, call SATO travel at (877) 907-5376.

### Base club renovation postponed

A planned June renovation of the Westover Club has been postponed until further notice. For more information, call Erin LaHart, club manager at 413-557-2039, Ext. 103.

### Employer Day

Reservists interested in showing employers their jobs with the 439th Airlift Wing can do so Aug. 6.

This year's Employer Day, taking place in the Base Hangar on the August A UTA, will immerse bosses in the military way of life. The morning's activities will begin with a mobility line, dog tags, and mobility "records."

Other planned activities include the C-5 simulator, meals ready-to-eat, briefings from Employer Support for the Guard and more.

Employers of reservists may sign up for Employer Day by visiting the following link on Westover's web site:

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

# Maintainers notch best in command

by Senior Airman Alexander Brown

Westover's Aircraft Maintenance Unit has been awarded the Air Force Reserve Command Section of the Year for 2010, Reserve Command Officials announced in May.

AMU specialists, who are part of the 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, troubleshoot and service the C-5 – the largest Air Force aircraft and inherently one of the most complex. Each C-5 has more than 20,000 components.

About 350 reservists and air reserve technicians staff the AMU. Command officials evaluated the AMU staff from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2010.

During the Afghanistan surge in the summer of 2010, Westover's AMU specialists continued to uphold the stellar reputation of Patriot Wing maintainers, many of whom deployed to Rota Air Base, Spain.

"They were able to achieve 90 percent departure reliability during the surge," said Capt. Robert Dossman, maintenance flight commander.

Those missions, many of which originated overseas from Rota, involved crucial deliveries of mine resistant ambush protected vehicles, ammunition, and other essentials to warfighters in Afghanistan.

Back home and outside of their main duties, the maintainers devoted hours to an annual base fund-raiser. AMU members donated about



**FINAL FLIGHTS** Four C-5 A-models line the North Ramp in April. These airlifters, among those planned for retirement from the Air Force, will soon make their final flights from Westover to the boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. (photo by Senior Airman Alexander Brown)

## A-model C-5s await final mission to boneyard

by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

The days are numbered for a quartet of C-5A airlifters which have taken space on Westover's sprawling flight line for several weeks until their final flights.

Parked on the North Ramp since early April, the four jets are part of the planned retirement of more than 50 A-model C-5s. Three of the jets are from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, while one is from Lackland AFB, Texas.

The Air Force has temporarily placed the airlifters here due to Westover's spacious flight line and because the Patriot Wing maintainers have a renowned reputation for C-5 maintenance. "We're taking care of them before they leave here for the boneyard," said Capt. Robert Dossman, maintenance officer with the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The first C-5A was scheduled to make its "final

flight" to the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base boneyard May 25.

The boneyard is the unofficial, but more well-known name for the military's sprawling Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center, located next to Davis-Monthan, near Tucson, Ariz.

The Galaxies are each more than 40 years old. Once the aircraft land, AMARC specialists will quickly remove spare parts from the aircraft, and redistribute them into the Air Force logistics system to benefit the remaining fleet of C-5s.

Each aircraft has thousands of hours from worldwide missions that supported national defense objectives that began with the Vietnam War back in 1970, when the last of the A-models came off the assembly line.

Westover has 16 C-5B models, which are scheduled to be reengined to the new C-5M models by 2017.

\$16,000 to the 2010 Combined Federal Campaign drive -- nearly a third of the entire donations collected during the drive.

They also turned in an outstanding rating during a base exercise and maintained excellence in their safety programs. "The AMU is the best C-5

maintenance unit in the Air Force," Captain Dossman said. "There is just no comparison."



# Bin Laden death may impact Afghanistan, SecDef says

by Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. – The killing of Osama bin Laden “could be a game changer” that affects the situation in Afghanistan, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said here May 6.

“Bin Laden and [Taliban leader] Mullah Omar had a very close personal relationship, and there are others in the Taliban who have felt betrayed by al-Qaida -- [they feel] it was because of al-Qaida’s attack on the United States that the Taliban got thrown out of Afghanistan,” the secretary said.

Officials may know in six months or so how bin Laden’s death has affected al-Qaida operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere, Gates said.

The secretary described U.S. relations in the region as complex. Using Pakistan as an example, the secretary said he would have been astounded if someone had told him two years ago that Pakistan would have 140,000 troops on its western border with Afghanistan and was going to drive the Pakistani Taliban and al-Qaida from South Waziristan and the Swat Valley.

The United States and Pakistan are firm partners in the fight against terrorism, Gates said. However, he added,

the Pakistanis may be concerned that United States’ current interest in the region may diminish with time.

“At the same time there is no question that they hedge their bets,” he said of Pakistan’s leadership. “Their view is that we have abandoned them four times in the last 45 years, and they are still not sure we are going to stay in the region.” Pakistan and the United States have to keep working on their relationship, Gates said. At the tactical level -- across the border with Afghanistan -- the relationship is good and getting better, he said.

“I would say it is a relationship we just have to keep working at,” he said.



**HOUSE CALL** Chicopee Mayor Michael Bissonnette explains to the media and local officials about the purchase by the city of five houses once owned by the base during its Strategic Air Command years. Civilian and military officials gathered May 6, at the property called “General’s Row” on Fredette St., outside the Westover Gate, to mark the purchase of former military housing. The City of Chicopee acquired 30 acres of land and 133 units of housing. Also pictured are Congressman Richard Neal (D-Springfield) and Col. Robert Swain, 439th Airlift Wing Commander. (photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)



# Leadership, rockets blast a Symposium



by 2nd Lt. Andre Bowser

Countdown: Five, four, three, two, one.

For a fourth year in a row, a symposium designed to help launch the lives of Hispanic high school students took place at Westover April 27 with a goal of teaching students leadership skills. The day also saw the maiden voyage of a model rocket program involving 15 Springfield middle school students.

The Hispanic Youth Leadership Symposium brought more than 160 students out to the event, which started with a welcome from Col. John Healy, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing vice commander. After tours of a C-5, the base fire station, demonstrations by security forces Airmen, among other activities, the high schoolers witnessed 15 model rocket launches.

The event's grand finale was conducted by 15 students from Springfield's

STEM Middle Academy, who observed each model rocket launch while inside a cordoned-off area. The academy students had taken part in a weeks-long course called the Patriot Propulsion Program, which taught them the basics of aeronautics, and culminated in the launch demonstration with the trajectories soaring above the base ellipse. The spectacle drew Amanda Wallace's eyes high into the blue sky. The Chicopee High School senior smiled and pointed as rockets reached heights up to 250 feet.

Middle school student Francheska Torres was nervous as she waited for her turn to launch the rocket she built.

"Let's just hope that when it's time to fly it doesn't blow up," she said.

Francheska said the risk was worth the potential reward.

"I think participation in this program will take me to a new understanding of rocketry, NASA and what they do," she continued on page 9





off during annual  
m



photos by Senior Airman Alexander Brown,  
Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe and W.C.Pope



# ORI made simple!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *These ORI ground rules are a condensed compilation of IG guidance.*

1. Litter lifts, carrying, and lowering will be demonstrated with a casualty on the litter. Maximum litter carry by non-medical personnel will be 10 feet.
2. Vehicle operators must remove their masks and may remove their chemical boots when driving outside the "play area," and will reassume the full protective posture before exiting the vehicle at their destination, if that destination is within the play area.
3. M-9 weapons will not be deployed to the forward operating base. Aircrew and personnel who are normally assigned an M-9 for deployment will demonstrate issue and turn-in procedures at home station. These deployed personnel will be required to wear an empty M-9 holster to simulate being armed while deployed to the forward operating base.
4. Do not bring live ammunition for any weapon to the FOB.
5. Each wing will be responsible for providing weapons for their personnel. Under no circumstances will one wing be allowed to ship weapons for all ORI participants.
6. All M-4/M-16s will be fitted with blank firing adapters. The blank adapters will not be removed from the weapon during "play area," transition, swap out, or redeployment phases of the ORI.
7. All magazines loaded with blank ammunition will be painted blue or have blue tape on the magazines.
8. Inspected unit personnel will not take weapons off the grounds of the Contingency Response Training Center.
9. All required unit reports and messages will be completed and signed (released) by the appropriate authorities. Additionally, copies of all messages will be provided to the HQ AMC/IG team.
10. If an individual becomes ill, injured, or requires emergency leave, the inspected unit will coordinate travel and replacement, as required. Inspected unit must inform and obtain approval from the HQ AMC/IG AMD.
11. Enemy attacks may be initiated by simulated means such as smoke grenades, GBS, small arms fire, input cards, bird cannons, or any other means that simulate threats to the security of unit resources and personnel. Any color smoke may be used. Smoke color has no meaning.
12. Aircraft, vehicles, and equipment damaged, destroyed, or contaminated as a result of simulated enemy activity may be returned to service after appropriate unit actions are taken and approved by the HQ AMC/IG functional inspector.
13. The play area is delineated by the redline boundaries on the CRTC maps available on the HQ AMC/IG website, accessed via the Air Force Portal.
14. All personnel inside the play area, whether on or off duty, will be considered active inspection participants and must dress/respond appropriately.
15. The CRTC Fitness Center is off-limits to all personnel.
16. Any inspected unit personnel assigned to perform duties in a "no play area" will result in that facility being designated a "play area."
17. No Play Area includes lodging quarters and their immediate vicinity (within 25 feet of the facility).
18. All commercial food sources at the FOB/FOL are off-limits during all phases of the inspection. This includes CRTC vendors.

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said. "Also, it will help me in my education because when I grow up I want to work in a NASA field as an engineer."  
Westover leadership said the base hosts the symposium to create a partnership and an on-going outreach service to the Latino Youth in Chicopee, Holyoke, Springfield and beyond. One high school group traveled from Worcester, said Master Sgt. Luisa Cabana, the symposium's coordinator. Sergeant Cabana said the Hispanic Youth Leadership Symposium was inspired by the League of United Latin

American Citizens convention, held in July 2007.

William J. Dean Technical High School student Ronny Hernandez marched members of his school's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets as part of a military drill demonstration.

The senior said AFJROTC helped him decide to serve in the military after high school. "But first I want to get my col-

lege education so that I can go higher in rank," he said.

Education was at the core of both Westover-sponsored programs.

The rocket program's coordinator, 2nd Lt. Alan Fairey, taught the basics of aeronautics to about 16 students, before each student built a model rocket during an after-school program that stretched from March 23 to April 13.

Middle school student Tyler Rainville said he learned more than he ever thought he would.

"I think that rockets are interesting because they can help the world or not help the world in so many ways, such as war, helping with creating clouds filled with water, taking people to space, launching satellites, conducting scientific research in space, and much, much more. I think the program might help me with careers in the science field—maybe designing a new, faster, lighter, and farther-ranged rocket in the future."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Westover's Human Resource Development Council organized and coordinated the leadership symposium.*

*To get involved with HRDC activities, visit the Westover web site at [westover.afrc.af.mil](http://westover.afrc.af.mil).*



# Pull the trigger and know your weapon

## M-16 Clearing Procedure

1. Place M-16 on safe. 2. Remove magazine by pressing release button. 3. Lock bolt to rear, inspect chamber and receiver area for live rounds or obstructions.



4. Push bolt into the forward position, push in bolt catch and pull the charging handle all the way back

into the locked position, then push forward. 5. Make sure weapon in on safe.



## M-16 Function Check

1. Start by clearing the weapon (above), bolt forward and on safe. 2. Pull the trigger, hammer should not fall. 3. Place on Semi and Pull trigger, hammer should fall. 4. Hold the trigger to the rear and charge weapon. 5. Release trigger slowly and smoothly and you should hear an audible click. 6. Place weapon on Burst and pull the trigger and the hammer should fall. 7. Hold the trigger to the rear and release the charging handle three times. 8. Release the trigger, then pull the trigger and the hammer should fall.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is only a guide. Please refer to your Airman's Manual for full details.

## M-9 Clearing Procedure

1. Hold the pistol in the right hand, move the decocking lever down to the safe position. 2. Press the magazine release button and remove the magazine. 3. Grasp the slide with the left hand, cupping the left hand over the ejection port. 4. Rotate the weapon slightly to the right while pushing the slide to the rear. 5. Catch the ejected round in the left palm and lock the slide to the rear. 6. Visually inspect the chamber and receiver area to ensure there is no shell present.



## M-9 Function Check

1. Clear the weapon, above. 2. Release the slide and insert an empty magazine. 3. Retract the slide once it moves all the way to the rear, the magazine follower should hold the slide to the rear. 4. Remove the magazine. 5. Ensure the decocking lever is down, release the slide forward, hammer should fall all the way forward. 6. Release the trigger, firing pin block should move up and down and hammer should not move. 7. Move decocking lever up and fire position. 8. Press the trigger, weapon should dry fire double action. 9. Press the trigger and hold to rear. 10. Retract and release slide. 11. Release the trigger, you should hear a click and hammer shouldn't fall forward. 12. Press trigger to check single action, this time hammer should fall.



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ing machines.

19. No outside food or drink (except water and coffee) is allowed in the "play area". Only food items obtained from Meals, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) may be consumed

in the "play area".

20. Real world support personnel do not participate in or react to inspection scenarios, MOPP levels, or FPCONs.

21. Personnel will be clearly and distinctly marked (reflective belt, arm band,

etc.) to identify unit of assignment.

*Additional ORI prep information may be found on Westover's web site at [westover.afrc.af.mil](http://westover.afrc.af.mil)*

## Wing inducts five chiefs



**CHIEFS' RECOGNITION** The Patriot Wing inducted five senior enlisted Airmen at the Chiefs Induction Ceremony May 14 at the Westover Club. They are, from left to right: Chief Master Sgts. Clifford Wittman, Roger Prinz, Henry Lojkuc, James Doherty, and David Berube. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Stephen Winn)

Below, Master Sgt. Jose Rivers, Patriot Wing Honor Guard, stands at attention during the POW/MIA ceremony. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton)



**ON GUARD** Retired Chief Master Sgt. Vic Viglione donates shell casing bags to Master Sgt. Matthew Fairman of the base honor guard. Retirees recently donated 60 shell casing bags to the honor guard. (photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)

## Retirees donate casing bags to base honor guard

Retired Westover maintainers recently donated 60 shell casing bags to the Base Honor Guard.

The retirees took up a collection to purchase the shell casing bags, said retired Chief Master Sgt. Vic Viglione. Each includes an embroidered Air Force logo and Westover ARB imprint. The bags are used to give the spent shells from a funeral, to the next of kin of the deceased veteran.

The Retired Aircraft Maintainers recently formed to re-establish friendships begun over decades of working together at Westover. Members include air reserve technicians and reservists from past reserve maintenance squadrons. The group, which numbers more than 100 members, meets each first Thursday at noon for lunch.

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*EDITOR'S NOTE: Karen Norton, daughter of retired Senior Master Sgt. Neal Jason, who passed away late last year, thanked the Westover community for its support to the Jason family. She recently received a donated shell casing bag from the maintainers. Sergeant Jason was a member of the 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.*

*We would like to express our gratitude ... thank you for all of your support. To those of you who took the time out of your busy lives to visit with him in Massachusetts or travel to New Hampshire to spend even a few minutes with him, thank you. To those who called from overseas to offer their condolences, thank you. All of those gestures mean so much. It makes me proud to truly and finally recognize the power of this brotherhood. Thank you for being a part of his life. He thought of the Air Force and all of you as his family, in addition to us.*

*Thank you,  
The Family of Neal Jason*



## PATRIOT PEOPLE |

## PATRIOT PRAISES

**Chief Master Sgt.**  
Keith Latarski



**Senior master sergeant**  
Patrick Burke  
Jeffrey Greenwood



**Master sergeant**  
Desmond Farrell  
Christopher Gaj  
John Masters  
Charles McDonald  
James Walberg  
Gregory Williams



**Technical sergeant**  
Sean Bartley  
Kevin Green  
Rokisha Johnson  
Steven Langevin  
Marc Omerzu  
Michael Weinzimmer



**Staff sergeant**  
Danielle Bartlett  
Amanda Garcia  
James Keller  
Alexandru Motoc  
David Penn  
Thomas Scott  
Sarah Slyter  
Vincent Smith  
David Subbotin  
Ysaura Villarreal



**Senior airman**  
John Ashley  
Crystal Attardo  
Aleina Bernier Regan  
Joshua Blanchette  
Timothy Bolton  
Nicholas Bourdeau  
Jason Estrela  
Thomas Kelly  
David Murphy  
Jeffrey Paolino  
Cassie Schettino  
Branden Stubbs  
Troy Thibodeau  
Jeremy Thornton



**Airman 1st class**  
Andrew Boisvert  
Matthew Eagan  
Gregory Haines



**Airman**  
Steven Albrecht  
Stephanie Badale  
William Schiavi  
Casimere Soto



**Civilian Awards**  
**30 years of service**  
Stephen Adamczyk  
Carlos Guerra  
Michael Hackett  
Thomas Sanborn



Tech. Sgt. Frank Falcone

Name: Frank M. Falcone  
Rank: Technical sergeant  
Unit: 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
Age: 46  
Hometown: Waterbury, Conn.  
Position: Crew chief  
Favorite Food: Steak  
Years of Service: 19  
Favorite Sport: Baseball  
Favorite Hobby: Flying  
Ideal Vacation: Two weeks in Europe  
Best Way to Relax: Flying  
Preferred Entertainment: Watching movies  
Hero: My dad  
Favorite Music Style: Classic rock  
Favorite Movie: *The Fugitive*  
Favorite Aircraft: AV-8B Harrier II  
Pet Peeve: People who don't use their blinkers  
If I Won \$1 Million, I would: Travel the world

## Retirements |

**Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Cortese**  
**Major John Ryan**  
**Senior Master Sergeant Gary Bisson**  
**Technical Sergeant David Woelper**

## SERVICES CALENDER |

**AT THE CLUB >>** Breakfast Monday – Friday 6–9 a.m.; UTA Saturdays, 6-7:30 a.m.

**BOWLING CENTER >>** Now open Saturdays on UTAs for lunch, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. and also Friday and Saturday of the UTA until 11p.m. Father's Day Bowl, June 17 – 18, 5 p.m.–10 p.m. Dads bowl free. Beat the Heat Program and summer league begins, for more information, call 557-3896.

**OUTDOOR RECREATION >>** Outdoor recreation has campers, tents, canoes and more. For more information, call 557-2192.

**FITNESS CENTER >>** Readiness relay, June 9, 4 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Timed team challenges: tire flip, humvee pull, relay race – Base Ellipse lap, sandbag stack, litter carry. Teams of five, at least one female. Trophies for winners. Information: 557-3958.

**FLYERS INN >>** For reservations: Space A and TDY: 593-5421, ext 0; Groups: 593-5421, Ext 3002.



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FIRST CLASS  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**

Published monthly for Patriots like Master Sgt. Raamah Thompson, Chicopee, Mass., and the more than 3,600 reservists and civilians assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing.



**FIRE ANTS** Westover firefighters practice egress techniques on a C-5. Westover civilian and reservist firefighters provide around-the-clock protection of base resources. The firefighters hold egress drills at least once every three months. Mutual aid agreements also keep the base fire department busy as Westover people and equipment are dispatched into surrounding communities to aid in fire protection. (photo by Senior Airman Alexander Brown)