


PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing - Westover Air Reserve Base
April 2005 - Vol. 32, No. 4



RESTRAINING ORDER – Tech. Sgt. Frank A. Manegio (right), 439th Maintenance Squadron, joins another reservist clad in chemical warfare gear in restraining a simulated suicidal reservist outside the headquarters building in Savannah, Ga., as part of Southern Comfort '05, held in March. The “contaminated” Airman was brought to see the wing chaplain. See article and additional photos on the exercise on Pages 3, 4, and 5.

(photo by Senior Master Sgt. Sandi Michon)

Deployers meet goals at Savannah

Exceptional.

I believe that word describes our experience at the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center last month during Exercise Southern Comfort '05. We had several goals for the deployment and we met them all.

Our first goal was to see how well we could deploy three or four hundred troops and their required support equipment. Next, we wanted to assess our level of knowledge in ability to survive and operate (ATSO) and deployment procedures. Finally, our overall goal was to see how well the wing could work together in a combat situation.

I'm pleased to report that we more than met our first goal. After a small glitch with the weather and some minor maintenance problems, we got all of our folks to Savannah very close to on schedule. Our military personnel flight members got our troops processed, the aerial port folks and contractors got the airplanes loaded, the maintainers provided **five** good airplanes, and the aircrews flew flawless missions to deliver the 439th to the CRTC. In addition, the services folks did a superb job keeping everyone fed and organizing the end-of-exercise party. The even better news is that a few days later, the roll-up from Savannah went just as well, getting all our folks back home on time!

While we made many errors in responding to ATSO situations, we met our goal: determine our present level of knowledge and ability to function in a hostile environment. And though we have a long way to go to achieve the level we need to have for an ORI, we made a very good start at Savannah. Our folks had a chance to see what it takes to survive a chemical or conventional attack. The good news is that we took full advantage of that opportunity and made serious efforts to improve.

One area where we need very little improvement is working together in a combat environment to get the mission done. I observed a very high level of cooperation at Savannah with 439th members from different squadrons functioning as one unit to make things happen. This is pretty typical for Westover. Everyone who participated in Exercise Southern Comfort, whether in planning, execution, or evaluating, can be proud of the results made possible by the entire Westover team!

On another subject, this month we hold our first-ever Combat Dining-In. It's going to be quite an event with our Air Force Reserve Commander, Lt. Gen. John Bradley, speaking to us. And there will be a lot of fun and games. Let's make sure that while we enjoy ourselves, we also show General Bradley what a first-class organization the 439th is by not overdoing it.

Once again, thanks for the effort last month in Savannah, and I'll see you at the dining-in.



Col. Wade Farris

439th Airlift Wing commander

Briefs

Base donates excess information technology

Westover is donating excess information technology equipment through the Department of Defense Computers for Learning Program.

Schools and educational non-profit organizations can participate in the program. Public, private or parochial schools serving pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students are eligible. An educational non-profit organization must serve pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students only; be tax-exempt under section 501(c) of the U.S. tax code; and operate exclusively for the purpose of education. Approved organizations are eligible to receive free desktops, monitors, laptops, and printer.

For more information, call Deborah Heady at Ext. 3507.

MPF insert included in this month's edition

This *Patriot* includes an information insert written by the 439th Mission Support Squadron's military personnel flight staff. It covers such topics as deployment out-processing, retraining requirements, and tips on keeping personal information current.

Board selects second quarter wing winners

Westover's Quarterly Awards Board has selected the following second quarter award winners for the fiscal 2005.

Airman:

Senior Airman Banlang Keokoumanne, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

NCO:

Staff Sgt. Andrew Monahan, 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Senior NCO:

Master Sgt. Alice Mitchell, 439th Mission Support Squadron

Company Grade Officer:

Capt. Patrick Egan, 439th Operations Support Squadron

Civilian:

Nicole Remy, 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Civilian Supervisor:

No submissions

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439th Airlift Wing commander

Col. Wade Farris

Chief of Public Affairs

Vacant

Wing Public Affairs Officer

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NCOIC

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ORE scenarios gauge readiness of wing deployers

by Senior Master Sgt. Sandi Michon

It was March military madness for 386 Westover reservists participating in a practice Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) in Savannah, Ga., March 10-13.

The three-day battle barrage simulated rapid-fire scenarios including SCUD attacks – both conventional and chemical – suicide bombers, suicidal reservists, aircraft hits, protestors at the base gate, buildings on fire, and attacks from opposing forces.

Green smoke billowed across the base signifying the chemical attack plume. Troops took on an alien look in full MOPP gear, voices sounding strained and tinny through gas masks. Death counts were tallied as snipers took out military personnel and the commander was carried from the Wing Operations Center (WOC) after suffering a fatal heart attack, and the entire command center evacuated when their building was bombed.

“EXERCISE, EXERCISE, EXERCISE...” boomed across the Giant Voice system alerting all personnel as events unfolded. Alarm conditions bounced the color wheel from green to black, MOPP levels played the numbers from 0-4, and Force Protection Conditions adjusted from normal to delta. The WOC and Survival Recovery Center (SRC) buzzed with activity as functional areas reacted to new intelligence messages and transmitted instructions to the troops.

Troops hardened buildings with sandbags, set out chemical papers and reported unexploded ordinance (UXOs) after attacks. Relieved reservists breathed literal sighs of relief when MOPP levels lowered – emerging red and sweaty from under gas masks and hoods. When levels fell under MOPP-2, they could also remove another 20-25 pounds of chemical protection gear – which is significant in 70-degree weather when worn for hours.

The simulated location was Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, and dealt with hostility issues in the Pacific theater. The attack scenarios tested reservists’ ability to perform their mission with special emphasis on safety, anti-terrorism, operations security and weapons. The exercise is a trouble-shooting process to plan for specific remedial training.

“We found things we need to work on – but that was the purpose – to expose shortcomings so we can work on prepping for the ORI next year in August.”

-- Col. Jim Hosey, exercise commander

For less-experienced troops, the exercise is an intense classroom. “When mortar fire hit our hangar, we had to evacuate. I didn’t know what to do,” said Airman 1st Class Akeilee Murchison, supply apprentice with the 439th Logistic Readiness Squadron, who was attending her first exercise after only one year in the Air Force. More experienced troops became tutors like Staff Sgt. Manuel Chavez as he guided Airman Murchison through the evacuation and helped with decontamination techniques. In addition to the supply tutoring, Sergeant Chavez was also credited with taking down an “unauthorized” intruder in the dining hall during the exercise. “Sergeant Chavez took him down and duct taped his wrists,” said Airman Murchison.

At the end of the exercise, she said she learned a lot. “We saved the kit. It’s the first year the kit survived the exercise,” she said referring to the kit containing aircraft and vehicle parts essential to the mission.

Speaking from the “grave” after his simulated heart attack, exercise commander Col. Jim Hosey rated the exercise effectiveness. “It definitely challenged our capability and our troops responded accordingly,” he said, and added that he was proud of everyone’s sense of urgency, teamwork and buddy care during the exercise.

“We found things we need to work on – but that was the purpose – to expose shortcomings so we can work on prepping for the ORI next year in August,” said Colonel Hosey who termed the exercise as his ‘last hurrah’ before his retirement May 31.

Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, flew a C-5 to Savannah March 11 with Command Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Sherwin, to attend the exercise.

“We accomplished what we set out to accomplish,” he said. “Our maintenance folks did a fabulous job in generating the five airplanes for this exercise. We got our people to and from Savannah quickly and safely. This was a very crucial practice for our big wing ORI next summer. I know our people are better prepared for the ORI. I saw first-hand a professionalism and esprit de corps that always represents this wing’s reputation!”

For more photos on the exercise, turn to Pages 4 and 5.



photo by Andy van Lingen

INTREPID INFILTRATOR – Master Sgt. Scott C. Daigneault breaches the compound as an enemy intruder during the March exercise. Sergeant Daigneault, anti-terrorism force protection officer with the 439th Security Forces Squadron, was also an exercise evaluation team (EET) member on the deployment. Sixty-six EETs flew to Savannah, Ga., to evaluate the reservists during the exercise.

Southern Comfort '05 challenges ...



photo by Andy van Lingen

SUICIDE BOMBER ATTACK - Reservists talk with each other after reporting a "casualty" from a simulated suicide bomber attack during the exercise at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Savannah, Ga.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

BREAKFAST AT 0500 – Reflector belts glare as reservists file through the dining hall to fuel up for the hectic exercise schedule. Serving the meal are, from left, Maj. Patrick Dufraine, 439th Services Squadron commander; Master Sgt. Michael Bellerose, 439th Aerospace Expeditionary Wing first sergeant; and Senior Master Sgt. McDonald R. Molina, 439th SVS first sergeant.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

FILE PLAN – Westover reservists climb aboard a C-5 for the flight to Savannah in March.

... Patriot Wing reservists step up



photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

TIE DOWN – Senior Airmen James E. DuPuis, left, and Joshua G. Kilnapp, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, build up a pallet for the return flight to Westover.



photo by Maj. Wilson Camelo

CRISIS RESPONSE – Maj. Robert W. Thompson, 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron, explains an exercise input in the survival recovery center (SRC). The SRC was one of the nerve centers of the Savannah exercise.



photo by Senior Master Sgt. Sandi Michon

WET MOPP – Staff Sgt. John Shepard, chaplain's assistant, hydrates while under cover during a MOPP-4 scenario of the Operational Readiness Exercise held at the Savannah CRTC, March 10-13.



photo by Andy van Lingen

FLIGHT LINE DEFENSE – Westover security forces reservists defend the flight line during a simulated chemical attack.



photo by Staff Sgt. A.C. Eggman, 40th AEG Public Affairs

In position

Senior Airman Dan LeMonica, 40th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Flight explosive ordnance disposal team, radios in the progress of a team member during an EOD show at his deployed location overseas. Airman LaMonica is also assigned to Westover's 439th Civil Engineering EOD unit. This photo was featured on the front page of the Camp Justice Times, the base newspaper at Airman Lamonica's deployed location. For security reasons, that location cannot be published.

President asks for more money, fewer Air Force reservists

WASHINGTON – The president's proposed defense budget for next year seeks \$3.9 billion in funding for Air Force Reserve Command and an end-strength of 74,000 reservists.

The fiscal 2006 request covers the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, 2005. It asks for 2,100 fewer Air Force reservists than the 76,100 authorized in fiscal 2005.

Senior Department of Defense officials announced the overall defense budget request of \$419.3 billion. The Air Force is to get \$127.5 billion.

"This budget represents the latest installment in the president's strong commitment to transforming this department to face the challenges of the 21st century," said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in a news release Feb. 7. "We continue our transition to a more agile, deployable and lethal force.

"We are a nation at war," the secretary added. "The president's budget, together with the supplemental spending proposals the president has made, provides the men and women in uniform what they need to pre-

vail."

In the president's budget, the Air Force Reserve requests funding for three separate appropriations – operation and maintenance, reserve personnel, and military construction.

Most of the AFRC portion of the FY 2006 President's Budget request – \$2.5 billion – is for O & M funds to train, organize and administer the command. The Reserve received \$2.24 billion in O & M funds in fiscal 2005.

In 2006, another \$1.31 billion goes to the reserve personnel appropriation for military personnel participation and training requirements. This funding includes a military pay raise of 3.5 percent, and the addition of 390 full-time Active Guard and Reserve people. The requested reserve personnel appropriation represents a \$155.2 million decrease compared to that received for the fiscal 2005 reserve personnel appropriation.

Requested funding for military construction in FY 2006 is \$79.3 million. These

funds would pay for 14 major projects in eight states. In this fiscal 2005, the Reserve is getting \$124 million for military construction, which includes major and minor projects, and planning and design. In his fiscal 2005 budget request, the president had recommended \$84.6 million, but Congress added \$39.4 million more to fund seven additional projects.

Finally, Congress added another \$281 million to help the Reserve in fiscal 2005 – \$40 million in the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation and \$241 million in aircraft procurement with the active-duty Air Force.

Congress uses the president's budget as a blueprint to draft appropriations legislation. After both houses of Congress approve their version of the bill, the two versions go to a joint conference committee to resolve differences in the two bills. After both houses of Congress approve the reconciled version of the bill, it goes to the president to be signed into law.

(AFRC News Service)

Contract change brings new companies on base

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Two new companies have teamed up to assume responsibility for the base operating support (BOS) contract effective March 1.

Phoenix Management, Inc., (PMI) out of Austin, Texas, the prime contractor, re-



photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

FORECASTING - Brenna MacDowell, weather forecaster, explains a weather computer to Hank Chase, a part-time weather technician. The forecasters work for Phoenix Management, Inc., the new base operating support contractor.

placed VT Griffin Services and Maytag Aircraft Corp. as the contractor. Burns and Roe, from Virginia Beach, Va., will perform subcontractor responsibilities for Westover's real property management functions. The total contract will employ more than 130 employees.

Phoenix was awarded the BOS contract as the prime contractor and will provide the following support services at Westover: supply, airfield management, weather, vehicle transportation and maintenance, transportation management office (TMO), fuels, and transient alert.

Under a sub-contract with PMI, Burns and Roe will provide the real property management function.

Coincidentally, a major 439th Airlift Wing exercise and Mother Nature both headlined March 1 - the same day as the contract change. Another storm dumped a half-foot of snow on Westover, while the wing prepared the assets of more than 300 people for Exercise Southern Comfort, an Operational Readiness Exercise. Processing for that deployment began March 8.

John Osborn, PMI vice president of operations, said the transition of the new contract was going smoothly - even with the weather and the exercise requirements.

"Our goal is to provide excellent service to Westover. We thank everyone at Westover who have assisted us in the contract transition, especially the contracting office staff. Michael LaFortune, contracting officer, and Claire LeBlanc, administrative contracting officer, have provided us outstanding support throughout the transition. We are happy to be a member of the Westover Team and look forward to the next ten years."

Both the owner of Phoenix and Mr. Osborn have ties to Westover. Owner Marjorie Strickland is from neighboring Chicopee and graduated from Cathedral High School. Mr. Osborn is a retired Air Force senior master sergeant. He was assigned to Westover from 1970 to 1971 with the 819th Civil Engineering Squadron (RED HORSE).

James Carey, who is no stranger to Westover, having retired in June 2003 as 42nd Aerial Port Squadron commander, will remain with Phoenix as the Project Manager. Phoenix has also maintained the majority of the present work force.

Phoenix has been contracting for 13 years. The one-year contract at Westover includes nine additional option years.

Troops deployed in combat areas get tax credit options

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Servicemembers receiving federal tax exemptions for some or all of their military pay may now elect to apply for certain tax credit options, the chief of the Armed Forces Tax Council said here Feb. 17.

Troops deployed to combat zones can now apply for tax refunds based on earned income tax credits, as well as additional child tax credits, said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, the council's executive director. The council monitors and coordinates tax issues involving active-duty and reserve-component servicemembers. The earned income credit, Colonel Fenton said, primarily involves lower-income filers with children.

The additional child tax credit, she said, may provide refunds for children younger than age 17. Servicemembers who want to apply for the credit refunds are required to fill out and file a federal tax return, she said. Enlisted troops serving in combat areas

already have all of their military pay excluded from federal taxes, Colonel Fenton said, while officers in combat zones can exclude as much as \$6,529 of their monthly pay. Troops deployed to non-combat overseas areas have until June 15 to file their income taxes, she said. Troops serving in a combat zone, the colonel said, have up to 180 days to file their taxes after departing the area. "Someone who is in Iraq right now," she said, "would not have to file their 2004 tax return until they leave Iraq."

However, some overseas servicemembers would want to file early, Colonel Fenton said, because they may be due a refund. Military-operated tax centers at stateside and overseas locales, she said, can provide servicemembers with tax filing assistance. And, married servicemembers deployed to combat and noncombat overseas locales can opt to have spouses file tax returns, she said, provided there is an applicable power of attorney.

Checklist ensures family readiness for deployed troops

Readiness continues to be a primary focus for the staff at the Westover Family Support Center. The staff's mission is to prepare families for eventual deployments.

One of the ways families can get their personal affairs in order is with the family readiness checklist.

"Preparing all of the items on this form will aid in making any family separation more manageable," said Master Sgt. Thomas Demers, family support technician. "We encourage you to sit down with your spouse or significant other and discuss all of the items listed. This way you can assess your readiness and work on those things you feel

require further attention. Planning ahead is one of the keys to a successful family separation. The deployment checklist will give you a good idea what documentation you need to have in place before you leave."

For a copy of the checklist and deployment guide, call Sergeant Demers at the support center at Ext. 3024 or 866-690-2161.

The center is in Bldg. 1100, 100 Walker Avenue.

Veteran chief of public affairs retires

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

The face of Westover has signed off.

Gordon A. Newell, chief of public affairs, capped his quarter-century-career at Westover Feb. 25. His job made him one of the primary links to the media and area communities.

Ironically, Mr. Newell's very last day on the job was among his busiest. He directed media coverage of more than 140 Westover Marine reservists who returned from a seven-month deployment in Iraq. Their homecoming celebration was held in the Base Hangar.

He joined the public affairs staff and the Air Force Reserve 16 years after serving 3 1/2 years in the Army. Mr. Newell served as chief of public affairs since 1988, and had been on the staff since 1980. He retired as a master sergeant in 1999.

Col. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, presented Mr. Newell, 65, with an exemplary civilian service award before the commander's staff meeting Feb. 23.

"Gordon has done great work in the PA arena," Colonel Farris told a conference room filled with co-workers and friends. "The base's standing in the community has been directly related to Gordon's handling of our media and community relations. He's done a lot on this base."

Mr. Newell cited the cooperation of the local media as a reason for the good relations. "I loved working with all of the media – they couldn't have been fairer to us. They made it easy for me to do my job."

Whenever Westover was in the news, Mr. Newell helped deliver the headlines into the living rooms of thousands of people in the Pioneer Valley. He had been at the center of the news from the base through some of Westover's busiest times.

He led his office in telling the story of the base's five-month C-5 surge in the winter and spring of 2003, when more than 2,000 C-5 flights came through the base to support the build-up to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Under his leadership, the PA staff produced the *Patriot Express*, the only bi-weekly newsletter produced in the command during the OIF surge. It received accolades from AFRC senior leadership.

He directed extensive media coverage during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-91. He recalled the outpouring of people who came to the base solely to welcome the troops home.

"It was amazing when we opened the doors to the community," he said. "Thousands of people were out here each day to greet the troops. This was only three years after the C-5s got here. Our community relations really got a shot in the arm because of Desert Storm."

Mr. Newell will be remembered for more than his leadership and rapport with the outside media. Back at his office, his supervision helped the civilian and reserve staff attain first place in the Air Force Reserve with the *Patriot*, the wing's monthly newsletter. The news-



**Gordon
Newell**



File photo

MIKED UP – Westover public affairs chief Gordon A. Newell informs area news outlets about the base's role in Operation Desert Shield, late 1990, during a press conference inside the pull-through hangar. Throughout 1990 and 1991, Mr. Newell directed media coverage of the stage operation supporting Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

letter has been in the top three newspapers in the command for the past five years.

"I've always believed that public affairs professionals must be able to communicate effectively," Mr. Newell said. "You can have all these fancy computers that we have these days, but you still have to know how to write in this business, and it's not as easy as some people may think. You have to be able to tell the story."

Mr. Newell has plenty of civilian journalism experience to back up that belief. He spent 21 years at the *Fitchburg (Mass.) Sentinel* where he rose from sports writer and sports editor to city editor and managing editor. He also worked at the *Worcester Telegram* and *Athol Daily News*.

In another important section of Air Force public affairs, community relations, Mr. Newell developed the noise complaint program during the wing's conversion to C-5s in 1987, handling evening shifts with hundreds of phone calls.

Thomasina Murphy-Mayo, wing ground safety manager, worked nearby Mr. Newell in wing headquarters for nearly 15 years.

"I'm going to miss him. Gordon knew his job," she said. "You could count on him to get the word out – he was always in control of the situation."

Mr. Newell reviewed some of his memories of his career at Westover.

"I'm going to miss the base, the wing, and the mission," Mr. Newell said, adding that covering some of the flying missions for the base paper gave him a sense of pride in the wing. "I'm always astounded at how these young guys in maintenance keep the C-5s flying. I loved flying on all the missions."

Now, he plans to catch up on his hobbies that include fishing and golf. "I used to play every day," he said. "I plan to re-acquaint myself with the game as much as possible." He lives in Belchertown, Mass.

"I'm always astounded at how these young guys in maintenance keep the C-5s flying. I loved flying on all the missions."

-- Gordon A. Newell, retiring chief of public affairs

Fitness standards to be tougher hurdle

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the sixth in a series of articles written by Maj. Patrick S. Ryan, 439th Airlift Wing executive officer and wing fitness coordinator.

by Maj. Patrick S. Ryan

"We're asking people to be fit, and the fitness program has taken root throughout our United States Air Force and it's going to get tougher, not easier." - Gen. John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

The physical fitness test is going to get tougher to pass. This message is directly from the top man in the Air Force. The men and women of Westover answered General Jumper's first call to arms on fitness; leading in the Air Force Reserve Command in percentage of people tested. Our program was a command benchmark and the standard set by your hard work has now become a baseline we must not only match, but surpass this coming year.

The focus of the program from the beginning was not to just train two months out of the year, get your 83 points (or whatever score you happened to achieve) then start all over again 10 months later. The goal

was that those 83 points would be the lowest score you would ever get. The physical fitness program isn't a test - it is a culture change wherein all of the members of the Total Force are spending ten to fourteen hours a week in the gym, on the running track, or in the weight room.

They are eating right; losing fat and gaining lean muscle mass, and reducing their waistlines. For many, this fact may be a startling wake-up call, but if you cut through all the focus groups and research studies, that is what the essence is.

There is no guidance in how the test will become tougher. It will be tied to promotions and will be its own block on the new EPR and OPR forms coming out later this year. The reserve will be going to a one-mile walk with a heart monitor, replacing the three-mile walk sometime in the near future as well.

Other than that, everything else is just rumor. From the Body Mass Index, to changing the score tables, we won't know what the exact changes are going to be until they happen. Rest assured we'll get those changes to you as soon as they do happen. We'll make every effort to ensure we provide the very best in preparation once they

are implemented.

Despite the best intentions not to scare our fine people here, I'm sure that I've done just that with this column. Messengers often face that dilemma, but it makes the message no less important.

Seek out your unit fitness program managers and start a workout regimen this coming UTA. Form a habit with your fitness. If you go to the gym every other day at 4:30 you'll suddenly realize three months have gone by, you've lost six pounds, and can run the mile and a half 28 seconds faster.

This program is difficult and will take a lot of time and effort, but the payoff is more than just a good EPR or OPR - it is increasing your odds of living longer or being able to play ball with your kids even when you're 50 and they're 17.

You're cutting your risk of debilitating disease by a huge percentile. Focus on those positives and it will be much easier to accomplish and demonstrate once again why Westover leads the way.



Major Ryan

MEO prevents discrimination, harassment in the workplace

by Senior Airman Michael Lanza

The sexual assault and harassment cases at the Air Force Academy and Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, that dominated the headlines in 2003 has renewed the spotlight on the military's battle against sexual harassment and discrimination within its ranks.

While the Air Force has improved its equal opportunity practices in the last decade, the fact remains that discrimination remains a serious threat to unit cohesion and mission readiness. Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley said, "this issue is on the front burner of our senior leadership," in a report on sexual harassment to the Senate Armed Services Committee in February 2004.

More than 3,300 discrimination complaints were filed in the Air Force between 1999-2003 resulting in 1,131 Airmen being disciplined, according to an Air Force equal opportunity study.

Maj. Oneida D. Blagg, Westover's Military Equal Opportunity chief, has been fighting discrimination and sexual harassment on both the military and civilian fronts for over 20 years, including four years as the MEO chief at the 944th Fighter Wing at Luke AFB, Ariz. and one year as the Equal Opportunity Plans chief at Headquarters Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.

MEO helps commanders create a fair and comfortable environment through education, climate assessment and complaint in-

quiries so Airmen can advance their careers while completing the mission—regardless of race, color, gender, national origin or religion, Major Blagg said.

"We want to create a workplace that is free of discrimination," First Lieutenant Sean D. McGrath, wing MEO officer, said. Our goal is to eliminate the complaints by focusing on preventative education, he said.

MEO conducts human relations training at the newcomer's orientation briefings on a monthly basis and also offers specialized training by request. Unit climate assessments are conducted bi-annually. The programs are designed to prevent possible problems before they occur, while assuring that every Airman is aware of the standards they are expected to maintain.

"Society has a wide variety of what it defines as acceptable behavior," Major Blagg said. "The Air Force must have a clear standard for what is acceptable in a professional military environment. Sexual harassment, sexual assault and discrimination are unacceptable.

"Unfortunately there are gray areas that people fall into. Those gray areas are trap doors. We don't have to fall if we maintain a positive human relations climate through civility, respect and tolerance," Major Blagg said.

"The bottom line is that we need to find value in our differences and remember that we are equal in dignity," Major Blagg said.

For more information, call Ext. 3225 for more information about Military Equal Opportunity at Westover. The MEO office is located on Patriot Avenue in Bldg. 1850.



Major Blagg

Services leaders honor lodging staff with awards

Base leadership honored the workers in lodging with a breakfast and awards presentation Feb. 15.

Col. Dana S. Marsh, 439th Mission Support Group commander, and **Christopher J. Menard**, services director, led the presentation held at the Westover Club. Twenty-five lodging workers received various awards for dedication to their jobs.

Colonel Marsh cited how the lodging staff accommodated the 2003 surge in operations at the base. Scores of transient aircrews flying C-5s from throughout the Air Force stayed at the base overnight.

"You have stepped up and have made a huge difference," Colonel Marsh said. "Every time I go out on a trip, and I tell people I'm from Westover, invariably somebody will come up to me and say, 'I went through Westover.' And they all have a good story to tell me about Westover."

Mr. Menard said the feedback from guests tells the story about the quality of the work from the staff.

"People are taking the time to recognize the outstanding work the housekeeping staff is doing - and not just the housekeeping staff - the front desk too. It's the way the guests are treated, and that's so

important. Everybody has done wonderfully, and today we'd like to reward you that."

Colonel Marsh and **Pedro Santiago**, lodging manager, handed out the awards to lodging workers.

The awards included an evaluation and accreditation award for less than one year of service; personalized T-shirt for one year of service; a personalized sweatshirt for two years; a personalized wind jacket for three to five years, and five-plus years you receive a personalized winter coat.

Evaluation and accreditation award: **Tessa Champagne, Jessica Vieu, Bill Delosh, Sue Johnson, Jennifer Montalvo, and Sandra Hayslett**

Over a year of service: **Brenda Rhoades, Pat Smith**

Two years and over: **Jose Cruzado, Keila Cruzado**

Three to five years: **Michael Cotton, Sheila Jones**

Over five years: **Diane Eldridge**

Five years and over: **Charlie Wright**

Special awards: **Pablo Correa, Debbie Ingram, Alex Cardona, Corie Fontaine, housekeeping, Laura Marsh.**

Other winners honored

Unable to attend the awards ceremony but also recognized for their work were: **Diane Lee, Annistazzia Morehouse and Donna Pittello**

(less than a year) **Elizabeth Rivera, Laura Pierce; Robin McIntyre, Marc DesJardins, Debbie Tarczynski, Ivan Escobar; and Paul Graveline** (more than a year); **Joannette Carter-Daniels, and Edmund Power** (more than three years); and more than five years: **Elizabeth Nicholls, Kathleen Roy, and Ted Gilfoy.**

Popular Flyers Inn employee dies

Kathleen Roy, who worked at the Flyers Inn for more than five years, died Feb. 22. She was 57.

Calling hours for Mrs. Roy were held Feb. 25 at the Ryder Funeral Home in South Hadley, Mass. Funeral services were held Feb. 26 at the Ryder home followed by a Mass of Christian burial at St. Patrick's Church in South Hadley. Burial was in the St.



Kathleen Roy

Rose de Lima Cemetery, Chicopee.

Thirteen complete management class

Thirteen Patriot Wing members completed the Seven Habits/FOCUS class in January.

They were: **Capt. Diane Thaxton, Chief Master Sgts. Tony Colucci and Tom Dzwonkus; Senior Master Sgt. Ann Fluegge, and John MacIntyre; Master Sgts. Charles Darling, Nicole Remy, Kym Schulz, and Blain Thomas, Tech Sgt. Kurt Boudreau, David Lanzo, Sharon Silva, and Staff Sgt. Desmond Farrell.**

Instructors were **Maj. Richard Tilburg, Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood, and Senior Master Sgt. Sandra M. Michon.** The

class is taught in the civilian personnel conference room in wing headquarters on Patriot Avenue.

"The 7 Habits/FOCUS workshop will help you change the fundamental way you approach your job, relationships, even problem opportunities," Chief Wood said. Instructors explain how to break common ineffective behaviors and tendencies; creating high levels of trust; and developing strong interdependent relationships.

"The FOCUS portion will help you focus your time, energy, and resources on things that are most important to you," she said.

The next class is scheduled for April 11-15. For more information about this class, please call Chief Wood at Ext. 2876.

Desert Storm "Pom Pom Lady" troop greeter dies

A former Chicopee woman who devoted hours at the base welcoming troops back during the closing days of Operation Desert Storm in 1991, died in February.

Judy D. Bellerose, 59, of Largo, Fla., was a longtime resident of the Fairview section of Chicopee. Mrs. Bellerose was the owner of J&R Ceramics on Britton Street. She also worked at the Big Y on Memorial Drive in Fairview.

Mrs. Bellerose, whose nickname was "The Pom Pom Lady," will best be remembered at Westover as a tireless and unselfish volunteer greeter for the troops returning home from Desert Storm.

She moved to Florida in 1999.

Get One referral information

'Get One' referrals need to be sent to Patricia Simonds at the Westover recruiting office. There are three ways the information may be sent:

1. Call Mrs. Simonds at (413) 557-2125 or DSN 589-2125 let her know you have a 'Get One'
2. E-mail: Patricia.Simonds@Westover.af.mil
3. Or fax the information below to: 413-557-2126 or DSN 589-2126

REFERRAL INFORMATION

First name, middle initial, last name: _____
 Street address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home phone number: _____

YOUR INFORMATION

First name, middle initial, last name: _____
 Street address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home phone number: _____ Unit: _____
 Status (Traditional reservist, air reserve technician, etc.): _____
 Date of birth: _____ Rank: _____



photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

Senior Airman Allison M. Smith

Patriot People

Name: Allison M. Smith
Rank: Senior airman
Age: 24
Address: Oceanside, Calif.
Unit: 439th Communications Squadron
Civilian position: Student, day care attendant
Position: Multimedia illustrator
Favorite food: Manicotti
Years of service: Six (prior service, US Marine Corps)
Favorite sport: Soccer
Favorite hobby: Cross-stitch
Ideal vacation: Travel the world with my boys, Ethan and Samuel
Best way to relax: Jacuzzi
Preferred entertainment: Outdoor plays, concerts
Favorite hero: Helen Keller
Favorite music: Alternative
Favorite movie: Fox and the Hound
Favorite aircraft: Boeing 767
Pet peeve: Out-of-regulation hair
What would I do if I won \$1 million: I would put it into my children's IRA accounts for college and pay off debts

Enlistments:

Technical sergeant
 Fredrick E. Hetu
 John E. Mullally
 Jose P. Rojo

Staff sergeant
 Jason M. Farrell
 Ibizan O. Ortiz
 Adamn M. Rockhill
 Jeffrey R. Trahant
 Rosalind D. Whitted

Senior airman
 Michael A Charland Jr.
 William M. Dietz
 Nicole R. Morales
 William J. Riley
 Lathesha D. Taylor

Airman first class
 Maurice L. Adams
 Dawnne D. Bingle
 Christopher L. Choate
 Jimmy A. Cintron-Rivera
 Eric J. Diacumski
 Yocasta Duran
 Renee P. Ford
 Jessica A. Galante
 James J. Hernandez
 Lora A. Hudson
 Keith Jenkins
 Danny L. Lavoie
 Jonathan M. Lefave
 Mark E. Lorensen
 Craig S. Patton Jr.
 Carmen M. Provenzano
 Michael J. Roache
 Joan M. Spicer

Airman
 Jhoanka L. Crucen
 Laurie A. Field
 Melissa P. Gavazzi

Patriot Praises

Awards and Decorations

Bronze Star

Staff Sgt. John L. Szafko Jr.

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. David L. Maloy*

Major
 Richard M. Cockley
 Michael J. Stankus
 Michael E. Allen
 David N. Brainard**
 Michael G. Paquette

Technical sergeant
 Leonard E. Blajda

Gary F. Sanderson

Air Force Commendation Medal

Captain
 John K. Crotty *
 Diane M. Thaxton ***

Tech. Sgt. Andrew S. Biscoe

Air Force Achievement Medal

Capt. Stefano McGhee
 Staff Sgt. Matthew B. Dallachie
 Senior Airman Rachael Garcia

* First oak leaf cluster ** Second oak leaf cluster *** Third oak leaf cluster

Airman Basic
 Jason T. Aiken
 Phillip M. Caldwell
 Shannon A. Graddon
 Christopher T. O'Malley

Newly assigned:
 Maj. Richard Brennan Colburn Jr.
 Capt. Laura L. Whalen

Technical sergeant
 Tammy A. Carver

Michael A. Kularski

Staff sergeant
 Adam J. Martin
 Jacqueline E. Ouimette
 Peter L. Palmer
 Michael W. Pope
 Paul J. Tatar II

Senior Airman
 Nicholas B. Bush
 James F. Kochis

Kishan O. Rampersad Jr.

Airman First Class
 Michael Patrick Breslend
 Jonathan Ernest Lilja
 Shamika Nichole Miller
 Cristina Julianna Posada

Wing invites employers of reservists to Westover

by **Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe**

Members of the 439th Airlift Wing may invite their employers to spend a day at Westover to learn more about the reserve mission.

Employer Appreciation Day is scheduled for July 14. Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, encourages all wing members to take part in the annual event.

"This is an annual opportunity for employers of our reservists to see what we do first-hand," he said. "Ask your boss to spend the day with us. I know they will have a greater admiration for what we do if they get to see it up close."

To have invitations sent to their bosses, reservists should fill out the application form that appears on this page and return it to the Public Affairs Office. Application forms are also available at the PA office. A letter will then be sent to each employer from Colonel Farris.

Appreciation Day will start at 8:30 a.m. at the Westover Club with coffee and refreshments. After welcoming remarks from the wing commander, and activities to showcase reservists challenges, they will board a unit C-5 for an orientation flight. After the flight (which will last about two hours) they will be luncheon guests of Colonel Farris at the club.

After lunch, a tour of a maintenance facility will be offered.

Reservists who wish to join their employers for lunch must pay in advance. The price will be announced in the *Patriot* later this spring.

Each reservist will be allowed to invite

just one supervisor. Only those reservists assigned to the aircrew will be allowed on the C-5 orientation flight.

Further information is available at PA in Bldg. 1850 or by calling (413) 557-3500, or e-mail at patriot.editor@westover.af.mil

Employer Appreciation Day application form

Reservist's name, rank and unit:

Reservist's home address and home e-mail:

Reservist's daytime telephone number:

Employer's name, title and work e-mail:

Employer's company name/address:

Lunch for employer: YES _____ NO _____
Lunch for reservist: YES _____ NO _____

I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature _____

(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103
Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825, fax (413) 557-2011

PATRIOT

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

April UTA schedule
A UTA April 9-10
B UTA April 23-24



439th AW/PA
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE
100 Lloyd Street
East Wing, Suite 103
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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Published monthly for Patriots like Senior Airman Brent P. Byng, Southington, Conn., and 2,388 reservists of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and the wing's geographically separated unit.