

BACK FROM BAGRAM

42nd APS Airmen learn
the importance of
teamwork in
Afghanistan

page 6

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An Eighth Air Force C-54 Cargo-master transport, with the "Mighty Eighth" emblem on its tail, sits near the DC Hangar in this 1962 photo. Eighth Air Force headquarters moved out of Westover March 31, 1970. Assigned to Westover since June 13, 1955, Eighth moved to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam to direct Strategic Air Command (SAC) operations in Vietnam.



Courtesy photo

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE | CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

EDITORIAL | Departing group commanders remind us all to be good mentors



General Farris

This month, as we say goodbye to our mission support group commander, Col. Dana Marsh, who takes charge of the 622nd Regional Support Group at 22nd Air Force and later this summer as we also say goodbye to our operations group

commander, Col. Karl McGregor, who takes over as the 910th Airlift Wing commander at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, I wanted to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of mentorship.

Mentoring directly affects morale which affects our ability to stay in the fight and accomplish our mission in light of the departure of these two senior leaders.

There are two ways to mentor, first, through the official mentoring program and second, probably of greater impact, by example.

As supervisors it is our job to provide documentation of mentoring during official feedback

sessions. These sessions provide a vision for the future and a strategy for accomplishing goals that in the end groom the people entrusted under our command for greater responsibility and challenges. Essentially this is a morale issue and an important role in leadership. If we are not helping our Airmen achieve their full potential, we are failing them, our wing and the Air Force.

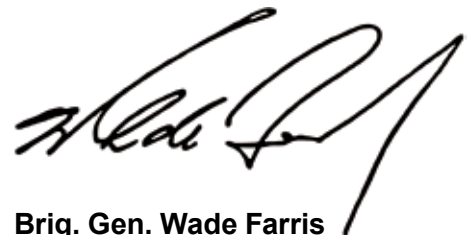
Mentoring by example, on the other hand, does not require that you be a supervisor or have a certain level of rank. It requires character; an adherence to and embracing of the Air Force core values. When we show that kind of character – intentionally or otherwise, mentoring happens.

According to the Air Force, the definition of a mentor is, “a trusted counselor or guide.” It goes on to say, “mentoring, therefore, is a relationship in which a person with greater experience and wisdom guides another person to develop both personally and professionally.” Notice the use of the words “relationship, experience and wisdom.”

I would venture to guess that all of us, including myself, Colonel Marsh and Colonel McGregor, has had at least one mentor in our career who

challenged and encouraged us to stay focused on the mission and to keep our perspective without that person ever intending or knowing how profoundly they impacted our lives and commitment as Airmen. These mentors are our fellow Airmen who choose to do the right thing even when they think no one is watching.

Whether through official sessions with supervisors or by example, mentoring is a tool that benefits us all. Thank you all for your integrity, service and excellence. Because of you, I feel confident that while saying goodbye to Colonel Marsh and Colonel McGregor will leave a void in our hearts, they are leaving our wing in good hands. We will continue to show the world that Westover is ready.



Brig. Gen. Wade Farris
439th Airlift Wing commander

BRIEFS |

Quarterly awards

Westover’s Quarterly Awards Board has selected the following first quarter award winners for the fiscal 2007:

Senior Airman Michelle Kulewicz, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Karen West, 439th Operations Support Squadron, Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Trombley, 439th Maintenance Squadron, Capt. Jonathan Carlson, 337th Airlift Squadron, Wayne Beaudry, 439th Mission Support Squadron and Alphonso Urolia, 439th Mission Support Group, were selected for their outstanding contributions.

Mass enlistment

The 439th Airlift Wing recruiters will hold a mass enlistment March 16 at 7 p.m. at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield.

Brig. Gen. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, will attend the event.

Professional workshop after June UTA

Professional training in Airman career skills will be offered at a Westover Career Enlisted Workshop scheduled for June 4-5. The Chiefs Council, working with the Top Three, Junior Enlisted Advisory, and Human Resources Development councils, is developing a program of speakers on topics important to enlisted members.

Sessions planned at the Westover Conference Center include veteran’s benefits, financial planning, enlisted performance reports and educational benefits.

Airmen of any enlisted rank can sign up for the workshop through their first sergeants.

The workshop dates follow the wing’s June A UTA.

For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood at Ext. 2876.

Manage your Air Force records online

Reservists can check or update their personnel records with the Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC) online service.

Records may be checked for completion at the virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve portal. The vPC-GR may be accessed through the 439th AW web site at www.westover.afrc.af.mil. The vPC-GR web page can be accessed from anywhere with Internet access.

Services include information for promotions, assignments, retirements, re-enlistment readiness and family care. Recently added is an awards and decorations request page.

St. Patrick’s Day Road Race in March

The St. Patrick’s Road Race will be held March 17 at 11 a.m. The race rally point is Francie’s at 108 Maple Street in Holyoke, Mass.

Race registration is \$25 at any People’s Bank in Chicopee on Memorial Drive. Online registration is \$31 at <http://news-ite.holyokestpatricksparade.com>

Contact Capt. Jonathan Carlson at 508-245-9548 for more information.

Change of command

Col. Dana S. Marsh will relinquish command of the 439th Mission Support Group to Col. Michael R. Mounts at 10:30 a.m. March 18, in Hangar 3.

Colonel Marsh will become commander of the 622nd Regional Support Group, 22nd Air Force headquarters, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.



BETTER THAN EVER >> The Westover fitness center reopened Feb. 3. The center moved back to Bldg. 1700 after nearly two years at the Airman dorms while renovations were being completed. (photo by Senior Airman Timm Huffman)

Fitness center warms up with long-awaited opening

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

The wait is over. The renovated Westover fitness center finally opened its doors Feb. 3. The fitness center is back at Bldg. 1700 after nearly two years in its temporary location in the Airman dorms.

With Air Force fitness standards and PT gear now household words on UTAs, reservists can stay in shape at the new center, and fitness specialist Marc Grothues has almost all new equipment – and a renovated building.

“When you first walk into the center it looks like an entirely new place,” he said. “We have 23 pieces of new cardio equipment on the floor. Each piece of cardio equipment has its own touch screen and its own TV built right into it.”

The new center’s modern amenities help take away the tedium of working out on a treadmill or lifting weights. Mr. Grothues said reservists can plug in their headphones, watch cable TV, or listen to FM radio while they exercise.

In the Nautilus room, there are six new cable machines, two new abs ma-

chines, and a cable crossover system. The new aerobics room will allow the staff to develop new programs such as yoga, step aerobics, and Pilates. “The center will also have a large screen TV for groups that choose to bring their own workout DVDs,” he said.

Mr. Grothues and Rick Heller are certified personal trainers and are available to help develop programs to fit individual fitness needs and goals.

Organized sports are also an important part of the Westover fitness program. Intramural basketball is encouraged. People who would like to put teams together may call the center staff at Ext. 3958.

Brig. Gen. Wade Farris, 439th Air-lift Wing commander, joined Jerry Cardinal, AFRC Director of Ser-

vices; Christopher Menard, Westover Director of Services and Alan Ray, AFRC Chief of Recreation, in the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Feb. 3.

The fitness center, located on Patriot Avenue, is among a handful of original buildings that remain from the base’s active-duty era. It was built in 1949 for Military Air Transport Service personnel. An addition followed the arrival of Strategic Air Command in 1955. Since then there has only been one other renovation, which took place in 1992.

The hours of the center are:
Monday – Friday 5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
UTA Saturdays 5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
UTA Sundays 5:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Closed all other Sundays and holidays.



DIRECTIONS >> Maj. Will Gonzalez, 337th Airlift Squadron pilot, explains the flight route to University of Connecticut ROTC cadet Ryan Rossi during the Feb. 4 incentive flight. (photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza)

Local cadets take C-5 flights at Westover

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

Providing C-5 orientation flights to Reserve Officer Training Corps detachments wasn't the only item on the agenda during visits by cadets from area universities during the February UTA.

The event planners also took the opportunity to showcase Westover's and the Air Force Reserve's contributions to national defense to the more than 70 future Air Force officers from nine universities who participated in the flights.

While the highlight of the visit was flying in clear skies over ski resorts and mountains in northern New England, the cadets were also briefed by C-5 pilots – most were ROTC graduates from several of the visiting universities – and support Reservists on their recent deployment experiences.

"It was a great experience to walk into the cockpit and see the aircrew in action," said Paul Estrada, a cadet who flew on a flight comprised of cadets from MIT, Wellesley and Tufts University. He also added about the Reserve, "They're just as important as the rest of the Air Force, and they're doing a great job. The Air Force is a family and every part is important."

The other universities participating included the University of Connecticut, Boston University, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and UMass-Lowell.

The flights were also tailored for each detachment to give them the opportunity to fly above their respective campuses at a few thousand feet above the ground.

The cadets were in the air over New England for about two hours.

DOD TO ESTABLISH AFRICA COMMAND

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military will establish a separate U.S. Africa Command to oversee military operations on the African continent, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced during congressional testimony Feb. 6.

"The president has decided to stand-up a new unified, combatant command, Africa Command, to oversee security cooperation, building partnership capability, defense support to non-military missions, and, if directed, military operations on the African continent," Secretary Gates said in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The command will enable the U.S. military to have a more effective approach than the current setup, Secretary Gates said.

Responsibility for operations on the African continent is currently divided among three combatant commands: U.S. European Command, which has responsibility for most of the nations in the African mainland except in the Horn of Africa; U.S. Central Command, which has responsibility for Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya; and U.S. Pacific Command, which has responsibility for Madagascar, the Seychelles and the Indian Ocean area off the African coast.

The secretary called this arrangement an "outdated arrangement left over from the Cold War."

He added Department of Defense officials will consult closely with Congress and European and African allies to implement the effort. (AFNS)

Reserve Reservations?

Cadet Nikola Glogovac, Boston University

"The Air Force Reserve does more than the stereotyped one weekend a month. (It was) interesting to find out how integrated it really is."



Cadet Adam Nakonieczny, Boston University

"I have had prior experience with the professionalism of the Reserve, so it is no surprise to find that it is so integrated into the Air Force."





K - LOADER

Master Sgt. Timothy B. Maguire, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, directs a bridge of vehicles into a C-17 cargo aircraft while deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.
(photo by Capt. Vince King)

Wingmen

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco



THE PATRIOT WING AERIAL PORTERS CAME HOME AT THE END of January from almost five months in Afghanistan. They came home talking like winners, stronger and more confident than before they left.

The 42nd Aerial Port Squadron tour in Bagram Airfield, northern Afghanistan, was a success because people like Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Westcott had people like Airman 1st Class Anthony Racco, and Airman Racco had his wingmen. That was their edge.

Last September the Red Hats sent to the AOR 58 aerial porters, ranging from experienced veterans to junior Airmen. Their shared experiences cemented them together into one team, each watching the other's back and getting the mission done.

When Lt. Col. John R. Greene, 42nd APS commander, assembled the unit he would lead to the AOR, he and his senior NCOs agreed they wanted to

mix veterans of earlier deployments with the squadron's upcoming troops. "We want them to be able to look to their left or right and have experienced people," Chief Westcott said.

They knew they would need that edge during their tour in a part of the world where Taliban fighters routinely fire rockets into the perimeter and explosive ordnance disposal units explode mines left over from decades of guerilla warfare. Twelve-hour days, three-minute cold showers, drafty plywood barracks heated by weak electric heaters and months away from families added to the challenge.

"If you have a physical or mental weakness it will find you," he said.

That's where the wingmen came in.

"When you felt down, other people around you could pick you up," said Airman Racco of his first overseas deployment.

"We lived eight to a building, but that was good. There was always



ARMED AND FRIENDLY >> Senior Master Sgt. Andrew McGovern, deployed with the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, greets local Afghans along a road outside the base. More than 50 aerial porters deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. (photo by Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Westcott)

someone to talk to, especially around Christmas and the holidays. That was always my favorite time to be with my family. It was a little depressing.

"I had a lot of 'fathers' over there," Airman Racco said.

"We worked six on and one off. Even on times off, I'd go in sometimes just to be around people so as not to sit alone," he said.

The most poignant time of all was when the aerial porters were wingmen for those going home on stretchers or under an American flag.

"The air evacuation flights and the Fallen Comrade flights – the return of those who have fallen – affected everyone, especially some of the less experienced troops," Chief Westcott said.

"For the Fallen Comrade flight, the flightline was closed," Airman Racco said. "Everyone lined up and they'd bring the casket out and we saluted." Even people who were sleeping after a long day of work came out to show their respects. "That took precedence over everything," he said.

As tough as it was, every Patriot Wing aerial porter at Bagram had a wingman back home. The dining hall food was OK, but the "care packages" of coffee, sausages and cheeses from family and the Westover Family Support Center, were "great," according to Airman Racco.

A gift of socks is appreciated on a deployment where Chief Westcott remembers you could find your toothpaste frozen in the morning.

The aerial porters turned about 5,000 missions, moved 65,000 troops and 35,000 tons of cargo between September and January. They worked on C-130s, C-17s, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) C-160s, and Russian Antonov AN-12 and Ilyushin IL-76 cargo planes. "The guys still can't believe we were in there loading them. They didn't speak English and we didn't know Russian. But you work through it," Chief Westcott said.

During their tour the aerial porters set up a shuttle between Bagram and Kabul. They helped move the 10th Mountain Division home to Fort Drum, N.Y. and bring in the 82nd Airborne Division. They participated in the buildup of ISAF troops from NATO countries and their movement to southern Afghanistan to confront the Taliban.

The aerial porters also trained an Afghan Army transportation company in building pallets and other skills. "We gave them work gloves, safety gear and winter clothes. They seemed very eager to learn and very appreciative," Chief Westcott said.

Airman Racco came home with good memories and harrowing memories. "Once we were on the flightline loading a C-17 and rockets started hitting in the distance. You could tell they were getting closer to the runway," he said.

One of the good memories was with the same aerial porters. "The best time was Christmas Eve. There was two feet of new snow. I was ready to go back to sleep and I saw a bunch of my friends. We wound up playing football for four or five hours in the snow," he said.

The very best memory Airman Racco is likely to keep of the deployment was coming home four weeks after Christmas. The Christmas tree was still up at his East Longmeadow home. "We had all the holidays, Thanksgiving turkey, Christmas presents. They waited for me to take it down."

Airman Racco said he came away from the experiences of Bagram with more than he took there. "I don't take a lot of things for granted...like friendship and things people do for you."

Four of the aerial porters stayed in the AOR for another tour. Colonel Greene is still serving at Bagram. Chief Master Sgt. Donald Martel, Master Sgt. Mark Farrington and Tech Sgt. Gerard A. Cote are serving in Iraq.



Bosslift |

THUNDER STRIKES TWICE

Bosslift participants watch two A-10 Thunderbolts demonstrate the aircraft's firepower at a gunnery range near Savannah, Ga. The Bosslift brought nearly 40 employers of Westover and Air National Guard members to Georgia. (photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope)

by Tech Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Thirty-seven employers of local Air National Guard members and Westover reservists flew to Georgia Jan. 17 as part of a Bosslift flight.

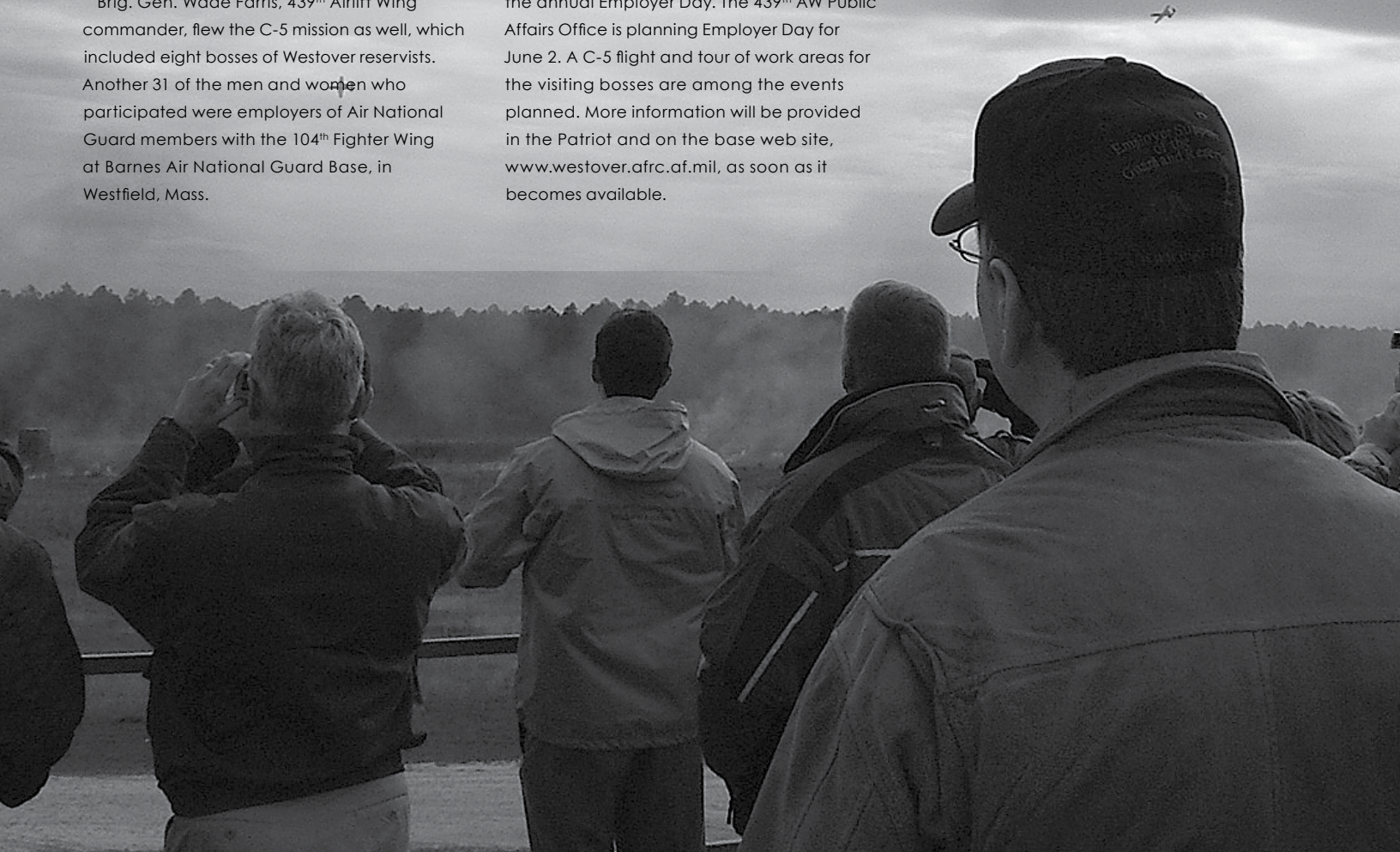
Members of the Massachusetts Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) coordinated the airlift of the bosses to the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) aboard a Patriot Wing C-5.

Brig. Gen. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, flew the C-5 mission as well, which included eight bosses of Westover reservists. Another 31 of the men and women who participated were employers of Air National Guard members with the 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Air National Guard Base, in Westfield, Mass.

The Bosslift included a tour of the CRTC, a trip to a nearby gunnery range where the bosses saw the firepower of the A-10 Warthog, and a visit to the 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah. The flight returned to Westover Jan. 18.

Bosslifts are among the primary ways the military can show employers how their support helps the Air Force get its mission accomplished.

Another way to inform employers is through the annual Employer Day. The 439th AW Public Affairs Office is planning Employer Day for June 2. A C-5 flight and tour of work areas for the visiting bosses are among the events planned. More information will be provided in the Patriot and on the base web site, www.westover.afrc.af.mil, as soon as it becomes available.



WESTOVER PATRIOTS |

LRS Airman uses training, quick thinking to assist ailing Marine

by Staff Sgt. Tom Ouellette

A quick-thinking airman came to the rescue of a Marine during the December A UTA.

Senior Airman Andrew Hiserodt was in his room in Bldg. 5103 when he thought he heard a cry for help. Curious, he peeked out and found a Marine sprawled in the hallway and gasping for air.

Airman Hiserodt rushed to him. "He couldn't speak, but was coherent. I asked him if he had pain in his chest and he nodded yes," he said. The Airman scrambled to find help, and then returned to the Marine's side until medics arrived.

"I just did what anyone else would do. I'm just glad I could help," Airman Hiserodt said.

The Marine's exact medical condition and name could not be released due to Department of Defense policy.

He was recovering after being taken to the hospital, Airman Hiserodt said.

Commander helps guide new council

The new Westover Company Grade Officers' Council (CGOC), recently formed under the guidance of Brig. Gen. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, is dedicated to the professional development of second lieutenants, first lieutenants, and captains. Council members focus on leadership development and professionalism, and opportunities to network and share common experiences.

CGOC members meet at the Westover Club at 4 p.m. on Saturdays of both the A and B UTAs. For more information, call Capt. Paul Neslusan at 508-450-3370.



OUTGOING AND INCOMING >> Maj. Michael A. Travalent, 439th Maintenance Operations Squadron commander, right, talks with Maj. Donald C. Robison, outgoing commander, following the change of command ceremony Feb. 3 in Hangar 7. Major Travalent is a former executive officer with the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza)

Reservist's training saves accident victim

by Senior Master Sgt. Sandi Michon



Sergeant Crouch

When Master Sgt. Holly Crouch saw the car in front of her veering toward the median, she honked her horn, and thought the driver was in trouble.

As she watched the car spin, roll several times over the guardrail and land upside-down in the path

of an oncoming semi, she thought, "There's no way someone could live through what I'm seeing."

She called 911 and sprinted to the car to help. The elderly woman was alive and hanging from her seat belt with her upper body twisted against the roof. When other bystanders wanted to pull the woman from the mangled vehicle, the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical technician took charge, relying on her Air Force training.

Sergeant Crouch stabilized the woman's head with one hand and held her hand with the other. She asked the injured woman to squeeze her hand

and then assessed the woman's comprehension, sensory-motor capability, pulse and breathing – while scanning the body for protruding broken bones or bleeding. Sergeant Crouch asked the woman to breathe with her to calm her rising panic, and calmly explained that help was on the way.

Having completed her four-day EMT recertification training just two weeks earlier during the January A UTA, Sergeant Crouch said her reactions were automatic. She kept talking with the woman who said she was on her way to a doctor's appointment.

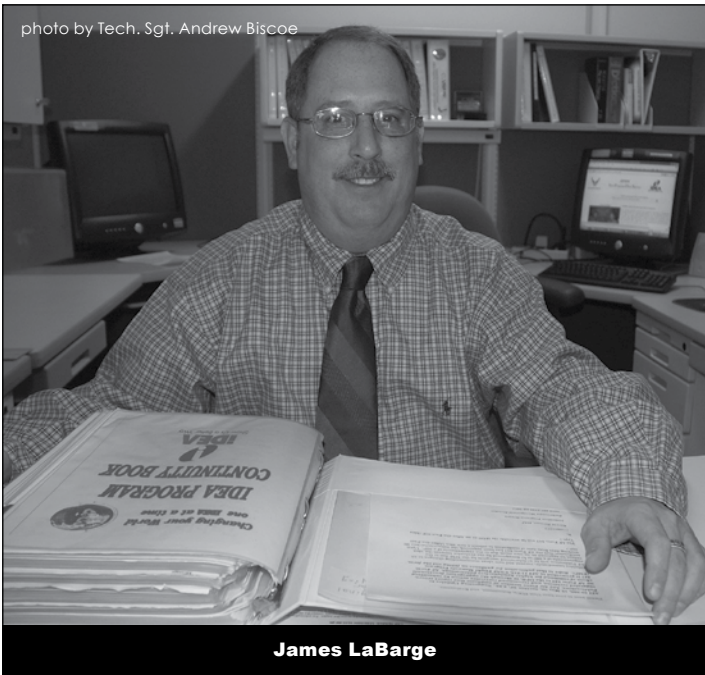
"The woman asked me to call her doctor to let him know she would be late," the sergeant recalled in disbelief.

Rescue workers jacked up the car and used the Jaws of Life to pull the woman from her car. Sergeant Crouch brought the woman's purse to the ambulance and gave a police report to state troopers before she got back on the highway for her Reserve weekend.

The special needs teacher and coach has used her military medical training before, but never in such a dramatic scenario.

"I know I saved a life," she later told Col. Robert Sousa, 439th ASTS commander. "Thank God the outcome was good."

PATRIOT PEOPLE |

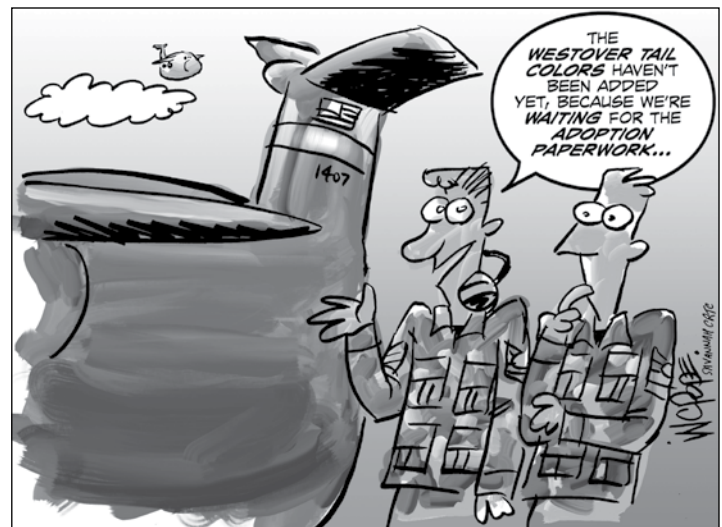


James LaBarge

NAME : James LaBarge
 RANK : Civilian
 AGE : Young at heart
 HOMETOWN : Chicopee, Mass.
 UNIT : 439th Mission Support Group
 POSITION : Air Force IDEA program technician
 FAVORITE FOOD : Santa Maria style tri-tip
 YEARS OF SERVICE : Twenty-seven (including 24 Of military service)
 FAVORITE SPORT : Rodeos and NASCAR
 FAVORITE HOBBY : Bike riding
 IDEAL VACATION : Cruise to Tahiti
 BEST WAY TO RELAX : In my new motor home
 PREFERRED ENTERTAINMENT : Watching old movies
 FAVORITE HERO : Pat Tillman
 FAVORITE MUSIC STYLE: Classical Jazz
 FAVORITE MOVIE : Top Gun
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT : C-130J
 PET PEEVE : Motorists who don't use their directional signals
 WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WON \$1 MILLION : Take a long vacation and set up a trust fund for deployed military members' families



PATRIOT PUNS |



PATRIOT PRAISES |

Retirements (January-July 2006)

Technical sergeant
 Michael G. Kudron
 John E. Lawrence
 Richard A. Mclean
 Peter T. Morgenstern
 Kevin R. Nee
 Edward R. O'Boyle
 Thomas M Odorcich III
 Rodolfo Jr. Sandoval
 Jeffrey D. Sidebottom
 Sharon E. Silva
 Marian D. Therrien (Bein)
 John L. Thibodeau

Reenlistments

Senior Master Sgt.
 Michelle M. Dunfield

 Master sergeant
 Robert D. Karcz
 Robert S. Preble
 Shawn M. Quigley
 Robert T. White II
 Naomi Williams

 Technical sergeant
 Stephen M. Adamczyk
 Manuel D. Chavez

John A. Dwyer
 Chad M. Klein
 Michael Linnehan
 Christopher M. Palmer
 Todd R. Panico
 Pablo E. Rodriguez
 Michael M. Rondeau
 Georgiana L. Steiner
 Marhia R. Taylor
 Andre R. Theriault
 Brad R. Ward

Staff sergeant
 Steven M. Auclair
 Kyle M. Burton

Dennis B. Coite
 Bryan A. Hanggi
 Eric G. Marjault
 Jeffrey J. Padeni
 Nikolaus J. Schmitter
 Angel L. Suarez
 John F. Wieland II

Senior airman
 Kyle S. King
 Senior Airman Joseph Losano
 Jason J. McWilliams
 David P. Meulenaere
 Bryan A. Hanggi
 Jeffrey J. Padeni



ROTC FLIGHT >> ROTC cadets from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell fly with a 337th Airlift Squadron aircrew Feb. 4 as part of the ROTC incentive flights held during the February A UTA. Cadets from the University of Connecticut, Boston University, MIT, Worcester Polytechnical Institute, and UMass-Amherst also flew during the UTA. For more on the flights, turn to Page 5. (photo by Senior Airman Timm Huffman)

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A-UTA | MAR. 3 - 4 | B-UTA | MAR. 17 - 18



Published monthly for Patriots like Senior Airman Peter Stec, Queens, N.Y., and 3,053 reservists and civilians of the 439th AW and the wing's geographically separated unit at Hanscom AFB, Mass.

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