

The PRICE of SACRIFICE

Airmen from four squadrons
deploy to Southwest Asia
to combat terrorism, save
lives and protect U.S. soil

page 6

Samantha Stackpole, 5, daughter of Master Sgt. Kara Stackpole, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, shares one last hug before seeing her mother depart for Iraq
(photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza)

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LONG HISTORY >> An Air Force Reserve C-124 Globemaster II taxis to its parking spot at Westover, circa 1970. Aircrews with the 905th Military Airlift Group, the first reserve unit assigned to Westover, flew the transport from 1966 to 1972. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Air Force Reserve. Following the departure of the last active-duty units from Westover in 1974, the Air Force Reserve took over operation of the base, the first such Air Force installation to be operated solely by the Reserve. Look for coverage in the Patriot throughout this year marking the 60th anniversary and Westover's contributions to the Reserve mission since 1974. (Courtesy photo)

EDITORIAL | Safety-climate assessment reveals wing perceptions



General Farris

Back in November, almost half of our wing filled out a questionnaire as part of an Air Force Occupational Safety Assessment, aimed at measuring the safety climate of the 439th Airlift Wing.

And in January, 786 of you sat down for one-on-one interviews with the safety team from the Air Force Safety Center, as part II of their information-gathering mission. On Jan. 8 the OSA team debriefed me on the final results.

While simplified, the team measured six "pillars" based on organizational and industrial psychological research. The group rated the six categories, Unity, Communications, Justice, Flexibility, Support and Learning, as a way of quantifying perceptions across the wing.

In the Air Force, we abide by the concept, "perception is reality." Much of the information was very positive but I saw some concerns that need to be addressed as soon as possible.

Some good things revealed are as follows.

This wing's number one strength is YOU! This came as no surprise to me. You are flexible, motivated, skilled, knowledgeable, experienced and you maintain that positive attitude that sustains us all, through the difficult times.

I also got to hear about incredible teamwork and cohesion. These attributes can make the difference between success and failure.

And no matter what frustrations we face or how many resources we still need, you get the job done. So much so, the Air Force recently announced that we earned the *Air Force Outstanding Unit Award* . . . AGAIN!

The safety assessment also revealed that overall you feel we are united, as a team. You agree that communication both up and down the chain-of-command is good but could be better.

You rated "justice" in one of two ways. You said disciplinary action is either too harsh for the infraction or worse yet, not done at all. And/or you do not see fairness or equitability applied when taking action.

Some voiced lack of recognition as a concern for the good, hard-working people here.

Results show we need more people and equipment but that we are pretty good about learning from our mistakes.

I am making the detailed results available to the wing through group commander's calls and during my commander's calls in March.

While I do not have enough space in an editorial to go into every comment or recommendation given, it is important to know that based on the data, I have already set some changes into motion.

For example, we are considering some new, innovative programs to recognize our skilled, hard-working Airmen.

Additional research into ideas beneficial to the wing are ongoing. As I told leadership here following the outbrief, the worst thing we can do with the information, is to do nothing at all.

I will do everything possible to help you continue to make Westover ARB the best wing in AFRC!

Brig. Gen. Wade Farris
439th Airlift Wing Commander

Editor's note: For more information on the Outstanding Unit Award, please see the article on page 4.

BRIEFS |

Patriot survey

The wing public affairs staff thanks all those who participated in our readership survey in December. We received good ideas and feedback from across the base.

After we analyze the trends, we will share the final results with the wing.

GWOT history

The wing historians are collecting photographs, documents and personal stories from Airman who have deployed for operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Photographs should be action shots. Documents may include orders, awards, memos, correspondence (e-mails), and reports. For more information, e-mail Master Sgt. Joseph Gluckert at 439aw.ho@westover.af.mil or call Ext. 2075.

Recruit the Recruiter

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- The Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service is now seeking applicants to fill recruiting positions in locations across the globe.

In addition to finding qualified applicants for careers in the Air Force Reserve, recruiters interact with the community and represent the Reserve 24 hours a day.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Briana Ontiveros, the training NCO at recruiting headquarters, at DSN 497-0630 or commercial (478) 327-0630. Locally, people can call Chief Master Sgt. Erik Anderson, Westover's senior recruiter, at Ext. 2125.

HRDC working groups assist wing

The 439th Airlift Wing Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) includes four working groups. The groups and their respective chairpersons are:

Communication and Marketing: Lt. Col. Chip Carroll, Ext. 3973; Outreach: Lt. Col. Gregory S. Symonds, 2906; Force Development: Col. Robert A. Sousa, 3074; and Diversity and Demographics: Maj. Luis N. Nunez, 3076. These working groups help the HRDC meet its mission of providing wing Airmen an opportunity to excel in their careers, said Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood. For more information on the HRDC, call Chief Wood at Ext. 2876.

Reserve officer promotion changes

A new AFRC policy changes mandatory eligibility for promotion to colonel to four years time-in-grade (from three) – to be done in 6-month increments with the October '08 and '09 selection boards. For more information, call Master Sgt. Alice Mitchell at Ext. 3436.

'Break out the Blue'

The Springfield Falcons will host "Break out the Blue," a military appreciation night, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield. Reservists who would like to sign-up for free tickets can go on line to: www.Falconsahl.com. Contact Carole Appleton with the Falcons, at 413-739-3344, Ext. 112.



MEDIA MOMENT >> Maj. Changkun Moon, a C-5 pilot, explains his mission to the news media. The wing's relief mission efforts contributed to its third Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, announced in January. The 439th also received the award in 2001 and 2004. (photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward)

Wing earns third Outstanding Unit Award in seven years

by Tech. Sgt.
Andrew Biscoe

For the third time in seven years, the 439th Airlift Wing earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Maj. Gen. Allan J. Poulin, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, announced the news Jan. 7.

"Members of these organizations should be extremely proud of their many achievements and contributions resulting in this prestigious award," General Poulin said. The 439th was among 17 Air Force Reserve units to receive the award, and one of five wings in 22nd Air Force to do so. A little over 45 percent of the AFRC units, got the good news last month.

"Whether in wartime or peacetime, the men and women of Westover stand up to any challenge. This Outstanding Unit Award is proof that we continu-

ously strive for excellence as a wing," said Brig. Gen. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander.

Some of the wing's achievements highlighted in the award citation (covering July 2005 to June 30, 2007) included:

- More than 250 Airmen deployed in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom

- More than 80 C-5 combat missions flown into Iraq

- Sixteen of the wing's 20 units deployed, with volunteerism running high

- Airmen with the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron ran all port operations at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, with 58 of these Airmen producing 99 percent on-time departure rate; Airmen in 58th APS also deployed to three separate locations in the area of responsibility

- Airmen with the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, supporting a Kuwait medical staging facility, moved 461

patients and provided in-flight critical care nursing

- The 439th AW was the top 22nd Air Force recruiting location, with recruiter rookie of the year and top officer accessions – seven wing recruiters exceeded the 100 percent goal. The Secretary of the Air Force awards the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award to numbered units which have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units.

The services include performance of exceptionally meritorious service, accomplishment of a specific outstanding achievement of national or international significance, combat operations against an armed enemy of the United States, or military operations involving conflict with or exposure to hostile actions by an opposing foreign force.

CSAF discusses AF 'roadmap'

WASHINGTON (AFPN) On Jan. 16, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley released the Air Force's weapon system "roadmap," a long-term plan for providing Air Force capabilities the nation needs in the 21st century to meet threats to the nation's security.

"Our nation's competitors know that our Air Force provides America its decisive advantage," said General Moseley. "We need to prepare today for tomorrow's challenges."

To view the "roadmap" on line, go to:

<http://www.af.mil/library/airforceroadmap>



KABUL DUTY >> Maj. Edith K. Eckerle, second row, third from right, is part of the Political Military affairs Team assigned in Kabul, Afghanistan. Major Eckerle has been deployed since September 2007. (Courtesy photo)

on relationships – generations of relationships and tribal sensitivities,” Major Eckerle said. “Western folks not adjusted [yet] get frustrated. Actually, there is a lot getting done in talks, but nothing tangible. We see things in black and white. Over here it’s gray.

The success or failure of negotiators like Major Eckerle working with the International Coalition and American Embassy may determine the future of Afghanistan.

Her job includes assisting in reconciliation programs to encourage Taliban and Al-Qaida fighters to put down their weapons and pledge loyalty to the Afghan government. In that role, it is not unusual for her to sit in on meetings at the Presidential Palace with tribal leaders, some of whom are former Taliban leaders.

She’s also involved in efforts to build up the Afghan National Army, assess their potential, and make recommendations for recruitment. The goal is to transfer loyalty from tribes to a central government.

It’s a job she would not trade. “I’m so thankful and so blessed to be here ... There is a tremendous task at hand and to be a part of that, to help them get things done, I wake up in the morning and pinch myself because it’s an honor to work with these people,” she said.

Major Eckerle is scheduled to return home in the spring.

Wing exec employs diplomacy in Kabul

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

A cup of tea, at the right time, can be more than a beverage. It can also be a subtle tool of negotiation. That’s what Maj. Edith K. Eckerle learned on the job in Kabul, Afghanistan.

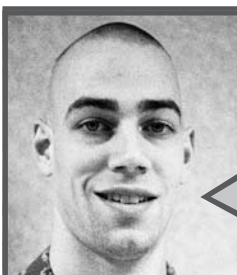
Since September, the 439th Airlift Wing executive officer has been deployed to Camp Eggers, Kabul. She sits across

the table from Afghans of influence as a member of the political/military office of the U.S. embassy. On a typical day talks may focus on national reconciliation or recruiting initiatives for the Afghan National Army. But it all starts with a cup of tea and a greeting of “May God Be With You” in the Dari or Pashto language.

A big part of Major Eckerle’s job is to negotiate bonds of

trust and respect between Afghan tribal leaders and elders on one side, and the Afghan national government and International Coalition on the other side. In the delicate give and take, Major Eckerle brings to the table sensitivity of the cultural divide of the two sides.

“Westerners expect to sit down and do business. That’s not the way it is done here. Everything is very much built



“My wife and my family -- I am looking forward to coming home safe.”

Staff Sgt. Alexander J. Zaleski



“I’ll miss hanging out with my family -- watching television with them and going to my brother’s sports games.”

Staff Sgt. Michele Chetuck



“I’ll miss my son, my mother, my brother, and my close-knit family at work with the Hartford Police Department.”

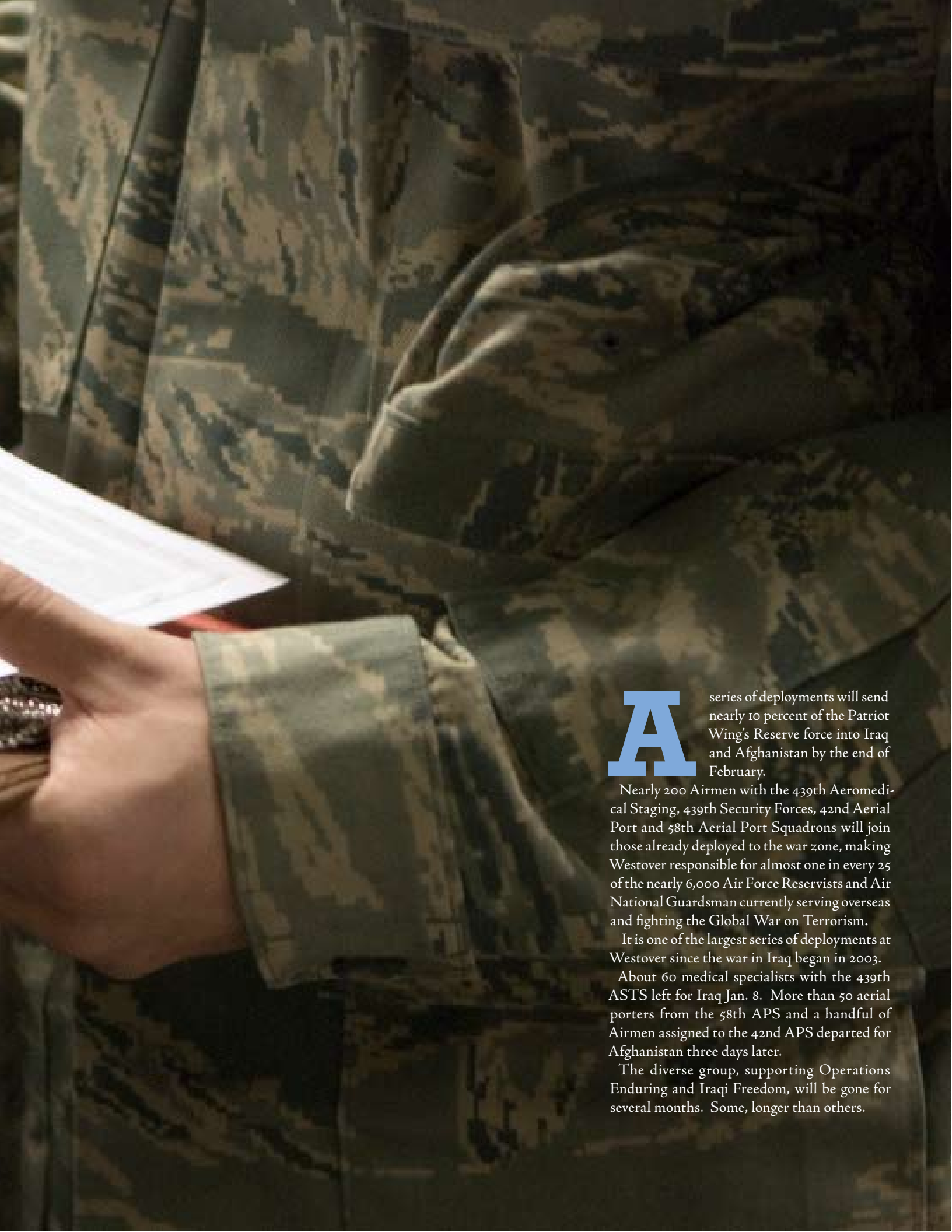
Senior Airman Andrew L. Rodney

TROOP TALK | What will you miss most when you deploy?



Show Time

Photos and article
by Senior Airman Michael Lanza



A

series of deployments will send nearly 10 percent of the Patriot Wing's Reserve force into Iraq and Afghanistan by the end of February.

Nearly 200 Airmen with the 439th Aeromedical Staging, 439th Security Forces, 42nd Aerial Port and 58th Aerial Port Squadrons will join those already deployed to the war zone, making Westover responsible for almost one in every 25 of the nearly 6,000 Air Force Reservists and Air National Guardsman currently serving overseas and fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

It is one of the largest series of deployments at Westover since the war in Iraq began in 2003.

About 60 medical specialists with the 439th ASTS left for Iraq Jan. 8. More than 50 aerial porters from the 58th APS and a handful of Airmen assigned to the 42nd APS departed for Afghanistan three days later.

The diverse group, supporting Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, will be gone for several months. Some, longer than others.



HUG FOR THE ROAD >> Staff Sgt. Janet Duro, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, hugs her husband Nicholas as she prepares to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Family members and friends gathered at the passenger terminal Jan. 8 to say goodbye to the more than 50 ASTS members who are deployed to Iraq. (photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza)

About 60 439th SFS members will deploy in February.

Supervisors, commanders, peers, friends and families shed tears, exchanged hugs and a few laughs as they saw the Airmen off from the flightline on Jan. 8 and again on Jan. 11.

Brig. Gen. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander, attended the farewell events held in the AMC terminal in Hangar 3, to wish his Airmen "good luck."

"The work you will be doing over there has a direct impact on your families back here," General Farris said. "Your sacrifice and contribution to the ongoing effort to combat terrorism ensures the safety of your family and all families here in the U.S." he concluded.

Some Airmen assigned to the

deploying squadrons also came to the send-off, not only to wish their fellow-reservists a fond farewell, but also to remind them that they would join the deploying teams "soon".

Although Westover was one of eight units tasked under this deployment cycle, many of the deploying Airmen actually volunteered to fill the spots before the Air Force started picking, said Senior Master Sgt. Ronald G. Chevalier, 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron logistics plans superintendent.

The Air and Space Expeditionary Forces, or AEFs, are divided into ten groups that cycle deployment responsibilities. Each deployment cycle provides theater commanders the full-spectrum of air and

space operations by tasking the assigned wings with manpower and equipment requirements while their AEF is active.

"The two principle characteristics of the AEF are the presentation of forces to the combatant commander and management of the personnel force by bringing predictability and stability to our Airmen," said Lt. Col. Joseph Revit, 439th LRS installation deployment officer. The AEF is the overarching vision for America's Air Force. It is how we present Air Force assets to combatant commanders to meet specific theater requirements."

The current AEF cycle, which began in January, will last 20 months. Deployments within the cycles typically last 120 days,

although changing mission requirements can force extensions, Colonel Revit said. Any deployment slots that need to be filled once active-duty Air Force resources are used will be presented to Guard and Reserve units for volunteers. If the positions remain unfilled, the Air Force will mobilize people assigned to the units tasked.

Many of Westover's Airmen are volunteering to return to the fight after less than a year home. In 2007, about 60 members of the 42nd APS returned from tours at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in January. Some 439th SFS Airmen deployed to Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq from February to July.

Westover is home to the C-5 Galaxy, the largest cargo aircraft in the Air Force.



BAGHDAD JAG >> Maj. Michael F. DiValentino stands by his standard mode of transportation while serving a year-long deployment to Iraq as senior legal advisor at the Joint Interrogation and Debriefing Center in Baghdad. His duties with the JIDC include processing all detainees in Iraq. Major DiValentino is a wing staff Judge Advocate General assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing. (photo by Sgt. Deborah A. Frank)

Patriot Wing JAG advises detainees

by **Master Sgt. Tom Allocco**

Maj. Michael F. DiValentino, 439th Airlift Wing staff Judge Advocate General (JAG), is among legal officers helping protect the rights of detainees and advise on Geneva Convention, UN obligations in Iraq.

Since July Major DiValentino has been serving as senior legal advisor at the Joint Interrogation and Debriefing Center (JIDC), part of Task Force 134 at Camp Cropper, an Army facility near Baghdad International Airport, Iraq.

The task force is responsible for processing all detainees in Iraq, both security and criminal suspects.

The JIDC provides strategic interrogation and debriefing that has an impact throughout the theater - from uncovering caches of weapons, to assessing trends or what is known as "atmospherics" in the ebb and flow of the

war against insurgents. The JIDC provides intelligence to warfighters and up the chain of command.

The legal advisors to the JIDC are a joint team of Air Force, Army and Navy JAGs who provide oversight and advise on responsibilities under the Geneva Convention, UN resolutions, international treaties and Department of Defense regulations.

Major DiValentino serves as a direct advisor to the JIDC commander on legal affairs, military justice and administrative matters. He also serves in the review board process that assesses whether detainees are a threat and acts a liaison with the Iraq criminal court system.

Major DiValentino is scheduled to return home in July.

At Westover, the major reports to the 951st Reserve Support Squadron., which is assigned to Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, with its operating location here.

Portal links Airmen, family, friends

by **Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski**
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Friends and family members can keep in touch with Airmen anywhere in the world through an instant messaging program available through the Air Force Portal.

Every Airman is permitted up to five guest users through the Friends and Family Instant Messaging service, which works "24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year," said Lt. Col. David Gindhart, the Global Combat Support Systems program director.

"It's an important morale tool for deployed Airmen, their friends and family, allowing them to stay connected, no matter where in the world they are," Colonel Gindhart said. "All Airmen need to do is create an account for their loved ones and they can chat whenever they have access to the Web without jeopardizing Air Force network security."

To register a guest, follow these steps:

- Log into the Air Force Portal
- In the upper right hand corner, click on the My Profile tab
- Then click on the Manage FFIM tab
- Click on Add an Account
- Fill out the required information (name, e-mail address) and read the user policy
- Click on Register

Two e-mails will then be sent automatically to the friend or family member's address. The first contains the individual's username; the second will be a temporary password. The guest then has 24 hours to log into the portal and create their own unique password, which they'll use from that point on. The portal link is:

<https://www.my.af.mil>



GENERAL MEETING >> Capt. David P. Walsh, deployed from Westover to Iraq, shakes hands with Gen. David Petraeus, commander of coalition forces, in January. Captain Walsh is deployed as the lead liaison officer in the United States Embassy in Baghdad. General Petraeus's staff arranged the "meet-and-greet" photo with the Patriot Wing officer. Captain Walsh is a maintenance officer with the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He is deployed for about four months. (Courtesy photo)

SF Airmen join Toy for Joy effort

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

About 20 members of the 439th Security Forces Squadron volunteered during the holidays in December to give out toys during the annual Toy for Joy event held in Springfield.

Staff Sgt. Christian DiLuzio said he and the security forces Airmen worked about six hours each day from Dec. 17-20. Toy for Joy is a program of the Salvation Army of Massachusetts that raises money and distributes toys to low income families to ensure all children receive Christmas gifts.

"It felt great giving back to the community. It made me really proud to help these families and children," said Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Kelley.

"This is a great partnership for both Westover and the Salvation Army, the community asked for our help and we were there. And we're already looking forward to doing this again next year," Sergeant DiLuzio said.

Command names security forces sergeant best full-time NCO

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Master Sgt. Jayme L. Frey recently earned Air Force Reserve Command honors as the top full-time security forces NCO of the year for 2007, headquarters AFRC officials said in December.

Sergeant Frey was also the 439th Airlift Wing NCO of the Year for 2007, and recently earned the 22nd Air Force Lance P. Sijan Award, given to Airmen who demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities while assigned to organizations at the wing level or below.

An active guard and reserve (AGR) technician assigned at Westover since July 2005, Sergeant Frey is the 439th SFS installation security manager. She supervises all day-to-day installation law enforcement and security operations at the base.

"She is extremely perceptive and always hard-working," said Maj. Gary D. Byrd, her supervisor.

The NCO provided security for several dignitaries who visited Westover including First Lady Laura Bush. She also provided security for several in-flight and ground emergencies at Westover, Major Byrd said.

She also keeps busy at Westover when not assigned her primary duties. She is part of the wing Human Resources Development Council (HRDC). Sergeant Frey attended a Women in Aviation Conference in 2007 and was one of only four Westover Airmen selected to attend, the major said.

During the 439th AW "Galaxy Day,"



Sergeant Frey led children of Reservists on tours of the security forces building. She highlighted some of the technical aspects of the job through some hands-on displays of security forces equipment. She also volunteered with the Air Force Assistance Fund as unit project manager.

The sergeant completed her associate's degree in the Community College of the Air Force and is working toward a bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

"I appreciate that my supervisors have taken the time to recognize my work for this wing," Sergeant Frey said. "And I appreciate the opportunities that our squadron leadership has afforded me."

PATRIOT PEOPLE |



David E. LaVallie

NAME : David E. LaVallie
 HOMETOWN : Bondsville, Mass.
 UNIT : 439th Airlift Wing Safety Office
 POSITION : Wing weapons safety manager
 FAVORITE FOOD : Dry rub ribs
 YEARS OF SERVICE : Thirty-six
 FAVORITE SPORT : Baseball
 FAVORITE HOBBY : Railroads
 IDEAL VACATION : Hiking in Alaska
 BEST WAY TO RELAX : Reading or walking my dog
 PREFERRED ENTERTAINMENT : Dinner and a movie
 FAVORITE HERO : Lt. Gen. Louis "Chesty" Puller
 FAVORITE MUSIC STYLE : Sean-Nós Nua (an Irish folk style)
 FAVORITE MOVIE : Field of Dreams
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT : F-14 Tomcat
 PET PEEVE : The adage "Not my job."
 WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WON \$1 MILLION : The same as I do now -- enjoy life.

PATRIOT PUNS |

AT THE CLUB >> Enjoy the live music of THFB Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. THFB stands for "The Having Fun Band." The band plays classic rock and rhythm and blues songs from the 1950s to today. Information: Ext. 3015.

AT THE BOWLING CENTER >> The Rising 6 is offering an Airmen's Social at 6 p.m. Feb. 2. The social offers Airmen a chance to learn more about the Rising 6 mission. Food, refreshments, and a raffle will be offered. Information: Senior Airman Michael Valentin at ffvalentin@gmail.com

AT THE RENTAL CENTER >> Get all the latest ski equipment from the Westover Rental Center. Skiers can select from skis, boots, bindings, hats, gloves, and goggles. The center staff also offers ski and snowboard tuning services.

AT THE FITNESS CENTER >> Commander's Cup events on the February A UTA are racquetball and a fitness challenge. Units must sign up their teams no later than the Thursday before the event date. Rosters should be turned in 30 minutes before the scheduled event start time.

FEBRUARY SERVICES CALENDER | www.westoverservices.com



PATRIOT PRAISES |

Promotions

Senior Master sergeant

Keith A. Latarski
 Timothy B. Maguire

Master sergeant

Steven P. Allen
 Jayme L. Frey
 Kimberly L. Kopp
 Michael J. Latter

Technical sergeant

Gerald M. Atkins
 Andrea B. Doyon

James J. Fitzell Jr.
 Jeffery A. Gilbert
 Michael D. Hilton
 John L. Hubbard
 Tania A. Khan
 Brian M. Scott
 David P. St. Denis
 Eric D. Tiff
 Gregory A. Towers

Staff sergeant

Joshua C. Ashliman
 James M. Casey
 Kierra C. Keyes
 Kyle S. King

Brian M. Kustan
 Rick F. Marrama
 Christopher M. Migala
 Nicole R. Morales
 Carl V. Pratt
 Mahendra D. Thomas

Senior Airman

Alexander F. Evelyn
 Douglas A. Kellogg
 Michael E. Neveln
 Thomas R. Scott
 Jason M. Young

Airman first class

Robert L. Beauregard
 Adam N. Conley
 Patrick N. McCracken
 Stacia E. McKenna

Airman

Vanessa F. Assuncao
 Matthew D. Bastian
 Tomasz P. Drejsa
 Erica N. Negron
 Tara E. Nolan
 Crystal M. Shea
 Lisa M. Vicente



HOMEFRONT SUPPORT >> Family members of deploying Reservists wave to Airmen departing Westover on their first leg of the overseas deployment. More than 180 Airmen from three squadrons deployed in January for the Global War on Terror. (photo by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco)

PATRIOT |

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