

Stepping Forward

photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Timm Huffman

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ON THIS UTA |

SATURDAY

Club meals (both days): Breakfast, 6 a.m.-7:15 a.m., lunch, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.; dinner, 5-7 p.m.

Medical, dental exams: 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., 439th AMDS, 390 Walker Ave.

Combat arms training (M-16, M-4): 8:30 a.m.; security forces, Bldg. 2510

SUNDAY

CBRNE: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Bldg. 2416,

Combat arms training (M-9): 8:30 a.m.; security forces, Bldg. 2510

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ON THE COVER >> Transformation keeps the military on the cutting edge, from our missions to our uniforms. This year's inspections test our currency to continue to meet defense challenges. Turn to page 7 for more information on these upcoming inspections.



COLD TO A 'T' >> A maintenance worker de-ices the 65-foot-high T-tail of a C-5 parked in the isochronal inspection area in January. Winter's freezing temperatures hit full force in January with snow and ice and below-zero wind chills. (photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope)



Colonel Swain

A new year, new president, and new administration.

Throw in the economy, countries jockeying for power, and an ongoing defense against global terrorism.

We are awash in a sea of change that affects our destination as a nation, as a base and as individuals.

During turbulent times, it is more important than ever to fix our bearings, set a clear course, and monitor ourselves to stay on the track we set.

Our fixed bearing will always be taking care of our mission, and taking care of our people. That is “true north” and is the constant reference point as we navigate through change.

Charting our course requires strategic planning more than ever. Where are we going? What do we have? What do we need? What strategic changes will not only give us the tools to get the job done today, but keep us viable and effective five, 10, 20 years from now? I appreciate new perspectives that help improve our mission for future generations. We need people that ask fresh questions about

existing circumstances. They frequently say, “Why not?” instead of “That’s the way it’s always been.” We need to blend innovation and corporate knowledge.

The critical key to the future is staying viable and Air Force options include associate wings, “jointness” and new roles and missions. Some of this is already happening at Westover.

BRAC brings 450 Navy personnel, and 1,000 Army personnel to the base by 2010. Add that to our current Marine, Army and Navy personnel and our joint manpower tops 5,000. Westover could soon become a Joint Reserve Base to reflect this expansion.

Strategically, we need to improve our 1940s infrastructure to take care of our folks and improve living conditions. An Air Force Reserve Command focus team recently studied our usable base space and recommends \$260 million in military construction at Westover over the next 10 – 12 years. The first of possibly four, \$10 million Joint Lodging Facilities is due to break ground in 18 months. We’re looking for ways to gain funding for several other projects like a dining facility, commissary and maintenance facility.

A \$5 million wage-grade pay adjustment is in the final process and is expected to be awarded to Westover workers this year, and we’re looking at other incentives to recruit and

keep good people.

As we fix our bearings and set our course, it’s also important to monitor our progress with checkups like the Unit Compliance Inspections and Operational Readiness Inspections that fine-tune our skills, mentor younger Airmen and help us develop better processes to reflect real-world realities.

Each person plays a vital role. No matter what job we perform, each reservist makes a huge difference in how we project ourselves throughout our global mission. Virtually every job makes a strategic difference – whether it’s putting sand on an icy walkway, or securing a key base in a deployed location – both protect vital resources.

In the end, we don’t know what the future holds, but each of us is always responsible to do our current job to the best of our ability for the best possible impact on the future.

With the right perspective, change is an adventure.

Happy New Year!

Col. Robert Swain Jr.
439th Airlift Wing commander

BRIEFS |

Military tribute

Reservists and their families are invited to “Break Out the Blue,” a Springfield Falcons hockey team tribute to the military, at 7 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield.

Col. Robert Swain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, will drop the ceremonial puck and the Springfield Falcons hockey team players will wear commemorative jerseys for their game against the Hartford Wolf-Pack team.

Spectators are encouraged to wear blue to the game to show support. To register for free tickets or to donate tickets to a U.S. military member, call Carole Appleton at (413) 348-6372 or email cappleton@falconsahl.com.

Orders will be taken until Feb. 6 at 5 p.m.

Climate survey planned for A UTA

Col. Robert Swain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, encourages all Airmen to complete an on-line organizational climate survey available on the February A UTA.

Each military member will receive a survey password letter from their unit point of contact by Saturday of the UTA. Each letter contains a different password along with instructions on where to go to take the survey.

The questionnaire typically takes about 20 minutes to complete. The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute developed this Organizational Climate Survey and made it available at the request of Colonel Swain.

Looking for a few good Airmen

The 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office Speakers Bureau is looking for a few good Airmen. As a member of the speakers bureau, Airmen have opportunities to meet interesting people, make Westover look good, and hone their speaking skills.

To ensure successful events, the PA office provides prepared speeches for certain holidays and information kits to give away. Airmen with speeches already lined up are asked to first coordinate their outreach plans. For more information, e-mail the PA office at 439aw.pa@westover.af.mil

Enlisted workshop

Westover’s third annual enlisted workshop is scheduled for the Sunday of the June A UTA.

This year’s workshop theme is “I am an Airman; I Am a Leader.” Events kick off at 1 p.m. June 7 at the Westover Conference Center.

Held for all enlisted Airmen, the workshop will continue through June 9. Chief Master Sgt. Troy McIntosh, Command Chief of the Air Force Reserve, is among the highlights of the workshop. Other briefings will cover leadership tips for Airmen.

Airmen who would like to attend the workshop should coordinate with their supervisors and respond to an e-invite sent in January. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood at Ext. 2876.

A proper homecoming: program targets returning Airmen

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A new Department of Defense-driven program that watches over reservists, signals an important change from the past, of a deployed Airman signing a few forms before a quick adjustment back into the civilian world.

The Yellow Ribbon program is a congressionally-legislated directive that dictates “deployment support and reintegration programs shall be provided for National Guard and Reserve members and their families... to minimize to the extent practicable the stresses of military service, particularly the stress of deployment and family separation.”

Far from the familiar symbol wrapped around a tree, the Yellow Ribbon program promises support from the minute the deployer leaves - to well after they set their boots on the ground back home.

Westover’s Yellow Ribbon Program manager, Master Sgt. Gerald Dufresne cited an example of the Yellow Ribbon Program will benefit family members during a deployment.

“An Airman’s son is having a hard time in school because he misses his dad. The program advises parents to inform the school that a military member is deployed in their family. We ensure that both the military and family member know about who they can contact at Westover as well,” said Sergeant Dufresne.

“We’re using the Yellow Ribbon symbolically to tie together all of the information and resources such as military life counselors, the chaplains, and Military One Source.”

Rather than getting a condensed briefing during the deployment line, Airmen and

their families will know more about what is available before they leave for their assignments overseas, said Master Sgt. Kimberly Babin, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Airmen and Family Readiness Center.

The debut of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, held in the Westover Conference Center in January for a group of deployers, featured a variety of briefers from support agencies that included the American Red Cross, the wing chaplain’s office, and the Airmen and Family Readiness Center.

A spouse of one of the deploying Airmen attended the Yellow Ribbon briefing Jan. 5. She was Katey Avedisian, wife of Senior Airman Scott Avedisian.



“If we reach one family with issues, or one Airman that has post-traumatic stress syndrome and needs someone to talk with, this program is working.”

-- Master Sgt.
Gerald Dufresne

“If something should happen to Scott, I know the phone number to the Red Cross call to find out more,” “The information was excellent,” Ms. Avedisian said. “The briefing made things a lot clearer for me.”

A broad network of support in the pre- and post deployment phases is available for when Airmen are deployed for more than 90 days. Reservists will receive appropriate pay and allowances for attending these deployment support activities.

Deployment tempos for Westover reservists has remained steady. By the end of 2008, more than 240 reservists had deployed to worldwide commitments. The busy pace continues into this year, with more security forces members that deployed to Kirkuk Air Base in Iraq for about six months.

The Avedisians have been married for about a year and a half. This is Airman Avedisian’s first deployment. Ms. Avedisian left the base knowing she had a network of people and agencies that she could count on while her husband is deployed.

“I had brochures and information from these agencies when I came home,” she said. “Besides phone numbers, I had a list of web sites as well.”

Airmen and their families will learn more about what is available before they deploy, from the experts themselves”, said Master Sgt. Kimberly Babin, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Westover Airmen and Family Readiness Center.

“It’s what you need to know ahead of time, and things that people may not think of. Our Airmen are always thinking about the mission (of their deployments).”

Amy Talit, girlfriend of Master Sgt. Quinn Moriarty, said that learning when and how to access the sergeant’s leave and earnings statement was crucial to managing the finances and take care of the sergeant’s two children while he is gone. Sergeant Moriarty also recently deployed to Kirkuk.

“He’s deployed, but the bills aren’t going to change while he is gone,” she said. “This was extra reassurance to know the myPay information.”

Sergeant Dufresne summed up the proactive aim of the new program.

“If we reach one family with issues, or one Airman that has post-traumatic stress syndrome and needs someone to talk with, this program is working,” he said.

Yellow Ribbon Program organization listing

The following organizations are among those which are part of the Yellow Ribbon program:

American Red Cross, www.redcross.org

Airmen and Family Readiness Center, Bldg. 1100, 100 Walker Avenue, Ext. 3024

Wing chaplain’s office, Bldg. 1100, 100 Walker Avenue, Ext. 3031

Wing finance office, Ext. 3880

Military OneSource: www.militaryonesource.com

Veterans Administration: www.va.gov/health

For more information, call the Yellow Ribbon program manager, Master Sgt. Gerald Dufresne, at Ext. 3031 or 3144. His e-mail is gerald.dufresne@westover.af.mil



LAST HUG BEFORE DEPLOYMENT >> Senior Airman Scott Avedisian hugs his wife, Katey, before he heads out on his first deployment Jan. 7. Airman Avedisian was among about a dozen security forces members who deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. Their assignment will last about six months. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)

Deployments keep squadrons moving

by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton

Thirteen 439th Security Forces Squadron Airmen packed up their gear and left Westover Jan. 7 for a deployment to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

After spending the holidays with family and friends, they headed to Kirkuk to join up with a large contingent of Westover Air Force reservists already deployed there. The Westover Airmen arrived at Kirkuk Jan. 13.

This was the second deployment to Kirkuk in a year for the squadron. About 40 Airmen deployed to the base in January 2008 and returned last August.

For many of the Airmen who packed their bags, it is their first.

They flew out of Bradley International Airport in Connecticut, into Norfolk Naval Air Station, Va., where they took a rotator flight

to Iraq. The Airmen comprise more than 120 reservists from the 439th Airlift Wing who are deployed to help fight the Global War on Terrorism.

Most all of their duty while deployed will be air base ground defense and will include standard base security details including manning entry control points and security tower details. Additional Airmen from Westover, who deployed last fall, returned home in January. They included 12 439th Civil Engineering Squadron firefighters, deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. Eleven Airmen from the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron returned Jan. 19 from Joint Base Balad, Iraq, following their four-month deployment.

Airmen with the 439th Services and 58th and 42nd Aerial Port Squadrons were also scheduled to return from Balad in late January and early February.

Obama vows not to waver on defense

by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- President Barack Obama pledged a "prudent use" of military power as the nation works toward "ushering in a new era of peace" in his inaugural address to the nation Jan. 20 here.

"Our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint," he said from the west side of the Capitol here after taking the oath of office as the 44th president.

An estimated 2 million people crowded the National Mall and surrounding area to hear his address.

The use of these principles will allow America to develop greater understanding of other nations and greater cooperation against common threats from them, he said.

"We will begin to responsibly leave Iraq to its people, and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan," President Obama said.

"With old friends and former foes, we'll work tirelessly to lessen the nuclear threat, and roll back the specter of a warming planet."

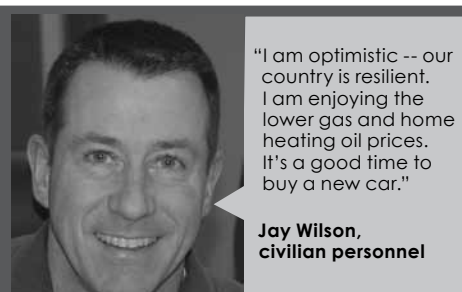
President Obama said Americans will not apologize for their way of life, nor waver in its defense.

"And for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you," he said.



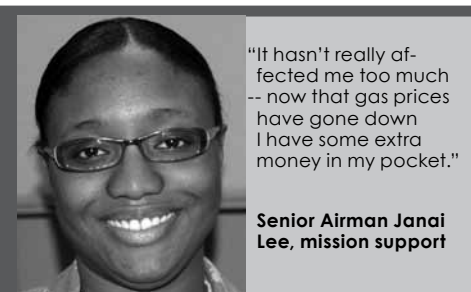
"Due to falling real estate values, we have been forced to change our future plans and make alternative decisions until the market recovers."

Staff Sgt. Tarynn Loranger, airlift wing command section



"I am optimistic -- our country is resilient. I am enjoying the lower gas and home heating oil prices. It's a good time to buy a new car."

Jay Wilson, civilian personnel



"It hasn't really affected me too much -- now that gas prices have gone down I have some extra money in my pocket."

Senior Airman Janai Lee, mission support

TROOP TALK | How is the national economy affecting your lifestyle?



Readiness Check

Wing scheduled for
new round of inspections



by Senior Master Sgt. Sandi Michon

Clear your desk.

It's time for a pop quiz.

The subject is inspections. Answer the following multiple choice question:

Why does the Air Force have inspections? (check all that apply)

- to evaluate compliance to pre-determined standards
- to maintain legal guidelines
- to frustrate and demoralize reservists
- to provide training opportunities for new airmen
- to train for global deployment
- all of the above

If you answered "all of the above" you may need a fresh perspective.

Unlike a pop quiz, Westover faces a series of planned evaluations that allow the base to prepare appropriately, and in the process, revisit standards, train, and mentor.

"Like any test, the goal is to measure skills, not to frustrate," said Col. Michael Marten, 439th Airlift Wing vice commander. "As we deploy more, we all need to be trained to the same standard so we can function as interchangeable parts in the greater mission – and inspections help us achieve that," he said.

Health Services Inspections (HSI) will test the three medical squadrons in September, a Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) assesses the wing in November, and the maintenance squadrons have their Maintenance Standardization Evaluation Program (MSEP) in November as well.

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COMMAND DECISIONS >> Tabletop exercises -- like this one held Jan. 9 at Stratton Air National Guard Base, N.Y., help keep Airmen trained and prepared for larger scale exercises during the Unit Compliance Inspection and Operational Readiness Inspection. Pictured is senior leadership from the 439th and 109th Airlift Wings listening to a situation update during the tabletop. About 60 members of the 439th Airlift Wing traveled to Schenectady, N.Y. in early January to begin preparing for the 2011 ORI. The tabletop tested the participants' decision-making and teamwork skills. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)

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Further emphasizing the importance of inspections, Colonel Marten said, "What gets measured, gets managed." With increased demands and deadlines, he said it's natural to take shortcuts to get the job done. Unfortunately, he said, the shortcuts become the norm, and inspections reset the standards to where they should be.

Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood, wing performance planner, offered another analogy. "The most successful diets include some type of monitoring. Most people gain weight without accountability," she said. "Also, once a diet becomes a lifestyle, it is no longer burdensome."

Like a diet, if the sacrifices loom larger than the benefit, frustration negates a positive outcome.

Just as fitness requires hard work and discipline to acquire a lean, healthy body, military readiness can claim the same motto, "No pain, no gain."

Training for wartime has gained new recruits an additional two weeks of Air Force basic military training to incorporate the new Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training (BEAST) training, and the inspection processes are changing to reflect that reality at all levels. As we have transformed from the

Battle Dress Uniform to the Airman's Battle Uniform, a real-life representation of changes the Global War on Terrorism brought to our service, we see that change reflected in the inspection progress.

For example, according to Lt. Col. Richard Tilburg, wing performance manager, a new computer system has standardized the self-inspection checklists by career field and the process is web-based.

"As we deploy more, we all need to be trained to the same standard so we can function as interchangeable parts in the greater mission - and inspections help us achieve that. What gets measured, gets managed."

-- Col. Michael Marten, 439th AW vice commander

The new system is called the Management Internal Control Toolset (MICT) and may be found by selecting "MICT checklist" after typing in "MICT" in the Air Force Portal search line.

"It's a tool to help us better prepare for the Unit Compliance Inspection," said Colonel Tilburg. "It brings accountability to each manager because commanders, 22nd Air Force and AFRC are giving them the ability to monitor self-inspection progress."

Supervisors are encouraged to check the MICT to get started assessing their sections status. The checklists can determine just how much gain is needed, and how much pain is required to get there, said Colonel Marten.

He also cited the yearly 15 percent wing-member-turnover rate as a good reason to use inspections as a training tool to bring new people up-to-speed with standards and processes.

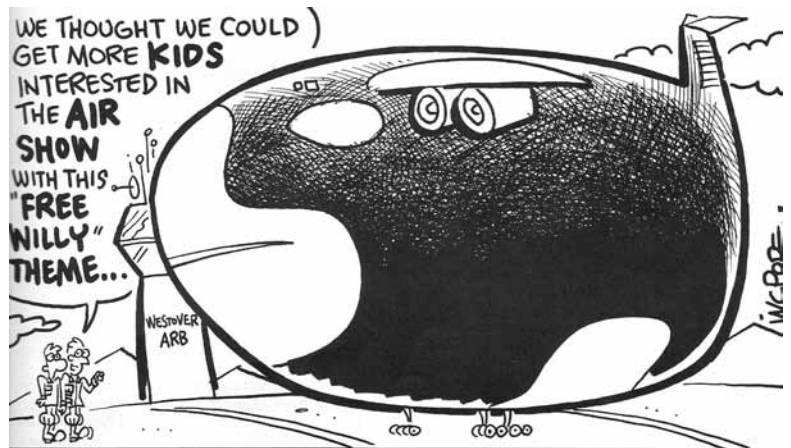
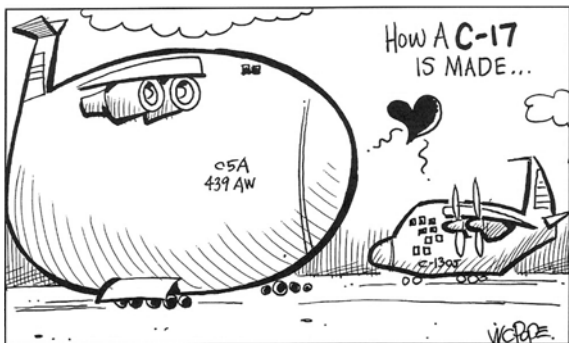
"We have a lot of talent and experience here and expect to wow inspectors at the Health Services Inspections, the Unit Compliance Inspections, and onto the Operational Readiness Inspection in 2011," he said. "We are in the fight and can't afford to lose focus."

OK, no more pop quizzes. Focus on the finals. Proper preparation lessens the pain of any test.



Farewell tribute to Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

EDITOR'S NOTE: This page is a tribute to Westover's cartoonist and photographer, Master Sgt. W.C. Pope, who retires in February after 28 years in service. Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Doyle, 439th Maintenance Squadron, drew the commemorative cartoon above. The cartoons below are the PA staff's picks and are among the hundreds by Sergeant Pope that have appeared in the *Patriot* and many other publications.





COMMANDER'S CUP >> The aircraft maintenance squadron team squares off against security forces for a rebound during the January A UTA. Commander's Cup competitions are scheduled throughout this year.

AMXS downs MXS in first Commander's Cup games

Article and photo by Staff Sgt. Timm Huffman

Aircraft maintenance squadron hoopsters beat the maintenance squadron in the final round of the 3-on-3 basketball tournament held at the fitness center during Saturday of the January A UTA.

Security forces team members took third and the services squadron also participated. The tournament is part of the sporting events that make up the annual Commander's Cup competition that kicked off in October 2008.

Points are earned each UTA for participation and performance. The Commander's Cup is awarded in December to the squadron with the most points. The SFS team was last year's Commander's Cup winner. The 3-on-3 tournaments continued into the January B UTA.

Racquetball is scheduled for the February Commander's Cup, followed by bowling in March and broomball in April. The competition runs throughout this year.

Teams interested in participating should contact Rick Heller at Ext. 3958 with the team roster before 2 p.m. on Saturday of the February UTA.

Squadron standings as of Jan. 22

Security forces	30
58th APS	27
42nd APS	22
Aircraft maintenance	19
Maintenance	16
Maintenance operations	8
Services	6



BALAD BUNCH >> Deployed aerial port members pause for a photo at Joint Base Balad. They are, from left, Senior Airman Anthony Palma from Dover AFB; Staff Sgt. Kristopher Grimshaw, Master Sgt. Dan Lawlor, and Staff Sgt. Anthony Racco, all from Westover's 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Lohrfink, Dover. (Courtesy photo)

PATRIOT PEOPLE |



Staff Sgt. Michael Graves

NAME : Michael Graves
 RANK : Staff sergeant
 AGE : 30
 HOMETOWN : East Hartford, Conn.
 UNIT : 439th Services Squadron
 POSITION : Fitness specialist
 FAVORITE FOOD : Sausage grinders
 YEARS OF SERVICE : Seven
 FAVORITE SPORT : Football/volleyball/baseball
 FAVORITE HOBBY : Exercising and playing madden
 IDEAL VACATION : Hawaii on the beach with the family enjoying the sun and a refreshment
 BEST WAY TO RELAX : Listening to music and getting a massage
 PREFERRED ENTERTAINMENT : Going to a concert or going bowling
 FAVORITE HERO : Michael Jordan
 FAVORITE MUSIC STYLE : Hip-hop R&B
 FAVORITE MOVIE : Gladiator
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT : All I really know is the C-5
 PET PEEVE : People who are bad drivers and then blame you for their mistakes
 WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WON \$1 MILLION : Invest, build a dream home

BREAKFAST CLUB >> A hearty breakfast is now served from 6-9 a.m. Monday – Friday, Eggs and omelets to order are available to go as well. On Tuesdays, from 4:30-7:30 pm, in the lounge, the Butcher Block offers customers a choice for the size and taste of steak. Steak is \$1 per ounce.

FITNESS HOURS CHANGING >> The center hours are changing. As of Jan. 26, the center is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday. There are a variety of fitness classes being offered. See the center staff for more information, or pick up a fitness class flyer with specific dates and times.

ON-BASE PIZZA >> UTA on-base pizza and subs delivery are offered. This service is from 5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Friday and from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday. Try a pizza from our new pizza menu any day during lunch. Pick-up or dine in only.

OUTDOOR RENTAL >> A new Honda 3000-watt generator is available; Rental fees are \$40 for four hours /\$60 per day. Skis and snowboarding and their accessories are available for rent and purchase. We also offer full-service ski and snowboard services. Appointments are required.

FEBRUARY SERVICES CALENDER | www.westoverservices.com

PATRIOT PUNS |



PATRIOT PRAISES | Reenlistments and promotions

Reenlistments
 Senior Master Sgt.
 Scott J. Zapolski

Master sergeant
 Kenneth R. Boucher
 Michele T. Oparowski
 Dawn M. Rivet
 Richard A. Spoor

Technical sergeant
 Richard I. Barry
 John A. Bisceglia
 Anthony D. Branco
 Christopher M. Edgerton
 Russell F. Huther, Jr.

Dwayne D. Jolicouer
 Gerald K. Overton
 Ian H. Robertson

Staff sergeant
 Smith M. Davis
 Michael B. Jones
 Sean C. Lauzier
 David M. Maillet
 Richard A. Mitchell, Jr.

Senior Airman Gregory K. Sims, Jr.

Promotions
Senior Master sergeant
 Justin E. Thurber

David W. Turner

Master sergeant
 Kevin R. Blake
 Shawn A. Manley
 Kevin J. Uva
 Thomas R. Williams

Technical sergeant
 Anthony M. Bottass
 Janet R. Duro
 Dennis J. Ford
 Michael J. Jaczyk
 Mark W. Jordan
 Craig V. Logan
 Michael T. Morris

John W. Nadolski, III

Staff sergeant
 Joseph D. Coffey
 Christopher Cormier
 Karl D. Koenig
 David H. Murphy
 Megan M. Niles
 John E. Parkinson
 Gregory K. Sims
 Jonathan N. Wood

Senior airman
 Robert L. Beauregard
 Daniel J. Bessette
 Sara E. Delfino



REMEMBERING THE FALLEN >> Members of the 439th Security Forces Squadron recently traveled to Arlington National Cemetery to place wreaths at the graves of the nation's veterans. They are: Kneeling left to right: Staff Sgt. Matt Carroll, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Webster, Senior Airman Kelly Colkos, and Master Sgt. Duane Manville. Standing: Tech. Sgt. John Lupien, Master Sgt. Daniel Ernst, Senior Airman Christopher Cardella, Senior Master Sgt. Randy Bates, and Master Sgt. Charles Frey. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Nadine Bates)

PATRIOT |

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A UTA | FEB. 7-8 | B UTA | FEB. 21-22



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