

# MXG Excellence

Westover maintainers  
named best in AFRC



photo by Tech. Sgt. Timm Huffman

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**ON THE COVER >>** The 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group is honored as the Air Force Reserve Command Maintenance Effectiveness Award winner. For more on this award, turn to pages 3 and 8.



**MODELING HISTORY >>** This B-52D Stratofortress model is displayed near the James Street Gate. This replica honors a B-52 that was assigned to Westover's 99<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing during the Vietnam War. The crew aboard the bomber was flying a mission over North Vietnam when it was shot down Dec. 19, 1972. One of the crew members, then-Capt. Charles Brown, was held in a North Vietnam prison for 101 days. He returned to Westover as a POW in April 1973 and later commanded the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group as a colonel. See next month's *Patriot* for more on Westover's seven decades of service to the United States. (File photo)





Colonel Kountz

As I'm closing out my first year as a member of the Patriot Wing, I'd like to say thank you to the men and women of the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group and the entire wing. I'm

honored to serve with you and thank each of you for making my job so rewarding.

The Total Force team of civilians, ARTs, traditional reservists and active duty in MXG has set the standard for C-5 maintenance in the Air Force.

Throughout the base, the dedicated teamwork here at Westover exemplifies that the Patriot Wing is absolutely Leaders in Excellence. I'm very proud to be part of the best airlift wing in the Reserve Command as characterized by the Lt. Gen. Sherrard Award. None of what MXG does could happen without the entire wing effort.

It was a banner year for MXG, capped off by being recognized as the 2010 Air Force Reserve Command Maintenance Effectiveness Award winner and nominee for the Air Force-level competition.

Early last year, in response to the call for a surge of troops and equipment into Afghanistan, we mobilized over 150 traditional reservists to augment our daily ART workforce.

This workforce immediately jumped into full stride, more than doubling our normal aircraft production. During most of the surge our C-5 aircraft were providing about one third of the total Air Force C-5 commitment. This culminated in a fiscal year production of about 8,000 flying hours: the second largest flying year ever for the 439<sup>th</sup> AW. Our men and women accomplished this while maintaining a fiscal year mission-capable rate of 68 percent, besting our previous year's high by almost five percentage points to again lead the entire C-5 fleet.

While a good portion of the atten-

tion was on the Afghanistan surge, the regional isochronal production was performing to new heights as well. This year the RISO hit its biggest production year with 19 aircraft inspections and an average fly-in to fly-out time of about 20 days. Along the way, they sent two aircraft straight out of this major aircraft overhaul right into AOR missions. This level of confidence in our work from a major inspection is unprecedented.

Another noteworthy accomplishment was a 15 day fly-in to fly-out inspection on one aircraft: a new performance best.

Obviously, none of this could be accomplished without aircrews, logistics and force support to keep the entire machine working. I look forward to working with the entire wing as we attack the ORE and ORI in the coming year and once again show that we truly are Leaders in Excellence.

**Lt. Col. William Kountz**  
439<sup>th</sup> MXG commander

BRIEFS |

Website news

To read the latest Westover news, click on the base website at westover.afrc.af.mil.

The site includes information and links to base accommodations, the base mission, and much more.

Range off-limits

The Westover small arms range on Training Avenue is off-limits to unauthorized personnel.

Trespassing on the small arms range is illegal and dangerous because of frequent live firing.

People with requests to enter the range should call Master Sgt. Jeffery Otis at 557-2061 or the law enforcement desk at 557-3557.

AFRC forbids logging on WikiLeaks

Effective immediately, no Air Force Reserve Command personnel are allowed to use government computers to visit any WikiLeaks website, according to Secretary of the Air Force guidance.

Systems identified as accessing the WikiLeaks website will be treated as if they were involved in a Classified Message Incident and will be completely sanitized, which will erase all data, according to 439th Communications Squadron officials. Once a computer is identified as being involved in a CMI, no data can be backed up and restored. The WikiLeaks website publishes sensitive and classified government documents.

Questions on this command guidance should be directed to supervisors or unit operational security representatives.

On-base credit union open on UTA

The Pioneer Valley Federal Credit Union, a full-service financial institution for Westover people and their families, is located on Patriot Avenue in Bldg. 1520 (the former 439th Security Force Squadron building).

Hours of operation at the credit union are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturdays of A UTAs.

For more information, call (413) 730-4143.

Annual awards

Westover's annual awards board has selected the following winners for their outstanding contributions to the 439th Airlift Wing mission during 2010:

Airman: Senior Airman Dianna Bolton, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron

NCO: Tech. Sgt. David Owens, 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron

Senior NCO: Senior Master Sgt. Laray Deveaux, 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Company Grade Officer: Capt. Jonathan Beale, 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron

Civilian: Karl Lindberg, 439th Mission Support Group

Civilian Supervisor: Robert Perreault, 439<sup>th</sup> MSG Emergency Management

# 'Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win' takes flight as new motto

WASHINGTON -- Incorporating extensive inputs from all ranks and career fields, Airmen have selected "Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win" as the service's motto.

The motto is a two-part expression -- a call to action, with a response of commitment.

"The call and the response are two sides of the same coin," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz. "Airmen indicated 'Aim High' and the response 'Fly-Fight-Win' as indicative of their enduring commitment to do just that in defense of our Nation."

When the Air Force motto team embarked on the project, they committed to Airmen buy-in.

"We took the time to try to get this right," General Schwartz said.

"We took the time to try to get this right."

-- Gen. Norton Schwartz,  
Air Force Chief of Staff

In early 2010, the motto team engaged in almost nine months of hands-on research that began with extensive face-to-face meetings with nearly 300 total force Airmen, from all job specialties, in every major command. Airmen described to the team what they thought it means to be an Airman, to serve, and what is unique about the Air Force.

"The exhaustive research process showed that Airmen share a core set of identity concepts that serve as a basis for an Air Force motto," said Gen. Stephen Lorenz, commander, Air Education and Training Command.

"No matter what career field

they serve in, Airmen consistently told us they see themselves, and they see the heritage of the Air Force, as those entrusted by the nation to defend the modern, complex security domains -- first air, then space, and now cyberspace," added Gen Lorenz. "Airmen take this sense of mission very seriously."

After understanding the shared identity, the motto team began transforming words and concepts into a unifying, enduring and credible motto said Lt. Col. Clark Groves, Ph.D., lead scientist for the project.

Airmen can expect to gradually hear and see more of the motto

as it is included in Air Force presentations, correspondence, and products. It will also be introduced in the coming year into basic training, professional military education, Reserve Officer Training Corps, and United States Air Force Academy courses.

"This motto encompasses what Airmen say about what it means to serve in this great Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy. "'Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win' gives our service a lasting tradition for voicing our pride."

The chief noted an important distinction between slogans and mottos.

"Slogans and ad phrases come and go, but a motto is meant to be passed from one generation of Airmen to another," Chief Roy said.

## Air Force prepares for new government travel cards

by Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Air Force is primed for service-wide distribution of new Citibank controlled spend account government travel cards now through spring 2011, officials said here Dec. 1.

Issuance of the CSA card for use in conjunction with temporary-duty assignments, permanent change of station or deployment orders follows an extensive multi-installation pilot phase and involves the eventual replacement of more than 480,000 traditional set-limit cards currently in use.

According to Mike Bilbrey, the Air Force banking officer, the CSA card differs from the traditional travel card in that approved travel authorizations and amendments automatically adjust the CSA's spend limits to reflect the estimated cost of the mission.

"The CSA is the most innovative solution to the government travel card program since its inception, and it allows the Air

Force to better manage cash flows," Mr. Bilbrey said. "Since the card won't have any value until a travel order is approved, Airmen can count on higher levels of security, lower delinquency rates, and best of all, instant approval, since there is no credit check required to have a CSA."

Mr. Bilbrey explained that once the mission is complete, users submit their vouchers for processing, at which time Citibank officials reconcile the account and identify the residual funds available to the cardholder for personal use or to transfer to another personal account.

While enjoying possible residual funds for personal use is a perk for Airmen, the

fully automated CSA also has virtue from a commander's perspective by eliminating arduous, time-consuming GTC oversight responsibilities, Mr. Bilbrey said.

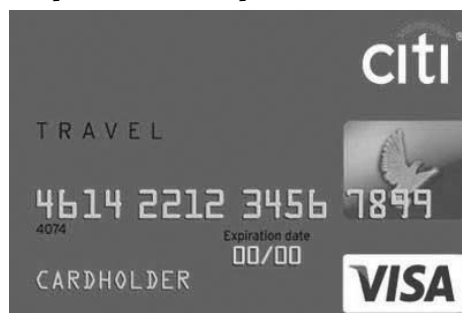
Since the mission at hand can vary greatly for Airmen, Citibank allows cardholders to call for temporary spend limit adjustments, based on last-minute travel requirements.

This provides cardholders the spending limit they need until they can get the amendment into the system, Mr. Bilbrey said.

"The Air Force has partnered with Citibank to not only provide training, but offer cardholders premiere, 24-hour customer service to travelers anywhere in the world," said Stacy Eslich, a Citibank relationship manager.

"In addition, the card's coverage for insurance, travel, medical and emergency assistance delivers the most comprehensive coverage in the card industry."

For more information, visit [www.airforce-travelcard.transactionservices.citi.com](http://www.airforce-travelcard.transactionservices.citi.com), or email Rose Daigle at the Westover Finance Office at [rosalie.daigle@westover.af.mil](mailto:rosalie.daigle@westover.af.mil)



# Statewide resources help transitioning reservists

Transitioning from military to civilian life is a significant change for any reservist. Patriot Wing Airmen who deployed or were activated at Westover this year have a large group of organizations from which to get assistance.

The following list includes the phone numbers and websites of those organizations.

**Airman and Family Readiness**, 413-557-3024 or [www.westoverafrc.org](http://www.westoverafrc.org). They provide free personal financial assistance, loan locker, bundle for babies, pre/post deployment support, relocation assistance, resume writing, and more services.

**American Red Cross**, 877-272-7337. The Red Cross aids VA hospitals around the nation. They help in transporting to and from treatment sessions, providing companionship, and nursing home visitations.

**Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve**, 413-267-4037 or [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil). ESGR promotes cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

**MA Veterans' Services** offer employment assistance and training, housing, benefits, local community services and more.

**Military Friends Foundation**, 617-733-7994 or [www.militaryfriends.org](http://www.militaryfriends.org) MFF offers financial assistance to eligible families who have faced hardships related to active service.

**Military Family Life Consultant**: Adult: 508-233-7708; Youth 508-233-7853; Financial 508-233-7951. MFLC provides solution-oriented consultations to individuals, couples, families, and groups. Consultation can be about almost anything including adjustment/transition, stress, marital, anxiety, deployment cycle issues, parenting, and grief.

**Military One Source**, 800-342-9647 or [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) Education, relocation, parenting, and stress. Military One-Source is here to help you with just about any need.

**Northampton Veterans Administration Medical Center**, 413-584-4040 Ext. 3091 or [www.northampton.va.gov](http://www.northampton.va.gov). This center offers outpatient clinics to provide exceptional health care, as well as special programs to include PTSD, substance abuse, homeless veterans, smoking cessation and more.

**Operation Homefront**, [www.operationhomefront.net.](http://www.operationhomefront.net.), offers many programs and services such as food assistance, auto repair, financial assistance, home and appliance repair, moving assistance and much more.

**Operation Military Kids**, 413-577-0332 or [www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org). OMK increases the awareness of the impact of deployment on military youth and families. They train teams of teens to speak out for military kids.

**Springfield Vet Center**, 413-737-5167 or [www.springfieldvetcenter.org](http://www.springfieldvetcenter.org). The Springfield VA aids veterans in health, benefits, Vet centers, PTSD program locators and bereavement counseling, all at no cost.

**Statewide Advocacy for Veterans' Empowerment**, 888-844-2838 or [www.mass.gov/veterans](http://www.mass.gov/veterans).

**Soldier On**, [www.wesoldieron.org](http://www.wesoldieron.org). Their mission is to assist homeless veterans.

**Veterans' Service Office**, 413-594-3470. The Veterans' Service Office offers eligible veterans and their families financial and medical assistance. They also provide assistance with housing, alternate sources of income, employment opportunities, fuel assistance programs and area food banks and shelters.



**INJECTING KNOWLEDGE >>** This Airman is simulating use of a nerve agent injector, using a clothespin.

- A) How many antidote treatment nerve agent auto injectors do Airmen carry?
- B) How long do you hold the injector in place?
- C) How do you properly dispose of the used injector?

## Test your ATSO knowledge

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a second in a series of articles to help reservists prepare for the 2011 Operational Readiness Exercise in March and the ORI in June. Information will be provided in Patriots through June.*

Months of preparation, training, and coordination among hundreds of Westover reservists will culminate in the Patriot Wing's participation in the Operational Readiness

Inspection. Nearly 500 reservists will travel to a training site to be announced in 2011 with more than 200 members of the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard at Stratton ANGB, N.Y.

The Patriot will feature monthly questions to assist Airmen of the 114<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing for the ORI -- the flagship Air Force training exercise.

- A) Three.
  - B) Hold it in place on the thigh or buttocks area for 10 seconds. Use all three injectors.
  - C) Pin the used injector on your chest area BEFORE taking any other action. Follow up with a cana injector to prevent convulsions.
- (Information provided by 439th Airlift Wing Emergency Management)



**439th Airlift Wing  
Commander**  
Col. Robert R. Swain Jr.



# 439th Airlift Wing

January 2011

**439th Maintenance Group**  
Lt. Col. William R. Kountz



**439th Operations Group**  
Col. Samuel C. Mahaney



**439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron**  
Col. Robert A. Sousa  
Master Sgt. Marykate Casey



**439th Operations Support Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hancock  
Master Sgt. Tamera S. Besser



**439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**  
Maj. Andre A. McMillian  
Chief Master Sgt. Earl E. Duncan Jr.



**439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron**  
Col. Joel S. Bogner  
Master Sgt. Dawn M. Rivet



**337th Airlift Squadron**  
Lt. Col. John Healy  
Master Sgt. Michelle A. Dunfield



**439th Maintenance Operations Squadron**  
Maj. Michael A. Travalent  
Vacant



**439th Airlift Control Flight**  
Lt. Col. Patrick M. King  
Senior Master Sgt.  
Eileen E. Moloney-Cook



**439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron**  
Col. Adele C. Hill  
Master Sgt. Eric D. Harris



**439th Maintenance Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Luis M. Nunez  
Chief Master Sgt. Clifford M. Wittman

**Vice Wing Commander**  
Vacant

**439th Mission Support Group**  
Col. Michael R. Mounts



**Command Chief**  
Command Chief Master Sgt.  
Zigmund D. Skawski



**439th Communications Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Anthony M. Perkins  
Master Sgt. Sharon I. Riley



**42nd Aerial Port Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Edward J. Miller  
Senior Master Sgt. Timothy B. MaGuire



**439th Civil Engineering Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Paul E. Goliber  
Master Sgt. Stacy A. Gilman



**439th Logistics Readiness Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Michael A. Buoniconiti  
Tech. Sgt. Joseph D. McCormick (acting)



**58th Aerial Port Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Richard J. Bellshot  
Senior Master Sgt. Michael A. Wysocki



**439th Security Forces Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Wesley A. Thiel  
Master Sgt. Jayme L. Frey



**439th Force Support Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Patrick L. Dufraire  
Master Sgt. Frederick E. Hetu

# AFRC taps 439<sup>th</sup> maintainers' dedication

by Tech. Sgt. Timm Huffman

Air Force Reserve Command leadership recognized the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group's hard work Nov. 17, when they named the Patriot Wing's maintainers as the best medium aircraft maintenance group in AFRC for fiscal year 2010.

The Maintenance Effectiveness Award honors the group's quality product and their ability to manage resources.

Last year marked one of the busiest years in the history of the wing and this award recognizes the tremendous efforts of all the Airmen in the maintenance squadrons, said Capt. Robert Dossman, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron.

The 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group comprises three squadrons: maintenance operations, maintenance, and aircraft maintenance. A high operations tempo and numerous process improvements highlighted the past fiscal year.

The wing flew more than 7,800 hours and hauled 34 million pounds of cargo. Westover maintainers kept eight aircraft flying each week during Westover's support of the surge for Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. In the Regionalized Isochronal Inspection Dock, maintenance squadron members performed in-depth inspections on 19 C-5s, fixing over 20,000 discrepancies.

The MXG was also recognized for its effective use of maintenance resources. Technical expertise at Westover saved nearly \$3 million by repairing equipment



**ISO ICONS >>** Staff Sgt. Demetrius Wilson and Senior Airman Benjamin Martinez, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, prepare a C-5 for a tow into the isochronal inspection dock. Maintainers inspected 19 C-5s during fiscal 2010. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Timm Huffman)

instead of having to replace it, and process improvements on existing systems drastically reduced maintenance times.

The average time in the RISO to complete the inspection process dropped from 40 days to 20 days, with the fastest ISO performed in 15 days.

"This is a great award to recognize our people for their hard work and efforts," said Senior Master Sgt. Lee Hareld, maintenance flight chief with the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron. "This award spotlights our efforts during the Afghanistan surge and the RISO operations."

In addition to maintaining the high operations pace and improving processes, the group also improved quality of life for their workers and gave back thousands of dollars to the community.

The fuels technicians received new protective gear and the hangar lighting and electrical power systems were renovated, which resulted in a 30 percent increase in productivity. Additionally, MXG members

contributed \$19,000 toward the Combined Federal Campaign and assisted with the Hispanic Youth Leadership Symposium, held in April at Westover.

"The AFRC MEA package is just a peek through a window at what Westover's maintainers accomplish. There is so much more that didn't go into the package," said Capt. Patrick McCarthy, MXG executive officer.

"The award validates that and shows how the people here at Westover consistently come together and synergistically run on all cylinders. Westover maintainers are the best the Air Force has to offer -- and they stand a good chance of winning at the Air Force level," said Lt. Col. Luis Nunez, 439<sup>th</sup> MXS commander.

"Westover maintainers are the best the Air Force has to offer," he added.

"The Air Force package will take that peek in the window and turn it into a door for the evaluators to walk through and see all the great things the maintenance people at Westover do," Captain McCarthy said.



"I plan on completing my seasoning training and achieve my 5-level."

-- Senior Airman Nick Francis, 439<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron



"I plan to maintain a healthier lifestyle."

-- Staff Sgt. Dominique Powell, 439<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron



"I plan to graduate from college."

-- Tech. Sgt. Juan Ayala, 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

**TROOP TALK** | What is your new year's resolution?



# We end 2010 well and start fresh in the new year

by Chaplain (Maj.) Ted Nicholson

In "The Naked Gun" movie, Detective Frank Drebin, played by the late Leslie Nielsen, goes down memory lane with his love interest, played by Priscilla Presley:

"It's the same old story. Boy finds girl, boy loses girl, girl finds boy, boy forgets girl, boy remembers girl, girl dies in a tragic blimp accident over the Orange Bowl on New Year's Day."

"Goodyear?" asks Presley. "No, the worst," he replies. As we end the holiday season and start the new year, people begin to look back on the events of the past year. It is a good thing to

evaluate what has happened and see just how far you have come. Many of you were mobilized for most of the year. Hopefully you learned a lot about your job, your co-workers, and how significant your contributions are to the unit and the Air Force. Hopefully, you learned a lot about yourself.

Hopefully, this was a "good year" for you. Department of Defense psychiatrists have identified certain health domains, which are components of what makes us human. If any of these domains are not deliberately and carefully maintained, you are more susceptible to physical and emotional injury.

Two of the most significant

domains are social and spiritual. These are important because not only are they the most significant sources of support, but also because they are what give us significance and meaning.

So what can you do to end this year well and start fresh this new year, especially in these two important health domains?

- Make a commitment to keep yourself healthy, socially and spiritually

- Consider what it would take to start a new way of thinking  
- Count the cost of inaction or indecision

- Make a plan on how to strengthen beneficial social groups, and limit time with detrimental social groups  
- Take steps to start or improve your spiritual health.

Your wing chaplain office staff is always here to help you through confidential counseling, worship experiences, and spiritual guidance.

You can talk with us as we visit units, or call. Our office phone number is 557-3031.

Whatever it takes, make sure that you take steps to start fresh in 2011.



Chaplain Nicholson

## New 'Fit to Fight' standards motivate reservist's PT effort

by Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – According to Air Force senior leaders, the percentage of the total force passing the new physical training test increased from 77.9 percent to 82.6 percent in three months since the July 2010 launch of the revised fitness program. Additionally, the rate of Airmen scoring 90 points or greater has nearly doubled since 2009, to 45.7 percent.

The new fitness standard mandates that Airmen must pass each portion of the test to earn an overall passing score, and fitness assessment cell monitors said a long-term health commitment is critical to success.

"Nearly 50 percent of Airmen are already reaching that 90 or above score, which is a significant accomplishment," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy. "It wasn't like that the very first month out of the chute."

Staff Sgt. Kris Carl, 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical

Staging Squadron, who failed the fitness test on a few occasions, agrees. The new fitness standards – along with the support of her unit – motivated her to improve her fitness scores as well as her overall health, she said.

"I changed many of my habits. I went through basic at 32 and was in good shape, and I wanted to get back into shape," she said. The result of her new commitment to fitness was not only a passing the new physical fitness test, but she also lost 50 pounds in the process. She says she is motivated to keep the weight off and not slip back.

"I know how easy it is to go back to how I was, so I'm determined in doing this no matter what," she added. "The unit leadership is a huge part of it, and my supervisor is out there with me all the time."

Chief Roy credits leadership involvement, unit cohesion and the wingman concept for the uptick in passing numbers across the board.

"We're already seeing a cultural change, even for Airmen engaged in combat operations in extreme environments," Chief Roy said.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Maj. Wilson Camelo, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this article.)



ELLIPSE EFFORT >> Staff Sgt. Kris Carl, 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, trains on the Base Ellipse during the November B UTA. (photo by Maj. Wilson Camelo)

## Wing Airmen, ESGR thank employers

by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Patriot Wing reservists thanked their employers in formal settings last fall, coordinating with officials of the Massachusetts Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve.

Tech. Sgt. Albert Czupkiewicz, a Holyoke, Mass., firefighter, honored Fire Chief Bill Moran with the Patriot Award in November at the High Street Fire Station. Sergeant Czupkiewicz, assigned to the 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron, nominated Moran in appreciation for the support the Holyoke department provided his military career.

Tech. Sgt. Ryan Leveille, 439<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, brought several military people to the Patriot Award presentation to his bosses at the Home Depot Store in Wilbraham, Mass., including Lt. Col. Patrick Dufraine, 439<sup>th</sup> Services squadron commander.

Matt Canty, Home Depot operations manager and Tom Harrison, department supervisor, each received the Patriot Award from Sergeant Leveille.

"Their presence and words of gratitude to the Home Depot personnel demonstrated the high value placed on the civilian employers of USAFR members," said Bill Hebert, Massachusetts ESGR program support manager.

"I was activated for six months and even though Home Depot is a part-time job, they were considerate enough to hold my position," said Sergeant Leveille. "Home Depot faces many challenges during the summer being a busy season. I love what I do with this company. I feel like I'm giving back to the community and I truly have great respect for this company and all their staff."

Chief Master Sgt. Earl Duncan, a U.S. Postal Service employee in his civilian job at the Central Massachusetts Mail Processing Center in Shrewsbury, Mass., was on hand as ESGR members presented the Patriot Award to Maintenance Manager Lynne Parker. Chief Duncan nominated



**NEW SQUADRON >>** Col. Michael Mounts, 439<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group commander, leads the activation of the 439<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron with Lt. Col. Patrick Dufraine, FSS commander, Dec. 4. Also pictured is Maj. Kelly Hosey, who is operations officer for the new squadron. Force support brings the services and mission support squadrons into one. Also participating are Senior Master Sgt. James Barnes (left), and Master Sgt. Frederick Hetu, 439<sup>th</sup> FSS first sergeant. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton)

Ms. Parker for this honor for all the support she has provided to him over the many years of his military career. Upon accepting the award, Ms. Parker said she was thankful for the efforts of reserve service members like Chief Duncan. He is the 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant.

"Ms. Parker attended last summer's Westover Employer Appreciation Day, which gave her a much greater understanding of the outstanding work they do," Mr. Hebert said.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the USERRA law of 1994 and resolving conflicts through mediation.

The Massachusetts Field Office has more than 40 volunteers dedicated to helping every Citizen Airman.

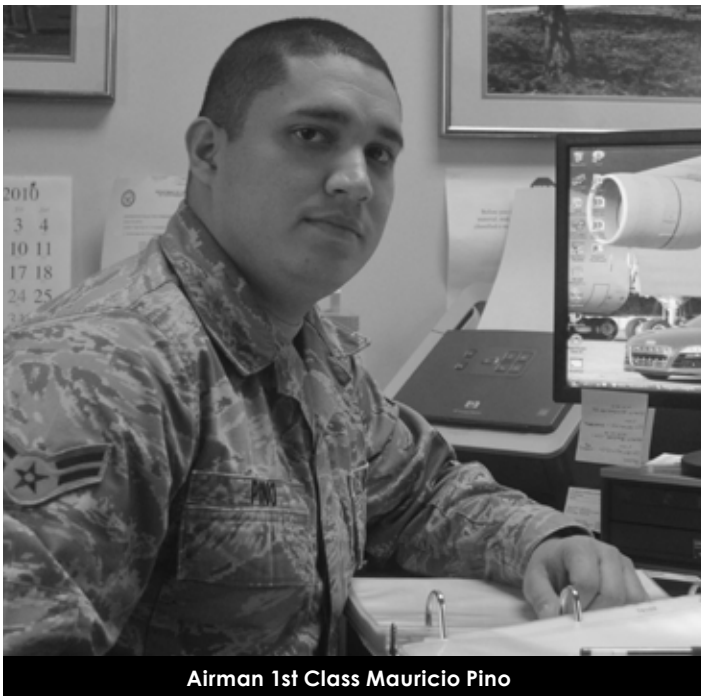
## ESGR provides transition assistance

*Question: I recently returned from a six-month deployment and my employer says I'm not entitled to the total vacation time other employees who were not deployed received. Is this a violation of USERRA?*

*Answer: The key to this is asking the basic question, how is vacation time awarded?*

If it is based on the total time employed by the company then the service member is entitled to the same amount of vacation time as his peers. If the vacation time is prorated by the number of hours worked then that is the formula that applies. (EDITOR'S NOTE: For other issues, please visit [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org) or contact Earl Bonett at 413-267-4037.)

PATRIOT PEOPLE |



Airman 1st Class Mauricio Pino

NAME: Mauricio Pino  
 RANK: Airman 1st class  
 AGE: 22  
 UNIT: 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight  
 POSITION: Personnel specialist  
 HOMETOWN: Norwalk, Conn.  
 YEARS AT WESTOVER: Two  
 FAVORITE FOOD: Barbecued buffalo wings  
 FAVORITE SPORT: Soccer  
 FAVORITE HOBBY: Electronic car  
 IDEAL VACATION: Greece  
 BEST WAY TO RELAX: Watching movies  
 FAVORITE MUSIC: Reggaeton  
 FAVORITE MOVIE: *The Lion King*  
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT: F-16  
 PET PEEVE: Driving in traffic  
 WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WON \$1 MILLION: Buy Reventon Lambo

**AT THE CLUB >>** Hola presents a Dance Party Jan 8, 8 p.m.-12 a.m. DJ from Bomba 97.5. Free admission.

**VALENTINE'S DINNER FOR TWO >>** Tickets on sale at the club Jan. 15- Feb 7. Meal choices: Chicken florentine, beef tenderloin filet and scallop and crab bake with hollandaise sauce.

**BOWLING CENTER >>** Temp-RATE-ture bowling, Jan 12-16. Each game will cost the rate of the temperature displayed on the manager's computer. If the temperature is below zero, the games are free. Lunch time bowling only.

**FITNESS CENTER >>** Congratulations to the 2010 Flag Football Champions OSS Gamecocks and Athlete of the Year John Macintyre. The center is looking to host a Health Fair on May 14. Please contact Ryan Leveille at 557-3958 with ideas or if any health enthusiasts would like to participate.

**OUTDOOR RECREATION >>** Snowshoes, snow throwers/blowers and ski packages are available for rental. For more information, call 557-2192.

SERVICES CALENDER | [www.westoverservices.com](http://www.westoverservices.com)

Retirements

Col. Jon C. Bowersox

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Morin

Master Sgt. Bruce Paradis

Technical sergeant

Stephen M. Adamczyk

Allen John Guiel Jr.

David Hans

Russell Frederick Huther Jr.

Richard Nii

Jacqueline Ouimette

Stephen Piechota

Pablo Rodriguez

William Wood

PATRIOT PRAISES | Promotions

**Chief Master Sgt.** David Berube

Raamah Thompson

**Senior master sergeant**

James Barnes  
 Ronald Jordan  
 John Sandova

**Technical sergeant**

David Allison  
 Randy Baker  
 Sean Chessman  
 Nicholas Clark  
 Erika Gingrass  
 Eduardo Hurtado  
 Trevor Phillips  
 Mark Richards  
 Angel Romero  
 Sarah Starkey

**Master sergeant**

Christopher Baca  
 Anthony Bottass  
 Charlene Delesline  
 Ricky Dumont  
 Myra Heins  
 Gerald Overton

**Staff sergeant**

Jessica Gallo  
 Jared Gervais  
 Jacquelyn Fairey  
 Jonathan Pearce  
 Jennifer Secola  
 Jaime Von Haug

Daniel Lucia  
 Michael Muise  
 Aida Tellado

**Airman 1st class**

Gabriel Cordeiro  
 Kevin Godek  
 Matthew Krawiec  
 Matthew Slattery

**Senior airman**

Chayanne Acevedo  
 Abdul Addy  
 Stacey Caplette  
 Eric Connie  
 Moira Erilus

**Airman**

Erik Cables  
 Kayla Rice  
 Rozlyn Edwards





439th Airlift Wing  
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Published monthly for Patriots like Tech. Sgt. Donald Durand, Easthampton, Mass., and 3,053 reservists and civilians of the 439<sup>th</sup> AW.



**PATRIOT PASS >>** A Patriot Wing C-5 flies over Plymouth, Mass., during the 2010 Thanksgiving parade Nov. 20. More than 175,000 people saw the airlifter flyover. Pilot Lt. Col. Gary Cooke greeted the crowd from the cockpit. The Air Force Tops In Blue is performing in the background. The parade is billed as the second-largest of its type in the country. Photographers are encouraged to shoot high-resolution photos of Westover happenings and people for this back page photo section of the *Patriot*. Photos may be submitted to 439aw.pa@westover.af.mil. (Courtesy photo, Kevin Forti)

**Photo selection of the month**