

PATRIOT

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OnPatrol

ORI: June 19-26

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ON THE COVER >> Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Kellam, deployed security forces squad leader, surveys Afghanistan countryside during a Christmas Day mission. Turn to pages 6 and 7 for more on this mission. (photo by Master Sgt. Lazaro DeJimenez)



SIGHTING IN THE ORE Reservists participate in a refresher course on the basics of clearing and handling M-9 pistols during ORE round robin training March 5. The 439th AW is putting final preparation touches for the Operational Readiness Inspection in June. Turn to pages 8 and 9 for more information on the ORI. (photo by Airman 1st Class Alexander Brown)



Colonel Mahaney

It has been a long and crazy winter, but now that April is here, we are seeing signs of spring. One important sign of spring is that the

ORE is now in our rearview mirror. Even so, the lessons learned from the experience are still with us. It is time to process the list of things we did right and the list of things we can improve upon. It is time to bolster the processes and behaviors that led to our successes, and time to improve the processes and performances that led to any shortfalls we may have experienced.

The ORI will be here and done before we know it. It is an exciting time; a time to prove again that we are the best wing in the Air Force. We know that the ORI will involve an additional sacrifice of our

time and efforts, but we also know that when it is over we will all feel a sense of pride in our accomplishment. At that



time we will all step back and take a deep breath, enjoy summer in New England and spend some valuable time with our families. All the sacrifices will be worth it. I want to thank each member of this wing for their effort to prepare and execute the ORE/ORI. But gratitude is warranted

on a different front as well. Beginning in January the wing transitioned from a mobilized wing in support of Afghanistan surge operations to a more traditional reserve wing posture. Even so, we are still flying at a pace equal to what we were flying during the later part of 2010 when many of our members were reactivated. Men and women are taking time out of their lives every month to support and fly the mission and are getting our aircraft in the air and half way around the world.

We are succeeding in our mission thanks to your patriotism and sacrifices. Without being ordered to do so, you are stepping up and volunteering to defend freedom around the world. Those sacrifices deserve our grateful recognition. On behalf of the 439th AW leadership and the nation – THANK YOU!

**by Col. Samuel Mahaney
439th Operations Group
commander**

BRIEFS |

Mentoring help

Westover's Air Force Association and the Human Resource Development Council chapters are working together to offer 25 local middle school students the opportunity to increase their knowledge of aeronautics and gain valuable mentoring from positive role models.

Read the article on Westover's web site at westover.afrc.af.mil.

Command chief

The new wing command chief is Chief Master Sgt. Michael Thorpe. Chief Thorpe takes over from Chief Master Sgt. Zigmund Skawski, who is retiring on the April A UTA. Look for more coverage on westover.afrc.af.mil.

Annual workshop set for June UTA

Westover's enlisted Airmen workshop will be held June 5-7 at the Westover Conference Center. This year's theme is "I Am an Airman, I Am a Wingman."

The workshop encourages Airmen to network through an interactive atmosphere. It is open to reservists from airman basic to chief master sergeant. Presentations will include financial information, team building, and dress and appearance, and a panel of eight first sergeants to answer questions about enlisted careers. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood at 557-2876 or log onto <https://einvitations.afit.edu/5thAnnualEnlistedWorkshop/rsvp.cfm>

Army takes over Pope Field

FORT BRAGG-POPE FIELD, N.C. (AFNS) -- Pope Air Force Base became Pope Field March 1 as it transitioned to be an Army operated facility supporting Air Force operations.

Several Air Force units were redesignated or inactivated, marking a significant moment in Air Force history. The signing of a proclamation by Col. Stephen Sicinski, the Fort Bragg Garrison commander, and Col. Paul Kucharek, the 43rd Operations Group commander, marked the handover of responsibility for Pope Field.

Quarterly awards

Westover's quarterly awards board has selected the following winners for their outstanding contributions to the 439th Airlift Wing mission for the first quarter of 2011:

Airman: Senior Airman Bryan Healy, 439th Security Forces Squadron

NCO: Tech. Sgt. Donald Boulette, SFS

Senior NCO: Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Kellam, SFS
Civilian: Beverly Cote, 439th Force Support Squadron

Civilian Supervisor: Kenneth Trabert, 439th Maintenance Squadron.

For more on the SFS quarterly award winners, turn to pages 6 and 7, or visit westover.afrc.af.mil.

Base hosts future pilot

by Senior Airman
Charles Hutchinson IV

At first glance, there is a beautiful smile, an outgoing personality, and a drive for life. Less outwardly visible is a young woman suffering from dermatomyositis, a rare inflammatory muscle disease that weakens the body and leaves rashes on the arms.

She is Danielle L. Moruzzi, a 16-year-old student from Saugerties, N.Y., who spent the day at Westover as the second person to participate in the Pilot for a Day program.

Danielle has struggled for years with her disease but refuses to let it stop her from doing what she wants to do in life, which is ultimately to become a pilot.

"I always thought about it when I was younger, but when I actually flew

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REFLECTIONS ON A FUTURE PILOT >> Danielle Moruzzi looks out at Westover from the air traffic control tower during her Pilot for A Day tour March 5, the second such event held at the base since October. (photo by Senior Airman Charles Hutchinson IV)

Renovations to close Westover Club for several months

by Airman 1st Class
Alexander Brown

The Westover Club is scheduled to close in June for 10 to 12 months due to renovations.

Improvements to the building, built in 1973, are to include replacing the roof, carpet, furniture, art work, fixtures, HVAC, windows and paint. The ballroom will be renovated with the goal of "elegance," said Erin Lahart, club manager. The parking lot will also be resurfaced and painted with new lines.

All renovations are designed to make the building more conducive to troop-friendly feeding and to better serve the more than 2,700 military and civilians who work here,



said Chris Menard, director of services.

The club bar will also be part of the project. During renovations, no alternate bar will be opened, however, the bowling alley will remain open with beer and wine available.

Reservists will experience minimal impact during UTA

weekends because club managers plan to establish an alternate dining facility at the former Armed Forces Reserve Center (Bldg. 5550).

This building, also located on Galaxy Road, will not be open on weekdays, except for people attending the military entrance processing center on base.

On weekdays the base will not open an alternate dining facility, although the bowling alley snack bar will still be open to serve food.

With spring weather arriving, plans call to start grilling in front of the ball field on base during UTAs, said Mr. Menard.

Throughout the entire renovation there will be monthly updates in the Westover Club's newsletter showing the extensive work being done.

Once the renovation project is complete, services officials will announce a grand opening date, Ms. Lahart said.

For more information, contact Ms. Lahart at 557-2039 or visit westoverservices.com.

'Pardo Push' highlights F-4 wingman saving another

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article, reprinted from Air Force magazine, highlights the famous "Pardo Push" depicted on wingman cards.

At first glance, the cover of the 2011 Wingman Project card looks like one F-4 Phantom II refueling another. But F-4's don't refuel each other.

The painting depicts a risky maneuver by Capt. Bob Pardo to move his wingman's badly damaged F-4 to friendly airspace during the Vietnam War. On March 10, 1967, Pardo and his weapon system officer, Lt. Steve Wayne, went against steel mills near Hanoi. In their flight was Capt. Earl Aman and his "Guy in Back," Lt. Bob Houghton. The Hanoi area was the most heavily defended in the history of air warfare, and on that day enemy ground fire was the heaviest Captain Pardo had seen.

Before they reached the target, Captain Aman's F-4 was hit, but he was able to stay with the formation. As they were rolling in on the target, anti-aircraft gunners found Aman again. His aircraft began to leak fuel rapidly. Pardo also was hit but was able to continue with the strike, though his F-4, too, was leaking fuel. By the time they were above 20,000 feet on their way out, it was obvious that Aman did not have enough fuel to reach Laos, where he and Houghton could bail out with a reasonable chance of being rescued. If they punched out over North Vietnam, they were almost certain to be captured.

Bob Pardo probably had enough fuel, to reach a tanker, leaving Aman and Houghton to an uncertain fate.

Pardo decided to stay and help. "How can you fly off and leave someone you just



fought a battle with?" he said. "The thought never occurred to me."

He would stay as long as Aman's fuel lasted, then think of some way to get the two men to safety. Pardo didn't have long to think about it. While they were still over North Vietnam, Aman flamed out. Pardo decided to do something that, to his knowledge, had not been done before. He would push Aman's F-4 to Laos. (In 1952, fighter ace Robbie Risner had pushed his wingman out of North Korea in an F-86. Pilots then were ordered to refrain from attempting the hazardous act again, and the event, faded from memory.)

With delicate touch, Pardo brought the nose of his damaged aircraft into contact

with Aman's F-4, now plunging toward the Laotian jungle at 250 knots. After several failed attempts, Bob Pardo told Aman to drop his tailhook. He then maneuvered his windscreen against the tailhook. It worked, but about every thirty seconds Pardo would lose contact because of turbulence, then back off and come in again.

It was an extraordinary job of flying. Aman's rate of descent was reduced to 1,500 feet per minute. Their problems were not over. Pardo's left engine caught fire. He shut it down, then restarted it, and again it caught fire. Never mind that. He would be at zero fuel in 10 minutes. It was time for everyone to hit the silk.

Aman and Houghton bailed out at 6,000 feet, followed shortly by Wayne and Pardo. Once on the ground, Aman and Houghton were pursued by the enemy but managed to elude them. All four men were picked up by rescue helicopters.

Pardo was an instant hero to the other pilots but not to some higher-echelon accountants, who threatened to bring charges against him for losing an expensive airplane. Good judgment prevailed, and the charges were dropped. Two decades later, he and Steve Wayne each were awarded the Silver Star for what came to be known as Pardo's Push, immortalized in a striking painting by aviation artist Steve Ferguson.

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I knew that's what I wanted to do", said Danielle, about becoming a pilot.

She attends Saugerties High School, and also taking aviation lessons at the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, a technical training school in Ulster, N.Y. The aviation program is a two-year program that requires two

hours of classroom work five days a week and a minimum of 40 hours of flight time. Danielle has completed nine flight hours and is planning to graduate with her private pilot license in January 2012.

Danielle started the day with Col. Robert Swain Jr., 439th Airlift Wing commander, at a swearing-in as an honorary pilot.

She "flew" the flight tower simulator where she took control and landed a few simulated aircraft.

After the simulator she went up to the actual flight tower to view the airfield.

Danielle, along with 1st Lt. Jason Rachels, 337th Airlift Squadron, also flew the C-5 Galaxy simulator.

"There you go...good job,

good job," Lieutenant Rachels said as Danielle "landed" the simulator. When asked what she thought about flying the Air Force's largest aircraft, Danielle responded with just one word: "gnarly," she said with a smile.

Her day wrapped up with receiving a plaque, presented by Colonel Swain as friends and family watched.

Cops: Afghanistan

Westover's security forces save lives, move mountains

by Airman 1st Class Alexander Brown

More than a dozen Westover security forces Airmen loaded on a plane, stowed their gear, and calmly took their seats.

They were focused on deploying to Afghanistan for a unique mission to assist the U.S. Army as Joint Expeditionary Tasked Airman that required hand-picked personnel to carry out military police duties.

"I was both anxious and excited," said Senior Airman Bryan Healy, a 439th Security Forces team member. "I have wanted to deploy and do my part since I joined the Air Force, and I knew this was an opportunity to put all of my training to use and to contribute to the hard work and sacrifices of all those who have gone before me."

The team has been deployed since September to Afghanistan.

By the end of the tour in early spring, the security forces members will come home in early spring with an impressive record: three quarterly award winners and eight recommendations from the Air Force's 466th Air Expeditionary Squadron to receive medals for selfless devotion to duty. If that wasn't enough, they have saved lives.

They rescued several people and put their training into practice when they treated victims who suffered from knife wounds and 107mm rocket attacks.

"They are a motivated group," said Capt. Bruce Lawler, 439th SFS operations officer. "They've done a stellar job."

While working in Afghanistan, they are tasked with some of the same security responsibilities they had at Westover including responding to car accidents, shoplifting at the base exchange, quelling disturbances and performing traffic enforcement. Other difficult tasks they conduct include guarding dignitaries, responding to explosions, conducting raids in enemy camps looking for contraband and IED-making materials, detaining prisoners, investigating crimes including larceny and murder, patrolling the wire for insurgents, and responding to the point of impact for every rocket and ground attack.

"When you're working long hours under stressful situations, you become very dependent on each other," said Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Kellam, security forces squad leader. "Our group has done heroic, brave things here while under fire from rocket attacks and ground attacks. We developed a bond with one another because of the nature of our work."



Despite their numerous accomplishments, the deployment has not been all good news: An explosion injured a member during a rocket attack and another member had to be brought home because of a family emergency.

The injured Airman has made a full recovery and the Army has nominated him for multiple awards.

As JET Airmen, security forces are tasked from both the Air Force and the U.S. Army because of their assignment as JET Airmen.

"We respond to rocket attacks, and suspicious packages," said Tech. Sgt. Donald Boulette, security forces member. "We perform security details for dignitaries and VIP's including generals, members of Congress, foreign heads of state, and celebrities."

While on missions, deployed police cope with extreme temperature changes from 110 degrees to freezing, flooding, sand storms, and working in a sandy environment.

"The temperature change is extreme," said Sergeant Kellam. "The air is constantly filled with dust daily. Sandstorms aren't that frequent, but the sand can affect operations both air and ground."

Security forces leadership said their presence was missed at Westover.

During the week there are no big staffing issues at Westover, Captain Lawler said. The UTA weekends are affected from the deployed supervisors. With their experience it also impacts the others sharing the increased workload with June's Operational Readiness Inspection.

Even the civilian jobs are affected. Sergeant Kellam, who works as a Chicopee Police detective, is just one example of the vital civilian jobs put on hold by the Citizen Airmen who fight in Operation Enduring Freedom.

"From our youngest Airmen to the senior noncommissioned officers... the squad from Westover has been stellar the entire deployment," said Sergeant Kellam. "The reservists from Westover bring so much to the war here in Afghanistan because of their civilian and life experiences."



“The squad from Westover has been stellar the entire deployment.”

-- Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Kellam,
security forces squad leader



Wing enters final prep stages for ORI in May

Westover's Operational Readiness Inspection will evaluate the ability of the 439th Airlift Wing to perform its wartime, contingency, or force sustainment missions. The ORI is broken down into five major graded areas.

(1) Positioning the force is the deployment, reception, and beddown of tailored and prioritized forces. In the case of the 439th AW and 109th AW ORI, logistics and personnel technicians will team with C-5 and C-130 aircrews to ensure all participants and their cargo move safely and quickly onto and off aircraft.

Tips:

- Set up your shop or office with a backup plan in mind, and even a backup to the backup.

- Keep a sense of urgency and good attitude; organize your information and checklists when you arrive.

(2) Employing the force is the conduct and support of air and space operations. This area includes generating forces, providing timely information and intelligence, planning for force replacement to continue operations, preserving installation security, and wartime materiel support.

Tips:

- Fight the enemy, not the IG; focus on solving the problem.

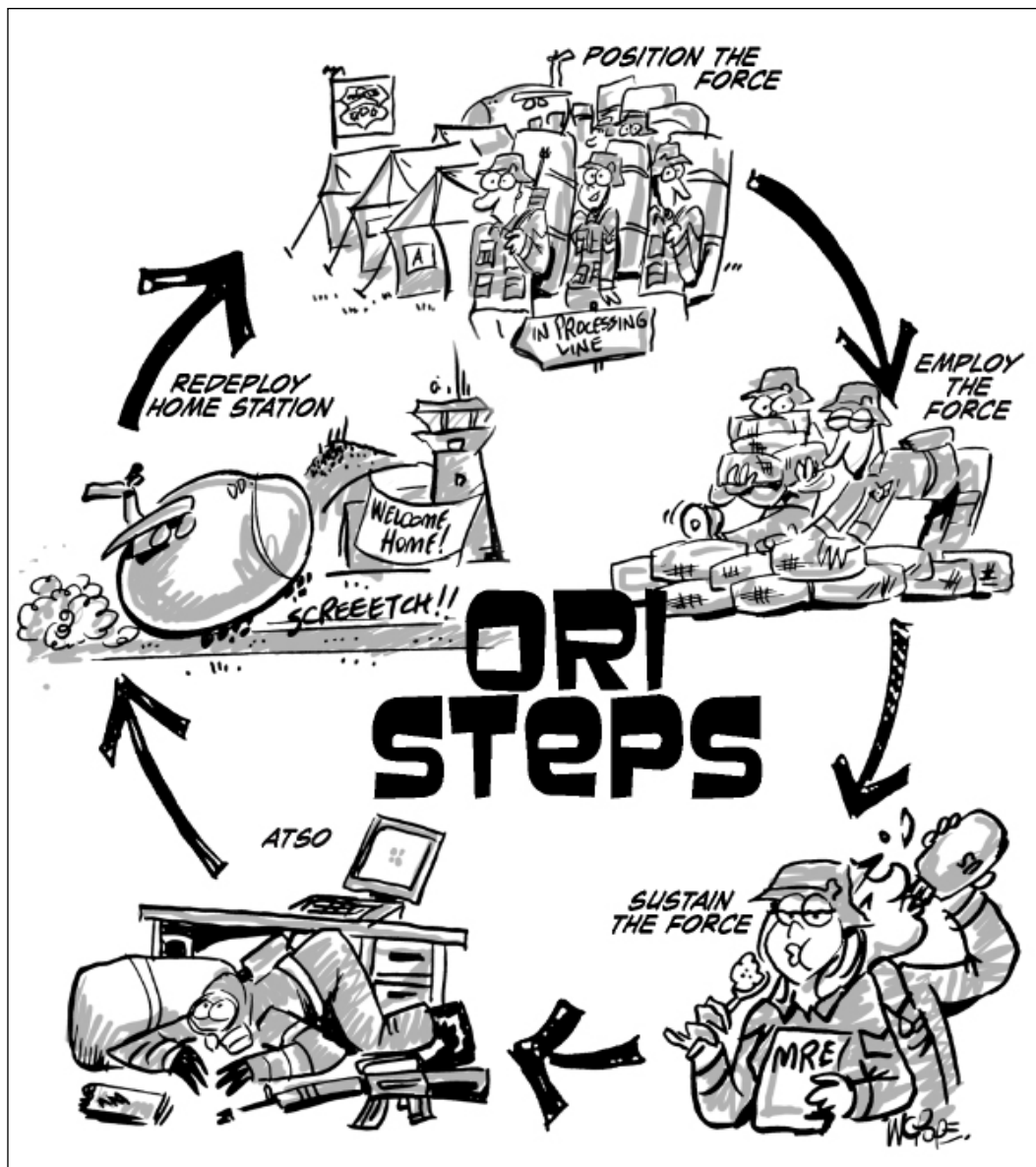
- Explain the tasks you are

EDITOR'S NOTE: Look for vital ORI prep information to be featured in Patriot editions through June.

In addition, deployers will be provided a compilation of this coverage before their departures in June for the ORI. Additional information

may be found through the base website at westover.afrc.af.mil

The five phases of the ORI



performing to the inspector; talk him or her through the process.

(3) Sustaining the force is the ability to maintain combat support to all users for the duration of the operation. To do this, each Airman individually must

look after his/her buddy, hydrate frequently, and adhere to a consistent work/rest cycle.

Tips:

- When in doubt, open your Airman's Manual. Use tabs to quickly get to

sections in this manual.

- Have a copy of your Mission Essential Tasks with you and check them off as you go. Confirm with the inspector that you've finished your METs.

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(4) Ability To Survive and Operate is the unit's ability to conduct the full range of contingency operations, while simultaneously responding to enemy attack. This phase will involve responding to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons, major accidents, natural disasters, or hazardous material incidents. While the most visible form of ATSO is donning chemical warfare gear, other graded areas include properly decontaminating personnel and equipment, knowing transition zones, defending your position, and knowing various alarm levels.

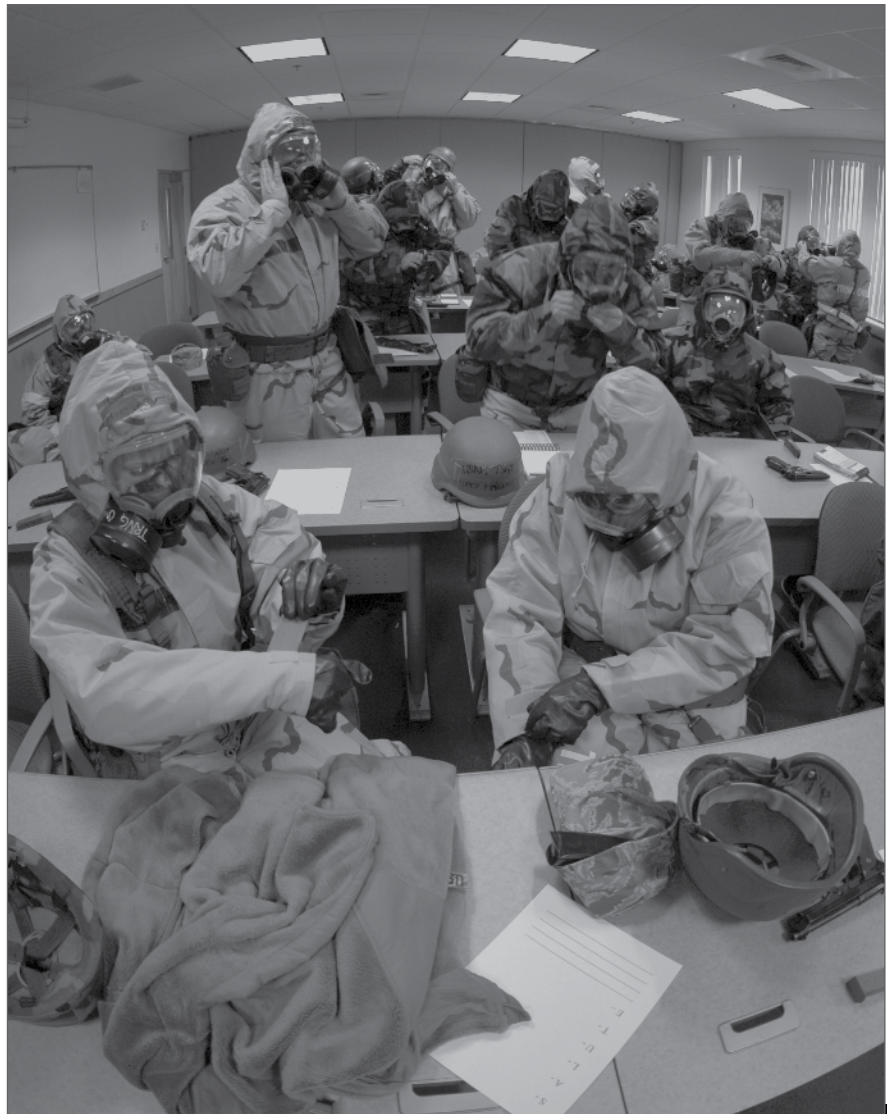
Tips:

- Maintain focus and urgency but don't panic.
- Get your gear on per the time limit (you have two minutes going from MOPP-2 to MOPP-4). Help those around you do the same.
- Communication and accountability are key to success.

(5) Redeployment is the return to homestation. While this follows an intense week of inspections, participants are graded all the way through the final steps of safely returning to their bases.

Tips:

- Use the buddy system from beginning to end. Check yourself; check your buddy.
- Make sure you return with everything you brought.



MOPP MASTERS Reservists dressed out in MOPP gear train during an ORE round robin session March 5. The training included M-9 and M-16 familiarizations, self-aid and buddy care, and proper care of MOPP gear. (photo by Airman 1st Class Alexander Brown)

Patriot Puns

by W.C.Pope



WESTOVER PATRIOTS |



BRING IT ON Col. Michael Mounts, 439th Mission Support Group commander, gestures to the crowd during his retirement ceremony Feb. 26 at the Westover Club. Colonel Mounts capped his 35-year military career with the dinner and ceremony the following day. Colonel Mounts was MSG commander since March 2007. (photo by Airman 1st Class Alexander Ward)

New colonels join senior Patriot Wing leadership ranks



Two senior leaders with the Patriot Wing put on colonel's eagles March 5.

Col. John Healy, 439th Airlift Wing vice commander, brought in family and friends for a pinning-on ceremony at wing headquarters led by Col. Robert Swain, 439th AW commander.

Col. William Kountz, 439th Maintenance Group commander, received his new rank with the help of his wife, Lt. Col. June Kountz, and Colonel Swain, at the fuel cell hangar.

Colonel Healy has been vice commander since January, while Colonel Kountz has led MXG since August 2009.



NEW BIRDS Above, Col. Robert Swain administers the oath to Col. John Healy, 439th Airlift Wing vice commander, during Colonel Healy's pinning-on ceremony March 5. Left, Col. William Kountz, 439th Maintenance Group commander, receives his eagles from his wife, Lt. Col. June Kountz, and Colonel Swain, also March 5. (photos by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton)

PATRIOT PEOPLE |



Staff Sgt. Neil Thomas

Name: Neil Thomas
Rank: Staff sergeant
Squadron: 439th Maintenance Squadron
Age: 39
Hometown: Pittsfield, Mass.
Position: Sheet metal
Favorite Food: Lobster
Years of Service: 11 years
Favorite Sport: Football and baseball
Favorite Hobby: Weight training
Ideal Vacation: Jamaica
Best Way to Relax: Training and working out
Preferred Entertainment: Singing in a band and listening to live music
Favorite Hero: John Wayne
Favorite Music Style: Classic Rock
Favorite Movie: A Few Good Men
Favorite Aircraft: C-5
Pet Peeve: Organized
If I Won \$1 Million: Not work ever again and invest

AT THE CLUB >> Easter Brunch April 24, 10 am - 2pm; reservations are required no later than April 20. Please call 593-5531. Easter egg hunt and other children's activities will also be offered. The club will be closed as a major renovation gets under way in June.

BOWLING CENTER >> Lunch is available at the center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 557-3990.

FITNESS CENTER >> Softball coaches will meet at 5 p.m. April 6 in Bldg. 5100; wallyball tournament, 4 p.m., April 13; volleyball tournament, 4 p.m. April 27. For more information, call 557-3958. The center is located on Patriot Avenue next to the wing headquarters building. For more information, call 557-3958.

OUTDOOR RECREATION >> Call the staff with your ideas for what can be offered at outdoor recreation: 557-2192

FLYERS INN >> For reservations: Space A and TDY: 593-5421, ext 0; Groups: 593-5421, Ext 3002.

SERVICES CALENDER | www.westoverservices.com

Retirements

Major
Danielle Ingram
Robert Oliveri
Kenneth Shipley Jr.

Senior master sergeant
Laurie Briggs
Matthew Dechaine
Shelli McCarthy

Master sergeant
Mark Butler
Marc Bourgeois
Gerald Dufresne

PATRIOT PRAISES | Promotions

2nd Lt.
 Andre Bowser

Chief Master Sgt.
 Roger Prinz

Senior Master Sgt.
 Stacy Gilman

Master sergeant
 Keith Bartle
 Shane Mortimer
 Jesse Wilson

Technical sergeant

Peter Filippi
 William Gelinas
 Anthony Jesmond
 Michael Morris
 Jeremy Smeltekop
 Michael Sumner
 Shane Willis

Staff sergeant
 Matthew Blais
 Jason Brindisi
 Tyler Coffey
 Sally Granada
 Leann Key Wallace
 Timothy Lansing

Scott Maher

Senior airman
 Garfield Brown
 Anthony Cunha
 Ashley Dipallo
 James Dumont
 Bianca Gonzalez
 James Martinez
 Brittany Menegan
 Ray Olsen
 Bartlomiej Orzol
 Jimmy Rodriguez
 Jonathan Romeo
 Demetri Rosa

Stephany Silva
 Shanna Simpson
 Randy Smith
 Alisha Stevens
 Justin Weners
 Marissa Whitaker

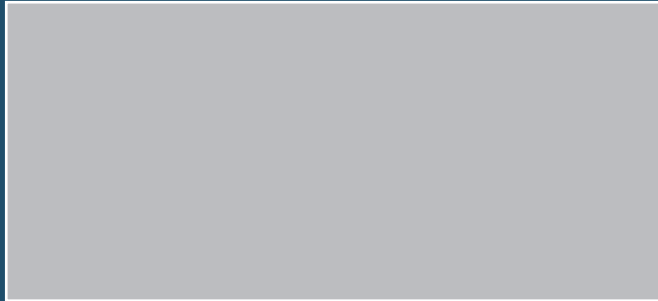
Airman first class
 Kristiana Barton
 Anton Hanley
 Nathan Ladlee
 Eric Mailloux
 Jonathan Wells



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FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
PAID

Published monthly for Patriots like Senior Airman Nicholas Tebo, Claremont, N.H., and the more than 3,600 reservists and civilians assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing.



SUNSET MISSION An Army CH-47 Chinook prepares to land at sunset in Afghanistan. Turn to pages 6 and 7 for more on the deployed members of the 439th Security Forces Squadron serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. (Courtesy photo)