

# PATRIOT

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

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## Wing to deploy in CCE exercises

By Capt. Rick Dyer

This time, the duffle bags will be loaded and the planes will actually take off.

Some of the Reservists participating in next month's Combat Capability Exercise (CCE) will learn what it feels like to be mobilized and deployed when they are airlifted to Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y. on Nov. 2.

According to Maj. Robert Martens, director of operations for the 337th Tactical Airlift Squadron, between 200 and 300 Wing members will establish a forward operating base at Plattsburgh during the two-day drill.

The major said that this CCE will be unique, because it involves the actual deployment of troops, cargo and equipment to a remote operating area.

"We always conduct mobility line processing and cargo handling drills during our CCEs, but this is the first time in recent history when we've sent the people off during this type of exercise," Major Martens explained.

He added that the deployment is being staged in response to recent Military Airlift Command directives that add greater realism to operational readiness exercises.

Fourteen of the 337th's 16 C-130 aircraft will participate in the exercise, which will involve extensive aerial operations at both Westover and Plattsburgh.

Major George Caldwell, installation mobility officer, said that key personnel will report to the base on Nov. 1. "We'll begin processing some of the people Friday evening, and then we'll shift into high gear the next morning," Major Caldwell said.



Lt. Col. Arthur Sorenson, assistant deputy commander, operations, got wet for a good cause during the Sept. UTA when he volunteered for the dunking booth during a fund-raiser for the family of former 731st flight mechanic Don MacGillivray. (See editorial, page 2).

(USAF Photo by MSgt. Larry Lentz)

Story continued on page 2

**EDITORIAL**

## Move over, Jerry

TSgt. Jim Marrone of the 439th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron doesn't look or act like Jerry Lewis.

He does, however, share two things in common with the famous comic — he has a big heart, and he could probably organize one heck of a successful telethon.

The veteran NCO established himself as a philanthropist and fund-raiser during the September UTA when he staged a barbecue, auction and raffle to aid a former Westover Reservist and two of his family members who have been afflicted with a rare disease.

A while back, Sergeant Marrone learned that Don MacGillivray, who was a flight mechanic with the 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron, and two of his children were suffering from Kuf's Disease.

The horrible malady is so rare that there are only two other cases known to exist in the entire world. The MacGillivrays' tragedy was compounded by staggering medical bills that the family couldn't come close to meeting.

That was before Jim Marrone sprang into action. With the help of some of his buddies from the maintenance squadron, he organized the barbecue and other events which were attended by nearly 800 Reservists on Sept. 7.

He convinced 100 local merchants to donate food, money and prizes. He personally handled most of the barbecue arrangements, and he sold reams of raffle tickets.

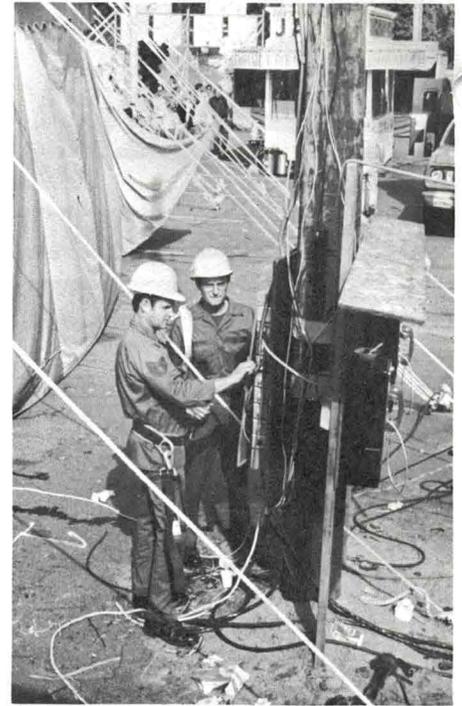
As a result of his efforts, more than \$17,000 was raised to aid the MacGillivrays.

Jim Marrone wasn't looking for praise or publicity, but he deserves plenty of both. He's living proof of the difference that caring, compassionate people can make in the world.

He won't receive any medals for his good deeds, either, because he doesn't fit the technical requirements for one.

But don't tell that to the MacGillivray family. They'd never believe you.

**Capt. Rick Dyer**  
Public Affairs Officer



TSgt. George J. Nalesnik and SSgt. Abram L. Winters, both telephone installers, check the continuity of the telephone network at the Chicopee Kielbasa Festival at the Fairfield Mall on Sept. 7. (USAF Photo by TSgt. G. Mark LaFrancis)

## CCE exercise . . . continued from page one

The mobility officer said that processing will resume at 7 a.m. on Saturday, and that the aircraft carrying the unit's initial response team should take off approximately four hours later.

"We'll be graded on how quickly we can deploy, and all of our aircraft must be at the forward operating base by a specified closure time," he added.

The CCE is designed to test the 439th's ability to mobilize, deploy and establish operations, or employ, at a remote location. In addition to 337th personnel, Reservists from 439th aerial port, maintenance, weapons system security, disaster preparedness, civil engineering, airlift control element and tactical hospital units will also respond.

Once at Plattsburgh, the 337th

C-130 crews will tackle a busy schedule of flying operations.

"There will be a full tactical briefing, and then we'll fly a low-level mission to an unfamiliar drop zone where we'll make container delivery system drops," Major Martens said.

Once those missions are completed, the C-130s will depart on evening personnel airdrop sorties, again over unfamiliar terrain.

The next morning, they'll be in the air again, this time returning to Westover where the C-130s will conduct heavy equipment drops.

As part of the aerial missions, the 337th will be testing sophisticated station keeping equipment. The devices enable the C-130s to fly in formation during bad weather.

During the CCE, the Wing will be graded in such areas as initial response, command and control, aerial and land employment, aerial delivery employment, combat support and survival.

"Mobilizing and deploying is just half the battle, Major Martens said. "How well we perform on land and in the air once we get there is equally as important."

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## General promoted again during Dover unit's visit

Brig. Gen. Jack P. Ferguson, who pinned on his stars just seven months ago, received a second promotion of sorts on Sept. 14.

The 439th Tactical Airlift Wing commander was "promoted" to the rank of honorary chief master sergeant by chiefs from the 512th Military Airlift Wing of Dover AFB, Del. during ceremonies at the Chateau Provost Restaurant in Chicopee.

"I am truly overwhelmed," said the general, who commanded the 512th prior to coming to Westover. "The people in this room have helped me to become what I am today, and I am touched by this honor."

The private induction ceremony was attended by 28 chief master sergeants from the 512th MAW and 439th TAW. General Ferguson received his eight-stripe chevrons from CMSgt. Carmen Campanicki of the 512th Field Maintenance Squadron.

The award presentation was part of an assistance visit to Westover by 80 high-level NCOs from the Delaware Reserve unit, which flies C-5 Galaxy aircraft.



Honorary Chief Master Sergeant Jack P. Ferguson (a.k.a General Ferguson) receives his chevrons from CMSgt. Carmen Campanicki of the 512th Military Airlift Wing.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Don Talbot)

## 512th MAW shares C-5 know-how with Wing

By Capt. Rick Dyer

What will things really be like once the giant C-5 aircraft arrive at Westover?

The 439th Tactical Airlift Wing's senior non-commissioned officers got some answers to that question during September when they were visited by 80 of their counterparts from the 512th Military Airlift Wing at Dover AFB, Del.

The Dover Reservists are old hands at C-5 operations, having flown a fleet of 35 of the jumbo cargo transports since 1973.

They came to Westover Sept. 12-15 to share some of their expertise with the Wing's top NCOs, most of whom are already involved in planning for the 439th's switch-over from C-130 aircraft to C-5s in 1988.

"We're getting a lot of questions concerning maintenance, the difference in missions, and the type of facilities that will be necessary," said CMSgt. Robert Bongiovani, the 512th's maintenance superintendent, and a former C-5 loadmaster.

"Obviously, the C-5 conversion is going to mean some radical changes for Westover, and we hope that our unit can help yours during the transition," Chief Bongiovani added.

The assistance visit by the Delaware NCOs was arranged by CMSgt. Robert Johns, the 439th's personnel resource manager.

"We thought we'd go right to the source and let our key people talk to someone who has already been there," Chief Johns said.

During the four days, the 512th members shared their know-how with Westover Reservists at management seminars and informal meetings.

"There was the expected amount of uncertainty about what the conversion will mean, both mission-wise and from a personnel standpoint," said MSgt. Janet Lawton, who serves as first sergeant with the 326th Military Airlift Squadron at Dover.

Sergeant Lawton said that she drew from her own experiences to answer some of the questions. She was a

member of the 512th MAW when it converted to a C-5 aircraft inventory 13 years ago.

When Sergeant Lawton and the other Dover Reservists arrived at Westover, they were greeted by at least one familiar face.

Brig. Gen. Jack P. Ferguson, 439th TAW commander, led the 512th before coming here in 1984.

"It's great to see my two favorite Air Force Reserve units working together," General Ferguson said. "We'll be seeing a great deal more of each other, now that we are going to share the same mission."

In addition to swapping information, members of the two units also participated in several joint social events, including a dining-in at Westover on Sept. 14. (See related story on this page.)

"We're looking forward to a close working relationship with the 512th in the future," Chief Johns said. He indicated that plans are being formulated for a visit by Westover personnel to Dover during the coming year.



# “Giant Sponge”

By SSgt. Sandra Michon

Westover's position as a valuable resource was again proved as the 509th Bombardment Wing from Pease AFB, N.H. completed a successful two-month deployment.

More than 250 personnel, nine FB-111 aircraft, one KC-135 Stratotanker and tons of equipment were deployed to Westover from June 17 to Aug. 16 while the runways at Pease were reconstructed. The deployment was amusingly termed “Giant Sponge.”

The FB-111's became a familiar sight as the Pease crew carried on their strategic flying mission from their temporary home. The crews accumulated 1,059 flying hours on 337 different missions during their stay at the base.

“The pilots enjoyed flying at Westover because they have a good runway and well-equipped facilities,” said Lt. Col. David S. Dow, chief of the 509th BMW Operations Plans Division. In addition to maintaining their mission while at Westover, many Pease members were pleased to have the opportunity to enjoy the local sights and activities.

A farewell ceremony was held at Nose Dock 36 Aug. 15 and the general mood was mutual satisfaction. Brig. Gen. Jack P. Ferguson, 439th TAW commander, thanked the 509th BMW for their professionalism and welcomed them back anytime.

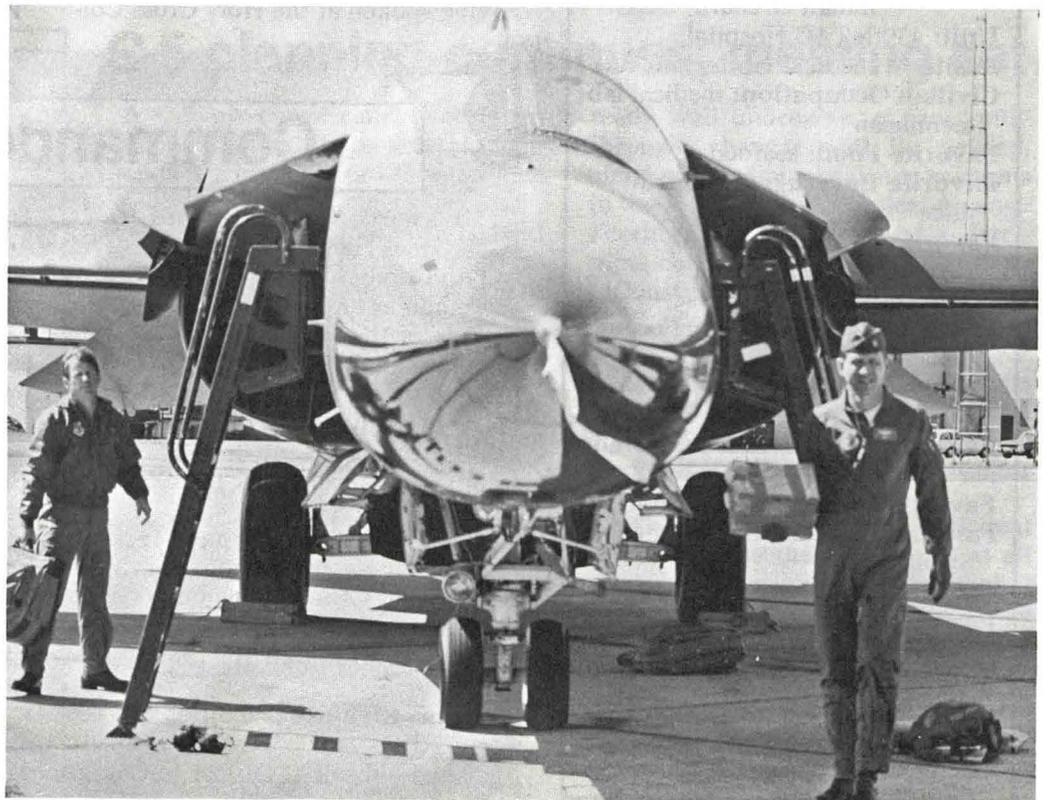
Col. Robert J. McCracken, 509th BMW commander, said after 23 years in the Air Force and numerous deployments, “I can't remember ever seeing one [deployment] that has run as smoothly as this one.”





Clockwise from upper left: FB-111's and the KC135 on Westover's parking ramp; Pease aircrew depart the FB-111 after completing a flying mission; a Pease maintenance crew work on the FB-111; the aircraft cockpit controls are checked by Pease personnel.

(USAF photos by SSgts. Kathleen Lincoln and Sandra Michon)



## Top Air Force advisor retires

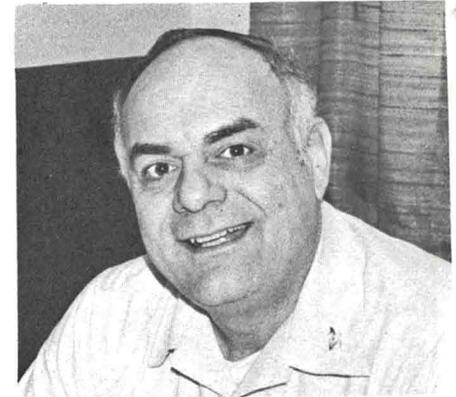
By SSgt. Glenn Bogart

Col. Stanley G. Maratos, Westover's senior Air Force advisor for the past three years, retired Oct. 1. The colonel completed more than 30 years of active service.

In his long Air Force career, Colonel Maratos spent 11 years overseas. Career military people expect to move their households often, but moving really was a way of life for the colonel's family. "One of my kids went to five high schools; another went to four," he explained. "But I don't think they'd trade the experiences they've had for anything."

A veteran of more than 125 combat missions as a C-130 pilot in southeast Asia, Colonel Maratos said he is evaluating several new job opportunities. He said his Air Force service has helped him to develop leadership and management abilities which will work in the civilian world as well as in the military. "Working with people, planning, and managing are really universal, whether you're talking about the armed forces, business, or municipal government," he said.

The colonel has been active in the Greek Orthodox church in Springfield, serving on its board of directors and as a building fund trustee. He is also an accomplished guest speaker, having spoken at the Holy Cross Col-



Col. Stanley G. Maratos

lege ROTC Dining In and to the Reserve Officers' Association at Westover.

Colonel Maratos said he is thinking of becoming active in the Civil Air Patrol soon. "I like working with young people, and I think working with the Civil Air Patrol would be a good way to do that."

Looking back on his time at Westover, Colonel Maratos said he has been very impressed with the abilities and performance of Reservists. He had special praise for the squadron instructor/pilots at Westover. "They are as good as, or maybe even better than, any pilots in the Air Force. I don't think anyone can teach them anything about the C-130. They're that good," the colonel said.



### "Patriot People"

**Name:** DENISE DIFFLEY

**Rank:** SSgt.

**Age:** 30

**Address:** 244 Lake Dr.

Indian Orchard, Mass.

**Unit:** 439th TAC Hospital

**Position:** medical lab technician

**Civilian Occupation:** medical lab technician

**Favorite Food:** seafood

**Favorite Beverage:** grapefruit juice

**Favorite Sport:** swimming

**Favorite Hobby:** sports

**Ideal Vacation:** sea cruise

**Best Way To Relax:** lying on the beach

**Preferred Entertainment:** live bands

**Favorite Celebrity:** David Brenner

**Favorite Music:** rock and roll

**Favorite Book:** Pulling Your Own Strings

**Favorite Color:** red

**Favorite Car:** Porsche

**Pet Peeve:** dishonesty

**Best Thing About Westover:** people

**Worst Thing About Westover:** lack of time to perform duties

## Commander's Call

Six awards were presented by Lt. Col. James Handy, commander of the 439th Combat Support Group during ceremonies at Westover on Sept. 8.

Five of the awards were Air Force Commendation Medals and were presented to: **Lt. Col. Frank J. Purnell** for his outstanding professional skills, leadership and devotion to mission accomplishments from Sept. 2, 1981 to Dec. 31, 1984.

**Maj. David W. Barnard** received his medal for meritorious service as Personnel Officer, Customer Assistance, Consolidated Base Personnel Officer from March 16, 1980 to May 8, 1985.

**Capt. Richard E. Collier** was recognized as an officer who distinguished himself as Officer in Charge,

Terminal Services, 80th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron, Dobbins AFB, Ga., from June 1, 1982 to Dec. 6, 1984.

**MSgt. Edward H. Morris**, as First Sergeant, 59th Aerial Port Squadron was recognized for meritorious service from Dec. 1, 1980 to Dec. 1, 1984. Sergeant Morris identified problem areas in the administration field and developed research projects capable of solving those problems.

A Citation Award of the Community College of the Air Force was presented to **TSgt. Robert J. Ferretti**, 439th Civil Engineering Squadron completion of program requirements for an Associate in Applied Science degree in the area of Restaurant Management.

# Westover Reservist touched all the AF bases

By TSgt. John Wallace

CAP Cadet, 58th APS Airman, ROTC Flight Cadet is the route taken by SrA Bryan J. Currier.

As long as he can remember Airman Currier has wanted to follow in his dad's footsteps and don Air Force blues. Bryan's father is MSgt. John Currier of the 58th APS who recently received his master sergeant stripes under the promotion enhancement program.

When Currier reached age 15, he joined the Westover Civil Air Patrol to make his lifelong wish come true.

Two years later, as a high school senior, the enthusiastic youngster took advantage of the AFRES Delayed Enlistment High School Program and joined the Air Force Reserve.

His entry aptitude score in aerial port was impressive and it was recommended that he be assigned to the 58th APS and placed on OJT instead of attending formal Technical School.

Under the rules of the Delayed Enlistment Program, Airman Currier was not allowed to go to basic training until he graduated from high school. For six months he actively participated in UTAs in the ramp section of the Westover squadron.



SrA Bryan J. Currier, (r.) talks with his Dad, MSgt. John Currier in front of an FB-111.

Finally, in June, with high school diploma in hand, Airman Currier was off to Lackland AFB for eight weeks of basic training.

Upon his return to Westover, Airman Currier was placed on TDY with the 42nd MAPS for OJT. In near record time he was successfully awarded a three level as a Ramp Apprentice.

During this same period he enrolled at Western New England College in Springfield as a student and ROTC Cadet.

In June, Airman Currier returned

to Lackland AFB, this time to attend ROTC basic training. While there he completed the Flight Screening Program, received an aircraft solo certificate, and was honored with the Vice Commandant's Award for Outstanding Achievement.

With mixed emotions, Bryan said he was sorry that he had to leave the 58th APS. Now he'll devote his full attention to the college ROTC Program so that in June 1987, as a second lieutenant he can reach for the stars in the Air Force's Flight Training Program.

## NCO Academy begins again

Some of the Wing's technical and master sergeants can get a little class, and at the same time, complete some of the necessary requirements for promotion to senior master sergeant.

Applications are being accepted for the third NCO Academy program to be held at Westover starting in December. Interested Reservists should contact their unit's first sergeant.

The year-long program meets Saturdays and Sundays of every UTA.

The in-residence program is one of two alternatives available to Reservists interested in gaining another stripe. The other is the completion of the Command NCO Academy Correspondence program and the Senior NCO Academy program. Together, the CDC courses consist of six sub courses, made up of 14 volumes and six closed book exams.

## C-5 planning continues; meeting set

A C-5 pre-conversion meeting involving experts from several commands is scheduled for the end of this month.

The four-day conference, to be held at Westover, will include representatives of the Military Airlift Command, 14th and 21st Air Forces, Headquarters AFRES, the 436th and 512th MAW, and Westover's conversion committee.

The meeting will focus on setting timetables for the three phases of conversion: facilities, recruiting and training. Col. David L. Webber, deputy commander for operations, said the Oct. 28-31 meeting would be "like a seminar on conversion." The idea is to learn from the experiences of others who have been involved in the earlier C-5 conversion at Kelly AFB, Tex., he added.

Colonel Webber said the facilities-planning stage of the conversion is al-

ready well underway. A new "pull-through" hangar will be needed, along with many other improvements in the maintenance complex. An engineering firm is working now to determine construction needs and costs.

Construction is expected to begin in 1986, with completion of some facilities set for 1987. Colonel Webber emphasized that we are still two years away from any real C-5 operations, and that the C-130 mission at Westover will continue for some time after that.

"The conversion will be a gradual thing, because the Wing must at all times be ready and able to do its job," said the deputy commander. "We can't simply switch from C-130s to C-5s overnight."

More details on the training and recruitment outlook are expected to be available after the pre-conversion conference.

# George Hunter retires after long Westover career

by MSgt. Larry Lentz

"My proudest moment was the announcement of the C-5's relocation to Westover," recalled George Hunter, chief of base civil engineering. "We fought very hard, since Westover became an AFRES base, to prevent any continued erosion of the base's integrity and size. Now, Westover will have a major mission."

Unfortunately, Hunter, after playing an integral part in that fight, will not be watching the first of those giant aircraft arrive. He has retired, after 26 years of civil and military service. For the past five years, as chief, he has supervised more than 150 people in C.E.'s four branches and controlled the annual expenditure of \$8 million in payroll, civilian contracts and construction.

"I felt it was time to bail out and try something different," he said. "I want to take some computer courses; do some household projects I never had time for; and perhaps do some consulting. It was time to start a new career."

Thus, Hunter ended a career which started at Westover in 1942 in a position quite different than the present. As a laborer, he swept floors in the hangars and cleaned oil from B-17 drip pans.

With World War II's requirements increasing, he enlisted in the Navy. He served, with distinction, in the South Pacific as a bomb disposal officer. "I kept getting blown up," he would tell friends with a smile, "so I decided to look for a new career." Actually, due to an explosion which damaged his hearing he was awarded a medical disability.

After the war Hunter earned a Holy Cross bachelor's degree in physics and a master degree in applied physics from Boston College. He went to work for the Worthington Corporation in their Holyoke and then Rio de Janeiro manufacturing plants. He returned to Westover in 1963 as Director of Research at the Air Force's Special Projects facility. His work on such top secret areas of laser printing and microwave drying equipment, earned him three patents.

With the facility's closure, he transferred to civil engineering as an electrical engineer. Five years later, he was promoted to chief.

"I am very pleased with all that we



George Hunter (left) checks the progress of the new flying squadron facility with architect Philip Fregeau in the base civil engineering complex.

(USAF photo by MSgt. Larry Lentz)

have accomplished," Hunter said. "With the major runway repair, new lighting and upgrading our underground utilities, we have the best Air Force base on the east coast. "We're in better shape now and then when this was a SAC base.

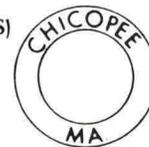
"But, I'll miss the people the most. You hear that expression so often. But, it's very true. That's my biggest regret."

That sentiment was shared by a standing room only 170 of his colleagues and friends who attended his

retirement celebration on Aug. 28. Said Col. Louis Paskevicz wing vice commander, represented Brig. Gen. Jack Ferguson, wing commander, who was TDY, "George embodies the qualities and characteristics that we all admire and desire in ourselves, such as integrity, honor and loyalty," he said. "He will be gone from Westover, but not from our hearts. He certainly won't be forgotten. Everytime we enter this base and see all he has done we will think of him."

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