

PATRIOT

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

VOLUME XVIII, NUMBER 7

JULY 1991

MSgt. Kelly Payne selected one of 12 AF Outstanding Airmen

By Maj. Rick Dyer

MSgt. Kelly E. Payne believes in a simple management philosophy. "Take care of the mission, take care of the people."

According to her boss, the 29-year-old personnel systems manager technician with the 439th Combat Support Group at Westover does both superbly. So superbly, in fact, that Sergeant Payne was recently selected as one of the U.S. Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

A self-described "workaholic" in charge of the Consolidated Base Personnel Office's base level military personnel system, the master sergeant is regarded as both a computer whiz and a people person.

"Kelly's always doing something extra, trying to improve our office and the services we offer our customers," said Capt. Denny Jobes, Westover's CBPO chief. "There's no job she won't tackle, even if its not in her job description."

Sergeant Payne, an air reserve technician at Westover who was called to active duty during Operation Desert Shield, is credited with playing a major role during the processing of the 1,550 reservists here who were mobilized during the Persian Gulf crisis.

Her computer skills have resulted in improved reliability and efficiency of the CBPO's data system. After she recently revised the computer programs for the clinic's immunization and physical records, there was a dramatic 25 percent improvement of data reliability.

But her contributions at Westover are by no means limited to the world of megabytes and hard drives.

Sergeant Payne serves as secretary/president of the Base Enlisted Advisory Council, as a facilitator with the NCO Leadership Development Program and as a volunteer with the Com-



MSgt. Kelly Payne

bined Federal Campaign. She was also a member of Westover's 50th anniversary ball committee.

"I feel so honored," Sergeant Payne said after being notified of her selection as one of the Air Force's best by Brig. Gen. Frederick D. ("Mike") Walker, 439th Military Airlift Wing commander. Noting that the 439th CSG's military personnel section has recently been selected as one of the best CBPO's in both the Air Force Reserve and the Air Force, she added, "More people deserve this award than just me."

The energetic NCO, who holds an associate's degree in computer information systems from both Holyoke (Mass.) Community College and the Community College of the Air Force, is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree at

Westfield (Mass.) State College. She resides in Chicopee.

In addition to being selected as one of the top 12 Air Force members, Sergeant Payne was named Airman of the Year in the Air Force Reserve. In 1989, she was honored as the Air Force Reserve Personnel Technician of the Year.

An 11-year veteran of the Air Force and Air Force Reserve, Sergeant Payne's hobbies include volleyball, needlework and travel, although she's had little time to pursue any of these interests since Desert Shield began last August.

She will, however, get to travel again soon. In September, Sergeant Payne will fly to Washington, where she'll meet President Bush and receive her coveted award at the Air Force Association's Annual Convention.

EDITORIAL

Tougher, leaner, smarter

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."

Educator John Dewey wrote those words a number of years ago, but the wisdom of the message still has universal application. Westover reservists would do well to consider the admonition, particularly as we ponder our roles in the "post-Storm" Air Force.

With Desert Storm over, life in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve will change over the coming months and years. On the horizon are force reductions, "composite flying squadrons," decreased funding and increased competition for rank.

Gen. Merrill A. McPeak, USAF chief of staff, said recently that he envisions an Air Force which will be, in essence, tougher, leaner and smarter.

It's clear, therefore, that education and particularly professional military education, will become even more important for career-minded reservists. It's also clear that by increasing our knowledge and honing our job skills and leadership abilities, we'll become more effective in everything we do.

"Higher education and PME have long been important considerations when it comes to promotion and their importance increases with each passing day," said MSgt. Sharon Benoit, 439th CSG chief of training. "These days, NCOs who aspire to the highest enlisted ranks should seriously consider getting their bachelor's degree."

Westover and the Air Force offer a wide range of educational opportunities and PME courses for enlisted personnel and officers.

For officers, Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College are absolute musts. The schools may be taken in residence, through correspondence courses, or in seminars. Col. Andrew Kasznay, the 439th MAW's deputy commander for resources, is organizing PME seminars for officers.

Enlisted personnel should enroll in the AFRES NCO Leadership Development Course, the NCO Academy, and the Senior NCO Academy. The Community College of the Air Force Program and the Montgomery GI Bill are also excellent pathways to coveted college diplomas.

Information about PME courses and a wide variety of educational programs are available at the base training and education offices. Every Westover reservist should consider looking into the educational opportunities that are available and taking advantage of them.

The end result could be a richer and more rewarding life -- in and out of the Air Force.

Maj. Rick Dyer
Public Affairs Officer

Briefs

Book available

Additional copies of Col. Whitey Joslin's book of photos are available for purchase at the Westover Public Affairs Office (ext. 3500). The book is a collection of color photographs that captures the emotion and spirit of the Desert Storm homecoming celebrations at Westover. The cost is \$5 per book. All proceeds will be donated to the Westover USO's Operation Patriot Home fund.

Horse show scheduled

Westover and all military personnel will be honored during the New England Morgan Horse Show Regional Championship which will be held July 22-27 at Tri-County Fairgrounds in Northampton.

All armed forces members and their guests will be admitted to the show free of charge on July 26-27. A military identification card must be shown. Performances will be held each day at 8 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

On July 26 at 7 p.m., a special "Salute to the Troops" will precede the evening performance. The Westover Honor Guard will perform, and Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander, will participate in the ceremonies.

Crime Stop

If you spot a crime being committed or any suspicious activity, base law enforcement officials want to know.

The 439th SPS is sponsoring Operation Crime Stop, and a special phone line has been installed at the law enforcement desk. To report a crime or suspicious activity, call ext. 2144.

UTA schedule

A reminder for those reservists getting off active duty and resuming their reserve status:

July UTA: 13 -14

August UTA: (A) 3 - 4 (B) 17 - 18

September UTA: (A) 7 - 8 (B) 21 - 22

PATRIOT

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"The content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 439th Military Airlift Wing, Westover Air Force Base."

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(photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

GENERAL HOWDY -- General H.T. Johnson greets a young well-wisher outside the Base Hangar on June 15, Volunteer Appreciation Day. (A week later the general forwarded the letter below commending the Westover community.)

To the men and women of the Westover area community

The emotion Linda and I felt at the Westover salute to volunteers escapes description. Never in our years of Air Force experiences have we been so moved, yet felt so uplifted, as on that Saturday afternoon. As we walked along the red carpet, like thousands returning from the desert had walked before us, throngs showered us with cheers and praise as they had for those desert warriors. It was an awesome feeling.

The story of Westover's spirit will be told throughout this land by the many who were treated with special care as they went to war and came home. There are countless instances of new and lasting friendships springing forth from acts of kindness by big-hearted volunteers. Having someone there, saying "Welcome back to America" may not seem that important--until you witness it.

The veterans of Korea and Vietnam, who themselves were denied a proper homecoming, were among the most fervent in seeing others would not suffer the same fate. In wheelchairs and veterans' uniforms, they were there.

America has come of age. We have largely healed the wounds within. We are a maturing nation, confident, proud but filled with compassion and growing tolerance for differing views--even about war. But we are one nation of limitless capacity.

Nowhere in our country is that more evident than at Westover AFB. Not too far from Lexington and Concord where the great experiment began, Westover AFB, its people and those in neighboring communities are breathing new life into love of God, country, and democracy.

We salute your extraordinary achievements and thank you for providing the support upon which America so much depended.

A Proud American,

HANSFORD T. JOHNSON
General, USAF
Commander in Chief

CINCMAC lauds Westover airlift

by TSgt. Tom Allocco

Gen. H.T. Johnson Jr., commander of the Military Airlift Command and the U.S. Transportation Command, came to Westover on June 15 to applaud Westover's role in the airlift home and to declare the effort to be virtually completed.

General Johnson, following a rally in the Base Hangar to honor community volunteers, said MAC airlift planners have gained an increased respect for Westover.

"Westover has been an important part of MAC. The importance of the location has gone up in our eyes. You have outshone our greatest expectations," the MAC commander said.

Several times he mentioned the importance of Westover's location in the Northeast as of strategic importance.

A C-5 burns about 2,400 fewer gallons of fuel flying to Europe from Westover than from Dover. Aircraft from around the country, including Dover AFB, fly near Westover to reach the most favorable flight path to Europe.

More than 63,000 passengers and 111,000 tons of cargo passed through the Westover stage.

The MAC commander ranked Westover's contributions to Desert Shield/Storm in importance with Rhein-Main, Ramstein and Torrejon Air Bases.

"If we are going to project force, Westover is key," he said.

While noting that about 60,000 troops remain in the Middle East, together with about half of the equipment sent there, he said they were engaged in the conclusion of operations. "In essence, all those who can come home have come home," he said.

The MAC commander said airlift and the C-5 proved themselves in the Mideast war.

"In the airlift business we're not cutting back. Airlift continues to enjoy high priority; in fact it's increasing," he said.

"The C-5 is the airlift of choice for carrying people and equipment," he said.

Addressing reservists in the Base Hangar, General Johnson said "Total Force was embodied in our activities in Desert Shield. Our nation called and you

(continued on page 16)

Wing members demobilize : MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

By Maj. Rick Dyer

With their historic mission completed, the members of the 439th Military Airlift Wing who were mobilized during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm will leave active duty this month.

Demobilization processing of the unit's 1,550 activated reservists began during June. Approximately 400 Patriot Wing members left active duty on June 16, and most of the remaining personnel will return to reserve status by July 31.

"Demobilization is a beautiful word," said TSgt. Kim Beebe, an administrative specialist with the 439th MAW's orderly room.

Sergeant Beebe left active duty June 17, after six and a half months on active duty to return to her full-time job as an investigator with the Criminal Investigations Division of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Crewmembers from the 337th MAS have served on active duty for the longest period of time. The 202 members of the flying squadron were activated Aug. 24, just three weeks after Iraq invaded Kuwait. Throughout the past 11 months, the 337th Galaxy crews flew hundreds of cargo transport missions to the Persian Gulf.

Other Westover reservists were mobilized during call-ups here in December, January and March.

Many of those mobilized remained at Westover to assist with airlift operations at the base. The 439th MAW was the only Air Force Reserve element activated as a unit to run a military facility during the Gulf crisis and war.

Westover was the major northeast stage area for C-5 operations during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. During the airlift, history's largest, Westover personnel handled more than 3,600 aircraft, 121,000 tons of cargo and 63,000 military passengers.

Patriot Wing members also served overseas during the 42-day war with Iraq. Sixty-three nurses, medical technicians and radio operators from the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron were stationed in Saudi Arabia and Turkey during Desert Storm, and 50 other 74th members deployed to staff medical facilities in Germany.

Six cooks from the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron operated a mobile

field kitchen which fed several C-130 units in Oman. In late March, nine members from the 439th Airlift Control Flight deployed as a team to Saudi Arabia to coordinate the redeployment of Army troops who had been serving there.

By the end of June, all of the Patriot Wing personnel who served overseas had returned to Westover.

Although the fighting ended after Iraqi troops retreated from Kuwait and a cease-fire was implemented Feb. 28, 439th MAW members were busy for months afterwards. In addition to flying hundreds of missions to the Gulf during the spring, Patriot Wing aircrews also hauled tons of humanitarian supplies to Kurdish refugee camps in Turkey during Operation Provide Comfort.

Back at Westover, 439th personnel and volunteers provided a "hero's welcome" for each of the more than 30,000 Desert Storm troops who landed at the base around-the-clock on their way home from the desert.

"We have achieved a new plateau,

having proven to ourselves, the Military Airlift Command and to the nation what we are capable of doing," said Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, wing commander. "We will now return to our more normal peacetime activity."

Staff members at Westover's Consolidated Base Personnel Office began preparing for the demobilizations last winter. Despite the mountains of paperwork required to prepare discharge summaries, new identification cards and other documents for those leaving active duty, they say that the deactivation process is proceeding smoothly.

"We're on schedule," said CBPO Chief Capt. Denny Jobes, noting that her small staff handled more than 5,000 transactions during the last seven days of June.

"We're not manned to do this, but my people have been absolutely awesome in handling the workload," Captain Jobes added. "They've kept their sense of humor, and have tried to make the deactivation process as painless as possible for our customers."

Captain Jobes said that while the bulk of the activated unit members would be discharged by July 31, a handful of Westover personnel had requested to remain on active duty longer for "hardship" reasons. Most of these requests come from unit members who would not have civilian employment following demobilization.

"There have been a small number of people who've asked to remain on active duty for hardship reasons," the captain said. She indicated that the requests, which have to be approved by higher headquarters, are not frequently granted.

As the deactivation takes place, Westover is reverting from a war-time airlift nerve center back to its status as an Air Force Reserve training base.

Regulations allow reservists who were activated a three-month "grace period" following demobilization, during which they are not required to participate in monthly unit training. Although it is unknown at present exactly how many unit members will take advantage of the "hiatus period," a number of Patriot Wing personnel have indicated that they will resume attending UTAs immediately.

The 439th MAW celebrated its deactivation with an end-of-tour party and military ceremony on July 13.

BENEFIT REMINDERS

Westover reservists who have served more than 90 days on active duty during Desert Shield/Storm are eligible for veterans' benefits, including tax breaks, legal assistance, VA home loans and life insurance.

Many states and municipalities offer veterans property tax exemptions, bonuses and similar benefits. Others are in the process of passing legislation for such benefits.

For information on state entitlements, contact your state's Office of Veterans Affairs.

Desert Shield/Storm veterans are eligible to receive JAG legal assistance for one year after demobilization for items related to the period of active service.

Under the Persian Gulf Veterans Benefits Act of 1991, Desert Shield/Storm veterans are entitled to VA guaranteed home loans which generally carry a lower mortgage rate than other programs.

The act also increased the monthly Montgomery GI Bill benefits (based on a six-year reserve commitment) from \$140 to \$170. Recent federal legislation gives demobilized reservists the right to reinstate their civilian health insurance, generally without any exclusion or waiting period.

Burial benefits for veterans include eligibility for interment in a national cemetery and entitlement to a government marker.

Victory parades say thank you in a grand fashion

A Westover Galaxy and three members of the wing were part of history June 8 when the nation celebrated its triumph over Iraq with a mammoth Desert Storm victory parade in Washington, D.C.

Capt. Elaine D'Aprile of the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, MSgt. James H. LaGasse of the 439th Avionics Maintenance Squadron and SrA. Richard K. Cameron of the 337th Military Airlift Squadron represented Westover at the Washington, D.C., parade.

Captain D'Aprile, a 74th nurse, said that participating in the D.C. celebration was "one of the most exciting and touching things I've ever done. Everyone who was watching was there because they cared about the troops."

The Westover trio was among ap-

proximately 9,000 Desert Storm veterans who marched the three-mile route along Washington's Constitution Avenue. "When the Air Force walked by the reviewing stand, the applause was so loud we couldn't hear cadence," the Captain D'Aprile said.

According to the 74th nurse, President Bush flashed a "thumbs up" sign from the reviewing stand when the Air Force contingent passed in front of him.

A Westover C-5, piloted by 337th MAS Commander Lt. Col. Jim Gallin, participated in a flyover during the D.C. parade. The C-5 was the only Galaxy in the armada of 82 aircraft, and was captured flying low over Washington by CNN television cameras covering the event.

Wolf Blitzer, CNN correspondent, amused Westover-area viewers when he identified the big plane on the air as a "Strategic Air Command C-141."

Other crew members on the historic flight were co-pilots Lt. Col. Glenn F. DeForge and Maj. Daniel J. Nichols, flight engineers TSgt. Roland Greenwood and TSgt. Richard A. Jedrey, and loadmasters SSgt. Richmond E. Farr and SrA James G. Nichols

On June 10, Captain D'Aprile and Sergeant LaGasse marched in a tickertape victory parade in New York City. Captain D'Aprile said the tickertape was so thick it felt like they were walking on snow.

"I was extremely proud to represent Westover in both of the parades," she added.

Parades and parties postscript to patriots' pride

by TSgt. Sandi Michon

The yellow welcome ribbons have faded to a commemorative white, the nation says thank you to its military servants with parades and parties, and Westover reservists head for home.

The yellow has faded, but the red, white and blue has shone brilliantly at victory parades in Washington, New York and here at home in Chicopee illustrating the steady high level of the country's pride and gratitude.

Washington's parade on June 8 boasted 9,000 marchers, three of which represented Westover. New York's tickertape parade on June 10 dumped 10,000 pounds of confetti and tons of tickertape on 24,000 marchers and more than four million spectators. Chicopee's victory parade on June 9th was attended by approximately 40,000 people and 125 Westover members marched.

The public show of gratitude and support is a shot in the arm to the hundreds of Westover reservists who have sacrificed to serve their country. While they look forward to returning to "normal" civilian life, everyone surveyed, without exception, expressed pride in being a part of Desert Shield/Storm.

From the young to the not-so-young reservists, all spoke of an appreciation for their country and a pride of being able to give something back. Many have served in other conflicts and Desert Storm represents the "last hurrah" of their military careers.

MSgt. Jim Lynch, a 337th MAS flight engineer and 31-year veteran, already had his retirement papers "in the system" when Desert Shield began. "I was activated before my papers cleared," explained Sergeant Lynch, who is a DC-10 engineer as a civilian. Desert Storm meant missing every holiday but Thanksgiving, but he said he doesn't regret it. "The Reserve and Guard has been extremely lucrative for me for a lot of years," he said. But he described his upcoming deactivation in one word -- happiness.

He and loadmaster CMSgt. John Missale recounted the long hours and the many missions of Desert Storm. "This past year has aged us," said Chief Missale.

While long-termers feel fortunate to add Desert Storm to their lengthy careers, the 337th MAS' newest pilot was also glad he didn't miss the action. Although he was in C-5 pilot training during the actual war, 2nd Lt. Chuck Parker said he was psyched that he got to fly during Desert Storm. "I started flying three days after I got back to Westover. I was excited. I wanted to get my hands dirty after spending so much time training," said the lieutenant from Danbury, Conn.

Lieutenant Parker, 24, has flown numerous missions since returning to Westover in February. "I'm proud to be part of the squadron," he said. The squadron's deactivation has little affect on him however, as he is assigned to the squadron through Feb. 1992 as part of his training time.

The vast majority of reservists view deactivation as a long-delayed time-off, and a return to a life with some degree of predictability. Capt. Greg Symonds, 337th pilot from Old Lyme, Conn. has been glad to contribute to Desert Storm, but is anxious to get back to his job as pilot with American Airlines. "It's been hectic, but I would have been upset if I missed it," he said referring to Desert Storm.

At the height of Desert Storm, personnel throughout the base were working straight out. Sixty-hour weeks were standard and many reservists struggled with erratic sleep schedules, and the uncertainty of the future. The hard work of the whole 439th "team" earned Westover an enviable reputation throughout the Air Force system. While the experience was not without flaws, the reaction of most is very positive.

As the hot and hazy days of summer drift by, Westover reservists are attempting to get their lives back on track. For some it is resuming school plans, for others it is getting back to a civilian job which now seems unfamiliar, but for everyone it is certain to be an adjustment period.

As summer slides into fall, Desert Storm will become a memory in the minds of many. In time, the disruption of active duty will become faint, but the pride of answering their country's call will grow more vivid.

Last wing members return home from the Persian Gulf

Westover's "family" is back home together at last.

All of the 439th MAW members who deployed to the Persian Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm have returned to the base.

The war-time overseas deployment of Patriot Wing personnel--the first at Westover since the Vietnam War--ended on June 22 when three members of the 439th Airlift Control Flight walked down the red carpet in the base hangar.

Maj. Wayne Petitto, MSgt. Tom O'Brien and MSgt. Bob Seaton had been serving since April at King Khalid Military City in Saudi Arabia. They had coordinated the airlift of Army troops near Saudi's border with Iraq and Kuwait.

The three were part of a nine-member Westover airlift control team which was sent to the Gulf on Easter Sunday. The other team members returned home in late May.

On June 20, nine members of the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flew

back to the base. They had been serving in Saudi Arabia and Turkey since February, and were among the 113 nurses, medical technicians and radio operators which the 74th sent to Europe and the Persian Gulf during the war.

The nine--Maj. Anne Cole, Capt. Lisa Beth D'Amico, MSgt. Mark Johnson, MSgt. David Hawkins, TSgt. James Helems, TSgt. Brian Major, TSgt. Dersa Johndrew, SSgt. Rafael Reyes-Almanzar and SrA. John Galvany--received a hero's welcome when they arrived at the Base Hangar.

When the 74th AES deployed to various locations last February, squadron personnel agreed to wear green wrist bands as a symbol of their solidarity until the last unit member returned safely.

When the last contingent arrived June 20, the medics were finally able to remove the wrist bands. "The family is back together at last," said an elated Lt. Col. Richard Carr, 74th AES commander.

Three commanders bring eagles back from Desert Storm

For three Westover commanders, 1991 has brought more than the anxiety and exhilaration of war and peace.

Lt. Col. James Gallin, Lt. Col. Robert McMillan and Lt. Col. Robert Kinley received Senate confirmation of their promotions to full colonel while serving on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm at Westover.

"This is really a tremendous honor," said Colonel Kinley, 439th Field Maintenance Squadron commander. "Not many maintenance officers attain this rank."

However, because squadron commander positions at Westover are lieutenant colonel slots, the new colonels will have to find full colonel posts to continue serving in the Air Force Reserve.

According to Colonel Kinley, these positions are few and far between. "I don't want to have to retire," he said, "but I'm going to have to look outside of Westover because there doesn't seem to be anything for me here."

Colonel Kinley has been stationed at Westover since 1982. He initially served as OIC of the avionics branch of the Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, but was soon transferred to the field maintenance branch. In 1986, the colonel took over as commander of the CAMS until the maintenance branches were designated as individual squadrons.

Commanding the FMS for the past five years has left Colonel Kinley with nothing but praise for the people that he has worked with, and he attributes his new rank to those that work for him.

"My people made it for me," he said. "I strongly believe in giving my people responsibility and authority to make their own decisions and mistakes, but if something goes wrong, I take the flak. We've got great people."

ALCF Commander Colonel McMillan was deployed and serving in King Khalid Military City, Saudi Arabia, when his promotion date arrived May 17.

(continued on page 19)



(photo by SSgt. Christine Mora)

WELCOME HOME -- SMSgt. Larry Milliken, (left), is welcomed home by well-wishers outside the Base Hangar in June. Sergeant Milliken, NCOIC with the 337th intelligence staff, had been serving in Saudi Arabia with the 439th ALCF. Greeting him are (from left) Capt. Paul Bailey, SSgt. Cinthia Trask and Capt Bob Freniere.

MSgt. Tom Durkin hits 10,000 flying hours milestone

Story and photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon

TORREJON AB, SPAIN -- As Westover's aircrew prepared to head home on June 3, it was more than a routine flight for MSgt. Tom Durkin, 337th MAS engineer. Four hours into the flight home, and 34,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, Sergeant Durkin marked a rare career accomplishment amassing 10,000 hours flying time.

Crewmembers celebrated the occasion by signing an oceanic plotting chart printout marking the exact location where he tallied 10,000 hours. The icing on the cake was flying the celebration flight with his son, SSgt. Tom Durkin, Jr., 337th MAS loadmaster.

The celebration beverage was postponed until they touched down at Westover when Sergeant Durkin was doused with champagne.

The 32-year 337th veteran said the 10,000 mark was one of the goals he had set for himself. According to Lt. Col. James Gallin, 337th MAS commander, Sergeant Durkin's accomplishment is one very few aircrew members achieve during their careers. CMSgt. Fred Allard, 337th flight engineer, is the only other 337th member to reach the 10,000-hour milestone. Chief Allard, 28-year reserve veteran, and Enfield, Conn. resident, achieved the honor in Dec. 1990.

Sergeant Durkin began his military career in 1953, serving with the Marine Corps in security and maintenance career fields for almost four years. He joined the 337th in 1959 and has flown in C-119s, C-124s, C-130s and C-5s.

According to the trim, 56-year-old Windsor Locks, Conn. denizen, the C-130 is his favorite aircraft. "We had more versatile missions, landing on dirt runways, doing a lot of short hops with different types of airdrops," he said. He said it has been harder to accumulate hours in the newer jet aircraft because the higher speeds mean shorter flight hours.

Sergeant Durkin just missed involvement in the Korean War by three months but flew missions from Westover to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. He said the hectic flying schedule of the past several months has been tiring, but he has been proud to be a part of Desert Storm. "I feel our airlift is contributing to the freedom of the United States. That's what we're in the business for," he said.



MIRROR IMAGE -- Flight engineer and MSgt. Tom Durkin and his son, SSgt. Tom Durkin, 337th loadmaster complete flight paperwork during a flight from Turkey to Spain.

"I feel our airlift is contributing to the freedom of the United States. That's what we're in the business for."
MSgt. Tom Durkin

As he nears four decades with the military, Sergeant Durkin reflects that overall, he's had a great career. "I've seen places I never thought I'd see," he commented.

Sergeant Durkin, Jr., of Enfield, Conn., is proud of his father's accomplishment, and said his father's influence had a lot to do with his decision to enter the Air Force. But he commented as he smiled at his dad, "If he had his way, I'd be in the Marines."

The two Durkins are often teased with nicknames such as "No Workin Durkin" (the senior) and "Workin Durkin" (the junior) or "Old Model" and "New Model". Some tease that they are as difference as an Edsel and a Corvette. Capt. Greg Symonds, 337th pilot, joked on a

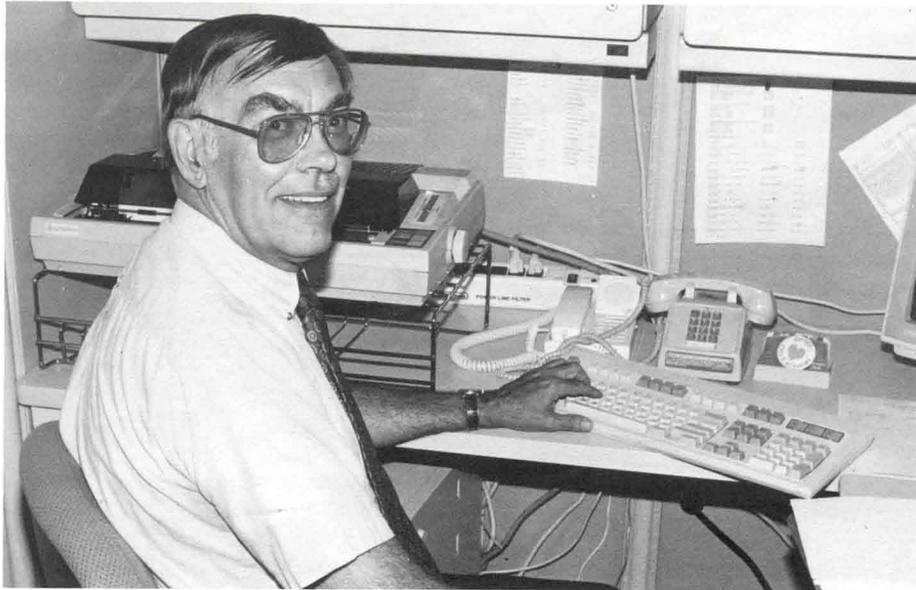
recent European flight, "The warranty was about to run out on the old one, so we brought in a new one."

Although Sergeant Durkin is the butt of many "age jokes," there is an obvious respect from other members in the squadron. His milestone flight occurred in a grey and white C-5, and TSgt. John Duffy, 337th loadmaster, joked that they had selected the non-camouflage aircraft especially to "match Durkin's hair."

"I'll get even with him later," Sergeant Durkin responded.

Sergeant Durkin is an Air Reserve Technician as a civilian and resides in Windsor Locks, Conn. with his wife Joan. Besides their son Tom, the couple has two daughters.

George Jackson selected top cost analyst in Air Force Reserve



(photo by TSgt. Tom Allocco)

TOP COST ANALYST -- George Jackson completes a job efficiency analysis on one of Westover's many units.

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

George Jackson of Accounting and Finance has earned the recognition of top cost analyst in the Air Force Reserve for his contributions to efficient operations at Westover.

Mr. Jackson received a plaque in May in Myrtle Beach, S.C., honoring him as the 1990 AFRES cost analyst of the year.

As a cost analyst, he evaluates the cost

effectiveness of operations and makes recommendations when he finds problems.

It's not just a matter of reading ledger books. A big part of his job is to help other people work more efficiently at their jobs.

Armed with a calculator and a background in industrial engineering, he scrutinizes how people do their jobs, from repairing jet engines to picking up

the mail. The analyses, together with his recommendations, are used to find wasted effort, duplication and the other inefficiencies that slip into any job.

The goal is to analyze job specifications, how often the task is required and the necessary time to perform the job. This process is challenging because people in the workplace may be so close to a problem or so accustomed to working around it they are unaware that it even exists. Mr. Jackson sounds sincere when he says the challenge is one he enjoys.

"I look forward to coming to work every day. There are a lot of things we can do that really help people," he said.

The assistance he most enjoys is for people preparing for visits by the AFRES Functional Review teams. A poor review of a unit's efficiency can lead to decisions to cut staff positions. Before Westover members meet the AFRES team they are briefed on the entire process with a set of slides prepared by Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Jackson has been at Accounting and Finance for almost four years. A graduate of Western New England College where he earned a degree in engineering, Mr. Jackson was a management analyst at Natick Labs, an Army research and development center at Natick, Mass.

He and his wife, Kathleen, have two children and reside in Wilbraham.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

The only POW shot down at Westover during Desert Storm was a 300-pound black bear that wandered onto the base June 11. Environmental officers used a tranquilizer dart to capture the bruin in a tree near General Walker's backyard. The bear was later released on its own recognizance near the Quabbin Reservoir.

(photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)



Riverside hosts more than 9,000 for Desert Storm appreciation party



PARTY TIME -- More than 9,000 military, civilian and volunteer personnel from Westover, and their family members, celebrated the end of Operation Desert Storm June 16 at Riverside Amusement Park in Agawam. The park sponsored "Heroes and Friends Day" to honor the men and women from Westover for their efforts during the Persian Gulf crisis and war.

(photo by Lt. Col. Whitey Joslin)

Four NCO Leadership Program facilitators selected

Four NCOs in June became the first from Westover to be selected to serve as facilitators for the Air Force Reserve's NCO Leadership Development Program.

Those named to work with students in the NCO program were MSgt. Kelly Payne, TSgt. Deborah Malek, TSgt. Jean Murphy-Brewer and SSgt. George Louvitakis.

They were named facilitators after completing a training course at San Antonio, Texas, getting 14th Air Force approval and passing muster before an approval board comprised of three numbered Air Forces.

The leadership course they will help facilitate is conducted over two five-day periods which introduce NCOs to management techniques.

Through instruction and role play, students are introduced to such skills as resolving conflict, motivating subordinates and communication. The teaching staff includes those with military and corporate experience.

Students receive instruction similar to corporate leadership programs. Afterwards, classes are offered on the military applications of what they have learned from the civilian instructors.

After a week of classroom instruction and testing, the class is divided into groups and each is assigned a "base project" which allows the groups to

apply learned skills.

Three classes at Westover have completed the course, which earns two college credits from the sponsoring university.

A recent graduate, TSgt. Darlene Russo, 439th MAW operations technician, found the course interesting and helpful. She feels many reservists could benefit from the course as they may not have other opportunities to learn practical management skills.

The four new facilitators attended a one-week training program at San Antonio, Texas after completing the NCO Leadership Development Program. As facilitators, they will assist members leadership class members at Air Force Reserve units around the country.

TSgt. Debbie Malek, 439th MAW administrative specialist, says she feels privileged to be a part of a program that will really benefit reserve NCOs. "It's a program long needed," she said.



(photo by TSgt. Don Talbot)

NCO LEADERS -- Recently named facilitators for the NCO Leadership Development Program are (from left) SSgt. George Louvitakis, MSgt. Kelly Payne, TSgt. Deborah Malek and TSgt. Jean Murphy-Brewer.

RED-EYE EXPRESS

Marathon media flight captures the beginning of the end

TURKEY--To call Westover's recent media flight the Red-Eye Express would be an understatement.

The 36-hour, 14,000-mile whirlwind flight to Germany, Turkey, Spain and home not only taxed the human body's physical tolerance to flying, but also chronicled a series of events signaling the end of a short but intense era.

As the C-5 lumbered down Westover's steamy runway at 8:30 p.m. on May 31, everyone aboard was crisp and fresh. Media personnel representing Channel 22 (WWLP), Channel 40 (WGGB) and the Springfield Union News were covering the C-5 mission.

The three countries, Germany, Turkey and Spain, each represented a different aspect of our nation's Desert Storm wind-down process.

GERMANY - CLOSING STAGES

After flying a long, often turbulent trek over the Atlantic, the sun rose on the first stop -- Rhein Main AB, Germany, one of five Air Force C-5 stage bases utilized during Desert Storm. Tired, but enthusiastic, the six-member media team boarded the bus to base operations to meet the next Westover crew which would ferry them to Turkey.

They were greeted by Maj. Pete Gray, 337th MAS pilot and temporary stage manager at Rhein-Main. Major Gray explained how the stage monitors the flow of air traffic by matching aircrews and air craft to airlift missions. On June 3, however, he anticipated the closing of all Desert Storm stages - definite proof that Desert Storm air traffic had slowed enough to allow missions to be tasked at base level instead of through main staging areas.

After filming interviews at Rhein-Main, C-5 number 219 was once again airborne, barely four hours after landing. The media settled in for the relatively short three-hour flight to Incirlik AB, Turkey.

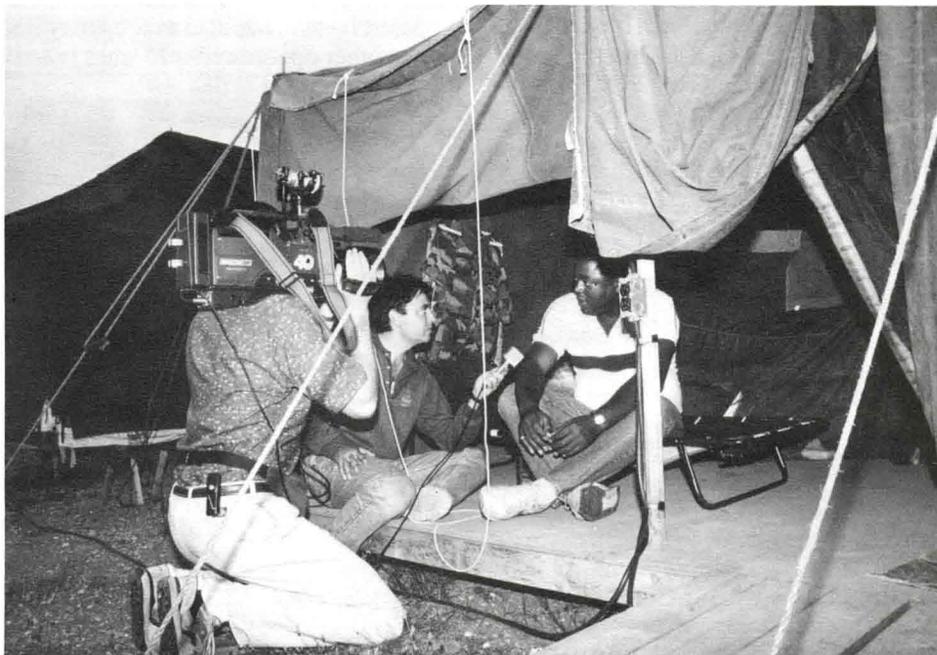
TURKEY - PROVIDE COMFORT

The hot, muggy Turkish weather was just beginning to cool as the media crews raced against the sunset to film their segments in Turkey. The emphasis in Turkey

Article and photos by TSgt. Sandi Michon



LIVE WITH T.V. 22 -- Channel 22 news reporter Amy Landsman interviews Rhein-Main's temporary stage manager, Maj. Pete Gray, 337th MAS pilot serving in Germany.



TURKEY TENTS -- Channel 40 cameraman Dave Fraser and news reporter Alan Cohn tape an interview with a soldier serving in Operation Provide Comfort. He is shown at his tent city billets at Incirlik, AB Turkey.

was Operation Provide Comfort -- a sequel to Desert Storm. Provide Comfort began April 9 when a 12-country coalition began flying C-130 relief missions to the Kurdish refugees providing basic supplies like food, water, blankets, clothing and tents.

Turkish-owned and operated Incirlik Air Base is the main staging area for Provide Comfort. Many of the 20,000 troops still supporting the operation call the base their temporary home. The Western Massachusetts media group visited the tent city where the soldiers reside. Their tents have makeshift decks and porches with mesh roofs and their accommodations are simple -- a cot with an insect netting and few personal belongings.

Many soldiers talked of going home soon. Westover's C-5 provided some measure of comfort as offloaded cargo contained mail and packages for the troops serving Provide Comfort.

Lt. Col. P.J. Crowley, deputy director of Provide Comfort's combined information bureau, explained that the operation was now in the re-supply stage. "At peak activity there were 450,000 Kurdish refugees gathered at the 10 major border

Members of the media were:

- Alan M. Cohn, Channel 40 reporter
- David C. Fraser, Channel 40 cameraman
- Amy Landsman, Channel 22 reporter
- Michelle Segall, Union News photographer
- Cynthia Simison, Union News reporter
- Donald Sutherland, Channel 22 cameraman

camp, all of which are now closed. Our presence is still important as a long-term political agreement with Baghdad is still pending," he explained. "Once our job is done, we will withdraw."

Still, Provide Comfort numbers continue to decrease. Westover had the pleasure of returning 20 10th Special Forces troops and their equipment back to the States. It was a second tour of duty for these forces who, after returning from a six-month tour in Saudi Arabia, were assigned to Turkey for another 30 days serving with the Kurdish refugee relief missions.

The soldiers unanimously preferred the relief mission work to their Gulf tour. "This tour was a lot better than the Gulf," said Army SSgt. Adalberto Erazo. He and fellow soldiers reminisced about both tours of duty. They all laughed about playing volley ball with Iraqi

prisoners of war, but sobered quickly as they related how the prisoners had beaten them.

After the Special Forces were loaded and the C-5 refueled, the mission continued to Torrejon AB, Spain. The highlight of the flight was cooking lessons from TSgt. John Duffy, 337th loadmaster, as he prepared dinner for the aircrew. As the tantalizing smell drew aircrew members to the rear of the flight deck, there was nonstop bantering among crewmembers, illustrating the camaraderie created during long flights together.

Amid the teasing there is a real feeling that these guys trust each other with their lives -- perhaps because they do. The safety of each flight is dependent on the details of each member's job, an area they are dead serious about.

SPAIN - TROOP RETURN

C-5 number 219 arrived at Torrejon AB, Spain at 1 a.m. local and most everyone had given up trying to figure what time it really was. After passing through several time zones with dizzying speed, it was a little fuzzy even what

(continued on page 16)



STILL STANDING -- The media group and the C-5 weather the long flight well. Cameramen and reporters get last-minute footage and details as the 20, 10th Special Forces

unload their equipment out by Westover's Dogpatch area before heading to the Base Hangar for the red-carpet treatment.

58th and 59th Aerial Port Squadrons assist Westover's Command Post

Story and photo by TSgt. Tom Allocco

When everything goes right on the Westover flightline, the aircraft come and go in a graceful flow that can appear almost effortless.

But, like any precision effort, one thing out of rhythm can upset the balance and make it slow and clumsy. It's the job of teams of aerial porter volunteers from the 58th and 59th APS to watch that all the parts are in balance on the flightline.

Volunteers in the mission coordinator and transportation representative programs under the command of Capt. Paul Bailey, 58th APS, are the troubleshooters of flightline activity. Mission controllers spend their workday on the radio and are better known by their "mike-charlie" call sign.

Solving problems

"The mike-charlie and transportation representatives contribute immensely to the Command Post operation by ensuring many of the little problems encountered are solved quickly and efficiently before they become major problems," Captain Bailey said.

The aerial porters, with the help of other wing and 14th Air Force volunteers, have been serving as the eyes and ears of the Command Post on the flightline since the first stepped-up activity of Desert Shield last August.

The mission coordinators seem to be in all places at all times on the flightline. They coordinate between the Command Post and crew members and other aerial porters and teams from fleet service, maintenance, fuels, customs and transportation. A mission coordinator is on the spot for everything from overseeing a tail swap to resolving disputes between different flightline teams.

From the time mike-charlie sees an inbound aircraft on final approach and radios the information to the Command Post, the goal is to have everything in place for the arriving crew.

"This creates a very positive atmosphere for inbound crews when they can see all the requirements waiting for them when they block in," Captain Bailey said.

Later, with launch sheet in hand, mike-charlie verifies all start and completion times, from crew alert to takeoff.

Schedule watchdog

The most important part of the job is to act as watchdog of the schedule and alert Command Post of problems. Anything that can delay a takeoff, from engine problem to late-arriving passengers, calls for the efforts of mike-charlie to update Command Post and coordinate a solution.

"Westover has had the best C-5 reliability rate during the entire Desert Shield/Storm operations. The fact that the mike-charlie is always on the ramp leads to efficient problem solving," Captain Bailey said.

The transportation representative takes responsibility for coordinating crew transport, ATOC, fleet services and passenger services.

"The aerial port transportation representative was put in the Command Post from the very beginning of Desert Shield. Since then the program has paid large dividend for the base in greatly enhancing the wing's level of efficiency in moving aircraft, cargo and passengers," Captain Bailey said.

The benefits of the programs have run both ways, expanding



MIKE CHARLIE -- Maj. Glenn Martin, 58th APS operations officer monitors incoming and outgoing flights on Westover's flightline.

professional opportunities for the volunteer aerial porter teams on the flightline.

"The aerial porters who have participated in the program gained valuable knowledge and expertise by learning Command Post operations, maintenance procedures, crew operations and transportation systems," Captain Bailey said.

Briefs

Suggestion program offer

The Westover suggestion program is offering a choice of a Desert Storm nylon barrel bag or a T-shirt for eligible suggestions.

If you have a suggestion that you think would be beneficial give it to your squadron program manager or Susanne Schmidt of Civilian Personnel in the Wing Headquarters Building. The Westover suggestion program manager can be called at extension 2355.

Spring cleanup awards

Three Westover organizations have received plaques for their participation in the Fire Prevention Awareness Program Spring Cleanup.

The Westover Fire Department named Base Supply as top participant in the annual cleanup and fire prevention program. Billetting earned second place and the Westover Heating Plant was in third place.

They were judged by how well they complied with a checklist supplied by the fire department of fire prevention tips for facilities and outside areas.

Desert Storm leaves recruiters a mixed bag

by TSgt. Sandi Michon

Desert Storm has generated a wave of patriotism, but there is a shortage of recruits riding the wave into Air Force recruiters' offices.

Desert Storm has vividly illustrated the reality of commitment in the Air Force Reserve and this concept has a two-fold effect.

Individuals contemplating a Reserve commitment no longer see the reserve program as a simple part-time job. "During Desert Storm we saw a lot of applicants because it 'was the thing to do,' but most had a range of excuses for not signing up," said SSgt. Rodney McNany, Westover reserve recruiter. "Basically, they are not willing to commit to the possibility of activation that every reservist must consider," he said.

The wave of patriotism and commitment to serve one's country has increased Westover's retention percentages which inadvertently makes recruiting more difficult. According to Sergeant McNany, high retention makes recruiting more difficult because there are fewer career fields available to attract recruits. "Many of our potential reserve recruits are prior-service people, or older, more experienced people. While these people are willing to be flexible, there are only so many career fields they can be plugged into. Westover is currently manned at 100.6 percent because of overages, but the true percentage indicating actual vacancies is around 94 percent, according to SSgt. Christine Seney, chief of personnel utilization.

Westover's reserve recruiters are on par with the national average which average just below overall monthly goals. Most recruiters report that Desert Shield/Storm has had little effect on their overall recruiting efforts. "During Desert Shield we had a rash of people wanting to support the war effort but, unfortunately, most were ineligible due to age, bad discharges or medical problems," said Sergeant McNany. "Once Desert Storm was underway we began seeing a different, younger applicant group, but few followed the process through to a reserve commitment," he said.

When Westover reservists were activated there was a liberal amount of discontentment, and many reservists

talked of separating from the Reserve after activation. According to SMSgt. Marge Schoonover, chief of career progression and training management, most have simmered down and very few now plan to leave the program after deactivation.

Active duty Air Force recruiter MSgt. Tom Missel agrees that Desert Storm has not had a major impact on recruiting. "It is an unfair assessment to select any one item in determining recruiting impact," he said. He said the economy drives some decisions, while patriotism may influence others. Many people join for

a combination of reasons. "Desert Storm has been a hindrance in some cases, because the reality of armed conflict scared some people away from the military who might otherwise view it as a 'safe job with good benefits,'" said Sergeant Missel.

Active duty recruiting has seen a mild increase since last August, but most recruiters attribute their consistent recruiting success to the quality product the Air Force represents. "It's a good place to be," said Sergeant Missel, "we've always been the most attractive branch of the service."

RECRUITING REFERRAL

Anyone who knows a good candidate for enlistment in the Air Force Reserve, please let our recruiters know. Below is a coupon that can be filled out and turned over to our recruiters.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____ Prior Service YES NO

Job Specialty _____ Referred by _____

Reservists should fill out the recruiting referral card for any potential applicant and turn the card in at any of the recruiting offices listed on this page.

439 MAW/RS
 Westover AFB, Ma 01022
 A/V 589-3923/2125
 Comm. 413-593-5237

USAFR Recruiting Office
 233 Pearl St.
 Hartford, Conn. 06103
 Comm. 203-525-5595

USAFR Recruiting Office
 1215 Western Ave., Univ. Plaza
 Albany, N.Y. 12203-3317
 Comm. 518-438-3077

USAFR Recruiting Office
 Bldg. 1609, Elgin St.
 Hanscom AFB, Mass. 01731-5000
 A/V 478-4461/2840/8627
 Comm. 617-862-5708

USAFR Recruiting Office
 54 Bridge St.
 Ansonia, Conn. 06401
 Comm. 203-735-2223

USAFR Recruiting Office
 509 Main St. Park Plaza
 Worcester, Mass. 01608
 Comm. 508-753-7616

416th MSSQ/MSPISR
 Griffiss AFB, N.Y. 13441-5000
 A/V 587-2715

Former captain's victory marks a triumph of the human spirit

By Maj. Rick Dyer

Her battlefield wasn't in the desert, and the enemy she faced was even more insidious than the Iraqi Army.

But when they honored Capt. Randi Barrack in Westover's Base Hangar recently, the ceremony celebrated a soldier's victory -- and a triumph of the human spirit.

Five years ago, a freak accident during Army paratrooper training at Fort Benning, Ga. nearly killed the 37-year-old Vassar College graduate.

A head-first fall from the "swing landing parachute trainer" left her with severe brain trauma, and total paralysis of her entire right side.

The mishap cut short Captain Barrack's promising career as an Army officer, and has required her to undergo years of rehabilitation.

But the tragic accident didn't harm Randi's remarkable spirit. If anything, she says, it made her a stronger person.

"The doctors said that I'd never walk again, talk again, drive again or work again," she said. "Now I'm doing all of those things."

Randi, who lives in Williamsburg, Mass. with her parents, spent 10 months after the fall in various hospitals. The accident, which occurred during her second week of airborne training, left her unable to speak or walk, and in need of intensive therapy.

"The toughest part was losing my voice for over a year," she said. "I was always pretty verbal."

Randi's vocal chords were so severely injured that she still speaks quite softly, and takes singing lessons to improve the volume of her voice. She also works out with Nautilus equipment as part of a therapy regimen designed to improve her strength and coordination.

Although an Army physical evaluation board recently placed her on permanent medical retirement with an 80 percent disability, Captain Barrack would still like to resume her military career.

"They told me that I could reapply for active duty in a year, so the doors aren't shut completely," she said.

As a child, Randi lived at U.S. military bases in Europe where her father was employed as a Department of Defense teacher. She said that the exposure to military life made her decision to seek an officer's commission in the Army "a logical and natural choice."

She joined the Army in 1975, while a junior majoring in English literature at Vassar, and entered active duty as a second lieutenant after her graduation.

Captain Barrack served a one-year tour in Korea, and spent five years in Germany. As a communications officer, she also spent several years assigned to the Army's Infantry School,

where she was involved in the research and development of combat communications and computer equipment.

Randi now works two days a week with the 439th CSG Communications Squadron at Westover. She is also employed one day a week with the Veteran's Administration in Hartford, Conn. where she's involved with an outreach program for disabled veterans.

Randi began working with the veterans during her own convalescence when she volunteered at a Middletown, Conn. soup kitchen for Vietnam veterans which had been opened by her mother, who is a social worker.

Despite her own physical challenges, she spent the next year and a half assisting the vets she met there.

After she had been working at the VA's regional office for a while, Randi asked her boss to visit the kitchen, and pointed out the fact that many of the homeless and hungry clients were former armed services members.

That visit led to the establishment of a new outreach program in Connecticut. VA workers now visit homeless shelters and soup kitchens, searching for veterans who might qualify for benefits and services.

"Thus far we've found over 680 Vietnam veterans, and many of them are eligible for pensions," said Randi, who believes that her own "comeback" experiences enable her to be effective in helping others.

The affection which the former officer has for other veterans is clearly reciprocated. A group of Vietnam and Korea vets who met Randi during Desert Storm homecoming

celebrations at Westover recently staged a ceremony in her honor at the Base Hangar.

During the moving presentation, Randi received the Army paratrooper's wings and red beret which she had hoped to earn at jump school.

"I was overwhelmed...those veterans are so special to me," she said afterwards.

Randi credits her parents, Jack and Lorraine, with helping her to overcome all the adversity she has conquered. "They stood by me and refused to listen to the doctors," she said.

Although not entirely sure what the future holds in store, Randi is facing it with the same gritty determination with which she approached her injuries.

She says that if she can't resume active duty with the Army, she'd like to work as a civilian with the Air Force, Army, or possibly the VA.

Randi Barrack also has a message for anyone who is battling a disability or other serious problem. "Don't give up," she said. "You can do anything you want to do if you have faith in yourself and if you persevere. Nobody but you knows what you can do."



Randi Barrack

General Walker helps Bethany church salute the troops

Story and photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon

What has happened for months in the Base Hangar was a new experience to members of Bethany Assembly of God in Agawam, Mass. on May 19 when they sponsored a special evening to honor the military.

As Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, wing commander, approached the patriotically-bedecked pulpit to speak, the 500-member audience rose in a standing ovation honoring the general and the role Westover represents in the local community.

When the applause finally abated, General Walker spoke about the recent events at Westover and applauded the community involvement that contributed to the base's success. He said such involvement indicated an "active faith" within the participants. He also acknowledged God's blessings with respect to the length of the war, very low casualty counts, and the outpouring of love for those returning from the Gulf, and all veterans.

As the general left the podium, he was saluted by the main speaker, Dave Roever, a Vietnam veteran. Mr. Roever continued the general's theme by honoring the military members in the audience, the World War II and Korean War veterans, the Vietnam veterans and the Persian Gulf veterans. As he instructed the Vietnam veterans to file to the front of the room, many of them openly wept as they received the cheers and applause and the thundering "Welcome Home" in unison from the audience. People spontaneously came from the pews to hug the weeping veterans.

Mr. Roever spoke of a need for healing in America and said Desert Storm provided the contrast the nation needed. He said the healing process happens day-by-day, individual-by-individual. He said he speaks his heart, or else his scars mean nothing.

Mr. Roever knows the pain of war and his scars give instant credibility to his story. During a Navy maneuver in Vietnam, a phosphorus grenade exploded six inches from his head. He instantly lost 60 pounds of flesh and 40 percent of his skin. Because of the phosphorus, his flaming body burned through the stretcher as they carried him to the evac helicopter. He was taken for dead on the



GOD AND COUNTRY --Brig. Gen. Mike Walker addresses a Bethany Assembly of God audience on May 19 during a special ceremony to honor the military. Dave Roever is seated to the right of the podium.

helicopter and related how the med tech nearly fell out of the helicopter when Mr. Roever's muffled sounds indicated he was still alive. He remembers the passing thought that, with his luck, the helicopter would crash and he would be the only survivor...

The son of a Texas preacher said he was one of 13 burn patients to enter Brooks Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas at that time, and the only one to survive. After 39 operations in 20 years, Mr. Roever's keen sense of humor is intact. "You can die laughing, but you're not dead, and you can laugh till you cry,

but you're not sad," he related. He brought the audience to tears of both laughter and pain as he related his story. He extolled the virtues of patriotism, hard work, and most of all, believing in God to make it through the toughest times. As he repeatedly thanked the military members for their sacrifices for their country, he ended on a note of sobriety.

As his scarred face slowly scanned the audience, he said, "After everything that's happened to me, if I had to, I'd do it again tomorrow... no, I'd do it again today."

Chicopee Chamber honors Wing

The Chicopee Chamber of Commerce honored the 439th Military Airlift Wing and its outstanding airman May 31 at its annual Military Breakfast.

Col. Ralph Oates, vice commander, accepted the award on behalf of the Patriot Wing. The unit was cited for "outstanding performance" during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and during the homecoming celebrations which Westover has staged for returning Persian Gulf veterans.

SrA. Laura Irish, a fuels specialist with the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron, was honored by the chamber

as Westover's airman of the year.

Airman Irish, 26, is a resident of Greenfield and is pursuing her nursing degree at Greenfield Community College. She was activated in December for service in Operation Desert Shield. Along with other members of her unit, she pumped more than 58 million gallons of JP-4 jet fuel during the Persian Gulf airlift.

Retired Westover Public Affairs Officer Betty O'Connell, was also honored at the breakfast. Ms. O'Connell was cited for her service to the chamber during the past decade.

RED-EYE EXPRESS *(continued from page 10 and 11)*

day it was. It was still Saturday at home but now already Sunday in Spain. As the weary group passed through the sparse offerings of the chow hall line, it was a toss-up as to what meal to try.

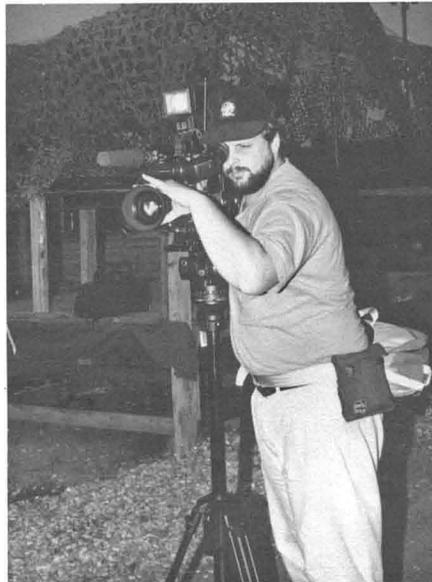
Driving around Torrejon's huge flightline, only four C-5's were on the ramp -- another indication of the general slowdown of troop movement. Torrejon has been a major C-5 staging area moving troops from the Gulf to the States. To date more than 30,000 troops have returned to Westover through Torrejon.

As the third aircrew in as many days headed to the C-5, they were overheard saying, "Are these the people that have been flying nonstop since Friday?" We had become somewhat of a spectacle. Still, spirits were high and 'never was heard a discouraging word.'

The last leg of the marathon journey was handled by a Dover AFB, Del. crew. The sun rose above the horizon just before the C-5 lifted off the runway. It was a quiet flight, as the now-seasoned travelers had either learned the art of in-flight sleeping, or were just too tired to care.

As Westover's runway loomed ahead, it was hard to believe it was the final destination. After offloading the equipment and troops it was off to the Base Hangar for the red carpet treatment, the second one for the 10th Special Forces personnel. The welcome crowd was sparse, but still enthusiastic, but even the dwindling numbers in the welcoming crowds signified a passing era in the nation's and Westover's history.

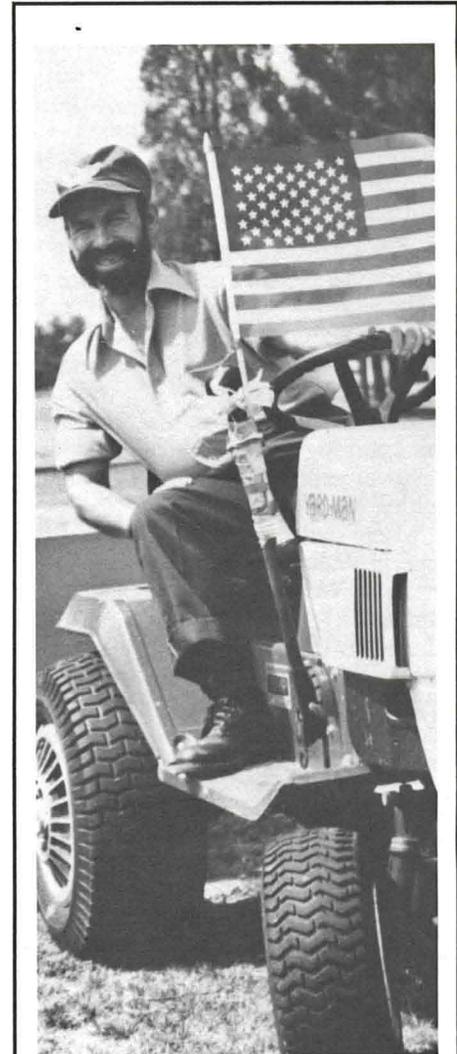
Still there is work to be done. After a



TWILIGHT TURKEY -- Channel 22 cameraman, Donald Sutherland films footage at tent city at Incirlik AB, Turkey.

quick hamburger for breakfast in the Base Hangar, Westover personnel and the media exchanged gratitude and goodbyes. Before heading back to work, members of the media communicated their appreciation for how well Westover performs their job.

"At the beginning of the trip I had a great deal of apprehension because of the mileage we planned to cover in such a short time," said Cynthia Simison-Lacasse, Union News reporter. "Even though I hardly slept, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I was very impressed with the aircrews - their warmth, camaraderie and dedication," she said.



(photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

A CUT ABOVE -- David Skinner, grounds maintenance specialist, is a familiar sight around Westover AFB. A member of CES's roads and grounds section since 1979, Skinner is consistently hard at work keeping base lawns neatly mowed.

CINCMAC *(continued from page 3)*
responded...you have served with great honor and great patriotism.

He called Desert Shield/Storm "the biggest airlift we ever had," noting that it carried more than half a million tons of cargo in six weeks, as much as the massive Berlin Airlift did in six months.

The MAC commander said the airlift was successful because, "people wanted to serve and did so very, very well."

He noted that at the beginning of Desert Shield, when a call was made for medical volunteers, the response was so overwhelming that "we literally had to draw straws to determine who would serve our great nation."

Maintenance statistics show Westover leading the pack

By Maj. Rick Dyer

When it comes to fixing giant aircraft and launching them on time, Westover's maintenance and supply personnel have proven they are stiff competition.

The Patriot Wing maintenance and supply team has led the other C-5 stage bases in on-time takeoffs in all but one month before Westover's stage closed.

Statistics recently released indicate that Westover's maintainers had departure reliability rates of 85 percent in January, 82.6 percent in February, 87.8 percent in March and 89.1 percent in April.

The figures are based upon the number of missions which are delayed during a month due to maintenance or supply problems.

During the Persian Gulf airlift, maintenance personnel have been required to have the enroute ("quick turn") aircraft which arrive here ready for takeoff within three hours and 15 minutes from the time they land.

In May, Wing maintenance personnel led their counterparts at the other bases with a remarkable 90 percent departure reliability rate.

During the period from January-April, the other C-5 stage facilities were Dover AFB, Torrejon AB, Rhein Main AB and Ramstein AB. In May, Travis AFB was added to the list of stage bases.

The only month in which Westover did not lead in the maintenance reliability figures was February, when it placed second to Ramstein.

Members of the base's three maintenance squadrons -- the 439th OMS,



(photo by SSgt. Christine Mora)

OVERSIZED WORKLOAD -- C-5s on Westover's ramp during Desert Storm.

439th AMS and 439th FMS -- plus personnel from Westover's supply unit and the deputy commander for maintenance staff are responsible for compiling the enviable statistics.

"It's everybody...everyone pulled together during Desert Shield and Desert Storm to make this happen," said Maintenance Officer Capt. Cam LeBlanc. We knew we had experienced people in the reserve, and this showed it."

All of the other Desert Storm C-5 stage bases are active duty facilities. Westover was the only stage run entirely by an Air Force Reserve unit.

Captain LeBlanc said that maintenance and supply personnel learned from mistakes made early in the Gulf Airlift. He also cited "tremendous

cooperation" from other Westover units.

"We couldn't have complied this type of record without great assistance from other functional areas, such as fuels, transportation, base operations, fleet service and the flight crews," the maintenance officer said. Getting quick turns off on time consistently takes real coordination and teamwork."

Captain LeBlanc pointed to another statistic which speaks of the quality of maintenance at Westover.

In a "normal year," the Patriot Wing's 16 C-5A Galaxies fly about 4,400 hours. Since Desert Shield began last August, Westover's C-5s have amassed well over 18,000 flying hours.

"That's a tribute to quality maintenance and a superior aircraft," he added.

Wing flying squadrons compile perfect safety records through Desert Storm

The three 439th MAW flying squadrons came through the wartime demands of Desert Shield/Storm with perfect safety records that total more than 100,000 accident free flying hours each.

The aircrews of Westover's 337th MAS flew more than 20,000 accident-free hours from August 1990 through last June. That brought their accident-free flying hours since January 1966 to more than 119,000.

The 20,000 hours is more than four times the 337th's normal annual flying schedule of about 4,400 hours.

The 328th TAS of Niagara Falls

safely deployed their eight C-130s to the Middle East where they flew missions throughout Desert Shield/Storm. They flew 3,164 miles to raise their total of accident free flying hours to more than 100,000 since June 1961.

The 758th TAS of Pittsburgh has flown more than 103,000 accident free hours since June 1963, including more than 3,160 hours during Desert Shield/Storm.

The safety records of the three squadrons represent 83 years and 323,550 hours of accident-free flying.

"The impressive flying safety

records reflect on the experience and professionalism of our aircrews and the maintenance people who give us quality airplanes to fly," said Lt. Col. Gale French, wing chief of safety. As an example, he noted flight engineers CMSgt. Fred Allard and MSgt. Thomas Durkin have logged more than 10,000 career flying hours.

"It's a tremendous record, especially considering such factors as the New England weather and the fact that the flying hours include complex low-level formation tactical air drops," Colonel French said.

Dining hall praised by Secretary of the Air Force

The Westover Prime RIBS team isn't perfect, but Secretary of the Air Force Donald Rice declared his great satisfaction with their Desert Shield/Storm record last Saturday.

When Prime RIBS members traveled



"22,000 lunches... to GO!"

to Chicago to receive the coveted Hennessey Award from him, Secretary Rice jokingly noted a blemish on the cooks' record. He reminded the Patriot Wing cooks that after preparing 22,000 box lunches they received their first complaint when a piece of chicken was left out of a box.

"He kidded us about it, but said that was an outstanding record. One in 22,000 is a percentage that would be hard to compute," said CMSgt. Ron Perrault, food service manager.

The cooks have prepared more than 44,000 box lunches since August.

The Hennessey Award recognizes the Westover dining hall as the best in the Air Force.

Those at the ceremony were Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker, wing commander; Col Thomas Hargis, base commander; Chief Perrault; SMSgt. Mike Spano and SMSgt. James Buell, food service superintendents; and food service specialists MSgt. Nate White, SSgt. Bill Brewster and Amn. Alexander Walczyk.

Westover's CBPO: tops in nation

Westover's CBPO, which made mobilizations look easy during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, was recently named the Air Force Reserve's "Outstanding Consolidated Base Personnel Office of the Year."

The 439th Combat Support Group CBPO, commanded by Capt. Denny Jobes, will now represent AFRES in Air Force-wide competition for the Gerrit D. Foster Jr. Achievement Award.

Individual honors were received by SrA. Pamela R. Lehmann and Ms. Joann M. Varao of Westover's CBPO staff. Airman Lehmann was cited as the year's outstanding military personnel specialist, while Ms. Varao won in the civilian category for base level personnel specialists.

WORTH WATCHING

Philippino youths watch the evacuation of Clark Air Base residents in June. The dependents from Clark were at Mactan Air Base on Cebu Island on extended layover awaiting transportation to Guam and to the States.

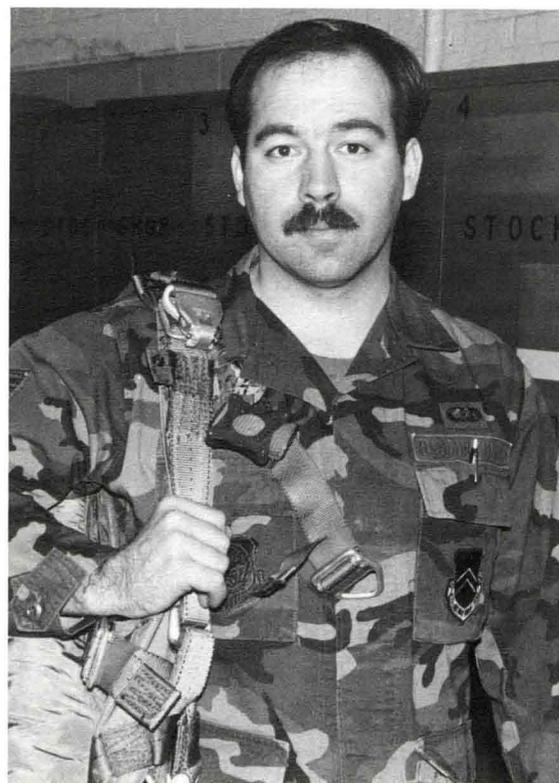
Westover's C-5 crew participated in the humanitarian airlift. Watch for full coverage in the next *PATRIOT* issue.

(photo by SSgt. Gary D. Smith)



"Patriot People"

Name: Daniel Dubois
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 30
Address: Lowell, Mass.
Unit: 439th FMS
Postion: Fabrication, parachute specialist
Civilian position: Accounting student
Favorite Food: Steak and potatoes
Years of Service: 12
Favorite Sport: Hockey, golf
Favorite Hobby: Woodworking
Ideal Vacation: No set schedules
Best Way to Relax: Old movies on the tube
Preferred Entertainment: Going out to dinner with friends
Favorite Celebrity: Bugs Bunny / Daffy Duck
Favorite Music: 70's rock
Favorite Book: *What to Say When You Talk to Yourself*
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Car: Olds Cutlass Supreme
Pet Peeve: Negative, unappreciative people
Best Thing About Westover: People
Worst Thing About Westover: Temperature in barracks



SSgt. Daniel Dubois

PAT on the back

Reenlistments

MSgt. Raymond E. Bourgault
 MSgt. Ralph A. Bowen Jr.
 MSgt. James V. DiVita
 MSgt. Richard K. Hayes
 MSgt. Edward T. Kolodjay
 MSgt. David A. Perrault
 MSgt. Arthur J. Pollier
 TSgt. Joseph A. Bitel Jr.
 TSgt. George J. Collins Jr.
 TSgt. Raymond B. Fleury
 TSgt. Kevin Heath
 TSgt. Richard Hirschler
 TSgt. Steven F. Leib
 TSgt. David J. Letasz
 TSgt. Charles A. Lexius
 TSgt. Calvin A. Mellor
 TSgt. George J. Nalesnik
 TSgt. Craig A. Richard
 TSgt. Thomas J. Roe III
 TSgt. Rodolfo Sandoval Jr.
 TSgt. Jeffrey B. Sherwin
 SSgt. Wayne P. Begnoche
 SSgt. Timothy Boyer
 SSgt. Frank A. Domenichella III
 SSgt. Richmond E. Farr
 SSgt. Jeffrey S. Hyndman
 SSgt. John A. Masaitis
 SSgt. Kenneth R. Massey
 SSgt. Michael S. McDonough
 SSgt. Peter M. Merceri

SSgt. John C. Morton
 SSgt. Eric B. Plouffe
 SSgt. Robert W. Smith
 SSgt. Cordero Geovanny Troche
 SSgt. Mirinda M. Wheeler
 Sgt. Paul A. Bibeault
 SrA. Mark D. Howell

Enlistments

SSgt. Roy H. Carlson
 SSgt. Robert R. Niquette
 SSgt. Michael J. Patenaude
 SSgt. Daniel S. Strauser
 SSgt. Gregory K. Swanson
 SSgt. Mark A. Thompson
 Sgt. Tracie A. Alfano
 SrA. Jeff R. Mazzetta
 A1C Mark R. Bernier
 A1C Suzanne M. Burdulis
 A1C Mark J. Davis
 A1C Nicole J. Girard
 A1C John P. Jones Jr.
 A1C Evol T. Stewart
 Amn. David C. Pierrepont III
 Amn. Thomas E. Pitts Jr.
 AB Jon E. Dyer
 AB Danielle M. Raymond
 AB George Romvos
 AB Robert A. Toloso
 AB Michael Zina

Commanders make colonel (from page 6)

"My greatest mission during my 28 years of military service was as the ALCE commander in the desert," he said. It was short and sweet, and busy as hell. I really enjoyed the fact that the reserve, guard and active duty all worked together over there."

When the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard selected 10 bases to pilot the ALCE program in 1980, Colonel McMillan was part of the initial Westover team. "I was the first ALCE commander and we were the first ALCE team certified in AFRES," he said. "Giving up the commander's position hits deeply."

Colonel Gallin, who pins on silver eagles Aug. 1, has served as commander of the 337th Military Airlift Squadron for almost four years. "It's been interesting, especially the last 10 months," he said, "but I think it's time to move on."

"I think I've worked my agenda and I'm looking forward to new challenges. A new commander will bring fresh ideas and new insight to the position."

Colonel Gallin completed the ROTC program at St. Michael's College in Vermont and graduated in 1966 with a bachelor of arts degree in business administration. He earned his master's degree from Western New England College in 1977.

The colonel flew AC-47 gunships in Southeast Asia during the sixties and was eventually stationed at Westover to fly B-52s on active duty until 1973 when he joined the Reserve. Colonel Gallin flew C-123s with the 731st TAS and C-130s with the 337th TAS at Westover and assumed command of the 337th MAS in 1987 when it became a C-5 squadron.

Citizen-airman becomes airman citizen

AIC Alexander Walczyk has had many memorable moments in the last six months. The 24-year-old Westover reservist was activated and deployed to the Persian Gulf. Returning after months of desert duty to a hero's welcome was one of the proudest moments of his life -- until May 24.

As he stood in Hampden County Superior Court in his blue service dress uniform with his right hand raised, an eight-year-old dream came true.

As Airman Walczyk promised to "support and defend the Constitution and America against all enemies, foreign and domestic," he finally became a U.S. citizen.

Ironically, the airman had spent the past four months doing just that.

Airman Walczyk and five other cooks from the 439th CES deployed to the Middle East Jan. 11 where they fed hundreds of troops fighting the Iraqi forces to free Kuwait. They returned home April 12.

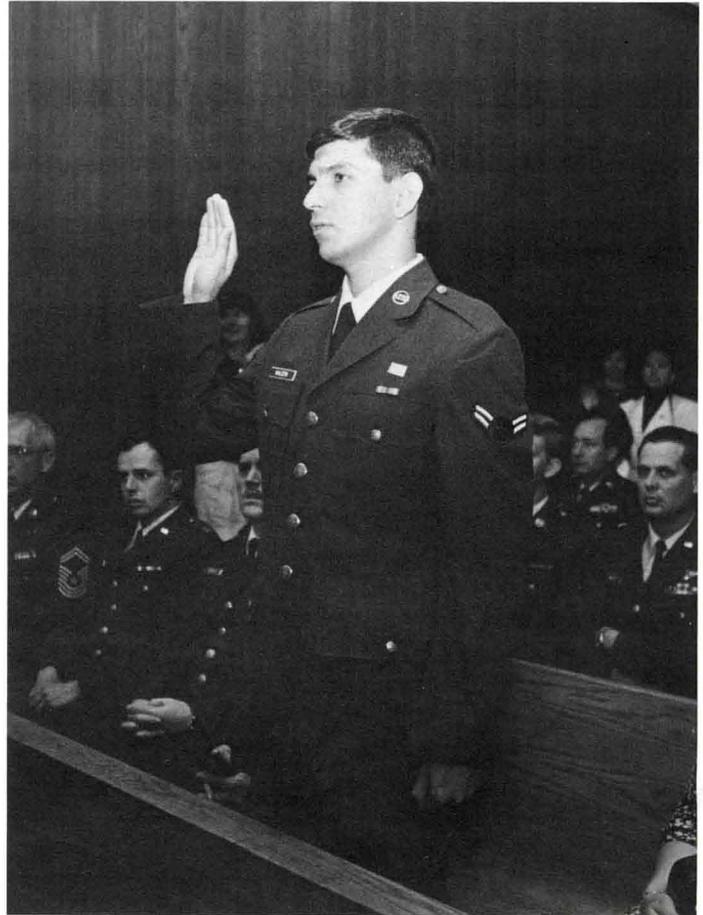
"This is very special for me," he said. "I am more than happy. I was waiting eight years for this."

Airman Walczyk was 14 when his family fled their hometown of Krakow, Poland for Austria. His father, a steel worker, was active in Solidarity and the family feared for their safety -- and rightly so. One week after they left Poland, martial law was declared and many in the movement were imprisoned.

"My father would probably have been jailed," said the airman. "Many people died. The government wanted to get rid of adversaries."

After two years in Austria, the family received political asylum. They chose to settle in the United States. "It was a natural choice to come here. The freedom is the number one reason," Airman Walczyk explained.

As he took his oath of citizenship, Airman Walczyk was surrounded by his parents, Emil and Maria Walczyk and his sister Regina. Making the ceremony even more special was the presence of 25 fellow Westover reservists, all in blue dress uniforms. The civil engineers from the 439th CES came out to support the airman after word spread that he was about to become a citizen.



(photo by SSgt. Christine Mora)

TRUE BLUE -- AIC Alexander Walczyk, 439th CES cook, recites the oath for U.S. citizenship at the Hampden County Superior Court on May 24. He is surrounded by fellow 439th CES reservists who came to cheer his new status.

PATRIOT

Coming in August: Philippine humanitarian airlift



Published monthly for Patriots like SrA Georgiana DeLarm of Waltham, Mass. and 2,300 members of the 439th MAW at Westover AFB.

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