

PATRIOT

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Demobilization of activated reservists begins in July

by Maj. Rick Dyer

July 15 will mark the beginning of the end for Westover reservists who were activated for Operation Desert Storm.

The demobilization of activated personnel will begin on that date, according to a message which base officials received April 19 from Gen. H.T. Johnson, commander of the Military Airlift Command.

"I will reduce our strategic airlift on a first-called, first-released basis, while striving to meet anticipated world-wide airlift requirements and the legal mandates for partial mobilization," General Johnson said in the message.

Westover will start the deactivations July 15, and many of the Patriot Wing's 1,550 activated reservists will be released from duty over the following two weeks.

Some unit members will remain on active duty longer, due to hardships or mission requirements.

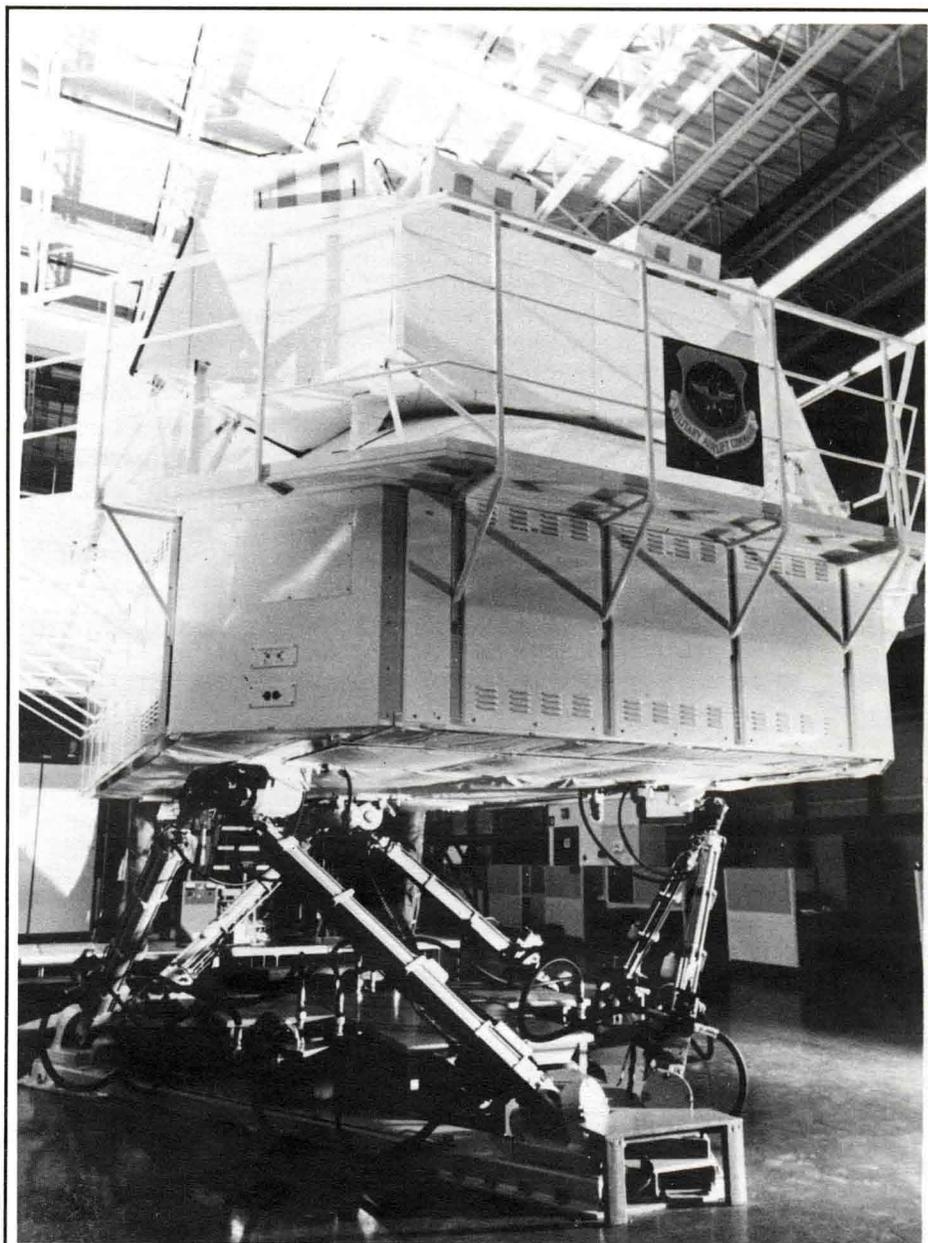
The base CBPO, led by Capt. Denny Jobes, is currently preparing to deal with the massive workload required to discharge the unit members.

"Now we have a date which our people can look to and start planning for their return to civilian life," said Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander. "But we've got a lot of work to do--with the ongoing airlift operations and the welcome celebrations at Westover--between now and then."

General Johnson said in his message that ongoing strategic airlift requirements will "continue to stress our remaining active and reserve force capability."

"With this in mind," the MAC commander added, "the unit commanders will be encouraged to retain on active duty...personnel who make themselves available, up to the statutory limits of partial mobilization."

(Continued on page 8)



COMING ATTRACTION-- Construction began April 15 at Westover on the \$20 million C-5 weapons system trainer project. The state-of-the-art, computerized simulator will provide realistic training for Westover's C-5 Galaxy aircrews. (Story on page 3.)

COMMENTARY

History in the desert sands

Since the beginning of Desert Shield last August you have traveled over great distances, through miles of desert, to places that we never knew existed, with names we can't even pronounce.

Tomorrow some of you will begin the most important trip of all; you'll be going home. The rest of you will soon follow.

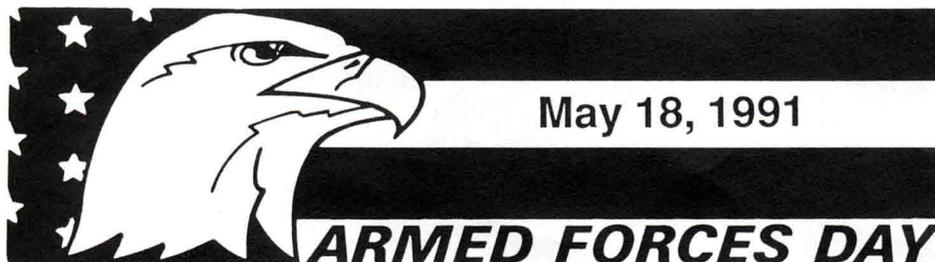
I did not want a single one of you to leave before I had the opportunity to tell you how immensely proud I am of each and every soldier, sailor, airman, Marine, coastguardsman and civilian in this command. I asked you to be the thunder and lightning of Desert Storm. You were all of that and more.

Through your courageous acts, your dedicated service, your determination and your love of country, you have written history in the desert sands that can never be blown away by the winds of time. You take back with you to the United States not only the respect of your countrymen, but the respect of millions upon millions of citizens of the Middle East. You have demonstrated the best qualities of Americans through your respect for other religions, other cultures, other races and other nationalities. While you served here, you learned rather than criticized and by learning you'll take back to your homes knowledge little known about cultures that are thousands of years old. More importantly, you have left among those thousand-year-old cultures knowledge of what it means to deal with Americans.

Your country is proud of you, the world is proud of you and I am proud of you. God bless you and God speed on your return to your homes and families. Thank you for the great honor and privilege you have given me by accepting me as your commander in chief of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf Jr.
Commander in Chief
U.S. Central Command

(General Schwarzkopf sent this message to his troops in April just prior to the start of the redeployment from Operation Desert Storm)



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Briefs

Bases closed

Several New England military facilities were on the list of bases proposed for closure April 12 by Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney. Fort Devens in Ayer, Mass., and Loring Air Force Base, located near Limestone, Maine, were among the installations which will be closed if the DOD proposal is adopted by the President and Congress.

Flightline parking

Base safety officials have issued a "parking reminder" to all personnel who operate motor vehicles on Westover's flightline area. Vehicles being parked near aircraft on the flightline must be parked only in the designated, white-lined boxes. Vehicles should be parked so they can depart the designated areas by driving straight ahead. Parking lights should be left on "flashing" when parked on the flightline during hours of darkness.

Reservists' rights

Members of the Guard and Reserve who were called to active duty for Operation Desert Storm have the right to return to their civilian jobs when they are released from active duty. The Veterans Reemployment Rights Act provides reemployment protection for reservists and guardsmen who are recalled to active duty.

For further information, contact Mr. Stanley Zucker, ESGR chairman, at (413) 786-3994.

Chart toppers

What songs did American troops serving in the desert listen to most? Here's a list of the most requested songs played by the desert deejays of the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service during Operation Desert Storm: 1) "Wind Beneath My Wings" by Bette Midler; 2) "Take This Job and Shove It" by Johnny Paycheck; 3) "God Bless the USA" by Lee Greenwood; 4) "You Can't Touch This" by M.C. Hammer; 5) "Ice Ice Baby" by Vanilla Ice; 6) "Another One Bites the Dust" by Queen; 7) "Friends in Low Places" by Garth Brooks.

Simulator to reduce TDY training time

Construction underway on \$20 million C-5 simulator

by Maj. Rick Dyer

Construction began April 15 on Westover's long-awaited, \$20 million C-5 simulator project.

Workers from D.A. Sullivan & Sons, a Northampton construction firm, began removing part of the floor in the Base Hangar where the state-of-the-art weapon system trainer, and the complex which will house it, are to be located.

The computerized simulator will be ready for operation in September of 1992, according to Carl J. Smith of the Flight-Safety Services Corporation.

FlightSafety Services signed a contract with the Air Force last August for the design, construction and operation of the simulator at Westover.

Described as the "most advanced training environment for...crewmembers operating the C-5 aircraft," the weapon system trainer will be manufactured by CAE Electronics, Ltd. of Canada.

According to Mr. Smith, the simulator will be built on six hydraulic legs which replicate the movements of an airborne C-5 Galaxy. The trainer's computer-generated imagery and sound systems add to the realism by simulating the sights and sounds which an aircrew would experience during an actual flight.

"Having the simulator here is going to give us a lot of enhanced training opportunities that we wouldn't ordinarily have available to us," said Maj. Michael Kohut, a pilot with the 337th MAS who has flown 1,200 hours in the Galaxy. "We are eager to have it on line."

Mr. Smith, a retired Air Force C-5 pilot, said that the simulator's computer has 15 "C-5 specific data bases" which

enable pilots and flight engineers to practice a wide variety of maneuvers and situations without ever leaving the ground.

"You can set up particular problems for the aircrews in the weapon system trainer that you couldn't do in the aircraft," he said. "For example, you wouldn't shut down an engine in the air to practice a three-engine approach, but we can realistically simulate that (emergency) in the simulator."

The imagery system projects highly realistic video taped images onto the windshield of the simulator's "cockpit." Pilots practicing approaches, air-to-air-refueling, or emergency scenarios feel like they are in the air, Mr. Smith said.

Many of the maneuvers which Westover aircrews have practiced in the air on local training missions will be performed in the simulator. "It saves time, money and fuel," Mr. Smith said.

"Training will no longer have to be canceled if an aircraft is grounded due to a maintenance problem," he added.

Westover will join three other sites--Altus AFB, Oklahoma, Dover AFB, Delaware and Travis AFB, California--which have the C-5 simulators.

Since converting from C-130 aircraft to an inventory of the huge Galaxies in 1986, Westover flightcrew members have been traveling to Dover to fulfill their simulator training requirements.

"This will cut down considerably on the TDY time our pilots and flight engineers have had to spend traveling to and from Dover for training," said Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander.

"We've been awaiting the simulator for a long time, and I'm delighted to see the project underway," General Walker added.

337th MAS flying Kurdish humanitarian airlift missions

by Maj. Rick Dyer

Aircrews from Westover's 337th MAS have been flying humanitarian airlift missions to Turkey this month, hauling food and supplies for Kurdish refugees fleeing there from Iraq.

Approximately 800,000 of Iraq's four million Kurds have fled to Turkey and its border, and nearly 1.5 million others have sought safety in and near Iran, the Associated Press reported April 18. The massive exodus of Iraqi Kurds began several weeks ago after troops loyal to Saddam Hussein quashed a rebellion by Kurdish tribesmen.

Most of the Westover C-5 crews currently flying overseas are involved with the relief efforts which U.S. officials have dubbed Operation Provide Comfort.

Four 337th aircrews went into Turkey on April 16, and six others flew "Provide Comfort" missions on April 18.

The Westover crew members are hauling the humanitarian supplies in Galaxies which fly from bases in Europe to Incirlik, Turkey. Supply helicopters and C-130 aircraft from the U.S., France and Great Britain then deliver the food and other relief provisions to refugee camps along the Turkish border.

President Bush has sent U.S. forces to protect the refugees and has warned Iraq to cease reprisals against the Kurds.

On April 13, troops from Fort Devens in Ayre, Mass., were airlifted from Westover to Europe in support of Operation Provide Comfort.

The 337th's involvement in the humanitarian airlift came as no surprise to officials at Westover. They have expected that their Galaxies--which played a major role in the Desert Storm airlifts to and from the Persian Gulf--would be called upon to fly in the relief effort supporting Operation Provide Comfort.

Fliers fight flight-related fatigue



40 WINKS -- A 337th MAS loadmaster curls up on the flight deck bench seat to catch a nap during a downrange mission to Saudi Arabia.

Article and photo by TSgt. Tom Allocco

Aircrew members, because of the nature of their job, break the rules of good health and it shows. Fatigue can be seen in their slow gait and slumping shoulders at the end of a mission.

The toll taken by long hours, disrupted sleep, and fast food meals at odd hours inevitably wears down physical and mental alertness. The problems of fatigue were compounded by longer hours and increased numbers of missions during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Flight surgeons Dr. (Maj.) Andrew Monteiro and Dr. (Capt.) Frederick LaRochelle of the 439th USAF Clinic help aircrews deal with fatigue. How successful the doctors are will affect individual well-being, safety and success of the mission.

"The amount of sleep you need depends to a large extent on your metabolism. Some people may be able to do fine on only four hours of sleep. Others need up to nine hours," Dr. Monteiro said.

In either case, sleep is more complex than most people realize. While asleep, your body goes through a number of levels of rest. The deepest level is called REM sleep, because it

is marked by rapid eye movement. REM sleep lasts only a few minutes during cycles of about 40 minutes, but is vital to proper rest.

"If you don't go through the REM cycle, you don't feel refreshed. You need four or five REM cycles to be properly rested," said Dr. Monteiro.

"Your body's hormonal rhythms fall into a cycle. It takes up to seven days to establish a new schedule and if you sleep while your body is on the old schedule, you won't feel quite right," said Dr. LaRochelle. "Often there is not enough time between missions to get back to a normal schedule," he said.

In other words, you need to shut your body down for periods of unbroken sleep during approximately the same period every 24 hours. Unfortunately, aircrews are forced to "cheat" by snatching a few hours sleep at intervals.

"An aircrew may 'burn through a window' (have a mission cancelled because of the ceiling on duty hours). They may not feel like sleeping before the start of the next long mission, so they will already be tired at the beginning of the mission," Dr. Monteiro said.

Some people may be able to push themselves and ignore the symptoms for long periods of time, but fatigue is a bill that always comes due. Short tempers and carelessness are the early signs. Without proper rest over a longer period, energy loss, susceptibility to illness and health impairment can result.

"The MAC Surgeon General is concerned with the fatigue problem Air Force-wide. Unfortunately, it's not avoidable, because missions are long," Dr. Monteiro said.

The aircraft commander can ask for up to an additional 12 hours of crew rest, extending it to 24 hours, for safety of flight.

"Efforts are made to give aircrew members ground time with their families. If necessary due to fatigue, aircrew members can be grounded until they are well-rested," Dr. Monteiro said.

Following a few common sense rules can help avoid excessive fatigue. "I stress the importance of looking for a well-balanced meal," Dr. Monteiro said. Unfortunately, it's often easier to find fast food that is heavy on fat and sugar. Flight lunches and MREs are nutritionally sound, but intentionally loaded with calories.

"There's a tendency to gain weight on missions; people are now asking how to lose weight," Dr. LaRochelle said.

"It's hard to stay physically fit on a mission, but I urge aircrew members to do something, if only calisthenics in the room," Dr. Monteiro said. A walk or visit to the gym burns calories, fights stress and improves sleep."

The flight surgeons also advise no more than moderate use of alcohol and coffee.

"Dry air in the aircraft causes dehydration, but drinking beer and coffee is not the way to replace lost liquids. Instead, they act as diuretics, increasing fluid loss by about 25 percent," Dr. Monteiro said.

In coping with the problem of fatigue there are also the intangibles, such as morale and unit pride, the flight surgeons said.

"The crews I've seen show a lot of camaraderie. They hang together as a unit and that helps to overcome problems. It helps explain why there are relatively few aircrew members grounded at Westover," Dr. LaRochelle said.

Chief Fusco relishes role as Westover's "Hotdog One"



SMOKE SIGNALS-- When the first homecoming soldiers were welcomed at Westover, Chief Fusco flipped hot dogs and burgers on night and day shifts.

by Maj. Rick Dyer

CMSgt. Charlie Fusco has held a lot of job titles during his 38-year Air Force career, but the one he relishes most is "Hot Dog One."

When Westover began to prepare for the return of Desert Storm troops, the 58-year-old senior enlisted advisor was asked to plan the menu for the homecoming celebration.

He had been to Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf countries during the war to meet with wing personnel there. At every stop, he asked the troops what kinds of food and beverage they missed most.

"Practically everybody told me that they wanted a cold beer and a good old-fashioned American cookout," the burly chief said.

So when the first Desert Storm veterans walked into Westover's Base Hangar March 4, Chief Fusco was working feverishly over a propane grill, cooking hot dogs and hamburgers for the returning heroes.

His skill as a barbecue chef--and in procuring the donation of thousands of pounds of burgers and franks and countless gallons of beer--quickly earned him the moniker "Hot Dog One."

Chief Fusco views the homecoming celebration as his best, and probably last, military party. He plans on retiring from the Air Force Reserve in June of 1992.

"Parties like this are my legacy to Westover," joked the Boston-born chief,

who is known for his energetic enthusiasm and hands-on style of leadership.

Chief Fusco, who has frequently worked dawn to midnight days and six-day work weeks since being activated in December, is a fixture in the Base Hangar where more than 24,000 Desert Storm personnel have been welcomed back to America.

"It puts a lump in my throat no matter how many times I see it," he said, referring to the rousing welcome which the Gulf veterans receive when they land at Westover. "There is tremendous love and affection in that hangar."

Chief Fusco knows a thing or two about homecomings. He served in post-war Germany during the early 1950s, and, as a flying crewchief and flight engineer, has crisscrossed the globe in military cargo planes that range from the C-47 Gooney Bird to the C-5 Galaxy.

On one C-124 mission to Lajes in the Azores, the chief's aircraft nearly ran out of fuel as it flew over the ocean. "We only had 20 minutes of reserve fuel left and we thought we were going to be swimming," he said. "That's why I've got gray hair."

Unlike most reservists at Westover, for whom activation was a new experience, Chief Fusco has been mobilized three times. His reserve unit was activated for both the Berlin Crisis and the Cuban Missile Crisis in the early 1960s.

During the Vietnam War, he flew 14 missions to Southeast Asia as an Air Reserve Technician flight engineer aboard C-124 cargo planes.

Chief Fusco, who was a sevice station owner and undertaker's apprentice before becoming an ART, was appointed the wing's senior enlisted advisor in 1990. He had previously served in top NCO posts with several of the unit's maintenance squadrons.

He said that the 1550 reservists who were activated here for Operation Desert Storm "rose to the occasion" when they were mobilized.

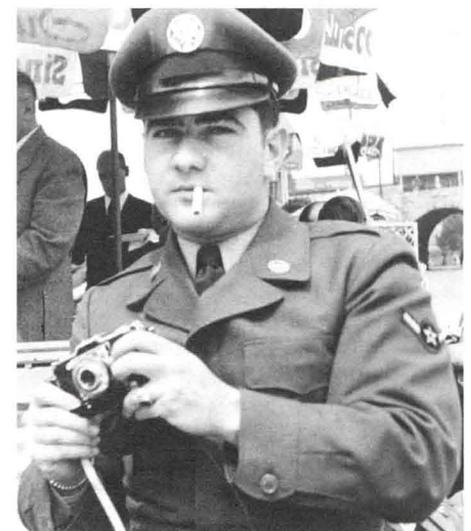
Westover leaders credit Chief Fusco with playing a key role in keeping morale high throughout the activation. "He really cares about the troops and it clearly shows," said Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander.

"He's definitely a people person," said Col. Joseph Curley, deputy commander for medical resources. "There were many times when he worked 20-hour days in that hangar."

When the senior enlisted advisor hangs up the blue suit next year, he said that he hopes to spend more time on his boat. He also is considering raising horses.

But after nearly four decades of flightlines and some memorable military parties, he admits that he's going to miss Westover.

"The people have meant everything to me," said "Hot Dog One." "I'd do it all over again in a heartbeat."



ONE-STRIPER-- Charlie Fusco in the 50's.

Volunteers give spirit to welcome home celebrations

by Sgt. Christine Mora

Westover's homecoming celebrations have done more than welcome returning troops. They've fostered pride and healed wounds that have been around for decades.

Since early March, when Westover began the "red carpet" treatment that has greeted thousands of troops returning from the Persian Gulf, hundreds of volunteers have

donated their time and spirit.

Operation PATRIOT HOME and the Red Cross have amassed scores of volunteers who man the Base Hangar 24 hours a day. They answer phones to offer flight information, staff the many food and beverage booths, hand out badges and ribbons, and perform many other duties that range from sweeping latrines to pouring beer.

Many are so dedicated that they haven't missed a night, gaining them

membership into the "Every-Nighters Club."

And in return what have they gained? Fulfillment, a place in history and a new chance at life, according to several who have rallied at the hangar for their "Westover Fix."

Put simply by Joshua Duncan, a Red Cross volunteer, "We show all of our troops that we're damn proud."

Homecoming gives pride back to war veteran

by Sgt. Christine Mora

For Joshua Duncan, being a part of the "wonderful experience" at the Westover's Base Hangar has given him something very important. "It's given me my life back," he said.

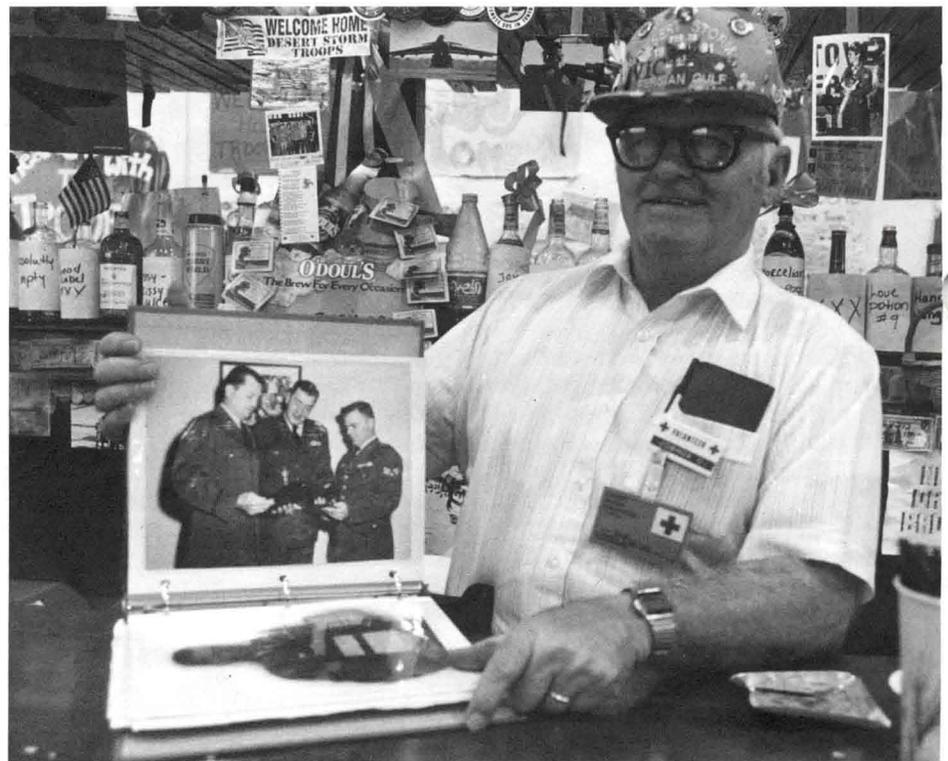
The 20-year veteran served in the Marine Corps, Army and Air Force during two wars and the conflicts in between. He experienced the bitterness of the Vietnam era and was thrown into 20 more years of depression, psychiatric treatment and heavy medication.

But, after five weeks of welcoming the troops, he was almost medication-free for the first time in 20 years. "I feel like I'm finally being welcomed home too," Mr. Duncan explained. He said when troops walk down that red carpet, his chest swells with pride and he just has to hug as many as he can. "To actually embrace the troops brings the reality home to me," the veteran added, a smile spreading across his face.

"I don't care if you were overseas, or performing your duty in the States, everyone in uniform is a hero and I'm proud of them," he said.

The Springfield resident said that the condemnation and ignorance showered on returning Vietnam veterans created the deep bitterness he's felt for 20 years.

When President Bush kicked off Operation Desert Shield in August, Mr. Duncan expressed wariness. "I gained



(photo by Sgt. Christine Mora)

MILITARY MEMORIES -- Joshua Duncan, a Red Cross volunteer, displays a scrapbook of photos and memorabilia that traces his 20-year military career. Mr. Duncan served as an infantryman, a drill instructor, an intelligence NCO and warrant officer in a tour of military duty which included the Korean War, Cuban Missile Crisis (stationed at Westover) and the Vietnam War.

some encouragement when the President said he would let the military run the war," he said. When the war started on January 16, "I felt a great rush of hope that this wasn't going to be another Vietnam."

After following the battle intently, Mr. Duncan joined the nation's relief and pride when the successful ground

offensive ended the hostilities. When Westover began its welcome, he and his wife, Marian, were among the first to volunteer with the Red Cross.

"Coming to Westover and taking part in this wonderful tribute is a tonic I'll have with me for the rest of my life," said the veteran. "We did it-- America got its pride back."

Westover's liveliest cheerleader sparks crowds

by Sgt. Christine Mora

Twirling her pompon high over her head, Judy Bellerose is Westover's most visible cheerleader.

Her lively spirit sparks the crowds who line the red carpet in Westover's Base Hangar. She is one of the first greeters to shower returning Desert Storm veterans with giant bear hugs and her engaging smile and comforting shoulder have offered support to many weary troops.

Mrs. Bellerose has been welcoming troops back at Westover since the very beginning, she said. "MSgt. George Gadbois, (then NCOIC of the hangar) invited me onto the carpet that first night, and I've been there ever since," she said proudly. The Chicopee resident volunteered through the Desert Shield Support Center after spending 16 hours here her first night. She hasn't missed a day since.

"I get so much fulfillment donating my time," she explained. "I've never seen so much love and goodness in one place."

Mrs. Bellerose has collected many letters, birth announcements and wedding invitations during her tenure at the hangar.

She arrives here in the morning and actually plans most her day around the daily flight schedule. She brings her grandson here in the afternoon, goes home to fix dinner for her family, teaches a ceramics class and then returns to the hangar at around 9:30 every night. She usually stays until one or two in the morning and then returns bright and early a few hours later. In between her trips to Westover she also



(photo by Sgt. Christine Mora)

RALLYING CROWDS -- Judy Bellerose, a distinguished member of Westover's All-Nighters Club, waves her famous pompons as she fires up the crowds before a troop homecoming in the Base Hangar.

runs her own ceramics business.

Mrs. Bellerose has rounded up donations from her students by matching their gifts dollar to dollar. They also make ceramic heart pins with yellow ribbons that she wears and pins on the returning troops. "Every night I give my heart to a soldier," she said.

How and why does this lady stay so busy? "My family is used to me jumping

into a project with full force, and I can't think of a more worthwhile project," said Mrs. Bellerose.

Her family has been incredibly supportive, she added. In fact, her husband presented her with her red, white and blue pompons shortly after Easter saying, "If you're going to be the biggest cheerleader at Westover, you should do it right."

Playing matchmaker is their favorite part of the job

by Sgt. Christine Mora

Helping reunite those separated by war was an added bonus Ronah Baillargeon and Linda Mairani never expected.

"It's exciting to be part of history," said Mrs. Baillargeon. "The welcome here is so different from the Vietnam era, it's almost like a payback for a past mistake."

Ms. Mariani explained how grateful she is to be a part of the wonderful experience at the Base Hangar. "It's a great feeling to do my small part and help somehow," she said. "The people are so enthusiastic."

The women are two of the many volunteers working

through the Operation PATRIOT HOME program. They answer the HOME line giving flight schedules and offering other information. When people call to ask about specific returnees, the volunteers often act as matchmakers.

"We do a lot of tracking so we can match troops with relatives or friends," said Ms. Mariani. "It's such a good feeling to see the tears and smiles of a successful reunion."

If they can't find the information on paper, they investigate on their own and also coordinate the troops with base services, according to Mrs. Baillargeon.

"It's a minor part of the whole celebration but it feels great," she said. "This has really brought the country back together."

Police unit heads for home

by Maj. Rick Dyer

Twenty-six members of the 639th Security Police Flight traded their camouflage BDUs for "civvies" on April 5 when they were released from active duty.

The 43-member unit was mobilized for Desert Storm service Jan. 24. The 639th law enforcement personnel served at Westover, providing security along the flightline and throughout the base.

With the end of the hostilities and lowering of the threat level here, the decision was made to deactivate the unit.

Although 26 unit members left active duty, 17 others have volunteered to remain on active duty at Westover a while longer. They will augment the security operations of the 439th Security Police Flight and the base's civilian Department of Defense police.

Approximately 1,550 439th MAW reservists were mobilized for active duty during call-ups in August, December, January and March.

It is expected that many of them will remain of active duty for some months longer, as Westover aircrews continue to fly missions to and from the Persian Gulf, and as the base continues to welcome thousands of Desert Storm troops who are landing here around the clock.

"This has been the type of experience that you couldn't get two days a month (at UTAs)", said 2nd Lt. Tomothy Donnelly, commander of the 639th SPF. "I told my people at commander's call that we have learned a lot and that we'll definitely be ready if we're ever needed again."

Lieutenant Donnelly, who assumed command of the unit just last August, will return to his civilian job as a Massachusetts State Police trooper with the Peabody, Mass. barracks.

In addition to the security police personnel, 27 selected members of the 74th AES have already been released from active duty.

In January and February, 115 members of the 74th AES--nurses, medical technicians, radio operators and officers--were called to active duty. In early February, they deployed to staging areas in Germany, Turkey and the Persian Gulf.

Of the 88 members of the 74th remaining on active duty, 31 are still serving in the Gulf, and 57 are at Westover.

Capt. David Zamorski, 74th operations officer, said that other squadron members are expected to be demobilized in the near future.

July 15 set for demobilization

(continued from page 1)

General Johnson said that Air Force Reserve C-141 units which were not activated for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm will be encouraged to volunteer to fly missions in the ongoing airlift. The MAC boss also indicated that he planned to task available Reserve cargo aircrews for missions "above that needed for their training requirements."

Approximately 200 members of Westover's 337th MAS have been on active duty since last August, shortly after Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait. The other 439th reservists were activated during call-ups here in December, January and March.

During the crisis and war in the Gulf, 337th aircrews flew hundreds of missions to the Persian Gulf. The 74th AES sent its nurses, medical technicians and radio operators to Germany, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, and the 439th CES deployed six PRIME RIBS cooks to the war zone.

The other activated 439th reservists remained at Westover--the northeast stage facility for Desert Shield and Desert Storm--supporting the largest military airlift operation in history.

More than 32,000 passengers and 80,000 tons of cargo were flown from Westover to the Persian Gulf since last August. Since the U.S. victory over Iraq and subsequent cease-fire in March, nearly 24,000 returning Persian Gulf veterans have been welcomed in the Base Hangar.

Despite the demobilization notice, Westover's work load remains heavy. Even as the MAC message was being reviewed here, ten 337th aircrews were flying relief supplies for Kurdish refugees in Turkey, and base personnel here were greeting planeloads of returning Desert Storm troops.

"Our Reserve and Guard crews have proven they are a tough, dedicated and professional airlift force--national assets who have earned this nation's highest respect and gratitude," General Johnson said.



(photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

FAVORITE SON-- Brig. Gen. Mike Walker and his wife Carol walk down Westover's red welcome carpet with their homecoming son, 1st Lt. Jeff who is a C-130 navigator with the 927th TAG at Selfridge AFB, Mich.

Vietnam veterans on both sides of welcome

By TSgt. Sandi Michon

The two men stood erect, berets tipped slightly, time-worn camouflage dress in tatters, yet they gazed with pride at the approaching troops.

One Vietnamese U.S. Marine came down the carpet amid the thunderous applause and stopped in front of one of the men. "Thank you for what you tried to do," he said and gave him a big hug.

Paul Robbins struggled to maintain his composure, a flood of emotions held back for 20 years was breaking through, and a healing had begun.

Paul Robbins represents hundreds of veterans whose lives have been changed through the Gulf War and subsequent homecomings. Some have struggled since the Vietnam War, others have not, and some are still in the service, having finished service in a second war.

One thing is sure - no veteran attending a troop welcome celebration at the Base Hangar remains unaffected. Some avoid coming, but once they do, the experience is habit-forming.

"It's one great feeling," said Bob Duffy, Sr. of Springfield, Mass. Mr. Duffy served in Long Binh, Vietnam from 1969-71 and he participates in the homecoming celebrations six nights a week, at least until midnight. "It's been a long time since America could show this type of emotion to the military, and it has changed a lot of lives," he said. Mr. Duffy said that after the war, he accepted that he did the best job he could, and went on with his life, but conceded that this type of welcome really reverses the post-Vietnam stance in America.

Mr. Duffy has a secondary reason for spending so much time at the Base Hangar. He hopes one day to greet his son who is an Apache helicopter pilot still stationed in the Gulf.

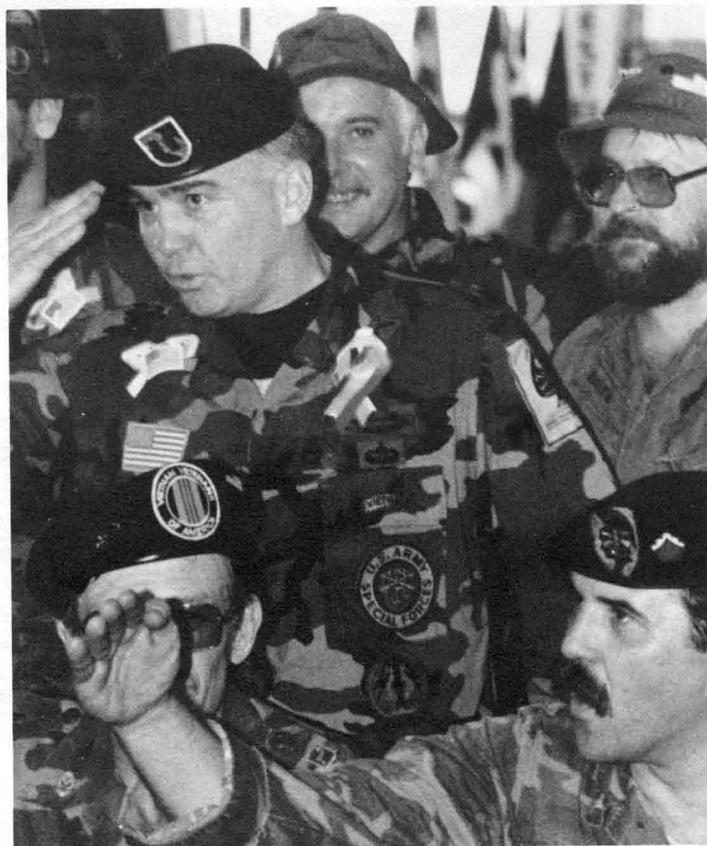
Many veterans have been touched by their visits to the Base Hangar and encourage others to share the blessing. Jim Arcott of Chicopee spends several hours a week at Westover and brings fellow veterans to experience their own personal belated welcome.

Mr. Arcott, who says he represents all veterans, wants to help assure that all the troops come home with dignity. "It doesn't matter what time period we served, or what service - we're all Americans - that's what matters," he said.

He admitted to feeling some animosity the first couple of times he came to greet the troops, but soon the positive engulfed the negative. "I thought we were overdoing it, but then I realized that was better than doing less than we should," he explained. In terms of his own inner healing, he said, "It doesn't heal completely, but it's a big help."

Many Vietnam veterans come to the base hangar wearing uniform pieces and pins and insignia that have been buried in closets, drawers and cellars for years. Now they are worn proudly. As Paul Robbins examined his Vietnam insignia, it was clear that pride was a new emotion, and a healthy one.

"I haven't spoken of the war in 20 years," he said softly, "not to my wife, not to anyone." He said he had tried veterans groups, but almost nothing else had made an impact like his experiences at the base hangar. He explained that his relationship with God had carried him through the past 20 years. "Next to God, nothing has helped my like this."



(Photo by Col. Whitey Joslin)

WELCOME SALUTE-- Jim Curry (center) and Jim Arcott (lower right) are among the Vietnam veterans welcoming the troops at the Base Hangar.

In recalling the Vietnamese U.S. Marine he joked, "he damn near cracked my ribs." He then quickly sobered and said, "It hit me like a ton of bricks; it's still sinking in."

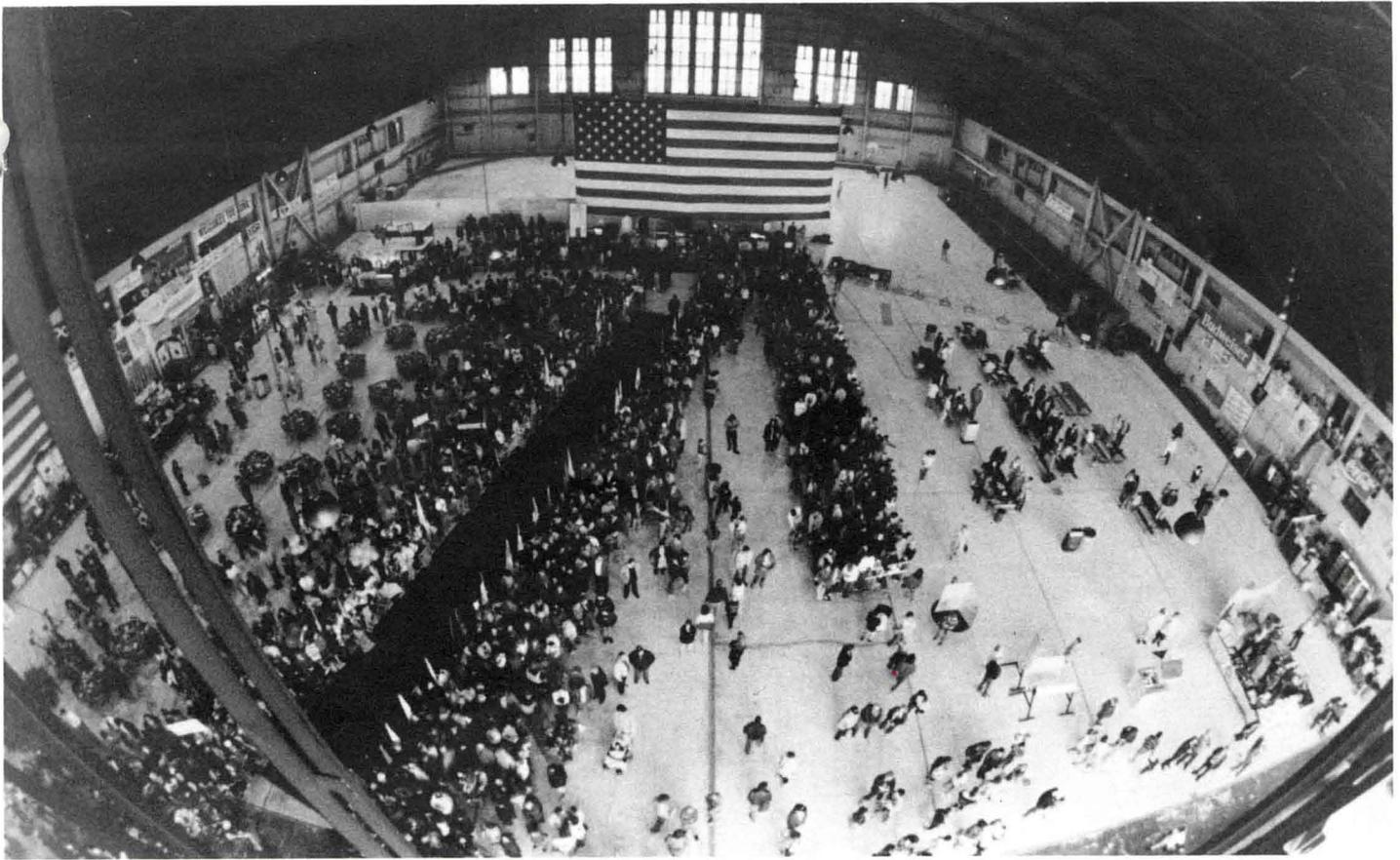
Paul Robbins and Jim Arcott were especially pleased to be invited to be official welcomers on the red carpet. "I feel like I'm being welcomed with the troops here and that I'm helping," said Mr. Robbins. Jim Arcott says he can spot prior vets coming down the carpet and they invariably come directly to them to shake their hands. "One returning lieutenant colonel, also a Vietnam veteran, broke down crying on my shoulder a couple of hours ago," Jim related.

One Vietnam vet that is a frequent welcomer at the Hangar said that since he's been coming to the homecoming celebrations, he is virtually off all the anti-depressant drugs he has been taking for years.

Most agreed that as they reached out to others they were reaching inside as well. Many expressed thanks to General Walker for the opportunity to be a part of the homecoming.

Some are very philosophical about their Vietnam experience and accept it as any other aspect of life...yet when the song begins and the troops roll in, conversation stops and a distant expression on their face suggests pride in the present and a quick mental trip to the past.

Welcome home one and all.



(photo by Maj. Pete Gray)

BIRD'S EYE VIEW--The broad scope of welcome activities in the Base Hangar is captured from the hangar's cat walk

during a busy day in March. As the photo suggests, people are drawn to the hangar like ants to a picnic.

Westover "fan club" welcomes troops around the clock

By Maj. Rick Dyer

An Air Force Base with a fan club?

It hasn't risen to that level--yet--but Westover's now-famous homecoming celebrations have earned the base a following that most soap opera producers would envy.

The around-the-clock arrival of returning Desert Storm troops--more than 18,000 have been greeted here as of April 16--has attracted thousands of visitors to the base.

Caught up in the euphoria of America's victory over Iraq, and longing to reach out and touch the men and women who won it, throngs of spectators from throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut have flocked to the Base Hangar.

They cheer and hug the returning troops (many of them still dusty from the desert) as they file down the red carpet in the Base Hangar to the strains of "I'm Proud to Be an American" and "Born in the U.S.A." Many of the visitors come frequently.

"I've been here 50 times," said Dave Rafferty of Granby, Mass. He said that he

comes to honor his deceased father, a 30-year Marine veteran who fought in Vietnam.

"It gives me a good feeling," Mr. Rafferty continued. "When I welcome these troops I feel like I'm welcoming him."

Al Houle, a 60-year-old Navy veteran who lives in East Hampton, hopes that his frequent visits to the base will earn him mention in the Guinness Book of Records.

"I'm trying to set the world record for most autographs on tee shirts," Mr. Houle said, noting that he's already filled 12 shirts with the signatures of desert veterans.

The quest for autographs also attracts many children to the homecoming celebrations.

Ten-year-old Matthew Robl of Belchertown visited the base for the second time April 16, and spent most of the afternoon seeking signatures from a group of returning Marines. "I like the autographs," he said.

Chicopee resident Robert Fluet, 55, said that he came to his first homecoming celebration out of a sense of duty, but quickly became hooked.

"I came because my D.A.V. (Disabled American Veterans) chapter asked me to, but on the first night I was here I met a soldier getting off one of the planes whom I had served with in Vietnam," he said. "I've been back as often as I could since then, because of the emotion here."

Lena Allard, a 20-year Red Cross volunteer from Chicopee, worked in the base's passenger terminal when the troops were deploying to the Gulf. She's been in the hangar nearly every day since they started coming back.

"I really just enjoy being here, she said. "I enjoy watching them go up the carpet--it's very exciting."

Charlie Murphy, a Holyoke accountant, estimates that he spends about 40-hours a week watching the homecomings. His son, Air Force 1st. Lt. Brian Murphy, is still serving with a civil engineer unit in the Persian Gulf.

"I come here and try to help the kids coming home now," he said. "I'm hoping that someone will be doing it for my boy when he comes home."

Like the village green of two centuries ago, Westover's hangar has become

(continued on page 16)

"THANK YOU WESTOVER!"



(photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

GESTURE OF GRATITUDE-- Lance Cpl. Richard Frymire with the 1st Air Delivery out of Camp Pendleton, Calif. hoists the flags and bellows "Thank You Westover" to the welcoming crowd in April.



SIGN LANGUAGE--Five-year-old Michael Sachon and his sister Jessica, 8, from Westfield, Mass. were on hand to cheer the homecoming troops.



TO SIR WITH LOVE-- Three-year-old Rachel Goodrow, from Belchertown, Mass. lifts many desert-weary spirits with her hugs.

CURRENT EVENTS 101: Live at the Base Hangar

Article and photos by TSgt. Sandi Michon

Strains of patriotic songs blast through the hangar, flags are everywhere and hundreds of little hands reach out to shake the soldiers hands as they stream down the red carpet.

Thousands of children of all ages come to the Base Hangar to welcome home the troops, and although many don't fully understand the details, they know they love it, and they'll remember it forever.

"Cuz I do," was three-year-old Rachel Goodrow's response to why she liked coming to Westover. As her mom, Eileen Goodrow held her beside the red carpet, scores of macho military faces melted as Rachel gave the kind of hugs only three-year-olds do. She reminded many troops of their own children they missed and longed to hug again.

Five-year-old Michael Sachon from Westfield didn't say much but his patriotic shirt and huge blue eyes said it all as he watched the towering troops pass by him from his three-foot vantage point.

Lots of children's responses were coached by moms and dads as a lesson in current events unfolded before them. Ten-year-old Marisa Berneche of Belchertown, Mass. said it was fun to come, but admitted they were there "because her mom loves to come."

Eight-year-old Jenna Butler of Springfield, Mass. was happy but also "kinda proud."

In a parallel show of uniform, many cub and boy scout troops greet the troops. Seven-year-old Adam Scott, a Holyoke, Mass. cub scout, thinks the soldiers are cool. "They help us," he said. "I'm gonna be a soldier when I grow up and get freedom," he added.

A group of Boy Scouts from Troop 101 in Westfield came to welcome the troops and spoke of patriotism, which they said was loving your country. They collectively concluded that the war made them love their country more because we had to fight for it. They said the troops did a good job.

Thirteen-year-old Boy Scout David Jachym was very serious. "It makes you feel good to be here," he said. "They deserve all of this. They were over there risking their lives for us."

In her innocence, perhaps three-year-old Rachel sums up what the Base Hangar now represents to thousands of kids. According to her mom, Rachel talks all the time about "Westover, soldiers, hugs and names on her shirt."

Whatever the impact, a troop-welcome visit to the base hangar is sure to touch their young lives for years to come.

'Gabby' stays behind to support families of 74th AES

by SrA. Kymberly Taylor

In early February, when the medical technicians and nurses of the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron were called to active duty and deployed overseas, one member of the unit stayed home to tie up loose ends.

"As soon as I take care of things here, I'll take this diamond off and join you all," said First Sergeant MSgt. George Gadbois at the unit's final outbriefing, Feb. 5.

When the Arabian conflict began to build in the Persian Gulf last Fall, Sergeant Gadbois volunteered to leave his job as a reservations clerk with American Airlines to go on active duty -- anywhere. "There was no call for first sergeants system-wide so I had to wait until my unit needed me," he said.

"I really felt left out at the beginning (when the unit was deployed). I was a former medic and only needed to re-qualify in a C-130 and take a chamber ride to be able to join the unit overseas, but then I realized how many things there were left to do here at home."

The sergeant, better known as Gabby, served as a support for the families anxiously waiting for news from overseas. "We sent out briefs about what our people were doing every two weeks, and we made sure that change-of-addresses were processed. I also had to call a few banks to ensure that people's finances were being taken care of while they were gone."

Sergeant Gadbois was additionally tasked when Allied Grocers Cooperative Inc./Shurfine Products donated 30,000 pounds of food to the Desert Shield Support Center.

"We used the 74th building to store the food while the unit was gone," said SSgt. Tammy Bolduc, a personnel specialist detailed to the Support Center. "He (Sergeant Gadbois) organized and kept track of everything down there for us. A family that needed food would come to us and get a receipt, then they would go to the 74th to pick up their groceries. People came at all hours of the day or night and if we had to call Sergeant Gadbois at home, he was always happy to help."

Sergeant Gadbois also lent a hand when the reception in the Base Hangar, which is now part of the daily Westover



MSgt. George Gadbois

AFB welcome, was being planned. He helped to obtain the "red carpet of homecoming," which is a centerpiece of the hangar floor, and served as the NCOIC of the floor work area.

In late March, an ecumenical lunch was planned to rally families of the 74th

together to pray for the safe return of their loved ones. Adding excitement to the day, seven unit members returned to Westover that afternoon.

"We were very fortunate," said Sergeant Gadbois. "It turned into a day of Thanksgiving."



(photo by TSgt. Don Talbot)

THIRSTY WORK -- Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander, (left) and Capt. Denny Jobs, CBPO chief, (center) bring refreshments to the volunteers who manned phones during a telethon held in the Base Hangar March 15. The fundraiser, sponsored by Springfield television station WWLP, Channel 22, collected approximately \$50,000 in donations for the Westover USO.

Julie Fitzgerald marks half century of civil service

A lifetime of helping people

Article and photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon

Julie Fitzgerald's life has followed the current of recent history but the strong winds of change have never capsized her lifeboat.

Always in the business of helping people, Ms. Fitzgerald is an elegant woman. She is quick to smile and has a gentle manner, but can be tough as nails about doing her job.

"I always took my work seriously because people were depending on me," the Springfield resident said. Dependable may be an understatement in describing an employee who hasn't taken one hour of sick leave since 1985 and who can count on one hand the number of illness absences during her 50-year (and counting) career.

She began her career with the Department of Defense in 1941 when she worked as a personnel clerk with the Department of the Army at the Springfield Ordnance District. She lost her job due to a Reduction in Force (RIF) after the war in 1946, but began helping WWII veterans as a clerk with the Veterans Administration.

She worked with the VA until 1951 when she again was hit by a reduction-in-force due to the diminished veteran demand.

Without a break in service, she accepted a position as civilian personnel clerk with the Department of the Army at the Springfield Armory. During her service there she advanced to Chief of Administration which serviced up to 15,000 civilian employees. She worked there until 1968 when the Armory closed due to the current political climate.

Ms. Fitzgerald holds the dubious distinction of being "ruffed" from every job she had held, but she never got discouraged. She adapted to changes and immediately looked for other positions in which she could help people.

She came to Westover in 1968 and worked as a military personnel technician with the Eastern Communications

Squadron until 1970 when the ECS left Westover.

The USAF hospital at Westover was her next stop where she served as accounting technician until 1974 when SAC deactivated and the hospital closed. She is adamantly positive and her blue eyes twinkle as she relates her job changes due to closures and deactivations. "It was always my ambition to work for the government. I've enjoyed every job."

In 1974, she became chief of administration in staffing and

in 1981 became chief of staffing which is her current position. She is lauded by her coworkers for her technical knowledge and work dedication. It was largely through her efforts that Westover maintained the staffing contract through the A76 contracting-out study in 1987, and she has served as a consultant to other bases undergoing similar studies.

She has taken great pains to insure that Westover personnel affected by staffing reductions are placed successfully elsewhere at Westover. She has been instrumental in providing the additional staffing required for the C-5

mission conversion which has made her a favorite with the 337th MAS.

She has received four performance awards and one Sustained Superior Performance Award and one Notable Achievement Award over the past five years.

Ms. Fitzgerald's pleasant personality and caring attitude have made her a favorite among Westover regulars. Finding her in a bad mood is as difficult as finding someone displeased with her work. Many, many Westover workers are grateful for her help in securing their jobs.

She will help answer almost any question you have - except two. When it comes to questions about her age or when she'll retire, her blue eyes twinkle with mock indignation and, after a half-century of service, she simply replies, "I still love what I do."



Julie Fitzgerald

439th MAW still in need of qualified recruits

The 439th Military Airlift Wing is still looking for good men and women to fill vacancies within the units here at Westover. Even with the recent activation of our reservists, the recruiters are still tasked with recruiting for the vacancies that exist.

According to SMSgt. Mike Winter, Senior Recruiter, some of the best applicants his recruiters have received in the past have come from the reservists themselves. "Any recruiter will tell you that the best source of leads for new people are referrals by members of the unit. Who better can relate the benefits, opportunities or mission requirements than members of the 439th MAW?" he said.

That is why Sergeant Winter is asking Westover reservists to become "honorary recruiters" by referring potential recruits to his staff.

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
Comm. 315-330-2715

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 _____

Recent court decision defends rights of reservists

An airline's refusal to hire a pilot who was away on military reserve duty on the date he was to start work violated federal law, according to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

This recent decision clarifies the Veterans' Reemployment Rights Act by expressly holding that the law prohibits discrimination based upon reserve obligations against applicants for a job as well as against individuals already employed.

The case, *Beattie v. Trump Shuttle Inc.*, arose when Trump took over Eastern Air Lines' shuttle service. Trump hired Eastern personnel based upon their seniority, but rejected the application of one pilot, a reservist who was attending the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at the time of the hiring.

The court based its decision on 38 U.S. Code 2021(b)(3) which provides that a reservist who "seeks or holds" a position "shall not be denied hiring, retention in employment, or any promotion or other incident or advantage of employment because of any obligation as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces." Based upon the clear language of this statute, as well as its background legislative history, the court held that the law protects reservists from discrimination when initially applying for employment as well as when returning to a previously held job.

Finally, the court was unimpressed by Trump's argument that attendance at a PME course was voluntary, and not mandatory duty. In essence, the court found that reservists serving on active duty pur-

suant to military orders are protected by the federal law. However, the U.S. Supreme Court currently is considering another case to determine whether Reservists who "abuse" the system by serving unreasonably repeated, lengthy voluntary tours during peace-time are protected by the reemployment laws.

"I'm aware of several Westover airmen who will be aided by this decision," said Major Robert Bersak of the wing legal office. "Until now, individuals between jobs were offered little comfort by the Veterans' Reemployment Rights laws. This decision guarantees that a reservist offered a new job by an employer is entitled to that job upon release from active duty." The major (ext 3180) is available to assist anyone at Westover who faces reemployment problems or questions.

Weight management program revised for reservists

by SrA. Kimberly Taylor

While Westover Desert Storm operations have brought healthful changes to the base, such as extended gym hours, they have also spurred the strict enforcement of the newly revised Reserve Weight Management Program.

According to a letter issued in February by wing commander Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, the WMP is designed to motivate reservists to "achieve optimum physical and psychological well-being (in order) to cope with the demands of military life."

The following guidelines included in the letter are specific to the 439th MAW and reflect significant changes made in AFR 35-11 revised as of mid-February 1991.

Any member who exceeds his or her maximum allowable weight on a standard or random weigh-in will be placed on either the formal or the informal weight management program. Reservists who fall within 5% of their MAW will be monitored closely and weighed at least quarterly.

Informal Program

Men who are less than 15 pounds over their MAW, and women less than nine pounds over their MAW, will be placed on the informal program.

Reservists on the informal program are denied promotion, reenlistment and

formal training in residence.

Both men and women will be given 90 days to achieve their MAW or they will subsequently be entered into the formal program.

Formal Program

In addition to members on the informal program who have not reached their MAW within 90 days, men who weigh in more than 15 pounds over their MAW, and women who weigh in more than 9 pounds over their MAW are placed on the formal weight management program.

According to General Walker, a reservist is "allowed to participate for pay and points for a period which will allow safe loss of weight and attainment of the MAW." Air Force standards dictate that a male should lose no more than five pounds a month for satisfactory weight loss while a female should lose no more than three.

Each month that an individual does not meet the satisfactory weight loss requirement, unit commanders have been directed to take the following action:

1) For USAFR members not activated and not Stop Loss:

First unsatisfactory period -- redline from UTA and verbal counseling by unit commander.

Second unsatisfactory period -- red-

line from UTA, letter of reprimand and mandatory referral for a physical fitness program and dietary counseling.

Third unsatisfactory period -- redline from UTA and second letter of reprimand.

Fourth unsatisfactory period -- redline from UTA and process for enlisted demotion for enlisted personnel. For officers, redline from UTA, mandatory comment on OPR and third LOR.

Fifth unsatisfactory period -- reassignment to HQ ARPC or process for involuntary discharge.

2) For Stop Loss and recalled/mobilized active duty personnel:

First unsatisfactory period -- verbal counseling by unit commander.

Second unsatisfactory period -- letter of reprimand and referral for a mandatory physical exercise program and dietary counseling.

Third unsatisfactory period -- second letter of reprimand.

Fourth unsatisfactory period -- administrative demotion for enlisted personnel and mandatory comment of OPR and third LOR for officers.

Fifth unsatisfactory period -- administrative demotion for enlisted personnel, consider propriety of promotion actions for officers. When the member is released from Desert Storm duty, progress will be evaluated to determine if discharge is appropriate.

Westover "fan club"...

(continued from page 11)

something of a social gathering place.

The town of Wethersfield, Conn. staged its own "day" at the base April 7 as 1500 citizens from the town gathered to greet the troops, socialize, and hold impromptu tail gate parties in the parking lot.

According to Lt. Col. Bill Lee, who is coordinating Westover's homecoming celebrations, one group of people who frequently come to greet the troops late in the evening have even formed a club.

"They call themselves the "Every-Nighters Club," said Colonel Lee. "They have signs and their own special area where they meet."

Although the homecomings have been ongoing throughout the day and night since March 9, the number of visitors continues to grow.

When soldiers from Fort Devens, Mass. landed at the

base April 13, a crowd of 3,000 filled the hangar. On April 16, when Chicopee-based Marines returned, 5,000 people jammed the building.

Colonel Lee estimates that more than 100,000 visitors have been at Westover since the Desert Storm troops started arriving here.

He believes they come for a variety of reasons.

"It's a combination of things," the colonel said. "They come to participate in history, for the camaraderie, for the excitement."

Westover officials expect that visitors will continue to show up at the base for as long as Desert Storm personnel continue to land here. They predict that could be for a month or so longer.

"We'll continue to give them a hero's welcome until the last one passes through here," said Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander, who welcomed his own son, 1st Lt. Jeff Walker, back from the Gulf here April 9.

"It's the least we can do."

Medical guidelines on war-related diseases

by SrA. Kymberly Taylor

Although the absence of liquor in the Persian Gulf has caused many American troops to grab a beer upon their return to Westover, they're coming back healthier than in other wars, according to Maj. Randy Brown, environmental health officer with the 439th USAF Clinic.

"In many ways this was a clean war," said Major Brown. "We're not seeing complications from alcohol, or venereal disease from prostitutes or camp followers."

Dr. Robert E. Glasser, Jr. and other physicians from Walter Reed Army Medical Center wrote in March's "New England Journal of Medicine" that troops returning from the Persian Gulf may have war-related problems not easily recognized stateside.

"Some (troops) will return to their civilian communities with diseases that only become evident after their homecoming, sometimes after months or years, and others will pose a risk of

secondary transmission to people with whom they come in contact," they wrote.

The doctors warned civilian physicians to 'be on the lookout' for the most common types of exotic ailments including sandfly fever, bubonic plague and chronic diarrhea.

According to Major Brown, Sandfly Fever is best recognized by its flu-like symptoms and high fever.

Bubonic plague (*Yersinia Pestis*) is a disease carried by fleas and ticks. Although it is frequently found in areas of the world with very poor sanitation, there has not been a documented case of plague in the Gulf region for 15 years.

The third of the most common problems the troops are facing is chronic diarrhea. The Army doctors estimate that reported cases have reached as high as 5% of the returning military population.

In addition, there is a condition called Leishmaniasis which is commonly known as Baghdad Boil and is carried by female sandflies. A parasite causes a

lump on the skin which ruptures and forms an open lesion.

A man or woman returning from the Gulf with any of these symptoms should be sure to remind their physician of their recent deployment.

Major Brown is quick to point out that 'those most at risk for the three more common diseases, and Leishmaniasis, are troops who lived in the desert with poor sanitation, contaminated drinking water, and no means of maintaining personal hygiene.'

"We haven't seen anything at our clinic yet," he said. "Of course, only 10% of the Americans have returned from the Gulf and that's not a very good indication of what to expect."

However, the largest number of troops deployed from Westover to the Persian Gulf were members of the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. "Our nurses and med-techs are trained to know the importance of personal hygiene. We don't expect them to have many problems."

Leon Mason recognized for donations to CFC

SUPERDUPER GIVER-- Westover firefighter Leon Mason, shown with Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander and Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, wing commander, was recognized recently at a reception given by the United Way of the Pioneer Valley. Mr. Mason donated 6% of his 1990 income to help the Combined Federal Campaign collect a 1990 total of \$224,000. "I try to give if I have something to spare," he said. "You never know if you are going to need help yourself."



(photo by SSgt. VinBlanchard)

What so proudly we hail: respecting "Old Glory"

by SSgt. Vin Blanchard

It's known by several names--"Old Glory," the "Stars and Stripes," and the "Red, White, and Blue."

Whatever it's called, it's our flag, and for more than 200 years it has served as the emblem--and pride--of our nation.

Today, as America celebrates its victory in the Gulf, and the homecoming of more than 500,000 Americans who served there, U.S. flags are flying in numbers which evidence a wave of patriotism unseen in the nation since World War II.

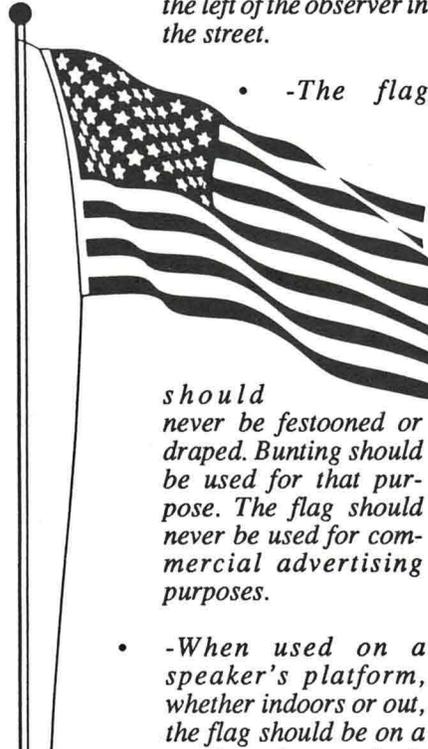
Two huge flags hang in the homecoming center which has been established in the Base Hangar, and thousands of area citizens wave smaller versions of "Old Glory" as they welcome the Desert Storm troops.

With the increased use and display of the flag, it's also important that the proper respect be rendered to the "Stars and Stripes." Here are a few reminders:

- -When displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the U.S. flag should be on the right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.
- -When the flag is displayed in a manner other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat.
- -When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the blue field (union) should be uppermost,

and to the observer's left.

- -When the flag is displayed in a window visible from the street, it should be shown with its union to the left of the observer in the street.



- -The flag

should never be festooned or draped. Bunting should be used for that purpose. The flag should never be used for commercial advertising purposes.

- -When used on a speaker's platform, whether indoors or out, the flag should be on a staff to the speaker's right, or hung behind the speaker on the wall with the union appearing to the observer's left.

- -When carried in a procession or parade with another flag, the U.S.

flag should be on the marching right.

- -The flag should never be allowed to touch the ground or water and (except as a distress signal) should never be flown upside down.
- -No other flag is ever flown above the American flag. When flags of two or more nations are displayed together, they should be flown from separate staffs of the same height and the flags should be of approximately equal size.
- -Whenever a number of flags of states, cities or organizations are to be arranged or displayed with the American flag, the latter should be placed at the center of the group, on a staff slightly higher than the others.
- -When displayed on an automobile, the flag must be affixed to a staff attached to the vehicle's right front fender. It should never be draped on a motor vehicle.

All-weather flags may now be flown during inclement weather, and properly illuminated flags may be flown around the clock.

During ceremonies honoring the flag, such as the playing of the National Anthem, all present should stand and face the flag. Those in uniform should render the appropriate hand salute, while those in civilian clothes should place their right hands over their hearts.

Lights, camera, action...

Westover went Hollywood on March 30. Westover's now famous welcome home celebrations for Desert Storm troops returning to America were filmed March 30-31 by a crew from "Air Force Now."

The "Air Force Now" films are shown to audiences around the globe at commanders calls and other events and are used to keep Air Force members informed about subjects of interest. Capt. Fred G. Dickenson and SMSgt. James J. Corcoran, both from Hanscom AFB public affairs office, captured the happy homecoming on video tape and interviewed a number of returning troops and Westover personnel in the Base Hangar.

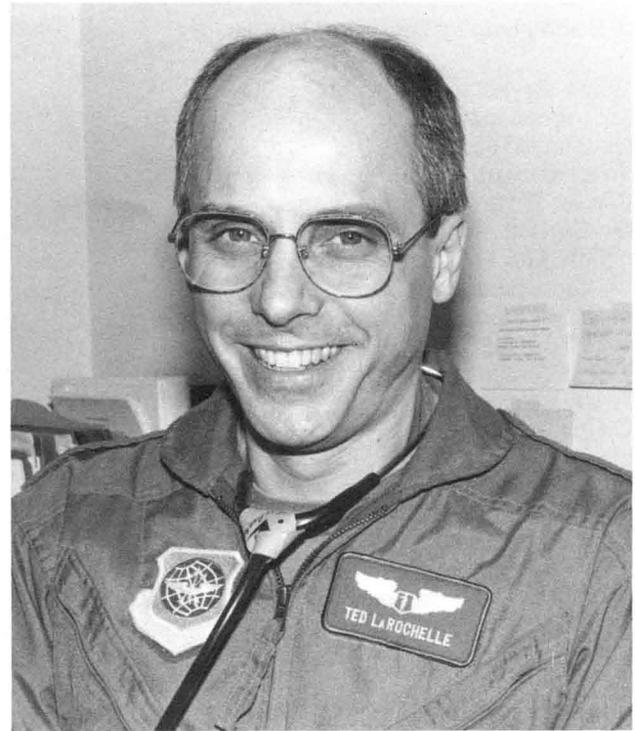
Westover's CBPO tops in nation

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.

"Patriot People"

Name: Frederick LaRochelle
Rank: Capt.
Age: 44
Address: Houston, Texas
Unit: 439 USAF Clinic
Postion: Flight Surgeon
Civilian position: Director, Space Biomedical Research Center, NASA/Johnson Space Center
Favorite Food: cold soups
Years of Service: 8 (5 enlisted, U.S. Army)
Favorite Sport: Sailing
Favorite Hobby: Carpentry
Ideal Vacation: Out of touch, away from the crowds
Best Way to Relax: Watching the "Green Flash" at sunrise from the Maine Coast
Preferred Entertainment: Symphony
Favorite Celebrity: George McGovern
Favorite Music: Opera
Favorite Book: *Sailing Alone Around the World*
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Car: 1957 T-Bird
Pet Peeve: Arrogance
Best Thing About Westover: The people
Worst thing about Westover: It doesn't get the recognition it deserves



Capt. Frederick LaRochelle

PAT on the back

Reenlistments

MSgt. Paul A. Bates
 MSgt. John M. Budenas
 MSgt. Paul H. Gilman
 MSgt. James T. Tucker
 TSgt. Donald G. Bascom
 TSgt. Albert J. Drenthe
 TSgt. Michael J. Garceau
 TSgt. Carla A. Letourneau
 TSgt. Charron A. Letourneau
 TSgt. Paul M. Wiater
 SSgt. Charles S. Anderson Jr.
 SSgt. Howard M. Blackwood
 SSgt. Jennifer C. Budukiewicz

SSgt. Mark S. Conover
 SSgt. Carlos Guerra
 SSgt. Craig M. Kline
 SSgt. Kenneth R. Labonte
 SSgt. Richard W. Marek
 SSgt. Michael J. O'Connor
 SSgt. Walter F. Southard
 SSgt. Joseph E. Stoddart
 SSgt. James E. Whitman
 Sglt. Brian R. Francis
 Sglt. Darryl L. Gibbs
 SrA. Todd E. J. Bergquist
 SrA. Richard P. Greene
 SrA. Mark A. Lawhorne

Enlistments

TSgt. Edward T. Moynihan
 SSgt. Jeffery T. Dyer
 SSgt. Matthew J. Egan
 SSgt. Mark R. Farrington
 SSgt. Paul A. Fay
 SSgt. Michael Anthony Gallant
 SSgt. Judy G. Tsuji
 Sglt. John R. Bigelow Jr.

Sgt. Michael T. Border
 Sgt. Helen F. Coughlin
 Sgt. Thomas J. Daniels
 Sgt. Robert M. Govoni
 Sgt. Joseph C. Iannantuoni Jr.
 Sgt. Keith L. Jones
 Sgt. William M. Larsen
 Sgt. Terry L. Potter
 Sgt. Gary J. Surozenski
 SrA. Lawrence R. Donofrio
 AIC Joseph Calabrese
 AIC Michael S. Davis
 AIC Richard C. Evers
 AIC Kevin E. Kroyman
 AIC Francis P. Maple
 AIC Derek R. Pecott
 AIC Ruth J. Rodriguez
 AIC Robert J. Sampson
 AIC Alan T. Zawistowski
 Amn. Brian J. Archinski
 Amn. Thomas P. Rondeau Jr.
 Amn. Robert L. Vanalstyne
 AB Carol A. Amaral
 AB Michael D. Courtright
 AB Robert F. Luby
 AB Lee R. Shoup

Southwest Asia medal authorized for Persian Gulf veterans

Westover military personnel who served in the Persian Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm will soon be wearing a new medal.

President Bush signed an executive order authorizing the award of the Southwest Asia Service Medal to service members who deployed to the Gulf region.

The medal is suspended from a sand-colored ribbon with red, white, blue, green and black stripes. Designed by the Army's Institute of Heraldry, the medal has an aircraft,

tank, armored personnel carrier, helicopter and ship emblazoned on its front.

Information about eligibility requirements for the Southwest Asia Service Medal will be available at Westover's CBPO.

Military personnel who served on active duty during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, regardless of where they served, will be awarded the National Defense Service Medal.

Former aerial porter receives hero's welcome

Article and photo by TSgt. Tom Allocco

When Bryan Currier followed his father's footsteps into the 58th APS he never dreamed they would lead to a walk down a red carpet in the Base Hangar.

Former Westover aerial porter 1st Lt. Bryan Currier, son of MSgt. John Currier, 58th APS air transportation supervisor, came home to a hero's welcome from Desert Storm. As a member of the 74th TFS Flying Tigers, England AFB, La., he is credited as the first pilot to fly an A-10 into combat.

On the first day of the air war, he was flying with a four-plane unit which attacked an Iraqi artillery position in Kuwait. Lieutenant Currier was the first to drop a 500-pound bomb.

Flying two or three sorties a day, he logged almost 100 combat hours hitting artillery, anti-aircraft positions, convoys and other ground targets in Kuwait and Iraq.

Some days were worse than others. He was north of Kuwait City when "two miles square lit up. Shells were flying everywhere... you could they were well organized," he said.

The Iraqi ground defense could be quiet for one A-10 team and deadly a half hour later for the next team. "If it wasn't the bullets scaring you, it was the lack of bullets. You didn't know what they were



MSgt. John Currier (left) and 1st Lt. Bryan Currier

up to," Lieutenant Currier said.

His parents shared the strain. "He couldn't tell us where he was...when the first A-10 went down we sat by the television for hours," Sergeant Currier said. "It was six or eight hours before we knew it wasn't him...you can imagine how that was," he said.

"We watched CNN from morning to night...seeing the POWs was one of the worst times," he said.

Following the liberation of Kuwait, Lieutenant Currier flew his A-10 to England AFB. "I heard about the wel-

come at Westover. They told me about how wonderful it was," he said.

Home on leave, he returned to Westover to catch up with old friends. The walk with his proud father down the red carpet brought him full circle from where he began as a 58th APS member after graduating from high school in 1984. He left the 58th APS to earn an AFROTC commission upon graduation from Western New England College.

On his first weekend home on leave Lieutenant Currier married the former Gail Grincavitch of Holyoke.

PATRIOT

Coming in June: Demobilization plans



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Tammy Bolduc of Danville, N.H. and 2300 members of the 439th MAW at Westover.

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