

# PATRIOT

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

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JANUARY 1992

## General Mike Walker announces March retirement

By Maj. Rick Dyer

Artwork by SrA. Mike Lyman

The man who led Westover through a peacetime conversion and wartime crises will leave the base in March.

Brig. Gen. Frederick D. ("Mike") Walker, who has commanded the 439th Military Airlift Wing since May, 1986, will retire March 11.

General Walker came to Westover to oversee the Patriot Wing's conversion from C-130 aircraft to an inventory of 16 huge C-5 Galaxies.

The change in airplane and mission confronted the new wing commander with challenges which sometimes seemed as large as the giant green and gray cargo transports.

Under General Walker's leadership, all of the unit's pilots, loadmasters, flight engineers and maintenance personnel were retrained to work with the C-5s.

The wing commander was also responsible for overseeing \$40 million in new construction projects required at Westover to accommodate the Galaxies.

With the conversion successfully completed, the Patriot Wing was soon called upon to fly real-life combat airlift missions.

Aircrews from the 337th MAS flew missions to Panama during Operation Just Cause in December 1989.

Less than a year later, the wing went to war again after Saddam Hussein ordered Iraqi troops to seize neighboring Kuwait. Westover C-5 crews began rushing troops and cargo to the Persian Gulf and the base was named the major Northeast staging area for the massive airlift.

In December 1990, General Walker was mobilized and became the only Air Force Reserve general called to active duty for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The 59-year-old wing commander frequently worked 18-hour days alongside the other 1550 reservists who were activated here for the Gulf War.

"He's left an indelible mark on Wes-

tover, that's for sure," said CMSgt. Charlie Fusco, 439th MAW senior enlisted advisor. "He is one of the hardest working men I know, and that, plus his commitment to excellence, really rubbed off on the entire unit."

During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Westover consistently led all of the other C-5 stage bases in on-time

and marines were welcomed at the base.

Word of the Westover reception spread through the desert, and Persian Gulf vets talked about the homecoming ceremonies being organized in Massachusetts by "the white-haired general."

Last July, the Patriot Wing received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its service during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

"I'm extremely proud of what this unit was able to accomplish over the past five years, and particularly the many sacrifices which our people made during the Gulf War," General Walker said. "We were more than just a team—in many ways we were like a family."

A command pilot who has flown more than 7,000 hours, and a former farmer, General Walker said that he is still considering what activities he'd like to pursue after a 35-year career in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve."

"I'm pondering some business opportunities, and I'll probably take the opportunity to get in a little more time for hunting and fishing," he said.

The Westover community will honor General Walker March 7 at 6 p.m. with a dinner dance at Chez Josef in Agawam. "It should be a fun evening with some interesting surprises," said Capt. Denny Jobs, who is coordinating the celebration.

Tickets, which cost \$50 per person (GS-7, E-7 and above) and \$40 per person (GS-6, E-6 and below) will be available starting this month.

MSgt. Kelly Payne of the Westover CBPO staff (extension 3127) is in charge of reservations, which must be made by Feb. 7.

On March 8, at 10 a.m., a formal change of command ceremony will be held in the Pull-through Hangar. Further details will appear in the February Patriot.

Base officials expect that the new wing commander be selected by late January.



**General Mike Walker**

departures to the Gulf, as the base processed more than 33,000 troops and 60,000 tons of cargo bound for the desert.

After the war ended, Westover became a reception center for returning Persian Gulf veterans. Fulfilling General Walker's promise that "no one will return from the sand without a hero's welcome," more than 30,000 Desert Storm soldiers, sailors, airmen

## EDITORIAL

## New challenges ahead

We close a year begun in turmoil. Troops filed through Westover a year ago on their way to an unknown destiny. Hundreds of reservists left their homes and jobs to turn this base into one of the most important and memorable installations of the war.

We suffered, and our families suffered with us. Our finances suffered and many of us are still recovering from depleted savings accounts. And Westover will never be the same.

Service at Westover AFB wasn't just one long UTA. For many months, we rearranged our lives, amid mass confusion and the inevitable conflict that followed. Early mornings, late nights. Threat-con. PAX terminal. Protestors. Work-schedules.

Beneath the daily chaos lay the fear. What was happening across the ocean? Was the worst behind us? When will this all be over?

And then it was over. You couldn't help but smile. We had done it. At that moment we knew we were part of the team. One part couldn't have functioned without the other. Desert troops, overseas troops, stateside troops, reservists and civilians were all cogs in the machine that won the war.

The homecoming. Westover certainly made its mark. We showed the world that the Patriot Wing is made of incredible stuff. We pulled out the stops and opened our hearts to our comrades coming back from the desert.

Right there with us was the amazing group who gave us a spark in the darkest hours of the Storm. The American people. They turned that spark into a bonfire of love for all troops during the homecoming festivities in the Base Hangar.

It's over now. The parties, the celebration, the fear, the uncertainty. We've all been thrown back into our old lives, trying to go back to the way things were — the old Reserve way of life. But it will never be the same.

Westover has undergone a historic change. What are the options? Will the base return to a reserve status? Or, will its outstanding track record lead us to other challenges?

The coming year will usher in many changes to the Air Force and to Westover AFB.....Only time will tell.

SSgt. Christine Mora  
Public Affairs Technician

## Briefs

### Aerial porters collect food for holiday meals

Less fortunate members of the community enjoyed extra in their Thanksgiving and Christmas meals thanks to a drive conducted by the 58th Aerial Port Squadron.

The aerial porters collected donations of canned and other nonperishable foods during the November and December UTAs. The gifts were given to Kate's Kitchen and Broderick House in Holyoke.

### ROA scholarships

The Reserve Officers Association is accepting applications for 100 \$500 scholarships for the 1992-93 school year.

The ROA will award 75 undergraduate scholarships to members, or the children or grandchildren of Reservists 26 years old or younger. Also, 25 graduate fellowships will be awarded to members.

Applications will be available Feb. 1.

### New gate hours

Effective immediately, the ID gate will be open 24-hours-a-day for all base traffic. The fairview gate will close from 12:30 a.m. until 6:30 a.m. every day.

This schedule will remain the same on weekdays and during both UTA and non-UTA weekends.

### CFC tops base goal

This year's highly successful pledge drive for Westover's Combined Federal Campaign, a subsidiary of the United Way, brought in more than \$32,500 worth of pledged donations.

According to Base Commander Col. Thomas Hargis, this topped Westover's goal of \$30,000 and exceeded last year's contributions by more than \$5,000. Robert Motley, Bill Podworny and Cynde Fairchild worked diligently to collect the funds that will be used primarily to help people in the local area.

According to Fairchild, more than 626 people donated an average of \$52 each.

Special thanks to all who contributed.

# PATRIOT

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## Air Force has safest flying record in 44-year history

By SrA. Mike Lyman

The U.S. Air Force announced on Nov. 16 that fiscal year 1991 was the safest in its 44-year history.

The fact that this was accomplished while the Air Force participated in the largest deployment of U.S. forces in more than two decades is outstanding," said Brig. Gen. James L. Cole, Jr., Air Force chief of safety. "The bottom line is we have a team of intelligent, motivated and skilled professionals who are dedicated to getting the job done in a safe and efficient manner.

In fiscal year 1991, the Air Force flew more than 3,687,335 hours, which does not include 65,000 combat sorties from Desert Storm.

According to General Cole, the Air Force maintains flight records dating back to 1921 and fiscal year 1991 set records in every major safety category.

Flight safety statistics show the lowest number ever for serious mishaps per 100,000 flying hours with a 1.11 rate, compared to a 10-year average, 1.64. The previous lowest rate was 1.49 in fiscal year 1990.

Military Airlift Command, specifically, set an all-time low rate of .5. This figure includes active as well as Guard

and Reserve units.

Fatalities due to flight mishaps dropped to 18 in 1991, below the 10-year average of 64. The previous low was 43 in fiscal year 1990.

Fiscal year 1991 also marked 25 years of accident free flying for the 337th MAS at Westover AFB.

Lt. Col. Gale H. French, 439th MAW chief of safety and command pilot with over 9000 flying hours, attributes the low accident rate of Westover's aircrews to many factors.

"In many cases crew members work with the same people for 20 years," French said. "This helps people feel more comfortable in their working environment."

Another reason for the high safety rate here is because we are a reserve base with a more seasoned aircrew force, French added.

"Our reservists are on the average 34 years old with over 3000 flying hours, making our people much more experienced than their active duty counterparts," French said. "Our people are highly motivated and take great pride in being very professional. We are very 'can do,' positive-minded people who get the job done and take care of each other while

we accomplish the mission," he added.

"Our people, along with Niagara (Niagara Falls IAP) and Pittsburgh (Greater Pittsburgh IAP) have done an outstanding job in the safety department during this past year," said Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander.

"It's nice to be part of the winning team," General Walker said. "We are very fortunate to have such highly motivated professional personnel. I hope they continue their excellent standards in the years to come."

Although fiscal 1991 was the best safety year in Air Force history, there were still a total of 127 deaths, "and that is too many," General Cole said.

"We simply cannot accept death, injuries, and lost and damaged equipment as the cost of doing business," he said. "Our people are too precious and we have entered a challenging and difficult period where resources are scarcer and more expensive.

"As we face the final decade of the 20th Century and its challenges of budget, people and equipment shortages for our armed forces, it is imperative we make safety equally as significant as proficiency, professionalism and pride," General Cole added. "There is no alternative."

## Airshow logo design contest winner announced

by SSgt. Christine Mora  
and Lynne Root

A University of Massachusetts student captured the grand prize when her design triumphed over 400 entries in the Great New England Airshow Logo Design Contest December 12.

Liane Fisher, a 23-year-old senior at UMASS who was born in Amersham, England, has lived in America for the last ten years. She is a marketing research and graphic design major who plans to work in either advertising design or graphic design after graduation.

Her interest in the military began when her father was made an honorary officer for his work as an electronics specialist for all armed forces world wide.

The winning design features a geometric rendering of the American flag with a map of New England in the blue field. She came up with the idea for this design while viewing photographs from



Westover's 1990 Anniversary Airshow. One photo featured the Snowbirds aerial demonstration team in the form of a diamond against the blue sky. This vision reminded Liane of the blue field of the American flag, which led her imagination to the final product.

The Great New England Airshow will license the logo and modify the design to be reproduced on a variety of airshow-related items.

Fisher received a cash prize of \$500 at a press conference held Dec. 23. The 1992 airshow will be held July 24, 25 and 26.

The 23-year old student plans to use her award to visit her 95-year-old great-grandmother in England this summer.

"I'm very excited and pleased because the winning design will be terrific in my portfolio" she said.

## 74th AES hones life-saving skills high above the clouds

Article and photo by SrA. Mike Lyman

Members of the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron recently conducted an overnight cross-country training mission to Patrick AFB, Fla. For the 18 flight nurses, med techs and medical service corps officer, the Nov. 9-10 mission was anything but ordinary—but then, it wasn't supposed to be.

The reason? The 74th AES personnel not only have to handle the expected patient-related emergencies, but they must be trained to perform these life-saving procedures at altitudes in excess of 30,000 feet in the confined compartment of a C-130 Hercules in order to successfully complete their mission.

For the mission, the medical team would respond to 10 victims of a mock helicopter crash who would require life-saving care and transportation. But regardless of type of simulated emergency, the fundamental training mission never changes.

The cross-country missions, which are conducted two to three times a month, include a pre-flight briefing; equipment set-up in the aircraft; patient care/assessment, flight procedures and emergency procedures during the flight to and from the intended destination; and a debriefing at the end of the mission.

"The purpose of these missions is to train and retrain our personnel with in-flight evacuation techniques and procedures," said Lt. Col. Marylou Houle, 74th AES assistant chief nurse and chief of aircrew training. "These exercises include medical procedure drills as well as mock emergencies related to flying, such as cabin depressurization, fires and crash landings, to better prepare our people for anything they might face during an actual mission."

"Our job, specifically, is to provide life-saving maneuvers, airway breathing/CPR and circulation to patients who have received buddy care or a little more," said Capt. Lissa D'Amico, 74th AES flight nurse. "This includes stabilizing their condition until they can receive definitive care at the first medical facility, D'Amico added.

"Aside from the aircraft-related mock emergencies which we prepare for, there are still a number of difficulties associated with flying which must be overcome to provide effective in-flight patient care," D'Amico said.

"For instance, flying in a C-130 at any altitude requires ear protection for



**LOADING LITTERS** — Members of the 74th AES load stretchers and other cargo in the cold and rain prior to returning home on a Westover C-5 on Nov. 10.

everyone aboard," D'Amico said. "As a result, we have a very difficult time communicating with each other and with the patients. We do have headsets available to talk to each other but they can be unreliable.

"As the aircraft approaches its cruising altitude, the lack of oxygen becomes a factor," she added. "The lack of humidity causes fatigue for crew members and passengers alike. For this reason, we put people on fluids throughout the flight to reduce fatigue and drowsiness as much as possible.

"Vibration is another factor which adds to fatigue and makes our job more difficult," she said. "In addition, heavy

turbulence can severely restrict movement in the aircraft."

For SrA. John Galvany, 74th AES med tech, the limited space and resources available in the aircraft adds to the burden of providing proper patient care.

"We need to be able to work with whatever we have with us," Galvany said. "It's a major challenge assessing and resolving the problem to the benefit of the patient. But that's why we train, to become proficient at current air evacuation techniques.

"By being activated during the Gulf War we learned how on-target our training has been," Galvany said. "We simply did what we were trained to do."

# Each call a new experience for base operators



**OPERATOR... MAY I HELP YOU** — Donning a headset, Constance Ducharme, telephone operator, provides customer assistance for one of the 5,000-odd daily calls.

Article and photo by SrA. Mike Lyman

Imagine handling 5000 phone calls in one day? It sounds stressful, to say the least.

For nearly all of the base offices, attempting to process such a high volume of calls would present an impossible task—but for the base telephone operators, it's just another day at the office.

"The base operator acts as base host/hostess for all who call into and out of the base," said Helen Smith, telephone supervisor.

The operators, who are located in the communications building, use the Northern-Telcom SLI-X1 digital system which replaced the 1940's model Stromborg-Carlson stepper switch system in October, 1989.

"The new system is clearer and much faster in response time," said Connie Ducharme, telephone operator. "It allows us to do many things the switchboard incapable of, such as call waiting, call pick up, conferencing and transferring.

"Regardless of the system in operation, working as a phone operator does have its share of good points and bad points," she said.

"Before the system was upgraded, the single WATS (wide area telephone service) line was often tied up," Ducharme said. "At times we were so overwhelmed with calls, like during Desert Storm, we had to make lists of names and get back to the people as the lines became available."

"Those of us who work the phones, including Helen Smith, were very busy during the Gulf War," said Barbara Stenico, telephone operator. "Not only did we have an overabundance of base-related official calls, both outgoing and incoming, but we also placed a lot of morale calls.

"In fact, the morale calls proved to be one of the most rewarding aspects of the job," Stenico said. "It was a real good feeling to connect someone in the Gulf with his loved ones. Many times we couldn't get through the first time and the caller would become upset. But we would ask the person if they had another number they would like to try before they became too upset and gave up," she said. "Sometimes when they couldn't reach anyone else, we would take time to cheer them up. All in all, we felt very appreciated by the troops and their families," she added.

"Just knowing we can help in some way during a crisis is very fulfilling," Ducharme said.

"Working during crisis/emergency situations is one of the toughest aspects of the job," she added. "It can be very stressful."

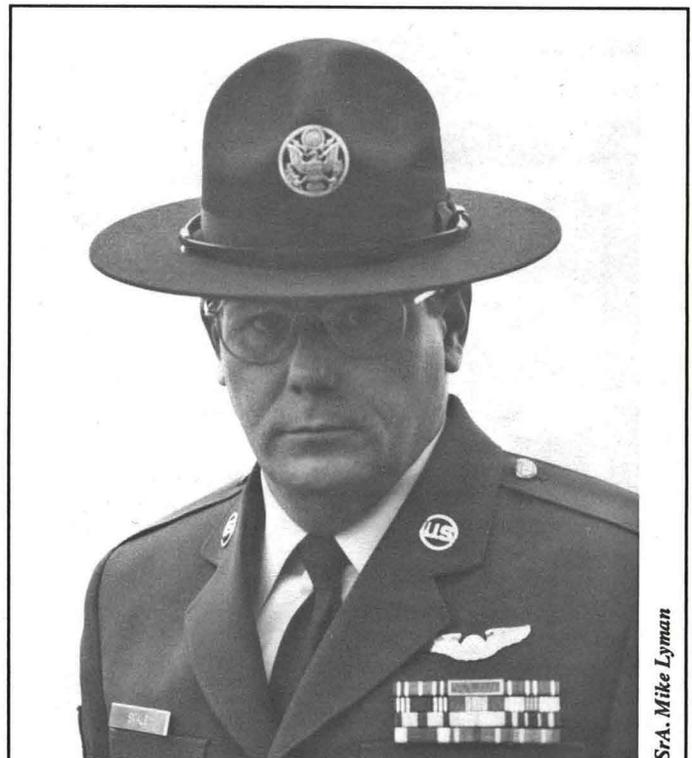
"Most of the base calls are routine but some of the outside calls do require screening," Stenico said.

According to Smith, some examples of what is asked of the base operator include: 'How many pints in a quart?', 'Where is there a good eating place off-base?', 'How can I get to Westover from Bradley (asking for directions)?', or even 'How do you spell Illinois?'

"Sometimes we even find ourselves being counselors to disturbed parties," said Stenico.

"It's quite an exciting job," said Debra Waag, telephone operator. "Each phone call is a new experience. You never know what to expect."

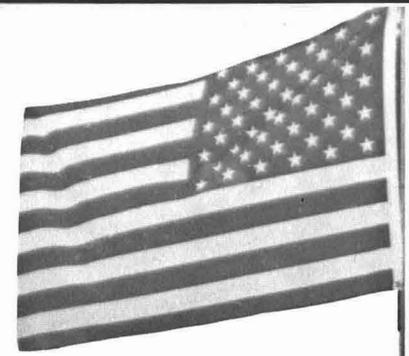
"Besides their regular duties they take the good with the bad -- seven days a week --24 hours a day," said Smith.



SrA. Mike Lyman

**BASIC TRAINEES BEWARE!**—SSgt. David L. Smale, 74th AES med tech, began a new chapter in his military career when he became Westover's first reservist to become an MTI. Smale left Westover Dec. 1 to begin a three-year tour at Lackland AFB, Texas.

# 1992



**THE GREAT  
NEW ENGLAND  
AIRSHOW**

*July 24,25,26*



JANUARY 1992							FEBRUARY 1992						
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**NOVEMBER 1992**

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**DECEMBER 1992**

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○ = A UTAs

□ = B UTAs

## Goldstein receives Humanitarian Award

By SrA. Kimberly Taylor

A two-week annual tour at Westover AFB last spring left Maj. Alan B. Goldstein of the 59th APS with more than a sense of satisfaction. The operations officer recently received a Humanitarian Award from ITT Hartford for his outstanding service coordinating many of the "Corporate Days" held in the Base Hangar during Operation Patriot Home.

"During my two weeks of annual tour in March, I was geared to help the 42nd APS at Mildenhall RAF, England with aerial port operations," said Goldstein.

When it was determined that additional troops from the 59th were not needed in England, Goldstein volunteered to assist Col. Joseph Curley who was then in charge of Operation Patriot Home operations.

"I was assigned the responsibility for coordinating the many groups and organizations that wanted to come to the hangar and participate in the grand homecoming celebrations we were hosting," said Goldstein.

Although the duties Goldstein faced were not usual during an annual tour with an aerial port squadron, "I learned quickly," the major said. "I used to teach school and I'm a people person. Since I was not activated, the least that I felt I could do was help the returning troops. It was very rewarding."

ITT Hartford, part of the Hartford Insurance Group, sponsored a 24-hour vigil at the beginning of April during which employees gave roses to returning troops, brought sandwiches to the hard-working Red Cross volunteers and mingled and danced with the troops until mid-morning. According to Goldstein, the company also made a monetary contribution to the U.S.O. at Westover.

At an awards banquet last month in Avon, Conn., ITT Hartford honored Major Goldstein with their Humanitarian Service Award. The solid crystal trophy served as a token of recognition for the major's help in making "ITT Hartford Day" such a memorable experience for the employees as well as the troops returning home.

## Patriot Home celebration results in love

By SrA. Mike Lyman

When A1C Paul Gray and Tara Kisiel first laid eyes on each other on March 19, 1991 at the base hangar—it was love at first sight.

What has evolved into a long-distance love affair between 19-year-old Kisiel and 21-year-old Gray will culminate in a July 11 wedding.

The love story began when Gray arrived at Westover for what he thought was "just another customs stop" en route from the gulf after spending three months as a security police augmentee with the 317th Tactical Airlift Squadron in Saudi Arabia.

Taking part in the reception was Tara Kisiel, a Springfield College student who had joined her family with hopes of being cheered up after learning that a cousin had died.

As the troops began to mingle with the crowd, Kisiel noticed an airman who was standing alone and seemed to need some cheering up.

"When I first saw him, he looked like he needed a hug," said Kisiel, a resident of Chicopee. "There was something there I wanted to know."

Gray, who works as a personnel officer of the Air Force Operations, Testing and Evaluation Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., also felt an immediate attrac-

tion when he saw Kisiel for the first time.

"I was just standing there when she walked up to me," said Gray. "I was attracted to her right from the start. I liked her attitude and the way she came up and started talking."

They talked for a few minutes and then parted when Gray had to catch a bus to a Springfield hotel, but not before they exchanged addresses and phone numbers. Kisiel called Gray at the hotel later the same evening.

On Nov. 27, after eight months of writing letters, three face-to-face visits, and hundreds of dollars in telephone bills, the two reunited at Westover in hopes of finding some mementos of their first meeting.

Though they wrote infrequently, they talked to each other regularly on the phone. "Actually, we had talked about getting married before we even kissed," she said.

Following the marriage, the two will live in New Mexico while he continues his career in the Air Force. She hopes to return to college next year.

She is the daughter of John and Cheryl Kisiel of Chicopee.

He is the son of Ken and Barbara Baer of Columbus, Ohio.



**MEMORIES** — A1C Paul Gray of New Mexico and Springfield College student Tara Kisiel of Chicopee, look through homecoming photos. The couple met at the base on March 19 and plan to marry next July.

# Former WAC recalls WWII days at Westover Field

## 100,000 women served in Corps before end of war

By SrA. Mike Lyman

For Alice Woodruff and others of the 704th Women's Army Corps who served at Westover Field during World War II, life was anything but routine.

"The excitement began the first day I arrived at Westover," Woodruff said.

"The girl I arrived with and I had just entered the gate when we were picked up by two men in a staff car. It wasn't until the MPs were chasing us in their own car that the men told us that we were supposed to be confined to quarters for a week upon arrival. The MPs chased us all over the base. We even drove through the obstacle course to try to shake them. Finally, with the police still following us some distance away, we jumped out near our barracks and hid in the bushes until they gave up the chase. Luckily, we didn't get into any trouble but it was the first and last time we got in a staff car," she said.

A native of New Iberia, La., Woodruff enlisted into what was then the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps in early 1942 at the age of 22.

"I volunteered to get involved," Woodruff said. "I wanted to do my share to help the cause."

After six weeks of basic training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, she went to Midland Radio School, Kansas City, Mo., for technical training in communications. Following tech school she was transferred to Camp Polk, La. for a brief period before being assigned to Army Air Base, Westover Field, in May 1943.

"It's funny. Within 12 hours after arrival you had your friends picked out," Woodruff said. "All things considered, we all got along pretty well. We shared a lot because we had to—we had no privacy and almost no money.

"Here at Westover we had two barracks of women," she said. "Each barracks housed about 75 girls. The most amazing thing was that with all of these different types of women from all over the country thrown into the same barracks, we all wore the same clothes.

"To keep ourselves busy during our spare time, we became very good at pulling pranks," she said. "For instance, we would sneak into the mess hall and switch the egg signs—that was fun.



Photo courtesy of Alice Woodruff

**WACS ON PARADE** — Members of the 704th Women's Army Corps marching in Springfield, Mass., during the summer of 1944.

"I remember one night someone in the dorm was snoring real loudly," Woodruff said. "After a while two of the girls began hitting each other, thinking the other was the guilty party. Come to find out, the next morning there was a drunk GI who was passed out on the floor between the two girls.

"Some of the girls even snuck on the B-24s and B-17s during training flights," Woodruff said. "Of course, they had to bring their own air sickness bag and, if necessary, were responsible for cleaning up their own mess—Army regulations you know.

"Though I never flew, I don't really feel too badly," she said. The one time I could have flown the plane ended up getting lost.

"As far as my military career goes, I began as a corporal and got promoted to sergeant right around the time we were formally sworn into the regular Army which happened on July 1, 1943," she said. "This was the day the WAAC became the Women's Army Corps. Initially, I worked for base intelligence but I had a run-in with a civilian and was transferred to communications after nine months of service.

"There were only a few things I didn't like doing in the military," she added. "One was cleaning the grease traps while working in the kitchen. Another was going through the gas chamber. But the worst thing of all was putting someone's belongings together after they had died. I felt like I was invading someone's life. It was terrible.

"People should remember that women in the service also died during the war. Though we females were reasonably safe here at Westover, all the girls who went overseas were issued body bags to carry on their person. And, in fact, quite a few who were sent to England were killed by the buzz bombs.

During her stay at Westover, Woodruff met her future husband, John, who was a local flight instructor for the Civil Air Patrol. They were married on Sept. 2, 1944.

In spite of being married, Woodruff, like many of the other girls, requested to work overseas.

"Unfortunately, when I was given a medical exam, they discovered that I was 'slightly' pregnant," she said. "For that reason, I was discharged from the service

*(continued on page 11)*

## Outreach program offers services to Reservists' children

By SrA. Mike Lyman

The Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee has been given a \$4,000 grant by the Department of Defense in October 1991 which will allow the local club to offer between 45 and 50 free scholarships and support services to children of Desert Shield/Desert Storm veterans.

The grant is part of the DOD's \$3.1 million Outreach Program which is specifically designed to help the children of Reserve and Guard members reacclimate to a non-combat environment.

"The scholarships are available immediately on a first-come, first-serve basis to anyone who was activated during the war," said James DesRosiers, Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee's executive director. "The scholarships are one-year memberships which will allow youngsters to use all of the club's programs and services during 1992. Children must be between the ages of 6 and 18.

"Though we have been given funds for a maximum of 50 scholarships, we will provide more scholarships if needed," DesRosiers said.

"One reason for applying for the grant was because the children were very supportive of the troops when they came to Westover's welcoming home activities during their (1991) spring break," DesRosiers said.

"I wanted to take it one step further," DesRosiers said. "Many of the people who were involved in the War were Reservists who didn't have access to a local active military base's services and resources.

"During the activation, some children went long periods with one or both of their parents away from home," DesRosiers said. "We want to give them a chance to express their feelings with people outside their home.

"Sometimes children need someone else to talk too," he said. "Right or wrong, children are entitled to an opinion. We want to give them the opportunity to hash it out.

"Not only will youngsters be a part of the Outreach programs, but they will also have access to the rest of the club," DesRosiers said.

The facility has a number of activities available including a full gymnasium; a game room with ping pong and pool tables; an educational room with TVs, VCRs and computers; an artwork room where art classes as well as cooking and sewing classes are held; and a variety of sports programs.

"As a United Way agency, we are a human resource center, not just a club for children," DesRosiers said. "We have licensed social workers and other trained staff who will try and help anyone in need. If we run into a situation we can't handle, we will direct the party to the appropriate agency.

"We are here to help military personnel in the area," DesRosiers said. "We hope people take advantage of our programs for their children and themselves."

Anyone interested in further information about the Outreach Program or other services offered by the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club may call (413) 592-6707 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays.

## Child care scheduled for UTA weekends

by TSgt. Sandi Michon

The NCO Leadership school has given birth to an idea that may help Reservists with UTA child care needs.

One group in the NCO class that met last October and November was asked to address Reservists' child care needs as their class project. As a result of their work, a local child care facility may be available as early as this month.

"Finding suitable childcare for UTA weekends can be a real problem for single parents and for dual military parents," said SSgt. Sue Harrington, 439th EMS jet engine mechanic. Harrington is a single parent and was a member of the NCO group that tackled the child care problem.

"We phoned most of the licensed day care centers in the local area, and found only one that was willing to be flexible to meet our needs," she explained. Most centers only operate on a Monday to Friday basis.

Crickets Corner Learning Center in Chicopee, Mass. is willing to open on both UTA monthly meetings if there is a sufficient need. The center director, Kris-

### OPEN HOUSE CRICKETS CORNER LEARNING CENTER

258 Hampden St.

Chicopee, Mass.

Jan. 11 5-6 p.m.

ten Bielski, is sponsoring an open house at the center in Jan. 11, from 5 - 6 p.m. Crickets Corner is at 258 Hampden St. which is within 15 minutes of the base.

The day care would be open from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the UTA weekends and would accept children from three-months-old to age seven. Bielski has requested an age waiver from the state licensing board and is awaiting approval so she can accept older children.

The center offers full diaper service, breakfast, lunch and two snacks, indoor and outdoor activities, games, toys and

special activities. The price of day care varies according to age.

"Crickets Corner is a licensed day care center and all teachers have degrees in early childhood education and are first-aid and CPR-certified," said Harrington.

Reservists interested in using the Crickets Corner facilities should contact Bielski at (413) 594-5346. If she gets three or four regular customers per weekend, she will make the center available.

Those needing care on a sporadic basis should confirm their needs to the center by the Wednesday prior to the weekend to ensure adequate staff/child ratios. She indicated she could be flexible for emergency last-minute needs.

Harrington spoke very positively of Crickets Corner, which she uses for her own child. "During my activation through Desert Storm they were very flexible and very helpful," she said.

She is happy to see a tangible solution to an ongoing problem and hopes Reservists will be contact the center as soon as possible.

## “Patriot People”

**Name:** Linda S. Ryan  
**Rank:** TSgt.  
**Age:** 29 and holding  
**Address:** Holyoke, Mass.  
**Unit:** 439th USAF Clinic  
**Position:** Aerospace medicine technician  
**Civilian position:** Assistant administrative manager (ART)  
**Favorite food:** Veal  
**Years of service:** 6  
**Favorite sport:** Jogging  
**Favorite hobby:** Cooking  
**Ideal vacation:** Windjammer cruise in the Caribbean  
**Best way to relax:** Piano playing  
**Preferred entertainment:** Stage productions and musicals  
**Favorite celebrity:** Barbra Streisand  
**Favorite music:** Classical  
**Favorite book:** *Far Pavillions* by M.M. Kane  
**Favorite color:** Pink  
**Favorite car:** Honda Accord  
**Pet peeve:** People who gossip  
**Best thing about Westover:** People  
**Worst thing about Westover:** Enlisted billeting



SrA Mike Lyman

TSgt. Linda Ryan

## PAT on the back

### Enlistments

SSgt. Mary E. Bieri  
 SSgt. James L. Bullock  
 SSgt. Mark J. Bush  
 SSgt. Paul J. Neslusan  
 SSgt. Gerald E. Racicot  
 SSgt. Wayne A. Rehnberg  
 SSgt. David O. Reim  
 SrA. William C. Clark  
 SrA. Martin J. Cunningham  
 SrA. Norman F. Martin  
 SrA. Blaine A. Tirendi  
 A1C Jessica A. Chouinard  
 A1C Brian L. Regnier  
 A1C Antonio J. Soares

Amn. William J. Hickiman Jr.  
 AB Steven A. Giordano  
 AB Edward A. Greenaway

### Reenlistments

SMSgt. James E. Hughes  
 SMSgt. Michael W. Schuell  
 MSgt. Winifred W. Dailey  
 TSgt. Paul E. Beachell  
 TSgt. William Carter II  
 TSgt. Linda S. Colucci  
 TSgt. Neil A. Delisle  
 TSgt. Jane M. Dumont  
 TSgt. Constance M. Fonfara  
 TSgt. Roxanne Friedhofer

TSgt. Deresa D. Johndrew  
 TSgt. John M. Madden  
 TSgt. Nancy A. McKemmie  
 TSgt. Robert H. Odell  
 SSgt. Wesley A. Archambault  
 SSgt. Bruce L. Bornstein  
 SSgt. James L. Coyle  
 SSgt. Michael A. Dechesne  
 SSgt. Edward J. Lepsch  
 SSgt. Brian D. McKenna  
 SSgt. Peter S. Raymond  
 TSgt. Lynne V. Saya  
 SSgt. Todd A. Schoonover  
 SSgt. Mark G. Seitz  
 SSgt. Brian W. Valentine  
 A1C Peter G. Cyrus



**WEIGHT TRAINING**—An M88A1 heavy armored recovery vehicle backs onto a C-5A prior to an air refueling mission. The 57-ton vehicle is used as cargo to add realism to air refueling training missions.

## WACs at Westover (continued from page 9)

in December of '44.”

By the end of the war the Women’s Army Corps had grown to over 100,000. Nearly 15,000 of these women served in foreign countries. In 1948, Congress made WAC a permanent part of the Army.

“I enjoyed serving my country and the camaraderie,” she said. “We got along beautifully with the men. The fellas really treated us well. Since the war has ended we’ve had many reunions and a lot of great times. Next to having children and grandchildren, being a part of the Women’s Army Corps was the most exciting part of my life.”

Woodruff, who now resides in Northampton, Mass., recalls a moment during during a recent parade where WACs members marched along side veterans from other wars. As the ladies marched by, Woodruff heard a male bystander ask one of the ladies if she really fought during the Second World War.

The woman answered proudly, “Sure we did, we’re the WACs. But now we’re just high steppin’ grannies!”

### Reserve Pay for Four Drills Effective Jan. 1, 1992

PAY GRADE	Years of Service													
	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	26
<b>COMMISSIONED OFFICERS</b>														
O-10	855.68	885.80	885.80	885.80	885.80	919.76	919.76	970.72	970.72	1040.16	1040.16	1109.80	1109.80	1178.96
O-9	758.36	778.20	794.80	794.80	794.80	815.00	815.00	848.92	848.92	919.76	919.76	970.72	970.72	1040.16
O-8	686.88	707.48	724.24	724.24	724.24	778.20	778.20	815.00	815.00	848.92	885.80	919.76	942.44	942.44
O-7	570.72	609.52	609.52	609.52	636.88	636.88	673.80	673.80	707.48	778.20	831.76	831.76	831.76	831.76
O-6	423.04	464.76	495.24	495.24	495.24	495.24	495.24	495.24	512.04	593.00	623.28	636.88	673.80	730.76
O-5	338.32	397.24	424.72	424.72	424.72	424.72	437.56	461.12	492.04	528.88	559.16	576.12	596.24	596.24
O-4	285.16	347.28	370.44	370.44	377.32	393.96	420.84	444.48	464.76	485.16	498.56	498.56	498.56	498.56
O-3	265.00	296.32	316.76	350.48	367.24	380.40	401.00	420.84	431.16	431.16	431.16	431.16	431.16	431.16
O-2	231.08	252.36	303.24	313.40	319.92	319.92	319.92	319.92	319.92	319.92	319.92	319.92	319.92	319.92
O-1	200.64	208.84	252.36	252.36	252.36	252.36	252.36	252.36	252.36	252.36	252.36	252.36	252.36	252.36
<b>COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER FOUR YEARS ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE AS AN ENLISTED MEMBER OR WARRANT OFFICER</b>														
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.48	367.24	380.40	401.00	420.84	437.56	437.56	437.56	437.56	437.56	437.56
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	313.40	319.92	330.08	347.28	360.56	370.44	370.44	370.44	370.44	370.44	370.44
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	252.36	269.64	279.56	289.68	299.76	313.40	313.40	313.40	313.40	313.40	313.40
<b>ENLISTED MEMBERS</b>														
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	314.12	321.16	328.44	335.96	343.48	350.16	368.52	404.36
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	263.40	270.92	278.08	285.28	292.84	299.56	306.92	324.92	361.12
E-7	183.88	198.52	205.88	213.08	220.32	227.36	234.64	241.96	252.92	260.08	267.32	270.80	288.96	324.92
E-6	158.24	172.44	179.64	187.28	194.28	201.28	208.68	219.44	226.32	233.64	237.20	237.20	237.20	237.20
E-5	138.84	151.12	158.48	165.36	176.24	183.40	190.68	197.68	201.28	201.28	201.28	201.28	201.28	201.28
E-4	129.48	136.76	144.80	156.00	162.16	162.16	162.16	162.16	162.16	162.16	162.16	162.16	162.16	162.16
E-3	122.00	128.72	133.84	139.12	139.12	139.12	139.12	139.12	139.12	139.12	139.12	139.12	139.12	139.12
E-2	117.40	117.40	117.40	117.40	117.40	117.40	117.40	117.40	117.40	117.40	117.40	117.40	117.40	117.40
E-1>4	104.76	104.76	104.76	104.76	104.76	104.76	104.76	104.76	104.76	104.76	104.76	104.76	104.76	104.76
E-1<4	96.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

# PATRIOT

Coming in February: To Russia with love



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