

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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Two units will relocate to Westover

by Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

Two geographically separated units are losing their host base next year and will relocate to Westover.

The 933rd Civil Engineering and the 23rd Aeromedical Patient Staging Squadrons--both located at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, N.Y.--will move in about a year from now.

Griffiss, a victim of the Defense Department's Base Realignment and Closure Commission, will eventually sell off much of its real estate and be left with a guard unit, said Lt. Col. Rock Desilets, 933rd commander.

"The runway will be used as an auxil-

iary field by the Air National Guard to service the Army's 10th Mountain Division," he said.

Plans call for both groups to remain separate and not be consolidated with other units when they move to the base, said Col. James P. Gallin, 439th Air Wing vice commander.

"We'll need to find a suitable location for them," he said.

Not everyone may be coming, though.

When the 933rd was formed in 1985, many of its staff came from Niagara Falls, Desilets said. Also, some members are from central New York locations such as nearby Utica, while others crisscross the state from Rochester to Albany.

"We expect to lose a lot of people," he said.

Desilets is perhaps one of the few reservists looking forward to the change. A resident of Windsor, Conn., the commander will travel 27 rather than the nearly 200 miles he now drives to work.

Defense cutbacks will continue next year. In fact, the next and perhaps final wave of base closings are expected during the summer of 1995. Meanwhile, AFRES just announced the nationwide loss of 3,300 positions--none, however, at Westover.

"We continue to be fortunate," Gallin said. "So far we've come through unscathed."



Balancing act

Members of the 58th Aerial Port Squadron use a crane and some steady hands to inch a humvee transport vehicle to a K-loader for loading on a C-141 from

Charleston AFB, S.C. The work, which occurred during the March UTA, is typical of weekend aerial port activities that support active-duty missions.

Lupien grabs AFRES top cop award

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Westover security police officer SSgt. John Lupien was patrolling Homestead AFB, Fla. in January when he was named Air Force Reserve outstanding security specialist of the year.

The top spot for security specialist performance caps a career that ranges from serving as an elite guard at the United States Air Force Europe Headquarters in Germany to patrolling the Rio Grande border area for the federal drug interdiction effort.

Lupien earned the top security specialist honor for exceptional performance as a member of the 439th Security Police Squadron.

His selection as the best in the Air Force Reserve security specialist program was announced while he was serving a six-month TDY tour at Homestead AFB. He was on duty as a security gate guard and patrol officer at the Florida air base until the end of March.

Lupien served seven years of active duty, including service in Germany and at Langley AFB, Va., from 1977 to 1983. While on active duty in Germany, he volunteered and was selected to serve with the elite force guarding USAFE headquarters at Ramstein AB. He later served in a similar security unit, distinguished by its sharp, white-trimmed uniform, at Langley AFB.

Lupien came to Westover in 1986 as a reservist and became a security specialist Air Reserve Technician two years later. He was mobilized for seven months during Desert Shield/Storm, serving on flightline security patrol and as a desk sergeant.

He was among the Westover security specialists who guard

the Galaxies against potential highjackings, stowaways or other threats on missions. He has served on missions to Canada, Australia, Argentina, Brazil and other Latin American countries.

During his first three months on patrol duty at Homestead, he worked 12-hour days providing security for the air base which was shattered by the winds of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. The base is being realigned as an Air Force Reserve facility.

The security police volunteers on TDY duty are providing traffic control and are guarding sites where buildings are being either remodeled or torn down.

While in Florida, Lupien volunteered to work for a soup kitchen for those displaced by the hurricane. He also became involved in the Habitat for Humanity program to rebuild homes in shattered neighborhoods.

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Before he went to Florida, Lupien already had a reputation for giving the extra measure.

"What makes John stand out is that whatever the squadron needs, John is the first to volunteer," said Capt. Roger Summerlin, 439th SPS commander.

"He doesn't show any preference. He takes the tough field conditions or the nice hotels. He doesn't mind sleeping on the ground, being cold, wet and hungry.

"You can count on John," Summerlin said.

Lupien recently received an Air Force Achievement Medal in recognition of a 90-day tour with the drug interdiction program in El Paso, Texas. While serving on the border he was part of a team which observed and identified for federal authorities individuals illegally crossing the Rio Grande.

A certified scuba diver, Lupien is using his spare time in Florida to train in techniques of rescue diving.

Security specialists compete for Air Force honors

The security specialists of the 439th SPS, including the 639th SPF, will represent the Air Force Reserve in competition for top Air Force honors during the summer.

Westover's security specialists were among two squadrons selected as best among more than 40 security police units in the Air Force Reserve. They share the honor with reservists from Eglin AFB, Fla. The decision on the best unit in the Air Force will be made in June or July.

The 439th SPS, under Capt. Roger Summerlin, and the 639th SPF, commanded by 1st Lt. Tim Donnelly were recognized for a long string of achievements in innovative training and community service. The security specialists are major contributors to Westover's

role as a training site for military and law enforcement organizations.

The 439th SPS provided training during six weeks of Patriot Tiger aerial port exercises at Dogpatch. Officers of the Massachusetts State Police and the Hamden County Tactical Response Team trained at Westover under the supervision of security specialists. During the summer 100 members of the Northeast Regional Police Explorers Academy were hosted at Westover.

A Westover fire team was part of the first AFRES ground defense team to participate in Joint Readiness Training Center exercises at Fort Polk, La. in September. Members of the 639th SPF spent the first week of March in tents in cold, wet field conditions during field exercises at Fort Polk.

The security specialists sent small arms experts TDY to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, provided personnel for the AFRES IG team and 22nd Air Force RAV team, and augmented a foreign assistance training mission to South America.

Westover security specialists were the first reserve team to win a first place trophy at an airlift rodeo during competition at Little Rock AFB in June 1993.

The 439th SPS and 539th SPF consist of 155 reservists, ARTS and DOD police who worked together for the AFRES honor.

"Every part of the organization has done super work. It's definitely been a team effort," Summerlin said of his security specialists.

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Westover converts to cleaner, safer JP-8 fuel

by TSgt. Sandi Michon

In an effort to preserve the environment, and standardize fuel throughout the Air Force, Westover is converting to JP-8 fuel.

"The newer JP-8 fuel is safer," explained Wilfred "Matty" Mathieu, fuels management flight foreman. "The JP-8 flash point is more predictable, it has a better burn rate, and provides better mileage."

According to Mathieu, the newer fuel reduces the Volatile Organic Compound, the substance burned off from the fuel.

Westover is converting from JP-4 fuel which has been used since the early 1950s. Fuels such as JP-5, 6 and 7 have been used in specific aircraft, but JP-8 is the multi-purpose fuel currently used

throughout Europe.

"The ultimate goal is for each base to have a single grade of fuel for heating, vehicles and aircraft," said Mathieu. JP-8 meets the requirements for multi-purpose fuel.

While the differences between the fuels brings positive environmental impact, it also causes temporary maintenance problems at the base. According to Leroy Clink, base civil engineer, the thinner viscosity of JP-8 creates transitory difficulties throughout the fuel system.

"The thinner fuel uncovers system leaks not apparent with the thicker JP-4 fuels," Clink said. He also explained that the thinner fuel actually cleanses the fuel lines by picking up contaminants as it passes through the fuel lines.

"These contaminants are picked up

through fuel filters, which will have to be changed more frequently in the beginning months," Clink said.

Westover Galaxies have been switching between JP4 and JP8 on international flights, but consistent use of JP8 may uncover fuel leaks in the aircraft. Clink projects the leakage difficulties as a short term problem. "In the long run, systems will run more smoothly," he said.

As the conversion deadline approaches, Mathieu and his crew are busy cleaning tanks, purging fuel lines and preparing the fuel trucks.

"The conversion challenges are well worth the long term advantages associated with JP-8 fuel, and we expect to convert on schedule by mid-April," Mathieu said.

Hess expertise fuels demand for his services

Article and photo
by TSgt. Sandi Michon

When it comes to fuel problems, Ed Hess never seems to run dry of helpful solutions.

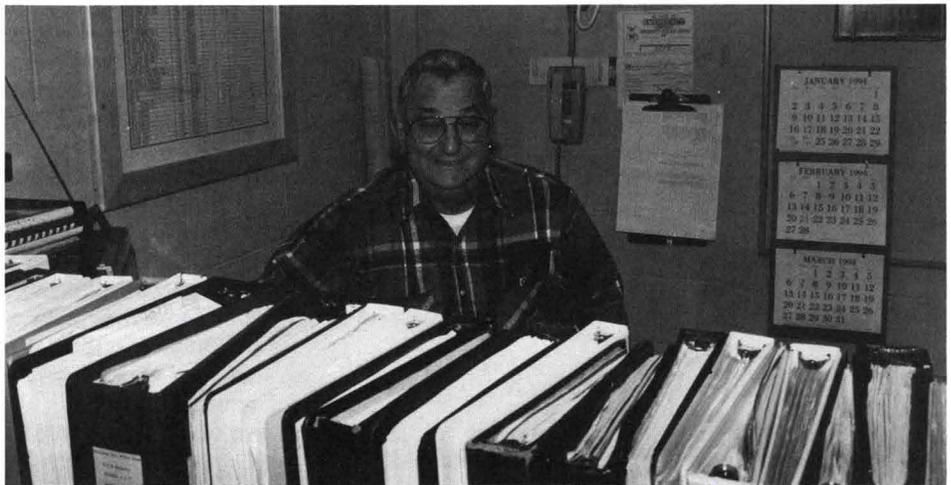
His expertise in the field of liquid fuels has brought requests from military installations around the country.

Westover's liquid fuels chief has been invited to facilities in Georgia, Ohio, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and most recently, Edwards AFB, Calif. In his travels, he has rebuilt jet fuel storage systems, accomplished pre-repair inspections, fixed filter separators and supervised tank cleanings.

With a heavy emphasis on environmental issues, Hess' skills are in high demand.

At Edwards AFB, Hess was hand-picked for a multi-command, multi-disciplinary team of experts who participated in a oil/water separator survey. The survey determined environmental impact on the Flight Test Center. The survey uncovered serious problems, and Hess' team outlined corrective measures.

The team surveyed approximately 500 facilities in less than 10 days by working 12-hour days, every day for two weeks. "We completed in two weeks, what nor-



BY THE BOOKS – Ed Hess, liquid fuels chief, sits behind a barricade of manuals which govern Air Force base fuel management.

mally takes three to four months," said Hess proudly.

According to Edwards Air Force Flight Test Center Commander, Brig. Gen. Richard Engel, Hess' participation in the team helped save more than \$500,000, and three months times, by conducting the survey in-house rather than by an outside contractor. General Engel was effusive in his praise of Hess' knowledge and expertise.

Hess, a Springfield, Mass. resident, originally from Tennessee, has worked as a civilian at Westover for 20 years. In 1974, he completed 20 years Air Force service in the fuels field with assignments all over the world.

He also served with 8th Air Force with its Inspector General team inspecting fuel sites.

Hess, husband and father of five grown children, has built a solid work reputation, respected in his field.

"He's a great guy," said Leroy Clink, base civil engineer. "Ed's the most organized, energetic and professional employee. He's always willing to go the extra mile. Ed is a pleasure to work with."

According to Clink, his CES people are often requested to assist other units around the country. He is happy to oblige if it doesn't conflict with base priorities.

Hess was recently requested for a project in Spain, and is currently helping Edwards AFB by offering guidance over the phone.

"I had to deny the recent requests for Hess' assistance. With the conversion to JP-8 fuel nearing the deadline, we need him here, too," Clink said.

Family Support Center gets full-time director

by SSgt. Nancy Robbins

When more than 1,500 Westover reservists were called to active duty during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, base officials soon realized that families of activated reservists needed help, guidance and information.

Those needs were addressed recently with the appointment of Roy Green as the base's first full-time Family Support Center Director.

Green and three reservists are tasked with putting a variety of support services online so they can be of immediate assistance to deployed reservists.

The Family Support Services program has been implemented successfully on active duty bases worldwide, and Green hopes he can get a similar program off the ground here.

"The first priority we have is to set down a foundation of who we need to serve," he said.

"We need to set up the operation to ensure reservists' families are taken care of, as well as the DOD civilians, and air reserve technicians," Green added.

Green will be working towards setting up a network of community help - obtaining lists of local community assistance available to those family members who need help in the event of deployment.

"Many times, when personnel are deployed, the spouse or family at home finds themselves lacking the resources or



"The first priority we have is to set down a foundation of who we need to serve."

Roy Green

knowledge of how to deal with being alone. These problems range from financial difficulties to mental health-related crises," Green said.

"We want families of deployed members to know that there is someplace for them to go to when they need assistance," Green said.

Green said that we do not need another basewide activation for his Support Center to be of help.

"When a reservist is sent on a 30 or 90-day tour to, say, Panama, we will be able to call that spouse or family member at home and offer our services to them - to let them know that they don't have to make it alone," Green said.

Green is a native of Maine, where he

received his license in social work. He is a graduate of the University of Maine.

Green has been in social services for 13 years. He started out working for the Catholic Charities. He moved into civil service in 1988 at Loring AFB, Maine, and went on to Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, where he had been serving under his present title.

Green and his wife are happy to return to New England. They have three grown children.

The Family Support Center is located at 17C Sea Wolf Dr., in the Navy Housing located just outside the main gate. Green can be reached at 593-1431, Monday - Friday, 0730-1630. He will also be on hand on both UTA weekends.

Transportation adds another trophy to collection

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Every time the men and women of Westover's Base Transportation step up to the plate they hit a home run. For the third year in a row, the reservists and civilians who keep Westover rolling on schedule earned top honors as the best Base Transportation unit in the Air Force Reserve.

They will receive a four-foot tall trophy at a transportation conference in San Antonio, Texas in April.

Westover's military and civilian transportation specialists have won trophies as Air Force Reserve Base Transportation outstanding unit of the year for 1991, 1992 and 1993. Earlier this year they were cited as best in 22nd Air Force. In 1992, they took top honors as the outstanding Base Transportation unit in 14th Air Force.

Base Transportation specialists have earned trophies during a period of expansion and new challenges. In 1993 the unit grew by about 50 vehicles. They were needed to meet expanded mission requirements due to the increased level

of training exercises and transient aircraft using Westover facilities.

The transportation specialists have kept their snow fighting equipment and other vehicles in operating condition through one of the most bitter winters in the memory of New Englanders.

Base Transportation also earned recognition for pollution control and clean-up efforts to meet stricter environmental standards. The goals include more recycling and a reduction of hazardous waste requiring disposal.

Capt. William Barry is the reserve commander and Shari MacDonald is the civilian transportation officer of about 75 Westover military and civilian Base Transportation specialists.

"The men and women of Base Transportation earned the trophy because every one of them did a little extra and worked together for it during the past year," Barry said.

"The only way you can consistently be the best is when everyone pulls together in a team effort. That's what makes the military and civilian Base Transportation specialists winners,"

Letourneau stocks quality in base supply store

Article and photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon

With quality in high demand, TSgt. Carla Letourneau has ample supply.

When customers enter the base supply store, Letourneau has a ready smile and laughs easily, but she is dead serious about her commitment to service.

Letourneau, her unit's Unsung Patriot, has been credited with single-handedly revamping the base supply store.

"The store was status quo, or less, before Carla took over," said SMSgt. Claire Gaudreau, supply management superintendent, who has worked with Letourneau for 17 years. "It took the right person to get the store on track, and Carla is that person." Gaudreau gave a long list of superlatives for Letourneau, which includes conscientious, congenial, and leader. She also cited Letourneau's keen sense of humor as an asset.

Warehouse Manager, MSgt. Paul Gillis, agrees that Letourneau is an outstanding team player. The QAFA inspectors also gave her their seal of approval. "The inspectors thought the store was the best they had ever seen," said Gillis.

Letourneau, a Greenfield, Mass. resident with 17 years of service, says she just does the best she can. The slim, blue-eyed blonde is a bundle of frenetic energy. "I'm here to work," she said.

In textbook TQM fashion, Letourneau puts the customer first. She believes customer interaction is critical, but says the reason they come to the store is for supplies, so the shelves need to be stocked well. "I hate to make excuses for not having what the customer needs," she said.

Letourneau, who has works in multiple aspects of inventory management, took over the store in 1992, but worked it during activation in 1990-91. She credits a simple, common sense approach to improving the store.

"I painted the floor, ordered new shelving, paid attention to stocking, and I try to keep the shelves full and organized," she explained.

Gaudreau is more expansive. "She changed everything. She worked with the computer system, toward full utilization. She cleaned the whole area, revamped the inventory system, and worked hard on customer relations," she explained. "She is a worker."

"In our TQM classes, the base supply store, and specifically Carla, are consistently brought up as classic examples of quality in action," said Maj. Armand Tourangeau, base quality officer. Tourangeau cited examples of Letourneau's responsiveness to the customer in his own experience.

"With all the supplies I need for the TQM classes, Carla initiated arrangements to have supplies delivered monthly. She anticipates demands and goes the extra mile for the customer," he said.

As one of seven children, and identical twin of TSgt. Charon Letourneau, Carla believes pursuing excellence is a family trait. Their brother is MSgt. Edward Letourneau, utility systems technician with the 439th CES.

"We were always taught to do the best we could, at any task, and to feel good about what you do," she said. "I take a personal pride in my work. I don't compare myself to others, but set standards for myself. I admire determination and perseverance."

"I try to put in a good day's work," she said in summary. "If you don't, it will usually catch up with you."



UNsung PATRIOT
TSgt. Carla Letourneau

Lt. Col. Flynn receives top Air Force honors

Lt. Col. Terry Flynn, a medical readiness officer with the 34th Aeromedical Patient Staging Squadron, was named the Air Force Outstanding Medical Readiness Officer of the Year, the first such honor to go to a Reservist.

An operating room nurse at Long Island's North Shore University Hospital, Flynn's geographically separated squadron is located at Roslyn Air National Guard Base, a Geographically Separated Unit assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing, is located about 30 miles east of New York City.

Scholarships offered to reservists, dependents

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

The Westover Air Reserve Base Chiefs' Council is again offering college scholarships to dependents of 439th enlisted reservists or reservists themselves.

CMSgt. Larry Lose, chairman of the scholarship committee said the council will award 10 scholarships, worth \$300 each to candidates who must meet the following criteria:

Must have been accepted by or are currently attending any accredited college or university, carrying a minimum of six credit hours per semester;

If entering a college, an applicant must have maintained a scholastic rating of a "B" average or better during their senior year of high school. If in college, must have a cumulative average of at least 2.75;

Must submit an autobiography, to include any outside extracurricular or scholastic activities;

Submit a letter of recommendation from a school official.

All candidates and their applications will be screened by the council scholarship committee and winners will be noti-

fied as soon as possible.

Scholarships will be presented at a dinner, tentatively scheduled for August 1994. Winners will be dinner guests of the council while parents and guests will be expected to pay their own way.

Applications are available at unit orderly rooms or the one appearing on this page may be used.

Completed applications must be submitted by June 19, 1994 to:

CMSgt. Larry Lose,
439 CES/CEF
250 Patriot Ave., Suite 2
Westover ARB, Mass. 01022.

439th AW Westover Chiefs' Council scholarship application

Student's name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Age _____ School attended _____

School address _____

Class standing _____ Scholastic rating _____

College desired _____

Address _____

Date accepted _____ Major/course selected _____

Name of 439th AW reservist/parent _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit assigned _____ rank _____

Length of service _____

Length of service in 439th AW _____

Return to: CMSgt. Larry Lose, 439th CES/CEF, Westover ARB, Mass. 01022

New facilities, spirit, spark base services improvement

by TSgt. Sandi Michon

Base services has a new name, a new reserve commander, and new, updated facilities but they are most proud of their new attitude - a commitment to live up to their name.

Formerly Morale, Welfare and Recreation, base Services is headed up by Chris Menard on the civilian side, and Maj. Jackie Crothers is the new reserve services officer.

The base gym, and the consolidated club are undergoing extensive renovations, and services personnel are excited about expanding services to the customer.

"We want to build the best services section in the Air Force," said Menard. He said the staff is motivated and excited, and scores of new ideas are in the works. "Everything is targeted toward the consumer, providing options that service every facet of our population," Menard said. "It will take some time to implement everything, but some very positive changes are already happening."

While waiting for the club and gym renovations to be completed, the services staff is vigorously pursuing quality changes. "Our approach is radically different," explained Menard. Focus groups have been formed and are actively addressing long term deficiencies in the recreation, lodging and troop feeding procedures.

Changes to the club include the merging of the Blue Room and the casual bar to one V-shaped area which has been described as a sports bar. The facility will have a bar at both ends, televisions, and a variety of activities. Lunch and dinner will be served in the sports bar, while the main dining room will offer finer dining on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. The main ball room will continue to be available for special functions. One of the club bars is being renovated to accommodate meetings.

"We have already thrown out the existing menus, and we are building new dining choices based on a consensus of cooks, servers, and a cross section of

club diners. We have already received positive feedback in the three short weeks of the new meal offerings," Menard said.

He said they will continue to change the menu based on what the patrons want. "We are asking our customer to shape the direction of our service," he stated. Their goal is to build up the customer base, and then determine how membership should be structured.

In addition to advisory and focus groups, base services staff have been inspecting other facilities for ideas. "We

recognize that we are unique, however, and we are enthusiastic about creating our own image," said Menard.

He repeatedly stressed their desire for ideas and customer feedback.

Volunteers are needed for focus groups which provide open discussions about program ideas, menus, and entertainment.

The entire recreation reserve functions is also being redefined.

In the past, recreation specialists worked the same hours as other reservists, and when reservists came off duty, so did the recreation staff. Programs and hours did not cater to reservists' availability.

"That is all going to change," said TSgt. Mitch Staszko, NCOIC of recreation services. "We are committed to creating numerous recreation options during the UTA weekends." He commented on the role of recreational activities in promoting team spirit, and giving reservists an opportunity to meet each other.

The Saturday of the A UTA is the initial focus in providing recreational choices. In May, softball and beach-type volleyball intramural leagues are scheduled to begin. According to Staszko, recreation services will provide the playing fields, equipment (excluding gloves) the umpires, and end-of-season trophies for the winning teams. He emphasized flexibility in rosters and also in team composition. Squadrons, or individuals interested in fielding volleyball or softball teams should submit their rosters to the base gym as soon as possible.

"The changes are big...Things are changing. We want to work with you, and for you."

Chris Menard

Health: team effort

The base clinic is available to help reservists in their quest for good health.

Beginning in April, the clinic will post, in the dining hall, nutritional information on cholesterol, weight reduction/maintenance, and general food information.

A health topic bulletin board is posted in the hallway of the base clinic. April's offerings include numerous pamphlets on addiction control.

With the heavy base emphasis on smoke-free environments, information is available to help smokers kick the habit.

Visit the clinic for more health data.

Horseshoe pits are projected to be installed soon and horseshoe competition is encouraged.

During the months of June, July and August, recreation services wants to see the base pool open to midnight, with a variety of activities available.

Also on the slate is an expansion of the Four Seasons Checkout Store to accommodate the reservist work schedule. "Typically, we close Saturday at noon, and there are no Sunday hours. We are planning to expand rental hours so reservists can take advantage of the equipment on their UTA," explained Staszko.

Recreation services staffers are looking to possibly host a fishing derby at Wade Lake, and organizing a tennis tournament in early fall. "We want people to be thinking ahead to bowling leagues in September, winter ski trips each Saturday UTA evening, and competitions in areas such as darts, cribbage and pitch," said Staszko.

In an effort to cater to the customer, a marketing group has been formed under the leadership of Colleen Cloutier. Their task is to expand services, increase utilization, target user groups and tailor programs to each group. They are pursuing the best ways to publicize activities and to collect feedback for improvement.

"The changes are big," said Menard. "Things are changing. We want to work with you, and for you."

To get more information, or to offer suggestions, contact base services staff at Ext. 3082. To sign up for leagues, call Tom Murdock or Rae Wheelock (weekdays) or TSgt., Mitch Staszko (UTAs) at Ext. 3958.

58th APS trainers feted by Disaster Preparedness

by SSgt. Peter Hyde

As medical researchers study the maladies triggered by chemicals and petroleum fumes unleashed during the Persian Gulf War, TSgt. David Wells and SrA Melissa Figiel of the 58th Aerial Port Squadron are busy studying ways to prevent chemical exposure in the first place - it's called training.

But there's training and then there's training, and Wells and Figiel both know the difference, which is why they were recently recognized by Air Base Operability Office as Westover's Outstanding Disaster Preparedness Unit Representatives for 1993.

"These people are always one step ahead of the action," said George Copeland, a disaster preparedness technician at the base ABO. "We've worked very closely with them. These people are very diligent and used a lot of creativity in their program. It's a very motivated group."

Wells and Figiel took the mandated training program a step further, adding eye-catching bulletin boards, a monthly disaster preparedness handbook and a "Definition of the Month" to familiarize members with key issues for survival and effectiveness.

"See that flashy bulletin board over there," Figiel said, pointing across the hangar. "That's ours. We put all kinds of stuff up there and people do read it."

Wells and Figiel's motivation is understandable when their task is looked at in a practical light. "If you don't put your gas mask on within nine seconds of an attack, you're basically dead," explained Lt. John Mailo, the team's supervisor. "If you don't know it (how to use the equipment) now, by the time you need it, it's too late."

Figiel, who works during the week as a secretary in Springfield's water department, took over paperwork for the program in March of 1993, eventually compiling three volumes of materials, each the size of a New York City phone book.

At the time, the chemical warfare training program was languishing at 65 percent readiness. By July of 1993, it was closer to 95 percent and has remained there since. "We were well below standards in the first part of 1993," she said, underscoring the difficulties Wells experienced as the sole person on the job.

"Doing the paperwork alone is a full-time job. You also have to keep track of all the equipment for each individual.

Dave Wells was pretty much by himself," she said

Beside himself was more like it, according to Wells, who has since gotten a handle on the thousands of different pieces of equipment he must maintain to keep his unit up to snuff.

"There are three suits for each person, and there are 185 people in the unit," Wells said. "Then we have at least 1,000 canisters for the gas masks. Some of those are just for training. And then there are all the spares," he added, opening a

storeroom packed with hundreds of gas masks used for training.

Wells explained that the details of the job became more and more overwhelming as the reality of life during Desert Storm demonstrated the deadly seriousness of chemical warfare training.

But an avalanche of paperwork eventually inspired some quality teamwork and a new approach to disaster preparedness in general.

"They've put in a lot of extra hours on this to make it work," said Mailo.

Obituaries

TSgt. Hull, accounting specialist, dies

EASTHAMPTON, MASS. -- TSgt. Robert G. Hull, an accounting specialist in Westover's Financial Management section, lost his courageous battle to cancer on Feb. 21. He was 58-years-old.

Hull worked as a civilian in Westover's travel section and was affiliated with the base for more than 34 years.

"Bob was a good friend to all of us in the finance section," said Ray Gilbert, comptroller. "He inspired us with his courage and determination. We will all miss him."

Despite pain and discomfort, Hull worked every day until he was no longer able to get around, Gilbert said.

"Bob was a dedicated and conscientious employee who always put others before himself. His sense of humor and easy going personality will be missed by all," reflected Dan McCarthy, disbursing agent.

Hull was born in Claremont, N.H. and received an associate degree from the former Northampton Commercial College. He served in the Air Force on active duty before joining the Reserve.

"Bob was such a good-natured person - always willing to be of help to all of his coworkers, and to all of the reservists on base," said Sue Flanagan, accounting technician.

He leaves his wife, the former Joyce Parker; his mother Dorothy (White) Hull of Claremont, N.H.; two sons, Scott and Timothy of Phoenix, Ariz.; two daughters, Jennifer Kostek of Southampton and Julie Brisson of Wales; a brother, Richard of Claremont and a grandchild.

The funeral was held on Feb. 24 in Brookside Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the American Cancer Society, 383 Dwight St., Holyoke, Mass.

Champagne, base firefighter, dies at 44

CHICOPEE, MASS. - Armand Roger Champagne, 44, a Westover firefighter and Cub Scout leader, died March 1 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was a 20-year member of the Fire Department here, and served primarily in the crash rescue unit.

Champagne was a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, and served on the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., Champagne lived here in Chicopee most of his life. He was a communicant of Nativity Church, and a member of its athletic association.

Champagne was also a vice chairman and assistant cubmaster of Cub Scout pack 424 in Chicopee, and received an Akela Award for his outstanding service.

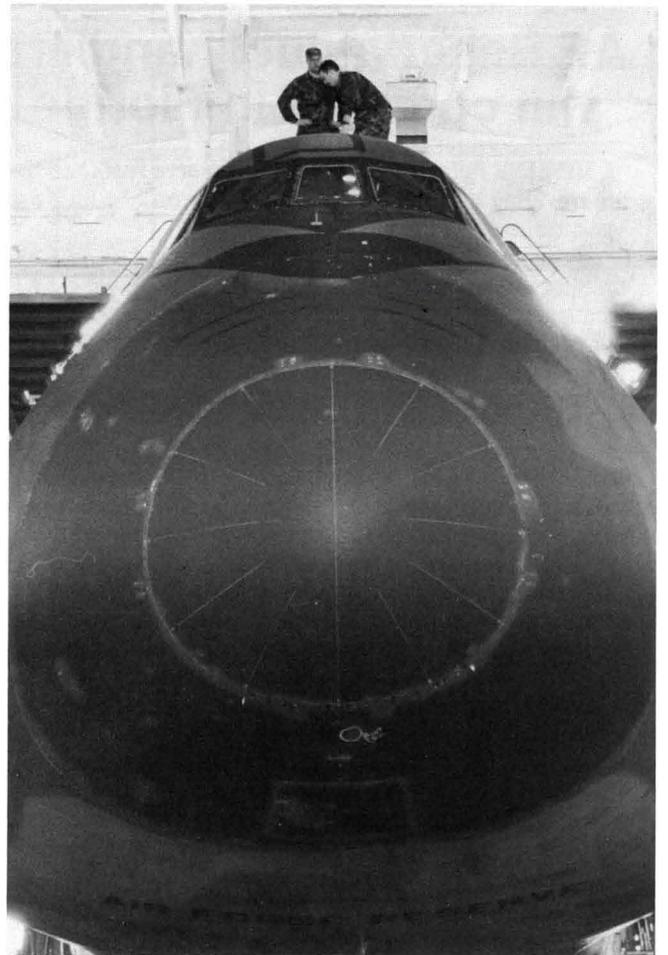
He leaves his wife, the former Catherine L. Clark; two sons, Armand R. Jr. and Steven M. at home; a brother, Maurice J. of Chicopee; a sister, Susanne LaGuerre of Holyoke; a step brother, Francis W. Bernard of Chicopee, and a grandson.

Memorial contributions may be made in the decedent's name to the Cub Scout Pack 424, in care of the church rectory on Chicopee St., Willimansett, Mass.01013.



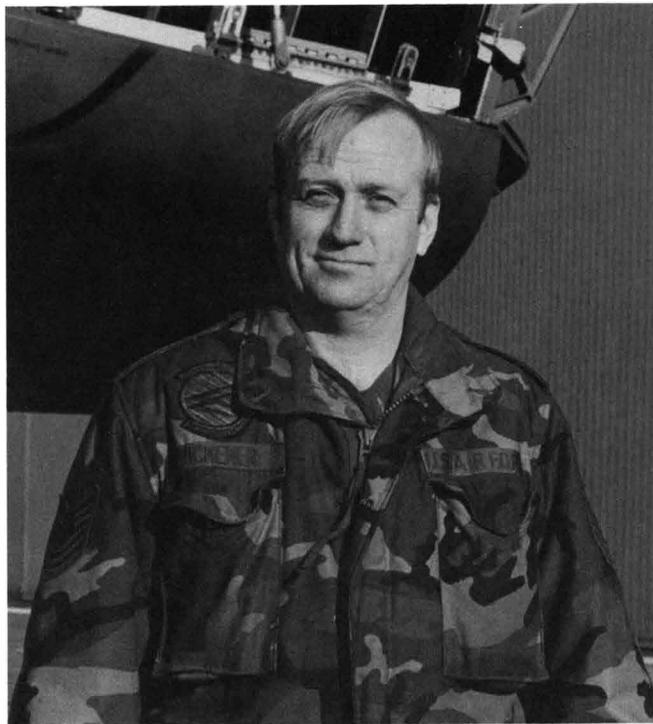
MAMMOTH MAINTENANCE – Members of the 439th Equipment Maintenance Squadron are shown performing a major isochronal inspection of a C-5A. At top, TSgt. Larry Parker and SSgt. Karl Sweikart do sheet metal work high atop the T-tail. At right, SSgt. Matt Gaudet, left and SSgt. Tom Evangelisto inspect an area above the Galaxy's cockpit while below, TSgt. Roger Desorcy, SSgt. Richard Wurszt and SSgt. Richard Gheen, work on slat gear.

Photos by SSgt. Vin Blanchard



Patriot People

Name: Jim Pickener
Rank: MSgt.
Age: 44
Address: Chicopee, Mass.
Unit: 439th AGS
Position: Crew chief
Civilian position: ART
Favorite food: Steak
Years of service: 25
Favorite sport: Bowling
Favorite hobby: Watching sci-fi movies
Ideal vacation: Florida beaches
Best way to relax: Listening to blues bands
Preferred entertainment: Watching car races
Favorite celebrity: Chuck Norris
Favorite music: Country-western
Favorite book: Any sci-fi book
Favorite color: Blue
Favorite car: '57 Chevy
Pet peeve: Know-it-alls
Best thing about Westover: People
Worst thing about Westover: Cold winters on flightline



SSgt. Nancy Robbins

MSgt. Jim Pickener

AF Reserve fuel handlers will compete in Florida

ROBINS AFB, Ga. -- Air Force Reserve fuels handlers are traveling to Florida in April, but it won't be an Easter vacation.

More than 120 reservists are scheduled to attend a training workshop April 11-12 at the Tyndall AFB NCO Academy. Training will include discussions about developing annual training plans, field laboratory analysis, cryotainer maintenance, petroleum damage deficiency reporting and combat fuels accounting/automated fuels control center.

Two Westover reservists are scheduled to attend. MSgt. Paul E. Dobson, fuels management flight NCOIC, and SSgt. Jeffrey Dailey, fuels accountant, will participate.

On April 13-14, some of the reservists will help form six-person teams from 23 Reserve units taking part in a readiness competition at the Tyndall AFB fuels flight facilities. Unit representatives will test their skills in truck driving, changing tires, performing initial setup of fuels mobility equipment, evaluating operating condition of trucks and analyzing the quality of fuel samples. Other tasks will include conducting fuels servicing in full chemical warfare gear, moving a 10,000-gallon fuel bladder, performing self aid and buddy care, and completing a petroleum damage deficiency report.

The winning team will receive a command trophy at the awards banquet on the night of April 14.

The Air Force-level competition is on tap at Eglin AFB, Fla., in the fall. (AFRESNS)

Patriot Praises

PROMOTIONS

SMSgt Cullen, Joseph J.
 SMSgt Murphy, Timothy P.
 SMSgt Tetreault, Paul P.
 MSgt Cuccovia, Michael M.
 MSgt Knechtel, John A.
 MSgt McGowan, Christopher
 MSgt ODell, Robert H.
 MSgt Porter, Charles E.
 MSgt Thaxton, Diane M.
 TSgt Bishop, Barbara J.
 TSgt Bronson, Paul K.
 TSgt Cincotta, Paul M.
 TSgt Clark, John W.
 TSgt Delany, Phillip S. III
 TSgt Gomperts, George W.
 TSgt Hendricks, Theresa I.
 TSgt Higgins, Frank G.
 TSgt Leonard, John H.
 TSgt Mahady, Thomas E. III
 TSgt Marshall, Richard C.
 TSgt Mello, Charles L.
 TSgt Mortimer, Brian S.
 TSgt Moulis, Spiro M.
 TSgt Munoz, Luis M.
 TSgt Nadeau, Philip W.
 TSgt Smith, Theresa
 TSgt Theroux, William A.
 SSgt Vezina, Louis F. Jr.
 TSgt Yeh, Maida
 SSgt Allen, Charles D.
 SSgt Auretto, David
 SSgt Baisi, James
 SSgt Books, Robert W.
 SSgt Chaves, Kelly A.
 SSgt Fallon, David R.
 SSgt Leisenfelder, Robert
 SSgt Martineau, Lance E.
 SSgt Monopoli, John R.

SSgt Murray, Junior M.
 SSgt Orlandi, Matthew R.
 SSgt Peck, Dennis L.
 SSgt Sepulveda, Maribel
 SSgt Sequeira, Steven A.
 SSgt Sloan, Roy E.
 SSgt Surozenski, Gary J.
 SSgt Welch, Michael J.
 SSgt Whelihan, Diane A.
 SrA Batchelor, Thomas J. J.
 SrA Daughdrill, Mark
 SrA Drapeau, Cheri M.
 SrA George Shivaughn B.
 SrA Johnson, Kevin T.
 SrA Kouflie, Lisa M.
 SrA Kycia, Julie A.
 SrA Pineau, Kristin E.
 SrA Pineau, Mark A.
 SrA Rust, Andrew
 SrA Thurber, Justin E.
 SrA Tracey, Scott A.
 SrA Watson, Gary M.
 A1C Buchanan, Scott D.
 A1C Buck, Samuel W.
 A1C Freeman, Patricia A.
 Amn Chaloux, Ronald Jr.

ENLISTMENTS

SrA Brown, William J. Jr.
 A1C Comstock, Jennifer R.
 A1C Keleher, Michael P.
 A1C Perry, Bryan K.
 A1C Troiano, Peter D.
 Amn Glidden, Kara A.
 Amn Hentnick, John E.
 AB Dube, Michael J.
 AB Foley, David M.
 AB Otto, Danette M.
 AB Strambler, Anthony W.

EDITORIAL

Courses offered to all

The youngest basic airman in the Air Force today has already lived through a revolution in the way things are done.

In the span of his lifetime, computers have been put in offices and new pinpoint navigation systems put in C-5s. The basic airman's workday is reshaped with briefings by VCR and the theories of Total Quality Management.

The introduction of new tools and management techniques has made the workplace more complex and less forgiving of error or inefficiency. And the rate of innovation is accelerating.

You can stay ahead of that curve by taking advantage of educational opportunities available through the Wing Training Office. Besides the mandatory Career Development Courses which focus on AFSC proficiency, they offer a variety of voluntary courses in technical and management skills.

For example, Professional Military Education officer and NCO correspondence courses teach modern leadership and motivational techniques applicable to any pursuit. Also open to everyone is a field of specialized courses for those with such interests as communications, logistics, supervision, nursing, public affairs, the history of air power and more.

Other avenues of education include Cascade TQM training, the 10-day AFRES NCO Leadership Development course, residence NCO academy programs and Community College of the Air Force degree opportunities.

The only thing the Air Force asks is that those enrolled in voluntary correspondence courses complete them during a maximum period of one year or more. In return, reservists are offered unique spare-time training programs leading toward personal growth and advancement in military and civilian careers.

The most important and versatile resource in the Air Force inventory is the man or woman in uniform. The excellent training opportunities available will accent that truth during the coming years of challenge.

by **MSgt. Tom Allocco**
PA Technician

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Karen M. Proulx

Briefs

TQM slots open

The 439th Operations Group quality staff has slots open for group members who have not yet attended TQM Cascade Training.

Classes are scheduled for April 4-8, April 11-15 and April 25-29.

Group members wishing to attend should contact Capt. Bruce McDonald at Ext. 3571 or TSgt. Joyce Zimmerman at Ext. 2177.

Better buckle up

Massachusetts enacted a mandatory seat belt law Feb. 1 which states that all drivers and passengers, both front and back seat, must wear belts.

Drivers are responsible for making sure passengers who are 15 or younger wear seat belts. Passengers 16 or older, are responsible for their own seat belt use. Violators will be subject to a \$25 fine.

As was previously the case, seat belts are mandatory on Westover Air Reserve Base.

"Guys and Dolls"

The South Hadley Community Theater will present a live production of "Guys and Dolls" at the Westover Air Reserve Base theater in April.

Show dates are April 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m. plus a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. on April 17.

Tickets for the show may be reserved by calling 533-6165 or may be purchased at the Westover Bowling Center (557-3010).

Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$9 for reserve and active duty personnel and \$8 for students, senior citizens and military retirees.

Correction

An article that appeared in the February issue of the Patriot incorrectly stated the whereabouts of Capt. Rosemary Costa in her service with the 74th AES during Operation Desert Storm. Costa served on the border between Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Snowbird visits base for open house site survey

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Westover Air Reserve Base got a brief reprieve from a long, hard winter in February when a Snowbird arrived carrying a member of the famed Canadian Armed Forces aerobatic jet team that will perform during the base's open house in August.

Capt. Mike Lenehan piloted the red, white and blue CT-114 Tutor jet here for a pre-show site visit.

"We are looking forward to coming to Westover this summer," Lenehan said. "We enjoy showing off our team work, training and our airplanes."

Greeting Lenehan were Col. James Gallin, deputy commander of the 439th Airlift Wing, Terry W. Colfer, Canada's deputy consul general, and Thomas Fisher, vice president of the Galaxy Community Council, which is co-sponsoring the show.

Colfer called the snowbirds, "Canada's air team. They are excellent goodwill ambassadors for our military. Canadians are very proud of them."

The Snowbirds proved to be very popular when they performed here during Westover's 50th anniversary show in 1990. More than three quarters of a million people watched that three-day show and a similar crowd is expected for this year's two-day spectacular.

"I think we will see as many people here in two days as we did with a three-day show," said Fisher. "Traditionally our largest crowds have come on Saturdays



TSgt. Sandi Michon

NORTHERN VISITOR -- Capt. Mike Lenehan, left, a member of Canada's Snowbirds is greeted upon arrival at Westover by Col. Gale French, center and Col. James Gallin. Lenehan was here performing a site survey prior to the 1994 Open House, scheduled for Aug. 27 and 28.

and Sundays. We are expecting close to a million people."

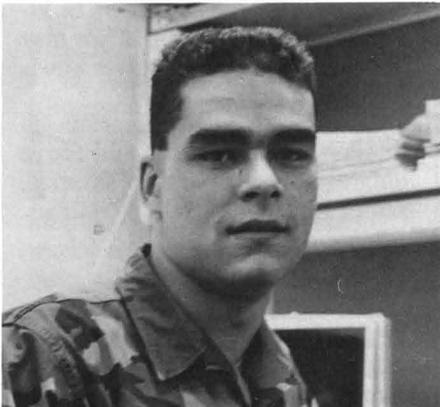
In addition to the Snowbirds, the Army's Golden Knight parachuting team as well as many Air Force planes will be on static display.

Other attractions will include a col-

lection of World War II aircraft and Westover's own C-5A Galaxies.

"The main purpose of holding an Air show, is to open the base to the public and show the American people where their military tax dollars are going," said Gallin.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like AIC Manuel P. Rodriguez of Ludlow, Mass., and 2,841 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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