



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

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439th TAW Gains Pittsburgh's 911th TAG

by TSgt. Marshall Hathaway

More than 800 men and women and eight C-130As of the 911th Tactical Airlift Group, Pittsburgh, will become part of the 439th TAW as of October 1. The acquisition will boost the 439th — at Westover, Niagara and Pittsburgh — to 43 aircraft and approximately 3,500 men and women.

The transfer will also give the 439th control over the largest area of property in AFRES, and will make it the only wing with three bases under its jurisdiction. The Pittsburgh group was attached to the 302nd TAW, Rickenbacker AFB, Ohio.

The 911th's Hercules pilots will be trained by personnel from Niagara, because there is no C-130A flight training school. The training of the 911th crews demands a significant increase in the workload for the 914th. "The operations and training people at Pittsburgh have nothing but the highest praise for the Niagara instructors and crews," said Lt. Col. Arthur Sorenson, 439th assistant deputy commander for operations.

The addition will have a direct effect on life at Westover, according to Colonel Sorenson. He said the primary impact would be in areas of tri-deputy staff functions, conduct of operations and training, coordination of base operation support functions, staff management of aircraft maintenance inspections and overhaul flow schedules.

(continued on page 2)



Battlefield casualties receive prompt medical attention at a MASH facility. Members of the 439th Tactical Hospital, from left, Amn. Kathleen Cosgrove, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Warner Jones, Maj. Dorothy Gates, TSgt. Barbara Lozanski, SSgt. Sandra Hodge and MSgt. George Kudla determine a patient's condition and course of treatment as part of the 439th's PAID PREMIUM exercise. (See story on page 3.) Exercise photos by MSgt. Larry Lentz.

911th TAG . . .

(continued from page 1)

Those functions would increase by approximately 25 percent at Westover according to Colonel Sorenson.

The melding of the 911th is the culmination of a long-standing work relationship with the 439th. The 901st, 905th and 911th Military Airlift Groups once operated under the 94th MAW when they all flew C-124 Globemasters. In more recent times, Pittsburgh twice performed their annual active duty training at Westover. They worked side by side with the 439th during joint service exercises Bold Eagle, REFORGER, Empire Glacier and North Forty III.

"We're looking forward to renewing these old acquaintances," Colonel Sorenson said. "Also, it's a very exciting time for us in tactical airlift. New MAC and AFRES initiatives on realistic training and advanced tactics are going to call upon all the expertise and imagination we can muster. The people at Pittsburgh have those qualities. We couldn't ask for a better bunch to round out our team."

NCO/Airman Dining Out Nov. 1

The annual NCO/Airman dining out will be held Nov. 1 at the Consolidated Open Mess. MSgt. Marthur Bumgardner, chairman, announced this year's speaker will be SMSgt. Jackie Roberts, AFRES senior enlisted advisor.

Tickets are \$12.50 per person, and will be available before the September UTA. Tickets will be sold by Sergeant Bumgardner, Wing Hq. first sergeant; MSgt. James Rothwell, 905th CAMS; and TSgts. Wayne Carter, 905th MOBSF; Faith Longfield, CBPO and Thomas Templeman, 901st CAMS; and by all first sergeants.

The dining out will begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail hour; dinner will be served at 7 p.m. One of the highlights will be the presentation of the annual airman, NCO and senior NCO of the year awards. After the formal portion of the program, there will be dancing.

Those not planning to attend the dining out are reminded the club will be closed the evening of Nov. 1.

July Commander's Call Cites 439th Personnel

Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen presented a variety of awards and decorations at the July 13 Commander's Call, recognizing Westover personnel for distinguished accomplishments in various fields.

The general presented the Meritorious Service Medal to Col. Reginald A. Wackford for his distinguished performance as commander of the 914th CAMS at Niagara from June 1970 to September 1979.

Lt. Col. George L. Merrill also received the medal, for his distinguished performance as navigator instructor and flight examiner, 731st TAS, Hanscom Field and Westover AFB, from November 1965 to December 1979.

Receiving the Air Force Commendation Medal were:

—Maj. Thomas P. Donovan of the 731st TAS, for enthusiastic participation in important joint service operations, and exceptional flying training ability as instructor pilot and flight commander.

—Maj. Charles S. Joslin, Jr., of the 731st TAS, for his dedication, skill and professionalism as pilot and mobility officer.

—Maj. Michael T. Lopardo of the 337th TAS, for outstanding professional skill, knowledge and leadership as certified emergency action and flight following controller.

—Maj. Nino S. Nistri of the 901st CAMS, for his outstanding maintenance knowledge, professional skill and management expertise as organizational maintenance officer.

—Capt. Alan B. Clune of the 905th CAMS, for outstanding professional skill, knowledge and leadership as aircraft maintenance officer.

—Capt. Alan P. Heinrich of the 439th TAW, for outstanding professional skill, knowledge, resourcefulness and leadership as aircrew training officer.

—SMSgt. Peter J. Fontana of the 731st TAS, for his immeasurable skills as NCOIC, Flight Mechanic Section.

—MSgt. David A. Gaboury of the 905th MAPF, for outstanding professional skill, knowledge and leadership as air transportation superintendent.

—TSgt. Frank S. Rys of the 905th CAMS, for exceptional skill and knowledge of electronic systems as squadron avionics navigation systems

technician.

General Haugen continued to present a number of awards for notable achievements by other Westover personnel.

—SMSgt. Robert Rose accepted a Certificate for Outstanding Performance in recognition of the Propulsion Section of the 905th CAMS, winner of the Maintenance Shop of the Year in 14th Air Force (Reserve).

MSgt. Roger Perrault received a Top Non-Prior Service Recruiter award. He also accepted an Excellence Award for the 439th TAW recruiters, who exceeded their overall quota with 123 percent.

Lt. Col. Alfred P. Viviani was presented a Certificate of Congratulations for his completion of the Air War College program.

SMSgt. Owen F. Connolly, Jr., of the 439th TAW, accepted a Certificate of Outstanding Performance in recognition of his selection as 14th AF nominee to AFRES for the Outstanding Logistics and Resource Plans NCO award.

Maj. Raymond J. Whitney, Jr. was awarded a Certificate for Outstanding Performance, recognizing him as Aerospace Maintenance Officer of the Year in 14AF(R) for 1979.

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731st TAS Crew "Rides Tall" at MAC Volant Rodeo

A C-123 crew from the 731st TAS walked away with an important award during the Military Airlift Command's Volant Rodeo flying competition during July, at Pope AFB, N.C.

The 731st airmen captured top honors in the assault landing category of the C-123 competition. It marked the second straight year a 439th unit had won a Volant Rodeo award.

Last year, the wing's C-123 maintenance team triumphed in the "Provider" maintenance competition.

Maj. Richard Ray was the aircraft commander of the winning 731st crew. Other crew members included Capt. Charles Brown, co-pilot; Capt. Joseph Cleveland, navigator; TSgt. Roy Menard, flight engineer and Sgt. Edwin Villareal, loadmaster.

During Volant Rodeo, the aircrews were judged on flying skills and graded for accuracy in such areas as personnel and equipment airdrops, tactical landings and takeoffs, and safety.

"I was delighted the 731st took top honors in assault landings, and I was proud of the effort put forth by everyone from Westover who participated," Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen said. "Everyone gave their best effort, and we are excited about the prospect of competing in future rodeo competitions," he added.

In addition to the 731st crew, Westover C-123 maintenance personnel and a contingent from the 901st WSSF also participated in the event at Pope.

This year's rodeo was the first time that national guard and reserve members were invited to compete in the security police portion of the contest.

The security police competition included a written exam, a hostage situation, marksmanship tests, a leadership problem and a 1-1/2 mile race against the clock.

SrA. Cedric L. Ricketts of the 901st WSSF finished the gruelling race, despite a pulled leg ligament which he suffered during the hostage drill.

The competing maintenance crews were confronted with special "prob-

Commander's Call Honors Many Reservists

One Meritorious Service Medal, two Humanitarian Service Medals, eight Air Force Commendation Medals and various other awards were presented by Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, 439th TAW commander, during the August UTA, recognizing reservists for their dedication and initiative.

Capt. Charlotte M. Thompson, communications systems officer, 901st CF, demonstrated outstanding professional skill and ceaseless efforts which resulted in a significant improvement in the operational effectiveness of the unit. She was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for her diligence.

Receiving Air Force Commendation Medals were:

—**Capt. Raymond L. Brisson, Jr.**, 58th MAPS, demonstrated superior knowledge of transportation systems, keen managerial skills and tireless dedication which contributed directly to the numerous accomplishments of the unit.

—**MSgt. Roger J. Brogis** distinguished himself through outstanding job knowledge, and ceaseless efforts which contributed directly to the numerous accomplishments of his unit.

—**MSgt. Harold B. Crapo, Jr.**, 901st CF, for the development of a comprehensive training program for the telecommunications operators of the flight. Sergeant Crapo's efforts resulted in higher morale, increased proficiency and retention in his unit.

—**MSgt. Edward A. Kruzlic**, 905th CEF, distinguished himself as first sergeant, unit administration. His administrative and managerial skills aided immeasurably in the successful re-posturing of the flight into a Bomb Damage Repair Prime Beef Team.

lems" in addition to the normal duties associated with the upkeep of their aircraft.

Wing maintenance personnel who participated included MSgts. Paul Bergeron and William Bowker; TSgts. Robert Bolduc, Michael Doyle, Francis Favara, Richard Halla, James Marone and Larry Raines; and SSgt. James LaCroix.

Competing for the 901st WSSF were TSgt. Arnold L. Martin, Jr. SSgt. Peter R. Kingsbury, Sgt. George L. Hoagland, Amn. Thomas E. Blythe, and Ricketts.

—**MSgt. William F. Roberts**, also a 901st CF member, demonstrated outstanding technical expertise, organizational ability and leadership in the structures field, contributing to the unit's construction performance record.

—**TSgt. Robert A. Sousa**, 905th MOBSF, showed outstanding professional skill and technical expertise as inventory management supervisor, unit supply section.

—**TSgt. James G. Swope**, 905th CF, aided immeasurably in the operation of the unit administration section. Sergeant Swope's untiring efforts and devotion to duty contributed to the effective achievement of the mission.

The 58th MAPS received a plaque for the Reserve Officers Association's 1980 Outstanding Non-flying Unit Award as a result of their outstanding record.

Two humanitarian awards were presented to **TSgt. John J. Connors, Jr.**, and **Amn. Dana Lambert**, both from 439th CSG, for their contribution to the Cuban Refugee Operation (see June Patriot). Both individuals also received letters of appreciation for their participation in Red Flag 1980. In addition, Airman Lambert received a certificate of training for the Prime Ribs contingency course he attended at Elgin AFB, Fla.

Clinic Gets New X-Ray

A new x-ray machine complete with a digital computer control panel has been installed at the 439th Tactical Hospital clinic.

The machine replaces an older model and will be used mainly to take chest x-rays of potential new recruits.

Amn. Thomas M. Troy, x-ray technician, said the new machine has more safety features than the model it replaces, as well as a variety of other technological advantages.

The time and the intensity of the x-ray can be controlled much more precisely than older model machines because of the electronic circuitry in the computer panel.

The machine can also do body scans and has a collimator which limits the beam to the exact shape and size of the film used.

Westover Exercise

Aeromedical Evacuation Test Stresses Combat Readiness

by MSgt. Larry Lentz

The tag tied around the wounded soldier's neck said it all. Only surgery and prompt medical attention could save his life. But battlefield conditions and distance from the required expertise eliminated such treatment. A "med tech" knelt at his side and cared, as best she could, for the victim's mangled chest. She was momentarily distracted when an A-10 Thunderbolt zoomed by, less than 200 feet above the tent, searching for enemy tanks. She stopped and waited. She waited for the roar to diminish. They both waited for the C-123 and evacuation to a waiting surgical team at a rear area hospital.

Meanwhile, in nearby woods, an aircrew, after surviving the crash of the downed aircraft, trekked through dense underbrush. Their journey was tedious and perilous. In addition to the difficult terrain, the three crew members wore biological warfare protection suits. These protected the flyers from a poisonous environment but made their trek cumbersome. The suits were hot and restricted movement, eating and drinking. The suits, however, couldn't protect the airmen from the searching Huey hovering less than the height of the treetops above.

As the helicopter came closer on one leg of its sweep, the crew took evasive action. In a few minutes, and again temporarily safe, they continued towards the protection of a C-123

waiting in a predetermined runway clearing.

Their journey wasn't through a woods of a southeastern Asian country. Rather, it was at Westover. The only simulated aspect of the activities was the soldier's condition. Rubber moulage dressings simulated real wounds. A full scale training exercise, PAID PREMIUM, brought 400 members of various active duty and reserve forces to the base on Saturday, July 26, teaming up with the 439th's 74th AES and elements of the 439th Tactical Hospital and two flying squadrons.

The exercise planners called for the wounded to be transported through the tactical aeromedical evacuation system — the same itinerary which would be used in actual battle conditions.

First, the wounded were taken to a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, similar to the facility popularized on the television series, MASH. During the exercise, Tac Hospital members were the victims and also staffed the tent.

From there, after emergency triage (sorting of the injured by gravity of wounds) and life saving preliminary care, the wounded went via ambulance or medical helicopter to a Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility. These sites always are operated by Air Force aeromedical personnel and serve as a collection point for casualties from local area MASH units. The injured's evacuation flight to a better-equipped rear hospital and continued care was

arranged by the Aeromedical Evacuation Control Center. This center coordinated available C-123s and C-130s with patients needing airlift.

These aircraft would bring supplies and troops into the war area. On their return flight, after a quick modification to carry the wounded, the patients were on-loaded with an accompanying medical crew of a nurse and two medical technicians.

Later, if necessary, their journey would continue on a C-141 Starlifter to a statewide hospital via MAC's Strategic Aeromedical Evacuation System.

Westover's AME exercise followed that plan and was augmented by a wide variety of flying activities.

Crews from the 337th and 731st TAS taxied their aircraft to within yards of the tents before lift off and flights to imaginary destinations.

The 74th technicians also accompanied patients in a Huey aerovac ambulance, courtesy of the 1059th Medical Detachment, a Mass. Army National Guard unit at Westover. The guardsmen earlier briefed the medical personnel in their aircraft's operating procedures.

The A-10 came from neighboring Westfield and the 104th Tactical Fighter Group at Barnes Airport. During three periods, their low-level pass simulated search and destroy missions.

On the ground, Army reservists, member of the 11th Special Forces from Fort Devens, Mass., were in full



With the MASF under attack, patients and staff board a C-123 for safety.



74th AES technicians bring a patient to the 1059th Medical Detachment's helicopter for evacuation to a rear hospital.

battle attire including camouflaged faces. They searched for the escaping aircrew. The soldiers hoped for a rendezvous with the flyers and then to jointly find their C-123.

Other special forces acted as opposition and attacked the MASF. They used percussion grenades and weapons firing blanks. They overran the facility, causing the technicians to flee with their patients to a waiting aircraft.

"When we heard the shooting, it sounded so real we hit the deck. I immediately leaned over to protect the nearest patient," recalled Capt. Penny Pierce, a 74th AES nurse. "Actually, all aspects of PAID PREMIUM were much more realistic than previous exercises. Our patients came without warning and in waves. We had to improvise to meet that sporadic scheduling and when supplies ran low.

"The victims looked and acted their part too. The wounded's moulage were expertly applied and the psychiatric patients behaved accordingly. One unexpectedly went screaming down the runway," she continued. "Everything about the exercise looked right and felt right."

"Training exercises like PAID PREMIUM are essential," comments 2nd Lt. Wesley A. Carter, 439th TAW executive officer and former 74th AES flight examiner. "There are less than 1,000 active duty AME crew members.



Capt. Penny Pierce tends to the wounds of a casualty in the MASF.



Dressed in biological warfare protection suits, TSgt. Francis Trigo, Maj. Lyle West and TSgt. Stephen Gates begin their escape and evasion journey.

In the event of a conflict, they will need the immediate backup of reservists. Even now, during calmer times, our reserve crews operate most of the strategic aeromedical airlift. The Air Force has only one active duty C-130

Aeromedical squadron. The remainder are reserve. Last year, the reserve program airlifted 28,000 patients. These reserve forces, because they are in the majority, must be as ready and proficient as their active duty counterparts."

Wing Gets New Vice Commander

Col. Paul E. Huffman officially became the 439th TAW vice commander on Aug. 10, replacing Col. Charles Parrott, who was reassigned to Headquarters, AFRE.

Colonel Huffman began his Air Force career as an active duty instructor, and has served 21 years in the Reserve. He was formerly commander of the 337th TAS.

As senior non-ART of the wing, the colonel intends to make sure the reserve system remains reserve oriented, and invites Westover personnel to contact him if they think he can be of assistance in solving any problems.

In civilian life, he's a pilot for United Air Lines, and lives in East Granby, Conn. He has two sons who are loadmasters in the 439th.

Westover Reservists Assist at Mt. St. Helens

Responding to a call from 4th Air Force for volunteers, two Westover reservists were an integral part of the rescue operations during the Mt. St. Helens eruptions.

Sgt. Lawrence D. Jacobs, 905th CAMS, and SrA. Paul J. Janeczek, 901st CAMS, went to Portland International Airport and worked on Huey helicopters of the 304th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron.

The jet engine mechanics joined a team of maintenance technicians keeping the Hueys operational following the May 18 eruption.

After the first major eruption, which exploded with the force of a hydrogen bomb, the 304th was called into service to rescue the many scientists and geologists that were endangered by the volcano. In all, they were credited with rescuing 61 people.

A Patriot Profile

Reservist's Civilian Career Means Frequent "Bomb Missions"

by Capt. Rick Dyer

His friendly and unassuming demeanor doesn't indicate it, but explosive situations are Al Moreland's business.

The training NCO for the 901st Weapons Systems Security Flight at Westover, SSgt. Moreland is an 18-year veteran of the New Haven, Conn. Police Department. There, he holds the rank of lieutenant on the city's busy bomb squad.

He's faced a number of harrowing situations during his law enforcement career, many of them involving potentially lethal explosive devices. He knows, however, that many police officers are hurt intervening in domestic arguments, and says he'd rather defuse a time bomb than attempt to defuse a volatile domestic situation.

SSgt. Moreland has served with the bomb detail since 1974, and is a graduate of the Army's Hazardous Device School at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala. In addition to handling cases involving bombs and explosives in New Haven, his squad also responds to such calls on a regional basis for 16 surrounding towns.

The assignment keeps him busy. "We're involved with the removal of bombs and unexploded munitions, and we also investigate crimes involving the use of such devices," Sergeant Moreland said. "We deal with everything from molotov cocktails to pipe bombs to letter bombs."

The veteran police officer assisted in the investigation several years ago of the bombing death of a reputed underworld figure in New Haven. He has also investigated bomb explosions at the Olin Manufacturing Corporation and Yale University, and the bombing of a train passing through New Haven.

Military munitions, often unearthed in unexpected locations, pose special problems for the bomb squad. "We've been called upon to remove mortar rounds, grenades and naval shells, some of which were apparently left over from World War II," he said. "Many of them are extremely powerful, and, because of their age, they are very dangerous."

Sergeant Moreland confronted one extremely dangerous situation several years ago when he was called upon to



SSgt. Al Moreland of the 901st WSSF prepares to kick in a door during a special weapons and tactics exercise at Westover. (Photo by TSgt. Marshall Hathaway)

remove a large quantity of dynamite which had been left outside and exposed to the elements. "The exposure to the wet weather had crystallized the nitroglycerin, making each stick extremely volatile," he said. On that occasion, he removed more than 200

pounds of the explosive by hand.

There has never been an accidental detonation during a removal by the squad, but Sergeant Moreland and his staff put their lives on the line every time they answer a bomb call. "You never know what you may be dealing with, so you treat every device with great care," he said.

During investigations of incidents where bombs (or "improvised devices" as they are also known) have been used, the bomb squad often works closely with federal law enforcement agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Treasury Department's Alcohol, Tax and Firearms Division.

The sergeant's civilian police experiences assist him at Westover, where he trains the law enforcement personnel of the 901st WSSF. A veteran of three years active duty with the Marines, he has served with the Air Force Reserve since 1978.

Despite his "dual" law enforcement careers, Sergeant Moreland has been able to continue with his education. He holds a BS degree in criminal justice from the University of New Haven, and has attended numerous law enforcement seminars and training sessions.

Base Transportation Sets New Policies

Westover personnel should note these policies regarding transportation on base.

Base Shuttle Bus

The Base Advisory Council has approved a new base bus schedule, tailored to assist reservists during UTAs.

Bus runs are scheduled at approximately 15-minute intervals between scheduled stops. Bus stop signs will be posted.

Specific information on when the bus will run and location of the stops can be found in UTA training schedules and on base bulletin boards.

Mopeds

Air Force Regulation 127-7 requires helmets be worn while operating mopeds and motor-assisted bicycles.

People without helmets will be

denied entry to the base, while on-base violators will be required to dismount and walk their vehicle to their destination.

Repeated violations may result in revocation of base driving privileges.

439th TAW Share-A-Ride

Travel to and from Westover with a friend. Share expenses and a few laughs along the way. The Patriot will list Rides Wanted and Riders Wanted. To add your name, home town and phone number, call TSgt. David Gundersen at Ext. 2001 during the UTAs.

Briefs

TSgt. Stanley James Whitman, Jr., 439th TAW Operations assistant NCOIC, recently completed his Master of Business Administration degree at Western New England College at Springfield. As a civilian, he is director of ambulatory care at the Bay State Medical Center in Springfield.

The family of **TSgt. William Batchelder** has the condolences of all those at Westover on his passing on July 31. He was a reproduction technician in the base print shop and formerly was with the 901st MOBSFt. Sergeant Batchelder was very active with the local chapter of the Air Force Sergeant Association and recently was re-elected Trustee for Reserve Affairs for Division 1. It was while at the AFSA convention he suffered his fatal heart attack.

Col. Billy Booth, AFRES advisor to the Air University commander at Maxwell AFB visited Westover during the August UTA. He addressed approximately 130 officers at the Reserve Officers' Association meeting and discussed individually courses and opportunities available through the university's Professional Military Education programs.



PROMOTIONS

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Maj. Mary A. Roche
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MSgt. Thomas Brown
MSgt. Richard F. Eaton
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A1C. Lori J. Seppala
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Amn. Sean P. Ryan
Amn. Jean G. Wagner
AB Mayleen Adams
AB Gareth W. Balch
AB Jean A. Beadle
AB Thomas M. Bradley
AB Lucy A. Bryant
AB Keith P. Greaney
AB Georgia L. Hartung
AB Sandra L. Merchant
AB Patricia M. Pittsinger
AB Robin M. Pleva
AB Denise C. Schroeder
AB Cynthia A. Snape
AB Raquel Vega

Westover Reservist Wins Top Maintenance Award

The 901st CAMS field maintenance officer, Maj. Raymond J. Whitney, Jr., is the 1979 Aerospace Maintenance Officer of the Year in Fourteenth Air Force (Reserve).

In recognition of this award, Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen presented Major Whitney a Certificate For Outstanding Performance at the July Commander's Call. The certificate noted the major's outstanding leadership and technical knowledge.

Nominees were considered for their accomplishments in the fields of education, mission assignments and previous awards. One of the major's more notable accomplishments was his participation in the Solid Shield exercise in May of 1979. During that exercise, no missions were lost due to aircraft maintenance, and more missions were accomplished than initially required, due to the high aircraft availability resulting from the efforts of Major Whitney's unit.

Major Whitney served nine years active duty with SAC, six of them as maintenance officer. He served primarily in the Southeast Asia area during the Vietnam conflict. His most notable assignment was at U-Tapao, a Royal Thai naval air base. As field maintenance officer, he supervised approximately 900 personnel who serviced the B-52s and KC-135s.

Joining the Reserve in 1975, Major Whitney soon became the 901st CAMS field maintenance officer. In this capacity, his responsibilities are to insure that Westover's C-123s have the specialists necessary to repair systems which fail. He's also actively involved in the training and planning for exercises and special missions.

In civilian life, the major lives with his wife and son in Scarsdale, N.Y. He works for the Mobil Corp. in New York City, where he's management science project manager, designing computer systems for corporate staff groups.



Representatives for several state two and four-year colleges were at Westover on Aug. 10 to explain their schools to reservists at the invitation of the Base Education Office. Meeting with representatives of Western New England College are MSgt. David Gaboury, 905th MAPF; and partially hidden, SSgt. Walt Kelly, 901st CAMS. (Photo by MSgt. Larry Lentz)

Base Firemen Assist at Local Blaze

A neighborhood endangered by a roaring oil and chemical fire was saved with help from Westover firefighters and their equipment.

Six Westover base firefighters responded to the Bay Oil and Chemical Co. in Ludlow with their P-4 combination crash and rescue truck and a 5,000-gallon tanker on a mutual aid request.

Westover has aid agreements with neighboring municipalities pledging to provide assistance to each other in times of fire emergency.

"It was fully involved when we arrived at the scene," Westover Fire Chief Haskel Jenkins said. "It was in a neighborhood with family houses and industrial buildings. Everything was in

danger. It could have been a total disaster."

For more than 4-1/2 hours, the Westover firefighters along with other area departments, battled to control the blistering heat and flames at the oil refinery.

"We used 1,900 gallons of foam and pumped 400,000 gallons of water from hydrants," Chief Jenkins said.

One Westover truck received minor damages from an exploding barrel. No one was hurt at the fire, Chief Jenkins said.

The fire caused an estimated \$400,000 damage, but the actions of the firefighters halted the spreading fire before it reached nearby buildings or claimed a human life.

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