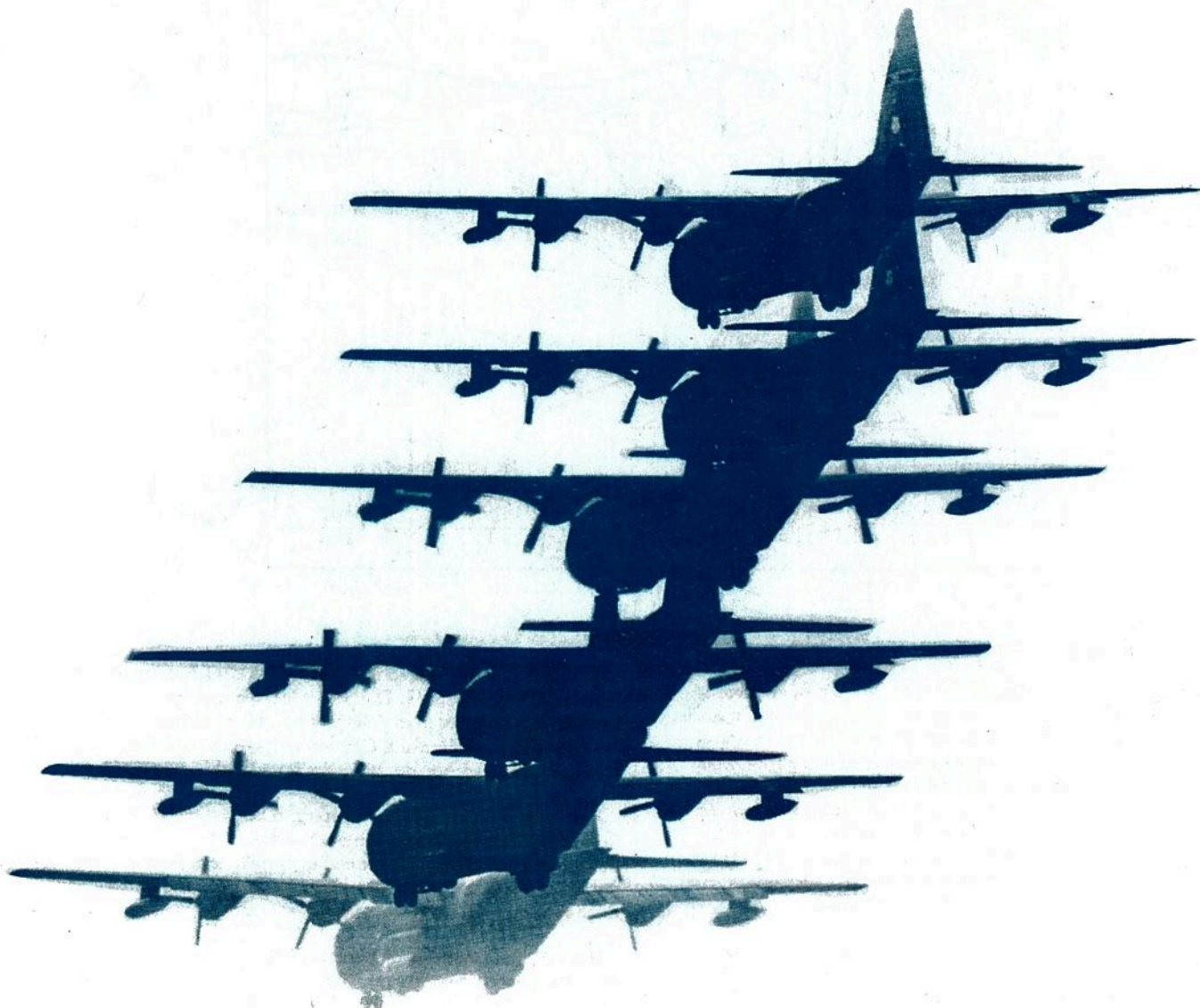


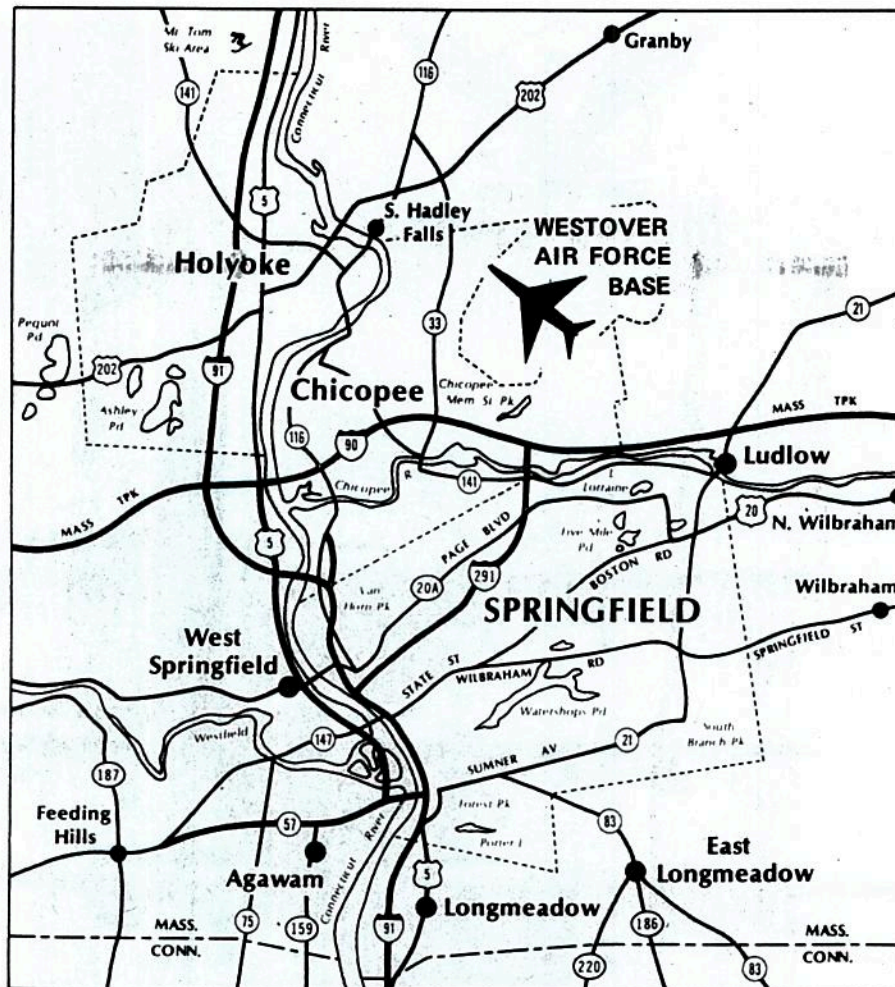
# Westover Air Force Base



Due to the cost of printing  
replacements for these brochures  
are limited. Please leave for  
the next guest.



# Area Map of Westover and Communities



## Climate at Westover AFB

Western Massachusetts is affected by cold, dry air from subarctic North America; warm, moist air flowing overland from the Gulf of Mexico; and cool, damp air from the North Atlantic. The procession of these influences brings about a roughly twice-weekly alteration from fair to cloudy or stormy weather, with abrupt temperature changes. Extreme temperatures can be expected to occur during an extended period of unusually hot or cold weather. With the exception of a few weeks in mid-summer and winter the temperatures average 70 F (21 C) in July and 21 F (-6 C) in January. Tropical storms affect the State on an average of once in two years, and tornadoes occur yearly.

Springfield's yearly precipitation (rain, melted snow, and other forms of moisture) is about 50 inches. The amount of precipitation varies little from month to month, snow begins as early as November and continues into April. Thunderstorms are common from June thru September. Weather systems on the mid-eastern seaboard can generate strong gales out of the Northeast. These "Northeasters" are associated with heavy rain or snow, depending on the season. In Western Massachusetts, snowfall averages 55 to 75 inches. The average annual number of days with measurable precipitation is 150.

## By Road to Westover AFB

Westover AFB is situated in Chicopee, Massachusetts directly off Memorial Drive, Route 33. The base is located approximately 95 miles from Boston, 90 miles from Albany, N.Y., 60 miles from New Haven, Ct., 35 miles from Hartford, Ct., 135 miles from New York City, 230 miles from Philadelphia and 360 miles from Washington, D.C.

From Hartford or Bradley Airport take Interstate 91 north to Springfield. Take Exit 8 onto Intrastate 291 east. Turn off at Exit 5 onto Fuller Road (turn right). At the end turn right onto Route 33 (Memorial Drive). At first rotary marked Westover AFB turn right. Industrial Road gate entrance is straight ahead.

From Boston (south) or Albany (north) take Interstate 90, Massachusetts Turnpike toward Springfield. Get off at Exit 5, turn left onto Memorial Drive (Route 33). At first rotary, same as above.

The WESTOVER GUIDE AND DIRECTORY is an unofficial publication compiled for the use and information of the military and civilian personnel of WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, their families and visitors and distributed to them free of charge.



# WELCOME TO WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE



The men and women of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing and the 439th Combat Support Group extend a most cordial welcome to Westover Air Force Base and hope that your assignment will be interesting, pleasant and both personally and professionally rewarding.

The mission of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing is to organize, recruit and train Air Force Reservists while maintaining operationally-ready aircraft, crews and support personnel as directed by Headquarters, Air Force Reserve, Military Airlift Command and the U.S. Air Force. The major elements of operational readiness are the tactical aircraft, air land and air drop of troops, supplies and equipment, and aeromedical evacuation.

The Wing is directly responsible to the 14th Air Force, Dobbins AFB, Georgia, which in turn reports to Headquarters Air Force Reserve, Robins AFB, Georgia. Upon mobilization, the Wing units would be assigned to the Military Airlift Command and function as directed by that agency.

The 439th TAW is the parent headquarters for four of the Air Force Reserve's 53 flying units and is the only organization of its kind in New England. It is a self-sustaining unit, the same as its regular Air Force counterparts, in that it has great mobility, flexibility and is capable of independent action.

From Westover, Wing C-130B and C-123K aircraft support the Air Force's logistics mission; fly aerial delivery and air landing of troops, supplies and equipment; engage in joint operations, and respond to civil emergencies.

The 439th TAW organizes, equips and trains combat ready airlift

units capable of deploying worldwide. Since the 439th TAW's activation in 1974, personnel have participated in tactical airlift operations throughout the world, paratroop training, aerial mapping, evacuation of sick and wounded and special humanitarian missions. Westover Air Force Reserve crews and aircraft have flown to nearly every corner of the Continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, a great many Central and South American countries, Germany, Norway, England, Iceland, Puerto Rico, Indonesia, Labrador, Azores, Spain, Greece and Denmark.

The primary goal of the 439th is to fill every position in every unit with trained personnel possessing mission-ready skills. This is accomplished through an extensive training program implemented during each Unit Training Assembly and annual active duty training.

Westover AFB is operated and maintained by the 439th Combat Support Group. The 439th CSG commander wears two other hats—that of Base Commander and that of Deputy Commander for Resources. He has command jurisdiction over Westover Air Force Base and provides administrative and logistical support to assigned and attached personnel.

The mission of the 439th CSG is extremely diverse and includes: direction, maintenance and supervision of airfield activities, including base operations; operation of on-base transportation services and equipment; operation of firefighting and security services; operation of the military Consolidated Base Personnel Office (CBPO) and Central Civilian Personnel Office, and conduct of other support functions such as chaplain service.



# C-130 HERCULES



The C-130 Hercules, named for the Greek god known for his strength and courage, was born in the days following the June 1950 invasion of Korea when it took the United States six agonizing weeks to move two Army divisions from the continental U.S. to the Korean front.

The Air Force sent out a call to America's aircraft industry for an "advanced, all purpose, work-horse type aerial vehicle that can go anywhere, anytime, without elaborate facility or equipment preparations."

On July 2, 1951, five months after the urgent request went out, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation presented plans for the YC-130.

The first C-130A was delivered to the Air Force on December 9, 1956. During the past twenty four years there have been four basic military versions.

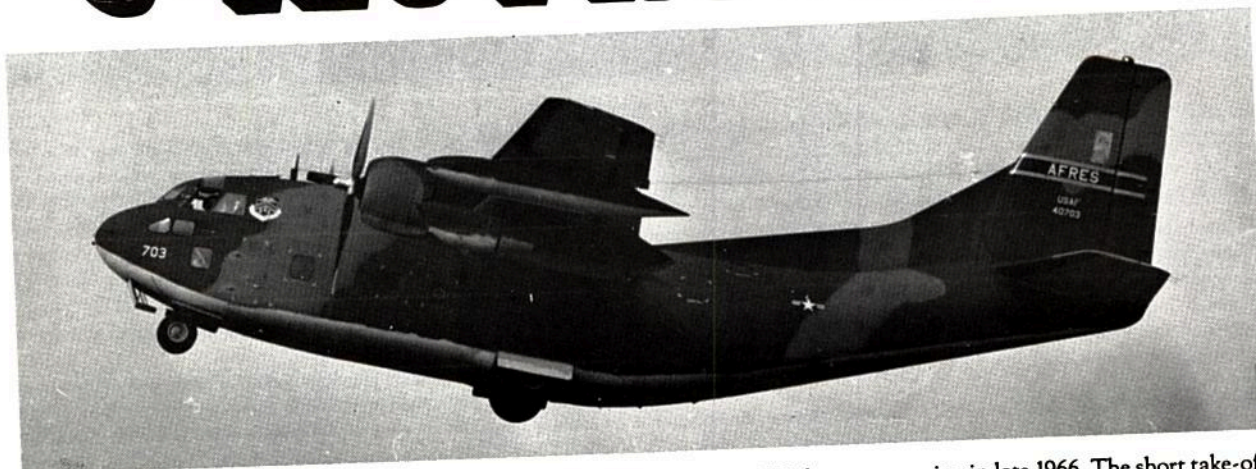
It was originally built for the Tactical Air Command and has a design maximum gross weight of under 125,000 pounds. The 914th TAG at Niagara Falls IAP and the 911th TAG out of Greater Pittsburgh

each have 8 C-130As in their inventories.

Model C-130B has more powerful engines, greater structural strength and additional fuel capacity than the A-model. Westover's 337th TAS flies 9, C-130Bs.

To date there have been more than 40 versions of the Lockheed C-130, each with many improvements over the last. Those currently employed by the Air Force Reserve generally carry a crew of five—pilot, co-pilot, engineer, loadmaster and navigator. In its basic configuration as a transport it can carry 92 ground troops or 64 paratroops with full field-ready equipment. As an aerial freighter it can deliver 38,000 pounds (almost twenty tons) over a range of 1,950 statute miles. Every C-130 can be converted to an aerial ambulance and transport 74 stretcher patients plus two attendants. The Hercules uses as little as 2,000 feet of runway and can land and takeoff on undeveloped dirt strips.

# C-123 PROVIDER



**C-123 Provider:** The C-123 Provider started out as an all-metal glider. The power version was designed by Chase Aircraft and in 1951, the Air Force contracted for five production C-123Bs. However, the project faltered and the order was cancelled. Fairchild Aircraft took over the contract and subsequently supplied the Air Force with 300, C-123Bs, the first in July 1955.

The Provider was saved from early retirement in 1961 by the call for tactical airlift in Vietnam. By 1964, four C-123 squadrons were being used extensively in Southeast Asia by Pacific Air Force units for such missions as night-flare operations, aeromedical evacuation, cargo and troopdrop/airlift, pinpoint resupply drop, and other important functions in support of American and South Vietnamese operations.

C-123Ks began appearing in late 1966. The short take-off and landing capabilities were improved by adding auxiliary jet engines in pods under the wings to assist the 60,000 pound aircraft off the ground in less than 1,200 feet. Larger wheels and tires, and anti-skid brakes allowed the Provider to operate into strips less than 2,500 feet long. Providers can carry a payload of 15,000 pounds of cargo or 60 fully equipped troops.

The C-123s joined MAC in 1974 when the command acquired Provider-equipped Air Force Reserve squadrons. Most recently, these units, particularly Westover's 731st TAS twice flew the Atlantic in support of the European war games called Reforger.



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# INTRO

## Arrival

### Reporting In:

All incoming Air Force Reserve personnel arriving at Westover AFB for assignment on weekdays should report directly to the Consolidated Base Personnel Office (CBPO), Customer Service Center, Room 13, Bldg 1850, between 0745 and 1630.

Reserve personnel arriving on UTA weekends will report to the Welcome Center, 2nd floor, Bldg 1408, Saturday at 0800.

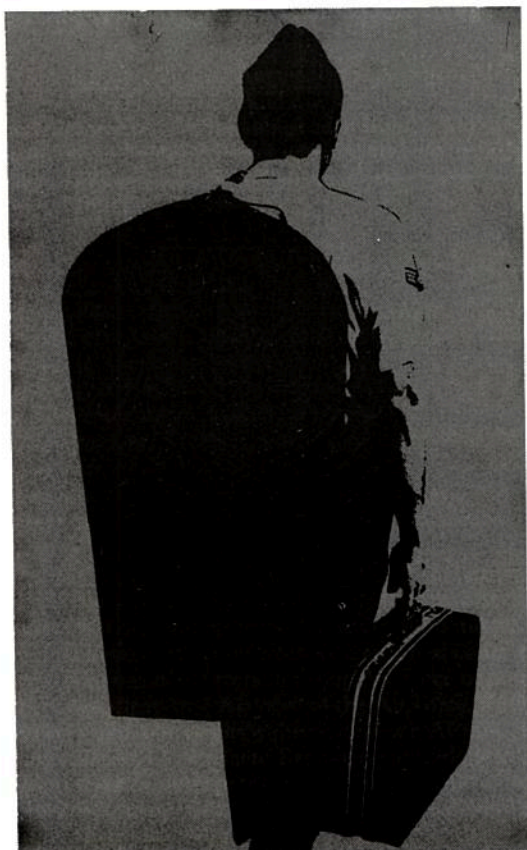
Incoming active duty military personnel should report directly to their respective unit commanders.

### CBPO CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

Air Force Reserve personnel with questions about in-processing, change of address, need for new IDs and dog tags, information about awards and decorations, reenlistment or other related personnel matters should contact a CBPO Service representative

#### Central Civilian Personnel Office:

Newly assigned civilian employees should report to the Central Civilian Personnel Office (CCPO), Bldg 1408 between 0745 and 1630, Monday thru Friday for processing.



### "Individualized Newcomer Treatment and Orientation"

All newly-assigned Air Force Reserve personnel attend an orientation briefing which is presented on each Saturday morning of the Unit Training Assembly weekend.

This program is designed to familiarize personnel with the mission and diversified functions of Westover AFB as well as explain the base facilities and services.

#### Sponsorship Program:

Sponsors from duty sections or units will meet newly assigned personnel following the completion of the newcomer's briefing. They will assist individuals in getting settled with the least possible delay during in-processing. Sponsors will provide escorts through required processing sections.

### Identification Cards



#### Pass and Registration:

The Westover Pass and Registration section is located in Bldg 1520, and is responsible for issuing identification credentials to active, retired and reserve military personnel, restricted area badges and registration of privately-owned vehicles and firearms.

#### Dependent Identification Cards:

Air Reserve personnel who possess a US Armed Forces Identification Card (red) may obtain a Dependent Identification Card for their spouses and other responsible dependents 16 years of age or older. Contact the CBPO for an application (AF Form 446). Return the form along with a copy of your marriage certificate and copies of children's birth certificates. Take the application to the Pass and Registration section where the cards will be issued. The ID cards are good for four years or until expiration of service, whichever is earlier. The card is to be used for identification purposes only. It doesn't entitle the bearer to any benefits or privileges.

#### Restricted Area Badges:

Restricted areas are the wrong place to be without proper credentials. Restricted area badges are required for entry to restricted areas and should be affixed to outer garments only when the wearer is in the area. Currently only certain portions of Westover AFB are open and accessible. Signs and barriers have been placed at strategic entrances to "off limit" streets, areas and structures. Unauthorized personnel apprehended in these restricted areas are subject to disciplinary action. Personnel may not enter the flight line, command post or Area 2, (MAPS personnel only), without the proper restricted area badge.



# Housing

## Home Away from Home

The Westover Base Billeting registration desk is in Bldg 2200 (VOQ), and is open from 0745 to 2300, Monday thru Friday. Other than UTA's, normal Saturday and Sunday during duty hours are 1500 to 2300. On UTA weekends the billeting office remains open from 0715 Friday thru 0100 Saturday and from 0715 Saturday to midnight. In the event incoming or transient personnel cannot arrive during normal billeting office hours, advance reservations can be made by telephoning Autovon 589-3032 or commercial (413) 557-3032. Arrangements will be made for you to obtain a key upon your arrival.

### VOQ-Visiting Officers Quarters:

Military officers and equivalent grade DOD civilian personnel on TDY are eligible to stay in the VOQ. Rooms are scheduled on a day-by-day, space available basis. Cost for the VOQ is \$4.00 per night, per person. Advance reservations can be made by calling the billeting clerk.

The VOQ consists of 30, two bedroom suites and 30, double occupancy single rooms. Suites are completely furnished including beds, linen, dresser, lamps, window screens, fans, refrigerators and clock radio. All accommodations are provided with color television sets.

### Temporary On-Base Family Quarters:

There are a limited number of guest house facilities available on a first-come, first served basis. Officers, NCO's and Airmen accompanied by dependents may stay in VOQ apartments for a maximum of seven straight days and no more than 30 days during any six month period. Cost for this service is \$12.00 per family, per day.

During UTAs, Reservists have first choice on all billets, therefore those planning on temporary family quarters must be mindful of this situation. Billeting desk clerks will be able to tell you how long you can reserve your quarters. There are several motels on Highway 33, Memorial Drive in Chicopee. Other off base motels are located within twenty minutes drive off the base.

Reservations for all temporary family quarters will be accepted 30 days in advance. Walk-ins will also be accommodated, space available.

### BAQ-Enlisted Personnel Dormitories:

Dormitories on Westover AFB are available for all single and unaccompanied enlisted personnel. The BAQs are conveniently located adjacent to the dining hall, BX, and Consolidated Open Mess. Rooms are furnished to accommodate two people. Each dormitory has laundry rooms, game rooms and color television sets in the lounges of each floor.

### TAQ-Visiting Enlisted Personnel Dormitories:

Enlisted personnel and equivalent grade DOD civilians who are traveling TDY are eligible to stay in the TAQ dormitories. Also Reservists may use the TAQ during UTAs, annual encampments, mandays and while on TDY. Those desiring accommodations must register in the VOQ lobby, Bldg 2200.

There are various payment arrangements in use for TAQs. For UTAs and annual active duty training, the enlisted personnel's unit pays the bill, provided the Reservist is on the billeting roster and he or she signs in. On mandays or TDY, the Reservist pays the billeting office directly and submits the receipt to the Comptroller's office for reimbursement.

Currently, the rate set by the Air Force for TAQ's and VOQ's is four dollars per person, per night, maximum.

Bachelor Officer's Quarters (BOQ) are not available on Westover AFB.

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## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT QUARTERS

Married military personnel arriving at Westover AFB with their families on PCS orders may apply for family housing. Currently Westover has 313, three and four bedroom units. Personnel eligible for family housing include all members of the military services beginning at pay grade E-4 and higher. If excess on base housing is available, lower pay grades will be accommodated.

Personnel not immediately assigned Government family housing, are required to report to the Housing Referral Office (HRO) before entering into any off base housing agreement. A DOD directive requires that all housing listed for referral for military personnel be supported by non-discriminatory statements by owners and agents.

Advance application for base housing can be made before departing your current duty station through the housing office at that location. The application is forwarded to the Westover housing office. The effective date of your advance application is considered as the first day of the month prior to your estimated date of arrival.

If you sign in after your estimated arrival date, your effective date of application will be adjusted to the first day of the month before your actual reporting date.

When your application for on base housing is received, your name will be placed on a waiting list, but you cannot be assigned housing until you have physically signed in on base and your effective date of application and position on the waiting list has been verified.

Westover's housing office and HRO is located in Bldg. 4900 and is open from 0745 to 1630 Monday thru Friday. For information telephone Autovon 589-2123 or commercial (413) 557-2123.



## A WORD TO THE WISE

A traffic ticketing system, endorsed by Headquarters USAF is in effect at Westover. Minor traffic offenses such as parking violations, disobeying posted signs, speeding or blocking of roadways or intersections will result in the DOD police issuing a DD Form 1805, "Violation Notice" to the offender.

This form will have listed on it the fine which is payable to the Federal Magistrate in Boston. Any appeals will have to be made before the Boston Area Federal Magistrate. In addition, points prescribed by AFR 125-14, normally assigned to infractions, will be assessed against the driver.

For more serious offenses, such as driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor, leaving the scene of an accident, hit and run, and various other misdemeanors or felonies, an incident report will be prepared and forwarded to the US Attorney for prosecution. A summons will then be issued for the individual to appear before the Boston Area Federal Magistrate

### Motor Vehicle Laws

Registration of motor vehicles will be accomplished at Pass and Registration within 72 hours after the vehicle is brought on base. Requirements for registering an automobile are: possession of a current operator's license, proof of ownership, safety inspection sticker from any state, and a minimum of \$5,000/\$10,000 personal liability. Vehicles owned by members of the armed forces who have returned from abroad, which display registration issued in a foreign country, may be operated for a period of 30 days after entry into the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the purpose of traveling to their place of residence or to a point of military duty.

#### Speed Limits

The speed limit on base is 25 miles per hour or as posted. In the housing area it is 15 miles per hour except where otherwise posted. Extreme caution should be exercised while driving within the family housing area and children's play areas. When approaching a school bus, regardless of direction of travel, all motorists will come to a complete halt and proceed only after the bus resumes motion and all passengers are clear of traffic. The speed limit in the parking areas behind the dormitories is five miles per hour. Base speed limits are radar-enforced.

#### Seat Belts

All automobiles operators and their passengers must wear seat belts while on Westover AFB. Failure to do so will result in a citation.

#### Auto Accidents

In the event an automobile accident occurs on base, the DOD Police should be notified immediately at Ext. 3557 or 3558. The automobiles should not be moved unless an emergency exists.

In the event of accidents off base, strict compliance with Massachusetts vehicle laws is advised, and military personnel involved must notify their respective units.

#### Motorcycles

To register a motorcycle on Westover AFB, operators must attend a briefing conducted by Ground Safety, located in Bldg 7091. Upon meeting the requirements of AFR 127-5, a "Certificate of Competency" (AF Form 483) will be issued. The certificate, along with proof of possession of a valid motorcycle operator's permit, a Massachusetts approved safety helmet and suitable eye protection (face shield or windscreen, the top of which must approximate eye level, mounted on the vehicle), must be presented at the Pass and Registration section.

Massachusetts has a compulsory helmet law requiring that all operators and passengers riding on motorcycles wear state approved helmets and eye protection devices.

#### Reporting Changes

Changes in registration, ownership, plate number, insurance (cancellation or renewal) will be made known to the Pass and Registration section within 48 hours. Failure to do so may result in suspension of on-base driving privileges.

#### Bicycles:

Massachusetts bicycle riders are required by law to comply with motor vehicle rules. This means travel with the traffic flow, stopping for traffic signals and stop signs, signalling all turns, yielding to pedestrians who are within a properly designated and marked crosswalk, etc.

#### Joggers and Pedestrians:

Stated policy of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for Massachusetts is that joggers and pedestrians do not belong on the public right-of-ways within the state.

## MASSACHUSETTS GUN CONTROL

WARNING: Newcomers to Westover must be aware that Massachusetts has a strict gun control law on the use and possession of all firearms. To carry a hand gun for protection of life and property, Massachusetts residents must have a "License to Carry Firearms" which is extremely difficult to obtain.

Hunting and Target Shooting: To carry a hand gun to and from a target range, Massachusetts residents must have a "License to Carry Firearms." Hand guns cannot be used for hunting under Massachusetts law. To lawfully carry a rifle or shotgun, Massachusetts residents must obtain a "Firearms Identification Card." The card number must be entered on all hunting licenses. Without such a card, ammunition cannot be purchased in Massachusetts. In most instances, licenses and permits can be obtained from the chief of police of the town one resides in.

Out of State Residents: Active duty military personnel passing through or into Massachusetts are permitted to carry unloaded handguns in a case in the trunk of their vehicle providing that the weapons are included in their PCS orders. If your firearms are delivered as part of a household goods shipment, you must secure the proper gun control identification cards within 60 days of receiving the firearms.

Firearms Identification Cards must be purchased before entering the state by writing the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety. Non-resident military personnel living off-base must fully comply with all Massachusetts gun control laws. Shooters should note that some police refuse to issue temporary licenses to carry firearms for target shooting to military personnel not actually residents of Massachusetts. In these instances, the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety will often provide the temporary permit.

Massachusetts gun control laws allow visiting out of state residents to carry a rifle or shotgun within Massachusetts providing they are legal within their home state. For example, if your state requires a firearms identification card and you are apprehended in Massachusetts without such a card, under current law you WILL be sentenced to a one year term in jail!

Hand guns and other concealable firearms can be carried by visitors to Massachusetts provided a license to carry a hand gun has been issued by your home state. If you are apprehended in Massachusetts without such a document, you WILL be sentenced to two years in jail!

On-Base Firearms Regulations: Upon arrival on Westover AFB, personnel assigned to the VOQ, enlisted dormitories, transient quarters or guest facilities must register their firearms with the security police, Bldg 1520. Your firearms will be stored in the armory and upon request will be returned.



## CONSOLIDATED OPEN MESS



The Consolidated Open Mess is open daily and serves as the social center on Westover AFB for its military membership of all grades, civilian and retired military personnel, their guests and families.

The million dollar club facilities in Bldg 6640 include a casual bar-lounge, a mail ballroom, private meeting rooms, a formal cocktail lounge, cashiers office and package store.

Daily cafeteria service is provided for breakfast and lunch in the dining room. In the evening the dining room is converted into a family restaurant with a quiet atmosphere perfect for people who enjoy dining out. Entertainment including orchestra and floor shows is also a regular feature of the club.

The monthly membership dues are \$3.00 for person or family. Dress rules are: Authorized dress service uniform combinations may be worn at all times in all areas of the club. Personnel in uniform must conform with accepted grooming standards. Utility uniforms and work attire, such as fatigues, flight suits, dungarees, cook's whites, etc., may be worn until 1900 in all areas. After that work clothing may be worn in the Casual bar-lounge and package store only. A suit or sport coat, with appropriate attire, is required after 1900 Saturday in all areas except the two areas mentioned above. Military clothing mixed with civilian attire, men's footwear that exposes bare feet, tank tops (male or female), undershirts worn as outer garments, and shorts are not permitted at any time. Entry to the club will be refused to anyone not conforming to generally accepted standards of good taste.

Dinner is not served on Monday evenings. Bingo is a big attraction at the club every Monday and Thursday evening starting at 1930.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

#### BAR:

Mon. thru Thurs.	4 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Friday	4 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Saturday	11 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Sunday	11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

#### CASHIER:

Sunday	11 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Monday thru Thursday	11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Friday	11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

#### PACKAGE STORE:

Sun. thru Thurs.	11 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday	11 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturdays	11 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

#### DINING ROOM:

Mon. thru Fri. Sat. & Sun. UTA Weekends	<b>Breakfast</b>	7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
	<b>Lunch</b>	11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
	<b>Dinner</b>	Closed 5 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. 5 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 5 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

## DINING HALL

### Dining Hall:

The Food Service section of the 439th CSG operates Dining Hall #1 during UTAs and annual active duty training.

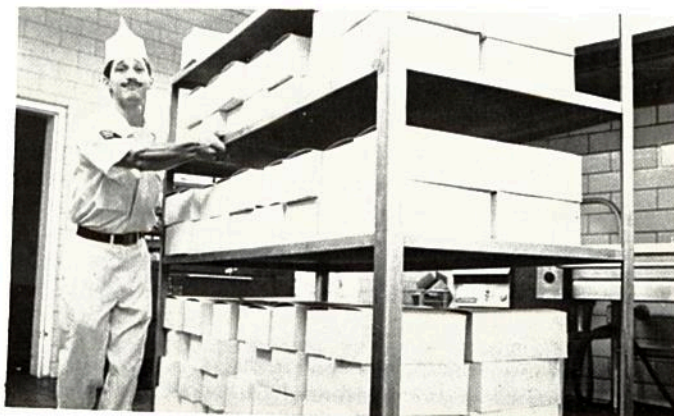
Rigid standards are followed in food preparation to insure that a nutritious and well-balanced diet is provided.

UTA Dining Hall hours of operation are:

SAT-0600 to 0800  
1100 to 1300  
1630 to 1800 closed

SUN-0530 to 0645  
1030 to 1230

Hours of operations vary slightly during annual active duty training. The Dining Hall is located next to the Enlisted dormitories in Bldg. 5100, tel. Ext. 35623.





## COMPLAINTS — IDEAS — SUGGESTIONS

### Problems—Where to Go

Air Force Complaint System: Most personal grievances are resolved at local levels, however, under the Inspector General (IG) complaint system, you're entitled to present a grievance, in person or in writing, to any level of command, including supervisors, first sergeants, the senior enlisted advisor, commanders, local complaints officer, wing commander or the Inspector General of the Air Force.

While you have the right to present personal grievances, you also have the responsibility to report violations of Air Force directives or the existence of errors, injustices, deficiencies, waste or similar situations to those in charge on a local level or to the IG.

### Complaints Officer:

All Westover AFB military and civilian personnel wishing to file official complaints are invited to present them to the Wing Inspector-Complaints Officer (IG), during normal daily duty hours. This can be accomplished by making an appointment directly with the complaints officer, Ext 3076.

### Senior Enlisted Advisor:

The 439th TAW Senior Enlisted Advisor serves as the direct liaison between enlisted personnel and the wing commander. He advises the commander on all matters and policies affecting the morale and retention of airmen, problems and concerns, and working, living and recreational conditions.

The senior enlisted advisor represents the wing commander at unit boards and meetings and provides the commander with feedback on a one-to-one basis.

The senior enlisted advisor can be contacted during UTAs and annual active duty training tours at wing headquarters command section by calling Ext 3562.

### Base Advisory Council:

Due to changes in attitude and regulations, military personnel are receiving unparalleled latitude in helping to determine conditions affecting their lives and livelihood. Today, more than ever before all military personnel, regardless of rank, have the opportunity to legitimately help improve the system through the Base Advisory Council (BAC).

Westover's Base Advisory Council provides a means to exchange ideas and solve issues. Commanders use the BAC to make certain policies and programs are understood; Air Force Reservists use the system to present their problems and concerns.

The BAC is not a substitute for the chain of command or a way to solve individual "gripes." The BAC is designed to solve problems that affect Westover military personnel as a group.

### Social Actions Office:

The Social Actions Office provides guidance and assistance to unit commander, base agencies, military personnel and their dependents in the areas of drug and alcohol abuse and treatment, equal opportunity and human relations education. The office is located in Hangar 3 and is open only during UTAs and annual active duty training. For information, call Ext 3546.

### Legal Services:

Westover's Staff Judge Advocate is on duty only during UTAs and annual active duty training tours. Air Force Reservists desiring legal assistance may call the Base Commander's office, 557-2802 or 557-3044 for an appointment.

Active duty military personnel may contact the Legal Services office at Hanscom AFB, Autovon:478-2361 or commercial (617) 861-2361.

### Staff Duty Officer:

A Westover AFB Staff Duty Officer is always on call during non-duty hours and may be contacted through the base telephone operator,

### Ideas and Suggestions:

Creative thinkers can earn big money fast and easily through the Air Force Suggestion Program. Reservists as well as active duty personnel and civilian employees are invited to take advantage of the USAF program.

Ideas are sought which simplify or improve operations, speed up procedures or operating measures, conserve materials or property, promote health, increase safety, improve morale in terms of desirable and feasible personnel services or conserve energy.

Reservists who have a proposed suggestion are asked to submit it in writing to the military personnel division of the CBPO or call Ext 2993. Civilian-generated suggestions go through the CCPO, Ext 2573.

### Personnel and Advisory Council:

Air Force Reserve members now possess the power to change existing Air Force policies and regulations and create new ones.

Personnel with an idea or suggestion are encouraged to submit it to the vice wing commander on ARPC Form 2. If deemed appropriate your plan will be forwarded to the Air Reserve Personnel Center, AFRES Policy and Advisory Council where it will be researched, evaluated and considered among other suggestions.

Accepted ideas and suggestions affecting only the Air Force Reserve are forwarded to AFRES Headquarters for implementation. Air Force wide plans are dispatched to the Air Force Policy Council.

## RIGHTS - PRIVILEGES - ENTITLEMENTS - BENEFITS

### Medical Benefits:

While Air Force Reservists are participating in their annual active duty training tours or performing mandays, they are eligible for full medical care and benefits, including hospitalization.

Conversely, while Air Force Reservists are actively participating in UTAs, they cannot receive routine medical treatment. The government claims responsibility only for treating injuries incurred in the line of duty. The government will not pay for injuries received while traveling to and from UTAs, nor will it pay for illnesses incurred during the UTA unless directly related to Reserve occupation in the line of duty. 439th Tac Hospital physicians cannot prescribe routine medication for UTA personnel.

Westover AFB does not have a base hospital, but rather only a Medical Aid Station for the purpose of handling minor problems. Any emergency requiring an ambulance must be taken care of by telephoning Ext. 3557.

### Clarification of Active and Inactive Duty:

Every Air Force Reservist should understand their rights and benefits, therefore the clarification of the difference between active and inactive duty is as follows:

UTA weekends are considered to be inactive duty days. Annual active duty training tours and mandays are viewed as active duty days. During the latter Reservists are fully covered medically from leaving their home until returning to it.

### CHAMPUS:

Since Westover AFB does not operate a hospital, the medical needs of the area's active duty dependents, retirees and spouses are taken care of through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniform Services (CHAMPUS).

Eligible military-affiliated residents of the greater Springfield area as well as throughout the nation are treated by their personal physician or are admitted to a local non-military hospital and the greater portion of their medical bills is paid by the federal government.

CHAMPUS is like health insurance without having to pay a premium. Here's how it works: Dependents of active duty members are



## **Rights, Privileges, Entitlements and Benefits (continued)**

charged \$5.00 each day for their hospitalization, to a maximum of \$25.00. The government absorbs all hospital, physician and other miscellaneous service costs. If hospital care is handled on an out-patient basis, CHAMPUS takes care of 80 percent of all allowable charges.

Retirees and their spouses incur 25 percent of the total cost of hospitalization. For an out-patient visit, they pay 25 percent of the total charges.

Retired Reservists are also eligible for CHAMPUS beginning on their 60th birthday. They receive the same benefits due other retirees until age 65 when they become covered by Medicare.

For further information about CHAMPUS telephone Ext 3592 during normal duty hours.

## **Public Affairs**

The 439th TAW Public Affairs Office (PA) is the focal point for all news concerns about Westover AFB and serves as the official spokesman to the civilian news media. Whenever a news item is of sufficient interest and magnitude, the information is disseminated to the news media.

The PA office publishes an Official Class II, USAF, monthly base newspaper, "The Patriot" for and about the personnel of Westover AFB. It is distributed by mail to every member of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing. In addition to providing news about the base community, The Patriot serves as a permanent record of the activities and special events which are a vital and important part of Westover's reserve mission.

How well The Patriot represents base personnel and their thoughts depends to a great degree on the individual. All Westover personnel are a significant part of the "news gathering team" and are invited to submit stories and suggest ideas to the PA staff. Often, topics thought commonplace by some are hot news to others. With the help of each Reservist, The Patriot will accurately reflect the unfolding successes of Westover AFB.

The Public Affairs Office is located in Wing Headquarters, Bldg 1100, Room 4. During normal duty hours throughout the month it can be reached by calling Ext 2072.

## **TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

Productive unit training is the order-of-the-day for all Air Force Reservists. Training is not an emergency activity but a continuous, ongoing project designed to fully prepare personnel to effectively respond whenever and wherever needed.

On-the-job training (OJT) is stressed to help provide the necessary job knowledge required to contribute to the Wing's mission as well as for career development and progress. Under the OJT program, Air Force Reservists work and train with highly qualified personnel who provide the professional skills essential to each specialty.

To improve professional skills or simply to increase job knowledge, professional military and technical courses are available to eligible Air Force Reservists.

For information about on-the-job training, Air Force Technical Schools, or correspondence courses, contact the Wing Training Office, Bldg 1850, Room 8, or telephone Ext 3115 or 2587.

### Education Services:

Meeting the voluntary academic, vocational and professional educational needs of all Air Force Reservists, regardless of rank, is the primary mission of the Education Office at Westover AFB. A wide and varied list of programs are available to personnel wishing to enhance their educational backgrounds. The goal of the staff is to provide full guidance counseling and up-to-date information about educational opportunities.

Many services are offered by the Educational Office staff including assisting Reservists in filling out transcript requests and other forms, giving comparisons between schools and providing information con-

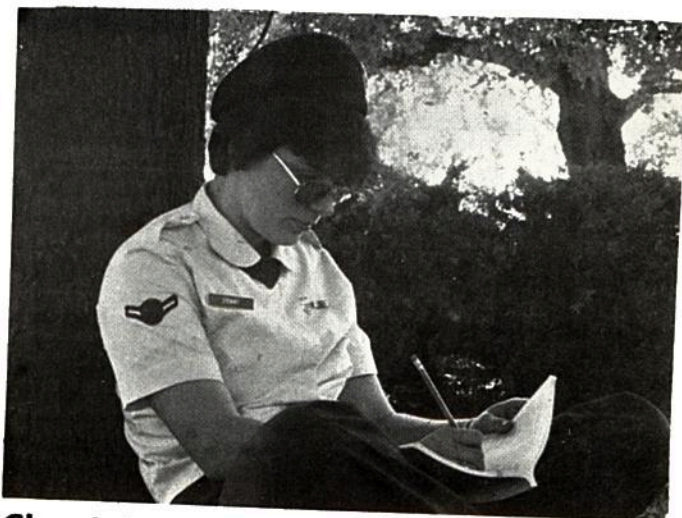
cerning the college Level Examination Program. They maintain catalogs from many of the area colleges from which Westover AFB draws its personnel.

The Education Office will help individuals with the Extension Course Institute (ECI) program and information. Nearly 400 courses designed to improve professional skills or increase job and personal knowledge are available. Want a free course on photography, plumbing, carpentry, printing, graphic design, surveying, data processing or electronic repair? These and other courses are free to both officer and enlisted personnel of the Air Force Reserve!

The Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) is a major function of the Education Office. The CCAF provides enlisted members opportunities for professional development through varied study programs.

The CCAF gives credit where credit is due. There are many areas in which college credits are available. For instance: Every time you are awarded a higher skill level in your Air Force Specialty you are entitled to four college credits. Technical schools are worth anywhere from 4 to 30 credits; 4 credits are awarded for completing basic military training and credits are available for resident NCO Academy courses. Several Westover Reservists have already earned Associate in Science degrees through the CCAF program—college credits and college degrees bringing recognition and advancement in military as well as civilian life!

The Education Office staff is anxious to help Air Force Reservists increase their civilian education. The office is located in Bldg 1850, Room 19. For an appointment telephone Ext 3827 during UTAs or annual active duty training hours.



## **Chaplain Services**

Protestant and Catholic chaplains are assigned duty at Westover AFB during UTAs and annual active duty training for consultation and other chaplain services. A Rabbi is on call for Jewish personnel. Chaplains are also available during other times by contacting the 439th CSG commander's office, Ext 3044 or 3941, or the Staff Duty Officer through the base telephone operator. The chaplains are assisted by three chapel management assistants.

The chaplain's office is located in Hangar #3, Room 212, Ext 3031. Here at Westover, as with most reserve facilities, counseling is accomplished on an informal level anywhere it is convenient.

During UTA weekends, Catholic Masses are held in the Wing briefing room in the Base Hangar at 1600 Saturday and 0730 Sunday. Protestant services are conducted at 0730 Sundays at the Blue Room of the Consolidated Open Mess.

Personnel can also find churches of nearly every denomination in Chicopee and other surrounding communities. For instance, five minutes drive from the main gate is St. Anne's Catholic Church in Chicopee Falls. For schedule of Masses call: - - 532-7503. Details about all religions can be found in the yellow pages.



# People You'll Work With at Westover

Westover Air Force Base is one of thirteen Air force bases with a primary operating responsibility of directing Air Force Reserve units. Those of you being assigned to an AFRES operated base for the first time may come into contact with a variety of job categories never before encountered. To help you understand the jobs of those you'll be working with, a thumbnail description of the various categories is presented.

Category "A" Air Force Ready Reservists comprise the greatest number of personnel assigned to Westover AFB. Citizen airmen participate in 12 UTA weekends and one, two week annual active duty training tours. Prior military service personnel make up approximately 75 percent of the force. Air Reservists come from all walks of life and stand ready to provide the aircraft, expertise and talents needed in the event of a national emergency.

Active Duty Air Force personnel perform duty at Westover 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Nearly 150 regular Air Force personnel operate the control tower and other communication services, including the base telephone system.

Multi-military service branches make Westover a flexible facility for nearly 800 Army National Guard; Navy, Army and Marine Reserve units also share the resources of the base. Two full-time Massachusetts Army National Guard units operate out of the former SAC alert facility (the "mole hole"). Even a submarine base group from New London, Connecticut uses Westover for training.

Air Force Reserve Mobilization Augmentee (MA) Program personnel are also assigned training at Westover AFB. MAs are prior active service people who possess a wide variety of skills. The program is perhaps the most unique and flexible of all Reserve procedures. Training schedules are planned between the military supervisor and the MA, normally to be carried out during the week in order to fit into civilian work schedule. The same flexibility in scheduling the annual two week active duty tour applies. MA training is conducted so that in the event of mobilization, they are prepared to move directly into active duty Air Force units. Unlike other Reservists, MAs need not live in the same geographic area where their Reserve training assignment is located. For example, an MA who lives in Springfield, Massachusetts could have an MA assignment in Japan. The MA attends monthly UTAs at Westover AFB and reports only to the active duty assignment in Japan for annual active duty training.

Air Reserve Technician (ART) is a combination Category "A" Air Force Ready Reservist and full time Federal DOD Civil Service employee of the armed forces. Currently about 275 highly skilled, permanent force ART personnel make up the heart of Westover's units. They provide full-time support and maintain continuity for units during the periods between UTAs and annual active duty training tours. ARTs fill the void while the bulk of Air Force Reservists are at home working in their civilian occupations. During training periods, ARTs serve in their Reserve capacity. Their primary function is to provide the necessary fulltime leadership, planning, training and continued support needed to maintain unit effectiveness and keep Westover combat ready.

Department of Defense Civil Service employees are full-time individuals who provide a great deal of the expert training instructions and day-to-day support for Westover's units. Approximately 700 men and women work in nearly every unit of the base.

Civilian Employee Other Than ART or DoD are also employed on Westover, principally as AAFES workers.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Aviation:

Two major airports serve the needs of the Greater Springfield areas. Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Connecticut is 40 minutes south of Westover AFB. Regularly scheduled commercial airlines use the air facility to and from most all countries of the world. Barnes Airport in Westfield, Massachusetts is a municipally-owned and operated facility, the third busiest private, charter and freight terminal in Massachusetts. The facility has an FAA-staffed control tower operating on a 16 hour basis. The regional office of the FAA serving Western Massachusetts and Connecticut is located at the airport. Barnes Airport is also the home of the 104th TAC Fighter Group of the Massachusetts Air National Guard. The 9000 feet of paved runway can accommodate the world's largest jet aircraft.

### Rail Service:

The AMTRAK rail system provides passenger services out of the Springfield train station. Regular direct service is available to and from all major regional cities.

### Bus Service:

Five carries provide regular bus service between the Springfield Bus Terminal and points throughout the northeast as well as the entire nation. Trailways and Grayhound bus lines provide daily nationwide service with connections to all points.

Bonanza Bus Line offers daily service between points west to Albany, New York and points south to Providence, R.I.

Vermont Bus Line offers daily service to points north including several communities in New Hampshire and Canada.

Eastern Bus Line offers service between New London, Connecticut and Springfield.

Longueil Transportation Inc. provides bus services to Kennedy International Airport and LaGuardia International Airport in New York. Buses depart the Sheraton Inn in West Springfield at 0500 and 1245 daily, and from the Marriott Hotel in Downtown Springfield at 0510 and 1300.

Peter Pan Bus Line is the largest independent bus company in Massachusetts. Commuter service is provided throughout the Pioneer Valley as well as other out-of-state destinations. Express service is offered to race tracks, Jai Alai, Red Sox baseball games, escorted tours and excursions. Their Logan Airport limo departs the Springfield Bus Terminal at 0815 and 1815 Monday thru Friday. There is also bus service to South Station in Boston, connecting with Airway Transport bus service to Logan. Service to Bradley International Airport from the Springfield Bus Terminal is provided hourly from 0105 to 1805, and also at 1720, 2045 and 2200 Monday thru Friday. Return service to Springfield is available after a short delay at the airport.

### Civilian Taxi Service:

Private taxi service is available in most communities. Personnel arriving at the Springfield Bus Terminal or AMTRAK station are advised that as of January 1981 the typical taxi fare to Westover is approximately \$14.00 (metered).

### Westover AFB Military Transportation:

The Vehicles Operations Section of the transportation branch of the 439th Combat Support Group is responsible for all taxi transportation, on-base bus schedules and control over the "U-Drive-It" fleet.

Base Military Taxi Service is provided from 0730 to 2400 weekdays only for the purpose of conducting official business. Requests for taxi service can be made by telephoning Ext. 3805 or 3855.



# BASE EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES

**Base Exchange and Related Services:** The Base Exchange at Westover offers sundries, non-prescription drugs, jewelry, toys, ladies', men's and children's clothing, automotive accessories, home entertainment systems, photographic equipment, hardware, household items, toiletries, tobacco products, etc. Seasonable features are offered such as a Garden Shop and Toyland. Limited uniform items are available in the military clothing section. Beer, soda, dairy goods, candy, etc., are sold in the Quick Market area. The Special Order Department provides a large number of catalogues describing items not regularly stocked but available by mail order. This is the department responsible for lay-away merchandise.

Patrons may cash checks at the Base Exchange. The maximum accepted is \$500 for US Treasury checks and personal checks are honored up to \$100.

There is also a barber shop situated next to the cashiers cage, offering complete barber services. Appointments are not necessary but help. The barber shop is open during the same hours as the BX except it is closed on Sunday and Monday. Phone 557-2996.

The Base Exchange is located adjacent to the dining hall in Bldg 5200. The hours of operation are: Tuesday thru Friday 1030 to 1700, Saturday 0930 to 1630; Sunday 1100 to 1700; closed every Monday. During UTA Saturdays the BX remains open until 1800. For further information telephone the BX at 593-5941 or the Customer Service Desk at 593-5413.



**BX Foodland** is not a commissary but rather a supermarket-type grocery store operated by the BX. A limited selection of items is stocked, such as canned and packaged foods, household accessories and supplies, health and beauty aids, pet supplies, delicatessen items, small fresh produce department, beer, dairy center, frozen foods, etc.

Foodland is in Bldg 1714 across the street from the Recreation/Gymnasium Complex, telephone 593-3288. The hours of operation are: Tuesday thru Friday 1000 to 1700; Saturday 0930 to 1630; closed Sunday and Monday.

Children must be accompanied by a parent while in Foodland. Checks are accepted but limited to the amount of purchase plus \$10.00.

The **BX Service Station** features self-service with assistance provided upon request. The auto accessory department features tires, oil, waxes, filters, etc. Also during the spring and summer seasons, bulkier garden supplies such as fertilizers and bagged soils are on sale.

The service station is in Bldg 1601, next to Foodland and is open Tuesday thru Saturday from 0900 to 1600, closed Sunday and Monday. For further information, call 593-5102.

All unlimited exchange and Foodland privileges accorded active duty military personnel are granted Reservists and Guardsmen provided specific conditions are met.

UTA inactive military days, in either pay or non-pay status, entitle Reservists and Guardsmen to one full BX shopping day for each four hour UTA period. Choice of shopping days is at the discretion of the Reservist or Guardsman and can be used up to one year following each UTA.

To qualify for BX privileges, Reservists and Guardsmen must present their UTA Earnings Statement, AF Form 1965, before purchases are authorized. Reserve and Guard personnel on nonpay status must present a "Letter of Authorization" before a transaction can be completed.

Newly assigned Reserve or Guard members who have not received their first UTA Earnings Statement must produce a "Letter of Authorization" from their unit commander. BX cashiers will date stamp and initial UTA Earnings Statements or Letters of Authorization on the day of BX purchases. For the remainder of that day, this documentation will be accepted at all BX facilities as notice that the member is entitled to unlimited exchange privileges.

Military personnel who use the BX lay-away system, special order items or leave merchandise for repair are permitted to complete the transaction without having it charged against their BX entitlement. However, the previously dated Earnings Statement or Letter of Authorization must be produced as proof that the original transaction was charged at an earlier date.

Reservists and Guardsmen will be charged one day of entitlement for check cashing privileges at the BX. Uniform items may be purchased at any time without loss of entitlement with proper ID (DD2AF (RES)).

In compliance with the Privacy Act, members may delete or obliterate all information on their Earnings Statement except their names and number of inactive duty periods performed. Military personnel in civilian clothing will be asked to present their ID cards prior to BX purchases.

## ACDUTRA

(Active duty training days) entitle Reservists and Guardsmen the same unlimited BX privileges as active duty military personnel. The only stipulation is that shopping days are restricted to the actual active duty training period.

**Dependents of Reservists and Guardsmen** are entitled to BX privileges provided they are accompanied by their military spouses while using the BX facilities. All transactions must be completed by the service member.

Upon request by a cashier or other authorized person, dependent spouses must present appropriate identification such as drivers license, social security card, Dependents ID Card (AF Form 446), etc. Identification for dependent children is not required.

Dependents of Reservists and Guardsmen on active duty military training duty for 72 hours or more, such as the two week annual active duty training tour, are entitled to full BX and Foodland privileges. Further, dependent spouses of these military members can purchase items without being accompanied by the service member provided the shopper has a copy of the active duty orders and can provide proper military identification.

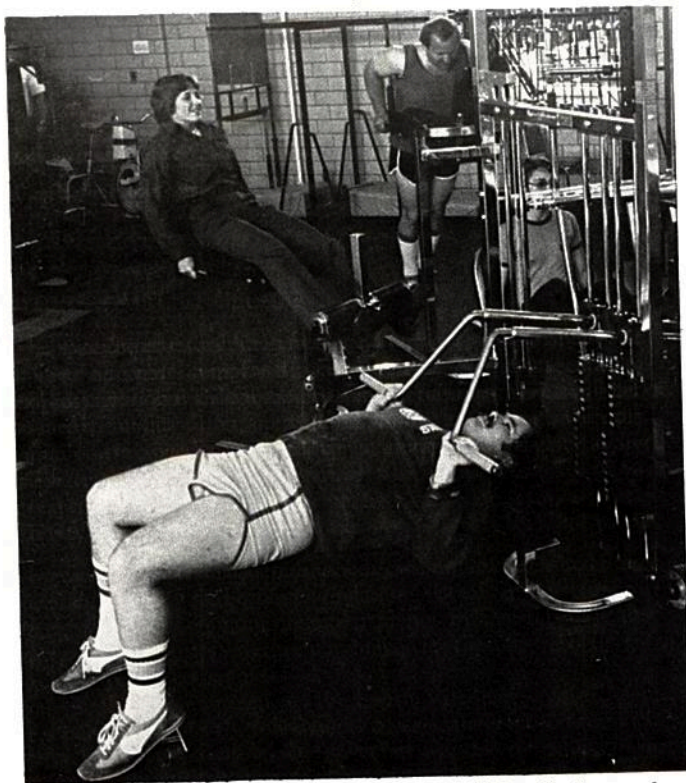


# Morale Welfare and Recreation

An active and comprehensive recreation program offering something for everyone's sporting interest is met year round through the efforts of the base Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Division. Intramural and varsity sports programs are conducted to enable personnel to participate in various activities, such as basketball, softball, volleyball, tennis, swimming, little league baseball, weight lifting and many others. Outdoor facilities consist of two softball fields (one lighted), a little league diamond, as well as a swimming pool and three tennis courts.

Working within the MWR Division is the base Recreation Director who coordinates and establishes both on and off base recreation activities.

The Recreation/Gymnasium Complex is the hub of athletic activity for many military personnel and their dependents. A recent renovation of the gymnasium has created a modern, multi-use facility for the enjoyment of many athletic pursuits. The modern equipment makes the gym an excellent workout facility during off-duty hours.



Competitive sports areas include racquetball, handball, squash and basketball courts, badminton playing area and weightlifting equipment and a Centarian Universal Gym which provides enthusiasts a thorough facility for body building and muscle toning. Some facilities, such as racquetball courts, are used by appointment only to insure equal playing time. To reserve a court, just call Ext 3958.

The gym also features steam, sauna, rub-down and shower rooms, whirlpool bath and locker room. For a small service charge, locker rentals are available on a monthly basis. Transit lockers, soap, towels and various recreational equipment is also available for check-out.

The Recreational Center of the complex provides numerous recreational facilities and a wide variety of entertainment. The center includes color television, game room complete with air hockey, fuss-ball and bumper pool, as well as four pool and two ping-pong tables. Equipment for use in the center may be checked out at the Recreation/Gymnasium Complex main desk.

The hours of operation for the Recreation/Gymnasium Complex are: UTAs—Sat 0900 to 2000, Sun 1100 to 1500. Regular summer schedule is: Monday thru Friday 1000 to 1800 and Sat 0900 to 1200. Regular winter schedule is: (September to May) Monday thru Friday 1100 to 2000 and Saturday 0900 to 1200.

Four Seasons Equipment Rental Service features everything from bicycles at \$1.00 a day to a Ford Camper which sleeps four adults and two children! A wide range of spring, summer, fall and winter recreational equipment is on hand ready to be checked out by the interested base sports lover.

The Four Seasons Store is across from the Base Hangar in the front half of Security Police, Bldg 1520. Ask for a list of the 50 items available for checkout. Hours for operation are: Monday thru Friday 1300 to 1800 and Saturday 0900 to 1200. Summer hours are: Monday thru Friday 1300 to 1700 and Saturday 0900 to 1200. For information call Ext 2974 or 3958.

Swimming pool and tennis courts are available to all military personnel, dependents and guests. The Olympic-sized pool features a full program of activities such as adult and youth learn-to-swim classes, lifesaving course, swim meets, pool parties and many other events during the summer season (June thru Labor Day). Children under 10 years of age must be accompanied by an adult or pass the required swim test to use the pool. Lifeguards are always on duty during operating hours. The pool is available 1100 to 2000 hours, seven days a week.

Use of the tennis courts is permitted from dawn to dusk on a first-come, first-served basis. Personnel using the courts are asked to limit playing time to one hour so that a fair rotation can be afforded to all.

Arts and Crafts Hobby Program is offered by qualified and experienced staff members in excellent, well equipped facilities. Patrons are free to work on their projects at their own pace. Supplies for most arts and crafts are available at reasonable prices. The shop is located within the Recreation/Gymnasium Complex.

The base picnic area is located in the nearby community of Ludlow, near the Westover Golf Club and Stonybrook. The area is complete with pavillion and grills, and is open to all Westover personnel and their dependents.

Vegetable garden plots are marked off, plowed and distributed to personnel on a first-come, first-served plan. There is a small service charge for use of each of the 50' x 25' plots.

Base Theater operates for the enjoyment and entertainment of all military personnel and their dependents. First-run motion pictures are the weekly fare every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Showtime is 1930 hrs. A full concession stand is located in the lobby and is open prior to each showing. Admission charge is \$1.50 to all. Additionally, live free shows, such as music concerts and stage shows are booked in the theater on a quarterly basis. Attractions are publicized on the gate signs located at the base entrances.

The Bowling Center officially opened in June 1981. More than bowling is available at the center. There is a fully equipped snack bar offering a number of fast foods such as pizza and grinders. Also, there is a game room with pinball machines and a varied selection of video games. There are a number of bowling programs available including learn-to-bowl classes, lady's bowling, organized leagues and bowling contests.

Bowling hours are 19 a.m. to midnight and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. for the snack bar. For information telephone 557-2532 or Ext. 3990.



# The Story of Westover

The concept for Westover was born in 1926 during the golden era of the roaring twenties. Americans had been enjoying seven years of peace following World War I, the nation was prospering and future looked very bright.

Conditions were very different throughout much of warshattered Europe, for intense bombing had completely destroyed the industrial and community lives of many cities, towns and villages.

The plight of Europe caused unrest and the subsequent rise of dangerous dictators. Joseph Stalin's Communist party was in control of Russia, and Adolph Hitler had become the leader of the "National Socialist German Workers Party."

In the meantime, Benito Mussolini founded the Italian "Facist Party" and through fiery speeches led a coup d'etat on Rome which ultimately led to his reign as total dictator. By the mid-1920's, the world was unequally divided into the "have" and the "have-not" nations.

Those were the internationally unstable conditions which existed when a young Polish immigrant and first-term Chicopee alderman, Anthony J. Stonina, was sold on the idea that the flat tobacco plains area within his community would make an ideal location for an airport. He attempted to interest other local politicians in the concept but was informed that an airfield would be too extravagant for the small, industrial city. Nevertheless, Stonina did not dismiss the intriguing airport concept.

In the fall of 1929, three years into Stonina's political career, the prosperous roaring twenties abruptly suffered the severest business crash in history. The nation sank steadily into an acute depression.

At this point, Stonina, having successfully served two terms as alderman, won the Chicopee mayoral election. As leader, his primary responsibility was to save the small Western Massachusetts city from sliding into bankruptcy. During the 1930's, Mayor Stonina guided Chicopee through a crucial economic period and its inevitable destiny as host city for one of the nation's most important military airfields.

## Fear of Global War

To fully understand the fascinating story of Westover's prehistory and eventual construction, a review of the sequence of international, military, political and economic events of the period is essential. The international economic depression of the 1930's found any hope of European political stability shattered. In the Far East, economic conditions seriously hampered Japan's principal export industry, causing severe unemployment. Japanese military leaders took advantage of the chaotic times and seized the Chinese Province of Manchuria. China had been involved in a sixteen year civil war between the Nationalist army and the Communist rebel forces.

President Roosevelt concentrated all of his energies on ending America's economic troubles, but the steady recovery program was being interrupted by the possibility of a global war, sure to involve the United States.

By 1935, Germany had built an unauthorized armed force of 600,000 trained combat troops, and within a year the Spanish Civil War erupted. In March 1936, Nazi troops marched into demilitarized districts west of the Rhine River bringing German soldiers uncomfortably close to the French border. Japan and China were fully involved in an undeclared war by mid-1937. Most Americans, in sympathy with the Chinese, supported a \$25 million credit loan, and a "moral embargo" on exporting aircraft to Japan.

The succession of global military actions were an unmistakable, perilous prophecy of a future world war. In October 1937, President Roosevelt proposed aggressive nations be "quarantined" by means of economic boycotts. Relations between the United States and the Axis powers grew increasingly tense.

Convinced that Axis military victories would ultimately endanger democracy everywhere, President Roosevelt supported a policy to prepare the United States for defense. In spite of Congressional opposition, he fought to strengthen the Army, Navy and Air Corps, and was successful in getting approval for the "Naval Expansion Bill" to rebuild the U.S. Navy into a two-ocean military force.

In the fall of 1935, the "Wilcox Act," (Army Air Base Bill), was introduced to Congress calling for construction of several military airfields throughout the United States, including one in the northeast. Although the bill was quickly approved, Congress did not appropriate the necessary funds to finance the project. In the meantime, the Air Corps was organized into a combat force composed of fighting units of the air arm of the United States Army. A vast program to build planes, train pilots, and improve equipment was launched. A revolutionary combat plane, the B-17 "Flying Fortress," was being flight tested.



**Major General Oscar Westover**

In the fall of 1938, General Henry (Hap) Arnold was appointed to fill the Chief of the Air Corps position left vacant by the accidental death of General Arnold's long-time personal friend, Major General Oscar Westover. One of General Arnold's first official acts was to recommend to the War Department that a board of officers be appointed to select sites for the previously approved Army airfields. When Chicopee's fourth term Mayor Stonina learned about the government's air base project in November 1938, he remembered his mid-1920's plan to convert the tobacco flats of Chicopee Falls into an airfield. Mayor Stonina wired the Secretary of War suggesting his community be seriously considered for the proposed northeast air facility. But due to lack of approved financing, the War Department project continued to progress slowly.

With Europe teetering on the brink of all-out war, the United States Congress finally approved appropriations for construction of the proposed Army Air Corps base in New England.

## Tobacco Fields Slated

In July 1939, a small contingent of officers arrived in the Connecticut Valley on an inspection tour of potential northeast airfield sites. They visited Bowles Airport, in nearby Agawam, and made their first



surveillance of the land known as "flat plains" in Chicopee Falls and Ludlow.

In Europe, the fears of Britain and France that Poland was to be Hitler's next conquest came to pass on September 1, 1939. Nazi forces smashed into poorly equipped Poland in a fierce blitzkrieg (lightning war). Sixteen hundred aircraft of the German Luftwaffe, highly motorized armored units of the Panzer divisions, and a million trained combat troops easily cut through the inferior Polish defenses. England and France demanded Germany's immediate withdrawal, but Hitler refused. Even though Britain and France were ill prepared to provide direct military assistance to the Poles, on September 3, 1939, the two nations declared war against Germany. Seven days later, Canada followed suit but the United States remained neutral. The second European war of the Twentieth Century was underway.

Shocked and angered by Germany's attack on his homeland, Mayor Stonina rushed to Washington D.C. to convince General Arnold that Chicopee would be the ideal location for the proposed northeast military airfield. Fifteen days later, (September 15, 1939), the Secretary of War announced Mayor Stonina's city had been selected to "become an important link in the chain of east coast defense" by being the site for the Northeast Army Air Base.

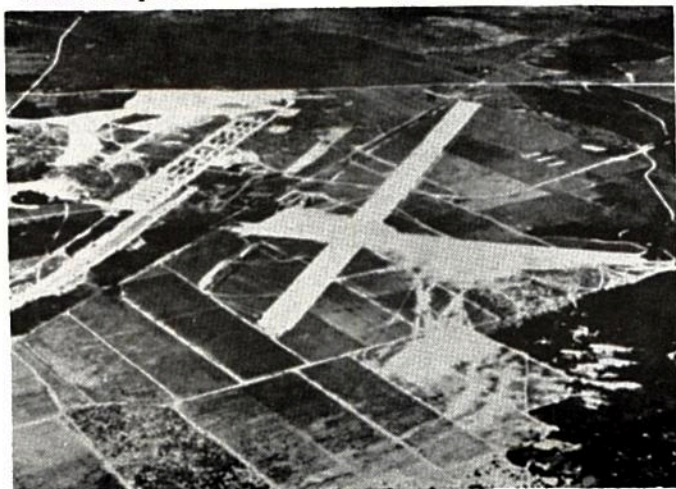
The congressional plan called for construction of a "major repair and overhaul base for the nation's air force in the event of war, and its principal job also would be to ward off enemy attack and serve as a base for pilot training". Within a short time, \$2,070,918 was allocated for the purchase of a seven and one half mile square plot of "tobacco land" within the boundaries of Chicopee, Mass.

During 1940, a dramatic series of rapid moves and counter-moves shaped world destiny. Winston Churchill became Prime Minister of Great Britain and Japan intensified its campaign of conquest in Asia, employing measures to isolate China.

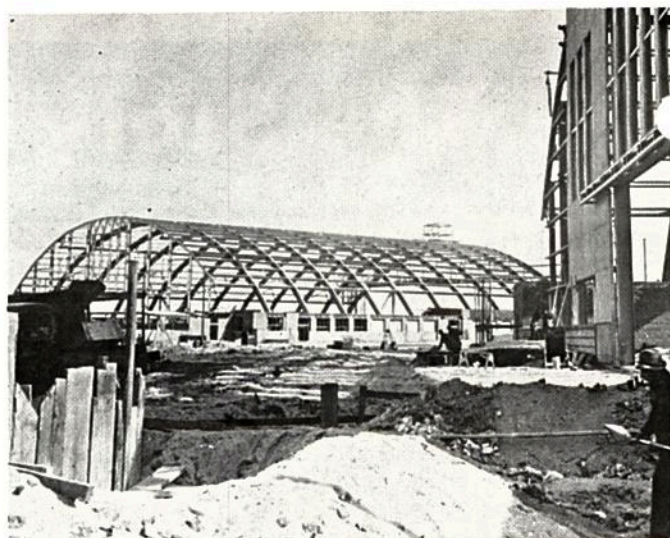
On Army Day, April 6, 1940, a contingent of Air Corps officers, state and city dignitaries and thousands of private citizens assembled on the site of the Northeast Air Base for official groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies. In keeping with Air Corps tradition of naming Army airfields in honor of departed heroes, the Chicopee military facility was named Westover Field in memory of Major General Oscar Westover.

## WORLD WAR II

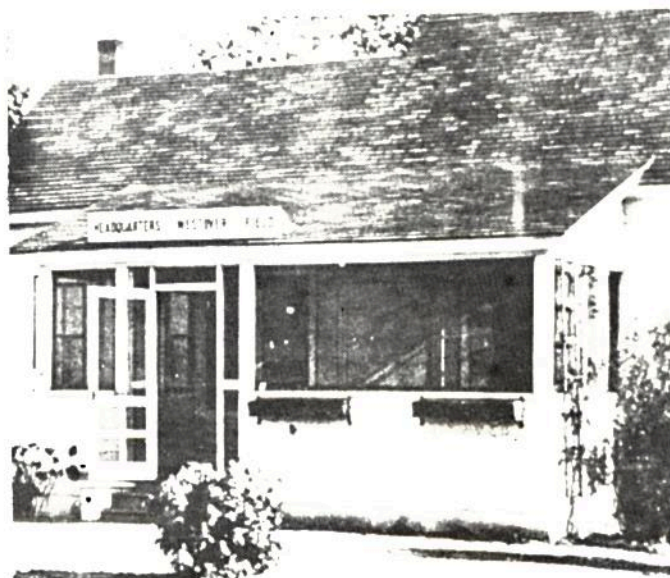
Vital in World War II: During the early 1940's, Westover became a hub of military activities, serving as a training center for fighter pilots and anti-submarine crews. The airfield also played a major role during World War II as a staging area and combat training center for B-17, B-24 and B-26 bomber crews. Thousands of combat missions in both theaters of operation were conducted by Westover-assembled crews.



In the beginning Westover's Flight line.



Construction along Hangar Road was well under way by 1940.



First Base Headquarters ↑

↓ First Base Operations

