

PATRIOT

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AIR FORCE RESERVE)

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

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March 1983

439th stages largest AFRES chemical drill



(USAF photo by Major Robert Carroll)

by Capt. Rick Dyer and
SSgt. Gordon A. Newell

E.T. would have felt right at home.

Faceless, alien-type creatures took over Westover's flight line during the February UTA, but they weren't from outer space.

The martian look-alikes were really Westover Reservists who donned chemical warfare ensembles and respirators to participate in the largest Air Force Reserve chemical warfare drill ever staged by a single unit.

Unfazed by sub-zero temperatures, more than a thousand wing members took part in the exercise that simulated an enemy chemical attack against the base.

Under the scenario established for the

TSgt. Dan J. O'Brien, left, and SSgt. Michael R. Brunetti, of the 42nd MAPS, pack a 64-foot cargo chute while adorned in their chemical warfare ensembles during exercise held during the February UTA.

drill, a mixture of nerve agent and a mustard type blister gas was being released from a bomb that had hit one of Westover's runways.

Immediately unit control centers were activated and the 1,000 Reservists

swung into action.

In the flight line area 40 aircrew members from the 337th TAS and the 74th AES played out their roles in the exercise.

(continued on pages 4-5)



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Lt. Col. Hartnett highlighted
- Husband and wife team
- New harassment program

McNicholas chosen best MWR director in AFRES

They'll have to find room in Mike McNicholas' already crowded trophy case. Like so many of the teams he has coached or sponsored, Westover's Morale Welfare & Recreation Director is number one.

McNicholas was recently named the Best Recreation Director in the Air Force Reserve.

"It's an honor which rightfully should be shared by everyone on base, in particular all the Reservists," explains McNicholas. "They're the ones who have requested new services and now are using our many recreation facilities. The MWR staff and I are only fulfilling those requests."

The AFRES competition considered that relationship and judged the result outstanding. Under McNicholas' stew-

ardship during the past year the base opened its fitness trail with its 22 exercise stations; the \$110,000 construction project at the recreation center was completed; and all the on-going programs, such as arts & crafts, ladies' dance and aerobics classes, were initiated or upgraded.

"Perhaps our biggest accomplishment was the highly successful first year of the bowling alley. We're already showing a profit — a profit which is being reinvested into other base recreation programs," says McNicholas.

The new recognition now takes its place alongside the many other awards McNicholas has earned.

On active duty in the Air Force, at McCord AFB, McNicholas entered sev-

en weight lifting competitions in four years. He won all seven in the dead lift, squat and bench press categories. Now, the 197-pounder bench presses 450 pounds.

McNicholas' involvement in sports, however, isn't limited to bar bells. He played professional baseball with the San Francisco Giants farm team and was his college's football team's quarterback.

"This latest award, the AFRES title, merely highlights the comprehensive program McNicholas provides at Westover says Capt. Thomas Gray, MWR chief. I'm delighted Mike received this recognition and besides," Captain Gray continued tongue-in-cheek, "now we don't have to give him a raise."

FATIGUES TO BE WORN MARCH & MAY UTA'S

Det 5 NCO saves boy's finger

A panic stricken mother, who had accidentally severed a finger of her infant son, is indeed fortunate to have as neighbors, SSgt. and Mrs. Joseph Britanek. Due to their expert assistance the boy received immediate first aid and his finger eventually was reattached.

Mrs. Allyson Herk had been preparing a salad when a knife slipped from her hand and fell on her infant son, Randy. It severed his finger. She grabbed her child and ran next door to the Britaneks.

There, the sergeant, a member of Det 5's receiver site maintenance section, calmed down the incoherent mother to find out what had happened. Then, while he stopped the bleeding his wife called for an ambulance.

Next, Sergeant Britanek went to Mrs. Herk's house and found the finger. He put ice on it and wrapped it in Saran Wrap which maintained it in a 'cool state' until the ambulance arrived.

"The immediate action taken by Sergeant Britanek saved Randy's finger," said the attending physician after attaching the finger to the boy.

France top recruiter . . . again



TSgt. Carl France

France was tops in America.

That was the verdict handed down by AFRES recently when TSgt. Carl France of Westover was named the top mobilization augmentee recruiter in the nation for 1982.

It was the second straight year that Sergeant France, a 30-year-old Allentown, Pa. native, has won the honor. His efforts in recruiting 70 MAs, and in establishing an innovative procedure for recruiting security police candidates, earned him the award.

"I guess I just think positive," said Sergeant France, who has been a Reserve recruiter for the past three years.

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C-5 used in WESTOVER Training

The world's largest aircraft, an Air Force C-5, was used as the backdrop for two training exercises held on the flight line at Westover in January and February.

On Jan. 26, more than 150 Army personnel from Fort Devens, MA arrived aboard 50 heavyweight army engineering vehicles.

Coordinated by the 439th TAW ALCE team, the C-5 was used to train the Army personnel in the proper procedures required to load their oversized equipment aboard the aircraft.

While the loadmasters from the Dover-based C-5 were instructing on board the aircraft, three members of the 439th TAW ALCE team were providing instruction in proper load planning. They were SMSgt. Donald H. Cowern, TSgt. Paul G. Benson and TSgt. Anthony C. Vinyets.

Col. Delmar Corbin, commanding officer of Fort Devens, helicoptered into Westover to observe the training and met with Col. Roy E. Ayers, and Col. James P. Thomas. The three discussed possible future use of Westover by the Army for their required training.

The giant cargo transport returned to Westover on Feb. 17 to participate in the four "MAC Affiliation Load Planning Course" conducted for 439th TAW personnel.



(USAF photos by Capt. Philip Weber)

A meeting of eagles . . .

Army Col. Delmar Corbin talks with Westover's (l. to r.) Col. James Thomas, Col. Roy Ayres and Col. Stanley Maratos, below, an army dump truck unloads from the C-5.



New program harasses the harassers

Rita Norton, a former civilian employee of the Massachusetts National Guard, is suing the Commonwealth. Her sex discrimination suit alleges that her supervisor made sexual advancements during a business trip. Because she refused, Norton eventually was fired. Her lawyer told the court that "subtle harassment drove his client 'up the wall'."

Norton's well publicized case points out the concern of all those in the military including Gen. Lewis Allen, former Air Force chief of staff, "Despite our enviable record, we have not yet succeeded in completely removing arbitrary discrimination from the Air Force community. An area of increasing concern is that of sexual harassment."

One major effort to eliminate that illegal practice is a new ambitious educa-

tional program conducted by social actions staffs throughout the Air Force.

Westover will be no exception.

"During 1983, we will conduct Sexual Harassment Awareness Education classes for all Reservists on base," explains Maj. Benjamin Goff, social actions chief. "These classes are now offered four times each UTA and are conducted by Capt. Charles Curci, TSgt. Doris Ford, TSgt. Cathy Litrenta and myself. Members of each unit will be scheduled by their training sections."

The program explains the scope and subtleties of sexual harassment. "We explain that it is a deliberate or repeated unsolicited communication, gesture, or physical contact of a sexual nature that is unwelcomed," Major Goff says.

Examples range from 'blowing kisses' to touching a shoulder or other part of

the body. Asking for a date or inquiring about someone's personal life also could be construed as sexual harassment.

Some women have discussed these offensive actions with their colleagues and worked out their differences. That dialogue usually resolves the problem.

These discussions are the recommended first step. It is only after constant warnings should a person resort to other means. This could include informing the person's supervisor or contacting a member of the social actions staff. They will investigate the complaint and report their findings to the unit's commander.

"Everyone must realize that the command structure is very committed to this program," concludes Major Goff. "If necessary, they're the ones who will take the appropriate action."



SMSgt. Richard E. Haskins, center without CW gear, a member of the Wing Emergency Evaluation Team, simulates a CW attack to see how fast members of the 74th AES can don their masks.

(USAF photo by Maj. Robert Carroll)

Just in c

(continued from front page)

Five C-130 missions, one aeromedical and four tactical were flown by crew members wearing chemical warfare gear.

"The exercise was more successful than we had anticipated," said Capt. Kevin Wentworth, Wing life support officer.

Life support, he explained, is responsible for procurement, storage and fitting of air crew chemical warfare ensembles. They also teach air crew members proper use of the gear, recovery and decontamination.

Each aircraft was manned with double crews during the exercise, one wear-



A 74th AES member is assisted off the C-130 aircraft.

(USAF photo by Capt. Philip Weber)



Looking like moths about to emerge from their cocoons, m

ase . . .

ing the protective gear, and one wearing regular flight suits, in case of emergency, Captain Wentworth said.

"We must be capable of generating sorties when chemical agents are present in our environment. The bottom line is, we still must complete our given mission," he said.

Business as usual

The idea behind the drill was to test the unit's overall ability to perform in a chemical environment. It was business as usual at Westover, with a slightly different twist.

Re-enlistment ceremonies were conducted with the participants wearing the eight-pound suits. Out in Westover's



(USAF photo by Maj. Robert Carroll)

Major Barry Monahan, commander, 42nd MAPS, gives instructions over his two-way radio.



(USAF photo by Capt. Philip Weber)

Members of the 74th AES board a C-130 wearing their CW protective gear.

dogpatch area, civil engineers from the 905th CES, maneuvered two-ton earth moving equipment, also clad in the protective gear.

Nurses and medical technicians looked like fugitives from a dry cleaning store, as they lined up to board waiting med-evac planes, encased in 'bag-type' plastic coverings. Even typists hunkered over their machines wearing the cumbersome suits and rubber gloves.

"outstanding success"

"It was an outstanding success," said an elated John Wilson, disaster preparedness director. "Our Reservists proved they can function in event of a chemical attack. They also demonstrated they can detect, identify and neutralize a chemical agent."

The success of the exercise, however, does not mean an end to chemical warfare training at Westover.

'No-notice' tests

Robert Motley, evaluation team chief affirmed that point when he stated, "We plan to hold this type of exercise often. Right now we are considering holding at least one every UTA somewhere on base. We'll be hitting specific units at different times and will be pulling some "no-notice" test from time to time.

"Our biggest task right now is to get the "players" indoctrinated into thinking about chemical warfare as a very real possibility, whether here at Westover or at another military site."

Himelick maneuver, tried and true



(USAF photo by Maj. Robert Carroll)

SSgt. Jill Himelick checks some forms with her husband and fellow member of the 905th WSSF, TSgt. Brad Himelick.

by SrA. Kathleen Lincoln

"My father called from home to tell me the ring had arrived." SSgt. Jill Himelick, chief clerk at the 905th WSSF recalled. Her engagement ring had just arrived by mail.

"We all knew it was coming. Brad had called to say it was on its way and since he was unable to put the ring on my finger, I had my father fill in for him. He was as nervous as I was!"

TSgt. Bradley Himelick, 905th WSSF security instructor, met his bride-to-be while stationed at Rhein-Main AB, Frankfurt, W. Germany. He was an active duty security police training instructor for the Reserve. Jill was there as an administrative specialist in April 1979 with the 901st WSSF for their two week annual tour in airbase ground defense training.

They first noticed each other during the orientation briefing. "This was the sixth group I had briefed. I had the information memorized. It was automatic. Jill was the first female to go through the training and when I saw her I completely lost my place."

During the first week, training was in the field. What little they saw of each other, each claimed to be unimpressed. It wasn't until the second week when they moved to the classroom that everything changed. "I guess that's when we got to know each other."

"That's right," Jill said. "We sort of grew on each other."

According to both, the 901st was so protective of "their little girl" that it discouraged everyone including Brad from asking her out. It wasn't until just before the unit was scheduled to leave that a mutual friend got them together.

Jill left a couple days later and wondered if they really would keep in touch.

Letters went back and forth until Brad's departure one month later. His first stop in the U.S. was Springfield. Laughing, they both remember his arrival. Jill was to have met him at the airport but at the last minute was unable to go. She sent her father in her place. "I'll never forget that trip from Bradley to Springfield. It was the longest ride I ever took!" Brad said.

However by the end of his two week stay, he had won the approval of her family including three protective older brothers and a promise from Jill to move to Montana in September. Brad was being assigned to Malmstrom AFB for two years.

"My family felt better about me moving to Montana and everyone took us more seriously after we became engaged in July."

On April 26th, Jill and Brad made a trip to the Chicopee area, to be married in South Hadley.

After Brad's discharge in September 1981 they moved back to South Hadley, with their four-month daughter, Jennifer. By November Brad had joined the Reserve at Westover with the same job as he had in Germany. Jill followed a month later. "I was lucky too. I never thought I'd be able to get into my old unit but a position had just opened."

Both are working with some of the same Reservists that watched over Jill in Germany and both get teased about it. They still ask me now and then how I'm treating 'their little girl'. Despite the teasing both Himelicks are happy to be working together in the 905th. Chuckling, Brad notes, "There's no problem working with each other. During the month I realize she's the boss but on UTA's she knows I've got one more stripe."

BRIEFS

Open House dates set

Westover will celebrate the "Bi-centennial of Manned Flight" in a big way during the last week of July.

On July 30-31, the base will conduct its Open House.

"This year's theme will be 'Air Force Reserve Aircraft,' says Col. Roy Ayers, base commander. "We hope to bring in one of every aircraft flown in the Air Force Reserve."

"It's going to be held on a non-UTA weekend so 439th members can bring their families and enjoy the show," he said.

During the same week, Westover will host the 1983 National Model Airplane Championships. The largest model airplane competition will bring more than 2,000 contestants and 5,000 visitors to the base, July 24-31. It's co-sponsored by the 439th TAW and the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce.

This year's National Model Airplane Championship includes more than 60 different competitions as well as meetings and other activities throughout Chicopee.

Only 200 tickets left!

The ninth annual officer's dining out is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, with the cocktail hour beginning at 7 pm and dinner at 8 pm. According to Capt. Bob Martens, dining out chairman, tickets will be available for \$20 per person. "The committee is planning an entertaining evening," said Captain Martens. "You will have to work pretty hard not to have a great time." Approximately 200 tickets will go on sale during the March UTA.

Bad checks \$15 charge

(AFNS) If you give the Army and Air Force Exchange Service a bad check, it'll cost you \$15. Last year, one out of every 200 checks received by AAFES cashiers bounced the first time it was sent to the bank. Eventually 90 percent of the checks were made good. But the \$14.93 cost of handling each bad check decreased what AAFES gave to MWR funds.

"Patriot People"



Name: Lynda Gutermuth
Rank: SrA
Age: 22
Address: 16 Porter Rd Medford MA
Unit: 74th AES
Position: Aero Medical Technician

Civilian Occupation: Nursing Student

Favorite Food: Cadbury Chocolate Bar

Favorite Beverage: Kamikaze

Favorite Sports: Horseback riding

Favorite Hobby: Reading

Ideal Vacation: Backpacking in the outdoors for a month

Best Way to Relax: Doing something physical and going to a jacuzzi

Preferred Entertainment: Dancing

Favorite Celebrity: James Garner

Favorite Music: Pink Floyd—The Wall Album

Favorite Magazine: Gentleman's Quarterly

Favorite Book: Watership Down

Favorite Color: Black

Favorite Car: Blazer

Pet Peeve: Snoring

Best Thing About Westover: The people I get to meet.

Worst Thing About Westover: I hate waiting in lines in the BX, at lunch, and any other thing I have to wait for.

Pothier leaves For OTS

TSgt. Stephen G. Pothier, 905th CAMS, soon will be exchanging his sergeant's stripes for the bars of a second lieutenant and pilot's wings. He was accepted into the Air Force's Officer Training School.

He left Westover for Medina AFB, Texas in mid February. He'll then go to Undergraduate Pilot Training in Lubbock, Texas and C-130 pilot training at Little Rock AFB, LA before returning to Westover and the 337th TAS in 18 months.

For the past four years, Sergeant Pothier was an electronics technician in the 905th and had three and a half years of active duty and four years of service with the New Hampshire Air National Guard.

"This is a great opportunity and comes at a particular good time," he says. "I just finished my studies for a masters in aeronautical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. I owe a lot to everyone in my group, especially SMSgt. Ted Gilfoy, avionics shop superintendent, for their support and encouragement."

Westover hosts chemical accident seminar

A four day chemical and radiological accident program was conducted at Westover for the Environmental Health and Safety Staff of the University of Mass., Amherst.

The event was held from Jan. 17-20 under the direction of MSgt. George Copeland, disaster preparedness NCO, 439 CSG and TSgt. Paul H. Gilman, disaster preparedness NCO, 905th CAMS. It featured films, tours, lectures and special training by personnel from the base fire department.

The program included proper use of protective ensembles and masks, chemical detection, chemical decontamination and alpha radiation detective equipment.

In the not-too-distant future, a similar seminar will be hosted by UMass to acquaint base disaster preparedness personnel with their hazardous waste activities and equipment.



Promotions Enlistments & Re-enlistments Congratulations

PROMOTED

Maj. Paul M. Torpey
 Maj. Dante A. Mazzochi
 Capt. Clifford W. Turcotte
 Capt. Gaspare P. Masucci
 Sgt. Karen K. Craig
 Sgt. Robert N. Craig
 Sgt. David C. Huffman
 Sgt. Robert P. Marcini

ENLISTED

SSgt. C. R. Dupont
 SSgt. Bruce C. Macrae
 SSgt. Anita L. Schmitt
 Sgt. Donald R. Hall
 Sgt. Jon R. Hart
 Sgt. James B. Laquerre
 SrA. Karen A. Bussiere
 A1C Susan A. Huff
 A1C Sharon Kalinowski
 A1C Joanne A. Ring

Amn. Richard M. Doty

AB James A. Angelo
 AB Bryan J. Currier
 AB Michael J. Patenaude
 AB R. J. Zygarowski, Jr.

REENLISTED

MSgt. Robert H. Boyd, Jr.
 MSgt. Roger J. Brogis
 MSgt. R. S. Hamilton, Jr.
 MSgt. Robert L. Mathieu
 MSgt. Garth O. Parker, Jr.
 MSgt. David P. Rockwood
 MSgt. William M. Schindler
 MSgt. Robert Seaton
 MSgt. Eugene C. Smith
 MSgt. Frank Sweryda
 MSgt. Richard H. Tegtmeyer
 TSgt. Robert L. Bashaw
 TSgt. Ronald R. Benoit
 TSgt. Richard H. Bialoglowy

TSgt. Raymond V. Boidleau

TSgt. Jack E. Cooper
 TSgt. Robert J. Ferretti
 TSgt. Claire L. Gaudreau
 TSgt. Joseph E. Kusiak
 TSgt. Howard G. Rae, Jr.
 TSgt. Guy H. Roy
 TSgt. John W. Spencer, Jr.
 TSgt. John A. Sudol
 TSgt. Keith R. Sykes
 TSgt. Edward J. Loughman
 TSgt. Denise M. Nash
 SSgt. Guy V. Anderson
 SSgt. Melvin A. Collings, Jr.
 SSgt. Arthur F. Flynn, Jr.
 SSgt. Henry Grace
 SSgt. Frank G. Higgins
 SSgt. Carleton G. Lavin
 SSgt. Mark E. Macgregor
 SSgt. McClair W. Mailhott, Jr.
 SSgt. R. J. Orzechowski
 Sgt. Charles J. Pronovost

Patriot Profile

Lt. Col. Hartnett is a nurse's nurse

by Capt. Rick Dyer

"On the ground or in the air, she's a nurse's nurse."

That's how one colleague recently described Lt. Col. Joan Hartnett, a 15-year Air Force Reserve veteran and chief nurse with the 74th AES at Westover.

According to those who know her, the description fits well. She's as comfortable in a flight suit as she is in the traditional white uniform, having flown over 1,800 hours in various airevac planes.

No difference

What's more, she sees no real distinction between the cargo hold of a C-130 aircraft and the wards of Boston City Hospital, where she is employed as a civilian. "I'm a nurse," she said, "and it doesn't make much difference whether I'm flying at 20,000 feet working or in a hospital. Wherever I am, my job is to try to help people."

It is a job she apparently does quite well. "She's like my right arm," said Lt. Col. Edward T. Kosakoski, commander of the 74th AES. "Joan is one of the most dedicated and hard-working health professionals I've ever worked with," he said.

A recent colonel selectee who has received two merit unit vacancy promotions and a plethora of commendations during her military career, the chief nurse did not plan a long tenure with the Reserve.

"I joined the old 67th AEF at Hanscom in 1966 during the Vietnam War but I didn't originally plan on a Reserve career," she said.

Vivid memories

She still has vivid memories of her first airevac missions. "We were flying Vietnam intensive-care wounded from Japan to Elmendorf AFB in Alaska," she explained. "They were all so young, and they were all very seriously wounded."

A native and life-long resident of Revere, Mass. the colonel has flown in all different types of cargo aircraft, and calls her experience as a flight nurse "one of the best things I have ever done professionally."

"Don't get me wrong, it isn't M*A*S*H, and it isn't all glamorous," she said. "There are plenty of long flying hours and fatigue. But it is a tremen-



Lt. Col. Joan Hartnett

"Nursing is just one thing that I have always wanted to do and although it is hard work, I really love it."

dously rewarding job and the people — especially the aircrews and the airevac personnel — are just terrific."

In civilian life, Colonel Hartnett is Nurse Manager of Medicine at Boston City Hospital. A former executive director of the Massachusetts State Nurses' Association, she was also previously an assistant professor at the Boston University School of Nursing.

"Nursing is just one thing that I have always wanted to do and although it is hard work, I really love it," she ex-

plained. She received a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and holds undergraduate degrees from Boston College and the Chelsea Hospital School of Nursing.

Colonel Hartnett's Air Force experiences have served her well on two recent commercial flights. On one, she administered cardio pulmonary resuscitation to a passenger who suffered cardiac arrest just prior to takeoff. "We were able to resuscitate him and get him to the hospital," she recalled.

Always helping

While returning from an Air Force conference aboard another commercial flight, she treated a stewardess who had sprained an ankle. Because the flight attendant was incapacitated, the colonel, who was in her uniform, also helped to collect the passenger's meal trays.

"One woman thought I was the pilot and asked me who was flying the aircraft." "I told her that we had the plane on automatic pilot," she grinned.

When she isn't flying airevac missions or working long hours at Boston City Hospital, she somehow finds time to volunteer with the Red Cross.

Red Cross involvement

She is chairman of nursing and health for the Mass. Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross and is a Red Cross disaster health supervisor. She has also helped organize a Red Cross blood pressure screening program in the Boston area.

Colonel Hartnett was recently nominated by Colonel Kosakoski to receive the Ann Magnussen Award, a national honor presented to the outstanding Red Cross volunteer nurse.

"No one could deserve it more," Colonel Kosakoski said. Joan Hartnett is absolutely tops."

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