

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AIR FORCE RESERVE)

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. X, No. 6

June 1983

42,300 pounds dropped -

337th CREW SETS RECORD



A 337th aircrew set a world's record, determining if an Army M-551 Sheridan tank weighing 42,300 pounds like the one above could be dropped from a C-130.

by Capt. Rick Dyer

A Westover C-130 crew recently proved that it's no lightweight when it comes to heavyweight missions.

During April, the 337th TAS crew airdropped a single cargo load that tipped the scales at 42,300 pounds.

The test, staged at the Yuma Proving Grounds in Arizona, set a world's record for the heaviest single load ever airdropped by a C-130 operational crew.

The Westover Reservists were working in conjunction with the U.S. Army Natick Research and Development Laboratories at Natick, Mass. The purpose of the mission was to determine if a fully-loaded Army M-551 Sheridan tracked vehicle coud be successfully dropped from a C-130.

Since it was unknown whether or not the huge armored vehicle would survive

the fall, weighted ballast on 24-foot platforms was used during the Arizona simculation.

According to Maj. B.J. Ferro, who piloted the C-130 on its record-setting mission, the mammoth payload drifted safely to earth, suspended from eight large parachutes.

"We went over safety precautions very carefully before the flight, since the load's great weight would have posed serious problems for us if we hadn't been able to drop it," Major Ferro said. "I also said a few prayers," he added with a smile.

Other 337th members who participated in the "heavyweight" mission were Lt. Col. Tom Adamchak, co-pilot; MSgt. Ray Desroches, flight engineer; and TSgt. Tom Dewonkus and SSgt. John Duffy, loadmasters.

The 337th regularly provides airlift support for the experiments conducted by the Army labs at Natick.



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- O.R.I. Rain Delayed
- Base MAC Exercise Stop
- COM Flight to Italy

Doing two weeks? Take in local Sights

By TSgt John Wallace Spencer

With the beautiful New England summer comes the 15-day annual tour of active duty for many Westover Reservists. Since Wing members and their families often use off duty time to visit some of the area's scenic sights and points of interest, the Patriot has compiled a list of things to see and do locally.

DINOSAUR MUSEUM — The Dinosaur Museum is located on West State St. in Granby, Mass. on a site where a number of 200-million-year old dinosaur tracks were recently discovered. It is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily and admission is \$2.00 adults, \$1.50 teens, and \$1.00 under ten.

QUABBIN RESERVOIR — The Quabbin Reservoir, the largest manmade lake in the region, is located in nearby New Salem, Mass. The area is open daily 7:00 a.m. to Dusk and is free to the public.

MT. TOM — For a spectacular view of the Connecticut Valley a chairlift ride to the top of Mt. Tom is the answer. The ride up the mountain can only be topped by a speedy ride down on the Alpine Slide. The Mt. Tom Summit is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily and is located off Rt. 5, next to Mountain Park in Holyoke, Mass.

MOUNTAIN PARK — This is one of New England's finest recreation and amusement areas. Within 100 acres of natural beauty are 28 thrilling rides, including 2 roller coasters, 2 sheltered picnic pavilions and beautiful shaded pine groves.

RIVERSIDE PARK AND SPEED-WAY — Another fine amusement park and auto speedway in Agawam, Mass. The sprawling midway is bordered by

50 rides including roller coasters. Stock car and demolition derby racing is a regular feature. The midway is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and the admission charge ranges from \$9.95 to \$6.95.

ARMORY MUSEUM — The nation's first arsenal is now a Museum on the Armory ground off State Street, in downtown Springfield. It is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and there is no admission fee.

BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME—180 Alden St. Springfield College Campus is the ideal location for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame since basketball was invented here in 1891. On display are historical documents, films, records, trophies and other memorabilia. The Hall of Fame is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission is Adults \$3.00, Children 16—6 \$1.00, Reservists with ID Card and Children under 6 free.

OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE — For a trip back in time, the Old Sturbridge Village is the place. A two-mile, self-guided walking tour takes in 40 buildings constructed from 1760 to 1820. The village is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and the price of admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$3.50 for children 6 to 12, and children under 6, free.

BRADLEY AIR MUSEUM — An interesting spot to visit is the Bradley Air Museum next to the Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Conn. Featured are 35 vintage military and civilian aircraft. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. year round and admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 6 to 11, children under 6 free.

THE PATRIOT is an Official Class II U.S. Air Force newspaper published monthly for the personnel of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing. Westover AFB, MA 01022. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Air Force.

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BRIEFS

Westover people cited

Barbara J. Hurst, 439 CSG Material Management Branch Supervisor received the AFRES Outstanding Supply Manager of the Year (Civilian) Award. Hurst was nominated for the award by Myer "Mike" Goldenberg, Chief of Supply. "Barbara has been an outstanding worker ever since she arrived at supply," said Goldenberg. "She has contributed to Air Force wide supply conferences." Hurst, from Ludlow, Mass., has been with supply for six years.

TSgt Joseph E. Kusiak, of the 439 TAW Judge Advocate's office was named the AFRES Paralegal of the Year. "Sergeant Kusiak has revised our will and estate interview procedures which enables us to handle a larger load with increased efficiency." said Captain James B. Bechtel. "He was also instumental for the success of the Annual AFRES Survey of the Law Conference held at Westover." Kusiak, a Chicopee attorney, has been with the Judge Advocate's office since 1981. Kusiak and his wife, Carmen, live in Chicopee.

Reservists hold seats

For the first time in the history of Chapter 109, Air Force Sergeants Association, three of the chapter's officers are Reservists. Effective May 1, SSgt Suzanne Henderson, Open Mess management specialist, became vice president when base fire chief, Haskel Jenkins, tendered his resignation. Other 439th members on the board are MSgt Marshall Hathaway, wing historian and president of Chapter 109 and TSgt Doris Ford, Trustee for AFRES Affairs. Ford is a social actions technician with the wing.

Open house

Westover will roll out the welcome mat July 30-31 when it stages a base open house. The festivities will include flying demonstrations, aircraft static displays and competition in the National Model Airplane Championships. The gates open each day at 10:00 a.m.



USAF photo by Capt. Philip Weber

Members of the Army's 10th Special Forces at Fort Devens return from Europe on MAC C-141 mission involved in "Flintlock 83."

Westover takes part in two MAC exercises

Westover Air Force Base proved again that it is a vital part of today's "Total Force" by supporting two major MAC exercises during April and May.

During the two months, Westover supported "Flintlock 83", a major joint military exercise, with the deployment of members of the Army's 10th Special Forces from Fort Devens, Mass. to a forward European operating base.

The base was also used by the 512th Military Airlift Wing at Dover AFB, Del. as a forward operating base for their operational readiness inspection conducted by the Military Airlift Command.

From April 10 to May 8, twenty C-141's from the 437th MAW at Charleston AFB, S.C. and the 438th MAW at McGuire AFB, N.J. deployed from Westover as part of the Flintlock operation. Seventeen C-141's redeployed from Europe May 4-27 bringing the Fort Devens personnel home.

A Reserve First

Westover's participation in the ORI marked the first time that an all Reserve ALCE team took complete control of ground operations for a MAC exercise at a simulated forward operating base. The inspection for the 512th MAW was conducted on April 30 and May 1. It involved 12 C-5A's from Dover and 24

tractor trailer rigs from the 104th Transportation Company at Fort Devens. The giant cargo aircraft began arriving at 1 p.m. on April 30 with landings approximately an hour a part. The aircraft, once parked, had to be loaded within a two hour allocated ground time.

For the loading of the aircraft, the 439th ALCE team called upon Aerial Port personnel from the 42nd MAPS.

Speaking on the role of the ALCE team, Capt. Thomas Frisbee, ALCE operations officer, explained, "Our support of this mission, especially during an

ORI, has a direct reflection on the unit being inspected. If we perform well, it helps them look good."

Evidently, the Westover team did perform well for the following message was received from Col. William Sistrunk, Wing Commander of the 512th MAW: "Thanks for your outstanding assistance during our ORI. With your help, we have moved 12 C-5 missions through Westover in just over 13 hours. Every mission operated on time. It has been a pleasure working with your dedicated professionals."



USAF photo by Capt. Philip Weber

Two of the twelve C-5A's that used Westover's flightline during 514th MAW's O.R.I.



A1C David Wyman, 905th WSSF, maintains guard at 439th TAW Headquarters.

By Capt. Rick Dyer Photos by MSgt. Larry Lentz

The weatherman failed to cooperate with the 439th TAW during the May UTA as heavy rains and poor visibility postponed completion of the Wing's Operational Readiness Inspection



439th Mobility Team loads C-130 propeller on mission assigned aircraft under the watchful eye of MAC inspectors.

Near-perfect weather on Saturday was followed by heavy downpours on Sunday that forced the cancellation of cargo delivery system and perso drops and assault landings. Because those portions of the exercise's flying mission could not be held, completion of the ORI was postponed.

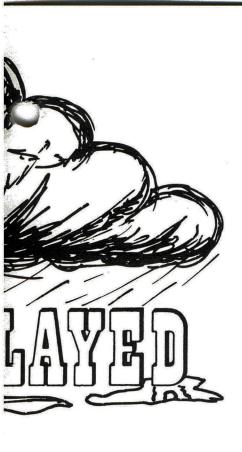
"We considered finishing up on Monday, but the extended weather forecast was even more miserable than what we had on the weekend," Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, 439th commander, said. "I'm really disappointed, because everything was going along well up to that point."

General Haugen said that the flying exercises will be staged sometime in the fall, when the inspection team from the Military Airlift Command will be able to return to Westover. No official ORI results will be available until the entire exercise is finished.

The 30-member MAC inspection team was led by Col. James D. Green of Scott AFB, III. The ORI team came to the 439th to test the Wing's ability to mobilize, deploy and fly its missions in time of crisis.

During the Saturday portion of the







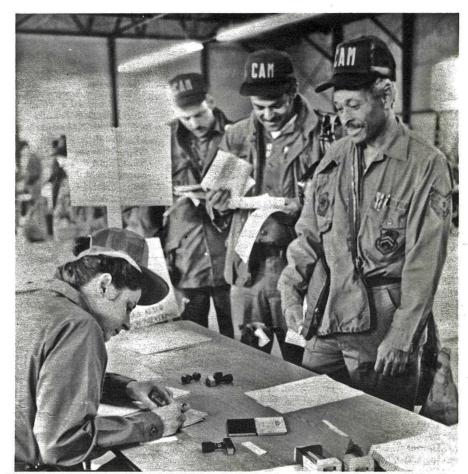
Mission ready Westover C-130's had good weather on Saturday, but heavy rain on Sunday placed an indefinite delay on the second half of O.R.I.

drill, 300 Reservists streamed through mobility lines near the flight line in a simulated mobilization. As paperwork and dog tags were checked, technicians administered shots and prepared the personnel to board waiting C-130's.

A crisis action team, led by General Haugen, convened in the command post to map strategy and oversee the mobilization. The omni-present MAC inspectors scoured the base, jotting notes and scrutinizing the Reservists' response to the simulated combat scenario.

While the ORI delay disappointed Wing officials, the hectic UTA did provide some cause for celebration. The 58th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron underwent a Management Effectiveness Inspection (MEI) during the weekend and received high grades from their evaluators.

General Haugen said that a make-up date for completion of the ORI would be announced shortly. "I'm sorry that the adverse weather broke our momentum, but if what I saw during May is any indication, I'm sure we will be in good shape," he said.



Maj. Dorothy Gates (left), TAC Hospital, checks shot records on mobility line of 905th CAM personnel (right to left) TSgt. Otho Milbourne, MSgt. Donald Edwards, and TSgt. Paul Carrocia.

Foursome forges friendship in 42nd MAPS

By Capt. Rick Dyer

They grew up together, and have been inseperable chums for as long as they can remember. They attend the same high school in Chicopee, and play on the same sports teams.

So when Kim Theriault, Michelle Gosselin, Leah Pezda and Anna Rivera decided to join the Air Force Reserve, they did it (you guessed it) together.

Brig. Gen Donald E. Haugen, 439th commander, recently administered the enlistment oath to the quartet of high school seniors. The foursome joined the 439th under the delayed enlistment program, and will report for basic training this summer.

It was Miss Theriault who originally explored the possibility of joining the Reserve, but it didn't take her very long to convince her buddies to enlist with her. SMSgt. Ron Koper and MSgt. Bob Lougher, Westover's Reserve Recruiters, helped the four friends through the enlistment procedure.

The four will be trained as air cargo specialists. By October, they will be back at Westover serving with the 42nd MAPS.



USAF photo by Capt. Phil Weber

Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen administers the enlistment oath to (l-r) Kim Theriault, Michelle Gosselin, Leah Pezda and Anna Rivera as Reserve Recruiters, MSgt. Bob Lougher, look on.





PROMOTIONS Maj. Tilman E. Kluwe Capt. Pamela T. Smallwood

REENLISTMENTS CMSgt. E. M. Longfield Jr. MSgt. Harold B. Carpo, Jr. MSgt. Stephen M. Gates MSgt. Andrew Pl Hoffman MSgt. Acquillino Lucia MSgt. John S. Peavey MSgt. Bartholomew C. Stuart TSgt. Frank C. Agiato TSgt. Maynard H. Baker TSgt. James L. Barnes TSgt. Basil S. Bocynesky TSgt. William A. Bowles TSgt. Raymond D. Bruyn TSgt. Daniel A. Cheney Tsgt. Jean M. Clifford TSgt. Gregory E. Colelli TSgt. Susan E. Cotnoir TSgt. Gilbert D. Currier, Jr. TSgt. Claude G. Drouin **TSgt. Raymond Durette**

TSgt. T.F. Fassbender, Jr.

TSgt. Joseph Pl Forgione TSgt. Albert J. Frigugliett TSgt. Robert C. Harmon TSgt. Larry A. Helmer TSgt. John A. Hoerner TSgt. Mark G. Johnson TSgt. Daniel J. O'Brien TSgt. Joseph A. Orzolek **TSgt. Frank Prokaly** TSqt. Keith J. Provost TSgt. Donald A. Morin TSgt. Ronald J. Robbins TSgt. Phillip E. Russ TSgt. John P. Shlatz TSgt. Gregory K. Swanson TSgt. Thomas R. Templeman TSgt. Joseph E. Tougas SSgt. Robert A. Bathgate SSgt. Lenore P. Bell SSgt. Paul J. Brodeur SSgt. Mark A. Chauvin SSgt. Karen K. Craig SSgt. Robert N. Craig SSgt. William B. Dillon SSgt. Richard A. Haskins

SSgt. Richard E. Heath

SSgt. Clyde A. Johnson SSgt. Bradford J. June SSgt. Michael J. Lapa SSgt. John H. Leonard SSgt. Rick A. Martin SSgt. Thomas M. O'Brian SSgt. Scot P. Padgett SSgt. David J. Pelletier SSgt. Darrel C. Redd SSgt. Christopher M. Sears SSgt. Randy D. Traver SSgt. Corrado Uccello SSgt. Steven C. Willey Sgt. Michael J. Fedorenko Sgt. Michael J. May Sgt. John W. Venne SSgt. Robert J. Cirba SSgt. David G. Guindon SSgt. Charles B. White Sgt. James O. Beauregard Sgt. Jane M. Bond Sgt. Matthew M. Eichenlaub Sgt. Paul E. Giguere Sgt. Christopher R. Hodges Sgt. Gerald F. Martin, Jr. A1C James J. Bonatakis A1C Joseph M. Macrina Jr. A1C Edward A. Wesolowski AMN James W. Murphy AB David F. Bourcier AB Gary A. Giguere AB Michelle J. Gosselin AB Rose M. Holland AB James M. Long AB Leah M. Pezda

AB Catherine S. Ricci

AB Kimberly S. Theriault

AB Ana M. Rivera

Westover has new chaplain

1st Lt. Richard Leigh Miesel is the new Protestant chaplain at Westover. Chaplain Miesel's journey to Westover began in early 1982 when Catholic Chaplain Father James Drucker told his friend, Lutheran minister Miesel that there would be an opening for a Protestant chaplain because Chaplain Francisco Pasamonte has received orders to report to active duty.

The idea intrigued the new lieutenant so in May 1982, he began the long and complicated process of joining the Air Force Reserve. One of the many requirements was that he obtain the approval of his congregation. The parishioners of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior in South Hadley, have long been supporters of the Air Force for they have given us two other ministers.

Chaplain Miesel, who is 34-yearsold, is married and the father of three children, Dorothy Joanne, four; James Rolland, two and Rebecca, eight months. He said his wife of six years, Sharon is very supportive of his decision to join the Reserve program.

905th Comm. Flight Makes it to Italy

By TSgt. Mack LaFrancis

The 905th Communications Flight finally made it to Italy. Unlike last year's last minute cancellation, the flight's annual tour into Aviano Air Base, Italy went off without a hitch.

"From start to finish, the April 10-25 tour went smoothly," said Major Alan M. Salus, unit commander, praising transportation officer Marilyn Caldwell and 905th Air Force Technical Advisor MSgt. Thomas J. Owens for their work.

Maj. Salus also had praise for the Aviano host unit, the 2187th Communications Group, for allowing his men to gain legitimate training by participating in regular duties and programs.

Throughout the tour, the 2187th "gave us the opportunity to do something worthwhile — we contributed significantly to their mission," said Capt. Stephen P. Gross, the 905th communications — operations officer.

"For example, communications center-operators were as busy as they have been in years," Capt. Gross said. "They worked alongside their much relieved active duty counterparts, processing as many as 300 teletype messages a day, which is about three times the traffic load at Westover."

One operator, AIC Richard C. Messenger, got the chance to work with local national switchboard operators on

the base and, in the process, he learned a bit of Italian before leaving for home. Ground radio operators learned new equipment and how NATO radio nets function.

Two maintenance technicians even had the chance to combine civilian and military skills to repair a digital switching system, which hadn't been working properly over the past two years. But MSgt. Arthur P. Needham and SSgt. Ronald L. Dehart managed to zero in on the problem and cure the machine's ills.

Unit members even got to "play dead" as they participated in one of Aviano AB's regular attack drills. Like their full-time counterparts, the Westover Reservists were hauled away with the rest of the "casualties."

"We were full participants in the exercise and in other areas we were given the opportunity to offer suggestions and improvements," Major Salus said. "We were treated great by the unit and we made some good friends."

The 905th commander also credited Westover's 337th Tactical Airlift Squadron and base administrative personnel for going out of their way to help his unit have a successful Italian tour. "That's the cooperative spirit that makes Westover a good place to come home to," he said.



Photo by TSgt Steven C. Leib

The mountains of Austria provide a good backdrop for 905th Communications Flight members, from left, TSgt. Maureen G. Haddock, SSgt. Frankie C. Pierce and SSgt. Ann M. Bilodeau who spent part of their free time sightseeing.

"Patriot People"



Name: DOROTHY E. GATES

Rank: Major Age: 41

Address: 56 Westview Terrace East Hampton, Mass.

Unit: 439 Tac Hospital

Position: Nurse, Immunization Clinic Civilian Occupation: Nurse Anes-

thetis

Favorite Food: chocolate chip ice

cream

Favorite Beverage: mint tea Favorite Sports: tennis, swimming, motorcycling and hiking.

Favorite Hobbies: reading, music, gardening and photography

Ideal Vacation: Caribbean cruise
Best Way to Relax: a glass of
wine, and a good book

Preferred Entertainment:

dancing, music, shows

Favorite Celebrity: Neil Diamond

Favorite Music: popular, and

some classical

Favorite Magazine: "The Yankee" Most Recent Book: "Sophie's

Choice"

Favorite Color: blue Favorite Car: Mercedes

Pet Peeve: gossip and insincere

people

Best Thing About Westover: = recreational facilities

Worst Thing About Westover: run down housing outside main gate

A patriot's dream —

Purple Heart bicentennial parade

By SSgt. Deborah Elliot

To some, patriotism is not just an outdated catchword but a way of life. TSgt. John P. Shlatz, a Reservist at Westover AFB, counts himself among this group. When, as a member of the Enfield, Conn. Veteran's Council, he had the opportunity to help organize a Purple Heart Bicentennial Parade, he responed as any patriot would.

The parade, designed to mark the 200th Anniversary of the awarding of the first Purple Heart, was augmented with re-enactments, bands, marching units, fly overs, sky divers, and a multimedia show among other things. People from all over New England attended.

"Memorial Day was simply unforgettable . . . that's what it was," said Sergeant Shlatz. "It was special not only because I helped bring about the first parade ever to recognize Purple Heart recipients but also because it tool place in Enfield, my hometown," he said.

Enfield was also the hometown of Elijha Churchill, the first Purple Heart recipient. "Back in 1783," relates the Sergeant, "George Washington presented what was then called the Medal of Merit to Churchill for his part in the battle of Black Rock, N.Y., fought against the infamous "red coats."

For the thousands of people who watched the parade and indulged in the festivities, the event lasted only one, maybe two days. But, for Sergeant Shaltz and his fellow council members, the work began months ago.

Last September the council rolled up their sleeves and began organizing what

Condolences:

Condolences are extended to the family of SMSgt. Robert F. Rose. The 54-year old member of the 905th CAMS died on April 17. He had retired from Air Force active duty in 1974 after 25 years of service and then joined the Air Force Reserve. Sergeant Rose was an Air Reserve Technician and had served with the 731st TAG at Hanscom AFB prior to its relocation to Westover. He leaves his wife, Marlene, and three children.

was to be a truly "memorial" event in each of their lives. Phone calls were made, news releases written and many invitations were sent out. Every veteran's organization in the State of Connecticut, countless military units throughout New England, and national and state dignataries, were invited.

After all this was done, the council waited and began to prepare for the response. "It was phenomenal," recalled Shlatz. "We had letters pouring in from everywhere!"

"As the big day drew nearer, our anticipation grew and excitement heightened until finally everything we had envisioned for months came true," said Sergeant Shlatz. "All of our efforts were truly worthwhile."

"There's something special about the Purple Heart," said Shlatz, who began his military career with the Army and served 13 months in Vietnam during the Tet Offense. As a helicopter door gunner and crew chief there, he remembers what being wounded in action can mean. "I was lucky not to get hurt," he recalls. "I can truly admire men honored with the Purple Heart."

After his 11-year Army and Army National Guard tour, Shlatz joined the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Westover AFB. He is now a radio operator with this medical unit, training to deal with disasters in the field.

The 74th AES is part of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing, an Air Force Reserve unit comprised of 2000 men and women, most of whom reside in the New England states. Its members fly world-wide missions for the Air Force in the wing's C-130E cargo airplanes.

Uniform names not by number

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) — Air Force uniforms now have descriptive names instead of combination numbers.

These changes, approved by the Air Force chief of staff, took effect in February.

The men's and women's combination 1 uniform now is called the service dress uniform. The men's combination 2 changed to light blue shirt with long sleeves. The women's uniform combination, previously unnamed, is called the light blue blouse with long sleeves. The men's combinations 2A, 4, 4A and women's 2, 2A are called the light blue shirt/blouse with short sleeves (for men specify with or without epaulets or tie).

The men's combination3 uniform became the dark blue shirt, and the

women's combination 5/5A became the maternity smock uniform. The subdued work/field uniform changed to fatigues (specify work/field), and the formal evening dress uniform for men and women changed to formal dress. The names did not change for the men's and women's mess dress and semiformal dress uniforms. Informal uniforms (white, black or blue) are now called ceremonial dress uniforms.

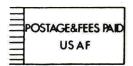
These changes will be incorporated into Air Force Regulation 35-10 which is under revision.

Women may wear skirt or slacks with all appropriate uniforms unless otherwise prescribed, add Air Force personnel officials.

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