

PATRIBUT

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AIR FORCE RESERVE)

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. X, No. 9

September 1983

Wing ORI completed . . . at last

By Capt. Rick Dyer

"Good things come to those who wait."

That's what 439th officials discovered during the August UTA when the Wing scored high marks in its rain-delayed Operational Readiness Inspection.

The evaluation, which was conducted by Military Airlift Command inspectors from Scott AFB, Ill., began during the May UTA.

Postponed from May

However, heavy downpours on the second day of the drill forced the cancellation of several flying missions. As a result, completion of the ORI was postponed until the MAC team returned to Westover last month.

"We may have earned a spot in the 'Guinness Book of Records' for the longest-running ORI," joked Col. James P. Thomas, deputy commander for operations.

Almost a repeat

For a while on Aug. 6, it appeared that the weather might frustrate Westover Reservists again.

A thunderstorm and driving rain hit the base during the early afternoon, just as the 337th TAS was about to launch its personnel airdrop missions.

The skies finally cleared around 4:30 p.m., and the C-130 crews were able to drop Army paratroopers over Westover's 'Bean Bag' drop-zone.

"The 337th crews did an exceptional job on all of their airdrops and scored landings," Colonel Thomas said. "This ORI showed us just how strong our aircrews are in performing their missions."

The colonel said that constantly shift-

(continued on page 3)



(USAF photo by MSgt. L. Lentz)

Hobbyist Ron Bretta, of East Longmeadow, Mass. displays his 1944 German FW-190 Focke-Wulf model with MSgt. Cam LeBlanc in the eight foot diameter C-5 turbofan engine.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Open House success
- 905th CES . . . after the Falls
- Bumgardner and Snell retire

PRIME BEEF teams help to 'beef up' Niagara

by Capt. Rock Desilets, 905CES

The fictional world of television has its "A-Team", but a real life A-Team, the 905th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed to Niagara IAP, NY, for its' annual tour of active duty June 25 through July 23, 1983.

Arriving in two contingents two weeks apart, the Prime BEEFers gutted most of one wing of the base BOQ to the bare walls and built new rooms. The work included removing existing walls, breaking concrete flooring, putting up new framing, sheetrock, plumbing and fixtures, wiring, installing ceilings, and doing finish carpentry.

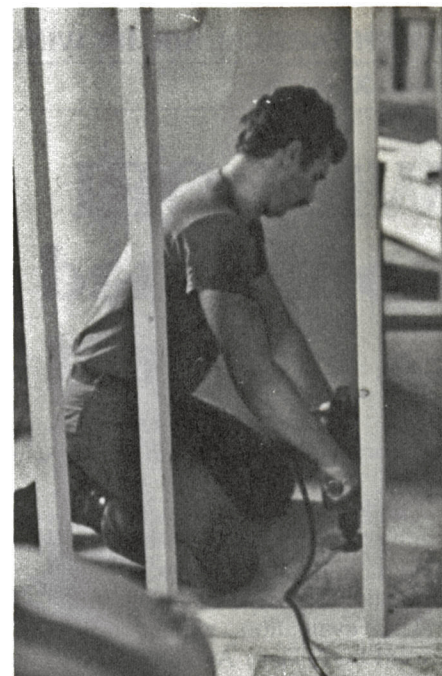
Other engineers supported the Base Civil Engineer by installing transformers and by excavating and building 500 feet

of roadbed. This latter project again proved the resourcefulness of Prime BEEF "scroungers" who used a combination of equipment borrowed from the BCE, a local equipment rental firm and a tenant Air Guard unit.

Concurrently, 905th CES firefighters were deployed to Robins AFB, Ga., and Hurlburt Field, FL. Other 905th personnel have supported the Westover BCE in the heating, site development and liquid fuels maintenance fields, and for the first time, power production technicians were sent to Dover AFB, Del., for specialized training in generator maintenance and operation.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Kovarick, visiting Niagara from the Pentagon, inspected the remodeling of the BOQ and stated,

"I'm amazed that you fellows are doing it all." Capt. Mallory Gilbert replied, "Sir, we're Prime BEEF. We do it all."



TSgt. Art Baer of the 905th CES drills a hole for a drain pipe at the BOQ at Niagara.

Uniform Changes Announced

Air Force Manpower and Personnel Center officials have announced four uniform changes, including approval of a new optional maternity service blouse.

The new blouse has both long and short sleeve versions, and may be worn with or without the tunic. The tunic, however, must be worn:

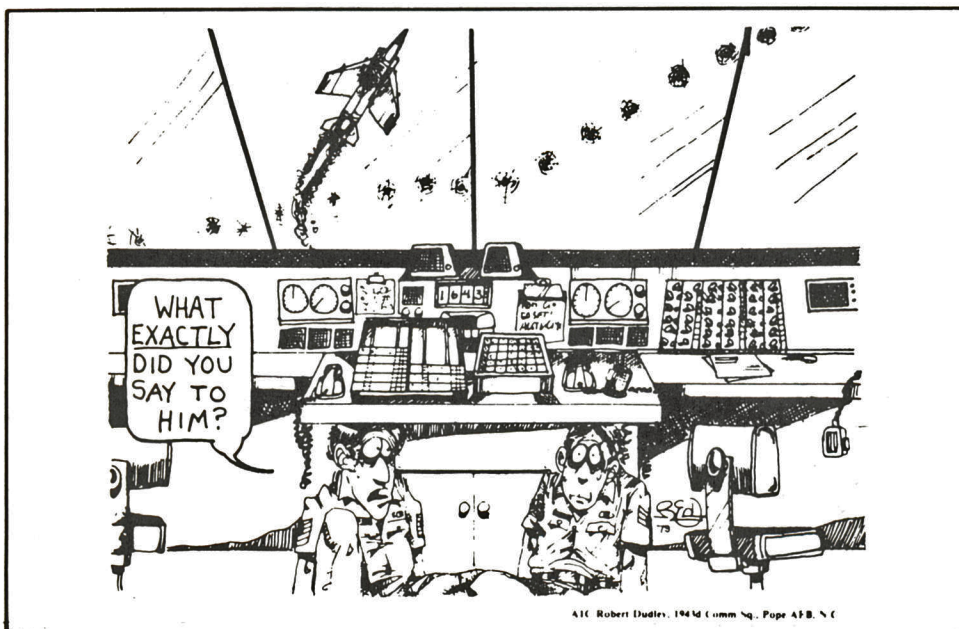
- when traveling by commercial aircraft.
- when attending special events — official or social.
- at other times when a service dress uniform would be appropriate.

Officials anticipate the blouse will be available in military clothing sales stores

sometime in July or August.

Other changes are:

- when wearing the new women's flight cap, hair may protrude in front if it does not touch or extend below the eyebrows.
- members authorized to wear the space badge may wear it on the top left side of the service, fatigue and dress uniforms for both men and women.
- the policy for wearing the black and white mess dress uniform prescribes black for winter and white for summer wear or as directed by the installation commander.



Art Robert Dudley, 194th Comm Sq., Pope AFB, N.C.

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"Patriot People"



SSgt. Steven C. Willey

Name: STEVEN C. WILLEY

Rank: SSgt.

Age: 27

Address: 35 Montcalm Rd.
Chicopee, MA

Unit: 905th CAMS

Position: Machinist

Civilian Occupation: Student
(STCC)

Favorite Food: pizza

Favorite Beverage: Miller Lite

Favorite Sports: bowling, darts

Favorite Hobby: metal detecting

Ideal Vacation: beach combing the
Caribbean

Best Way To Relax: hit the sauna

Preferred Entertainment: good
comedy

Favorite Celebrity: Alan Alda

Favorite Music: J. Geils

Favorite Magazine: National Lampoon

Favorite Book: The World Accord-
ing to Garp

Favorite Color: gold

Favorite Car: Ford Torino

Pet Peeve: getting up early to let the
dog out

Best Thing About Westover: base
gym

Worst Thing About Westover:
closing industrial gate at night

ORI (continued from page 1)



(USAF photo by Capt. P. Weber)

Brig. Gen. Donald Haugen, wing commander, salutes the 905th CES as they pass in review during a wing-wide parade following the excellent results of the unit's ORI on Sunday, Aug. 7.

ing weather patterns and conditions required a number of last-minute changes in plans for the airdrops.

"The crews on the personnel airdrop missions showed amazing flexibility and great skill as they adjusted, with practically no notice, to changes in drop zones and routes," Colonel Thomas said. "They certainly earned the excellent score they received on those drops."

Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, wing commander, pointed to the bad weather and three-month delay in prais-

ing the unit's performance.

"The high grades which we earned on this ORI, which was certainly completed under difficult circumstances, pleased me very much," General Haugen said. "We once again proved that the various units at Westover can adjust to unusual and difficult circumstances and still complete their missions with superb results."

All Air Force and Air Force Reserve units periodically undergo operational readiness inspections to test their combat readiness.

Wing first skirt retires

MSgt. Marthur Bumgardner, Wing first sergeant, retires in September after 22 years of service in the Air Force.

Sergeant Bumgardner entered the Air Force in 1951 and completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas. After completing active duty, she joined the 94th MAW, Hanscom AFB, as the NCOIC of Personnel and then as the wing commander's secretary.

Sergeant Bumgardner believes that the role of the women in the military service has improved during her career. "There are more opportunities available in career fields other than administrative areas," she said. "If I had it to do over again, I'd like to be a radio engineer."

Sergeant Bumgardner has worked for seven Air Force Reserve generals during his career. She is also a 1980 graduate of the Air Force First Sergeant's School.



(USAF photo by Sgt. S. Michon)

MSgt. Marthur Bumgardner

In civilian life, Sergeant Bumgardner is an administrative legal secretary for the law firm of Nutter, McClennan & Fish in Boston.



Boyden Brada, of Chicopee, gets the deluxe tour of a Huey helicopter from Maj. James Leary, a member of the Army National Guard's A Company, 26th Aviation Battalion at Westover.

By Capt. Rick Dyer

Airplanes of every size and description turned Westover into an aviation buff's paradise July 30-31 when the 439th TAW hosted more than 50,000 of its friends and neighbors at an open house.

There were big planes. While the C-5 Galaxy, a behemoth weighing more than 700,000 pounds, towered over the flight line, a B-52 Stratofortress



Inquisitive youngsters scurry up a CH-54 Tare helicopter for a better view of its cockpit.

perched nearby and invoked memories of Westover's days as a SAC base.

There were small planes, too. The open house was staged in conjunction with the week-long National Model Airplane Championships which began at Westover July 24, and some of the entries weighed less than an ounce.

festive atmosphere

The base took on a festive atmosphere as the Air Force Reserve rock band, the Reserve Generation, entertained throngs of visitors from beneath a parachute canopy.

Food vendors shared the flight line with 14 military aircraft on static display, and children clambered happily over the fire department's P-2 crash truck.

Westover Reservists, joined by Air National Guardsmen from the 104th Tactical Fighter Group at Barnes Municipal Airport in Westfield, staged aerial demonstrations during the exposition.

C-130 demonstrations

Five C-130s from the 337th TAS demonstrated combat maneuvers and airdropped cargo loads and paratroopers. The paratroopers were from Army's 10th Special Forces at Fort Devens, Mass.

The two A-10 Thunderbolt "tank killers" from the 104th TFG hurtled over the base and made repeated passes at simulated enemy positions.



The Air Force Reserve's five-piece band set the tempo for the 50,000

It was just

Westover hosts neighbor

Aviation enthusiasts had a field day as they got a close-up look at the potpourri of aircraft assembled along "Hangar Row."

The line-up included a pair of KC-135 Stratotankers (one from Griffiss AFB, N.Y. and one from Grissom AFB, Ind.), a C-141 Starlifter from McGuire AFB, N.J., a C-130 from the 337th, a C-123 from Rickenbacker AFB, Ohio,



Radio controlled model airplanes, including Cobra and a B-25 Mitchell, were judged for a national competition.



the 'Reserve Generation' band
spectators.



An Open House show stopper was the new KC-10's first visit to the base.

plane fun

ighbors at open house

and a KC-10 from Barksdale AFB, La.

Jets exhibited included an F-4D Phantom from the Vermont Air National Guard, an F-111 from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, a T-42 from Mather AFB, Calif., a T-37 from Pease AFB, N.H. and an A-10 from Barnes.

The model airplane competition, sponsored by the Academy of Model Aeronautics, drew thousands of specta-

tors and saw more than 1200 entrants from across the nation compete in 70 different categories.

One competitor, Tom Cook, from Kansas City, Mo., entered his four-foot long, radio controlled F-4 model which was so exact in detail that even veteran Air Force members marveled at the simulation.

439th training time

For 439th members, the two-day event provided additional training time plus the opportunity to display some of their skills.

A team from the 74th AES conducted blood pressure screening at a booth in the base hangar, while Westover's Reserve recruiters kept a sharp eye peeled for prospective members.

The base fire department also responded to several calls from model airplane competitors whose planes had gone awry and landed high atop trees in the wooded "Dog Patch" area.

Although some showers had been forecast, the weatherman cooperated by providing two days of hot and humid, but rain-free, weather.

"I was just delighted with the turnout," Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, 439th commander, said. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to visit with our neighbors, and we had beautiful cooperation from the

Photos by

MSgt. L. Lentz and SrA. K. Lincoln

Chicopee Chamber of Commerce and the Academy of Model Aeronautics," he said.

General Haugen said that the 439th would stage other events which will be open to the public during the coming year.



Navy Corsair, a British Mosquito, a P-39 Air
appearance and flying performance during the na-



Visitors, during their inspection of the C-5, watch the 439th's C-130 air drop of Army paratroopers.

MSgt. Snell retires after 40 years

Home on the range took on a different meaning for MSgt. Ronald Snell at the end of August. After 40 years of military service, Sergeant Snell retired his position as NCOIC of the small arms range.

Sergeant Snell began his military career at age 19 when he enlisted in the Army as an aircraft mechanic in 1943. He spent most of his active duty tour in Italy for two years. He came off inactive Reserve status in 1959 when he joined the Air Force Reserve with the 902nd TAG at Grenier Field in Manchester, N.H.

Sergeant Snell transferred to Westover in 1966 in aircraft maintenance. He moved to training in 1970. As NCOIC of the small arms range, he was responsible for maintenance and safety of the range, scheduling training and supervision of instructors.

Sergeant Snell has also retired from his civilian position as superintendent of maintenance for the Ashburnham school system. He and his wife plan to



(USAF photo by Sgt. Sandra Michon)

MSgt. Ronald Snell instructs Maj. Joy Garland, assistant chief nurse with the 439th TAC hospital, in the use of a 38-caliber combat master piece.

travel now that they have the time. "I bought a camper truck. We'll spend the winter in Texas and decide from there," said Sergeant Snell.

Commander's Call

Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, wing commander, presented a number of awards to wing members during Commander's Call for the August UTA.

MSgt. Michael A. Armino, 731st TAS, was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his outstanding contribution as a loadmaster instructor. General Haugen also presented eight Air Force Commendation Medals for exceptional professional skills, knowledge and leadership to: **Maj. David A. Carlson**, maintenance control officer with the 905th CAMS; **Maj. Benjamin F. Goff**, chief social actions officer; **Capt. Richard W. Dyer**, public affairs officer for the 439th TAW; **Capt. James L. Gooding**, 731st TAS, a C-123K flight examiner, aircraft commander and squadron pilot; **SMSgt. Lyman U. Frain**, 439th TAW noncommissioned officer in charge of the command post; **MSgt. Robert P. Drake**, programs and mobility technician for the 905th CAMS, and **TSgt. Thomas Dzwonkas**, 337th TAS aircraft

loadmaster technician and C-130 flight examiner.

Nine Air Force Achievement Medals were also awarded to: **Lt. Col. Robert J. McMillan**, 439th TAW; **Capt. James B. Bird**, 439th TAW; **Capt. John J. Shenton**, 337th TAS; **SMSgt. Raymond E. Cailler**, 439th TAW; **MSgt. Acquillino Lucia**, 439th TAW; **TSgt. George F. Gadbois**, 74th AES; **TSgt. Gerald Podkowska**, 905th CAMS; **TSgt. Anthony C. Vinyets**, 439th TAW and **TSgt. Stanley J. Whitman**, 439th TAW.

TSgt. Albert F. Trychon, 337th TAS, received his diploma for an Associate in Applied Science from the Community College of the Air Force in the area of transportation and traffic management.

General Haugen, also recognized the outstanding participation of the 905th CAMS to the Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign. **SMSgt. Salvatore Palumbo** first sergeant for the 905th CAMS, accepted the certificate for the squadron.

BRIEFS

Hispanic Week

Westover plans to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Week, Sept. 12-18, in a "big way" this year. TSgt. Anthony C. Vinyets, Hispanic Week Project Officer, has arranged for Col. Claro "Hondo" Hernandez to speak at a luncheon to be held on Sept. 15 at the Consolidated Open Mess.

A veteran Air Force Supply Officer, Col. Hernandez is the chief of the Air Force's Acquisition Logistics and Communications Group in Washington, D.C.

The luncheon is designed to recognize and highlight the role of Hispanics in the Air Force today.

"At Westover," TSgt. Vinyets points out, "Hispanic skills and potentials are being used and well represented in both the full time work force as well as those assigned to reserve units on the base."

Tickets for the luncheon can be obtained either from TSgt. Vinyets or Col. Stanley G. Maratos, program liaison officer, at 3955.

Col. Maratos speaks

Col. Stanley Maratos, active duty advisor to the Wing, gave an informative talk at Officers Call, Aug. 7 in the Consolidated Open Mess on "Status of Forces" agreements.

He discussed the political processes used to establish them in several European countries. While assigned as Air Attache' in Greece from 1977 to 1980, Maratos was instrumental in establishing the ground rules for overflight and landings of U.S. Military Aircraft into and exiting Greek airspace.

Condolences . . .

Condolences to the families of Franklin Ryan and SSgt. Robert Enders. Ryan, who died on July 13, was a utility system repair/operator with the base civil engineers since 1974. He had worked at Westover from 1966. He leaves a wife and three sons.

Sergeant Enders died on July 22. A four year Air Force active duty veteran, he was a member of the 59th MAPS since 1980. Sergeant Enders was vice president of Microtech, of Simsbury, Conn. and is survived by his wife and five children.

Irish eyes are smiling after Westover visit

SrA. Kathleen Lincoln

Among the many visitors Westover welcomes each year are European aviation enthusiasts.

Two such devotees, Karl Hayes and Eamon Power from Dublin, Ireland recently spent some time at Westover.

Representing the "Irish Air Letter," a monthly journal for aviation enthusiasts, they came equipped with cameras, binoculars and notebooks. They photographed Westover's C-130's, recorded their tail numbers and noted their specifications.

"This is a growing sport in Europe. Ireland, England and Germany are very keen on it," Hayes explained. "We're interested in all types of craft but particularly the kinds we don't see very often . . . light planes and military aircraft. Our aviation is quite different. We really

have no strategic capabilities at all. Generally, we only see large commercial aircraft at Dublin International Airport. However, I do remember when U.S. military planes landed at Dublin. It was an event that attracted great crowds. Everybody wanted to see them. We photographed and recorded the tail number of each C-124 and C-130 that landed. It will be interesting to see if any Westover planes have ever been in Ireland."

Hayes' and Power's two week tour included visits to regional airports as well as air force bases in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New York. But both agreed the favored spot among their fellow enthusiasts is the storage depot at Davis-Monthan AFB in Arizona.

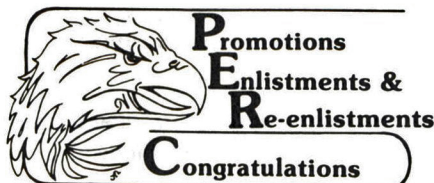
In addition to writing for the newsletter, Power and Hayes are responsible for updating the club's ledgers. Flipping

through his notebook Hayes said, "We'll have to change the information on Westover. You see we still have Westover down as having only C-123's."

Much of their time according to Hayes is spent lecturing and setting up photography shows throughout Ireland and England. "Although a lot of aviation enthusiasts come to America, it's too expensive for most. The lectures and shows are a good substitute for those that can't afford the trip."

"We're very fortunate," said Power. "We try to come at least once a year. We've made about eight trips and there are so many more airports and air bases to see. We'll never run out of places to visit."

"We'll be back to Westover. Though just to make sure you haven't switched planes on us again," he said.



PROMOTIONS:

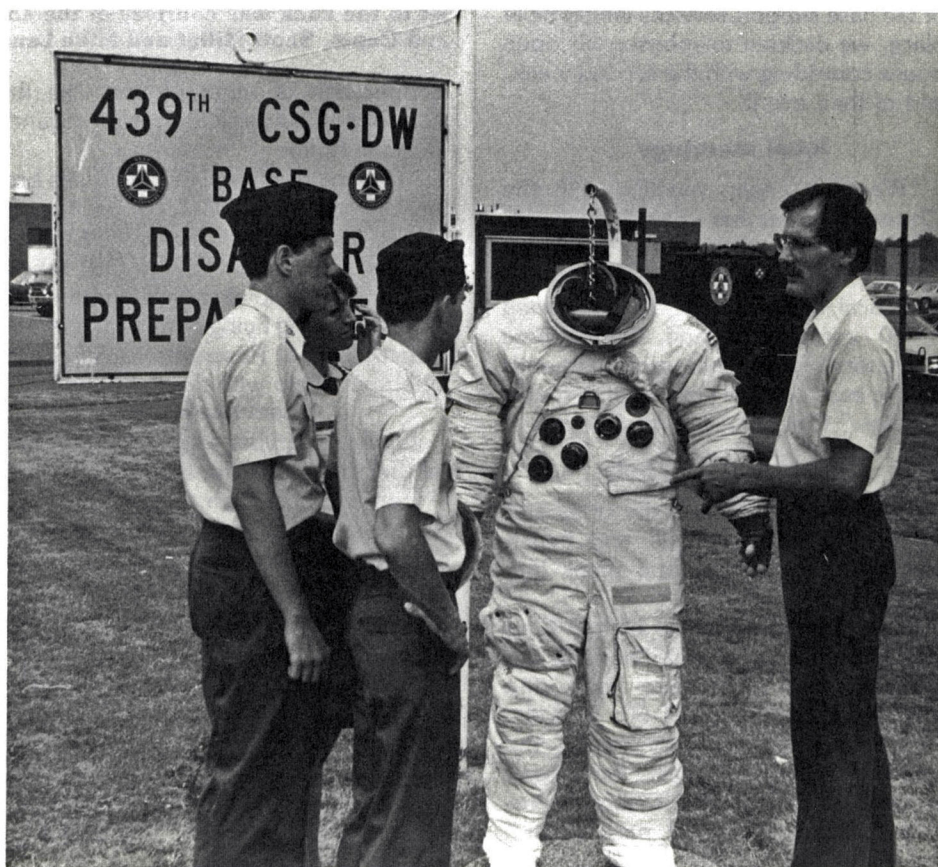
SSgt. Constance M. Ruel
Sgt. Jack A. Cohen

REENLISTMENTS:

SMSgt. George J. Kudla
MSgt. James R. Gauthier
MSgt. Paul N. Laroche
MSgt. Thomas A. Smith
MSgt. Charles Y. Taylor
MSgt. Charles E. Woodruff
TSgt. Susan L. Adamchak
TSgt. Peter F. Barbuto Jr.
TSgt. Paul Beaver
TSgt. Robert R. Bolduc
TSgt. George W. Caulton
TSgt. Richard L. Coda
TSgt. Robert P. Drake
TSgt. Eugene F. Landry Jr.
TSgt. Steven A. Lavelle
TSgt. Richard W. Marek
TSgt. Gerald Podkowka
TSgt. William F. Toomey
SSgt. Robert F. Callery
SSgt. Dennis A. Cierpial
SSgt. Larry Jones
SSgt. Susan K. Linenkemper
SSgt. Gary A. McNab
SSgt. Thomas M. Morris
SSgt. Marie K. Vautour
SrA Mark L. Benard

ENLISTMENTS:

SSgt. Michael A. Brousseau
SSgt. Richard C. Gile
Sgt. Raymond J. Armfield
Sgt. Robert P. Lawless
A1C Joseph H. Dowd



(USAF photo by SrA. Kathleen Lincoln)

Civil Air Patrol members, A1C Larry Atkins, A1C Alfred Marr, and 1st Lt. Michele Duso listen to engineer Larry McNamara explain the protective qualities of the spacesuit on loan to Westover from its designer, United Technologies Hamilton Standard. The 70-pound suit, specially tailored for Bill Lenoir, NASA mission specialist and alternate astronaut for the Skylab program maintains a constant body pressure and can withstand temperatures from -250 degrees to +250 degrees.

Preparation for Westover's Open House & AMA Show

By MSgt. Larry Lentz

Remember the old 'Andy Hardy' movies and the line, "We can put the show on in the barn!"? Then, within seconds, all the planning and preparations were completed.

Unfortunately, the magic of Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland doesn't extend past the 'silver screen'.

Thus, Westover's show — its Open House and the National Model Airplane Championships — which also required considerable 'behind the scenes' activity, had to rely on the time and talent of many people.

"The planning began months ago after the Academy of Model Aeronautics officials requested Westover's use," explained Col. Roy Ayers, base commander. "Since their competition would not interfere with the operations of the base or the wing, we gladly approved. Because of the considerable interest in the championships and because many of the base support services would be in place, we decided to sponsor our open house coinciding with the second weekend of their event.

local meetings

"We then began meeting with the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee. It's comprised of representatives from Westover and local businessmen. The expected 2,000 competitors and many more spectators would place great demands on the base and the surrounding tourist facilities," Colonel Ayers continued.

Westover units help

At Westover, most of the units and sections became involved and began the next step: turning the plans into reality.

For example, members of the 42nd MAPS prepared 24 CDS bundles for the two day air show. Each one weighted approximately 1,500 pounds. "While the visitors enjoy seeing the chutes drifting in the air, they don't realize how many hours it takes to prepare those bundles and pack them," said MSgt. John Nagy, aerial delivery section NCOIC.

Meanwhile, CMSgt. Charlie Fusco and Richard Denn, of the 905th CAMS, were asking base organizations, such as life support and the fire department, to provide displays in the base hanger. They also sought and received the same



(USAF photo by MSgt. L. Lentz)

Two G-4s meet on the Westover flightline. The 1/8 scale version was built by Tom Cook, (right) of Kansas City. It can travel 100 mph and is valued at \$3,000. The jet in the back was courtesy of the 158th Tactical Fighter Group, Burlington, Vt. and Capt. Scott Miller and Mike Lene.

cooperation of other groups, like the Hamden County (Conn.) Emergency Rescue Team.

"Our major effort, however, was preparing the seven C-130s for the air show," said Chief Fusco. "We also readied the aircraft for the ORI scheduled for the following weekend and the other on-going flying commitments. We had additional Reservists, on their annual tour, help with the extra load."

Reservists help

Other Reservists also scheduled part of the annual tour for the Open House.

For example, ten members of the Transportation Section drove tractors, and the shuttle buses. All 14 members of the 439th CSG Law Enforcement Section augmented the base security

police. Medics from the tactical hospital and 74th AES provided medical assistance in the first aid tent.

"The cooperation of everyone, from the full-time employees to the Reservists, was essential," said Colonel Ayers. "Usually, an open house is one day. But these activities lasted nine days and all the other base functions had to continue. Judging by the number of compliments from the contestants and spectators, those efforts were highly successful and very appreciated.

"These two events are part of our community relations program," he continued. "They help remind our neighbors and the people of New England who we are; why we're here; and that we're a vital part of the community."

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