

PATRIOT

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AIR FORCE RESERVE)

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

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October 1984

AFRES commander "comes home" to Westover

By Capt. Rick Dyer

Maj. Gen. Sloan R. Gill, chief of the Air Force Reserve, visited Westover during the September UTA.

During the two-day visit, General Gill conferred with senior wing officials, ate breakfast in the dining facility with unit first sergeants, and presided at a military ceremony honoring 439th retirees and their spouses. (See story on page 3)

The AFRES Commander apparently liked what he saw. "You're doing one heck of a job here," General Gill told Wing officers during a Reserve Officer's Association luncheon. "Keep it up".

"Westover is on of the prime bases being considered for the C-5 mission."

Col. Jack P. Ferguson, 439th commander, said that the General periodically visits with AFRES units to view their capabilities and meet their personnel. "It helps to keep in touch with Reservists in the field," Colonel Ferguson said.

During a press conference at the base, the AFRES commander told area

media representatives that Westover was a leading contender for receiving the C-5 Galaxy aircraft.

"Westover is one of the prime bases being considered for the C-5 mission," General Gill said. "However, the decision of the Secretary of the Air Force is still four to six months away."

The visit was also a homecoming of sorts for the two-star general. A former C-118 pilot, General Gill served at the base from 1953 to 1955. It was his first active duty assignment after advanced flying school and his two oldest children were born at Westover's hospital.



MSgt. Thomas Smith, (left) jet shop supervisor, explains a turbine overhaul procedure to Col. Reginald Wackford, deputy commander for maintenance; Maj. Gen. Sloan Gill, AFRES chief; and SMSgt. Vincent Viglione, propulsion shop supervisor.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Kathleen Linclon)



and A: Maj. Gen. Sloan Gill

During his September UTA visit to Westover, Maj. Gen. Sloan Gill, chief of the Air Force Reserve, was interviewed by "Patriot" staff.

Q. What do you consider to be the number one problem facing the Air Force Reserve today?

A. Equipment and modernization continue to be our biggest problems though we have already made great strides. AFRES has gone from 40,000 selective reservists in the 1950s to more than 70,000 today. All gas powered prop transport planes are gone now that the C-123 has been retired. It's time to move on.

Over the next five years AFRES will continue to grow to an expected figure of 90,000. It is in everyone's interest to maintain a well-trained Reserve force.

As more pressure is applied for a balanced budget, more and more active duty missions will be turned over to Reservists. We already are flying world-wide missions every day of the week.

Many people were surprised to learn that the C-141 that crashed last month in Sicily was manned by a Reserve crew. But Reservists flew the first planes out of Grenada evacuating students and other Reservists manned the planes that evacuated the Marines injured in Beirut. On any given day, you can find 500 maintenance and aerial port Reservists at MAC bases around the world pulling their active duty training. This would have been unheard of during the 1950s.

Q. We keep hearing that Westover is in line to receive C-5 aircraft sometime in the future. Can you shed some light on the subject?

A. Westover is certainly one of the prime candidates being considered as a C-5 "bed-down" facility. The decision,

which will be made by the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff, will probably be made by the beginning of next year. A Reserve unit at Kelly AFB in San Antonio has already been selected to receive the C-5 and the Air National Guard at Stewart AFB in New York will also get the aircraft. Westover is being considered for the third and final site as is Warner-Robins in Georgia. The Air Force looks upon Westover as a national asset. It is strategically located, has plenty of ramp space, good runways and excellent fuel capabilities. Another advantage is that Westover is away from the commercial flight paths.

Q. In light of recent criticism of the defense budget, do you feel there is any danger of Reserve forces being reduced?

A. We have, I think, convinced Congress that we are a cost-effective force. One good example of this is the aero

medical evacuation program. Right now 80 percent of all of these missions are being handled by Reservists and by 1990 we are projecting that 99 percent of the missions will be flown by Reserve crews. Another good example is the Volant Oak operation. More and more, we expect these types of missions to be handed over to Reserve forces.

Q. Many active duty units have been using Westover as a staging area for training exercises in Europe. Do you see more of this type of activity in the future?

A. Yes, I'm sure you'll see more use of the fine facilities Westover has to offer. First of all, Westover is the closest MAC base to Germany. It is a pressure relief valve of sorts. The use of this base can take a lot of pressure off McGuire, Charleston and Dover. Those, of course, are the three main MAC sites on the east coast. But it's nice to have a place like Westover in reserve.

439th TAW receive new names

Four units of the 439th TAW are sporting new names. The 905th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, the 905th Civil Engineering Squadron, the 905th Weapons Systems Security Flight and the 905th Mobility Support Flight have changed their numerical designation to 439th units. The change brings the Wing in line with all other AFRES units whose subordinate

units have the same nomenclature of their parent organization.

The 905th designation is the last vestige of the Wing's heritage. The 439th was formed by the merger of the 901st Tactical Airlift Group and the 905th TAG. At that time, not all the base support units received the new name.

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A 439th CSG Security Police detail lower the flag during Retreat following the retirement ceremonies.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandra Michon)

By SSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Eight Westover Reservists were honored at a retirement ceremony held on the parade field Sept. 8.

Handing out awards to the retirees and their wives was Maj. Gen. Sloan Gill, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Headquarters of the Air Force Reserve, who paid a weekend visit to the base.

Those honored and their respective Reserve retirement dates follow:

Col. Reginald Wackford, Sept. 29; Col. James Thomas, Oct. 14; CMSgt. Leland Spencer, Aug. 30; CMSgt. Sid-

ney W. Wells, April 13; CMSgt. Peter Marchese, Aug. 7; SMSgt. William Roberts June 5; MSgt. Joseph Juaire, Oct. 17 and TSgt. Frank Collins, Dec. 2, 1983.

Five wives of retirees who were present, also received Certificates of Appreciation from General Gill. They were Jane Wackford, Lorraine Spencer, Lucia Marchese, Ruth Roberts and Betty Collins.

The retirement ceremonies, which were instituted by Wing Commander Col. Jack Ferguson will be held twice a year. The next one is scheduled for May 1985.

Colonel Ferguson decided a long time ago that Reservists under his command will be given a proper sendoff.

"Many years ago, I was talking with a retired sergeant who had spent 30 years in the Reserve. He was commenting about only receiving a retirement certificate in his mail after dedicating so many years of his life to the program. Right then and there I made up my mind that if I had the opportunity, I'd thank these devoted people in a proper manner," the colonel said.

A reception honoring the retirees and their families was held in the Open Mess after the military ceremonies.

439th TAW flies with Gallant Eagle

"It's like fighting a real war. In three days, our four C-130s carried a 32,000 pound bulldozer; tons of equipment and supplies; and ferried Army Special Forces from Ft. Lewis, Wash. to drop zones in the Mojave Desert east of Los Angeles," reports Lt. Col. Jerold E. Budinoff.

He was commander of the 113 person contingent of Westover Reservists which represented the Air Force Reserve at the Gallant Eagle '84 exercise held in California and Nevada, Sept. 4-12.

Westover's aircraft were supported by 55 members of the Maintenance

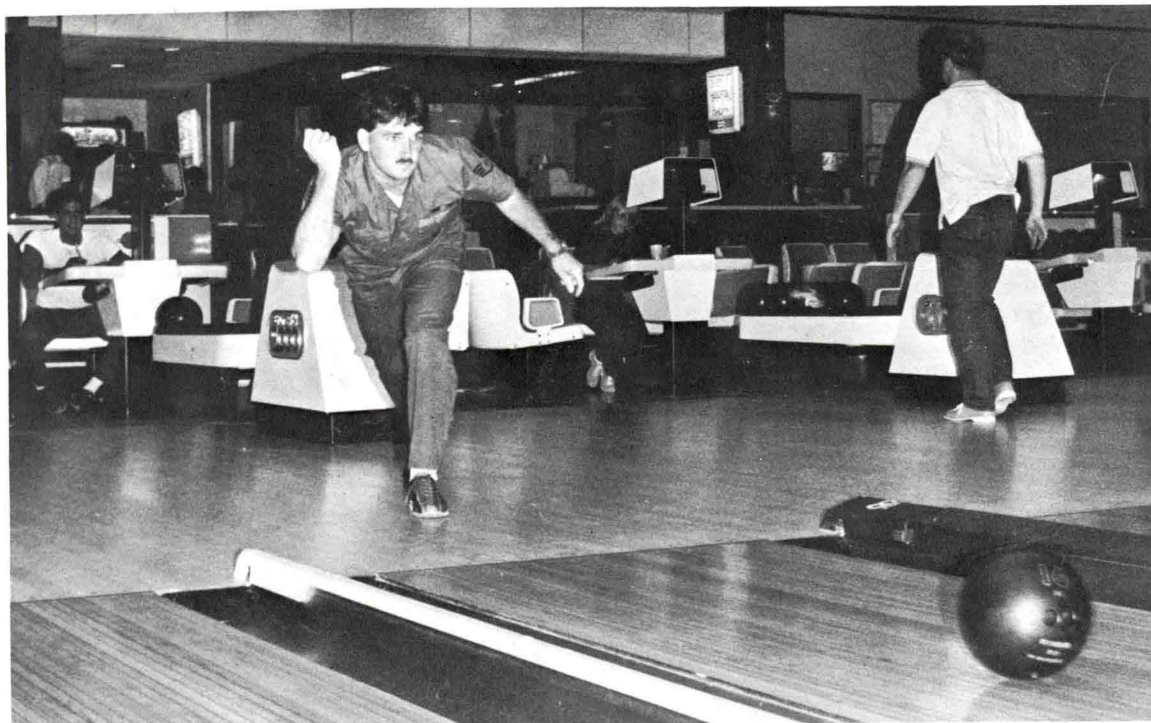
Squadron under the supervision Maj. Joseph Butler and Maj. Joseph Lacivita.

The Reservists found the conditions, anything but simulated. "Normally we practice short field landings and take-offs on a portion of our paved runway," explained Lt. Col. Thomas Adamchak. "During Gallant Eagle, many of our air-land missions were to 3,500 long by 60 foot wide dirt landing zones prepared by the Army in forward operating locations. The desert surface posed new obstacles we seldom face during traditional training flights."

"Our loadmasters also faced new challenges. Normally, we'll drop one or

two CDS bundles per flight. During this exercise, we were dropping 16 bundles. That's the most a C-130 can carry and makes for a very complicated assignment for our crews," Colonel Adamchak continued.

"The Gallant Eagle scenerio tested our unit's capabilities under very realistic conditions," said Colonel Budinoff. "Usually, we deploy as a self-contained unit. But this exercise gave us the opportunity to work in a totally integrated work force of active and Reserve forces. I was very proud of everyone's cooperative efforts and lack of distinction between the units and branches of service."



SSgt. Mike Dumont, med tech with the 74th AES throws a strike at Westover's Bowling Center.



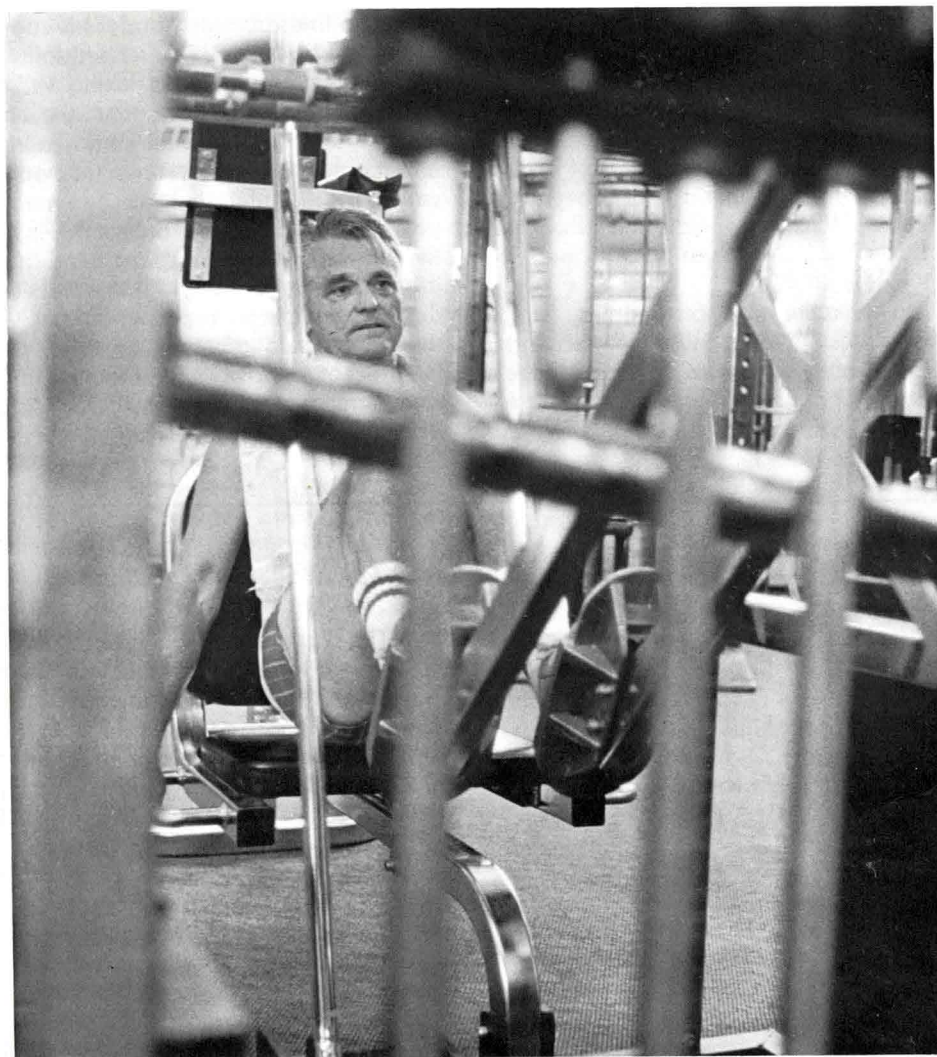
MWR: *The* *s*

For most people, recreation is for after hours, but for the staff of Westover's Morale, Welfare and Recreation division, it's a full time job! And it's one they do very well, if awards are any indication.

MWR division was recently honored, for the second time in three years, as the best in the Air Force Reserve and has consistently been the Reserve nominee for the coveted General Curtis E. LeMay MWR Award.

The Westover staff recently was visited by five inspectors from the MWR Directorate, at Randolph AFB, who will select the best program in the Air Force. "We scored very well under the critical eye of the team," commented MSgt. Robert Lester, NCOIC of recreation and sports programs. "Unfortunately, the standards require the judges to compare us to active duty bases that serve much larger populations, some with country clubs and marinas," he commented. "There are no results yet, but to be named the best in AFRES is in itself an honor."

"We have something for everyone," said Sergeant Lester, "or at least, that is our aim." Westover's MWR offers pro-



MSgt. Frank Sweryda, wire maintenance superintendent with 439th CF, exercises his legs on the Universal machine at Westover's gymnasium complex.



Story and Photos by
Sgt. Sandra Michon

They earn their pay we can play

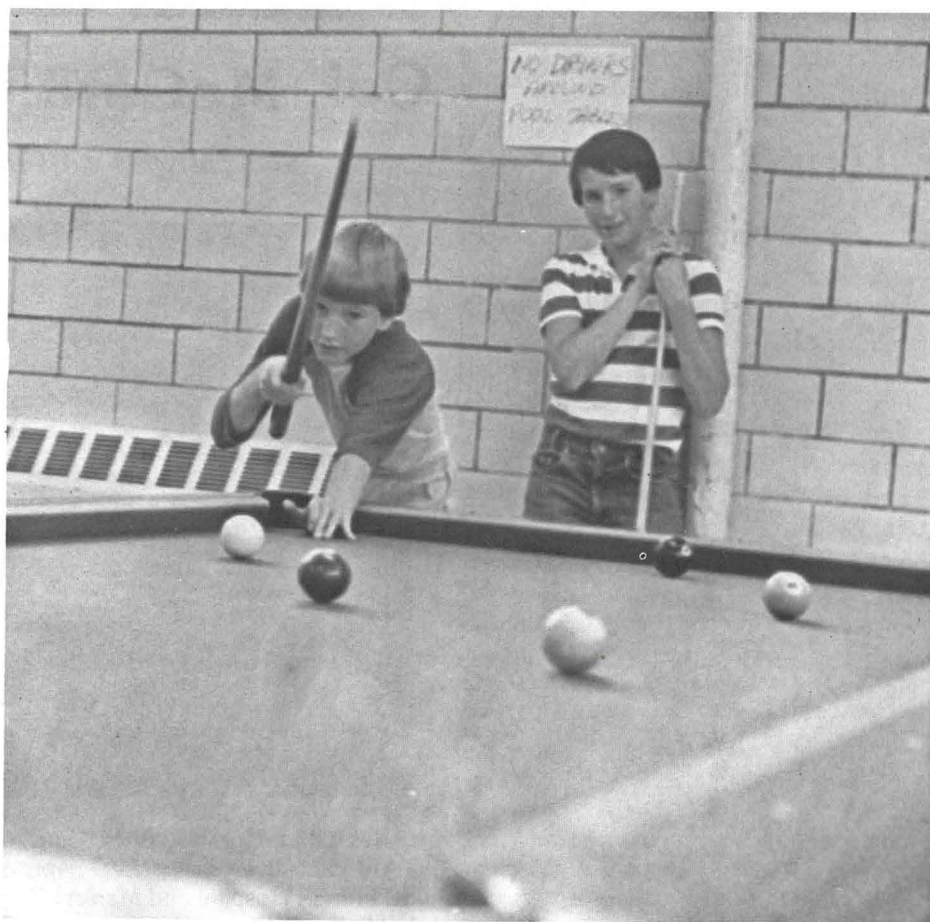
grams for all seasons, all ages and most interests.

The base gym has a full basketball court, racquetball extensive weight room, sauna, whirlpool, billiards, ping-pong, aerobics, arts and crafts and intramural sports.

The bowling center offers year-round programs, with both day and night leagues that cater to children and adults, as well as programs specifically for Reservists. The base theater boasts a wide selection of movies, and special entertainment nights sponsored by the military. Across from the theater, fitness enthusiasts enjoy the challenge of the 21-station par fitness course.

There are parties for children, road races for turkeys, softball diamonds, Little League Baseball, tennis, swimming and a picnic pavilion. And if your recreation leads you off-base, the Four Seasons rental store has equipment for most outdoor activities.

With increased Air Force emphasis on weight control and fitness, the various recreation programs provide a number of ways to fight flab and foster fun and fitness.



Chuck Shirley, 14 year-old son of Ed and Pat Shirley takes a pool shot as John Campbell looks on. John is the son of TSgt. Terry and Carol Campbell.



Members of the 439th CES build the latest MWR facility — a picnic area located next to the Base Exchange.

Editorial

Roy's Legacy

By Capt. Rick Dyer

Several years ago, the *Patriot* published a guest editorial by Roy McCord.

It was a simple, but movingly eloquent, tribute to an aircraft that had been phased out of the military inventory. It was also so well-written that, as one editor recently recalled, "we didn't change one darn comma" of the article.

One suspects that Roy McCord communicated so well with people because he listened to them, and really cared about what they had to say. Everyone in the 439th, from the wing commander to the newest recruit, could always find a sympathetic ear at the "exec's" office.

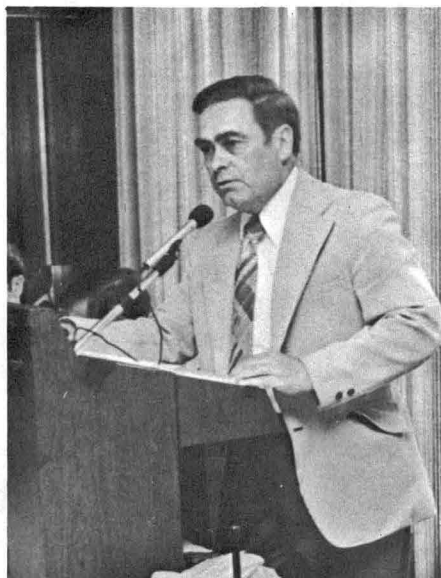
"In many ways he was like a social worker," one secretary remarked shortly after his recent death. "Everyone came to him with their problems, and he was the person people sought when they needed a mediator for a personal or organizational dispute," she said.

Those who worked with Roy during the past decade knew that he communicated — and led — through the power of his own example.

He did the dirty work, and shunned the limelight. He handled major policy tasks, but he also "sweated the details." He expressed his love for his family, his country and the Air Force more through what he did than what he said.

Roy McCord's generous spirit and positive example were his finest and most enduring legacies to the Westover community. We were robbed by his untimely passing, but we were truly enriched by his presence.

Col. McCord: Wing executive officer dies at age 62



Retired Lt. Col. Roy A. McCord, 439 TAW executive officer, died Sept. 6 at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, Conn.

Colonel McCord, 62, was a 39-year veteran of the Air Force and Air Force Reserve, and had served as the Wing's executive officer since the 439th's inception at Westover in 1974.

A resident of North Granby, Conn., the colonel is survived by his wife Florence, and eight children.

"He was my right arm, there's no question about that," Col. Jack P. Ferguson, wing commander, said. "He was an extremely loyal and competent person and he was totally dedicated to the Air Force Reserve, Westover and its missions."

As the Wing's executive officer, Colonel McCord assisted Colonel Ferguson and his predecessors in the day-to-day

operation of the 439th. He was noted for his keen organizational skills and the wealth of information which he possessed about virtually every aspect of the Wing.

"He was a walking information bank, and a real people person," said Col. Paul Huffman, the former vice commander of the 439th, and a long-time friend of Colonel McCord.

"Roy was exceptionally gifted at solving problems for people, both personal and organizational," Colonel Huffman added. "He had a fine sense of humor, and he would always go out of his way to find something nice to say about everyone."

The colonel began his military career as a fighter pilot during World War II and flew a number of combat missions in the Pacific Theater.

Following the war, he returned to Connecticut and began his service with the Air Force Reserve. He joined the 905th TAG at Bradley Field in Windsor Locks, Conn. and held a number of positions with that unit as an Air Force Reserve Technician.

The 905th was later assigned to Westover, and Colonel McCord was serving at the base when the 439th was formed. In 1974, he was appointed to the civil service post of wing executive officer.

The colonel played a key role in the planning of the various exercises in which the Wing has participated. Earlier this year, he developed the scenario for a two-day attack responses exercise that tested the unit's ability to respond to various crises.

"We've lost a talented leader and a good friend," Colonel Ferguson said. "He will be greatly missed."



PROMOTED

Lt. Col. Leona G. Sorenson
Maj. Thomas M. Frisbee
Maj. William E. Mikolasy, Jr.

ENLISTED

SSgt. Edward J. Peplinski, Jr.
SSgt. Leonard B. Rogers III
Sgt. Frederick L. Bokuniewicz
Sgt. William R. Fett
Sgt. Timothy B. Osborne
Sgt. Allan D. Potts
Sgt. Patrick T. Whelan
Amn Beverly L. Carlson
AB Albert A. Berry, Jr.
AB Scott A. Dyer
AB Kenneth E. Haney
AB Joseph A. Hill, Jr.

REENLISTED

SMSgt. James A. Cantore
SMSgt. Robert P. Latulippe
SMSgt. Francis R. Notturmo
MSgt. Robert S. Hamilton, Jr.
MSgt. Joseph E. Kusiak
MSgt. Vincent G. Lingley
MSgt. Donald H. Stearns
MSgt. Robert T. Windisch
TSgt. Terry A. Allen
TSgt. Rudolph G. Benard
TSgt. Kenneth C. Green
TSgt. Lawrence J. Huffman
TSgt. Gordon R. Hunt

TSgt. Patrick F. Kennedy

TSgt. Raymond P. Lakota
SSgt. David J. Boivin
SSgt. Jeffrey B. Bryan
SSgt. Samuel Colon
SSgt. David C. Huffman
SSgt. Sergio Pereira
SSgt. William F. Sacharko
SSgt. Deborah N. Smith
SSgt. Donald L. Sykora
SSgt. Aurelio Tomas
SSgt. Michael F. Walton
SSgt. Augusta M. Weldon
Sgt. Stephen J. Gold

BRIEFS

Turkey Trot Scheduled

It's time again to start training for the annual Turkey Trot, scheduled for Saturday Nov. 3.

The road race features six age categories for both men and women and requires five miles for men and three miles for women.

The race is open to all military personnel, dependents and Department of Defense employees. All first-place runners receive turkeys, and first through third places receive trophies. All interested runners should sign up at the base gym any time prior to the race.

Services location changed

The location of Catholic and Protestant services have been changed. Mass will be celebrated on Saturdays of the UTAs in Building 1408 (Base Administration) at 4 p.m. On Sunday, Fr. (Lt. Col.) Albert Ryan officiates at 7:30 a.m. in the Main Ballroom of the Open Mess. Protestant services will be conducted by Rev. (1st Lt.) Richard Miesel at 7:30 a.m. in the Open Mess's Stonia Room.

Shoppette hours

Westover Reservists can now take advantage of the Base Exchange Shoppette for an extra half hour Sundays of the UTAs. The grocery, which is located in Bldg. 1714, is open from noon to 4 p.m. will stay open until 4:30 for their convenience.

AFRES bowling competition results

The results of the 1984 Mail-O-Graphics Bowling Competition are in and two Westover women placed second in the AFRES-wide competition held this summer.

More than 50 Westover Reservists competed in the AFRES bowling competition which took place during the June and July UTAs. All Air Force Reservists were eligible to participate in the three-game series. There were team, singles and doubles categories for both men and women.

Yeoman Second Class Fran Breedlove (previously an Air Force Technical Sergeant at Westover) placed second in the women's singles category, and she and MSgt. Pat Lougher took second in the women's doubles category.

This was the fifth annual AFRES bowling competition and all bowling was free of charge.

Comm. Flight at Festival

Members of the 905th Communications Flight again provided telecommunications services at the 11th Annual Kielbasa Festival held at near-by Fairfield Mall, Sept. 6-9. Their system connected 14 locations such as ticket gates, various booths and exhibition tents. In addition, the unit's personnel again operated a MARS station for the fair's visitor's.

Commander's Call

A variety of awards were presented by Col. Roy E. Ayers, base commander, at Group Commander's Call during the September UTA.

MSgt. Todd Scott, 58th APS, received an Air Force Commendation Medal for his expertise and outstanding ability in identifying and solving problems in the field of transportation.

The Air Force Achievement Medal was presented to **TSgt. Greydon Held**, 58th APS, in recognition of his superior performance in the Passenger Services field.

SSgt. James Stone, Jr. 905th WSSF, received the Air Force Achievement Medal for his untiring dedication and exceptional contribution to Weapons Systems Security. His efforts were instrumental in the unit's selection of AFRES "Outstanding Security Police Flight" for 1982.

MSgt. Frederick Flood, 439th CSG, was awarded his Associate in Applied Science in Contracts Management from the Community College of the Air Force.

"Patriot People"



Name: KATHY A. REALE

Rank: SrA

Age: 24

Address: 313 4th St. Troy, N.Y.

Unit: 439th CSG

Position: graphics specialist

Civilian Occupation: artist

Favorite Food: chicken

Favorite Beverage: JD and gingerale

Favorite Sport: hunting

Favorite Hobby: fishing

Ideal Vacation: Hawaii

Best Way to Relax: wilderness excursions

Preferred Entertainment: dancing

Favorite Celebrity: Mike Jagger

Favorite Music: rock

Favorite Magazine: National Wildlife

Favorite Color: violet

Favorite Car: Camaro

Pet Peeve: too much work and too little time

Best Thing About Westover: the people

Worst Thing About Westover: not enough time to get to know Reservists



With less than inches to spare, a M-551 Sheridan Armored Reconnaissance Airborne Assault Vehicle is loaded onto a Westover C-130 for the next leg of its trip from the Army's Research Labs, in Natick, to the Yuma (Arizona) Test Center. MSgt. Ralph H. Branyen, (on top) and SSgt. Gareth W. Balch, both 337th TAS loadmasters, guide the 30,000 pound tank's slow progress.

(USAF photo by MSgt. Larry Lentz)

New Record review program is underway

A new program began in August that will attempt to accomplish record reviews by mail.

"This program has the potential to save Reservists time," said TSgt. Sophie Bartosik, chief of customer assistance, "but the success of the program depends solely on the Reservists."

The AFRES-wide test program involves mailing computerized information printouts to Reservists due for their two-year record review. It is the Reservist's responsibility to carefully review the document, in the same manner as done in classroom record reviews. Any changes should be noted and the document returned to Military Records in the envelope provided. If documents are not returned, it will be assumed no changes were necessary. The mailing will not be used on initial record reviews.

"All mailings and responses will be carefully documented and submitted to AFRES," said Sergeant Bartosik. The results will be compiled at the end of the year. AFRES will then determine if the program should continue."

Sergeant Bartosik asks all Reservists receiving record reviews to promptly return any corrections.



- RED TAPE?
- DUPLICATIONS?
- DELAYS?
- POOR PLANNING?
- WASTE OF MATERIAL?
- INFERIOR PROCEDURES?

Suggest A Better Way!

Cindy Patrick, the civilian personnel employee relations specialist, has a good suggestion for you: "Submit a suggestion that benefits the Air Force and it could be worth some money for you. If nothing else, you'll receive a memento, such as a coffee mug or pen, in appreciation of your efforts."

The suggestion could range from the need for an emergency light in a hallway to a revision of an aircraft's technical orders. They must be submitted on Air Force Form 1000, to Civilian Personnel/DPCE through inter-base mail.

Patrick, in turn, will input the suggestion into the Air Force's computer-system and send you an acknowledgement. She'll then forward the sugges-

tion to the appropriate office or evaluator for comments and possible action. Suggestions effecting AFRES or the Air Force are sent directly to Robbins AFB, GA. She also will monitor the evaluator's response thus insuring that the suggestion receives a timely and objective evaluation.

If the suggestion is accepted, the Air Force will give a monetary award based on how wide an impact the suggestion will have.

"The suggestion program is designed to make all our lives better, and our jobs done more efficiently," continued Patrick. "It's also the only way people in the government can earn some extra money."

HQ 439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AFRES)
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MA 01022

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THIRD CLASS - BULK RATE