

PATRIOT

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AIR FORCE RESERVE)

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

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May 1985

Westover deals a full house for summer

By SSgt. Sandra M. Michon

As Westover's weather warms up, more than 50,000 people are warming up to Westover.

During the next four months, Westover will host events that involve young and old, civilian and almost every branch of the military, both active duty and the Guard and Reserve. There will be rescues, recoveries, readiness, and recreation. There will be outhouses, an open house and lots of in-house training.

Outhouses are just one of the facilities Westover provides in support of several

field activities, and approximately 1,000 Boy Scouts will appreciate the gesture as they camp out in the Dogpatch area May 10-12. Also provided will be water tanks, power generators, large tents for Scout headquarters and eating facilities. The Scouts, from all across New England, will spend the three days honing their camping skills, as well as touring the base facilities and aircraft.

Several military units also will use Westover for training. The 143rd TAG, an Air National Guard unit from Quonset Point, R.I. will deploy approximately 110 Guardsmen to Westover in seven

C-130s on May 4. Westover will be their simulated forward operating base. After deploying their people and practicing airdrops, the 143rd TAG will return to Quonset Point.

The 305th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron from Selfridge ANGB, Mich., will train at Westover May 13-24. Four rescue HC-130s and four helicopters will bring 169 Reservists for 11 days of low-level flying, small arms training, personnel drops and water rescue practice. Westover will provide billeting, dining hall and storage

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Firefighters from Westover and Greenfield, Mass. team up to put out fires caused by a train derailment. See story on page 6.

(photo by Kris Craig, Springfield Morning Union)

EDITORIAL

Reservists and the UCMJ

Most of us know that UCMJ stands for the Uniform Code of Military Justice and that the Code is the system of criminal law and procedure that applies to active duty military members. But does the UCMJ really apply to reservists?

The plain and simple answer to this question is: YES. Article 2 of the UCMJ provides that the Code applies to "persons lawfully called or ordered into, or to duty in or for training in, the armed forces, from the dates when they are required by the terms of the call or order to obey it." Accordingly, when reservists are called, or ordered into, active duty on annual tours, special or school tours, on extended active duty or on man-days, they are subject to the UCMJ. If a Reservist commits an offense punishable under the UCMJ while he or she is on active duty, the Reservist will be subject to prosecution under the UCMJ.

What about UCMJ jurisdiction over Reservists during periods of inactive duty training; for example, during UTA's or when performing training pursuant to an AF Form 40a? Yes, the UCMJ applies then, as well. Article 2 of the UCMJ specifically says that the Code applies to "... members of a reserve component while they are on inactive duty training authorized by written orders which are voluntarily accepted by them and which specify that they are subject to this Chapter." The "written orders" referred to in the Code are the orders you received on ARPC Form 77 when you entered the US Air Force Reserve. These orders specifically provided: (1) that you were subject to the UCMJ, and (2) that you had to sign and return the orders, acknowledging that you are subject to the UCMJ and that you voluntarily accepted them before you performed any inactive duty training.

In summary, the UCMJ applies to us as reservists. Therefore, it is important that we understand and abide by this system of criminal law and procedure. At present, the legal office at Westover is in the process of conducting a series of UCMJ briefings at various units on base. To obtain additional information concerning the UCMJ, you should attend the UCMJ briefing for your unit.

Capt. Bruce Hawley
Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

Base sets Open House

Westover is planning its Open House for Saturday, July 27.

This year's Open House will celebrate the base's 45th Anniversary and will include aircraft displays and aerial demonstrations. The U.S. Army's famed parachute team The Golden Knights will be one of the featured demonstration teams.

In addition, the Air Force rock band of New England, Airwave, will perform throughout the day.

The Open House kicks off two weeks of activity, open to the public. Westover expects to host the Academy of Model Aeronautics National Championship from July 27 thru August 8.

Approximately 2,000 contestants from throughout the United States will be involved in this year's championships. It marks the third consecutive year that a major model aircraft meet will be held at Westover.

Full house

Continued from page 1

facilities, and chemical warfare training.

Special assignments are on the agenda for May 17-19 as the 11th Special Forces Group use Westover as their command headquarters. Fifty Army Reservists from the east coast will conduct the interservice field training exercise that involves being deployed to Westover in C-141s, setting up camp in the Dogpatch area, and accomplishing scenarios which require teams to parachute into areas in the Berkshire mountains.

Approximately 100 people will arrive at Westover June 8 for two weeks of Sentry Yankee '85. It is a composite force exercise to test the Air National Guard in Syracuse, N.Y. Active duty fighter units, probably F-15s, or F-16s from Eglin AFB, Fla., will help test the Air Guard's ability to direct fighter units in a mock aerial combat situation.

Extra personnel will be at Westover on the June UTA as the 1st Battalion, 104th Infantry Division from the Mass. Army National Guard help the 42nd MAPS accomplish their annual training requirements. The 42nd will set up camp in the Dogpatch area and use the Army Guardsmen to simulate deploying personnel to a forward operating base.

Personnel from Pease AFB, N.H. will become temporary residents at Westover from June 17 through August 17. While the runways at Pease are being reconstructed, all aircraft-related units will be deployed here. The eight FB-111s from Pease will be a familiar sight around Westover during this time. Their operations people will use a portion of Hangar 5, they will take over Nose Dock 38 and will have a joint use of Westover's field maintenance. The deployment, which has been humorously dubbed "Giant Sponge", involves about 200 people.

Another 200 people will spend July 19-21 at Westover for the Civil Air Patrol Search and Rescue Exercise. Civil Air Patrol cadets from all over New England will test their skills as the teams will attempt to locate downed aircraft.

All this activity is in addition to Westover's open house scheduled for July 27, and the National Aeronautics Competition from July 22 through August 6. "We expect anywhere from 50 to 100 thousand people," said Capt. Philip Weber, project officer and base public affairs officer.

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Col. Ayers takes 94th CSG position at Dobbins

Col. Roy E. Ayers Jr. has been selected as the new commander of the 94th Combat Support Group (AFRES) at Dobbins AFB, Ga.

In making the announcement to members of the base at a Civilian Commanders Call held at the Base Theater on April 12, Col. Ayers said, "My new assignment will be taking my wife and I closer to our families. While we look forward to that we'll be leaving Westover with very mixed emotions. We've enjoyed our stay here and developed some very satisfactory as well as mutual rewarding relationships over the past three years. I thank many of the mem-

bers of the base staff who have been most helpful in allowing me to have the time to accomplish many of the important things we've been able to achieve. Thanks to you today we have a strong working relationship with the local community that benefits both of us."

The Commander of the 439th Combat Support Group since November 1981, Col. Ayers recently received a certificate in recognition of his thirty years in government service.

Brig. Gen. Jack P. Ferguson, commander of the 439th TAW, said, "It's going to be a significant loss losing Col. Ayers. He brought a positive attitude to



Col. Roy E. Ayers Jr.

the job in his dealings with both and local community and the other military services that use the base. He developed the base commander's position to a point where he was very well known in the community. It's going to be tough to replace him".

Col. Ayers departed for his new assignment on May 4 following a dinner in his honor held at the Westover Consolidated Open Mess attended members of the civilian and military communities.

Base Exchange 7 day operation

"Open seven days a week" is the new motto of the Army Air Force Exchange Service at Westover.

The motto went into effect on April 29. The new hours announced by John L. Petrizza, exchange manager, will apply to the main exchange, service station, and the shoppette at the base.

The new hours of operation are:

MAIN EXCHANGE

Monday-Friday 1100-1700

Saturday-Sunday 1000-1600

UTA Saturday-Sunday 1000-1700

SHOPPETTE

Daily 1000-1700

Thursday 1000-1800

SERVICE STATION

Daily 1000-1700

Base will have closed circuit TV

Westover Reservists, staying in base billeting, soon will get a clear picture . . . on their room's televisions.

A mile of cable will connect a new satellite dish receiver with the Visiting Officer Quarters and the enlisted dormitories.

The network will offer improved reception of local television channels, as well as Cable News Network, Headline News and a Westover community channel. It will utilize satellite signals and locally produced programming, according to Paul Gilman, chief of base housing.

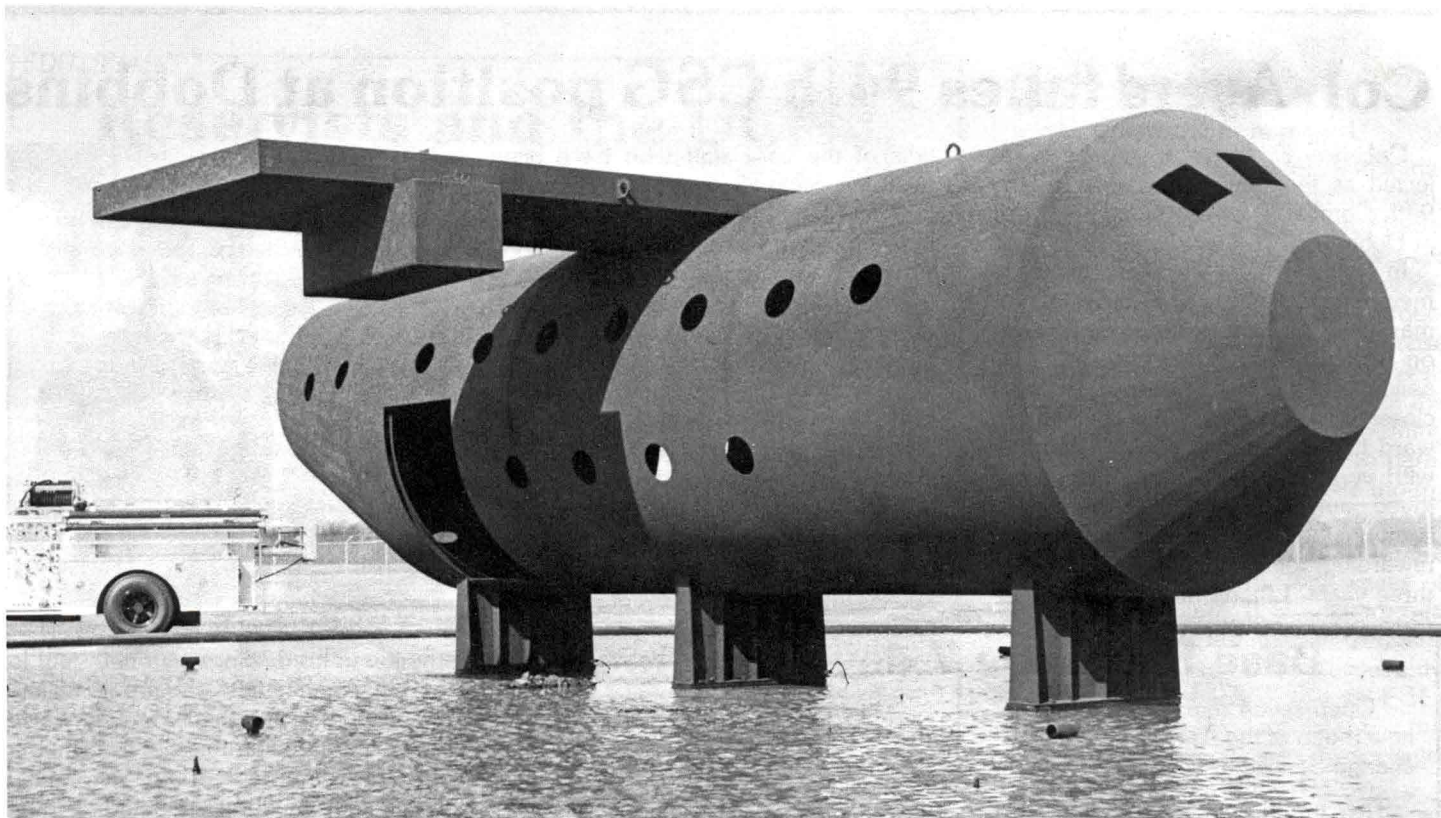
"Important information from 'The Patriot' and the base bulletin will be available on a special channel," he said. "We hope these kinds of services help improve the stay of Reservists and visitors at Westover."

The network was constructed under the field supervision of Charles Vredenburg, chief of maintenance, and was performed by 439th CEF Reservists.



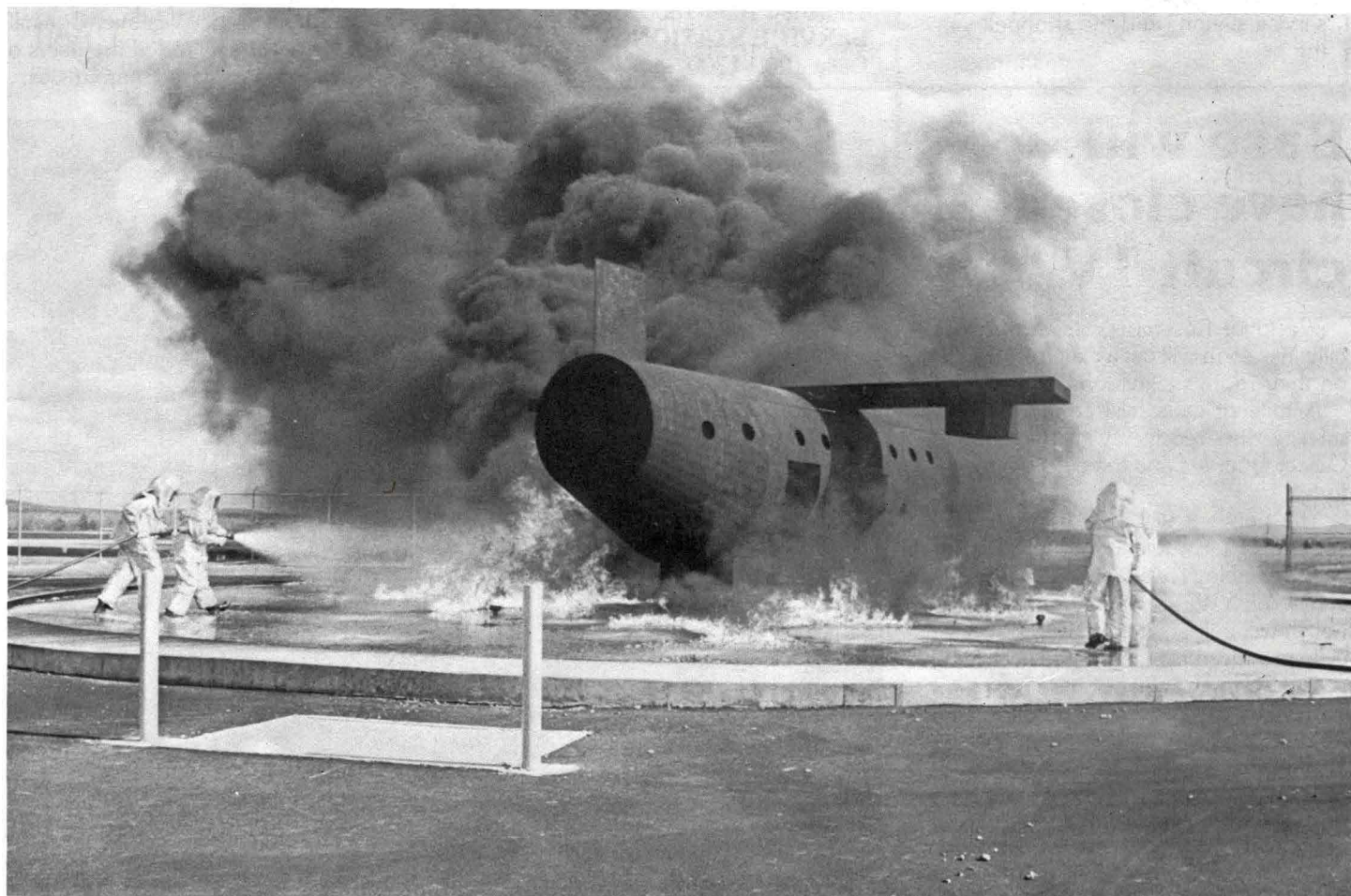
A 1,300 pound, five meter earth station is placed into position near the VOQ by members of the 439th CES. The dish will transmit video and audio television/signals to the VOQ and dormitories.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandra Michon)



The fuel-drenched C-130 look-alike awaits ignition at the base's new fire training facility.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandra Michon)



Base firefighters rush in within seconds of ignition. The billowing smoke is partially cleansed by an environmentally approved smoke abatement system.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandra Michon)

Starting fires at Westover is high-tech business

By SSgt. Sandra M. Michon

Fires at Westover are getting bigger and bigger . . . training fires, that is.

A new fire training facility, only the second of its kind in the entire Air Force, is located just beyond the storage area by the runways.

A charred C-130 look-alike sits in a stone-filled pit as two sentry-type buildings stand watch over the fenced-in enclosure. It is a simple exterior with rather complex capabilities.

"It's a state-of-the-art training facility," said Westover's Fire Chief Haskell Jenkins. "It can feed 200 gallons of fuel onto the fire site in 30 seconds, has a fuel storage of 1500 gallons, has 4 different ignition sites around the aircraft, has a self ignition system, a smoke training building, and the entire facility can be controlled by one person."

"Smoke abatement is another important feature in the new system," he continued. "It is the primary reason for needing a new system." Prior to building the new facility, fire training exercises were held nearby, but the mock aircraft was on the ground and was ignited after being doused with fuel. This procedure caused enormous billows of black smoke.

The new system, designed by Cleveron, Varney, and Pike, Inc., of Boston, has a fine spray of water continuously moving over the fire so that the smoke is partially cleansed before rising into the atmosphere. This feature brings the fire training procedure at Westover in line with Air Force environmental guidelines.

The facility provides a variety of training possibilities. "Any portion of the aircraft can be ignited," explained William Morrissey, chief of operations. The aircraft mock-up is situated on a 75-foot diameter concrete pit lined with crushed stone. Prior to an exercise, the pit is filled with water. Then the fuel is projected through any of the eight fuel jets selected, and the ignitors light the appropriate sections around the aircraft. All ignition activity is accomplished in the control house.

During the exercise, the water and fuel in the pit rise until they reach the weir. This is a type of safety point which then causes the liquid to drain into a system where the fuel and water are separated and stored in holding tanks. This prevents liquid spillover from the pit. There is also a five-foot concrete

walkway surrounding the pit to further decrease the chances of the fire spreading. There are several other safety factors built into the system.

The facility also has a smoke house to train firefighters to function in a smoke-filled environment. A smoke generator is used to fill the building with smoke. Sprinkler systems are installed to give firefighters realistic training in this procedure.

If firefighters ever lack a direct water source for hose hook-up, they'll be prepared, because there is also a drafting pit at the training site. Water can be manually removed from the pit to extinguish the fire, to simulate cases where there is no available hose attachment.

The \$400,000 project began in April

1984 and was complete and certified in December. It is designed to be used year round, and according to Chief Jenkins, it will be. "Our training requires that every firefighter participate in a line fire at least four times a year. To accomplish this, we usually train every UTA and also on annual tours," he explained.

The facility will also be used to train civilians. "We're required to train with local fire departments on hydrocarbon fuel fires," explained Chief Jenkins. Westover's fire department is frequently praised for its excellent training, as well as its assistance with area fires.

"We're very pleased with the final product, "A lot of other units are anxious to follow our example."



Base firefighter, SSgt. Paul Beauregard, rewinds the hose after the training session. Firefighters are required to participate in at least four of these training sessions a year.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandra Michon)



TSgt. Bradley Himelick, left, and MSgt. Gerard Farrell Jr., have walked away with the top individual awards in their categories in both the 14th AF and AFRES.

(USAF photo by Capt. Phil Weber.)

439th WSSF, two NCOs win top national honors

The 439th Weapons System Security Flight and two of its seniors NCOs recently walked away with first place awards in national competition.

The law enforcement unit, led by Maj. Frank McCormick, finished first in the 14th Air Force security police competition. It will now vie with the 403rd WSSF at Keesler AFB, Miss. for AFRES-wide honors.

MSgt. Gerard Farrell, Jr. and TSgt. Bradley W. Himelick won top individual

awards in their categories in both 14th AF and AFRES.

Sergeant Farrell was named the outstanding security police Air Reserve Technician and Sergeant Himelick was cited as the top security police NCO.

"I'm extremely pleased that the unit, and Gerry and Brad, did so well," Major McCormick said. "These honors represent a lot of hard work, and are certainly well deserved."

Firefighters battle rail car blaze

Four firefighters from the Westover Fire Department battled a spectacular railroad tank car fire on March 29 in Greenfield, Mass.

Greenfield authorities summoned a foam truck and crew from the base after several railroad cars containing octyl alcohol exploded and burned on tracks near Interstate-91.

The base firemen played a major role in fighting the huge blaze, which raged for several hours and brought I-91 traffic to a standstill.

"We had a real problem with the fire re-igniting," said Asst. Chief Joseph

Longworth, who directed the Westover contingent. "Those metal railroad cars were so hot that the fire kept rekindling every time we put it out."

The base firefighters succeeded in extinguishing the flames in two of the burning cars. Railroad officials decided to let the blaze in a third tanker burn itself out.

Westover responded to the fire under the terms of a mutual aid compact to which it belongs with many of the communities surrounding the base. It was one of several major off-base fires at which the department has assisted in recent months.

Westover units join Army, Navy in casualty drill

Two Westover units will join the Navy, Army and National Guard in a simulated disaster exercise May 18. The drill is a test of the Civilian-Military Contingency Hospital System, a tri-service program which would be used in case of overseas conflict or larger-scale civilian disaster.

With the 337th TAS providing the airplane and crew, the 74th AES will be sending two air evacuation teams to the New London airport, Groton, Conn. An aeromedical evacuation liaison team from the 74th will be there to help load 50 simulated casualties for a crowded flight to Bradley Field's Connecticut Air National Guard facility. Another crew from the 74th will be waiting at Bradley to process the "patients" and help the Army place them in ambulances.

Although the contingency hospital system has been tested before on paper, this will be the first time all aspects of the plan will be carried out using real people and airplanes, according to Capt. Mary Griffin-Bales, flight nurse.

"Luckily, the aeromedical evacuation flight from Groton to Bradley will take only a half-hour," the captain said. "Thirty of the patients will be in litters and they will take up most of the space in the C-130. In fact, two of the naval observers will probably have to ride in litters for the flight — there's just no other place to put them," she added.

The Naval Hospital at Groton, which coordinates the contingency system in Connecticut, organized the exercise. Ten civilian and two Veterans Administration hospitals are prepared to receive as many as 1,000 casualties under this cooperative program. Military personnel from three branches of service will work with the hospitals, civil defense and state police to move the casualties to the receiving hospitals as quickly and safely as possible.

An aeromedical evacuation control center will be working behind the scene at Westover to coordinate with the Army and Navy. The exercise will provide training opportunities ranging from in-flight nursing care to aircraft marshalling to vehicle operations. The 50 "casualties" to be handled by the Westover contingent represent one-fourth of the total number to be moved during the exercise.

The MAC World Series

Aircrew anxious to test skills at Volant Rodeo

By Capt. Rick Dyer

Baseball has the World Series, football has the Super Bowl and hockey has the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

For Military Airlift Command aircrews, the Volant Rodeo competition, which is held each year at Pope AFB, N.C., is all three of those events wrapped into one.

"It's definitely big league competition," said Maj. Sandy Whittier, a pilot with the 337th TAS and a member of the crew which will represent Westover at the event next month. "Some of the best military aviators in the world will be there."

More than 40 aircrews from the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and allied nations will compete in Volant Rodeo '85, which is scheduled at Pope June 2-8.

They will be evaluated in such events as tactical airdrops, navigation, assault takeoffs and short-field landings. Support personnel from maintenance and law enforcement units will also be tested

in their specialties.

"It's like a decathlon for tactical airlift units," Major Whittier said. "We're competing in a number of different aerial events to determine who will be the overall champion."

The major will serve as aircraft commander at Volant Rodeo, and Lt. Col. Gale French will be the team's leader. Other crew members include 1st Lt. Mike Marten, co-pilot; Maj. T. J. Grenham, navigator; TSgt. Richard Turpin, flight engineer and TSgt. John Missale and SSgt. Bob Motley, loadmasters.

The Westover Reservists are no strangers to Volant Rodeo competition. They flew together as a crew at Pope during last year's event, where they earned fourth place in the difficult assault landing category.

This year, Major Whittier and his colleagues have been flying their regular missions together whenever possible in order to develop the teamwork which the competition demands.

"Everything is timing and precision,"

Major Whittier emphasized. "Inches and seconds often separate the winners from the also rans."

As part of the competition at Volant Rodeo, the aircrews will be assigned to fly unfamiliar, low-level routes under simulated combat conditions. They will also be required to airdrop paratroopers and cargo pallets onto a designated target.

According to the major, the Westover team members were selected because of their skills in areas which the competition emphasizes.

"For example," he said, "Mike Marten is a highly skilled pilot and he has an uncanny ability to read maps. That's crucial when you're flying a route that you've never seen before."

Major Whittier said that the Westover contingent is aiming to improve on its "middle of the pack" finish of a year ago.

"We've had a year to work at it, and hopefully we'll be that much better," he predicted.

Reservists may soon be eligible for college benefits

Westover Reservists will soon be eligible to receive college benefits under a new "G.I. Bill" which takes effect July 1.

Known as the Selected Reserve Educational Assistance Program, it is considered a major milestone in congressional support of the Reserve forces.

The legislation, which was signed into law last October, provides college tuition assistance to Reservists meeting certain criteria. The program is available to all current members of the Selected Reserve, and to those entering the Reserve prior to June 30, 1988.

In order to qualify for educational assistance, a Reservist must: have a high school diploma or equivalent, but not a bachelor's or higher degree; have taken the Armed Forces Qualification Test; have completed initial active duty, and have satisfactorily served for at least 180 days in the Reserve.

Recipients must be able to enlist, extend or immediately re-enlist on or after July 1 for a period which, when added to the member's current obligation, equals or exceeds six years of Reserve service.



PROMOTIONS

SrA Donna J. Anderson
A1C Shelli A. Anderson
SSgt. Denise M. Babinsack
SrA Lisa A. Buckley
A1C Timothy P. Callahan
SrA Madeline Cobb
SrA Bryan J. Currier
SSgt. Shellie D. Davis
SSgt. Joanne M. Dunalvey
SSgt. Renan R. Flores
MSgt. Claire L. Gaudreau
SSgt. Michael K. Geissler
SSgt. Mary E. Gibbs
A1C Kim M. Gomes
MSgt. Alfred H. Graveline
A1C Cheryl A. Harper
SrA Rose M. Holland
SSgt. Carlos M. Huertas
SrA Donna F. Hunter
A1C MaryKay Kotfila
SSgt. Eunice R. Langlois
A1C Kimla J. Lapa
MSgt. Gary A. Lawrence
A1C Lynn A. Lefebvre
SSgt. William M. Mailhott
SSgt. Robert V. Majewski, Jr.
SSgt. Daniel J. Major

A1C Donna M. McCarthy
SSgt. Charles L. Mello
Maj. Kent W. Michaelsen
SSgt. Nikhil Mody
Maj. David J. Moore
TSgt. Gordon A. Newell
SrA Brian F. O'Donnell
SSgt. Bruce W. Paradis
SSgt. David Pranaitis
SrA Annie M. Rice
Maj. Peter T. Richardsen
SSgt. Leonard J. Robinson
A1C Victor M. Roque
SSgt. Nancy E. Taylor
SSgt. John W. Tinnemeyer
MSgt. Benjamin P. Tomlin
SSgt. Robert J. Vujs
MSgt. William J. Wenz
SSgt. Patrick T. Whelan
SrA Linda E. Wytrych

ENLISTMENTS

Amn. Richard J. Balchan
Amn. Warren E. Coleman
Sgt. Richard E. Forte, Jr.
A1C Michael P. Grady
AB Robert W. Grey
Sgt. William P. Hurley, Jr.
A1C Elaine V. Lagasse

SSgt. Micahel H. MacMillan
SSgt. Steven J. Meltzer
Sgt. Lambrose E. Mounting
TSgt. Edward G. Patenaude
SSgt. Van A. Pelter, Jr.
Sgt. Gerhard H. Rancin
AB Renee A. Remedis
Sgt. Mark A. Roussell
A1C Athol F. Streete
A1C Luise L. Velasco

REENLISTMENTS

Sgt. Denise J. Babinsack
TSgt. Peter F. Barbuto, Jr.
MSgt. Richard R. Berryman
SSgt. Glenn E. Bogart
Sgt. Douglas W. Burner
SSgt. Vidal I. Bustamante
TSgt. Joseph Catelone
MSgt. Donald C. Cherry, Jr.
TSgt. Earl W. Cole, Jr.
SSgt. George F. Connolly, Jr.
Sgt. Phillip C. Cormier
SSgt. Leonard A. Coughlin
Sgt. Joseph E. Gallant
SSgt. James M. Gibbons
SSgt. Robert W. Harris, Jr.
MSgt. Richard E. Haskins
SSgt. Marshall E. Jensen
SSgt. Lex S. Johnson
TSgt. James E. Lechowicz
SSgt. Paul A. Lemay
TSgt. Nancy A. McKemmie
MSgt. George Poladian
Sgt. Mark I. Ratcliffe
TSgt. Robert E. Smith
TSgt. Stanley L. Strzepek
TSgt. Donald J. Vadnais
SSgt. Donald J. Valcourt
SSgt. Keith A. Webb

Decorations delivered, 40 years later

Six decorations were presented to TSgt. John E. Sheehan, 58th APS, March 3 for his active military service in the 1940's and 1950's.

Sergeant Sheehan was presented with the American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Navy Occupation Medal-Europe, China Service Medal, and Navy Good Conduct Medal.

The awards ceremony marked the conclusion of an investigation which was begun by SMSgt. Leonard F. Dube, 58th APS, awards and decorations NCOIC.

Sergeant Sheehan began his military career during World War II with a three-year hitch in the U.S. Navy. He served aboard the U.S.S. Helena, a cruiser assigned to the European Theater of Operations. Following Germany's surrender his ship was reassigned to the Pacific.

In September 1948, Sergeant Sheehan received an honorable discharge;

however, within a year he was back in Navy blues. After three years of shore duty he shipped out aboard the U.S.S. Adirondack, and later the U.S.S. Pocahontas, both communications vessels.

In October 1953 he again returned to civilian life to pursue a career in the printing business. But, he couldn't stay away from the military.

Sergeant Sheehan's love of the service led him to enlist in the Air Force Reserve in 1972 and he was assigned to the 439th CSG print shop.

In 1975 he transferred to the 58th APS, where he hopes to remain until his retirement in February 1988.

In addition to his civilian career and Reserve commitment, Sergeant Sheehan is a life member of VFW Post 872 and serves as the Post Commander. He's also a member of the American Legion Post 338 in Southwick, Mass., and the Veteran's Administration Volunteer Services, Leeds, VA Hospital, Northampton, Mass.



TSgt. John E. Sheehan proudly displays the six decorations that were recently presented to him during a ceremony at Westover. A Reservist serving with the 58th APS, Sergeant Sheehan earned the awards during the 1940's and 1950's. (USAF photo by SSgt. Sandra Michon.)

439th TAW records 65 safe years in the air

By MSgt. Marshall Hathaway
Wing Historian

The 439th TAW, including Pittsburgh's 911th TAG and Niagara Falls' 914th TAG, has exceeded 100,000 accident-free flying hours. As of April 3, the three flying squadrons combined chalked-up a flying safety record of 122,251 non-chargeable accident-free hours. Adding the cumulative safety records of the 337th TAS, the 328th TAS and the 758th TAS, reveals the combined squadrons have flown for 65 years with a perfect safety record.

Westover's 337th TAS has not had a chargeable accident since January 1966 with 75,069 hours. Niagara's 328th TAS flew 77,452 hours since June 1961 and Pittsburgh's 758th TAS, 83,342 hours since June 1963.

According to Lt. Col. Gale H. French, wing chief of safety, it is rare in Air Force history that a wing of three flying squadrons ever exceeds twenty years of accident-free flying. What makes the feat remarkable is that at one time or another, the squadrons operated five different types of aircraft. Their safety record includes time with C-119 Flying Boxcars, C-124 Globemasters, C-123K Providers and "A" and "E" model C-130 Hercules. Colonel French said the record is even more significant considering that compared to other wings throughout the world, the 439th has continued to fly in some of the most adverse weather conditions.

If the record holds until January of

next year, all three squadrons will have exceeded the 20-year mark. Pittsburgh's 328th TAS has the wing's top safety performance and Headquarters 21st Air Force recently cited them with the DeBrier Trophy, that command's top flying award for a Reserve unit. More recently, HQ AFRES gave a Safety Milestone Award to Niagara's 328th TAS for 23 years of accident-free flying.

A chargeable accident for a flying squadron is one in which an aircrew or aircrew member is at fault. An accident because of mechanical failure caused by faulty maintenance would be charged against the wing. Pure mechanical failure accidents in which no one is at fault are charged against the Air Force.

Women bowlers win

Westover's women's bowling team won the Inter-Base Bowling Championship March 23 during a tournament at Dover AFB, Del.

Team members Karen Martin, Mitzi Vincelette, Rose LaCava, Fran Beutner and Elaine Christian combined to roll a four-game total of 3,229 pins.

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

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