

PATRIOT

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING · AIR FORCE RESERVE · WESTOVER AFB

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DECEMBER 1986

Westover C-130s return from Volant Oak

By SSgt. Tom Allocco

The 337th TAS, maintenance and other support members went "back on the road again" in November when they flew to Panama shortly after returning from Europe.

Just a few weeks after completing training in Italy, the 337th TAS sent three aircraft to Howard AFB in Panama to support Volant Oak operations.

The three C-130s left Westover on November 1 and another three were scheduled to join them in Panama the following week. The Westover aircraft replaced Alaskan Air Guardsmen providing airlift support throughout Central and South America.

Westover aircrews, maintenance and ground support members are to support Volant Oak through Dec. 6.

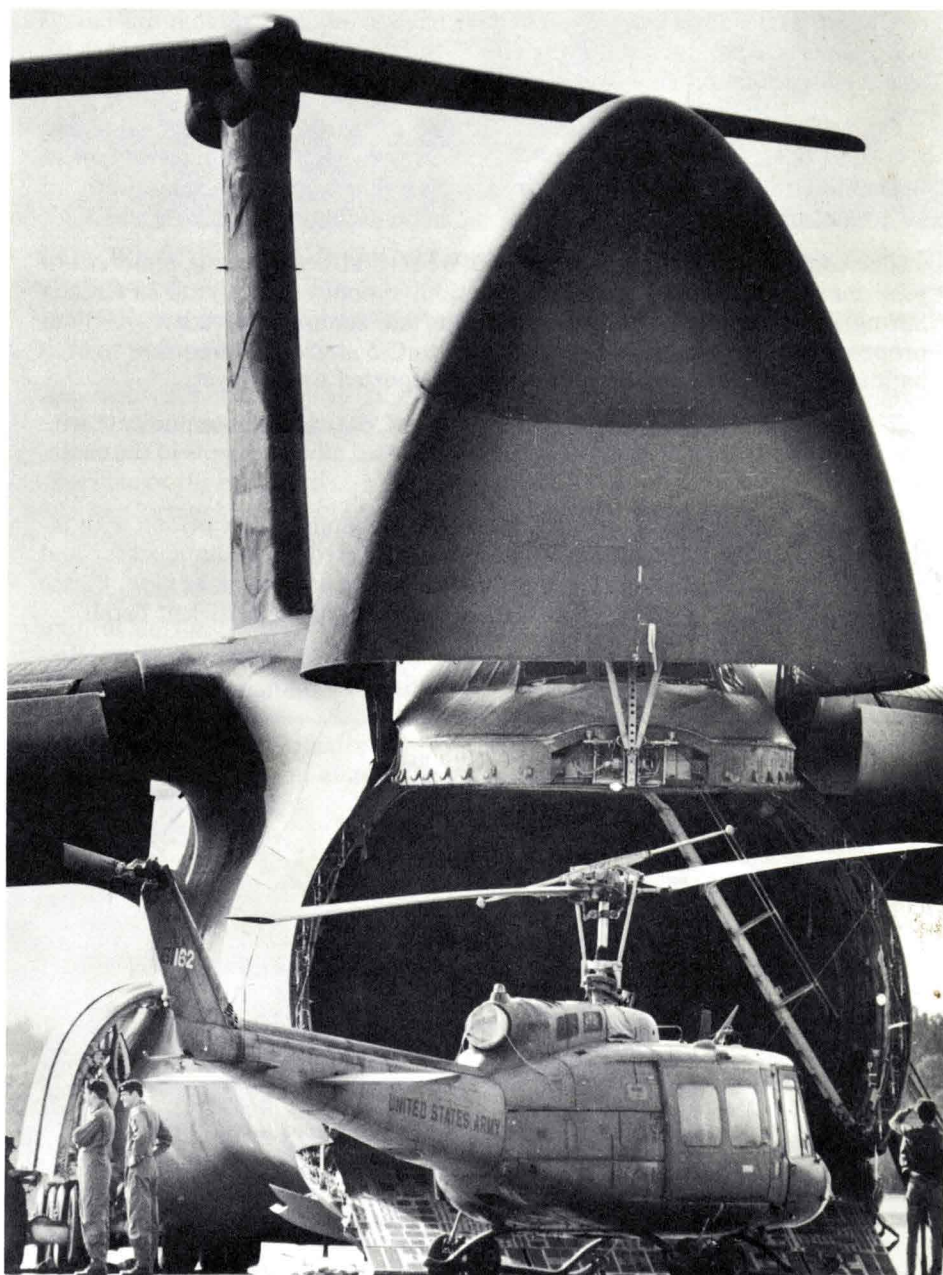
This was the third deployment this year for the 337th TAS. The squadron participated in Volant Oak last May, and in September four aircraft flew to Italy for two weeks of Volant Partner training throughout Europe.

"The Volant Oak mission stretches our abilities to the limit because this is the third rotation for the squadron in six months," said Col. Jerold Budinoff, 337th TAS commander.

"It shows the real dedication of our Reservists to respond to unit needs, which have been significant," he said.

Volant Oak missions task Reservists to provide air support wherever needed in Latin America. In the past, the wide-ranging missions have included air drops for Army exercises and supplying American embassies in South America.

(continued on back page)



OPEN WIDE — A C-5 from Dover AFB yawns on Westover's flight line to receive the first of two fully operational Army Reserve helicopters. The Hueys, assigned to the 94th ARCOM at Hanscom AFB, were winched aboard the 512th MAW (Associate) aircraft with their rotors clearing the C-5's tall cargo compartment by just a few inches.

(USAF photo by Frank Faulkner)

EDITORIAL

Telling the Westover Story

One important aspect of our proposed conversion to C-5 aircraft is our obligation to fully inform the public about the impact of bringing the planes to Westover.

After months of waiting for our draft Environmental Impact Statement, we're becoming more confident the report will soon be completed and published, allowing us to schedule a public hearing on our proposed conversion to C-5 aircraft.

Our neighbors around Westover and throughout the Pioneer Valley are concerned about the noise from C-5s, and we have to assure them that this base is not returning to the noisy days when the 99th Bomb Wing was launching B-52s and sending them roaring over Chicopee and Springfield.

Commercial operations at the civilian end of the field are progressing and are a part of the long-awaited draft EIS. Westover Metropolitan Development Commission officials have a long-range plan and hope to increase both air cargo and passenger traffic.

The combined Air Force Reserve and WMDC efforts to bring hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in construction, supplies and payroll to Greater Springfield are important to many residents and community leaders. And our proposed mission change in the conversion to C-5 aircraft is important to both national security and the defense budget supported by taxpayers.

The next few months will be both hectic and vital as we communicate with the public to explain the benefits of these proposed advancements in the evolution of Westover.

You are a key player in the communications channel. As a person with insight into the operations at Westover, you are a credible communicator and can help us tell your neighbors about the changes we hope to make here. Please do your best to tell the Westover story accurately and in sufficient detail.

Col. Frederick D. Walker
Commander, 439th TAW



PATRIOT

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Briefs

Military pay hiked 3% in January

(AFNS) Congress has passed a Defense authorization bill for this fiscal year that includes a three percent across-the-board pay hike in January for all military members. The raise applies to basic pay, housing and food allowances.

Senate confirms new under secretary

(AFNS) James McGovern, a naval academy graduate and former Navy fighter pilot, has been confirmed by the Senate as the next Under Secretary of the Air Force.

Mr. McGovern succeeds Edward C. "Pete" Aldridge, Jr. as under secretary. Mr. Aldridge was appointed Secretary of the Air Force earlier this year.

The Air Force Under Secretary position is the second-highest post in the Air Force.

Mr. McGovern has served since 1982 as the Senate Armed Services Committee's staff director and chief counsel. He joined the committee staff in 1981 as a general counsel.

He was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1969 and spent six years on active duty as fighter pilot, squadron personnel officer, legal officer and aircraft maintenance officer. He has logged 2,000 hours, mostly in F-4s. Mr. McGovern is a Marine Corps Reserve lieutenant colonel.

AF exceeds recruiting goals

(AFRNS) — The Air Force Reserve's recruitment goal has been met for the ninth consecutive year. With a total strength of more than 77,800 at the end of Fiscal Year 1986, AFRES exceeded the Congressional goal.

SSgt. Maille recuperating

SSgt. Peter Maille of the 58th APS suffered serious back injuries in a fall at his place of business and is confined to the Glens Falls (N.Y.) Hospital.

439th WSSF named Air Force Outstanding Unit

By TSgt. Gordon A. Newell

The 439th Weapons Systems Security flight has been presented the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

The award was based on the outstanding performance that began in 1984 when the flight was selected the best WSSF in the Air Force Reserve. In addition, the unit received two of four possible individual awards that year. MSgt. Bradley W. Himelick was named Security Airman of the Year and MSgt. Gerard R. Farrell, Jr., an Air Reserve Technician, was honored as Department of Defense Civilian of the Year.

The 47-member flight's proudest accomplishment during the award period was planning and conducting the first all-Reserve Air Base Ground Defense exercise, Patriot Thunder '84.

The exercise involved setting up a perimeter high in the Berkshires and defending it night and day against a host of security problems. Three other flights, as well as Army National Guard and Connecticut Air National Guard, participated in the two-day test.

Maj. Frank McCormack, 439th WSSF commander, said, "A unit doesn't receive an honor like this without a lot of hard work from dedicated people. We've made an effort to keep our people active by participating in various exercises. That kind of work obviously pays off."

The Outstanding Unit Award will



THERE'S ONE — Maj. Frank McCormack points out another member of Westover's award-winning 439th WSSF to Col. Frederick D. Walker during a camouflage training session in Dogpatch. A half-dozen members of the flight can be detected in the photograph.

(USAF photo by Maria Bull)

allow each member of the flight to wear the AF Outstanding Unit Award ribbon.

Because of the proposed C-5 conversion, McCormack is expecting dramatic changes in the make-up of the Security Flight.

"We will be looking for a lot of people to fill slots in the unit if the conversion plans take place," he said. "First off, the make-up of the unit will be changed from a Security Flight to the 439th Security Police Squadron."

That change along will almost triple

the unit's size. "We will have around 80 Air Reserve Technician slots and between 60 and 70 reserve positions," he explained.

Under the proposed make-up, the squadron will be commanded by a lieutenant colonel with a major as the operations officer. Both slots will be filled by Air Reserve Technicians.

The 439th WSSF would remain a part of the squadron and would be made up entirely of Reservists with a major in charge, said Major McCormack.

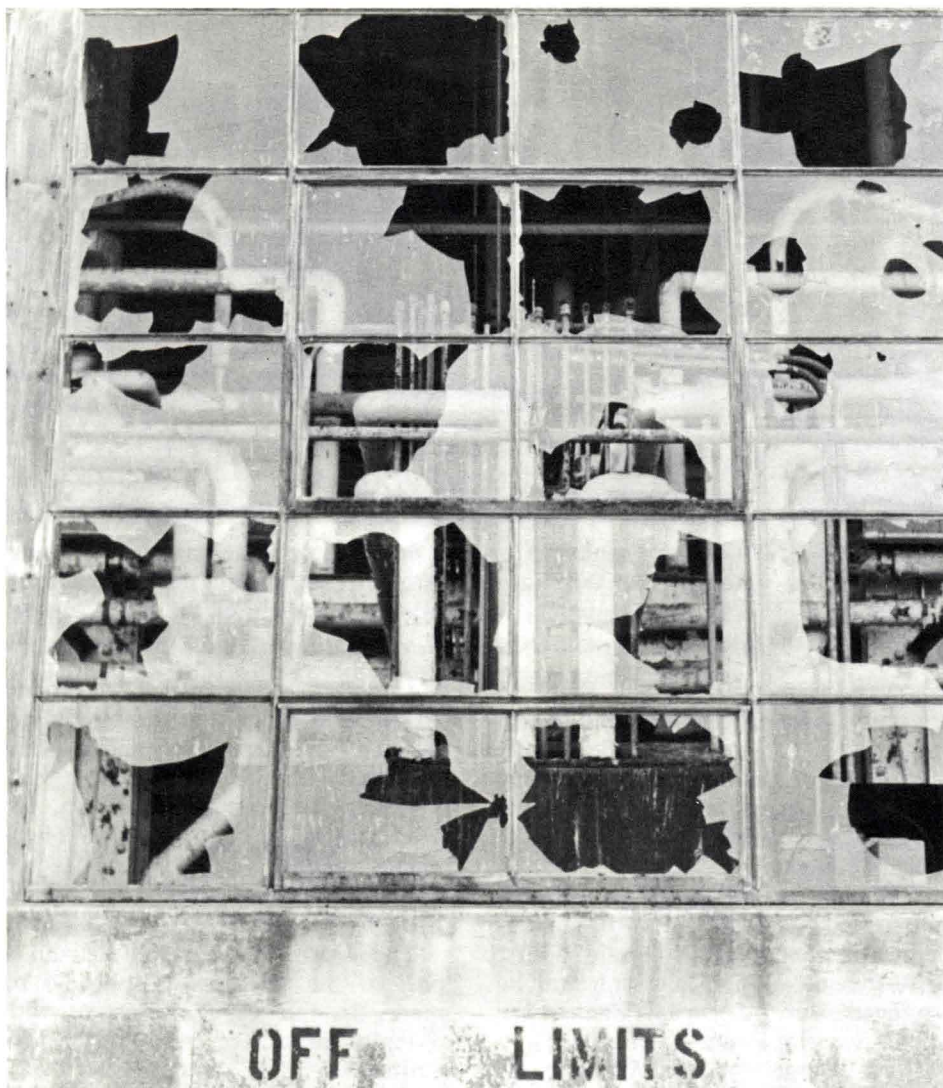


Fire Safety

Winners of the 1986 "Learn Not to Burn" fire prevention contest were awarded certificates by the base commander.

Lt. Col. Thomas G. Hargis presented to Bob White of Civil Engineering maintenance section, first place; Patrick Derry of base Operations, John Petrizza of the Base Exchange, second place; Monica Moriarty of Accounting and Finance, winner of the coloring contest; and David Echols of Vehicle Maintenance. Base Operations and Vehicle Maintenance tied for third place.

Off-base housing gets new lease on life



REHABILITATION PROPOSED — These photos illustrate years of neglect to the generator plant of the old Air Force hospital and one of the former base housing units. (USAF photos by SSgt. Sandi Michon)



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Chicopee will create a 187-acre industrial park and residential complex on land once part of Westover. The \$5 million effort will use land deemed excess when the Air Force Reserve assumed control of the base from the Strategic Air Command in 1974.

The project is expected to create 3,000 jobs and result in a gain of almost \$3 million annually in local property tax revenues, said Mayor Richard S. Lak.

Plans call for three complimentary site re-use concepts for housing, buildings and land.

The 101-acre Duncan Knoll area will be developed for international, national and regional companies. "Diverse airport-related businesses and industrial clients will be offered ample sites, services and expansion opportunities in the high quality park. About 1.4 million square feet of buildings will be accommodated," said the mayor.

The city also will offer 50 of the 400 new and rehabilitated former Air Force houses for sale to low and moderate income families. Some state-backed mortgages may be as low as 5.5 percent, Mayor Lak said.

A retirement community also is expected. The plans call for 430 "congregate living" units for the elderly in new and rehabilitated buildings and will feature "life care" support facilities and services.

The proposed conversion will be the second such project on land which had been part of the base. A private developer spent \$10 million to purchase 550 excess units near the base's Industrial Gate. Today, the 89-acre Doverbrook Estates condominiums are all sold.

Mayor Lak praised the project and the combined effort of the state and local officials. "We must make every effort to insure the dream of home ownership is not just a flight of fantasy, but in fact, can become a reality," he said.

The mayor termed the former Westover property as a "new town within a town" . . . a unique place that involves a mixed use; where people can live in a quality residential setting, work in a planned industrial environment and be provided with a range of commercial and health services."

439th CES camps out for ORI practice

Article and photo by
Maj. Rock Desilets, 439th CES

The 439th Civil Engineering Squadron held its annual bivouac training during the October UTA with an eye toward the next ORI.

In an ORI, the Prime BEEF (Base Emergency Engineering Force) civil engineering squadron would be rated on its ability to construct a livable tent city where flight crews, maintenance, communications and security personnel would live and work.

In the past, bivouac training was little more than putting up tents. Now, the engineers have to consider a source of water, sanitation, proximity to the airfield, security and other factors which make training more realistic.

Maj. Ron Michalski was the project officer who coordinated the more than 150 engineering personnel. The BEEFers erected tents, installed generators and wiring and filled sandbags to protect the generators, fuel and other facilities. The firefighters provided on-site fire protection while the Prime RIBS (Readiness in Base Services) food services personnel set up a



Prime RIBS team members set up mess tent next to their portable field kitchen.

(USAF Photo by SSgt. Sandi Michon)

portable field kitchen and provided two hot meals.

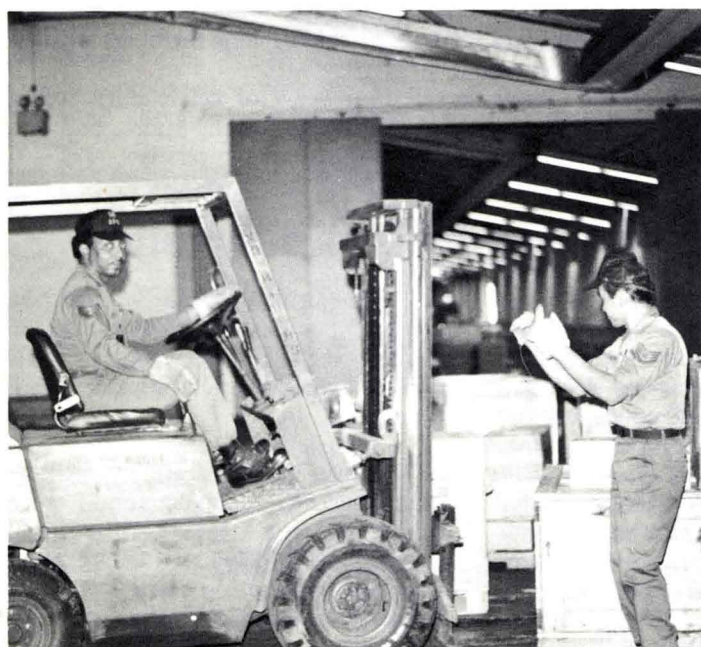
The fire department added a touch of realism by simulating a gas attack with a smoke bomb during the Rapid Runway Repair exercise. Those working had to put on their full chemical warfare suits.

"The bivouac was the first time we

provided our own security," said Capt. Jack Devine, squadron security officer. "We issued weapons to the security team who were taught by the 439th WSSF to secure an area and how to set up a defense perimeter."

"Overall, the squadron considered the bivouac to be a success," said Major Michalski.

59th APS member completes annual tour in Germany



SSgt. Zachary Slater is guided by SSgt. Jack Canfijn while breaking down import freight.

Article and photo by SSgt. Paul K. Ford, 59th APS

"I had no idea that cargo was this tough," stated SSgt. Jimmy Moore. "Working within the cargo section in Germany demanded a lot of me both physically and mentally."

Sergeant Moore was one of 17 members from the 59th Aerial Port Squadron who recently completed annual training at Rhein Main AB in West Germany.

Other team members were involved in ramp services, Air Terminal Operations Center and special handling. The 59th also received Adam III overview training and assisted the 435th Aerial Port Squadron in down-up loading the first C-5B aircraft to visit Europe.

In addition, the 59th and Army participated in "Operation Hammer," a joint operation involving Air Force and Army personnel and equipment. During that operation, 740 tons of cargo and people were moved.

"The 435th Aerial Port Squadron is extremely busy and provided an outstanding base to improve our aerial port skills," said SMSgt. James McHugh, 59th APS team chief.

During the tour, the 59th assisted in servicing 48 C-5s, 198 C-141s and 173 C-130s. They processed 1492.5 tons of cargo and 7.5 tons of mail. The export cargo section built 643 pallets. The import cargo section contributed by breaking down 235 pallets.

Westover Reservist takes on Peacekeeper Challenge

By SSgt. Tom Allocco

When the "best of the best" faced off in an Air Force-wide security police competition in October, SSgt. Eben Goode of the 439th WSSF was on the Air Force Reserve team.

Sergeant Goode contributed to winning the Chief's Award for the Reserve team during nine days of Peacekeeper Challenge competition at Kirtland AFB, N.M. The competition was among 16 Air Force teams and a team from Britain's Royal Air Force.

The competition was presented as a test of the "best of the best." Sergeant Goode, like the others, won a place on his team in stiff preliminary competition earlier in the year. He then went through more than two weeks of training at the Army's Fort Huachuca, Ariz., before the Peacekeeper Challenge competition.

The security police teams were tested in weapons, patrol and tactical skills, including response to a simulated terrorist attack.

"They told us Peacekeeper Challenge is like the Super Bowl or the Olympics for security police," Sergeant Goode said. "I had not seen spirit and motivation so high since I was in tech school. The teams pushed themselves to the limit. I saw four members of the SAC team faint after one run."

The weather was almost as challenging as the competition, he said. Snow blowing off the New Mexico mountains set the Reserve team back on the opening day of competition when they were tested on a combat course with pop-up targets.

"We were wearing gas masks and a blizzard came up," Sergeant Goode said. "The snow got on our lenses. We were wet and cold and our fingers were numb, but the weather wasn't even considered a factor by the judges."

Sergeant Goode was tested on the combat rifle course, in a terrorist scenario and on an obstacle course. He helped his team win the Chief's Award, which was presented on behalf of all the chief master sergeants serving as security policemen. The trophy was accompanied by a certificate recognizing the "esprit, teamwork, leadership and competitiveness" of the Reserve team.

Sergeant Goode's team also tied for fourth place in the .38 caliber pistol competition.

The eight security policemen were hand-picked from



TAKING AIM — SSgt. Eben Goode always aims for victory.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandi Michon)

among about 30 from throughout the Air Force Reserve who entered team trials in May at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

He was able to get through the preliminary training in part because he had spent the previous year running, lifting weights and doing other training during UTAs and on his own time. "I didn't get there myself. A lot of people got me there with their time and effort," he said of wing members who assisted him in training.

Sergeant Goode served four years of active duty before joining the wing in 1984. He lives in Hull, Mass., and is a criminal justice major at Northeastern University.

Westover's Miss Piggy promotes our good neighbor policy

Firefighters from departments in Greater Springfield have been visiting Westover recently for a date with "Miss Piggy."

"Miss Piggy" is the stubby, mock airplane device used to simulate an aircraft fire. Base officials nicknamed the apparatus, which is located near the flight line, for its porcine appearance.

Westover has been roasting "Miss Piggy" on a regular basis lately to give neighboring fire departments first-hand experience in battling flammable liquid blazes at up to 2,000 degrees.

"Although Westover has gone seven

years without a reportable fire loss, we constantly train to fight aircraft, and other flammable liquid fires," said Westover Fire Chief Haskel Jenkins. "Because of this, our colleagues in neighboring civilian departments look to us for training in this area."

According to Donald Cloutier, assistant chief for training, the base recently hosted three training sessions for nearly 50 firefighters from Springfield, Chicopee and other local departments.

"We have a new high-tech facility and plenty of experience, so we are happy to lend a hand," he said.

The department's training unit also recently conducted a fire prevention seminar for 4-H Club members at the University of Massachusetts campus in Amherst.

Westover's fire department, which is comprised of both civilian and Reserve firefighters, is a member of the Hampden County Mutual Aid Compact. In addition to sharing its expertise in training situations, in emergencies the base also sends fire personnel to surrounding communities when requested by local authorities.

Wing members take liberty at NCO Dining Out

Article and photos by
By SSgt. Sandi Michon

The "Liberty" theme of the evening was evident as red, white and blue streamers and replicas of Lady Liberty adorned the Ballroom at the Consolidated Open Mess on Oct. 18.

More than 200 Wing members and their guests took the liberty to enjoy themselves at the 12th annual 439th TAW NCO/Airman Dining Out.

The agenda included retired Maj. Gen. Donald A. McGann as guest speaker, awards; as well as dinner; drinks and dancing.

Protocol was maintained throughout the evening by TSgt. Timothy Murphy who served as President of the Mess. Amid a flurry of animated toasts, he was assisted by Mr. Vice, TSgt. George Hoagland from the 439th WSSF. The toasts were a mix of satirical and serious, and set the tone for the evening.

Serious applause went to the award recipients. MSgt. Andrew P. Hoffman, intelligence operations technician with the 337th TAS received the Senior NCO of the Year award and also accepted the Work Center of the Year award representing Westover's Aircrew Intelligence Branch.

TSgt. Kathleen M. Wood, training technician with the 439th CAMS accepted the NCO of the Year award. She was quickly asked to return to center stage to receive another award. To her delight, Col. David L. Webber, deputy commander for operations, presented Sergeant Wood with a



HEAD TABLE — (l. to r.) Col. and Mrs. David L. Webber, Mrs. McGann and retired Maj. Gen. Donald A. McGann, TSgt. and Mrs. Timothy Murphy, and Lt. Col. and Mrs. Thomas G. Hargis.



AWARD RECIPIENTS — MSgt. Andrew P. Hoffman, 337th TAS, TSgt. Kathleen M. Wood, 439th CAMS, and SrA. Michael J. Golenski, of the 439th WSSF.



Ron Salafia, from Reserve recruiting dances with Arija "Arty" Spencer from the 58th APS.

certificate hand-drawn by her five-year-old daughter Erin offering her congratulations and love.

The Airman of the Year award went to SrA. Michael J. Golenski, security specialist with the 439th WSSF. The award not only recognized his participation in his unit but also his competition in last year's Volant Rodeo security police exercises.

For General McGann, keynote speaker at the Dining Out, said coming to Westover was like "coming home." A former C-119 pilot with the 337th Troop Carrier Squadron at Bradley Field, he recognized some of the older NCO's he had worked with and told the audience he felt, "closer to none than the 337th."

General McGann repeatedly stressed the importance of NCO's in his career progression and stressed the major role

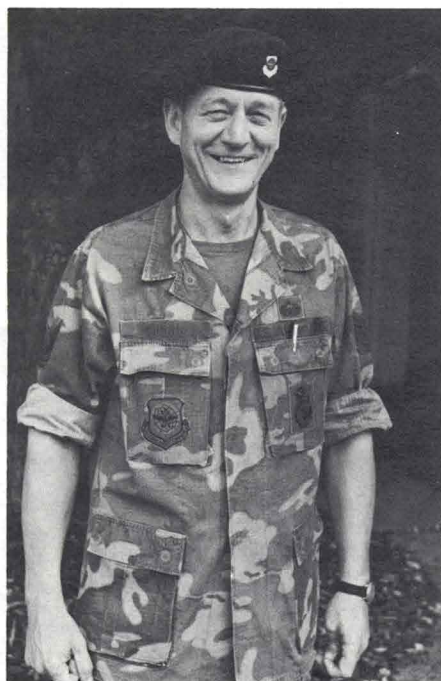
Reservists play in the protection of our liberty.

"You are the backbone of the Total Force concept," he said. General McGann also highlighted current budget considerations to emphasize the role of the Reserve.

The remainder of the festivities were reserved for dancing to the music of "Airwave," the Air Force Band of New England stationed at Pease AFB, N.H.

"The old spirit has come alive again," commented MSgt. Marshall Hathaway on the success of the Dining Out. Sergeant Hathaway, 439th TAW historian, has been on the Dining Out committee for the last ten years and said he was pleased to see pride in the unit so evident at the Dining Out. "That's what makes a Dining Out," he said.

"Patriot People"



TSgt. Douglas Young

Name: Douglas Young
Rank: TSgt.
Age: 44
Address: Belchertown, Mass.
Unit: 439th WSSF
Position: Security supervisor
Civilian Occupation: Supervisor at Westvaco
Favorite Food: Spaghetti
Favorite Beverage: Diet Pepsi
Favorite Sport: Baseball
Favorite Hobby: Working out at gym
Ideal Vacation: Bahamas
Best Way to Relax: Bahamas
Preferred Entertainment: Dancing
Favorite Celebrity: Johnny Carson
Favorite Music: Jazz
Favorite Book: Killing Fields
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Car: Porsche
Pet Peeve: Annoying people
Best Thing About Westover: The people

AFRES honors vehicle sections

Westover's transportation section is winning awards again. The Vehicle Management Section and the Vehicle Maintenance Section were both named best in AFRES.

This is the fifth consecutive year the management section, headed by Tom Hill, has won the honor. Safety was the section's strong point with no reportable accidents for the past five years. Also considered in the selection process was the condition of the fleet, vehicle analysis reports, and timely completion of duties.

The vehicle maintenance section has won two years in a row and last year earned second-place honors in the Air Force competition. Howard Whitaker leads the 22-person staff keeping Westover's vehicles in award-winning shape.

Judges considered lowest vehicle-down-time figures, lowest out-of-commission and down-for-parts figures and overall quality of maintenance.

Dale Altman, chief of base transportation, was obviously pleased that his section was again singled out for the most recent honors.

"It's great to see the hard work and efforts of my people recognized again," he said, "They take a lot of pride in their work and deserve all the credit. It's nice to know Westover has such dedicated people working here."

Winning suggestions

A suggestion to change the method of testing fire extinguishers has earned Louis Roman a \$125 bonus. He was one of eight to receive cash awards in October by Westover's Suggestion Awards Committee.

Robert Fetherston received \$100 for his "zero overpricing" suggestion while William Cacciolfi is \$50 richer for recommending that storm flags, instead of post flags, be flown from November through March.

Other suggestions called for the modification of the fitness trial's vault bar and putting a safety cover on the P-4 fire truck. Taking home \$25 each for their safety; energy or cost-savings suggestions are: Paul Gagnon, Michael P. Leger, Donald Sapowsky, Thomas Durkin Jr., and Edwin Driscoll Jr.

earning a PAT on the back

PROMOTIONS

MSgt. Arthur F. Flynn Jr.
 MSgt. Michael J. Lee
 MSgt. Richard L. Pease
 MSgt. Edward J. Peplinski
 TSgt. Karen C. Barber
 TSgt. Lori D. Boucher
 TSgt. Christopher Doyle
 TSgt. Gene Gilman
 TSgt. David E. Holding
 SSgt. Randy L. Addy
 SSgt. Anthony J. Andrade
 SSgt. Bonita J. Belcher
 SSgt. Leo A. Choinere
 SSgt. Madeline Cobb
 SSgt. Jeffrey G. Dion
 SSgt. Richard M. Doty
 SSgt. Shron I. Gill
 SSgt. Michael J. Golenski
 SSgt. Rhonda G. Hager
 SSgt. Julie A. Hordwedel
 SSgt. Paul Jakacky
 SSgt. Theodore C. Kmiecik
 SSgt. Daniel J. Myers II
 SSgt. Diana L. Nault
 SSgt. Arthur R.I. Needham
 SSgt. Mark C. Nightingale
 SSgt. Robert O. Palmer
 SSgt. Susan A. Pineault

SSgt. Craig A. Roy
 SSgt. Shari C. Scott
 SSgt. Richard L. Smith
 SSgt. Sean R. Strohman
 SSgt. Leo H. Wallin
 SrA. George V. Carbonell
 SrA. Theresa M. Glecker
 SrA. Mark A. Manasas
 SrA. Dennis R. Miller
 SrA. Georgiana M. Nix
 A1C James M. Quinlan
 A1C David A. Robert
 A1C Ken G. Robert
 A1C Deborah Sammaturo
 A1C Drew J. Smith
 A1C Matthew A. Tocci
 A1C Robert J. Young

ENLISTMENTS

SSgt. Aurelio Tomas
 SSgt. Richard Wurszt
 Sgt. Richard V. Anderson
 Sgt. Donald H. Dower Jr.
 Sgt. Mark J. Matheson
 Sgt. Floyd D. Meals
 AB Richard L. Ramirez
 AB Kimberly A. Lafleur

REENLISTMENTS

SMSgt. Edward H. Morris
 MSgt. John A. Basil
 MSgt. Thomas Brown
 MSgt. Joseph E. Gaudet
 MSgt. Thomas Marshall
 MSgt. Martha C. Shea
 MSgt. Clyde D. Small Jr.
 TSgt. Kathy G. Gasaway
 TSgt. Robert M.J. Mercure
 TSgt. Robert E. Smith
 TSgt. Thomas L. Williams
 TSgt. Douglas A. Young
 SSgt. William W. Austin Jr.
 SSgt. Karen K. Craig
 SSgt. Anthony Denice
 SSgt. Mary P. Ferriter
 SSgt. Martha J. Krumm
 SSgt. Donald L. Loveland Jr.
 SSgt. Van A. Pelter Jr.
 SSgt. Jose L. Santana
 SSgt. Michael F. West
 Sgt. Edward A. Breton
 Sgt. Roderick T. Brooks
 Sgt. James A. Gage
 Sgt. Daniel J. Hennessey
 SrA. Peter Rosica

Patriot best in AFRES for fourth year

For the fourth consecutive year, the *Patriot* has won top honors in the Air Force Reserve's annual media contest.

The publication, edited by MSgt. Lawrence Lentz, was selected as the first-place winner in the funded offset newspaper category, as well as "best in the command."

"We strive to publish a quality paper, so we are very pleased with our

selection," said Assistant Editor TSgt. Gordon Newell. The *Patriot* will now represent AFRES in the Air Force Media Contest, said Assistant Editor SSgt. Sandi Michon.

Maj. Rick Dyer, wing public affairs officer, won three individual writing awards in the competition. He finished first in the feature writing and editorial writing divisions, and was named AFRES journalist of the year.

Reserve pilots figure to be better

How does the average Reserve pilot measure up to his active duty counterpart? The following statistics are one means of comparison.

The average active duty pilot is 32.5 years old with 1,961 total flying hours, of which 1,153 are in his primary assigned aircraft. The average Reserve pilot is 37.9 years old with 3,351 total flying hours, of which 2,085 are in his assigned aircraft. The pilot has 177 combat hours and flew 12.5 hours a month in 1985.

The statistics for C-130s are as equally striking.

The average Air Force C-130 pilot is 31.5 years old with 1,941 flying hours, of which 1,501 are in the primary assigned aircraft. The pilot has 84 combat hours and flew 23.6 hours a month.

The average Reserve C-130 pilot is 38.1 years old with 3,187 flying hours of which 1,739 are in the Hercules. The pilot has 218 combat hours and flew 13.8 hours a month last year.

Commander's Call

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Lt. Col. Ralph H. Oates

COMMENDATION MEDAL

Maj. Walter J. Cienaski, Jr.

Maj. Thomas J. Grenham

Maj. John E. Riley, Jr.

Capt. Robert A. Guillet

MSgt. Andrew P. Hoffman

SSgt. Jean Pierre Wood

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

TSgt. Doris B. Ford

TSgt. Virginia J. Zilinsky

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF THE AIR FORCE DEGREE

SSgt. David C. Pierrepont, Jr.

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL

MSgt. Joseph E. Kusiak

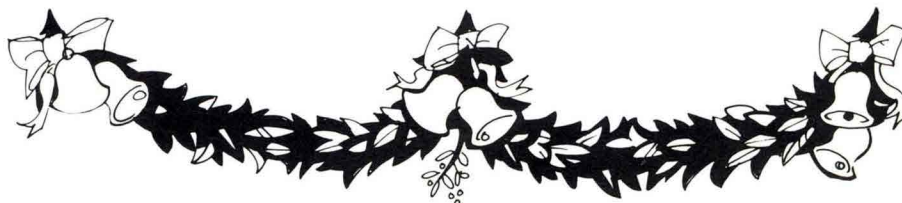
Boss works for Reservist on UTA

"On Reserve weekends, my boss winds up working for me. That's why I nominated him for a Department of Defense Certificate of Appreciation," said TSgt. Steven R. Hoadley, a special handling crew member with the 58th Aerial Port Flight.

"My boss, Elliot Markham, has been very supportive of my Reserve participation even though the store is very busy on weekends. He'll fill in for me, sometimes on very short notice. Then, during the week, I'll make it up to him."

Sergeant Hoadley has been working part-time at the Scantic Valley Spirit Shop in Hampden for 10 years.

The award is part of the National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program. Reservists at Westover are encouraged to nominate deserving employers by contacting the Public Affairs Office in Bldg. 1850 or calling 2072 for information.



A Holiday Message

The season of Hanukkah and Christmas is a time of warm images. Children opening gifts. The lighting of candles. Carolers singing. People gathering for worship. It is a time filled with wonder as we remember that God cares for his people, and acts in their behalf. We tell the stories that nurture our faith and which call us toward our truest selves and a world more whole.

We light the candles of the menorah. We sing in the gentle light of Christmas Eve candlelight services. Gifts of light in the darkness! And they stir hope in us. In a world deeply wounded by suffering, by hunger, by fear, by poverty, by war and threat of war, we gather around light in the darkness, and find in that gathering, and in the stories of faith of that gathering, a renewal of hope for a world more at peace, more just, more free.

It is a season which speaks deeply to the human spirit, a time that calls forth our generosity, our compassion, our kindness, indeed, all that is best in us. And it is in such nurturing and enlivening of the human spirit that we find the commitment to make the world more the world we long for it to be, and more the world that God intends.

On behalf of the Chaplain Section, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah. May God grace your "season of light" with hope and joy!

1 Lt. RICHARD L. MIESEL,
Unit Chaplain

Guenther's gripe: No time for sergeant

By Maj. Rick Dyer

MSgt. Edward R. Guenther has a bone to pick with the 24-hour day.

"I've been asking for a 28-hour day for the past 35 years," says the 52-year-old 439th TAW first sergeant. "There's never enough time."

Why is Ed Guenther complaining? Why does he want more numbers on his watch dial and more sand in his hourglass?

The answer, he says, lies with his daily schedule — a document resembling the arrival and departure board at Kennedy International Airport.

For openers, Sergeant Guenther is a full-time middle school teacher in Madison, Conn. and part-time Air Force Reservist at Westover. But his classroom duties and "top-kick" responsibilities are only the tip of the iceberg.

Ed Guenther is vice-chairman of the Madison police commission, an elected position that he's held for the past 11 years.

He is also a justice of the peace, another local elected office which he has filled for 12 years.

The veteran NCO oversees his school's computer club. He recently stepped down after serving several years as commander of his local American Legion post, and as chairman of that organization's ambulance association.

Sergeant Guenther led the Naval Cadet youth program in Madison for a decade, and served as an alternate on the town's planning and zoning commission.

And somewhere along the way, between all the campaigns and civic meetings, Ed Guenther found the time to earn 59 credits towards a graduate degree, win 20 National Science Foundation educational grants, hold several part-time jobs to help support his family, and become an avid roller skater.

"He's a dynamo, there's no question about that," said Capt. Glenn Martin, commander of the 439th TAW headquarters squadron. "Ed always gets the job done, and he does it very well."

The people in Madison agree. "I've known him for 20 years and he's always been a respected and responsible member of the community," said First Selectman Donald LaChance. "His



MSgt. Edward R. Guenther

(USAF photo by Frank Faulkner)

long tenure as a teacher here has always been marked by professional competency and admiration from students and parents alike."

Sergeant Guenther's whirlwind life leaves little room for wasted motions.

"I find that I do everything I can at double time," he noted. "I try to make the minutes count."

Making "the minutes count" has meant helping the Madison police to establish its computer system. Or remaining after school to teach a blind student typing. Or marrying, in his role as justice of the peace, 15 of his former students.

All this also means spending extra time at Westover, where Sergeant Guenther serves on a plethora of committees. On unit training assembly weekends, he is generally the first Reservist to arrive, and the last one to leave.

"Ed is a true citizen-airman," Captain Martin said. "Few people are as tireless, or as dedicated, as he is."

An 11-year veteran of the Reserve, Sergeant Guenther credits the support and understanding of his wife and two daughters in helping him to meet the frenetic pace. He also says that being a Reservist has helped.

"The military discipline has helped me to budget my time, and the Reserve paycheck has enabled me to give up my other part-time jobs," he explained. "That gave me more time for civic work."

Although he admits that the load is a heavy one, and that he'd like to slow down "a bit," Ed Guenther will probably never be a candidate for the hammock or easy chair.

"I honestly can't wait to get up every morning," he said. "I don't want to just live life, I want to attack it."



CAP CADETS — MSgt. Bob Seaton reviews map coordinates with cadets Brian Boutot of Chicopee, Danielle Raymond of Holyoke and CAP Squadron Commander, 1st Lt. Everett Hume.

(USAS photo by Frank Faulkner)

Civil Air Patrol trains at Westover

By SSgt. Tom Allocco

For 25 area teenage boys and girls Westover represents one of the great adventures of their lives.

They are youths from 13 to 18 who once a week put on modified Air Force style uniforms and come to Westover to train as members of the Civil Air Patrol.

The Westover Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol is part of a nationwide organization which is the only official auxilliary of the Department of Defense. Since World War II, the Civil Air Patrol has earned its place in the Air Force family through assistance in numerous search and rescue operations for military and private aircraft.

The local Civil Air Patrol squadron has provided opportunities for growth for teens from Chicopee, Springfield, Holyoke and other Westover neighbors for about two decades.

About 15 Westover Squadron members pitched tents and a lean-to in Westover's "dogpatch" area for an overnight bivouac on Nov. 1 and 2.

They wore Air Force style fatigue uniforms as they rehearsed ground search procedures, map and compass reading, safety and other skills.

"The Civil Air Patrol has three goals — to develop cadet leadership, offer an

introduction to aerospace education and train to be ready if needed for a search operation," said CAP 1st Lt. Everett Hume, Westover Squadron commander.

"It's a social organization in which young people can be together and have fun, but they're also learning something. I think teaching leadership qualities is one of the most important things the adult leaders offer CAP cadets," he said.

"I was a member of the Westover Squadron as a teenager in the 1970s and the self-discipline and other values I learned have been to my benefit since then," he said.

The teenage boys and girls train under the supervision of adults who wear either Air Force style rank or the rating of "senior members." Among the Westover Squadron senior members is Army Reserve SSgt. Daniel O'Brien, who formerly served for eight years as a 439th TAW member. His two daughters, Kelly and Laura, are Civil Air Patrol members.

The squadron meets in Hangar 3 each week for training sessions. Training has included bivouacs to the Army's Fort Devens, Mass., and the Civil Air Patrol's Minuteman Airfield in Stow, Mass.

Fatal car crash claims Reservist



MSgt. Wayne Carter

A fatal car crash on October 24 claimed the life of MSgt. Wayne Carter, a member of the 439th Mobility Support Flight. The 45-year-old resident of Florence was traveling on Route 2 in Erving when his station wagon hit a tractor-trailer hauling a modular home.

The accident occurred on a section of highway called "extremely dangerous" by Erving Police Chief David Gendron. "I've been here ten years and I have seen every type of accident on that road," he said.

Sergeant Carter was a 12-year employee of the Hatfield Company and had been a member of the Reserve unit since 1968.

Sergeant Carter was active in the American Legion and was to be installed as Master of the Masons' Hampshire Lodge. He is survived by his wife, Marianne, and children, Scott and Stacie.

Saturday night league seeking more bowlers

Officers of the Saturday night bowling league have changed the format of their monthly competition to bring more bowlers to Westover's lanes. Instead of team competition, an individual handicap tournament will be played. Bowlers will count the best three out of four strings with the top four finishers receiving cash prizes. The cost of the bowling is \$6 which begins at 6 p.m.

Hernandez couple keeps Turkey Trot in the family

By Maj. Rick Dyer

Westover's Turkey Trot Road Race turned into a family affair Nov. 2 when perennial champion Celio Hernandez was joined in the winner's circle by his wife, Mary.

Celio, a technical sergeant with the 439th CAMS, ran away from a field of 42 competitors to take the five-mile men's event in 28:10. The Nov. 2 race marked the sixth consecutive year that the stringy NCO has captured the annual Turkey Trot.

Adding to the tradition was Mary Hernandez, who won the three-mile women's division in her first appearance at Westover with a clocking of 21:50.

The couple, who became proud parents just three months ago, frequently train together.

Sixteen-year-old Jeff Nalesnik won the 1.5-mile children's race with a time of 9:05.

The annual race is sponsored by the staff of the base Morale, Welfare and Recreation division. Winners in each category received Thanksgiving turkeys.

Men

(17 to 23 years old)

1 — George McDowell. 35:00.

(24 to 31 years old)

1 — Mark Spencer. 41:27.

(32 to 39 years old)

1 — Celio Hernandez, 2 — Jack Devine, 3 — Daniel Carr. 28:10.

(40 to 47 years old)

Volant Oak

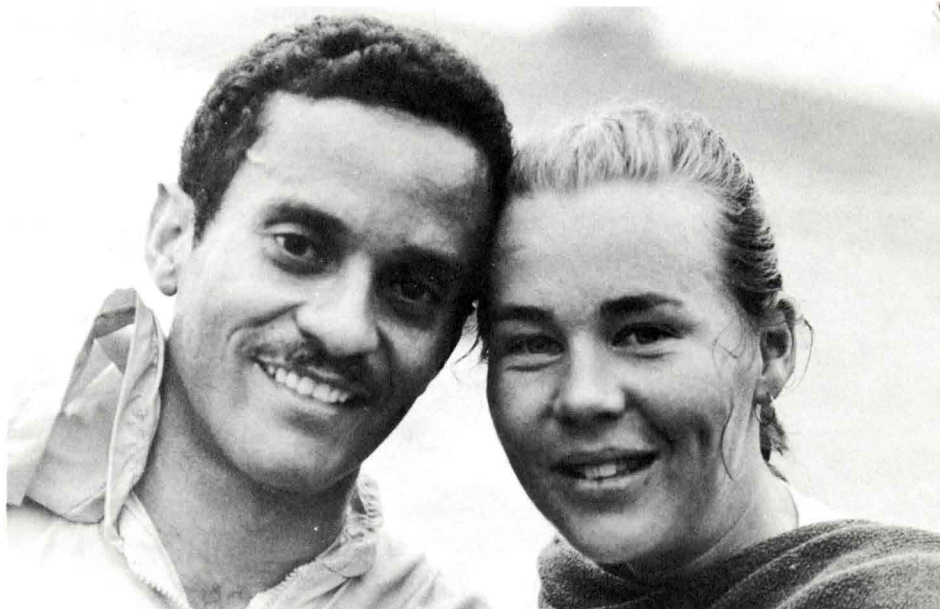
Continued from front page

Last year, the 337th TAS evacuated an Army sergeant who suffered a heart attack in Honduras. The squadron has also been called on to airlift medicine and other supplies during natural disasters in Latin America.

Their efforts have earned members several Humanitarian Service Awards during the decade the squadron has been flying the Volant Oak missions.

At least one C-130 is always kept on alert status at Howard AFB to provide disaster relief or respond to other emergencies during Volant Oak deployments.

"Volant Oak is an ideal opportunity for worldwide flying experience, supporting live MAC missions and not made-up training scenarios," Colonel Budinoff said.



Celio and Mary Hernandez

(USAF photo by Frank Faulkner)

1 — Dan Buzzell, 2 — Mike Flyer, 3 — Art Velasquez.

(48 to 54 years old)

1 — Francis Sweryda. 39:31.

(55 and over)

1 — Joseph DiMartino. 43:37.

Children

(8 to 12 years old)

1 — Jimmy Shapiro, 2 — Dean Nalesnik, 3 — Tony Faye. Winning time 12:24.

(13 to 16 years old)

1 — Jeff Nalesnik, 2 — Mike Rinaldi, 3 — Teresa Winters. 9:05.

Women

(17 to 23 years old)

1 — Catherine Pecor. 24:34.

(24 to 31 years old)

1 — Mary Hernandez, 2 — Beth Brooks. 21:50.

(32 to 39 years old)

1 — Joanne Kochanowicz, 2 — Karen Barber. 31:35.

(40 to 47 years old)

1 — Patricia Lougher, 2 — Carmen Kusiak. 38:15.

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