

PATRIOT

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

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C-5's increased to 14

By Capt. Philip Weber

The Air Force announced Feb. 5 that the number of C-5A Galaxy aircraft proposed to be based at Westover AFB has been raised from 8 to 14.

The six additional aircraft will add 139 civil service and 624 Air Force Reserve positions to the Westover unit. When added to the original proposal announced last year to place the world's largest aircraft at Westover, the unit will be hiring a total of 532 civil service and 1102 Air Force Reservists starting in 1987.

The announcement also stated that 3.7 million dollars has been added to the 35.7 million dollars announced last year for construction to accommodate the giant airlift aircraft at Westover.

In making the announcement, Brig.

Gen. Jack P. Ferguson, commander of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing, said, "the first of the C-5's could arrive at Westover sometime next spring, but the determining factor on the arrival of the aircraft is just how fast the active duty units receive the new C-5B aircraft into their inventory."

The General noted, "The new jobs at Westover will benefit the young people living in the area who want to gain technical skills that will enable them to enter high paying jobs in the aerospace industry."

City of Chicopee Mayor Richard S. Lak told those gathered for the announcement that the additional planes will give a boost to the city's economy. "In order for the city to flourish and prosper, we need this

type of commitment," he said.

The announcement followed by almost exactly a year the original announcement that 8 C-5A's were proposed to be based at Westover. Meanwhile, the environmental impact study process is continuing with the proposed Environmental Impact Statement to be published sometime in March.

A public hearing on the study's findings will be held sometime in April to address any additional public concerns that should be addressed in the final Environmental Impact Statement.

The announcement also said the 911th TAG at Greater Pittsburgh IAP would be converting to eight C-130H aircraft from eight C-130A aircraft in early 1987.



Plows and snowblowers clear the airfield after the season's first major snowstorm during the January UTA.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Kathleen Lincoln)

EDITORIAL

The Business of Patriots

By Capt. Rick Dyer

The words appear everywhere.

They're displayed on signs in missile silos, on coffee cups in B-52 "alert pads," and on the insignia patch worn by every member of the Strategic Air Command.

SAC's motto — "Peace is our profession" — was intended to remind the crews who fly the bombers and man the missiles what their mission is really about. It is an admonishment, a warning and a prayer all wrapped into four short, but poignant, words.

Although the Air Force coined the slogan, its meaning and intent really applies to every man and woman who serves in the United States Armed Forces, active duty or Reserve. The color of the uniforms and the duty stations vary, but the assignment is the same: to preserve freedom and peace by ensuring the defense of our nation.

It is a job that American citizens have done for more than 200 years. It is the business of patriots.

From Lexington Green to Grenada, Americans have fought and died to maintain precious democratic ideals and to thwart oppression and tyranny. Their suffering and sacrifices have protected the freedom of choice and system of laws that guarantee the "domestic tranquility" which the framers of our Constitution so desperately sought.

It is not by accident that the United States has not been invaded by a foreign power since the War of 1812. It is not ironic that our fighting men and women cite peace as their true goal, especially when one considers the conditions that presently exist in places like Lebanon and El Salvador.

Throughout the history of our nation, Americans have answered the call to arms out of loyalty, and not pugnacity. They have done what was required of them and made tremendous sacrifices in order that their country might know the real peace which accompanies freedom from fear. They have — in the truest sense — done the business of patriots.

Westover Awards in 1985

(Editor's note: Recognition is its own reward. Each year, members of the 439th are honored by their peers and by higher headquarters for jobs done "above and beyond" the high standards expected of them. The following, prepared by wing Historian MSgt. Marshall Hathaway, are some of the awards received by the wing's personnel and units for their exemplary performance in 1984, the most recent year for which records are complete.)

U.S. Air Force Presentations:

Outstanding Reserve Force Security Police Unit:

Best Funded Offset Official Newspaper:

Air Reserve Forces Outstanding DoD

Civilian Employee

Air Reserve Forces Outstanding Security

Police Airman

U.S. Army:

Outstanding Support of Summer Olympics

Military Airlift Command:

120,000 Hour Accident-Free Flying Award

Air Training Command:

Commander's Trophy

Community College of the Air Force:

Most CCAF Graduates from all Reserve Force Units

Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation:

First Place in Air Reserve Forces Category

Air Force Reserve:

Certificate for Achieving Zero Percent OER Late Rates

Best Vehicle Maintenance Unit

Outstanding Fire Prevention Program

AFRES-Level Curtis E. LeMay Award

Comptroller Civilian Award (Budget)

Outstanding Cost and Management Analyst

Outstanding Life Support NCO

Outstanding Civilian Supply Person

Outstanding Unit Career Advisor

Recreation Director of the Year

MWR Technician of the Year

14th Air Force (Reserve):

Nominee for AFA Outstanding Reserve

Flying Wing

439th Tactical Airlift Wing:

Work Center of the Year

439th WSSF

The Patriot

MSgt. Gerard Farrell

TSgt. Bradley Himelick

Supply

439th TAW/337th TAS

2nd Lt. Steven Merrick

439th TAW Education Office

Capt. Jack Sanocki

439th TAW

Vehicle Maintenance

Fire Department

Recreation Services

Ray Gilbert

Mary Tuohey

MSgt. Paul Larochelle

Judy Louer

TSgt. L.C. Mays

Michael McNicholas

Toyoko Tanakajima

439th TAW

Budget Office

PATRIOT

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337th TAS Aircrews tested by January ASET

By MSgt. Larry Lentz

Members of the 337th TAS faced two adversaries during an Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Team visit, Jan. 2 to Jan. 7.

Their foes were uncooperative weather conditions and the close scrutiny of an 11 person delegation from 21st Air Force and Pope AFB.

Their first obstacle, weather, required a revision of schedules. Heavy icing conditions and a low ceiling cancelled flying activities on Friday. Then, seven inches of snow, from an early Sunday morning storm, stopped people and planes in their tracks. Considerable effort by ground support crews cleared the airfield quickly enough to complete the necessary flying activities on Sunday afternoon and Monday.

Their other 'foe', however, was more unyielding. "During these staff assistance visits, we very carefully inspect the unit's aircrew procedures," explained Lt. Col. Harry Meloeny, team chief. "It is imperative that the 337th as well as every other Air Force unit, operates in a similar fashion and in strict accordance with regulations. We tested the crews' ability from flying to the use of the equipment.

During the inspection's flight evaluation phase, the visitors monitored the Reservists every action — from the first moments of their inbriefing, through their flights, and ending at the debriefing. Any deviation from the norm was noted and included in the final report.

On Sunday morning, 120 aircrew members faced another challenge. They took a 20 question exam which further tested their knowledge.

The inspectors also reviewed the squadron's records and files. "Every piece of paper, from flight record logs to flight crew information files, were checked for accuracy and compliance to regulations," Colonel Meloeny said. "As this inspection covered a two year period, we waded through ten file drawers worth of documents — page by page."

After it was over with, Maj. Robert Martens, 337th TAS aircraft operations officer, said, "these evaluations are designed to bring out the weak



CMSgt. Carl Sellers, 21st AF loadmaster evaluator, inspects cargo tieddown on aircraft 1810.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandi Michon)

points within our unit as well as the strong. It revealed some procedures were not being adhered too. We're

going to have to assure that they are accomplished in the future for the benefit of the entire organization."

74th AES conducts casualty exercise

Members of the 74th AES evacuated their Building 1408 and treated simulated chemical attack victims as part of an annually scheduled mass casualty exercise in January.

The 185 squadron members faced the scenario of a terrorist chemical bombing of their building.

They donned chemical defense equipment as green smoke simulated a chemical explosion. Rescue teams were formed and five initial "casual-

ties" were treated as the building was evacuated.

Adding to the realism, the scenario called for further casualties, including two disoriented victims who attempted to interfere with the evacuation.

Squadron members successfully responded to the demands of the exercise through the orderly evacuation, rescue and treatment of mock casualties, said Maj. Mary Griffin-Bales, 74th AES nurse.

Chiefs Council serves base reservists with ideas

"We can throw a little weight behind the situation and get things done," explains CMSgt. Jack Murdock, president of the Chiefs' Council, an organization of the 439th's 15 top ranking enlisted personnel.

The council serves as a conduit of ideas and recommendations from the wing's enlisted members to the commander. It also, at the commander's

request, has been completing specific projects.

"For example, the council provided guidance to the dining-out committee and one of its suggestions resulted in improved lighting in billeting's parking lots," said Chief Murdock, who also is the wing's senior enlisted advisor.

The council is becoming more in-

volved in various fund raising programs. Plans call for a bake sale and a fund drive to benefit Springfield's Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children. Through the other fund raising efforts, such as their recent sale of Christmas tree ornaments, the chief's hope to be in a position to assist financially Westover Reservists during an emergency.

The Council's other executive board members are Vice President Robert Johns, CBPO personnel superintendent; Secretary Alcide Patenaude, CAMS organizational maintenance superintendent; and Treasurer Michael Sicuranza, base first sergeant.

The other chiefs are Robert Adams, 42nd MAPS; Albert Aniello, 439th CES; Francis Babin, 439th CES; Lucien Charette, 59th APS; Joseph Dimartino, 439th CAMS; Paul Dube, 439th CAMS; Charles Fusco, 439th CAMS; George Kudla, 439th Tac Hospital; Eugene Longfield, 439th CSG; Larry Lose, 439th CES; and Frank Pecka, 58th MAPS.



Members of the Chiefs Council, at a recent meeting, are SMSgts. Larry Lose, Robert Adams, Charles Fusco, Michael Sicuranza, George Kudla, Jack Murdock, Joseph Dimartino, Eugene Longfield, Albert Aniello, Frank Pecka, Alcide Patenaude, and Robert Johns.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Kathleen Lincoln)

Where does the money go?

by John L. Petrizza, Exchange Manager

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) is a federal agency with customers as shareholders. Unlike the Commissary Services, AAFES runs on the money it makes — not tax dollars.

The military customer that provides these operating funds benefits as well. Last year, customers spent \$4.9 billion in AAFES stores, food outlets, concessions, and theaters. After paying for basics like merchandise and salaries, the organization had \$236 million in earnings to split evenly between the Army and Air Force and its own business needs. The services spent their \$118 million on morale, welfare and recreation activities.

The \$118 million AAFES retained also improved the military member's quality of life. Each year retained earnings fund about 20 major building projects and hundreds of renovations and equipment purchases.

Inside, customers find merchandise prices averaging 21.4% lower than those downtown. Each year, AAFES hires the A.C. Nielson Company to survey commercial store prices to make sure its 20% savings goal is being met. Unlike its commercial counterparts, AAFES intentionally runs some activities at a loss. These include about 70 retail outlets, 80 food facilities and 100 theaters in areas where earning potential is limited. And the AAFES Feeding Program for Overseas Department of Defense Dependent Schools serves 20,000 meals per day at 106 schools in eight countries, all on a breakeven basis.

AAFES is not a tax supported agency or a commercial enterprise. Its "customer shareholders" support it and it ultimately benefits them.

Sportsman Club Seeks members

The newly-organized Westover Sportsmans Club held a membership drive during the January and February UTAs.

Successor to the old Rod & Gun Club, the Sportsmans Club's purpose is to foster interest in the shooting sports, hunting, fishing, wildlife and conservation and all outdoor activities. The club, which operates under the guidance of base recreation services, meets at the base gymnasium at 5:00 p.m. on UTA Saturdays.

The growing 70-member organization expects to stage a number of outdoor sporting events as the weather improves this spring. Archery classes, turkey shoots and fishing derbies are among the activities being planned.

The operating committee of MSgt. Joseph Kusiak, chairman; MSgt. Richard Gingras, vice chairman; SSgt. Marilyn Luchi, secretary; and SSgt. Ronald Orzechowski, treasurer.

Shanley protects Prince and Lady Di during U.S. visit

By Capt. Rick Dyer

When Prince Charles of Great Britain decided to go swimming in the Hawaiian surf last November, Westover's Bill Shanley hit the beach, too.

Shanley, a first lieutenant who serves with the 439th Weapons System Security Flight, wasn't there to take a social swim with the heir to the British throne.

He was there to protect the prince's life.

In civilian life, the 31-year-old Reservist is a special agent with the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Bureau. One of his recent assignments was to protect Prince Charles and his wife, Lady Diana, during their whirlwind visit to the United States.

"It definitely was one of my most memorable details to date," said the lieutenant, who joined the State Department last June. "We met the royal couple in Hawaii and went everywhere with them."

Lieutenant Shanley, who is based in Washington, D.C. and commutes to Westover each month from his home in Reston, Va., said that the assignment involved "long hours and lots of hard work."

"We were constantly on the go," he recalled. The prince and princess had a very hectic schedule while they were in this country."

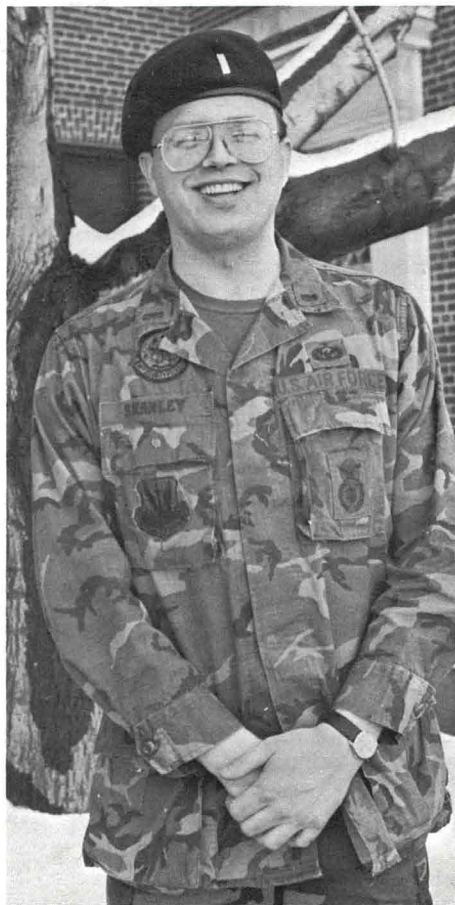
One of his assignments was to protect the couple while they attended a \$50,000-a-plate charity dinner which was hosted in their honor at a posh, Palm Beach, Fla. hotel by industrialist Armand Hammer.

There he saw a number of celebrities, including Bob Hope, Joan Collins, Gregory Peck, Merv Griffin and Ann Landers. He did not, however, hobnob with the rich and famous.

"Just as the Secret Service protects the President and other governmental officials, our job is to protect the diplomats and heads of state who visit this country," he said. "It is very serious business."

The lieutenant said that his personal contacts with the royal couple were brief. Still, their visit left the Westover Reservist with some lasting impressions.

"Lady Diana is very beautiful, and both she and Prince Charles are ex-



1st Lt. Bill Shanley

tremely friendly, nice, easy-going people," he recounted. "They both really seemed to enjoy the United States, and they both were very thoughtful."

Lieutenant Shanley related that during a motorcade near a shopping center in Springfield, Va., Lady Diana asked the security agents to stop her limousine.

"She had seen a little girl in a crowd holding a bouquet of flowers, and she wanted to make the child happy by stopping to accept them," he said.

The lieutenant, who holds a bachelor's degree in police science and has 15 years of military experience, had a busy year in 1985.

Prior to the visit by Charles and Diana, he spent a hectic week in New York City guarding visiting dignitaries at the United Nations' 40th anniversary celebration.

At the U.N., he was assigned to the security detail which protected the Syrian foreign minister at all of the diplomatic and social functions.

"We went with him to see 'Cats' on Broadway, but I didn't see much of the play," Lieutenant Shanley recalled. "I was too busy watching the audience."

The Reservist, who was a Department of Defense investigator before joining the State Department, is trained in firearms, first aid, cardio pulmonary resuscitation and the martial arts.

But because his unit protects leaders from all over the globe, there are also special added dimensions to the job.

"Obviously, you have to be very discreet," Lieutenant Shanley said. "These people are important guests of the United States and their visits generally involve important and sensitive diplomatic matters. You strive to protect their lives, and their privacy."

Before a foreign dignitary visits, the special agents are briefed by protocol experts, and by analysts from a special State Department "threat analysis unit."

"We are obviously concerned about terrorism, as well as any specific threats against the visiting leader," Lieutenant Shanley said.

His unit also protects the secretary of state, provides security for U.S. embassies throughout the world, and investigates passport fraud.

"It's stimulating work," he said. I find myself constantly reading about various cultures and world political situations, because it all relates to my job."

Although nothing can prepare a person for a job that involves going to the beach with a future King of England, Lieutenant Shanley believes that his Air Force Security police training helped him to get his current position.

He also believes there is a strong relationship between his duties at Westover and at the State Department.

"They are definitely related," he stated. "In the Reserve, I'm concerned with protecting Air Force installations and people, while in my civilian job I protect embassies and world leaders. The emphasis may be somewhat different, but the skills are definitely the same."

Reenlistments — Enlistments

REENLISTMENTS

SMSgt. John Burnat
SMSgt. Acquillino Lucia
MSgt. Clayton Baummer
MSgt. Peter Johnson
MSgt. Henry Lapa
MSgt. Leslie Mesecher
TSgt. Ronald Bevilacqua
TSgt. Lewis Carter
TSgt. Mona Donofrio
TSgt. Michael Doyle
TSgt. Paul Frappier
TSgt. Kent Hautenan
TSgt. Leslie Howe III
TSgt. Edward Kolodjay
TSgt. Paul Lalonde
TSgt. Donald Lahye
TSgt. Michael Lee
TSgt. John Mailo
TSgt. George Nalesnik
TSgt. Robert Odell
TSgt. Gary Pike
TSgt. Dawn Schile
TSgt. John Shlatz
TSgt. John Surette Jr.
TSgt. John Tavares
TSgt. David Valego
TSgt. Virginia Zilinsky
SSgt. Vincent Algozino
SSgt. Karen Antelyes
SSgt. John Atzrott
SSgt. Barbara Barnes
SSgt. Luis Cabrera Jr.
SSgt. Mark Cannata
SSgt. Richard Chartienitz

SSgt. Denise Diffley
SSgt. Eugene Fish
SSgt. Renan Flores
SSgt. Frederick Fraini
SSgt. Roxane Friedhofer
SSgt. Eben Goode
SSgt. Theodore Grace
SSgt. John Hart
SSgt. April Jones
SSgt. David King
SSgt. James Lagasse
SSgt. Eric Lalonde
SSgt. David Letasz
SSgt. Thomas Lumb
SSgt. Dennis McLaughlin
SSgt. Steven Meltzer
SSgt. Lawrence Milliken
SSgt. Terrance Moore
SSgt. Donald Morse
SSgt. Michael O'Hearne
SSgt. William Oliver
SSgt. Patricia Pittsinger
SSgt. Zachary Slater
SSgt. Thomas Stark III
SSgt. Leo Stcy Jr.
SSgt. John Tinnemeyer
SSgt. Mark Tutuny
SSgt. William Wolf
Sgt. Kenneth Hamel
Sgt. Francis Newfield
Sgt. John Riley
Sgt. Shirley Warbeck
SrA. Bryan Currier
SrA. Timothy Stanton

ENLISTMENTS

TSgt. Maureen Haddock
TSgt. Gerald Racicot
SSgt. Alan Cohen
SSgt. Robert Daddario
SSgt. Donald Harrington
SSgt. John Kilbourn
SSgt. Charles Lick
SSgt. Joseph Mastergeorge
SSgt. Patrick McMahon
SSgt. Mark Spencer
Sgt. John Dean
Sgt. Stanley Jasinski Jr.
Sgt. Donald Macgee
Sgt. Michael Malia
Sgt. Russell Shaw Jr.
A1C. Beth Cohen
A1C. Wendy Cohrs
A1C. Tonya Maille
A1C. Stephen Nezuch
AB. Peter Adams
AB. Joshua Hugo
AB. Frank Kent Jr.
AB. Sean Riddell
AB. Drew Smith

WSSF pocket change changes young lives

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

A nickle, dime or quarter doesn't mean much, but since members of the 439th WSSF started tossing them in a jar a few years ago they have made a big difference for some anonymous children.

A Christmas time tradition at the squadron in recent years has been to wrap change collected during the year, take it to the bank and send a check to the Christian Children's Relief Fund. They did it again in December and sent a \$150 check to the world-wide agency's headquarters in Virginia.

Squadron members don't feel it's a big sacrifice when they toss a few coins in a jar or can during a UTA weekend but at the end of the year they have the satisfaction of knowing it will do some good, said MSgt. Gerald Farrell of the unit. They don't know where the money will go but they've been told that somewhere in the world children will receive food and education assistance with the 439th WSSF pocket change, Sergeant Farrell said.

A donation from the squadron was also sent to an ethiopian relief fund drive in Springfield in November.

Name: GARY DUARTE

Rank: A1C

Age: 24

Address: New Haven, CT

Unit: 42nd MAPS

Position: Air Cargo Specialist

Civilian Occupation: Materials Handler

Favorite Food: Seafood

Favorite Beverage: Coca Cola

Favorite Sport: Basketball

Favorite Hobby: Shooting Billiards

Ideal Vacation: Hawaii

Best Way To Relax: playing with son

Preferred Entertainment: listening to music

Favorite Celebrity: Eddie Murphy

Favorite Music: Rhythm and Blues

Favorite Book: Think and Grow Rich

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Car: Jaguar

Pet Peeve: negative thinking people

Best Thing About Westover: being able to get away for the weekend

"Patriot People"



Tax Time Tips for Westover Reservists

If you're a member of the Reserve or National Guard, some of your service-related expenses may be tax deductible.

Travel expenses are deductible for required attendance at drills and annual training periods *outside* your general commuting area. This includes reasonable transportation, meals and lodging expenses that exceed reimbursement provided by the government.

If the meetings are held in the general area of your tax home, the cost of transportation from your home to the meetings is a non-deductible commuting expense.

The one exception to this is when you work your regular job and report for a Reserve drill during the same day. The expense of traveling from one place to another is deductible — but only if you go directly from one location to the other. Reservists drilling within their general commuting area cannot deduct meal and lodging costs.

You may deduct the unreimbursed cost of your uniform if military regu-

lations restrict you from wearing it except while on duty. In figuring the deduction, you must reduce the cost by any non-taxable uniform allowance you receive.

These expenses are listed on IRS Form 2106 as adjustments to income. They are deductible whether or not you itemize deductions.

If you do itemize, you may qualify for several other deductions, such as laundry, dry cleaning maintenance, repair and alteration of uniforms. Only expenses for items strictly of a military nature can be included.

Other deductible miscellaneous expenses include dues to professional military organizations and charitable contributions for donations to the USO or organizations solely for recreation, amusement or welfare of service members and their dependents.

One deduction overlooked by some reservists is the child care credit. This applies if you have to pay someone to care for your dependent so you can drill or go to annual training. If married, your spouse must be working,

or a full-time student, during your drill or annual training period. To qualify, your dependent(s) must be younger than 15 or disabled. A disabled spouse also qualifies.

Reserve or Guard pay, when combined with income from a regular job, sometimes puts you in a higher tax bracket than your withholding covers. You can avoid owing additional taxes next year by submitting an IRS W-4 form to your unit pay clerk, requesting additional withholding from drill and annual training pay.

Westover once over

25 Years Ago

(From the Jan. 31, 1961 Boston Globe) More than 250 Reservists from the 94th Troop Carrier Wing (a predecessor of the 439th TAW) at Hanscom Field are ordered to active duty for 21 days to ferry 45 C-119 "Flying Boxcar" aircraft from France to the United States. Among those participating is Sgt. Charles Fusco.

10 Years Ago

(From January and February 1976 Patriots) The 439th TAW gains responsibility for the 914th TAG at Niagara, N.Y. The transfer of the unit from the control of the 403rd TAW at Selfridge AFB, Mich., comes less than 20 months after the 439th's own formation.

Westover begins its year-long series of events honoring the nation's Bicentennial. Ceremonies include a flag raising and a luncheon.

5 Years Ago

(From the January and February 1981 Patriots) Approximately 60 wing officers enroll in a new Air Command and Staff College program at Westover. It marks the first time that the professional military education course is offered via seminar at a Reserve unit.

TSgt. Roger Perrault, a Reserve recruiter, enlists his daughter, Theresa, into the unit.

Winter dress is common sense

On a cold winter day, people are concerned with staying warm and protecting themselves from the elements. The Air Force has the same concern for its members.

The following guidelines from Air Force Regulation 35-10 address the proper wear of cold-weather items.

— The pullover sweater may be worn under the overcoat, raincoat, all-weather coat or parka, but not under the lightweight blue jacket.

— A scarf — gray for men; gray or white for women — may be worn with outer garments except the lightweight blue jacket and pullover sweater. When wearing the field jacket, women may wear only the gray scarf. When scarves are worn, they must be tucked into outer garments.

— Gloves — black or gray for men; black, gray or white for women —

may be worn with all outer garments, including the pullover sweater. However, women may wear only gray or black gloves with the field jacket.

— Ear protectors — dark blue, black or gray — may be worn with authorized outer garments except the lightweight blue jacket or pullover sweater when it is worn as an outer garment.

— The blue winter cap with ear and neck flaps may be worn with authorized outer garments except the lightweight blue jacket and pullover sweater.

— The stocking cap is authorized for wear with the fatigue uniform as prescribed by the installation commander.

— The cardigan sweater is no longer authorized for wear except by pregnant women. This change became effective in July 1984.

Base Supply Patch Collection displays unit pride

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

It's just a bit of cloth which makes a statement with color, a heroic slogan and spirit-lifting symbol. Put about 400 unit patches and other emblems together and you have 400 stories of esprit d'corps told with a generous amount of artistry and aplomb.

Joan Homon, warehouse worker at Base Supply, has set up such a display. When Clothing Issue was recently renovated she pinned the patch collection to boards and set up the display in the waiting area. For those who see them it is easy to understand why people collect unit patches.

There is the pageantry of symbols of courage and strength: the bearded Flying Vikings of the 66th TAS; the winged tiger of the 757th TAS Blue Tigers; the flying lion of the Golden Pride 56th Tactical Fighter Squadron; and Black Cats of the Army's 282nd Aviation Company.

Many of the patches put their unit pride in words. There is the promise that you can "Depend On Us" of the 416th ORGL Maintenance Squadron and the pledge "To Honor With Dignity" of the USAF Honor Guard.

It can be said in Latin. Patches declare goals of "Pax Per Vim" (Peace Through Strength) and "Pro Pace Mundi" (For the Peace of the World). When Westover was a SAC base members decorated their pockets with a lightening bolt and the warning to America's potential enemies "Caveant Aggressores" (Aggressors Beware).

Unit patches trace their heritage to the days of heraldry when warriors used emblems, in part, to portray fierceness and strike fear. As military emblems have evolved a hearty dose



Mrs. Joan Homon, warehouse worker at Base Supply, selects one of her favorite patches.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Kathleen Lincoln)

of humor has crept in. A "Pac Man" swallowing aircraft is the emblem of a training class. The "Maintenance Magicians" of the 401st CRS have a Merlin character working his magic on their patch.

The display represents several years of collecting patches by Mrs. Homon; MSgt. James Faye, warehouse manager; and Silvio Figoni, warehouse worker. The collection started when a couple patches were saved from an old uniform and it grew as word spread. When wing members return from trips they bring back patches.

"People get a big bang when they come in and see the patches," Ms. Homon said.

"They bring back memories of

their old squadrons and people they knew.

"Others will say they don't see their patches. Months later they'll show up and give me a patch."

The patch collection spans the world. It includes Voodoo patches of the Canadian Forces air force, Norwegian wings, nine Apollo patches and those of American units serving from Labrador to Germany.

One of Mrs. Homon's favorites is a bulldog chewing a lightening bolt patch of the 61st Tactical Fighter Squadron.

Her patches are among the 30,000 to 40,000 different patches worn by airmen over the years. Each makes its own statement of unit pride in the best tradition of military heraldry.

**Westover
Open House**

**Saturday
— June 7th**

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WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MA 01022

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300



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