

PATRIOT

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

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 1986

Lt. Col. Hargis Appointed Base Commander

By MSgt. Laurence H. Lentz

A 20-year Air Force veteran and the director of operations at 914th TAG has been named base commander of Westover. Lt. Col. Thomas G. Hargis replaced Col. James Handy, who was appointed chief of Air Reserve Programs at the Pentagon.

As base commander, Colonel Hargis also is Westover's Deputy Commander for Resources and Commander of the 439th CSG. His new position follows a four-year tenure at the Niagara Falls unit.

Colonel Handy said, "I've had the opportunity to work alongside Colonel Hargis during the transition, and frankly, I'm very impressed.

"I'm fully confident that he will provide the strong leadership required as Westover undergoes its massive mission change," he said.

"Colonel Hargis is an extremely talented individual with a strong desire to be included. As the base increases personnel by 60 percent and increases its expenditures by \$50 million, his experience and background in Air Force operations will be easily transferred and help lead the 439th into the era of C-5s and into the 1990s."

Colonel Hargis was graduated from Baker University in Kansas in 1965 with a bachelor of arts in history. He has completed a number of military schools, including the Squadron Officer School in 1972 and the Air Command and Staff College in 1982.

Colonel Hargis began his military career as an enlisted man at Lackland AFB, Texas. In 1966, he received a commission as a second lieutenant from Officer Training School. Upon

(continued on page 3)



(USAF photo by Maria Bull)

Westover tourists

Several four-year-olds toured the base fire department in August. Tom Durkin, a 439th CES Reservist and full time firefighter, tries the protective gear on one of the toddlers.

Many base tours were conducted during the summer by the public affairs staff. In every instance, visitors to Westover were profuse in the thanks for the spirited cooperation of base personnel who managed to translate military jargon into language which even four-year-olds could understand.

Anyone interested in scheduling a base tour should contact the base public affairs office well in advance of the desired date.

EDITORIAL

Be a deputy

Back in the days of Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson, Western lawmen would deputize local citizens when they needed a posse to go on a manhunt.

Westover's Reserve Recruiters are currently staging a massive search, and they're in need of "deputies," too.

As a result of the impending C-5 conversion, the 439th needs to recruit an additional 600 men and women by fiscal year 1988. There is also an immediate requirement for food service personnel and aeromedical evacuation technicians.

The recruiters are hoping to "deputize" every member of the Wing to help them fill these slots.

"Our Reservists are our best source of leads," said SMSgt. Edward Burnett of the recruiting office. "They know our program and the type of people we are seeking."

The Air Force Reserve Commander, Maj. Gen. Sloan Gill, agrees. "Every Reservist is a recruiter," he said recently.

Westover recruiters are sponsoring a "Get-One Program" to generate leads from within the unit. They'll actively pursue each referral they receive.

Their effort is an important one, and each 439th member should aid in it.

We can help by telling our friends and relatives about the Wing and its mission, and by encouraging them to join. We can also lend a hand by phoning the recruiters at 557-3923 with the names of interested candidates.

Everyone at Westover should become a deputy and join in this search.

The strength of our unit, and ultimately our mission readiness, may well depend on it.

Maj. Rick Dyer
Public Affairs Officer

Westover documentary materials needed

The Chicopee School System Telecommunications Department is videotaping a documentary about Westover and Chicopee. The video crew hopes to illustrate the relationship between Chicopee and Westover, and the affect of Westover on Chicopee. The pro-

ducers need photographs, film-footage, maps and any diagrams of the base or the surrounding neighborhoods since 1939. Anyone able to assist is asked to call John Gordon, 592-6111 ext. 487.

PATRIOT

"This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the **PATRIOT** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

"The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing, Westover Air Force Base."

439th TAW Commander

Col. Frederick D. Walker

Base Commander

Col. James Handy

Base Public Affairs Officer

Frank Faulkner

Wing Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Rick Dyer

Editor — NCOIC

MSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz

Assistant Editors

TSgt. Gordon A. Newell

SSgt. Sandra M. Michon

Staff

TSgt. John Wallace Spencer

SSgt. Tom Allocco

SSgt. Patricia Rathay

Maria Bull

Briefs

AFRES aids farmers

(AFRNS) — Air Force Reserve C-130s joined efforts to aid drought-stricken farmers in the Southeast when three Hercules transports airlifted 20 tons of hay from central Wisconsin to Marietta, Ga., July 24.

The C-130s, assigned to the Reserve's 440th Tactical Airlift Wing at General Billy Mitchell Field in Milwaukee, picked up hay donated by Wisconsin farmers at Volk Field Air National Guard Base at Camp Douglas, Wis., and delivered it to Dobbins AFB, Ga. Army National Guardsmen trucked the hay to the Georgia Farmers' Market in Atlanta for distribution.

Military retirement reform

(Editor's Note: A joint statement on military retirement legislation by Gen. Larry E. Welch, Air Force chief of staff, and Edward "Pete" Aldredge Jr., secretary of the Air Force.)

On July 1, the President signed public law 99-348, the Military Retirement Reform Act of 1986. This law does not affect anyone currently retired or on active duty. Provisions will apply only to those entering on or after August 1, 1986. In passing this law the Congress protected the retired pay of all men and women now serving or retired.

Senator Barry Goldwater, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, stated he wanted to "make very, very clear to all my colleagues, and especially to all military retirees and those men and women who are currently serving on active duty, that the changes made in this bill will not apply to them. This legislation recognizes the promises that we have made to our military personnel and I am determined not to break those promises."

CBPO chief resigns

SSgt. Pam Nelson has resigned her ART position of chief of CBPO's Quality Force section. She'll begin full time studies at Worcester State University and maintain her 439th affiliation as a personnel specialist in the 337th TAS.

Col. James Handy looks ahead to the Pentagon

Although Col. James Handy is now assigned to the Pentagon, he remains actively involved in Westover's conversion to C-5s. As the Chief of Air Reserve Programs, he will oversee similar projects throughout AFRES and will determine which Air Force operations might be assigned to AFRES if facilities, demographics and other factors are available.

"My boss says I also will monitor the five-year defense budget and help insure that its contents and funding are appropriate for AFRES," Colonel Handy said.

"It will be quite a challenge but I leave with mixed emotions. This has been the best assignment I've ever had. It has been frustrating at times but rewarding most of the time."

Before leaving Westover, Colonel Handy assessed his 16-month tenure.

"The people have been great. They did all the work. I just tried to make sure everyone and everything remained on track during a very demanding period in the history of the base."

"We completed planning for new base facilities and submitted our report to AFRES Headquarters for a new base and wing headquarters building. Hopefully, the fiscal 1989 defense budget will include the necessary funds for a \$4.4 million 'Reserve Forces Operational Training Facility.' The new building is slated for construction across from the base theatre and should open in the fall of 1991."

Other long-term renovation projects under consideration for Westover are



A certificate of merit is awarded to Col. James Handy from the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce for Westover's contribution to Chicopee. From left: Bob Motley, airfield manager, Chamber president John Frykenberg, Colonel Handy and Chamber member Joseph Kusiak.

(USAF photo by Maria Bull)

the expansion of the base exchange and open mess, and construction of a new service station.

Meanwhile, the base has completed renovation of many facilities such as the supply building, the dining hall and fire station. The new civil engineering complex is nearing completion as well.

"While we focused our energies on the C-5's arrival, we had to remain fully qualified in the 439th's current mission and support our ongoing training and flying commitments. In addition, as hosts, CSG supports all the other military units and transient aircraft using the base. I'm pleased to say that I've never received a bad word about any phase of their stay."

"I am particularly delighted with the progress made in our people programs. The improvements in the dormitories and the installation of the satellite microwave dish are two good examples. We also are planning additional major renovations in the enlisted dorms for 1989."

"Finally, we have taken steps to acquire 22 acres next to Wade Lake for the recreational enjoyment of Westover's personnel and their families. When the military asks Reservists to give up one weekend a month and make all the sacrifices that go with it, I think it is our obligation to make that training weekend and their other weekends as enjoyable as possible."

(Colonel Hargis: continued from page 1)

completion of pilot training at Laredo AFB, Texas, he was assigned to the 311th Special Operations Squadron flying C-123s out of Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. He flew more than 900 combat sorties from July 1968 through July of 1969.

His next assignment was to Minot AFB, N.D., where he flew KC-135s. Three years later he switched to B-52s. He flew both aircraft extensively during two separate temporary duty tours in Southeast Asia. Colonel Hargis was transferred to Wurtsmith AFB, Mich. in 1975 and spent two years there as a controller in the wing command post.

In May 1977, he left active duty and joined the Air Force Reserve to fly C-130s with the 442nd TAW at Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo. He was employed by Trans World Airlines as a ground school aircraft systems instructor and flew as a Reservist until November 1979 when he entered the Air Reserve Technician program as an HC-130 instructor pilot with the 301st Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Homestead AFB, Fla. In June 1982, he was selected to become the director of operations at Niagara Falls.

Colonel Hargis and his wife, Janice, have two children, Leigh and John.



Lt. Col. Thomas G. Hargis



Westover Prime BEEF members construct a fire training pad at San Vito dei Normanni AS, Italy. Left to right are: TSgt. Gary Pike, SSgt. Manuel Gomes, SSgt. Bill Devries and TSgt. Richard LaBrecque.

(US Air Force photo)

Westover Prime BEEF team in Italy

Westover's 439th CES Prime BEEF team completed its annual tour helping out the 7275th Civil Engineering Squadron in San Vito, Italy.

The 118-member team was involved in more than a dozen base civil engineering projects at the base in San Vito dei Normanni in the heel of the "boot."

Some of the projects accomplished were: construction of a fire extinguisher testing pad, installation of security fencing, security lighting, air conditioning, base housing projects, landscaping and various MWR projects.

"The 439th helped us finish projects that we wouldn't have gotten to for months," said Capt. Tanya Simpkins, 7275th CES chief of operations and maintenance. "They not only helped

us, but made things better for all the people at our base."

"The cooperation and coordination we received from the 7275th was great," said CMSgt. Albert Aniello, 439th CES structural superintendent. "We feel we completed some very meaningful work projects."

Maj. Bill Garrity, 439th CES commander, emphasized the value of overseas tours to maintain his squadron's mobility readiness. "Prime BEEF stands for Base Emergency Engineering Force and is part of a worldwide deployment mission," he explained. "We need to be familiar with type of European facilities we might have to work with in the event of war."

Westover Once Over

20 Years ago

(Taken from the *Westover Yankee Flyer*, July 1966)

A photo on page one showed SSgt. Alcide Patenaude of the 905th Troop Carrier Group crawling through the wing of a C-124 in final preparation for a training mission. Patenaude is now a chief master sergeant, serving as field maintenance supervisor with the 439th CAMS.

Ten Years ago

(Taken from the *Patriot*, August 1976)

More than 2,000 guests were treated to Bicentennial cake as the base celebrated the nation's 200th birthday. The cake measured seven by eleven feet and weighing 650 pounds. The cake was made by TSgt. Frank Duval, SSgt. John Connors and TSgt. Martin Infante of the dining hall.

Five Years ago

(Taken from the *Patriot*, August 1981)

Crews from the 337th TAS flew 201.4 tons of cargo and 544 passengers to such locations as Buenos Aires, Argentina; LaPaz, Bolivia; Rio De Janeiro and Brazilia, Brazil; and San Jose, Costa Rica during their third rotation at Howard AFB, Panama as part of the ongoing Voland Rodeo exercise.

WMDC proposal delays environmental impact statement

A draft version of the required Environmental Impact Statement on the effect of basing C-5As at Westover has been delayed to allow consideration of a new and separate proposal from Westover Municipal Development Corp. to expand commercial flight operations from the joint-use airfield.

WMDC officials are proposing 24-hour commercial operations and the statement on projected environmental effects is being expanded to include the civilian operations. A draft of the Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be completed and released in early autumn.

Once the draft version is published, at least 45 days will be available for local input before a public hearing is

held to solicit comments.

A formal decision on basing C-5As at Westover is not expected until early next year. Chicopee Mayor Richard Lak and WMDC officials have repeatedly noted in their public statements that the new concept of 24-hour commercial operations is separate from the military proposal announced in February.

"When announcing the delay, AFRES reaffirmed that Westover remains the prime site for C-5A conversion," said Col. James H. Handy, base commander. "But expanding the environmental analysis to include the WMDC proposal will add a few months to our original timetable for a formal

decision."

Although the WMDC proposal is being added to the impact study to reduce duplication of analyses, the draft statement will examine the military and commercial proposals separately.

Duane Stinchfield, WMDC's director of commercial operations, has announced negotiating with air cargo firms needing runway clearance between 0500 and 2400 hours. Air traffic is now allowed at Westover from 0700 to 2300 hours.

"We're proposing growth of the air cargo operations and we hope to eventually entice passenger service," said Mr. Stinchfield. "Both require some degree of nighttime operations."

439th TAC hospital Reservists help in Maine

Story and photo

By TSgt. John Wallace Spencer

A computer which had been idle at the base hospital at Loring AFB, Maine is now humming along, thanks to Lt. Col. Ellsworth K. Hart of the 439th Tactical Hospital. Colonel Hart was part of a 32-member contingent assigned to the SAC base hospital from July 19 through Aug. 2 for annual active duty training.

Even though the TDY assignment was for training through practical experience in specific areas of medical care, in several instances Westover's Reservists served as the instructors to their hosts.

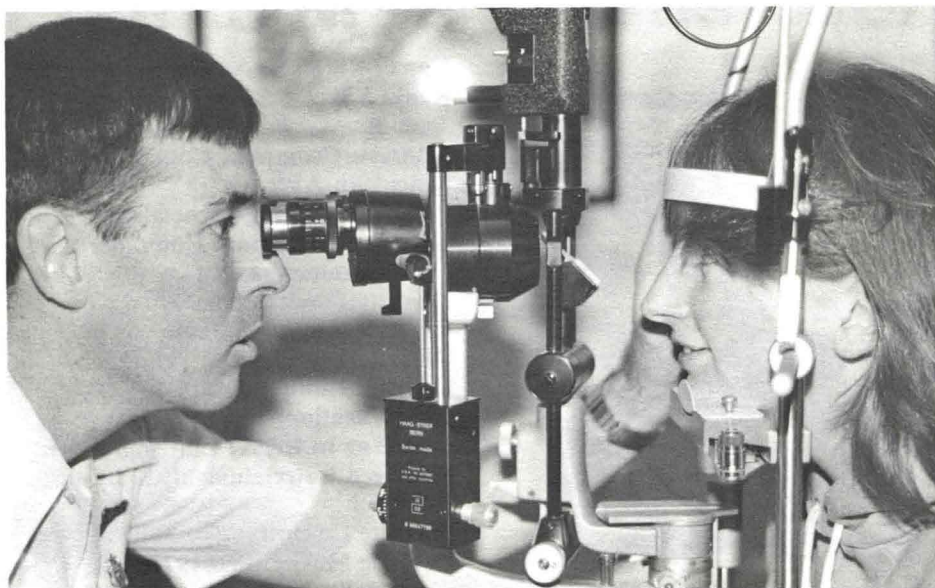
"I offered my computer experience to Loring's hospital by designing an automated scheduling and training verification tool," said Colonel Hart. "I've also benefited in turn by gaining a greater understanding of how disaster training is administered."

CMSgt. George J. Kudla, medical administration manager, explained, "Having the opportunity to work at a hospital like Loring is invaluable because it provides our people the opportunity to update skills, and receive training in a wide range of hospital services not available at Westover. Reservists on their first enlistment learn the basics in hospital training, while prior service medical personnel receive an excellent refresher course."

SSgt. Paula J. Martel, a medical service specialist assigned to Unit 3, the multi-service unit for inpatient care except labor and delivery, said, "I thoroughly enjoyed the work and staff which was more than willing to help. They were very receptive to all input concerning the unit. Everyone made me feel very much part of the team."

SMSgt. Mark S. Gilyard, the superintendent of medical services and acting first sergeant, stated, "All of us were impressed with the Loring hospital staff. The organization and hospitality is the best I've seen anywhere in the Air Force."

Capt. Chris Ryan, officer in charge of Loring Hospital's Multi-Service Unit, praised Westover's medical personnel. "It has been a pleasure having this enthusiastic Reserve group assigned to our unit," he said. "It has been a shared learning experience for



Capt. John Adams, an optometrist with the 439th Tactical Hospital, administers an eye exam at Loring AFB, Maine.

all of us. We have learned about the mission at Westover, while they have had the opportunity to participate in patient care. We are impressed with their professionalism, motivation, and

enthusiasm. Many patients expressed favorable comments about their professional, caring attitude. This group is tops!"

Maj. Torpey named operations officer

Maj. Paul Torpey, a C-130 command pilot and 12-year Air Force Reservist, is now operations officer of the 337th Tactical Airlift Squadron.

The 42-year-old Amherst resident replaces Maj. Robert Martens, who recently left the full time assignment with the 337th to become an operation safety inspector with the Federal Aviation Administration in Westfield. Major Martens will remain with the unit as a

Reserve C-130 pilot.

Major Torpey said, "I'm looking forward to the challenges of this job, particularly since we are very deeply involved with the C-5 conversion. It's a very hectic time, but also an exciting time."

During his Air Force Reserve career, Major Torpey has accumulated more than 5,000 flying hours as the pilot of C-123 and C-130 aircraft.

Credit Union benefits available to Reservists

There is a new CREDIT UNION sign hanging over the door of the Accounting and Finance building.

Services available include: checking accounts, Christmas Clubs, savings accounts, personal loans, home improvement loans, and automobile loans, all at competitive rates. The credit union offers check cashing and direct deposit

of Reservists' training pay.

Opening an account is simple, and the credit union is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on UTA weekends and every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 to 11:15 a.m.

For more information, call the finance office at extension 2809.

"Patriot People"



SSgt. Karen B. Antelyes

Name: Karen B. Antelyes
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 29
Address: Cromwell, Conn.
Unit: 59th APS
Position: Air cargo specialist
Civilian Occupation: Computer programmer/analyst
Favorite Food: Italian
Favorite Beverage: Pepsi
Favorite Sport: Water skiing
Favorite Hobby: Crafts
Ideal Vacation: San Francisco
Best Way to Relax: Gardening
Preferred Entertainment: Drive-in theater
Favorite Celebrity: Sally Fields
Favorite Music: 1960-1970 rock and roll
Favorite Book: Dorothy Eden books
Favorite Color: Green
Favorite Car: Camero
Pet Peeve: People who don't show up
Best Thing About Westover: Air Force people
Worst Thing About Westover: Dormitories

Arrivederci 439th TAW

The 439th TAW will undergo realistic training when six C-130s carrying support members and key members of wing headquarters deploy to Italy from Sept. 21 to Oct. 4.

The wing will be in command of the training exercise involving Westover aircraft plus six C-130s of the 913th TAG, Willow Grove, Pa. About 240 Reservists will participate in the exercise.

They are scheduled to fly training missions throughout Europe to familiarize themselves with overseas conditions.

"This is an excellent training exercise which is unique because it will be under the command of the 439th TAW. It's an opportunity to show what the wing can do," said Lt. Col. Charles Joslin, wing chief of operation plans, who will serve as team chief.

58 APS completes tours

Two different groups from the 58th APS recently completed annual tours in Spain and the Azores.

A 15-member APS group deployed to Torrejon AB, Spain, and processed 2,179,793 pounds of cargo while building more than 350 pallets. The group also handled more than 130 aircraft, including C-5s, C-141s, C-130s, C-23s and DC-8s. The 625th APS in Spain designated 1st Lt. Joanne Kochanowicz and CMSgt. Frank Pecka as tour duty officers.

Ten 58th APS Reservists processed more than 290 tons of cargo and built 70 pallets at Lajes AB in the Azores. They also handled approximately 45 aircraft. SMSgt. Leonard Dube and SSgt. Marilyn Luchi were personally commended for designing an OJT computer training program for the 1605th MASS at Lajes AB.

Hispanic Heritage Week

Westover will mark national Hispanic Heritage Week with a luncheon on Sept. 18 at the Consolidated Open Mess and an address by Manuel Oliverez of the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense.

The wing and base commanders are scheduled to address the gathering and The Mariachi Band from San Antonio, Texas, will perform.

Contact Joel Martinez in CCPO at 557-3058 for ticket information.

Promotions - Reenlistments - Enlistments

Promotions

MSgt. Sophie F. Bartosik
 MSgt. Gerald P. Vesper
 TSgt. Michael D. Hurley
 TSgt. Michael J. May
 SSgt. Daniel P. Aube
 SSgt. Andre J. Dion
 SSgt. Vonsiciz S. Jackson
 SSgt. Jeffrey A. Kern
 SSgt. Gerard M. LaFleur
 SSgt. Sara K. McCoy
 SSgt. Florence W. Pierce
 SSgt. Lynne V. Saya
 SSgt. Dale A. Sweatland
 SrA. David J. Borsh
 SrA. William J. Duncan
 SrA. John A. Evelyn
 SrA. James W. Halsor
 SrA. Paula J. Makinen
 SrA. James A. O'Brien
 SrA. Deborah A. Rogalski
 SrA. Maxine G. Smith
 SrA. Donald D. Windett

Enlistments

SSgt. Hans J.E. Keyser
 Sgt. Richard R. Doty
 Sgt. Edward J. Miller
 Sgt. Michael J. Schwein
 Sgt. George Berry D. Tocher
 AIC Edward S. Scott
 Amn Matthew A. Tocci

AB Kelley R. Gavin

Re-enlistments

CMSgt. Lawrence B. Lose
 SMSgt. James T. Gillett
 MSgt. Edward R. Guenther
 MSgt. Donald W. Hadley
 MSgt. John S. Indomenico
 MSgt. Timothy P. Murphy
 MSgt. Robert Wise
 TSgt. Susan L. Adamchak
 TSgt. Bruce L. Bornstein
 TSgt. Hobert C. Bruce
 TSgt. Byron T. Chaples, Jr.
 TSgt. Patsy J. Demichele
 TSgt. William D. Groeber
 TSgt. Jon R. Hart
 TSgt. Richard Hirschler
 TSgt. William C. Hubbard
 TSgt. Ora D. Jones, Jr.
 TSgt. David P. Lacasse
 TSgt. James A. Lacroix
 TSgt. David J. Luhta
 TSgt. Rick A. Martin
 TSgt. Debra I. Nicholson
 TSgt. Robert N. Olsen
 TSgt. Edward G. Patenaude
 TSgt. Paul A. Petersante
 TSgt. Richard A. Silvestro
 TSgt. George D. Stone
 TSgt. Kathleen M. Wood
 SSgt. David D. Anderson

SSgt. Raymond J. Armfield

SSgt. Wess K. Boucher
 SSgt. Paul J. Brodeur
 SSgt. Robert J. Cirillo
 SSgt. William J. Czarnecki
 SSgt. Guy F. Delia
 SSgt. William H. Gaites III
 SSgt. James J. Gallagher
 SSgt. David Howard
 SSgt. Donald G. Lariviere
 SSgt. Carleton G. Lavin
 SSgt. Frank A. Manegio, Jr.
 SSgt. Richard A. Martin
 SSgt. Patricia E. Melega
 SSgt. John L. Negrotti
 SSgt. William C. Phelps
 SSgt. Byron B. Phillips, Jr.
 SSgt. Joseph T. Quigley
 SSgt. Terry M. Ready
 SSgt. Lawrence D. Snow
 SSgt. Jean G. Wagner
 SSgt. William P. Wood
 SSgt. Charles F. Woodward
 Sgt. Peter J. Amirault
 Sgt. Suzanne C. Graham
 Sgt. Stephen J. Johnson
 Sgt. Clark L. Reed
 SrA. David L. Addis
 SrA. Michael J. Golenski
 SrA. Renee M. Ruel

Patriot Profile

Mother of four fights fires at Westover

By Maj. Rick Dyer

A burning floor has collapsed beneath her and she's rescued survivors from two airplane crashes.

So when firefighter Janie Mesick describes herself as "not your conventional housewife," no one takes exception.

The veteran of seven years' active duty with the Air Force is the newest member of Westover's Fire Department. The 30-year-old mother of four children works 24-hour shifts followed by 24 hours off.

She is also a Reserve staff sergeant at Westover with the firefighters of the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron.

"I'm not your conventional housewife."

Her path to becoming Sergeant Mesick didn't start with firefighting.

"When I signed up, there was a long waiting list before I could go on active duty as an administrative specialist," she said. "They said they could take me right away if I became a firefighter, so I decided to give it a try."

For the next seven years, the 5-foot 3-inch native of Rockmart, Ga., served at Air Force fire stations in various parts of the world — and experienced some harrowing moments.

"On one call, when I was on active duty at MacDill AFB in Florida, we responded to a trailer fire," she said. "The floor gave way, and I fell through."

Her hair was singed and she got some fiberglass particles in her eyes, but she survived the incident otherwise unscathed.

During another assignment, while serving at Lajes Field in the Azores, Sergeant Mesick was credited with assisting in rescuing survivors from two aircraft mishaps.

"We had a C-141 crash at Lajes in 1982, and a C-130 went down the following year," she said. "We helped to get the survivors out by spraying foam to protect a rescue path."

She was also credited with saving the life of a jogger who collapsed at MacDill. She and another firefighter applied cardiopulmonary resuscitation and revived the stricken runner.



SSgt. Janie Mesick dons her protective suit to prepare for a fire training exercise.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandi Michon)

While on active duty, Sergeant Mesick served as a lead rescue firefighter and rescue crew chief. She was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for her fire prevention work.

"I like the military, and I liked being a firefighter," she said. "That's why I joined the Westover department after we moved recently to the Feeding Hills section of Agawam."

With four children ranging from 14-years-old to 18-months, the support from her family is an important career factor for Sergeant Mesick.

"My husband Barry has been very supportive," she said. "He and my mother-in-law help care for the kids when I pull a 24-hour shift."

Although she is the only firefighting female at Westover, Sergeant Mesick says she is treated just like the males

when assignments are made.

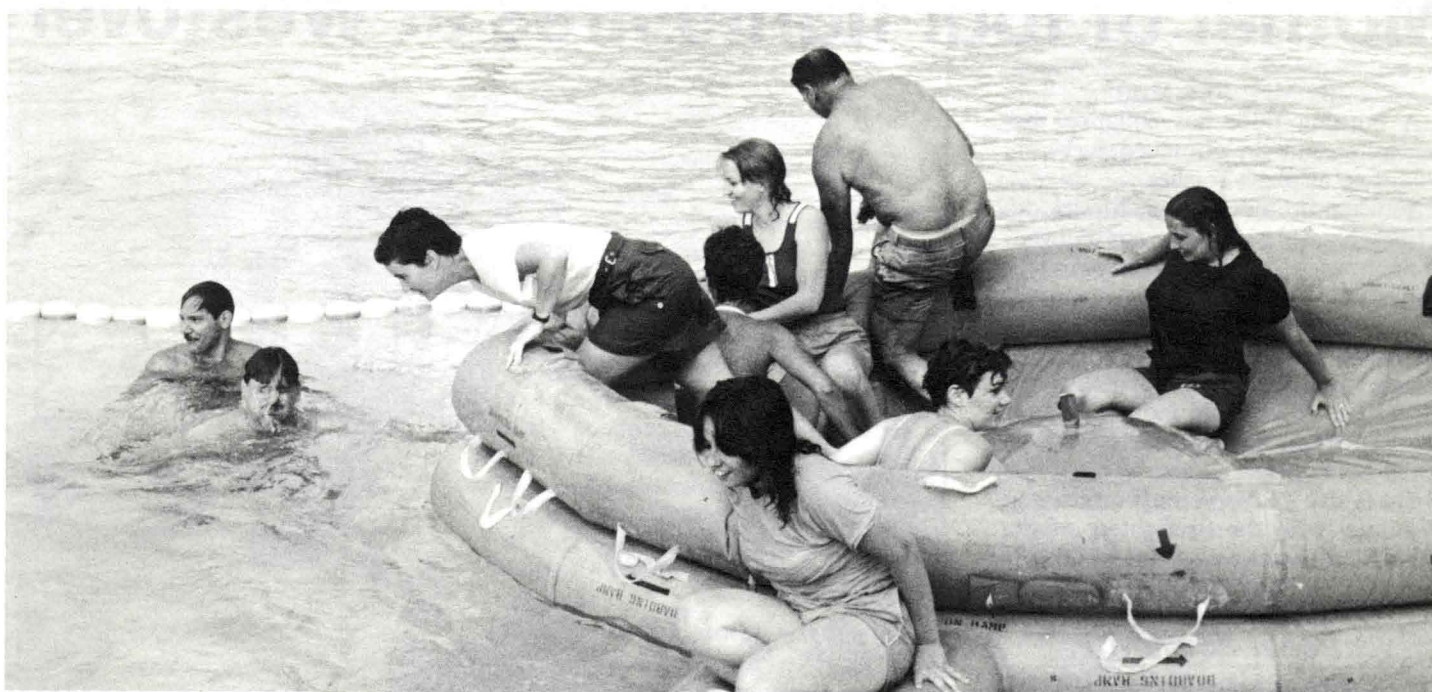
During the August UTA, Sergeant Mesick donned a heavy silver hood and protective suit to battle a simulated aircraft fire. Using a one-inch booster line, she sprayed foam on a roaring gasoline fire that reached nearly 1000 degrees. (See page 8.)

"She has fit in extremely well with our department," said Westover Fire Chief Haskel Jenkins. "She is well qualified and very dedicated."

Although her duties at Westover and her family responsibilities leave little free time, she hopes to obtain a degree in fire science because her long-range career goals include possibly becoming a fire chief.

"It's not out of the question. Like I said, I'm not your conventional housewife."

The hot and the cool of a warm UTA



(USAF photos by SSgt. Sandi Michon)

As temperatures hovered near 90° and the humidity was oppressive, Westover Reservists completed their August UTA. Some training, however, was more in tune with the season.

An annual refresher course took on new meaning for members of the 14th AES as they completed water survival training at the base pool. In the top photo, Reservists bail out of the raft at the close of the training session.

In the right photo, 439th CES fire-fighters douse the C-130 inferno at the base fire training facility. The heat in the training compound was intense and the temperature in the protective gear made a sauna seem inviting.



AFSA names scholarship winners

College-bound daughters of two local Air Force Sergeant Association families were awarded \$500 scholarships at the Westover chapter meeting.

The grants were presented Aug. 13 to Wendy Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Clark, and to Lisa Chase, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Chase.

The scholarships were donated by Tom Burke of Burke Beverages in Chicopee.

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300



THIRD CLASS - BULK RATE