

PATRIOT

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

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New Air Force program emphasizes efficiency

By MSgt. Larry Lentz

Tired of getting the runaround every time you propose a better way of doing your job?

How often have you heard the expression, "The right way, the wrong way, the Air Force way?"

What about the excuse, "only higher headquarters has the authority."

A new Air Force-wide initiative, the Command Model Installation Program promises to eliminate the bureaucracy while creating an "environment that provides an excellent place to live and work."

"Under the model installation program, commanders now have more authority commensurate with their responsibility and accountability," explained Lt. Col. Thomas Hargis, base commander and whose office is responsible for implementing the program at Westover.

"While the program is new at most bases, CMIP began in 1983 as a three-year test when Under Secretary for Defense Taft designated a few bases as 'model installations.' Commanders were encouraged to try new methods, take risks, strive for excellence and to seek money-saving methods," Colonel Hargis said. "The program's evaluation demonstrated that most functions were done more efficiently when bureaucratic impediments were removed."

CMIP promotes excellence in all areas — mission, operations and support by removing obstacles and encouraging innovation. Commanders are asked to find better ways to organize and operate. They are now encouraged to waive policies and regulations that hamper efficiency.

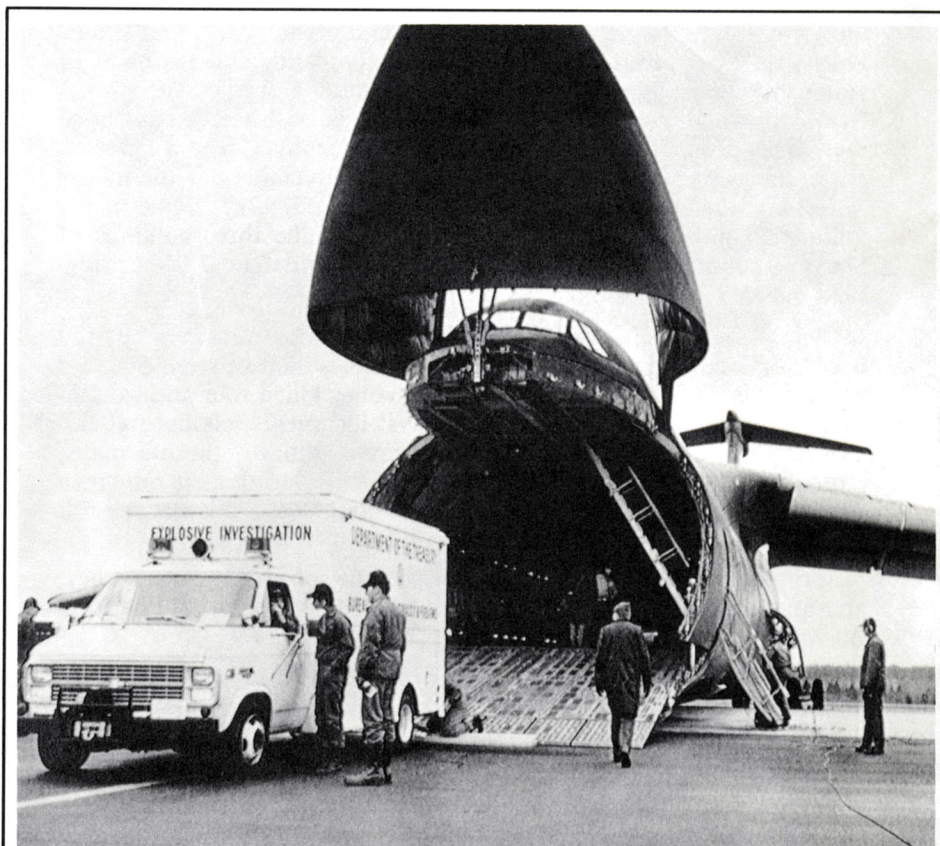
"Everyone in the wing should be encouraged to look at the way we have been doing our jobs and ask if there's a

better way and then present their suggestions to their unit commanders. Every standard procedure, every office instruction needs to be reviewed and, if needed, changed or eliminated," Colonel Hargis said.

If a decision cannot be made at the unit level, the commander will forward the proposal to the next higher authority. CMIP requires that level to act

quickly. "The goal for normal turn around shall not exceed five working days. Higher headquarters' review should determine if the idea is legal and possible, and not try to determine whether or not it complies with their definition of a good idea. Any program bias will favor approval," he said.

(continued on page 2)



(AP LaserPhoto)

MOVING THE BIG STUFF — A federal arson investigation van is loaded aboard a C-5 at Dover AFB in January for a timely flight to San Juan to solve the Dupont Plaza Hotel fire. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms van was used in the investigation and arrests were made.

EDITORIAL**Massachusetts Militia:****350 years of citizen-soldiers**

This month marks two historical events directly related to "Patriot Wing" operations today.

The first muster of the Massachusetts Militia took place about this time in 1637 — the actual date is not recorded. Settlers had decided in Salem on Dec. 13, 1636, to organize all males between 16 and 60 into part-time military units. All were required to possess arms and practice on weekends. Units were formed and the militia eventually adopted blue jackets and red trousers.

Militiamen defeated the French, twice, at Louisburg and colonial leaders soon realized that Massachusetts soldiers who trained on weekends were good enough to defeat regular troops. This confidence became a factor in the decision to seek independence.

Few people realize today that by 1775, Massachusetts had organized combat units totaling about 16,500 men. The lore of our war for independence boosts the "Minuteman" image of "the embattled farmer," but the trained militia was there, even at Concord Bridge on April 17, 1775.

Following the war and the reduction of the "active-duty" Continental Army, militia units remained trained and organized. When Daniel Shays, an ex-sergeant and veteran of Bunker Hill, and his band of Hampshire veterans rebelled 200 years ago and marched on the Springfield Armory, the local militia was in a difficult position. A number of militiamen probably supported the insurgents, many of whom were veterans and wore their old uniforms, but 1,200 members of the militia were called up to defend the Armory on Jan. 25, 1787. Some of the militiamen were sent on patrols to encounter the three columns of Shays' 1,100 rebels, about 800 men remained to defend 7,000 Springfield muskets and 1,300 barrels of powder.

General William Shepard ordered the first cannon rounds to be fired over the heads of Shays' men. When the rebels did not stop, Shepard ordered the cannon lowered. The second volley killed four and wounded 20. The attack was broken and Shays' insurgents left Springfield, crossed the Chicopee River and, from my reading of the old maps, crossed right over what is today Westover AFB during their retreat to Amherst and Pelham. In defending his action, Shepard wrote the following day, "I could have killed them all in 25 minutes."

Springfield's part-time militiamen broke the spirit of the insurgency, and an early morning attack on Feb. 4 by regular army troops from Boston routed the rebels for good.

The local men who were mobilized by their militia units defended the national interest at minimal loss of life, and the failed rebellion crystallized the issues which led later that year to the adoption of our Constitution.

At Westover today we have people from families which were part of that citizen-soldier tradition begun here in the 1600s. And the "Patriot Wing" continues as a healthy example of part-timers serving their neighbors and the national interest.

Lt. Col. Thomas G. Hargis
Base Commander

**Efficiency program from page 1**

Because the new program parallels the Air Force Suggestion Program, CMIP also encourages suggestions be submitted on Air Force Form 1000. Suggestions, if implemented, may be recognized with cash awards through the normal suggestion procedure.

"I am very excited about this program, which has the full support of General Scheer," said Col. Frederick Walker, wing commander. "We absolutely believe that the unit commanders and unit personnel are the best ones who know how best to do their jobs. CMIP eliminates much of the needless involvement of higher headquarters and puts the responsibility where it belongs — at the local level and with us."

PATRIOT

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New civilian personnel officer has "Wright stuff"

The newly appointed chief of Westover's civilian employees believes base personnel have earned the right to knock on his door at any time.

Richard T. Wright says he likes the attitude he has seen since coming here in January to take the post of civilian personnel officer.

"One thing I've noticed is the enthusiasm and rapport of the people on base. My staff and I are determined that they will receive the kind of service they deserve," he said.

"My door is always open to anyone who wants to talk — whether it's to discuss a problem or to just come over and have a cup of coffee," Mr. Wright said.

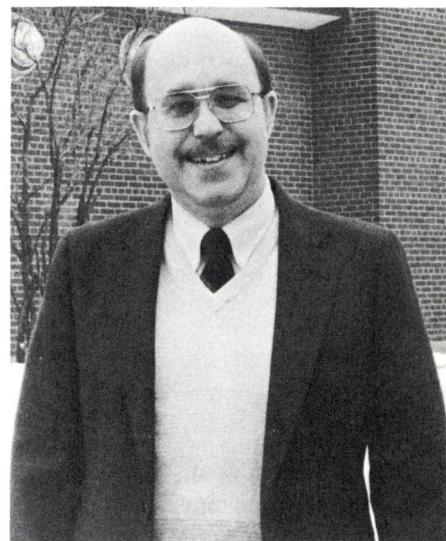
As civilian personnel officer he heads a staff of 26 people who serve

650 civilian employees here and 450 at Niagara Falls IAP, N.Y. His office is responsible for a range of services, including hiring, labor relations, promotions and reassignment.

Mr. Wright came here after three years as a personnel management specialist at Headquarters, United States Air Force in Washington, D.C. He previously served as a personnel specialist for five years at Ramstein AB, Germany.

A native of Warsaw, N.Y., he is a veteran of eight years Air Force service as a personnel specialist, including a tour at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand. He also served three years in the Air Force Reserve at Kelly AFB, Texas.

Mr. Wright and his wife, Shirley, have a two-year-old son.



Richard T. Wright



FULL-POWER LIFT-OFF — Greater Springfield news media visited Dover AFB, Del., in mid-January to get a first-hand look at what Westover AFB might be like if the proposed conversion to C-5As is approved. A public hearing was held Jan. 8 and attended by nearly 700 people, a great many were civilian employees and members of the Air Force Reserve. Following the hearing, Ludlow's Board of Selectmen reversed its earlier decision to seek a delay in the comment period and unanimously voted to endorse the C-5A proposal and 24-hour operations.

(Dave Roback photo)

CES keeps base rolling during storm

By SSgt. Tom Allocco

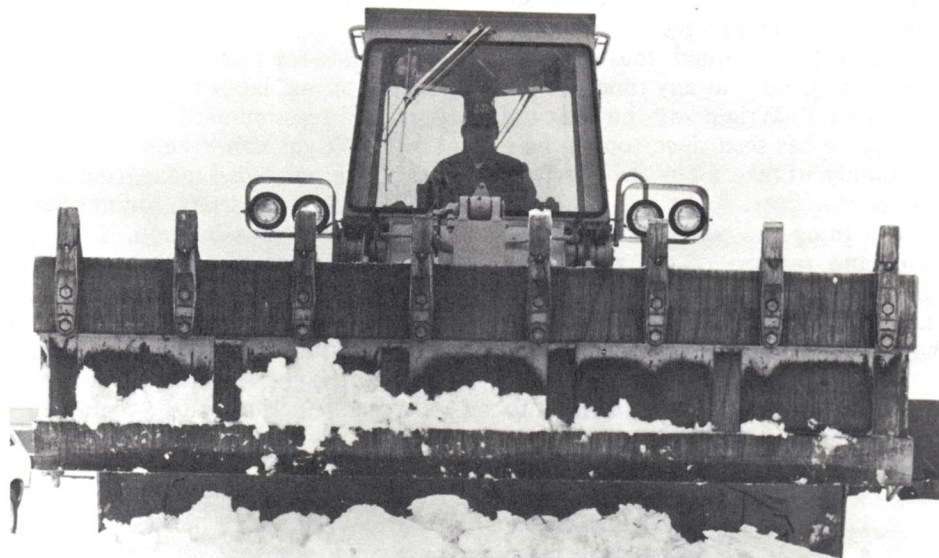
The roads were clear and the work crews were exhausted the day after a storm dumped four inches of snow, and rain on Westover, during the January UTA.

All night long the snow fighting machines rolled as the 439th CES roads and grounds crews did their work. On Sunday morning Westover runways, ramps and roads were open and functioning when the crew went off duty.

For the Reservists it meant almost 24 straight hours on the job. The 25-member CES road and grounds crew took over from the base civilians at 8 a.m. on Saturday in the early stage of the storm. They manned snowplowing equipment until the civilians returned at 7:30 a.m., Sunday. The crew tackled four inches of snowfall which turned to rain and back to snow during the night.

They did the job with eight rollover snowplows and two snow blower vehicles. Through the night, despite some mechanical problems, they fought the snow on the runways, ramps, base roads and Open Mess and BX parking lots.

Because of the demanding conditions, the crews had a supper of box lunches. Dining hall personnel provid-



Snow removal equipment clears one of the base parking areas. Back-to-back storms in January kept the plows extremely busy.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandi Michon)

ed more box lunches during the long night.

The meals were appreciated by the snow fighting crews. "The food services people took good care of us," said SMSgt. Lindley Casey.

Sergeant Casey headed the crew, together with SMSgt. Michael Guiliani and MSgt. Ben Tomlin.

He described the conditions as the most severe he had seen on a UTA weekend in several years.

"They were long hours but the crew members pulled together like they always do," he said.

Snowy weather throughout January continued to tax CES snow removal resources.

Reserve Drill Pay Rates As Of Jan. 1, 1987

PAY GRADE	UNDER 2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	26
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS														
O-8	143.91	148.22	151.74	151.74	151.74	163.05	163.05	170.75	170.75	177.86	185.59	192.70	196.67	196.67
O-7	119.58	127.71	127.71	127.71	133.43	133.43	141.17	141.17	148.22	163.05	174.26	174.26	174.26	174.26
O-6	88.63	97.38	103.75	103.75	103.75	103.75	103.75	103.75	107.27	124.24	130.59	133.43	141.17	153.11
O-5	70.88	83.24	88.99	88.99	88.99	88.99	91.69	96.61	103.09	110.80	117.16	120.71	124.92	124.92
O-4	59.75	72.76	77.61	77.61	79.05	82.54	88.17	93.13	97.38	101.85	104.46	104.46	104.46	104.46
O-3	55.53	62.08	66.36	73.43	76.94	79.71	84.02	88.17	90.34	90.34	90.35	90.34	90.34	90.34
O-2	48.42	52.88	63.52	65.66	67.04	67.04	67.04	67.04	67.04	67.04	67.04	67.04	67.04	67.04
O-1	42.03	43.76	52.88	52.88	52.88	52.88	52.88	52.88	52.88	52.88	52.88	52.88	52.88	52.88
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER 4 YEARS ACTIVE DUTY AS ENLISTED OR WARRANT OFFICER														
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	73.43	76.94	79.71	84.02	88.17	91.69	96.29	91.69	91.69	91.69	91.69
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	65.66	67.04	69.16	72.76	75.54	77.61	77.61	77.61	77.61	71.61	71.61
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.88	56.49	58.57	60.69	62.80	65.66	65.66	65.66	65.66	65.66	65.66
ENLISTED MEMBERS														
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65.80	67.29	68.81	70.39	71.96	73.36	77.22	84.73
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55.19	56.76	58.25	59.77	61.34	62.76	64.30	68.08	75.67
E-7	38.53	41.59	43.14	44.64	46.17	47.64	49.16	50.69	52.98	54.49	56.01	56.74	60.55	68.08
E-6	33.15	36.13	37.64	39.24	40.70	42.18	43.73	45.98	47.42	48.95	49.70	49.70	49.70	49.70
E-5	29.09	31.67	33.20	34.65	36.92	38.42	39.95	41.41	42.18	42.18	42.18	42.18	42.18	42.18
E-4	27.14	28.65	30.33	32.69	33.98	33.98	33.98	33.98	33.98	33.98	33.98	33.98	33.98	33.98
E-3	25.56	26.96	28.05	29.16	29.16	29.16	29.16	29.16	29.16	29.16	29.16	29.16	29.16	29.16
E-2	24.60	24.60	24.60	24.60	24.60	24.60	24.60	24.60	24.60	24.60	24.60	24.60	24.60	24.60
E-1	21.94	21.94	21.94	21.94	21.94	21.94	21.94	21.94	21.94	21.94	21.94	21.94	21.94	21.94
E-1	20.28	With less than 4 months												

The new pay chart for Reservists and National Guardsmen reflects a 3 percent increase. The rates shown in this chart are based on a single drill period. Reservists on a full two-day weekend would get four times the amount shown.

ROA scholarship

Capt. Jack Sanocki, president of Westover's Reserve Officer Association, presents a \$300 scholarship to Scott Garrity (center). Scott attends Hopkins Academy in Hadley, Mass. and plans to enter college next year. He is the son of Lt. Col. William Garrity (r.)

Captain Sanocki says he hopes the scholarship will be available each year and will be open to dependents of all chapter members.



(USAF photo by SSgt. Wesley Allen)

Private consulting firm planning Westover's future

An Ohio-based firm, Woolpert Consultants, has been awarded a \$533,000 contract for developing a comprehensive master plan to guide operations at Westover into the next century.

The company will study airfield operations, base layout, communications, transportation systems, landscape, utilities and energy systems.

"The overall goal of the base plan is to provide commanders with information to make valid operational and programming decisions," said Lt. Col.

Thomas Hargis, base commander. "Along with protecting the natural environment, the plan will allow us to minimize energy expenditures, make optimal use of renewable energy resources and minimize pollution to provide the highest possible quality of life for the community."

The long-range facilities development plan will cover new construction and replacement of some Westover buildings and reservation of land for future construction.

The announcement of the contract follows an Air Force Reserve planning assistance team assessment in October. (See November 1986 *Patriot*.) The team recommended segregating aircraft and industrial operations from administrative and community facilities.

Woolpert Consultants specializes in military and environmental planning and has a staff of about 250 engineers, architects and other planning and mapping specialists.

Individual Mobilization Augmentees part of total force team

By Capt. David M. Hart
Wing Historian, IMA

Individual Mobilization Augmentees have been a part of the Total Force team since 1947, and throughout the years they have added their talents and abilities to the overall effectiveness of the Air Force Reserve. At present, approximately 11,000 individuals serve as IMAs. At Westover, 10 officers and 14 enlisted personnel serve in this capacity.

The IMA program differs from traditional Reserve unit programs. IMAs are subject to active duty recall on an individual, rather than organizational basis. IMA positions in a wide variety of career areas are established according to anticipated Air Force require-

ments for trained personnel, in the event of a national crisis.

As category B Reservists, IMAs are authorized to perform 12 days of Inactive Duty Training and 12-14 days of active duty Annual Training per year. While Inactive Duty Training is performed with the individual's Unit of Attachment (at an installation close to home), Annual Training takes place with the Unit of Assignment — which is rarely close to home! An IMA "attached" to a base in Massachusetts may be "assigned" to a base in California, Colorado, or Texas, for example.

Civilians, former active duty, and category A Reserve personnel choose to serve as IMAs for many reasons. The primary reason pertains to the program's flexibility. The IMA pro-

gram enables individuals to serve as Reservists, in spite of military manpower limitations or the demands of a civilian occupation. It provides service-oriented men and women, with an opportunity to develop or maintain, a career-length involvement with the Air Force Reserve.

Individuals desiring more information about the IMA program are invited to attend a Special Presentation at the Base Gymnasium, Bldg. 1700, Recreation Room, on Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m. A recently developed videotape, "IMA: Ready to Serve," will accompany the question-and-answer presentation. For information, contact SMSgt. N. Joseph Underwood, 557-2027, or MSgt. Sophie Bartosik, 557-3037.

"Patriot People"

Name: Elton Caudle
Rank: MSgt.
Age: 42
Address: Springfield, Mass.
Unit: 439th Comm. Sqdn.
Position: NCOIC communications
Civilian Occupation: Insurance underwriter
Favorite Food: Steak
Favorite Beverage: Water
Favorite Sport: Football
Favorite Hobby: Reading
Ideal Vacation: South Pacific

Best Way to Relax: Feet up with a good book
Preferred Entertainment: Dancing
Favorite Celebrity: Ronald Reagan
Favorite Music: Rock and roll
Favorite Book: Bible
Favorite Color: Green
Favorite Car: Ford Taurus
Pet Peeve: Not enough time to do things
Best Thing About Westover: Potential for the entire region
Worst Thing About Westover: Lack of training facilities



MSgt. Elton Caudle

earning a PAT on the back

Promotions

MSgt. Robert N. Knutson
 MSgt. Corinne A. Squire
 TSgt. Robert F. Callery
 TSgt. Larry J. Clowers
 TSgt. Bruce Z. Cleveland
 TSgt. Darlene Crevier
 TSgt. Walter B. Kelly
 TSgt. Lawrence Milliken
 TSgt. Rita L. Moore
 SSgt. Michael C. Barrick
 SSgt. James O. Beauregard
 SSgt. Eugene Bebeau III
 SSgt. Clermont J. Boutin
 SSgt. Timothy P. Callahan
 SSgt. Susan Wixon Castrelo
 SSgt. Stephen H. Corbett
 SSgt. William T. Darby, Jr.
 SSgt. Harry D. Delude
 SSgt. James M. Dumont
 SSgt. Thomas G. Gaglione
 SSgt. Edward P. Gilbert
 SSgt. Geoffrey Goldberg
 SSgt. Patrisha J. Henry
 SSgt. Larry W. Hews
 SSgt. James T. Irla
 SSgt. Michael E. Jerz
 SSgt. John C.N. Kilbourn
 SSgt. Ronald J. Labonte
 SSgt. Scott D. Malone

SSgt. Vincent C. Messina
 SSgt. Benjamin T. Miklas
 SSgt. Christopher Miller
 SSgt. Kevin W. Murphy
 SSgt. Michael Olszewski
 SSgt. Ray L. Paradise
 SSgt. Joanne Pennock
 SSgt. Linda M. Russo
 SSgt. Byron L. Sarahina
 SSgt. Joey D. Schramm
 SSgt. Lavina L. Simeone
 SSgt. James E. Smith
 SSgt. Thersa E. Slade
 SSgt. Mitchell E. Staszko
 SSgt. Sharon L. Sturgill
 SSgt. John R. Tanguay
 SSgt. Esteban Tores, Jr.
 SSgt. George H.J. Vadnais
 SSgt. David A. Valliere
 SSgt. Peter G. Vantol
 SSgt. Robert A. Wasilesky
 SSgt. Timothy B. Yuhass
 SrA. Kenneth H. Backlund
 A1C Stephen J. Beachell

Re-enlistments

CMSgt. Robert P. Johns
 SMSgt. Joseph S. Malinguaggic
 MSgt. Richard R. Berryman
 TSgt. Robert A. Boisvert

TSgt. Suzanne M. Cordes
 TSgt. Donald A. Kutz, Jr.
 TSgt. Galen M. Lafrancis
 TSgt. Louis R. Poirier
 TSgt. Joseph R. Tuttle, Jr.
 TSgt. Joseph C. Voutor
 TSgt. Robert D. Williams
 SSgt. James G. Bonatakis
 SSgt. Laurie A. Butler
 SSgt. Arthur W. Davis III
 SSgt. James M. Gibbons
 SSgt. Thomas A. Mellor
 SSgt. Dino R. Panetta
 SSgt. Anita L. Schmitz
 Sgt. Joanne L. Cabral
 Sgt. Christopher A. Miller
 SrA. Edward H. Sallie

Enlistments

SSgt. Philip C. Beadin
 SSgt. Herman L. Boothe
 SSgt. Walter R. Gendreau
 SSgt. James L. Godin
 SSgt. Theodore E. Lynch
 Sgt. Jeffrey J. Sauer
 SrA. Jean A. Beadle
 A1C Monika A. Kucala
 A1C Tammie J. Payette
 A1C Mark Pineau
 A1C George Waters II
 AB Laura Gill

Authorization bill benefits Reserve forces

(AFRNS) — Members of the Air Reserve Forces will see a major change in some of their benefits with the passage of the fiscal year 1987 Department of Defense Authorization Bill.

According to Air Reserve Personnel Center officials, these personnel provisions will affect Reserve pay and allowances and commissary benefits.

Both active duty and Reserve members received a three percent pay raise Jan. 1, 1987. This increases bay pay, basic allowance for quarters and basic allowance for subsistence.

Additionally, Congress approved incapacitation pay for Reserve members who are injured in the line of duty. This will allow a Reservist to receive pay based on civilian, rather than military, earnings. However, pay is only authorized for six months and cannot exceed the loss of civilian earnings.

Finally, commissary benefits, an important benefit for most Reservists, will undergo a major change. Previously, a Reservist could use the commissary only when on active duty longer than 72 hours and only for the duration of that tour. The member can now use the facility any time during a 365 day period for a number of days equal to the number of days spent on active duty up to 14 days. These days can be used any time during the year starting with the date of active duty training.

Reservists' families invited to chapel services

The family that prays together, stays together — at least on Reserve weekends. Westover's chaplains are inviting families to attend worship services with the Reservists.

"This is one way that families can be a part of the Reserve experience," said Chaplain (1st Lt.) Richard Miesel. "Also, worship is a special time for families. This invitation gives them the opportunity share that together."

Protestant services are held at 7:30 a.m. on Sundays while Mass is celebrated on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and on Sunday at 7:30 a.m.

Briefs

MEI is now UEI

The Military Airlift Command Inspector General is now conducting Unit Effectiveness Inspections instead of Management Effectiveness Inspections during periodic base visits.

The change is part of an Air Force-wide move to more correctly emphasize both the strong leadership and unit performance aspects of the inspections. Inspection criteria remain unchanged.

Tax forms unavailable

The new tax withholding forms (W-4) required by changes in the tax law are not yet available at Westover, but will be distributed through orderly rooms as soon as they arrive.

Instructions from the Internal Revenue Service advises taxpayers to get the help of an accountant or tax preparer to fill out the forms and avoid problems at tax time, according to Jeanne Beauchamp of the military pay section.

Designation changed

The 439th Communications Squadron is the new designation of what has been now as the 439th Information Systems Squadron, according to Capt. Stephen P. Gross, commander of the unit.

Prior to be designated the 439th ISS, the unit was known as the 439th Communications Flight.

Generals trade commands

Maj. Gen. James E. McAdoo, vice commander of the Air Force Reserve, and Maj. Gen. Alan G. Sharp, commander of the 14th Air Force have replaced one another.

Plane goes to Hickam

A 337th TAS C-130 left Westover during the January UTA for an eight-day mission to Hickam AFB, Hawaii. Maj. Peter Gray piloted the aircraft which was scheduled to drop troops in Hawaii.

Westover planes periodically support Army and Navy units in Hawaii. Another mission is scheduled to Hickam AFB in February.

Patriot and Dyer named best in AF

Maj. Rick Dyer, 439th TAW public affairs officer, has been named Journalist of the Year in the Air Force Media Competition. He also took first place in two other categories: feature articles and editorials.

The Air Force-wide competition also judged the Patriot as the Best Unit Newspaper. This is the third time in four years the Westover Public Affairs Office has taken top honors in the annual contest.

Major Dyer and the Patriot represented the Air Force Reserve after receiving similar recognition in the command's media competition held in October.

Major Dyer has been the wing's public affairs officer since 1979 and is a partner in the Manchester, Conn., law firm of Phelon, Squatrito, FitzGerald, Dyer and Wood.

The major received his awards from Air Force Secretary Edward C. Aldridge during ceremonies at the Pentagon on Jan. 27.



Maj. Rick Dyer

Aviation Museum proposed for Westover

While the focus of most people at Westover lately has been on the base's future and proposed conversion of C-5s, a group of aviation enthusiasts is looking to the past. They hope to establish a museum, at Westover, dedicated to military aviation.

"There are a lot of people who are interested in Westover and who want to preserve the distinguished history of military flying from the Army Air Corps to today's experimental aircraft," said Al DiCarlo, the museum's leading proponent. "Such a museum also would honor Westover's contribution during the past 40 years and serve to bring the public to the base."

His idea for a military museum, dedicated to Army Air Corps and Air Force aviation, was warmly received by the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee. Now, as the museum's project officer, DiCarlo is working with Col. Frederick Walker, Lt. Col. Thomas Hargis, and members of the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force.

"We're collecting memorabilia for our exhibits," DiCarlo continued. "There are a lot of mementoes tucked away in attics and trunks that no one knows what to do with. We can put them to great use."

"For example, a woman in Wilbraham will loan the museum a World War II A-2 flight jacket worn by her husband, a B-24 waist gunner. The jacket has all the emblem patches and bomb missions painted on it."

"My cousin has donated his flight helmet and World War II patches. We hope to display these donations in a building deemed excess by the Air Force. Once we receive the building, we'll depend solely on volunteers — both their assistance and their financial contributions."

"I hope anyone with any item or photograph, no matter how insignificant they think it is, will contact me at Box 39 at Westover or at my home, 4 Campbell Drive, Easthampton, MA 01027 or call 527-7657."

"I can't think of a more fitting tribute to Westover's part in our country's history, than a museum," he said.

Lichtenberg to fly in 1991 space shuttle mission

By Maj. Rick Dyer

Space shuttle veteran Byron Lichtenberg says he expects to be blasting off again in 1991.

Lichtenberg, a lieutenant colonel and fighter pilot with the Massachusetts Air National Guard's 104th Tactical Fighter Group in Westfield, told the Westover Reserve Officers Association of his selection for the space mission.

A payload specialist aboard the shuttle Columbia during a mission in November, 1983, the veteran pilot predicted the American space program will "bounce back" from the disaster last January which destroyed the shuttle Challenger and killed its seven-member crew.

"They seem to have solved the O-ring problem," he said, referring to the malfunction in the booster's seal which is believed to have caused the accident. "But it's going to be a long time before the shuttle program achieves a sustainable flight rate."

Lichtenberg, who holds a doctorate in biomedical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, indicated that delays in shuttle flights have adversely effected astronaut morale and have caused some space veterans to leave the program.

"It is frustrating to wait five or six years, or more, between flights," he said.

He also predicted that the Challenger disaster will prompt NASA to develop a varied inventory of manned and unmanned space vehicles.

"Just as we have sports cars, pick-up trucks and buses for different purposes, the space program needs different types of space vehicles for various types of missions.

The colonel said that expendable, unmanned space craft would be used more frequently in the future to launch satellites and other commercial payloads. Manned flights in reusable orbiters would be launched for some military missions, and those requiring repairs, or human scientific experiments, he said.

Although there have been no recent collaborative space efforts between the United States and the Soviet Union, Lichtenberg is hopeful that the two governments will soon address the possibility of future cooperation.



Lt. Col. Byron Lichtenberg

(AP photo)

He said that he is a member of the Association of Space Explorers, an international group comprised of 48 space travelers from 16 countries.

"There has been a lot of informal collaboration and sharing between individual members, he said. "Our

main purpose is to promote the peaceful and cooperative use of space."

While he is waiting for his next shuttle mission, Lichtenberg will continue to operate his own consulting firm in Boston, and will fly A-10 jets each month with his unit in Westfield.

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