

PATRIOT

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

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(USAF photo by SSgt. Diana Mehail)

REALISTIC SIMULATOR — A technician from United Airlines Services Corp. adjusts program as Air Force Reserve students prepare for a lesson in a C-5 weapons system trainer at Travis AFB, Calif. A computerized training module is slated for Westover this year in Building 3102 on Inner Drive, near Base Headquarters.

Westover gets \$12.3 million C-5A simulator

By Maj. Rick Dyer

Congress has authorized \$12.3 million for a state-of-the-art C-5A weapons system trainer at Westover.

The computerized simulator — which replicates the flight operations of the huge Galaxy — will provide realistic and uncrashable “hands on” training for pilots and flight engineers.

Aircrew members seated in the training module experience the sensations of pitching and yawing as the computer moves the realistic cockpit in response to human and programmed input.

Alert bells, thunderclaps and instrument warnings replicate situations such as encountering wind shear, stalling, engine failures and jammed landing gear.

Westover officials were delighted on Jan. 6 when word was received that the advanced training device would be located at the base.

“I’m ecstatic,” said Brig. Gen. Frederick “Mike” Walker, 439th Military Airlift Wing commander. “One of my highest priorities since we took on the C-5 mission has been to get a simulator for Westover.”

Only three other Air Force installations — Altus AFB, Okla., Dover AFB, Del., and Travis, AFB, Calif. — have C-5 simulators.

Wing aircrew members have been traveling to Dover to fulfill their simulator training requirements. Because two days of travel time are required on the round-trip to Delaware, Westover officials predict that having

the simulator here will save large amounts of valuable training time and money.

“We will save four travel days per year for each flight engineer and pilot who performs this type of training,” said Maj. Lawrence Mercker, assistant deputy commander for operations.

According to Major Mercker, approximately 125 reservists from the 439th MAW will train on the apparatus. Westover crews will share the simulator with about 110 crew members from the 105th Military Airlift Group, an Air National Guard unit from Stewart International Airport in Newburgh, N.Y.

The 105th MAG will eventually have a dozen C-5As at Stewart, and its

Continued on Page 11

EDITORIAL**A monument to healing**

As a nurse, Florence Holman's entire professional career has been dedicated to healing.

Now, the former Air Force nurse and Vietnam veteran is vigorously trying to help "heal" some of the women with whom she served more than two decades ago in Southeast Asia.

Mrs. Holman, of Ludlow, recently spoke at Westover to promote the Vietnam Women's Memorial Statue, which she hopes will one day be added at the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

More than 10,000 women — most of them nurses and medical technicians — served in Vietnam. As Mrs. Holman told nurses at Westover, many of them are "invisible veterans" whose services and sacrifices are often overlooked.

Because of this, she views the life-size bronze statue of the combat nurse as an important "first step" in healing the physical and psychological problems which many of the women vets still confront.

The Vietnam Womens Memorial Project Inc., 511 Eleventh Avenue South, Box 45, Minneapolis, MN 55415, is raising funds for the memorial.

Nurses and medical technicians from the 439th USAF Clinic and the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron have recently contributed to the \$1.2 million cost of the memorial, which will be paid by private donations.

The statue's meaning and significance, however, is not limited to women, or medical personnel, or Vietnam veterans. Rather, it is an important monument to courage, and caring, and compassion.

Everyone at Westover should consider supporting this worthwhile project. Like Mrs. Holman, and all the military nurses and medical technicians who have served this nation so well, the statue is a special source of healing.

— **Maj. Rick Dyer**
Public Affairs Officer

Smoking banned on small military aircraft

WASHINGTON — No smoking will be permitted on small military aircraft, according to the Department of Defense.

Smoking on larger planes will be restricted to designated areas.

The policy prohibits smoking on military aircraft with fewer than 30 seats. For planes with more than 30 seats and adequate ventilation, smoking will be allowed in designated areas.

Designated smoking areas will be situated so that non-smoking passengers are not affected by tobacco smoke. Pipe and cigar smoking is not permitted.

The policy allows commanders to authorize smoking on combat missions, consistent with flight safety and operational concerns. Smoking is also prohibited on military buses and vans.

PATRIOT

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Briefs**20th C-5B delivered**

MARIETTA, GA. — Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Company has delivered to the Air Force the 20th C-5B Galaxy. The new plane was flown to Dover AFB, Del., and assigned to the 436th Military Airlift Wing.

MAC's C-5B transports are assigned to three units, the 60th at Travis AFB, Calif., the 443rd MAW at Altus AFB, Okla., and the 436th.

Officers' Dining Out

An officers' Dining Out will be held April 9 at the Consolidated Open Mess.

Lt. Col. Hal Lawrence will be President of the Mess while 1st Lt. Cam LeBlanc will act as Mr. Vice.

Essay contest

"Peace with Freedom" is the theme of the 1988 Freedoms Foundation essay contest. Each year the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pa., along with the Military Order of the Purple Heart, sponsors an essay category for service members in its national awards program.

Eligible to enter are active duty members and those serving in Reserve components, including ROTC and junior ROTC.

Anyone interested should submit a typed essay of 100 to 500 words on "Peace with Freedom." Include your name, rank, Social Security number, service designation, military address, name and address of your commanding officer and your permanent home address.

Entries should be mailed to Awards Department, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, P.O. Box 706, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481-0706.

Savings bond

Beginning this month, the minimum U.S. Savings Bond face-value denomination for new payroll plan participants will be \$100. The \$50 and \$75 bonds will continue for those already receiving them. Financial institutions will still offer the smaller face-value bonds for over-the-counter purchase.

Westover recruiters looking for 1,000 good men and women

By TSgt. Gordon A. Newell

CMSgt. Ron Koper learned recently that patience and persistence can pay big dividends. He is now hoping those lessons will again serve him as he embarks on his latest challenge, directing the recruiting of 1,000 new people into the 439th Military Airlift Wing.

Sergeant Koper, who returned to Westover in January, after a two and a half year stay at 14th Air Force at Dobbins AFB, Ga., was inducted recently into the Air Force's prestigious Century Club after a 10-year struggle for membership.

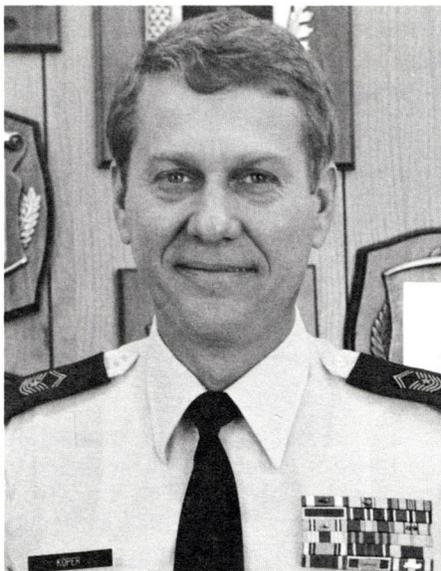
"Century Clubbers" are recruiters credited with obtaining 100 or more people for the Air Force Reserve during a fiscal year.

The club was established in 1978 as an incentive because of the increased manpower needs.

Sergeant Koper and 24 other recruiters inducted into the club last year, bringing to 165 the number of recruiters qualified for membership.

In 1977, one year before the club was established, Sergeant Koper was credited with 104 recruitments and felt he should have been given retroactive membership.

"The whole thing started in 1976," he said. I was attending our annual recruiters' conference when one of the recruiters was singled out and presented a beautiful plaque for signing up 104 recruits. Right then, I set a goal of going over 100 the next year so I could get similar recognition."



CMSgt. Ron Koper

He worked very hard, he said, and ended the next year with 104 recruits to his credit. When he attended the conference that year, he was disappointed when he received no special recognition for his efforts.

A year later, the Century Club came into being and so did the sergeant's long campaign for membership. He took every opportunity to plead his case without success.

Last year, however, he managed to get his idea placed on the club's agenda. It was adopted and his long battle for membership was over.

"I guess the moral to the story is: if you hang in there and keep trying, you

can eventually reach any goal," Sergeant Koper said.

In his new assignment as Westover's senior recruiter, he will get another chance to test that theory.

With the conversion of the 439th to C-5A Galaxies, Sergeant Koper and the 14 recruiters in his charge have a big job to do.

"We are setting up satellite recruiting offices in Albany, N.Y., Providence, R.I., Hartford, Conn., Worcester, Mass. and Manchester, Conn. We have 300 ART positions and about 700 reserve slots to fill. That's a pretty large order." Sergeant Koper's office already has facilities in Milford, Conn., at Griffis AFB, N.Y., and Hanscom AFB, Mass.

Sergeant Koper has set a goal of 463 new recruits for this fiscal year. By 1991, when the 439th is expecting to receive its 16th and final C-5A, he says the unit should be up to strength.

Although positions are open in many career fields, critical shortages exist in aircraft maintenance, avionics maintenance, security police, personnel administration and aeromedical specialties.

"We've added a lot of good people to our recruiting staff which I'm sure will help us reach our goals. But the most effective recruiter we have at our disposal is a happy reservist. They are our satisfied customers. If they go out and tell the Reserve story, they'll make our jobs easy."

Gallop Poll shows Americans rate military as top institution

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — For the second consecutive year, the American people have rated the U.S. military as the institution in which they have the most confidence, according to the Gallup opinion poll.

Last year, polls showed for the first time that the military ranked highest in the confidence of the American people — over such institutions as religion, Congress and newspapers.

This year, however, the military shares the top ranking with organized

religion, the perennial front-runner in public confidence polls.

Sixty-one percent of those polled by Gallup expressed "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in both the military and organized religion.

The Religion Research Center, an affiliate of the Gallup organization, recently released the findings as part of Gallup's annual "Confidence in Institutions Poll." The Harris organization conducts a similar poll.

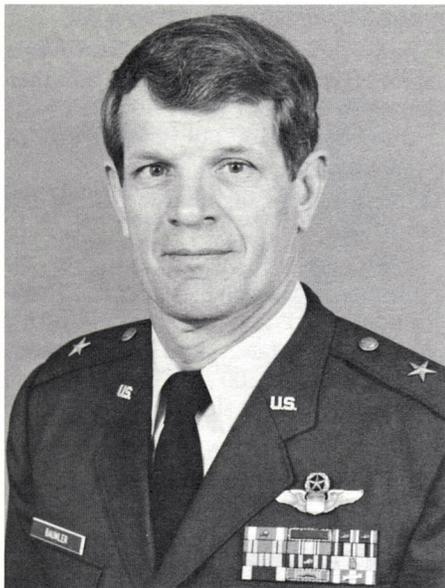
The Gallup poll has shown that con-

fidence in the military has grown steadily since 1979.

The military received a 54 percent confidence rating that year. During the same eight-day period, newspapers dropped from 51 percent to this year's low of 31 percent.

The annual poll asks people how much confidence they have in various institutions. Those polled placed their confidence in each institution into one of four categories: "A great deal," "Quite a lot," "Some," or "Very little."

General Baumler to command 14th Air Force



Brig. Gen. Dale R. Baumler

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) — Brig. Gen. Dale R. Baumler, commander of the 349th Military Airlift Wing at Travis AFB, Calif., will assume command of the 14th Air Force on Mar. 2.

General Baumler, 55, will replace Maj. Gen. James E. McAdoo, who will retire. General McAdoo took command of the 14th Air Force in December 1986 after a four-year tour of active duty as vice-commander of Headquarters Air Force Reserve at Robins AFB.

General Baumler is no stranger to the 14th Air Force. He was assigned to the unit at Dobbins AFB, Ga., from March 1982 to March 1983 as deputy chief of staff for operations.

Following that tour, he took command of the 446th MAW at McChord AFB, Wash., until becoming the 349th

MAW commander in June 1984.

General Baumler was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Air Force ROTC program at Michigan Technical. He became an Air Force reservist in February 1970 and an Air Reserve Technician three years later.

General McAdoo's military career spanned 35 years. He received his commission through the aviation cadet program in February 1953. He joined the Reserve in 1957 and entered the ART program seven years later.

Both generals are command pilots and each has logged more than 7,000 flying hours.

The 14th Air Force manages AFRES airlift resources, primarily in the eastern United States. More than 22,000 reservists are assigned to the 14th Air Force.

CLAWs add mobile muscle to WSSF missions

The 639th WSSF has added a pair of CLAWs to its war-fighting capability.

These CLAWs are the wheeled variety, similar to civilian all-terrain vehicles, and they're designed for patrol and supply missions. Two were recently delivered to Westover. Maj. Frank McCormack, 639th WSSF commander, said more may be added.

The acronym CLAW stands for Carrier, Light Auxiliary Weapon.

The two Yamaha 350s will be used only for training here. Otherwise, they will be stored for use following mobilization.

CLAWs were introduced as experimental vehicles at the Air Base Ground Defense Evaluation area at Little Rock AFB, Ark., about five years ago. They proved successful and entered the Air Force inventory two years ago.

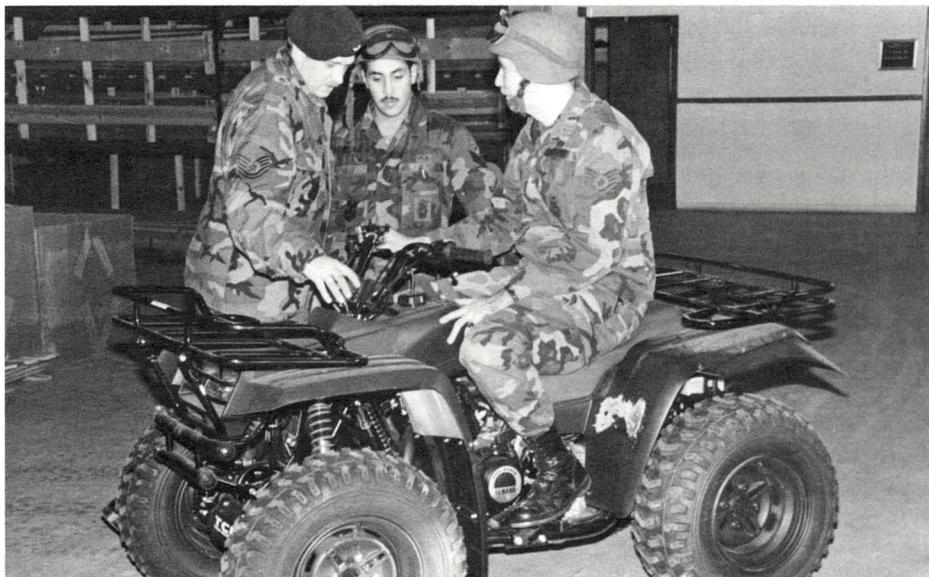
"The four-wheel vehicles are very maneuverable, they can get just about anywhere," Major McCormack said.

They are equipped with a trailer to carry equipment to re-supply fighting positions. They will also add mobility to two-man patrol teams on the flight line. The CLAWs are painted in sub-

dued colors and have a mount for an M-16.

While more stable and safer than the three-wheel civilian ATVs which have earned bad publicity, the CLAWs are

operated under strict safety and instruction rules. One or more WSSF members will be trained at Little Rock AFB to serve as Westover instructors, Major McCormack said.



(USAF photo by Sgt. Vin Blanchard)

BIG WHEELS — TSgt. Mike Dutton, left, SSgt. Edgar Valley, center and SSgt. George Demsey inspect one of two CLAWs assigned to the 639th WSSF.

Snowstorm routine for Westover reservists

By TSgt. Sandi Michon

The first "Nor'easter" of 1988 dumped 10 inches on Westover on the eve of the "A" UTA but no operations or training sessions were cancelled.

As the first major snowstorm of the year blanketed Westover the Friday before the first January UTA, Brig. Gen. Frederick "Mike" Walker told 439th MAW unit commanders, "The storm does not affect our UTA. We're in New England, it's January, and this is routine."

The airfield remained open for the duration of the storm, while area commercial airports reported limited operation on Friday night.

"We have a commitment to have our airfield operational from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.," said Bob Motley, chief of airfield management, and snow doesn't change our commitment."

Mr. Motley said a civilian aircraft landed at Westover Friday evening and was escorted to the civilian parking area by our snow control vehicle. The aircraft picked up passengers and took off again.

"We have had instances in the past where civilian aircraft have landed at Westover during storms when all other area airports have closed down," said Mr. Motley.

The dawn of the January UTA arrived and most of Westover's roads and parking areas were cleared of snow. Most snow removal was accomplished by the civilian civil engineering work force while CE reservists cleared the cross-wind runway and continued



(USAF photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

DIGGING OUT — Shoveling out one of the 124 base fire hydrants are David Krok and SSgt. Vincent Chiodo, fire protection specialists with the 439th CES.

general clean-up on the base.

"Snowstorms don't affect us adversely," said Maj. William Garrity, 439th CES commander. "We have equipment operators and pavement maintenance specialists that are working each UTA anyway," he said. "During a storm, we simply augment that area with any of the many CE reservists qualified to run the machinery."

Westover's fire department was busy making sure all 124 base fire hydrants were uncovered and plainly visible. "During and after a snowstorm, we

check fire lanes and ensure access ways are clear to all buildings," said Haskell Jenkins, 439th CES fire chief.

"Business as usual" was the agenda base-wide in spite of the storm. Although reservists travel to Westover from all parts of New England and beyond, few signed in late, and all units contacted reported normal attendance.

According to Westover's weatherman, Curt Osgood, we have received 14 inches of snowfall in January, already two inches above average.



(USAF photo by Sgt. Vin Blanchard)

SKI PATROL — Marine reservists stationed at Westover took advantage of the snowy weather on Jan. 9-10 to brush up on their winter warfare training. The leathernecks, who are commanded by Capt. Paul Stanley, practiced their skiing

skills on a sloping hill behind the base bowling alley. In wartime, the Marines would be mobilized for a NATO assignment to a cold-weather country.

1988: A year of AFRES anniversaries

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) — If you're an Air Force Reserve history buff, 1988 is a year for you.

The U.S. Air Force Reserve was formally designated Apr. 14, 1948, seven months after the creation of the U.S. Air Force. The Continental Air Command was also established 40 years ago with a primary mission of training and administering the Air Reserve Forces.

Thirty years ago, a major step was taken toward a truly ready Air Force Reserve program. The first air reserve technicians started work Jan. 10, 1958, providing a permanent cadre of civilian technicians

ready for instant mobilization.

Several significant events occurred in the Reserve 20 years ago. The Office of Air Force Reserve was organized in the Pentagon on Jan. 1 under Maj. Gen. Tom E. Marchbanks Jr. Seven months later Headquarters Air Force Reserve, a separate operating agency, came into being here, replacing the discontinued CONAC as the field agency for the Reserve program.

Reservists were on the move in 1968. Thirteen AFRES units were mobilized Jan. 26 in the wake of the Pueblo Incident and May 13 to augment Air Force operations during

the Vietnam Conflict.

On Mar. 25, 1968, AFRES began converting to C-130 aircraft at Ellington AFB, Texas, and inaugurated the Reserve associate airlift programs at Norton AFB, Calif.

Reservists gained recognition for their important contributions and a path to greater responsibility 15 years ago. On Aug. 23, 1973, Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger elevated the Total Force Concept to the Total Force Policy, integrating the active, Guard and Reserve into a homogeneous whole.

Direct Deposit push underway at Westover

"If your paycheck is lost," says Raymond P. Gilbert, Westover's comptroller, "the minimum time required for replacement is 10 days. Direct Deposit eliminates that risk."

Mr. Gilbert is campaigning to get more 439th MAW members enrolled in "Sure-Pay," the Direct Deposit program for payroll checks. "In these days of electronic banking, Direct Deposit is an important benefit to military personnel."

Along with the safety and convenience of Direct Deposit, Mr. Gilbert says there are benefits beyond those commonly associated with payroll accounts.

According to the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center, which processes 750,000 payroll checks a year for Reserve members, the current concept of wartime operations does not allow Treasury checks to be sent into areas of conflict and gamble.

Instead, pay will be held at AFAFC — effectively blocking access of a member's held pay from dependents of deployed personnel — unless Air Force Reserve members have signed up for the Direct Deposit program.

"How effective would the Reserve Forces be if they were mobilized today?" asks Maj. Gen. Roger P.

Scheer, AFRES commander. "People are less productive when they are concerned with their family's financial well being. Participation in the Direct Deposit program is insurance that pay will be received in a timely, secure manner."

Mr. Gilbert said electronic funds transfer assures that paychecks will be deposited regularly even when members are on leave or TDY. "The period of separation due to deployment or TDYs can be troublesome enough without adding financial worries," he said.

General Scheer said the AFRES comptroller reports less than 45 percent of Air Force Reserve members have payroll checks sent to their financial institution via Direct Deposit.

"At last count, there were 1,631 military personnel assigned to Westover who have not signed up for Direct Deposit," said Mr. Gilbert.

He said the AFRES goal is to have 65 percent of unit members enrolled in the program by the end of FY 88 and 85 percent by the end of FY 89.

General Scheer said he expects the participation of officers and senior NCOs in Direct Deposit will reach 90 percent.

The AFAFC reports the cost of pre-

paring and mailing Treasury checks is now about \$3 million a year, but Direct Deposit has the potential to reduce system costs to only \$75,000 for the same number of payments.

Replacing a check could take as long as three to six months, Mr. Gilbert said, but Direct Deposit transactions can be traced and reprocessed in 24 to 48 hours.

"With our Direct Deposit program of 'Sure-Pay,' either a checking or savings account may be used and joint accounts or payee accounts can be opened to receive 'Sure-Pay' funds," said Mr. Gilbert.

"So along with the convenience of electronic banking — with the benefits of withdrawal, transfer and inquiry transactions at any time of day or night from many places — there are sound military and taxpayer reasons to sign up for Direct Deposit," he said.

Once a 439th MAW member enrolls in Direct Deposit, a white leave and earnings statement listing pay and deductions will continue to be mailed to the member.

Mr. Gilbert said Jeanne Beauchamp in the Military Pay section at Ext. 3880 in building 2400, or Pauline Bernier in the Civilian Pay section at Ext. 3103 will provide Direct Deposit information.

MAC Suggestion Program logs another good year

The Military Airlift Command Suggestion Program enjoyed another successful year by recording a \$8,797,494 savings.

Leading the way as MAC's Suggestor of the Year was Maj. Michael Chalifoux, whose idea saved the Air Force more than \$1 million in the first year.

The major was assigned to Kirkland AFB, N.M., when he devised a way to program B-52 flight plans on a much smaller and less expensive computer than the Air Force had been using. He has since been assigned to Edwards AFB, Calif.

Major Chalifoux received an \$8,221 award for his suggestion and was recently presented the Air Force Chief of Staff Award for High Value Suggestion, the highest honor possible under the suggestion program.

MAC's Suggestion Program Manager of the Year is Janice Holdsworth from Travis AFB, Calif. This is the second time she has won the honor. In

1984, her suggestion program was best in MAC and the Air Force.

"Although overall participation has declined, tangible savings and approval rates have increased," said Brig. Gen. Paul E. Landers Jr., assistant deputy chief of staff for plans, Headquarters MAC. "That indicates we are making steady progress toward one of our primary objectives — quality suggestions. The suggestion program is a key to achieving the highest level of productivity. We need everyone's personal involvement and support to ensure its continued success."

The command's overall adoption rate was 26 percent, yielding a savings of \$25 for each dollar spent on awards. MAC adopted 1,358 of the 5,297 suggestions processed from Oct. 1, 1986, to Sept. 30, 1987. The command paid \$351,554 in awards.

Travis AFB, Calif., led the way with 271 of 779 suggestions adopted for a 35 percent adoption rate. McChord AFB, Wash., and McGuire AFB, N.J., each

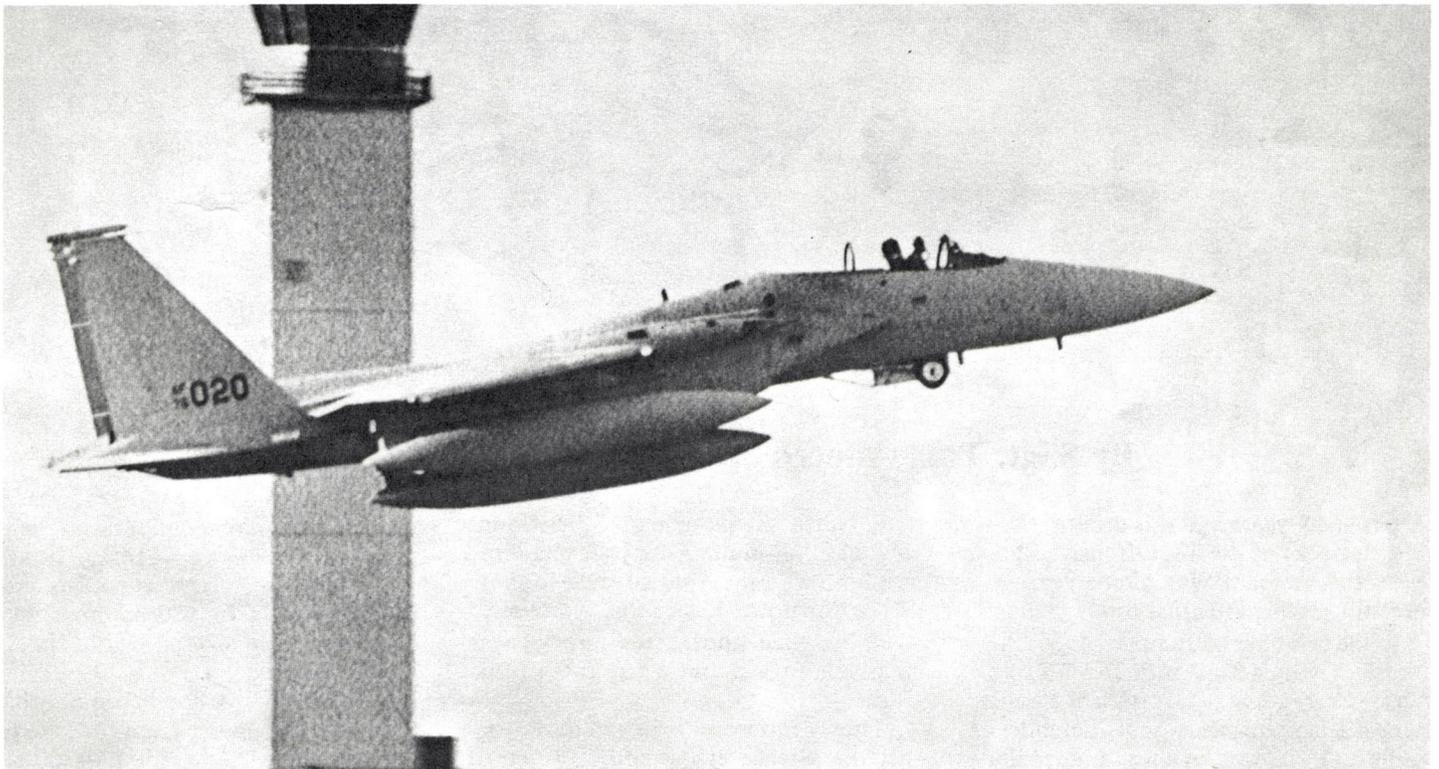
tallied a 33 percent adoption rate, while Kirkland AFB, N.M., and Altus AFB, Okla., managed 30 percent rates.

Pope AFB, N.C., and Little Rock AFB, Ark., came in with 27 percent adoption rates, and close behind was a 25 percent tally by Norton AFB, Calif. Charleston AFB, S.C., had a 24 percent rate, while Dover AFB, Del., and Hurlburt Field, Fla., received adoption of 21 percent of their suggestions.

Logging in 19 percent rates were MAC's overseas bases, Lajes Field, Azores, and Rhein-Main AB, West Germany. Scott AFB, Ill., posted an 18 percent total and Andrews AFB, Md., managed 15 percent.

The top three money winners in the command were Travis with \$55,488 in total awards paid, McChord with \$49,852 and Scott with \$46,159.

Travis, Kirkland, and McChord, in that order, were the leaders in total first-year tangible savings. (MAC News Service)

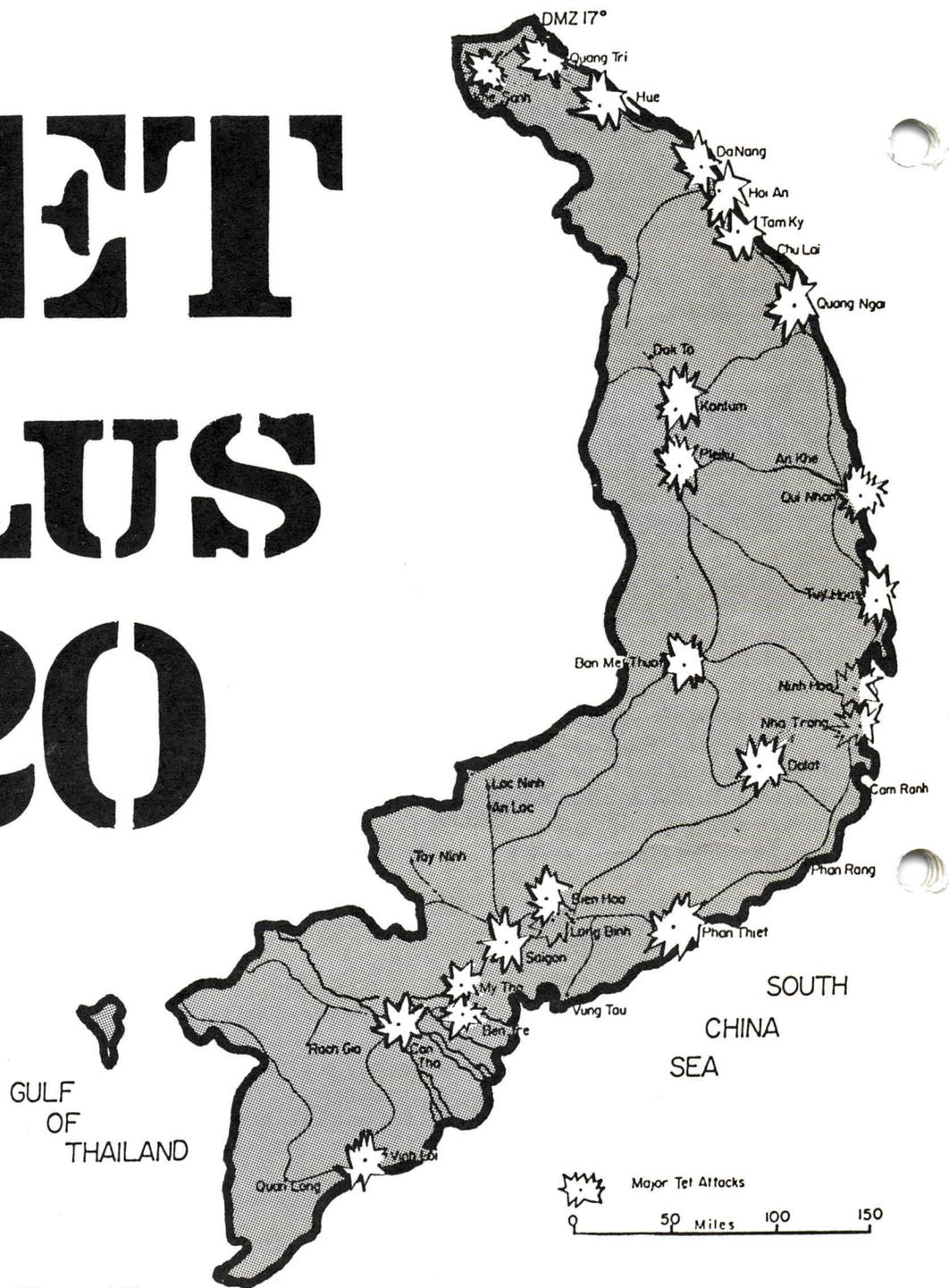


(AP LaserPhoto)

MASSACHUSETTS EAGLE — The first of 18 F-15 Eagles of the 5th FIS leaves Minot AFB in North Dakota on Jan. 7 for its new home at Otis Air National Guard base in Massachusetts. The Cape Cod base had been slated to receive F-16

Fighting Falcons, but the Air Force reconsidered the action and assigned the twin-engine air superiority fighters to the Air National Guard's 102nd Fighter Interceptor Wing.

TET PLUS 20



By SSgt. Tom Allocco

Twenty years ago this month, the widespread North Vietnamese and Viet Cong attacks of the Tet Offensive signaled a pivotal point in the American phase of the Vietnam War. Some veterans of those battles in the Year of the Monkey are still serving America today as members of the Air Force Reserve at Westover.

In the last days of January, 1968, the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Viet Cong launched furious assaults across Vietnam that sent defenders reeling. In a war against a guerrilla enemy, without front lines or conventional battles the attack during the Vietnamese Tet holiday season stands out as one of the few milestones. The Communists suffered immense casual-

ties, but their unexpected ferocity was a psychological blow for the United States.

Those who were there will never forget the intense effort and sacrifice to throw back the onslaught.

When MSgt. Robert Patzelt, 74th AES, thinks of the Tet Offensive, he sees metal coffins in rows at Phan Rang AB. Sergeant Patzelt was a

19-year-old C-123 crew chief.

“What made the war real was seeing the bodies paraded past us on the flight line to the waiting C-141s,” he said.

“They were in metal coffins and you knew how bad it was by the number of caskets piled of flat-beds. They were long flat-beds.

“One day we counted more than 30 in just one shuttle from the gate to the flight line. The parade passed us on a daily basis reflected on everyone was a sad thing.”

Other memories are 122 mm rockets, mortars, sappers coming through the wire, sirens and running for bunkers.

He gradually became inured to Vietnam in a way he couldn't have imagined before the Tet Offensive.

"We were on line waiting to go in the chow hall and a guy three guys away from me was shot in the chest by a sapper. We dived to the ground, but then we went back on line again and proceeded to eat lunch. It's strange to think back on it now."

A Purple Heart Medal and scar on his right shoulder are other reminders of Tet. He was wounded when he stepped out of his Tan Son Nhut barracks one morning.

"It was on the morning of May 6. We were still getting small arms fire and rockets daily. We were accustomed to it. I opened up the door and got a stray round — there were Viet Cong pinned down behind the base exchange and they were shooting back at aircraft which were strafing them."

(Continued on page 10)



The Tet Offensive was a highlight of TSgt. John Shlutz's 12 months in Vietnam as a Huey crew chief and door gunner.



MSgt. Robert Patzelt (left) earned a Purple Heart during the Tet Offensive after he was hit by small arms fire.

TET PLUS 20



(Continued from page 9)

Lt. Col. James Gallin, 337 MAS flight commander, was a second lieutenant fresh out of flight training. Upon arriving in Vietnam as a 3rd Air Commando Squadron AC-47 "Puff the Magic Dragon" gunship pilot, he immediately went into action against Communists around Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhut and Saigon.

"They had penetrated Bien Hoa just before I arrived. We were getting rockets every night. It was very intense for about a month," he said.

"We would fly an orbit while waiting for a target assignment and watch for rockets launched at Saigon.

"We flew all night and slept during the day."

Lt. Col. Joseph Lacivita, 439 OMS commander, was an EC-47 aircraft maintenance officer at Nha Trang AB on the South China Sea coast. He was living in off-base quarters in January 1968 and heard the Tet holiday season shift from festival to battle.

"We knew the Vietnamese would be shooting off fireworks to celebrate the Tet festivities. If I remember correctly, it was about midnight that things started to change. There was the noise of fireworks and then more and more noise. We didn't really know what was going on, but we became aware the noise was small arms fire and not fireworks," he said.

"There were NVA troops all around the city of Nha Trang and our first concern was to account for all our people who had been staying downtown and get them back on the base.

"The city was hit pretty hard.

"When we were issued M-16s, the

weapons were very welcome," he remembers.

The North Vietnamese announced the Tet Offensive at Khe Sanh with 1,000 rounds of rocket fire on the first day. TSgt. Stephen Gusan, 439th AMS, was one of the Marines crouching under sandbags at the outpost in mountain country near Laos.

As a 1st Marine Air Wing microwave communications specialist, he was one of a three-man team working out of a van covered by sandbags and earth.

"We spent many days in the van under harassment incoming fire. The intensity would go up and down," he remembers.

For days the base was cut off even from air re-supply until air strikes relieved some of the pressure.

"We had received advanced warning that an offensive was coming. C-rations were coming in and we were digging in for the offensive we knew was coming," he said.

The Marines withstood the Tet barrage and Sergeant Gusan remained with them through further assaults until the garrison was withdrawn intact in the spring.

SSgt. Abram Winters, 439th CS, heard the rumors of a coming attack at Tan Son Nhut AB, outside Saigon, where he was a refrigeration air conditioning specialist.

"There were rumors, but we weren't really expecting anything until near the



SSgt. Abram Winters

end of the day when we were placed on full alert.

"The next morning the air police came to the billets and told us to go to our duty stations and stay there. That's where we stayed for days — sleeping on the floors and tables."

They knew the Vietnam War had erupted in a new phase when they were lined up, issued M-16s and ammunition and assigned to guardposts for night shifts in addition to day-time duties.

Life during the Tet Offensive became a cycle of work, guard duty, a few hours sleep on the floor and the tattoo of small arms fire.

"I can't remember if the mess hall was open, but I remember the dry cereal and that there wasn't much to eat and long lines even for what there was," Sergeant Winters said.

TSgt. John Shlatz, 74th AES, saw the Tet Offensive from the gun door of an Army Huey helicopter.

It started with a long night in South Vietnam's Delta region and stretched to street fighting in Saigon. The Tet Offensive was the highlight of his 12 months of almost continuous action as an Army helicopter crew chief and door gunner from October 1967 to October 1968.

In January, Sergeant Shlatz's unit was sweeping the Delta countryside around Can Tho.

"I was flying on night duty and the pilot got the call that the base was being overrun. We on the gunship provided fire support for the next 24 hours — landing, refueling, rearming and going back out. It went on like that for a

(Continued on page 14)



TSgt. John Shlatz

Westover will be home for C-5 training simulator

(Continued from Page 1)

members will come to Westover for simulator training.

Thirty maintenance personnel from each base will receive engine-run training in the simulator.

"Because the reservists and guard members from New England and New York won't have to spend valuable time traveling to and from Dover, they'll be able to spend more time on training," Major Mercker said. "This will undoubtedly help to enhance the flying capabilities of the crew members."

The simulator, which was designed and manufactured by CAE Ltd. of Montreal, a Canadian subsidiary of United Airlines Services Corp., will be operated by United under a contract with the Air Force.

The trainer features a mock C-5 cockpit which contains all the equipment normally found in a Galaxy, plus some added gadgets designed to make the flight experience even more realistic.

"This is not just a box that sits there with a bunch of funny dials on it," General Walker said. Instead, he explained, the life-like simulator moves on three axes, and has computer-generated scenes which are flashed onto the pilot's windscreen.

"It provides a crew with an opportunity to see an approach into any location in the world where they might be flying," the wing commander said.

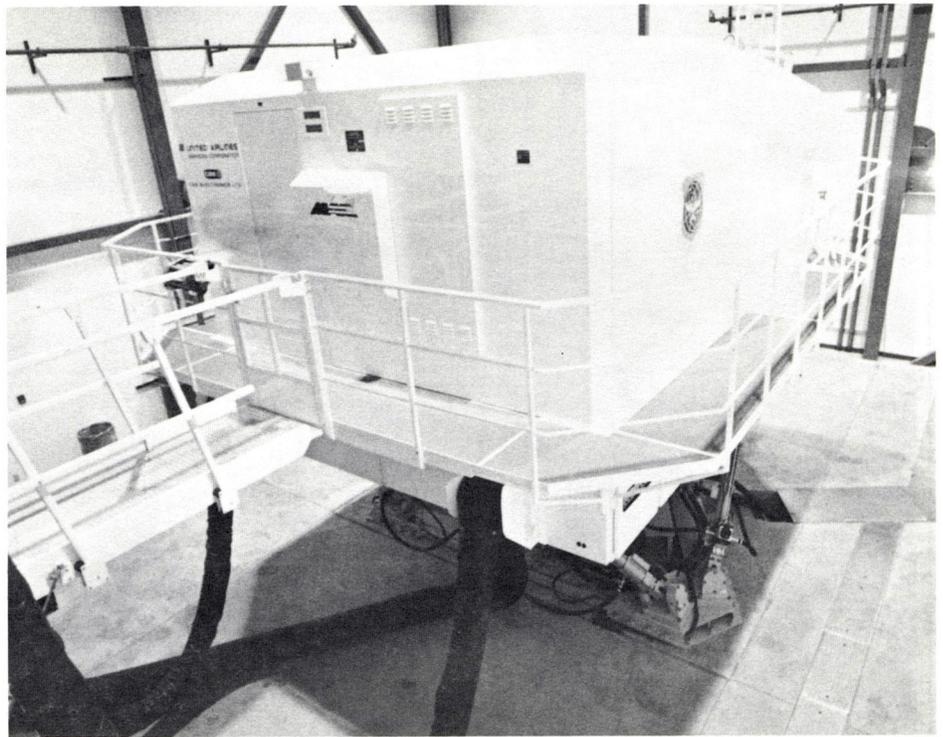
Major Mercker said one special benefit of simulator training is the ability for airmen to experience emergency situations in a realistic environment. "That type of training is invaluable," he stated.

With the computerized trainer, he said, situations can be created which might be too dangerous for actual flight. For example, the simulator will even allow pilots to respond to emergency situations such as a loss of power to two or more engines.

Westover and Stewart were both under consideration as possible sites for the C-5A weapons systems trainer.

"Our facilities, and the fact that we had an existing building to house the equipment, were the deciding factors in Westover's favor," General Walker said.

The Westover simulator will be



(USAF photo by SSgt. Diana Mehail)

TRAINING MODULE — The C-5 Weapon Systems Trainer can rotate on three axes and will be installed in building 3102 along Inner Drive near Base Headquarters.

housed in building 3102, a brick structure on Inner Drive near the base headquarters.

General Walker said the timetable for the building's renovation and the installation of the simulator will be established soon. "Obviously," he said, "this is a very valuable asset, and we are most anxious to have it on-line as soon as we possibly can."

United Airlines Services Corp. of Colorado has been advertising for instructors and maintenance technicians to operate the new simulator.

United employs about 25 personnel at Travis AFB where two C-5 simulators are in operation. According to a United spokesman, some of the instructors are Air Force Reserve members and all are Air Force veterans.

According to United, instructors "must have extensive experience in the instruction of C-5 pilots, flight engineers or loadmasters and a knowledge of human learning theory."

The instructors will put 439th MAW and 105th MAG aircrews through a series of lessons on the computer before progressing to the simulator for training and evaluation.

The simulator's flight station mod-

ule will be mounted on a computer-controlled hydraulic actuator with a motion system which will allow free movement in six directions.

While the training module moves within building 3102 and aircrew members can hear warning bells and other digitally generated sounds, there will also be visual cues to enhance the realism of the experience.

A sophisticated dusk/night visual system creates a realistic computer generated scene including variable cloud ceiling, ambient illumination and numerous other special effects.

"The visuals are great," said Lt. Col. Charles "Whitey" Joslin, commander of the 337th MAS at Westover. "When you're moving out to the runway, for example, you can even see trucks parked alongside the ramp and details like that."

Colonel Joslin also said that C-5 pilots report "the computer-generated images and sensations during aerial refueling operations are extremely convincing."

He said, "This is going to be a great training aid for our squadron. I wish it were here today."

New 'Hotline' for questions

If you can contribute a great idea or have a burning question about the Air Force Reserve or operations at Westover, Brig. Gen. Frederick "Mike" Walker has created a "Commander's Hotline" to collect your input.

"I want every 439th MAW member and civilian worker to know they have a valuable voice in both the mission and the day-to-day operation of Westover," said General Walker.

"By dialing 2155 on base or (413) 557-2155 from off base, you'll reach an answering machine at any time of day, seven days a week," said the wing commander.

General Walker said rapid feedback is far more important to him than identification of the caller. "You do not have to give your name unless you want a personal response," he said. If you feel more comfortable by being anonymous, do it. Or leave your name for a personal response. I want your ideas and to know your questions.

Hotline calls which bring to light ideas or questions which may be of interest to many 439th members will be reported in the *Patriot* or through other information outlets.

General Walker said the 24-hour telephone line was not created to replace Inspector General, suggestion, Management Improvement or Fraud, Waste and Abuse programs at Westover. "Each of these program address specific needs," he said.

"The hotline is in operation today because the base commander, Lt. Col. Tom Hargis, and I need to know right away what is on the minds of our people so we can be responsive and fix problems quickly," General Walker said.

"If we get many calls on the same subject we will consider publishing the response in the *Patriot*, but if the question seems to be of interest to only the caller, we will need their name for a personal response," he said.

"We may also use the *Patriot* to pose questions to members of the wing and ask for input — sort of our own 'Patriot Poll' — through the hotline. No one has a corner on good ideas, and we need to harvest many good — or better yet, great — ideas to make Westover the finest operation in the Air Force Reserve," he said.



(USAF photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

TIGHTENED SECURITY — TSgt. Brian Shove, law enforcement specialist with the 439th SPS, issues a visitor's pass at the main gate. Since December, visitors can enter the base only through the main gate, where they will receive a pass for that day. Visitors are requested to return passes to a box at the gate upon leaving the base. Pass and ID section is responsible for passes for longer periods of time.

Clergy Day scheduled

Base Chaplain (Maj.) Sandy Van Norden is urging all reservists to invite their pastor to visit Westover for Clergy Day, April 9.

Anyone interested should call Major Van Norden's office (extension 3031). The base commander will then send formal invitations.

Visiting clergy will be given an orien-

tation and a tour of the base so they may better understand the mission of the 439th Military Airlift Wing.

"We realize we only see our reservists a fraction of the time," said Major Van Norden. "Meeting with their home clergy may provide an element of continuity."

Base dining hall wins Hennessey Award

Westover's Dining Hall has received the coveted Hennessey Award for the first time.

The National Restaurant Association, in conjunction with the Air Force, reviews and rates active duty, Guard and Reserve dining facilities in 35 categories.

All Reserve facilities are evaluated each year by AFRES food services staff using the same evaluation criteria used for active duty. Categories include quality, taste and appearance of food, cooking techniques, sanitation, inventory control, and monetary audits to name a few.

Opportunities open to enlisted reservists

by TSgt. Sandi Michon

If you want to be an officer and fit the requirements, Westover's Quality Force section encourages you to take the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test in February or March.

"The qualifying test is only one step in the Reserve Airman Commissioning Program," explained Maj. Michael Roy, OIC of Quality Force.

The commissioning program is one avenue enlisted people can pursue, he said. Eligibility requirements include a baccalaureate degree with a minimum 3.0 grade point average, completion of the Officer Preparatory Course (7D) and be recommended for commissioning by the unit commander.

One year of military service is required, and one year of satisfactory service must be credited immediately before commissioning.

The applicant must be under age 30 as of the commissioning date, be within weight standards and be rated outstanding in all elements of AF Form 1145 for evaluation of commissioning applicants.

"If an individual satisfies these requirements, or plans to in the near future, he or she should contact the Quality Force office to schedule the AFOQT," he said.

The test will be administered on Feb. 17 and Mar. 18, he said. Applicants must achieve scores of 50 for aptitude and verbal, plus at least 40 for quantitative, to remain eligible.

Those satisfying all requirements will be scheduled for an interview by a screening board at Westover.

Nominees selected by the screening

board, which meets every May and November, will be forwarded through 14th Air Force to AFRES.

According to CMSgt. Ronald Perrault, food service manager, although the win was attributed to an overall team effort, he would give the MVP award to TSgt. Michael Spano. "He put in a lot of extra hours and did an outstanding job," said Chief Perrault.

Aside from the overall quality of the dining hall Chief Perrault said recent renovations to the dining hall helped put them over the top.

"You can have the best food in the world, and it doesn't seem to matter when the surroundings look run-down," he said. He also gave special praise to the new service contract for general cleaning in the dining hall.

board, which meets every May and November, will be forwarded through 14th Air Force to AFRES.

"Within three months after being nominated at the base level, the nominee should receive notification of possible commissioning," said Major Roy.

After commissioning, the new second lieutenant would attend a two-week Officer Orientation Course at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

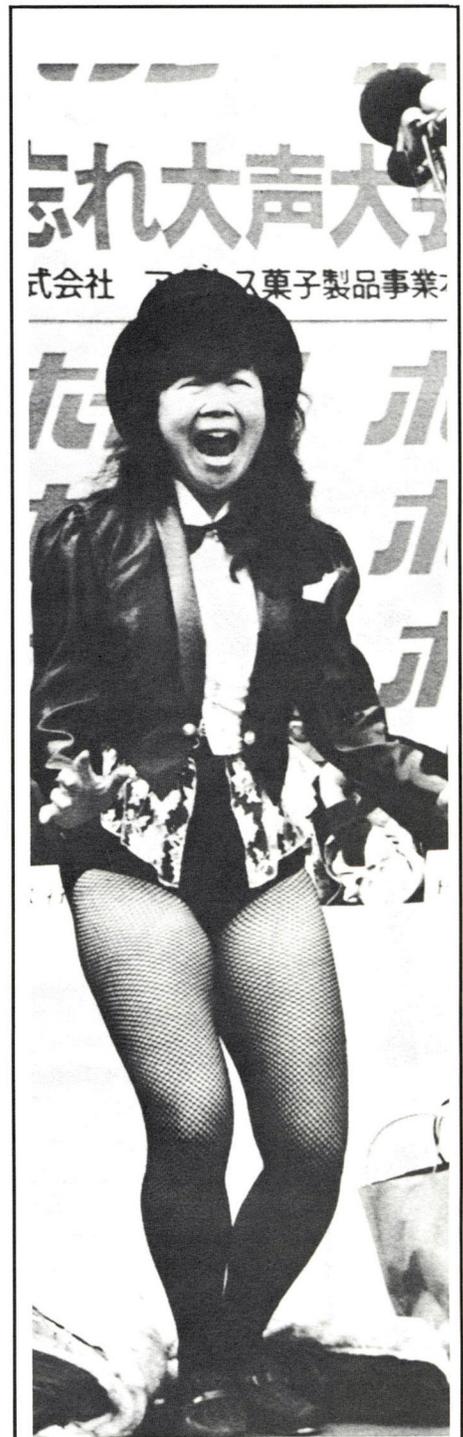
"Many reservists may have completed most of the requirements," said Major Roy. "It would be to their benefit to contact our office and pursue the program.

"An important factor in nomination is unit commander recommendation," the major continued. The Commanders Development Program is a vital communications tool to make the commander aware of those people that deserve special recognition.

According to Major Roy, the Commanders Development Program requests that commanders compile names quarterly on those individuals in their unit who merit special recognition.

This way, he said, the wing and base commanders are kept aware of individuals who may be eligible for the commissioning program, PEP promotions, or unit vacancy promotions.

"The general wants to know about outstanding reservists in the unit, and totally supports advancement programs," said Major Roy. "Hopefully, the cream will continue to rise to the top."



(AP LaserPhoto)

LOUDER THAN A C-5 — Miyako Shimizu, a 50-year-old teacher from Tokyo, shouts "Kyaa!" to win 50,000 yen in the 7th annual Hall's Year-end Loud Voice contest. Ms. Shimizu's bellow registered 112.5 decibels. According to the Environmental Impact Statement, a C-5A taking off from Westover at a slant distance of 1,000 feet would register 111.5 decibels.

(Continued from page 10)

week throughout the Delta. We were always on the go, patrolling and supporting outposts."

As the offensive was squashed, Sergeant Shlatz's Huey was sent to Saigon where it weaved around buildings, flushing out a stubborn enemy.

"I remember we even had a firefight in the city's big horse track," he said. Following the Tet fighting, he was twice in helicopters which were shot down.

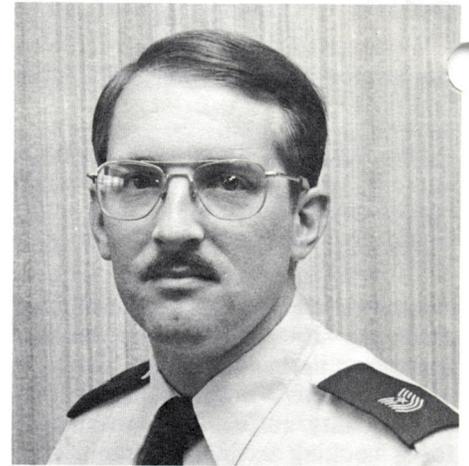
SSgt. Christopher Hodges, 59th APS, was another Army Huey door gunner during Tet.

"We were in the Central Highlands

supporting the ground troops. It was 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We supported the ARVN (Army of the Republic of South Vietnam), Korean troops and 173rd Airborne Brigade," he said.

"Day and night, we were on red alert. You always had to be ready to be hit.

The Tet Offensive, which began under a rain of rockets and mortars, eventually receded in to fighting from Hue to the Delta. In the course, a generation of Americans was put to the test and not found wanting.



MSgt. Robert Patzelt



SMSgt. Richard D. Sheets

EAST LONGMEADOW — SMSgt. Richard D. Sheets of 76 Day St. died Jan. 7 after a short illness.

Sergeant Sheets, a veteran of 25 years of military service retired from the 58th MAPS in September 1987. He had been NCOIC of the Air Terminal Operations Center.

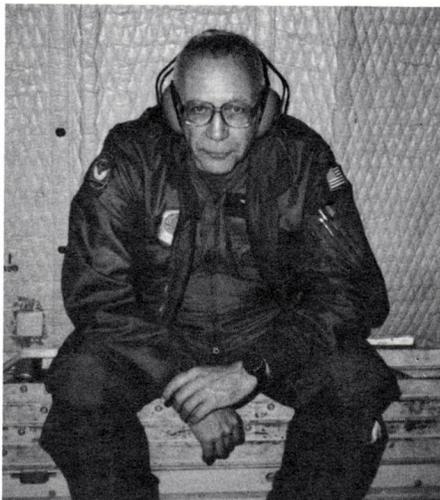
He was a chemical analyst for Monsanto Chemical in Indian Orchard for

33 years.

Besides his widow, the former Rena Mastrangelo, he is survived by his mother, Mrs. Frances Karn and three sons, David R. of Hampden; Robert F. of Springfield and William J. at home.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society, 57 Suffolk St., Holyoke, Mass. 01040.

MSgt. Robert H. Boyd Jr.



MSgt. Robert H. Boyd, Jr.

GREENFIELD — MSgt. Robert H. Boyd Jr., 53, of 31 Woodleigh Ave. died in his home on Dec. 14.

Sergeant Boyd, a veteran of 26 years of military service, was NCOIC of the Mobile Air Staging Facility for the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. He served two years on active duty

in the Army.

He was a 1953 graduate of Vermont Academy in Saxtons River, Vt., where he had been installed into its Hall of Fame for performances in sports. He was also a graduate of the University of New Hampshire.

Sergeant Boyd was the owner and president of the J.H. Pierson Insurance Co. in Greenfield.

Sergeant Boyd played professional baseball from 1954 to 1956 with several minor league teams. He was also a 12-year member of the Western Massachusetts Officials Association and officiated high school basketball, baseball, softball, hockey and soccer games.

Besides his widow, the former Clara Digweed, Sergeant Boyd is survived by four daughters, Nancy A. Otto, Mary J. Rezvanifar, Sally A. Boyd and Maureen J. Williams, all of Greenfield; a sister Sally A. Keirstead of Bristol, Tenn., and four grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Kostanski Funeral Home in Greenfield, followed by burial in Calvary Cemetery.

"Patriot People"

Name: Francis R. Notturmo
Rank: SMSgt.
Age: 56
Address: Ashland, Mass.
Unit: 439th CES
Position: Electrical superintendent
Civilian Occupation: Installer (self-employed)
Favorite Food: Veal parmesan
Favorite Sport: Hockey
Favorite Hobby: Work around the house
Ideal Vacation: Cape Cod
Best Way to Relax: Watching TV
Preferred Entertainment: Dining and dancing
Favorite Celebrity: Julio Inglese
Favorite Music: Classical
Favorite Book: Lee Iococca
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Car: Lincoln
Pet Peeve: Dining hall lines
Best Thing About Westover: People
Worst Thing About Westover: Parking at billeting



SMSgt. Francis R. Notturmo

earning a **PAT** on the back

Promotions

Capt. David L. Maloy
 CMSgt. Robert P. Lester
 CMSgt. Ludwig H. Schwedheimer
 SMSgt. John A. Basile
 SMSgt. Theodore H. Erhardt
 SMSgt. Ernest S. Henley
 SMSgt. Paul M. Mersincavage
 SMSgt. Otho T. Milbourne
 MSgt. Terry A. Allen
 MSgt. Harvey L. Cook
 MSgt. Theodore P. Durand
 MSgt. Kenneth J. Gilbert
 MSgt. Steven A. Lavelle
 MSgt. James J. Marrone
 MSgt. Harry N. Merchant
 MSgt. John E. Miller II
 MSgt. James E. Stone
 MSgt. Richard E. Stula
 MSgt. John C. Tankis
 MSgt. Richard A. Turnberg
 MSgt. John E. Wehr Jr.
 TSgt. William I. Boone
 TSgt. George P. Dejesus
 TSgt. Anthony Denice
 TSgt. Timothy J. Donnelly
 TSgt. Frederick D. Fraini
 TSgt. Bruce E. Goetsch
 TSgt. Edward J. Goodfield
 TSgt. Richard L. Graham
 TSgt. Jerry L. Kaulback
 TSgt. Martha J. Krumm
 TSgt. James H. Lagasse
 TSgt. Stephen C. Mueller
 TSgt. Michael J. Oparowski
 TSgt. James M. Serra
 TSgt. Kathleen M. Yost
 SSgt. Tina M. Blakert
 SSgt. Donald H. Cowern Jr.
 SSgt. Anthony J. Delducco

SSgt. Scott A. Dyer
 SSgt. John R. Ferriter II
 SSgt. William P. Hurley Jr.
 SSgt. Christopher A. Ledoux
 SSgt. Christopher J. Maille
 SSgt. Mark A. Manasas
 SSgt. Allan S. Reed Jr.
 SSgt. Timothy J. Shoup
 SrA Marie R. Avey
 SrA Paul J. Belanger
 SrA Roger W. Byrne
 SrA Raymond J. Circe
 SrA David N. Dix
 SrA Sharon M. Hofacker
 SrA Mark E. Philbrick
 SrA Daniella M. Proctor
 SrA Donald R. Roaf Jr.
 SrA Paul J. Servant
 SrA James D. Tucker Jr.
 SrA George W. Waters II
 SrA John C. Wise.
 A1C Richard J. Girard Jr.
 A1C Raymundo E. Melo Jr.

Enlistments

SSgt. Sheri A. Chouest
 SSgt. John A. Farago
 SSgt. David R. Guenette
 SSgt. Raymond M. Preis
 SSgt. Warren L. Wood
 Sgt. George L. Axton
 Sgt. Gary E. Lambert
 Sgt. William S. Thorne III
 Sgt. John A. Vella
 SrA Edwin Maisonet
 SrA James S. Parker
 A1C Michael W. Fontaine
 A1C Kevin M. Leighton
 A1C Leonard R. Mercier

A1C Dino D. White
 A1C Scott A. Ellis

Reenlistments

SMSgt. Michael J. Guiliani
 MSgt. Michael J. Conboy
 MSgt. Martin T. Condon
 MSgt. Norman R. Fioroni
 MSgt. Thomas F. Gaulin
 MSgt. Walter W. Lagasse
 TSgt. Richard Blakney
 TSgt. Patrick J. Devens
 TSgt. Francis A. Dicorleto
 TSgt. Paul J. Gagnon
 TSgt. David H. Gundersen
 TSgt. Nancy A. Mckemmie
 TSgt. Victor R. Tetreault
 TSgt. Raymond G. Weatherbee
 TSgt. Richard Wojtowicz
 SSgt. Daniel P. Aube
 SSgt. John A. Aukstikalnis
 SSgt. Michael W. Balutowski
 SSgt. Paul E. Beachell
 SSgt. Eugene Bebeau Eugene III
 SSgt. Glenn R. Brault
 SSgt. Richard A. Cieszynski
 SSgt. Neil A. Delisle
 SSgt. Thomas G. Devane
 SSgt. Waymond Dotson
 SSgt. Martin J. Dumont
 SSgt. James R. Fleming
 SSgt. Asher S. Havens II
 SSgt. Robert E. Lemelin
 SSgt. Bruce R. Lewis
 SSgt. Richard C. Messenger
 SSgt. James D. Poteat
 SSgt. Michael J. Thomas
 Sgt. Kenneth W. Cholinard Jr.
 SrA Rene N. Devin

Westover to host Patriot Tiger

By SrA Alan Duffy

An organizational meeting was recently conducted by 14th AF on Jan. 29-31 for the purpose of implementing a mobile aerial port training exercise called Patriot Tiger to be hosted by Westover.

The 25th, 30th, and 32nd MAPS units from Maxwell AFB, Niagara IAP, and Pittsburgh IAP will be the participating organizations. Patriot Tiger will run from May 22 through June 18.

The month long exercise will consist of a simulated bare base for a MAPS scenario in support of the C-130 tactical airlift mission. The reservists will undergo such tasks as quickly loading and unloading cargo. The training will be carried out under bare base conditions. The units will work entirely out of a bivouac situation.

Westover units such as Prime BEEF and Prime RIBS may aid their counterparts by providing them with support. Prime BEEF could be utilized to build the sanitary facilities, barracks, and other applicable items. Prime RIBS services may be added to provide food for a hungry Patriot Tiger.



(Union-News photo by Don Treeger)

END OF AN ERA — Brig. Gen. Frederick D. “Mike” Walker escorts Westover’s last C-130E as the Hercules, tail number 1866, is towed from Hangar 3 to be flown to Sel-

fridge ANGB near Detroit. His son, 2nd Lt. Jeff Walker, a navigator in the 927th TAG at Selfridge, was part of the crew that came from Michigan to ferry the last two C-130s.

Era ends as last C-130 leaves Westover

Brig. Gen. Frederick D. “Mike” Walker walked alongside as the last C-130E was towed from Hangar 3 before being flown to Selfridge ANGB, Mich., on Jan. 14.

Aircrews from the 927th Tactical Airlift Group came to Westover to ferry the last two C-130s. The 927th now has eight of the former 337th TAS aircraft. The other eight C-130s are on

loan to various units, but are expected to be assigned to the 907th TAG at Rickenbacker ANGB in Ohio.

The 337th Military Airlift Squadron has received four of the 16 C-5As which will be permanently based at Westover.

The C-130s were first assigned to Westover in 1972 and have been a familiar sight to Western Massachusetts

residents for 15 years. Safety records indicate that Westover’s C-130s flew approximately 90,000 accident-free hours.

“The C-130s spent most of their time flying in the local area,” said General Walker. “The C-5’s mission is worldwide and a very high percentage of the C-5A flying will be away from the region.”

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Helen Hillman of Springfield and 2,012 members of the 439th MAW at Westover AFB.

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