

# PATRIOT

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

VOLUME XVIII, NUMBER 11

FEBRUARY 1991



(photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

**FROM SNOW TO SAND--** Army personnel board a TWA 747 jetliner outside Westover's passenger terminal on the first leg of their journey to Saudi Arabia. TWA provided the aircraft under the Civilian Reserve Air Fleet Program.

## ***Westover provides airlift punch in fight to free Kuwait***

By Maj. Rick Dyer

As the United States and its allies unleashed a blistering aerial assault to free Kuwait Jan. 16, Westover personnel around the globe were playing a key role in the Desert Storm airlift.

Twelve, eight-member C-5A crews from the 337th MAS were "in the system"--flying troops, supplies and heavy equipment to the Middle East--when the operation against Iraq began.

One aircrew, commanded by Capt. Ryan Rickarby, a 337th pilot, was at an

airbase in Saudi Arabia Jan. 16 just as the war commenced.

Captain Rickarby and his crew took off safely from the desert base approximately an hour and a half after U.S. Air Force F-4 and F-15 fighter jets began hammering strategic targets in Iraq with bombs and missiles.

The Westover crew landed without incident at Torrejon AB in Spain approximately seven hours later. While the C-5 was enroute, President Bush announced to the nation in a televised address that "the liberation of Kuwait has

begun."

Since the war began, 337th crews have continued the daily missions to the Persian Gulf which they have been flying since early last August.

Base officials predict that the 337th's workload will not slacken and that the C-5 Galaxies will continue to be "workhorses" in the Desert Storm resupply effort.

On Jan. 19, a Westover crew led by Lt. Col. Joseph Butler and Lt. Col. John Gallagher had to seek cover in bomb

*(continued on page 11)*

## COMMENTARY

**"Tell them they're in our hearts"**

The increased alert status at Westover Air Force Base was instantly apparent to me as we headed onto the base at about 9:30 p.m. on January 16. The firearms carried by the security guards were far more visible. And we were issued ID passes. Nevertheless, the base was remarkably accommodating to the media. A line of TV satellite dishes pointed skyward outside the passenger terminal. On the runway, a line of giant C-5As were partially hidden by fog.

At about 10:30 p.m., 130 members of a military police unit based in Manchester, N.H. arrived at the terminal. They held their M-16s in their left hands and their Colt semi-automatic pistols in their right as they unloaded from the bus.

The room was filled with a sense of excitement. The rush of adrenaline was apparent. Several soldiers crowded around our TV monitor to watch special reports.

War is played on the world stage, but the players are individuals. I think of the hundreds of enlisted personnel and reservists I have seen transit through Westover since August.

I think of the crew-cut grunts from bases in Kentucky and Texas, who answered all my questions with "Yes Miss, No Miss". Then there are the reservists, generally more self-confident and talkative.

I think about the Boston University senior who cheerfully told me he had his mid-terms packed away in his gear bag.

And there was the man I met in December who told me he'd gotten married two weeks before. His fiancée told him if her man was going to war, he would go as her husband, not her boyfriend.

There was the group from Oklahoma, with accents so thick I could barely make out what they were saying. And I still feel bad I didn't videotape our story to send back home for them, because it was too much trouble.

And there were many women! I wanted to hug them all as I said goodbye, but I didn't, because they were soldiers.

Everyone I spoke to transiting through Westover was apprehensive. But the men and women of that military police unit seemed really scared. For the first time, their destination wasn't just an exotic place on the map, it was the most dangerous place in the world. They were headed to a real war.

In the supermarket today, a woman stopped me and said "Amy, next time you're at Westover, tell the soldiers they're in our hearts, that we're praying for them."

I'll tell them.

**Amy Landsman WWLP-TV**

**Editor's Note:** Amy Landsman, veteran TV journalist with WWLP-TV, frequently covers Westover and wrote this article after she reported base events the evening of January 16 when hostilities began with Iraq.

**Briefs****Active duty pay advice**

For many Desert Storm personnel at Westover, being on active duty during the current recession is not only mentally taxing but also financially strenuous.

Some employers are easing the burden by making up the difference, if any exists, between their employees' military and civilian pay.

Although this may seem like relief, employees who reimburse civilian employers after they receive their military pay will actually be losing money.

Income will be recorded twice, and both the military and civilian payrolls will deduct 7.65% for FICA (Social Security and Medicare) contributions. The activated reservist could end up paying his or her federal and state income taxes twice.

Anyone who is currently reimbursing their civilian employer should contact the legal office immediately, ext. 3180, for advice and further information.

**Rep. Silvio Conte dies**

U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Pittsfield, died February 8 in Bethesda, Md. Congressman Conte, who represented Massachusetts' First Congressional District, served 17 terms in the House of Representatives and was a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

His district included several towns which surround Westover and he enjoyed a cordial working relationship with base officials. Westover's flag flew at half mast to recognize his death.

**439th gains specialists**

Westover's civilian communications specialists were reorganized in October as part of a restructuring of the Air Force Communications Command.

The specialists, who operate Westover's control tower, navigational aids, radio system, telephone system, Base Communications Center, data automation system and weather equipment, were formerly designated as a component of the 2185th Communications Group. The specialists will now function as a part of the 439th CSG.

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

**439th MAW Commander**  
Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker

**Base Commander**  
Col. Thomas G. Hargis

**Base Public Affairs Officer**  
Gordon A. Newell

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

**Public Affairs Assistant**  
Monica M. Lindberg

**Editor/NCOIC**  
MSGt. Gordon Newell

**Assistant Editor**  
SrA. Christine Mora

**Photo Editor**  
TSgt. Sandra M. Michon

**Staff**  
TSgt. Tom Allocco  
SSgt. Vincent Blanchard  
SSgt. Fran Kelly  
SrA. Kymberly Saganski

**Co-op Student**  
Lynne Root

## Westover earns A's for punctuality in Desert

By Maj. Rick Dyer

When it comes to keeping the world's largest airlift flying on time, Westover has been earning A's for punctuality.

Of the five Operation Desert Shield stage bases operated by the Air Force throughout the world, Westover had the best C-5 departure reliability rate for the month of December.

Statistics released Jan. 4 show that overall, 67 percent of the 261 C-5 Galaxy missions leaving the base for the Persian Gulf lifted off on schedule.

Westover also had the best departure reliability rate among the five stage facilities during November.

Since the Desert Shield airlift began, base operations officials and the Military Airlift Command have been keeping close watch on the reasons why aircraft carrying needed troops and equipment to the Middle East are late.

Explanations for delays include maintenance problems, bad weather, aircrew scheduling, ground transportation issues and higher headquarter directives.

Although Westover did not have the best record in any of those individual categories during December, its cumulative reliability rating of 67 percent was tops among all the stage facilities.

Other Desert Shield stage bases include Dover AFB, Del., Torrejon AB, Spain, Ramstein AB and Rhein-Main AB, both of which are in Germany. Of the five facilities, only Westover is operated by the Air Force Reserve.

"That (the reliability statistics) captures what MAC and 21st Air Force think about your abilities," said Maj. Gen. Paul E. Landers, commander of 21st Air Force. The 439th Military Airlift Wing's operations have been under the direction of 21st AF during Desert Shield.

General Landers toured Westover to view the airlift operations here. He said that he liked what he saw.

"It's obvious to me that the Westover team is on track...," the general said. "You are doing one hell of a job, keep it up."

General Landers praised the base as a favorite stopover point for transient MAC aircrews. "It's because of the good treatment and services you offer," he said. "Folks at Westover appear to care."

Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander, indicated that he was pleased with the effort Westover was making to support Desert Shield.

"It's gratifying to be a leader when it comes to Desert Shield reliability," General Walker said. "Our maintenance, operations, transportation and aerial port people deserve special recognition, but this is a tribute to everyone serving at Westover."



(photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

**WINTER THAW--** A 439th Organizational Maintenance Squadron member perches up to 75 feet off the ground in

the hydraulic calavar to de-ice the massive C-5 prior to flight time. The "icy" job takes about an hour to complete.

## Command changes in the 59th APS and 74th AES

Article and photos by  
TSgt. Sandi Michon

Amid the flurry of Desert Shield activities, changes of command occurred in two Westover squadrons during the January UTA.

In the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Lt. Col. Mary Roche passed the command baton to Lt. Col. Richard C. Carr. Although Colonel Roche is not scheduled to retire until September, she says she is keeping with the philosophy of the unit by stepping down prematurely. "We feel that people grow professionally when encouraged to change hats frequently," she said. In keeping with that philosophy, she feels that stepping down allows the squadron to groom

people upward. She will temporarily assume the reserve chief nurse position until a permanent replacement is assigned. The Rhode Island native has 22 years military service. She is an assistant nursing professor at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Colonel Carr assumed command of the 74th AES after one year as squadron executive officer. He has been with the 74th for 16 years and served with the 67th AES at Hanscom AFB, Mass. for eight years until its merger with the 74th AES in 1974. He has served as health services administrator, training officer and operations officer.

Colonel Carr received a bachelor of science degree in business administra-

tion from Stonehill College in North Eaton, Mass. In civilian life, he spent 20 years as director of development for the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau. During the past two years he served as promotions and marketing director for a trade show company and is currently principal and consultant to a new promotional services and marketing company. He resides in Woburn, Mass. with his wife Jacqueline and their children Jonathan and Allison.

As Colonel Roche and Colonel Carr spoke about the 74th AES there was obvious pride and a sense of teamwork between the two. They described the 165-member unit as a well-trained, well-disciplined unit that takes pride in



**PASSING THE FLAG--**Maj. Steve Gross settles into the 59th APS command seat as Lt. Col. John Roach replaces the squadron flag after the ceremony.



**MOVING UP--**Lt. Col. Mary Roche passes the 74th AES command baton to Lt. Col. Richard Carr.

being professional. Both agreed that participating in Orchid Sage was a highlight of their 74th experiences. Orchid Sage held at Camp Drum, N.Y. in 1988 and was the largest joint training medical exercise since World War II. "We did what we had trained to do for years," said Colonel Roche.

Colonel Roche finds the thought of leaving the 74th "painful, but necessary," while Colonel Carr is excited about the challenge of heading the unit. His goals are to keep performance and morale high and to promote an atmosphere that encourages integrity, planning and creativity. He said he foresees not only growth and development within the unit, but personally as well.

The 59th Aerial Port Squadron experienced an emotional change of command as Lt. Col. John F. Roach was presented the 59th APS flag, capping 40 years military service. The official ceremony transferring the APS command to Maj. Steven Gross had ended when the 59th APS people rallied in the assembly room for a surprise flag presentation followed by applause and well wishes. The squadron flag keepsake was added to the U.S. flag Colonel Roach had received a day earlier after retreat ceremony.

"This kind of send-off is a tribute to Colonel Roach's leadership, but is also a statement about the 59th APS," said Major Gross. He said he is excited about the command challenge, but remarked that he had some big shoes to fill.

Colonel Roach headed the 59th APS since 1985 and was squadron operations officer since 1982. He also served as commander of the 905th MOBSF and Wing Transportation Officer at Westover after transferring from Fort Drum, N.Y. where he worked with the Air Logistics Center Augmentation Squadron until 1978. He also served with the 9308th Air Reserve Squadron in Plattsburgh, N.Y. for 16 years.

After 40 years of military service, Colonel Roach is sad to leave, especially with Desert Shield in progress. "It has been exciting to be involved in Desert Shield. I'm as excited at 59 as I was at 17 when I first came in. I think that shows that I have no regrets," he said. In light of the current world situation, he added with a twinkle in his eye, "If they asked me back, I'd be here so fast, they'd never know I left."

Born and educated in New York, Colonel Roach resides in Peru, N.Y. with his wife Mary and they have nine grown



**FINAL SALUTE--** Lt. Col. John F. Roach salutes Brig. Gen. Mike Walker after receiving the U.S. flag during retreat to honor his December 1 retirement.

children. He retires from his civilian job as a high school biology teacher in two years and looks forward to more snow skiing and ice fishing.

Time for fishing and skiing will still be a distant dream for Major Gross as he assumes command of the 59th APS, although being a commander is nothing new to him. He was commander of the 439th Communications Squadron for six years and the operations officer for two years. Prior to that he was active duty commander of the 1917th Communication Squadron after spending three years at HQ/SAC at Offutt AFB, Neb.

Major Gross feels that the mission of

the 59th is a priority but also recognizes that the morale and welfare of his people is critical. "We are in the heat of things with Desert Shield and it presents a lot of opportunities. My job is to encourage excellence, but also to recognize those units and people that excel," he said. As he spoke of the abundance of talent in the 59th APS, he was excited at the possibilities.

Born in Holyoke, Mass., Major Gross now resides in Pelham, Mass. with his wife Regina and their three-year-old daughter Carolyn. He works as a consultant with Digital Equipment Organization in Springfield, Mass.

## Reservists react to call-up extension of up to two years

*"We've to a job to do and we just have to do it. There's nothing to complain about. Let's do it so we can get back to other things in life when it's over." SrA. Johnny Ng, 439th MSF*

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

President Bush's decision in January to authorize the activation of up to one million reservists for up to two years was not unexpected. The decision to seek the authority had been announced several days earlier by Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

The defense secretary stressed that he was only seeking the authority for the call-up and that there were no plans to have such an activation. Still, Westover reservists last week were talking about the impact of a possible two-year activation.

Sgt. Del Gilmore heard the news of Secretary Cheney's request on the day he returned from his 14th trip to Saudi Arabia. The 337th MAS flight engineer, on duty since August, was awaiting orders to leave on another Desert Shield mission within a week.

He had "no qualms" when he heard of the defense secretary's request for authority to keep reservists on duty.

"It's something that has to be done. We've had a big build-up and that material will eventually have to be brought back," he said.

"I recently married...it's something we discussed when we met. I told her what I did and that I like it. She feels the same way I do. It's something that has to be done," he said.

An activation will upset the college plans of SSgt. Erik Kennedy. The 74th AES medical technician was hoping to return to nursing classes at Worcester State College at the end of January.

"Whatever they decide, I'll do," he said of the possibility of a two-year call-up. "If they call me, I'll go, but I would

hate to have to put off school for two years," he said.

MSgt. Richard King, a vehicle maintenance supervisor in Transportation, said he is prepared for whatever happens.

"If it has to be that way, that's what we are here for. Nobody forced me into this position," he said.

"The hardship will be for my wife, as far as wondering what's happening and worrying," Sergeant King said.

For TSgt. Kim Beebe, 439th MAW chief administrative specialist, a two-year activation would mean more time away from her husband, Sgt. Alan Beebe, a 337th MAS loadmaster. She has been on active duty since Dec. 3 and has had to do extra work keeping up their home while her husband was on Desert Shield missions. He has made about 10 trips to Saudi Arabia since August.

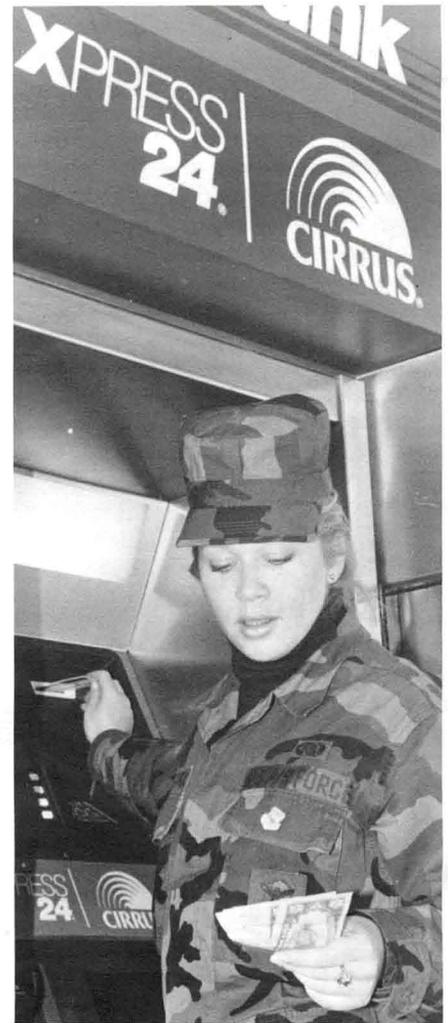
"He was gone on Christmas. That was our first Christmas since we were married. That was very tough," she said.

"When I heard the news my first thought was of how it would affect my civilian job if I was here for two years. If we had to continue for two years, it would be difficult, but it's something we could handle," she said.

SrA. Johnny Ng, 439th MSF, is missing classes at the University of Rhode Island while on active duty. The electrical engineering student is concerned about when he will return to school, but willing to put it on hold.

"We've got a job to do and we just have to do it. There's nothing to complain about," he said.

"Let's do it so we can get back to other things in life when it's over," he said.



(photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

**QUICK CASH--** SrA. Nancy Wilocka withdraws cash from the new BayBank X-Press automated banking

### Base Automated Teller

BayBank has opened an X-Press 24-hour automated banking machine at Westover. The machine is located in the Base Exchange parking lot and is available around the clock.

BayBank is a member of the CIRRUS, NYCE, and YANKEE 24 networks. Plus System members are also welcome to use the machines and Mastercard and VISA cardholders can use their cards to secure cash advances.

Another X-Press 24 banking machine is located outside Westover's

Main Gate at 591 James Street, on the corner of Route 33 and James Street.

## Saudi mission teaches about life in the sand



(photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

**GEOGRAPHY LESSON--** Lt. Col. James Gallin, 337th squadron commander, points out the base he recently visited on an Air Force mission to Saudi Arabia.

By Maj. Rick Dyer

Lt. Col. James P. Gallin delivered a fire truck Dec. 31 to a "bare bones" desert airbase and returned home with some vivid impressions of what it's like to serve in the sand.

Colonel Gallin, commander of Westover's 337th Military Airlift Squadron, served as pilot on the Desert Shield mission, which left Westover Dec. 28.

After stops in Spain and Italy, he landed at a base which was recently built in Saudi Arabia for U.S. Air Force jet fighters and C-130 transports.

"It was the epitome of a bare base," the squadron commander said.

The facility, which is operated by personnel from Dyess AFB, Texas, was recently the subject of a broadcast on Cable News Network. According to Colonel Gallin, it's a tent city in the

desert, with few of the amenities of home.

"There were tents with air conditioning ducts everywhere," the colonel said. "The major recreational facility was some weight lifting equipment under some camouflage netting."

Colonel Gallin said that he got his first real glimpse of life in the desert shortly after he landed. "I saw a wild camel wandering around behind some of the tents," he said.

When the Westover crew landed during the afternoon before New Year's Day, the temperature was a balmy 73 degrees. "The weather was really quite beautiful," Colonel Gallin said, adding that during winter evenings desert temperatures can dip into the 30s.

The squadron commander said that the Desert Shield troops, who work 12-hour shifts don't have television, but are kept "well informed" by Armed Forces

Radio and the military newspaper, "Stars and Stripes."

There is a mobile field kitchen at the airbase which serves hot meals. Food and other supplies are flown there aboard C-130 aircraft.

Colonel Gallin said that the desert terrain would be a shock for most New Englanders. "There's no shade or mountains," he said.

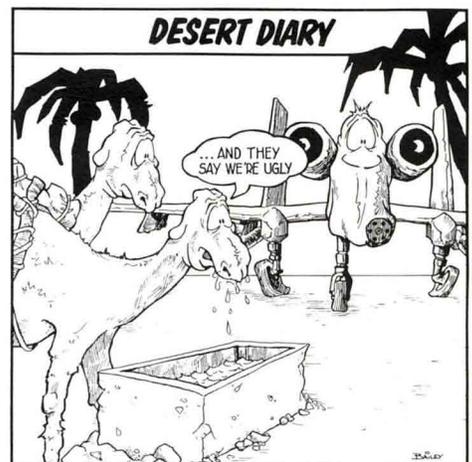
"You are always looking at flat stretches of sand--for as far as the eye can see.

"It's very desolate, Colonel Gallin continued. "Flying in, we saw hundreds of miles of sand and then an occasional town. The Saudis have excellent highways, but there are hundreds of miles of roads between towns."

The veteran C-5 pilot said that sand can be an enemy of the fighters and transport planes located at the remote base. "It's a real fine sand, and they have to use filters to keep it out of the aircraft," he said.

Despite the fact that he observed some boredom among the troops stationed in the desert, Colonel Gallin said that overall the morale there was good.

After the three-hour stop in Saudi, the 337th MAS crew flew back to Spain in time to welcome the New Year there. Colonel Gallin and his crewmates returned to Westover Jan. 4, minus one fire engine, but loaded with memories about life in the desolate desert.





(Photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

**SANDS IN THE HOURGLASS--**One soldier's gear next to the stacked M-16's shows peacetime is running thin.

# DESERT STORM

*Current events today unravel at an unprecedented rate. It is impossible for our monthly PATRIOT to keep pace with daily-changing events and it would take a 60-page issue to give proper coverage to Westover's contribution to Desert Shield and Desert Storm.*

*This pictorial review offers our readers a handful of happenings during January, and a chance to recognize all so deeply affected by Desert Storm. We salute the more than 25,000 troops which have passed through Westover enroute to Europe and Saudi, and the families and loved ones they left behind. We thank the camera crews for their diligent work in reporting Westover's crucial military role and our hats are off to the hundreds of citizens who have taken the time to rally in support of Westover members and our troops everywhere around the globe.*



(photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

**MEDIA MADNESS--** Camera crews, reporters and photographers have been out in full force bringing the

Westover message to the public. Four area T.V. stations are broadcasting live from the Base Hangar on January 16.



(photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

**FAMILY FAREWELL--** Maj. Jane Sbardella, 23rd APSS nurse spends some final moments with her family before

heading downrange. Her husband, Dr. Edward Sbardella and children Matthew, 13 and Rebecca, 11 saw her off.



(Photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

**BREAKING CAMP--** A 94th Military Police member breaks camp in the Base Hangar prior to flight time.



(Photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

**SHOW OF SUPPORT--** Hundreds of local citizens gather regularly at the Base Gates and the Springfield Federal Building to counter the war demonstrators and show their support for military members at Westover, for troops passing through and all the troops in the Middle East. Westover receives calls daily from individuals pledging their support and expressing their love.

# Vehicle Management keeps C-5's in the sky

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

The Galaxy pilots, flight engineers and loadmasters can move mountains, but when aircrews need help moving they turn to the men and women of Vehicle Management.

The four civilians and 12 activated reservists of Transportation's Vehicle Management are one of the busiest teams on Westover AFB. Each month they move more than 20,000 passengers and a million and a half pounds of cargo.

"Every plane that arrives or departs depends on us to move aircrews and their baggage. When Westover's flightline began around the clock operations for Desert Shield we were among the first to feel the extra burden," said MSgt. Bill Chaput, Vehicle Management military supervisor.

"Arriving aircrews need transportation to the armory, to Base Operations, to their hangar and to hotels," Sergeant Chaput said. "When they are ready to leave the process is reversed. And while they are at Westover AFB, we're on call for rides to the restaurants, the gym or wherever the aircrew members want to go," he said.

Since Desert Shield began, the telephones haven't stopped ringing at Vehicle Management. During the last three months of 1990, dispatchers in Hangar Five sent out drivers 12,000 times.

"That is more than the number for an average year before Desert Shield," said Tom Hill, Vehicle Management civilian supervisor.

"Every crew member carries chemical warfare and survival gear in addition to personal baggage. That averages about 180 pounds of baggage each," he said.

Mr. Hill was among Transportation members who helped set up the Westover Passenger Terminal in August. Until November, Vehicle Management also provided bus service for the thousands of Desert Shield troops passing through Westover.

To handle the workload, all Vehicle Management reservists were activated in December. Many of them had previously served long periods as volunteers. They are being assisted by 18 aerial porters from the 58th and 59th APS and Niagara Falls and Pittsburgh



(photo by SrA Christine Mora)

**ENGINE CHECK--** SSgt. Jim Cronin of the 439th CSG Vehicle Maintenance Section, checks the engine of an R-11 Refueling Truck.

units.

Last Christmas was the second in a row that Vehicle Management worked through the holiday. The year before they worked through Christmas moving snow vehicles to be shipped to Charleston, S.C. in support of the Hurricane Hugo clean-up efforts.

They operate a fleet of 70 vehicles and also manage 269 vehicles operated by other units. Other Vehicle Management duties include operating a 19-hour a day on-base and off-base shuttle service.

It all gets done in a manner that earns recognition for the Vehicle Management

team. Last year they won plaques as best in Air Force Reserve and 14th Air Force, and in 1988 took second place Air Force wide.

"The positive attitude of everyone makes it possible," Mr. Hill said. "When an aircrew arrives, we know they are tired and ready for a break. They get prompt, first-class treatment from drivers and dispatchers," Mr. Hill said.

"Some guys stay longer than their 12-hour shift to get the job done," Sergeant Chaput said. "I've seen our drivers postpone their lunch to handle a crew. Taking care of business comes first," he said.

## Red Cross volunteers receive certificates

Westover said thank you to dedicated Red Cross volunteers at the Passenger Terminal last month.

Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, wing commander, presented certificates of appreciation to more than 50 local Red Cross volunteers during ceremonies which recognized their efforts. They are among more than 100 Red Cross volunteers who have worked tirelessly in the Passenger Terminal since August.

Two volunteers each work four-hour shifts at the terminal from 8:30 a.m. to midnight. Others are on call through the night.

The volunteers do whatever is needed to help passengers, from stocking tables of treats to handing out clean towels and soap or lending a sympathetic ear and helpful advice.

## Westover increases security

The crisis in the Persian Gulf has prompted increased security at Westover.

Military installations throughout the world increased their state of security readiness in January in the wake of Saddam Hussein's threats of terrorism.

All persons entering Westover must show their ID cards. Concrete "jersey barriers" have been positioned at both gates to thwart terrorist attacks and security patrols have been beefed up along the flightline and at other sensitive

areas.

"There's concern--both locally and globally--about potential terrorist activities and we are taking precautions," said Gordon Newell, base public affairs officer. "Some of the things we are doing are readily apparent, and some are not, but all of them are in place to deal with potential threats."

Base officials have urged all Westover personnel to report suspicious persons or packages to the base police at ext. 3557.



MENDING FENCES...

## Continued support of Desert Storm mission

(continued from page 1)

shelters after Iraq launched a Scud missile attack against the Saudi airbase where they had landed.

A loadmaster with the crew, SSgt. Jeffrey Chmura, watched from the ramp as U.S. Patriot missiles successfully intercepted the approaching Scuds.

There were no injuries in that attack. Sergeant Chmura reported that the Patriot--which is manufactured in Massachusetts by the Raytheon Corp.--lit up the sky after it leaped from its launcher and slammed into the incoming enemy missile.

That same weekend, another 337th crew played a role in a major news story, when it airlifted a supply of Patriot missiles from a location in Europe to Israel.

A supply of the American missiles was sent there after Saddam Hussein launched night-time Scud attacks against Israel.

MSgt. Stephen Gates, a loadmaster, was shown on a CNN broadcast offloading the Patriots at an airport in Tel Aviv. He was a member of the 337th crew led by Maj. William Bradford, Maj. Peter Gray and Maj. Robert Stewart.

Back at the base, Westover continued to serve as a major stage facility for the world's largest military airlift, and more 439th MAW reservists were called to active duty for Desert Storm service.

Activated on Jan. 25 were 110 members of the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 36 reservists from the 639th Security Police Flight and 310 maintenance technicians from the 439th's three maintenance squadrons and the DCM staff.

Also recalled were 13 staffers from

the 439th USAF Clinic, 12 members of the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron and 16 reservists from the 439th MAW and 439th CSG.

The 74th AES members, who are primarily nurses and medical technicians, will deploy overseas and will provide in-flight patient care aboard C-130, C-141 and C-9 aircraft.

"In a way, it's a relief," said MSgt. John Shlatz, a Vietnam combat veteran and radio operator with the 74th AES. "I figured we'd be going eventually."

Although the 74th AES members will deploy--joining eight other Westover reservists now stationed overseas--the other recently recalled reservists will stay at the base.

The 639th SPF will augment existing security operations here, while members of the 439th FMS, 439th OMS and 439th AMS will service Westover's fleet of 16 C-5As.

The base's Galaxies have been "on the road" constantly since last August, flying heavy cargo and personnel to the Persian Gulf region. Base officials expect the big planes to be returning here for maintenance in the near future, and requested the call-up of additional maintenance workers for that purpose.

With the exception of the 74th AES personnel, all of the other reservists activated Jan. 25 are expected to remain at the base.

The January mobilization was the third at Westover since last August. On Aug. 24, 203 members of the 337th MAS were recalled to fly Desert Shield missions, and on Dec. 3, an additional 841 reservists were recalled to oversee airlift operations here.

All Westover personnel have been working hectic schedules since the operation to liberate Kuwait began.

During the first three days of the war, aerial port workers at the base processed nearly 2000 tons of military cargo and 795 passengers bound for Saudi Arabia.

"Our 60 people normally load 12 planes in a day," said Lt. Col. Robert Kirschling, commander of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron. "During the last three days, they handled up to 23 aircraft in a 24-hour period."

Along the flightline and in the "Hangar Row" shops, maintenance technicians battled frigid temperatures and the clock to keep Saudi-bound aircraft flying during the first three days of the war.

Maintenance workers are required to have arriving aircraft serviced and ready for takeoff three and a half hours after they land here.

"The cold takes its toll," admitted Capt. Cam LeBlanc, wing maintenance officer. "But the war makes our job that much more important, and all our people know that."

During the period from Aug. 4 through Jan. 23, Westover handled 1735 aircraft, 26,837 passengers and 60,910 tons of cargo in what is already the world's largest military airlift effort.

"Everyone at Westover can take great pride in what we've done and will continue to do," said Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander. "It's important for our troops here to realize that they are also on the 'front line,' and that their mission here is just as important as the mission in the Gulf."



(photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

**KEEPING TRACK--** SSgt. Elizabeth DiPierro, recreation specialist, checks the television monitor system which offers

a continuous view of the main recreation areas. The gym operates 24 hours to accommodate members from all shifts.

## ***Gym Complex maintains round-the-clock operation***

By SSgt. F.X. Kelley

Two days after their call to active duty, the 13 reservists assigned to the Recreation Complex/Gym found themselves operating the area's only twenty-four hour physical fitness facility.

Whether it be the treadmill at three, the sauna at six or the Nautilus at nine, Westover sports staffers are ready, willing and able to accommodate our recreational needs.

The expanded hours of operation are in direct support of the bases's Operation Desert Storm mission, according to Morale, Welfare and Recreation Services OIC Capt. Tom Schwechheimer.

"We're all in this together," explains Captain Schwechheimer. "We're trying our best to provide something for everybody. If we do all the right things, we just might attract the type of person who is not interested in the usual activities, and as a result, would ordinarily feel left out," he said.

And while it might be true that you're still 's.o.l.' if your turn-ons are cricket, hurling or polo, the range of activities available covers just about all the bases.

The volleyball league recently closed out another successful season, and has been replaced by a six-team intramural basket-

ball league. The racquetball courts await those who prefer behind closed doors work-outs. The sauna beckons the muscle-weary following a feisty weight training or Nautilus session.

Runners can choose between the hardwood or asphalt, or simply be satisfied with jogging in place as part of an aerobics program. There are also arcade games, pool, table tennis, fussball, and videotapes -- all of this around-the-clock and under one roof!

"We're constantly trying new programs," said the captain, adding that the success of a program is not necessarily judged by the number of participants. "As long as there's an interest, we'll make the effort to provide both accommodations and staffing. It's our intent to offer a different activity each night...if it's successful, it stays; if not, we'll reassess to determine if it needs fine-tuning," he said.

In the wake of the holiday season, the first meeting of dart aficionados attracted only one taker. Regardless of the low turnout, however, rec. staffers were instrumental in assisting with the establishment of a dart corner at the Base Consolidated Open Mess.

*(continued on next page)*

## ***AFRES to fund recreation renovation***

**SSgt. F. X. Kelley**

After three years on the drawing board, the renovation of the base recreation complex/gym came one step closer to fruition following the recent Headquarters AFRES assignment of \$615,000 in appropriated funds for a facility facelift.

The funds will be used to install new electrical, plumbing and environmental (heating and air-conditioning) systems, according to Recreation Services Chief Mike McNicholas.

"In addition, there will be a

thorough modernization of the locker rooms and racquetball courts, as well as a total interior repainting and exterior weatherproofing," said Mr. McNicholas.

"Individual shower stalls will be placed in both the men's and women's locker rooms, and the racquetball court floors and walls will be respectively resurfaced and refinished."

Plans also provide for the removal of an existing storage room, which will be transformed into a state-of-the-art electronic physical fitness area. According to Mr. McNicholas, "this room will have nine lifecycles, four

treadmills, four rowing machines and two brand new machines similar to the stairmaster." He added that a television set and sound system will eventually complete the set-up.

The receipt of the money might be regarded as a windfall, but Mr. McNicholas is quick to point out that it's more likely the result of a lot of hard work.

"The base commander fought hard for these funds. His success in obtaining them will greatly assist us in our continuing mission to make Westover the best possible place to be."

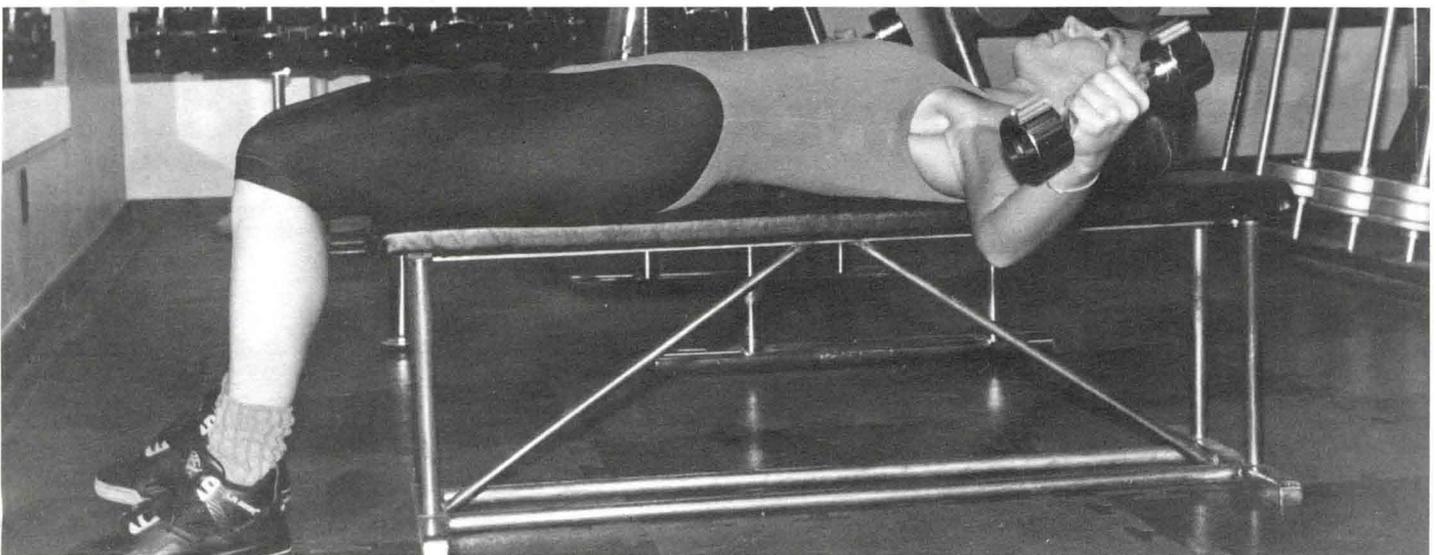
At present, more than 200 people sweat and shower daily at the base gym. While the majority do so during what might be regarded as normal business hours, Captain Schwechheimer has uncovered an interesting trend regarding utilization times.

"Since two of our personnel are augmentees on loan from Niagara, we have to prepare for the contingency of a cutback in hours if we should lose them," he said. "In line with that, we began tracking hourly utilization. Initial indications pointed toward a low usage during the two a. m. to five a. m. timeframe, but we're now seeing an increase in the number of midnight or early-morning users."

Although the complex is operating around-the-clock, and although MWR kicks out the Biweekly MWR Review, which

lists all current and future activities, Captain Schwechheimer wants to leave nothing to chance. "We want everybody to be aware that we're here to serve. Ours has always been a reputation for being outstanding in helping out--it's one we're proud of and one we want to continue."

Activities at the recreation complex/gym will continue at a twenty-four-a-day clip throughout Operation Desert Storm. The recreation complex/gym is located in building 1700 and is served on a scheduled basis by the base shuttle bus. Anyone interested in obtaining additional information concerning recreation services or gym activities is encouraged to call extension 3958 from base or 557-3958 if off-base.



(photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

**FLY-T TIME--SSgt. Nancy Beaman, aircraft mechanic with the 104th ANG from Barnes, performs lateral flys in**

**the free weight area of the base gym. The workout area also includes life cycles, treadmill and rowing machines.**

## Westover Chiefs' Council to offer scholarships

For the third consecutive year, the Westover AFB Chiefs' Council will offer 10 college scholarships.

The stipends are being offered to the children of 439th MAW members, or unit members who themselves are attending college.

The cut-off date for applications is June 1. Scholarship applications may be obtained from unit orderly rooms.

This year, the Chiefs' Council has increased the number and amount of the scholarships. Ten recipients will each receive a stipend of \$300.

Applicants must have been accepted to, or presently attend-

ing, an accredited college or university. They must have maintained a scholastic average of B or better in high school, or a 2.75 cumulative average if currently enrolled in college.

Applicants must also submit an autobiography, and a letter of recommendation from their school official.

The Chiefs plan to present the scholarships at an awards dinner tentatively scheduled for Aug. 4, 1991.

Further information may be obtained from CMSgt. Larry Lose of the 439th CES. In addition to Chief Lose, other scholarship committee members include CMSgts. Joe LaFrance, Vincent Viglione, and Ludwig Schwechheimer.

### 439th MAW WESTOVER CHIEF'S COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

STUDENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL ATTENDED \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS STANDING \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOLASTIC RATING \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE DESIRED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ACCEPTED \_\_\_\_\_ MAJOR/COURSE SELECTED \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF 439TH MAW RESERVIST PARENT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT ASSIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ RANK \_\_\_\_\_

LENGTH OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_ LENGTH OF SERVICE IN 439TH MAW \_\_\_\_\_

## "Patriot People"

**Name:** Mirinda M. Wheeler  
**Rank:** SSgt.  
**Age:** 30  
**Address:** Sheffield, Mass.  
**Unit:** 58th APS  
**Position:** NCOIC Passenger Terminal  
**Civilian position:** Contracts and compensation clerk  
**Favorite Food:** Lobster  
**Years of Service:** 8  
**Favorite Sport:** Football  
**Favorite Hobby:** Skeet shooting  
**Ideal Vacation:** The tropics in winter  
**Best Way to Relax:** Sitting in front of fireplace  
**Preferred Entertainment:** Comedy  
**Favorite Celebrity:** Paul Newman  
**Favorite Music:** Rock/Jazz  
**Favorite Book:** Gone With the Wind  
**Favorite Color:** Rust  
**Favorite Car:** 1966 Corvette  
**Pet Peeve:** People who constantly complain  
**Best Thing About Westover:** Convenience and services  
**Worst Thing About Westover:** Protesters



SSgt. Mindy Wheeler

## PAT on the back

### REENLISTMENTS

MSgt. Lawrence J. Bara  
 MSgt. David P. Jones  
 MSgt. Ronald J. Sliwa, Sr.  
 MSgt. John W. Spencer, Jr.  
 TSgt. Anthony Albano  
 TSgt. Charles J. Cotnoir  
 TSgt. Michael D. Hurley  
 TSgt. Linda S. Ryan  
 SSgt. Michael P. Grady  
 SSgt. Robert G. Hannaford  
 SSgt. Michael G. Kudron  
 SSgt. Timothy S. Rice  
 SSgt. Ara Shishmanian  
 SSgt. Mark D. Wasuk  
 SSgt. John W. Wheeler, Jr.

SSgt. James B. White  
 Sgt. Michael Campano  
 Sgt. Alan J. Raia  
 SrA. Jeffrey T. Burke  
 SrA. Vincent J. Zito

### ENLISTMENTS

SSgt. Steven P. Gilzinger  
 SSgt. Thomas Gozzo  
 SSgt. Karl E. Sweikhart  
 A1C Christopher R. Gray  
 A1C Scott Tyler Smith  
 A1C Christopher J. Vanasse  
 A1C Patrick J. Wood  
 AB Stephen W. Asseng

## 439th USAF Clinic

(Article from last page)

work areas for such health threats as dangerous fumes, water pollution and unsafe noise levels from machinery.

Environmental health specialist SSgt. James Monroe prowls Westover's facilities with long checklists of health standards. Whether checking the water temperature in the dining hall dishwasher or the bacteria count in the gym's jacuzzi, they make the decision if procedures are safe for the public.

Literally from the first day, Desert Shield has meant additional demands for maintaining first aid packs, chemical warfare antidote kits and survival material. The night before Westover joined the airlift, CMSgt. George Kudla, medical administration manager, was awakened at home to report to the Clinic and distribute atropine. Medical technicians continue to be called upon at all hours to brief aircrews and distribute chemical warfare antidote kits.

Maintenance of first aid kit located throughout Westover Galaxies for aircrew members and passengers is the Clinic's responsibility. "Even when they are brand new from the depot we open them up and repack them after inspection," Chief Kudla said.

Before the December activation, 32 Clinic members volunteered to serve at Langley AFB and Seymour Johnson AFB for periods up to 139 days. Ten members continue to be on TDY status.

Mobilized reservists are eligible for the same medical benefits as other active duty members and their dependents may be treated under the CHAMPUS program. If necessary, the Clinic will re-fill existing prescriptions of activated reservists.

CELEBRATE AN AMERICAN TRADITION  
 50  
 YEARS OF

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS



## 439th Clinic guarding your health behind the scenes

You don't have to go to sick call to appreciate what the doctors, nurses and medical technicians of the 439th Clinic are doing for your health during Desert Shield.

If you eat in the dining hall, use the gym or work in a hangar, you are benefiting from the health services provided by the Clinic. Environmental health issues have grown in importance with the larger numbers of people and stepped up activity of the Desert Shield airlift.

Among the more than 1,000 reservists mobilized to support Westover's role in Desert Shield are 20 Clinic members providing for their health care.

In addition to sick call, a doctor and medical technician are on standby 24 hours a day for emergency care. Medical facilities at Hanscom Field and Fort Devens are available to reservists and a medevac capability has been established.

Less visible but just as important are the environmental team members working in preventive health care. Their job is to guarantee that Westover reservists can work and play without threats to their health.

Among them are bioenvironmentalists MSgt. William Archambeau and SrA. Jeffrey Bosinske. Every day they make the rounds of hangars, monitoring

*(continued on page 15)*



*(photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)*

**SHOT IN THE ARM--** SSgt. Marta Bojczuk, 439th USAF Clinic lab technician, prepares the syringe for the next immunization.

***The Clinic is located on Outer Drive and the telephone extension is 3012. Sick call hours are 7:30 -9 a.m., 2:30 -3:30 p.m. and 6-7 p.m. seven days a week.***

# PATRIOT

Coming in March: 74th AES deployed



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Terrie Page of Chepachet, R.I. and 2312 members of the 439th MAW at Westover AFB.

HQ 439TH MILITARY AIRLIFT WING  
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MA 01022

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

THIRD CLASS  
BULK RATE  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
USAF  
PERMIT NO. G-1