

WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

December 6, 1990

Patriot Wing mobilized

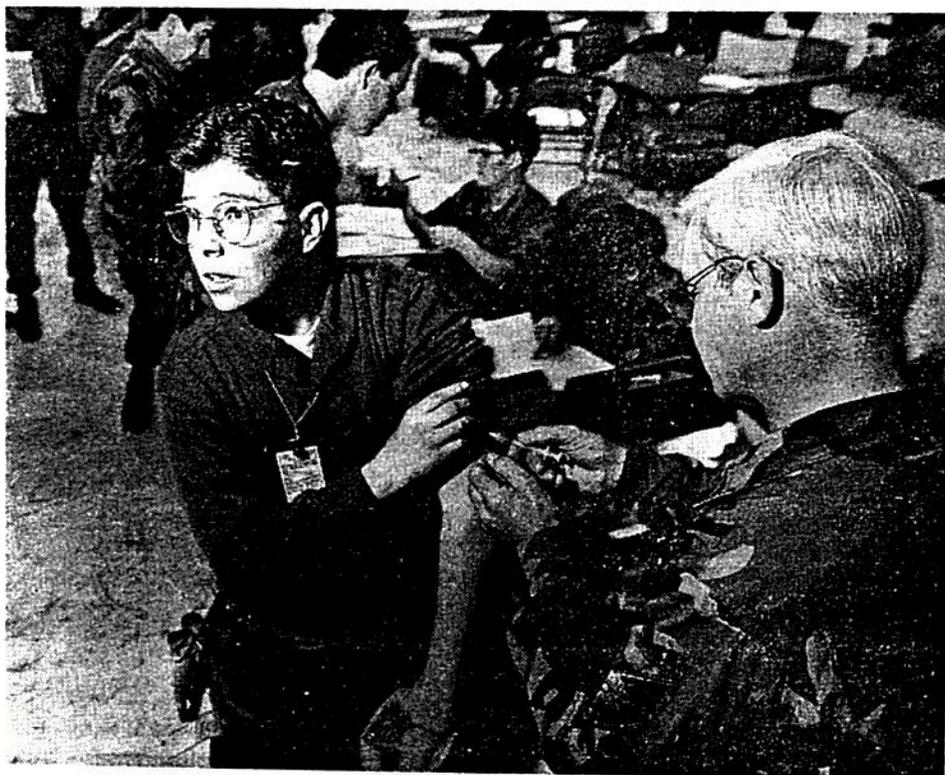
Like their colonial ancestors more than 200 years ago, 841 reservists from Westover's "Patriot Wing" have heeded the call to active duty.

The reservists--members of the 439th Military Airlift Wing and 439th Combat Support Group--were mobilized Dec. 3 for up to 180 days. Most of them will serve at Westover, operating the base around the clock in support of Operation Desert Shield.

For the past two months, the base has served as the East Coast Stage Area for transport aircraft carrying troops and equipment to the Persian Gulf. With the base expecting up to 20 flights a day over the next several weeks, Air Force officials decided to call-up key support personnel to assist with the Desert Shield missions.

"This just legitimizes our role here, said Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker, 439th MAW commander. "We were no longer able to continue running the base with the volunteer services of our reservists."

During the past two days, reporting personnel have been streaming through mobility lines, undergoing processing which transforms them from reserve to active-duty status.



QUICK SHOT -- SSgt. Philip Nadeau, 42 APS, receives a typhoid shot from TSgt. Paul Giglio, USAF Clinic, during mobilization processing at Westover on Dec. 4. (photo courtesy of Albert Dixon, *Hartford Courant*)

The 841 reservists mobilized yesterday join 204 members of Westover's 337th Military Airlift Squadron and approximately 40 reservists from the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation

Squadron on active-duty status. The 337th MAS was mobilized Aug. 22, and its aircrews have flown hundreds of C-5 missions to Saudi Arabia on a daily basis since then.

Desert Shield stats highlight Westover role

How important is Westover to Operation Desert Shield? Base statisticians know.

Through Dec. 5, more than 1086 aircraft missions--880 of them C-5 Galaxy flights--have left Westover for the Persian Gulf. The base has also processed 15,161 passengers and 38,250 tons of cargo bound for Saudi Arabia.

Support Center opens on base

A support center for those affected by Operation Desert Shield opened yesterday at Westover.

Located in building 1310 at the base, it will be staffed by a full-time director and assistant director, plus volunteers.

The center will offer support and services to all members of the Armed Services serving in Operation Desert Shield and their families.

According to Capt. Colleen Steel, temporary coordinator, the center will offer financial counseling, spouse employment services, house hunting guidance, referrals, and information concerning services and benefits.

"The critical need is to diffuse the panic service members

and their families may experience due to the disruption in their lives," said Captain Steel. "One of our highest priorities is to promote a support network for the relatives of service members."

Captain Steel stressed that the center services are not limited to Westover personnel. "We are available to all members of the Armed Forces and their family members who are being impacted by Desert Shield," she said.

The center will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 12 noon until 5 p.m. weekends.

The telephone number is 557-CARE. Those interested in volunteering to staff the center may call Captain Steel.

This week at Westover

- Base Gym open 24 hours
- Men and women's aerobics classes - 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday --\$2 fee.
- Madrigal Dinner - a 16th Century feast at the University of Massachusetts at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6. \$23 for bus and dinner. For more information, call Capt. Jobes, Ext. 2993.
- The Dec. 8 Christmas Shopping Trip to Fall River has been cancelled.
- MWR is planning recreational programs including card games, ping-pong tournament, karate classes and stained glass window lessons. For more information, call SSgt. Chris Men-carelli, MWR program director, at Ext. 2328.
- MWR's Four Seasons Store is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. They are located across from the Base Hangar. Ski sale underway. Recreational equipment available for rent. For more information, call Ext. 2974.
- Discount movie tickets valid at Showcase Cinemas, West Springfield and other locations available at the Base Gym. \$4.75 each.

VIPs tour base

A number of VIPs have come to Westover during the past two weeks to view Desert Shield operations here. Gen. H. T. Johnson, commander of the Military Airlift Command and the U. S. Transportation Command toured the facility Nov. 28. His visit came 11 days after Maj. Gen. John H. Closner, commander of the Air Force Reserve, visited the base.

Singer John Denver, the son of a career Air Officer and self-proclaimed "Air Force brat" toured Westover Dec. 2. Dressed in a flight suit and pilot's jacket, he greeted troops bound for Saudi Arabia, rode a Westover fire truck and toured a C-5.

U. S. Senator Edward M. ("Ted") Kennedy, D.-Mass. visited the base today. "I'm enormously impressed with what we've seen out here at Westover," the senator said. "Once again this facility has been just absolutely extraordinary."

Rounding out the list of VIP visitors was Maj. Gen. Vernon Kondra, MAC director of operations, who also visited here today

New Kid on the Block

This is the inaugural issue of *WESTOVER* today. It will be published three times weekly by the Public Affairs Office to keep you informed during Operation Desert Shield. Please call us at ext. 2072 with comments or story ideas.





WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

December 10, 1990

Base gears up for Desert Shield surge

Westover personnel will be burning the midnight oil and racking up the overtime hours during the next two months as Phase II of the Operation Desert Shield airlift reaches the base.

"We are going to be real busy," Maj. Gen. Vernon Kondra, the Military Airlift Command's director of operations, told 337th MAS aircrews during a visit to the base Dec. 6.

General Kondra said that during the first 100 days of Desert Shield, MAC airlifted 200,000 troops and 200,000 tons of cargo to the Persian Gulf. During the next 45 days, MAC aircraft will transport approximately 160,000 more troops and an additional 30-40 tons of cargo to the Middle East.

"We are going to do in the next 45 days almost as much as we did during the first 100 days (of Desert Shield)," General Kondra predicted.

Because of the heavy flying activity that will be taking place, the MAC DO said that there would be no slowdown during the holiday season. "Unfortunately, it's the grinch who stole Christmas," he said.

The airlift surge, which is in response to President Bush's decision in November to send an additional 200,000 military personnel to the Persian Gulf, will directly impact Westover.

The base, the East Coast stage area for Operation Desert Shield, has been told to expect up to 20 cargo aircraft per day during the next several weeks. It was primarily for that reason that 841 reservists from the 439th MAW were mobilized to active duty here last week.

(continued on reverse)



WESTOVER "HI" -- Singer John Denver toured Westover Dec. 2 and greeted troops enroute to the Persian Gulf at the base's passenger terminal.

Westover fuels massive airlift effort

Operation Desert Shield has turned Westover into a busy oasis for fuel-thirsty, desert-bound aircraft. During the period from Aug. 7 - Dec. 6, the base has pumped 19,606,357 gallons of JP-4 jet fuel for cargo planes and other aircraft enroute to the Persian Gulf.

Westover personnel react to hostage announcement

The announcement last week that Saddam Hussein would release all foreign hostages in Iraq and Kuwait was greeted with both optimism and skepticism by Westover civilian and military personnel.

"I'll believe it when I see it, but I think it's wonderful," said Maj. Eric Weiss, staff judge advocate.

His sentiments were echoed by MSgt. Paul Chappelle, an avionics maintenance supervisor with the 439th AMS. "I wonder if it's just a

political move to align more people against President Bush," he said. "Let's hope he's sincere, but I've got my doubts about...his motives."

Maj. Peter Gray, a 337th MAS pilot who's flown approximately 20 missions to the Persian Gulf, was slightly more optimistic. "It does lend hope," the major said. "I'd like to see him do it--actions speak louder than words."

"I'm very encouraged" said AB Troy Douglas of the 439th MAW orderly room staff. "It's a sign that he

(Hussein) wants to make peace."

Ruth Krynicky, an operations systems assistant at base operations said that she had her fingers crossed for the hostages. "I think it's great. I'd sure like to see them home before Christmas."

TSgt. Mark Sileikis, who works in the parachute fabrication shop of the 439th FMS felt that the announcement was a ploy by the Iraqi dictator. "I think he's buying himself time so he can get his weapons stockpiled," he said.

Briefly...

Schwechheimer times two

The Dec. 3 call-up of 841 reservists from the 439th Military Airlift Wing was a family affair for the Schwechheimer clan.

CMSgt. Ludwig Schwechheimer, security police manager with the 439th Security Police Squadron, reported for active duty with his son, Capt. Thomas Schwechheimer. The captain is OIC of the base Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Four-star praise

Westover earned a four-star rating recently from a visiting four star.

"The personal quality you and your wing are giving to our forces enroute to Desert Shield is outstanding and greatly appreciated," Gen. H. T. Johnson, commander of the Military Airlift Command, wrote in a letter to Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker, 439th MAW commander.

General Johnson, who is also commander of the U. S. Transportation Command, visited Westover on Nov. 28.

"Everywhere we went I witnessed the enthusiasm, vigor, and personal warmth each member of your team shared with their fellow patriots as they departed for Arabia," the MAC commander wrote.

Clinic hours

The USAF Clinic is open daily from 0700 - 1900.

Sick Call -- 0730 - 0900

1400 - 1500

1800 - 1900

Medical on-call service is available at ext. 3565 after 1900. In case of medical emergency, you may also call 1116 (Security Police).

Legal Aid

Need a will or power of attorney? Do you want legal advice? The base legal office in Bldg. 1875 can help.

Staff lawyers are available from 0800 until 1530 daily. Appointments can be made by calling ext. 3180 during duty hours.

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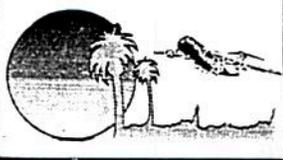
Desert Shield surge

(continued from front page)

"The next couple of weeks are going to test our capabilities to the limit," Brig. Gen. Frederick D. ("Mike") Walker, 439th MAW commander, said. "This is going to be crunch time."

There will also be no let-up for the 337th MAS aircrews, who have been flying the tedious missions to the Persian Gulf since shortly after Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

The 337th was called to active duty by the President Aug. 22. Since then, the squadron has flown hundreds of Desert Shield missions.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

December 13, 1990

Westover pax terminal offers "final touch of home"

Some read, some sleep. Some watch television or dash off a final goodbye letter.

For all of them, Westover AFB is the last place in America they will see before heading to the sand and heat of Saudi Arabia.

Since Operation Desert Shield began in August, 17,543 troops destined for the Persian Gulf have passed through Westover's passenger terminal in the Base Hangar.

Despite Iraq's release of foreign hostages and the upcoming holidays, base officials are preparing to greet several thousand more military passengers during the next several weeks.

"There could be as many as 300-400 passengers during a 24-hour shift," said SSgt. Terrie Page, a passenger representative at the terminal. "It all depends on (Desert Shield) scheduling."

The steady flow of troops and cargo into Westover during December follows President Bush's decision last month to send an additional 200,000 military personnel to the Middle East. Westover has been the East Coast stage area for Desert Shield airlift operations since September.

Although the base did not previously have a passenger terminal, one was quickly created here after Operation Desert Shield began. It is operated around the clock by the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, which is commanded by Col. Andrew Kasznay.

What was once a vacant room is now a small oasis of comfort for weary, desert-bound soldiers, sailors and airmen. A Westover team of Capt. Wes Carter, MSgt. John Sullivan,



FOR THE TROOPS -- Chicopee Red Cross volunteer Phyllis Beaudoin gives Maine National Guardsmen "Gulf Bags" as they line up for the bus ride from Westover's pax terminal to their Galaxy on Dec. 4. (photo courtesy of Brooks Kraft, *Transcript-Telegram*)

SSgt. Mindy Wheeler and Colonel Kasznay joined with volunteers from the Springfield Red Cross to make the passenger terminal a "final touch of home" for the departing GIs.

Small amenities like a TV set, games, soft drinks, reading materials and sofas help to ease the boredom and

the apprehension. Local businesses have also lent a hand, donating food and personnel items to the Red Cross for distribution to the troops at the passenger terminal.

"They may be here a few hours or a few days, but if there is anything we at
(Continued on reverse)

Dining hall feeds the multitudes

Move over McDonald's. Since Operation Desert Shield began last Aug., the personnel at Westover's dining facility have served 71,082 meals. Hungry Westover personnel and troops who stopped here enroute to Saudi Arabia have consumed 51,041 hot meals and 20,041 box lunches through Dec 8.

† Chapel services

Protestant services are held on Sunday at 1030 hours in the pilot briefing room of the base hangar.

Catholic Mass is held Saturday at 1600 hours at the pilot briefing room of the base hangar.

Daily Mass will be held Monday through Friday at 1200 hours in Bldg 1408 (74th AES Hq).

During UTAs, there will be a 0730 Catholic and Protestant service at the consolidated open mess in addition to the regular services.

Pax terminal

(continued from front page)

Westover can do to ease the transition from home to overseas deployment, we'll try," said Sergeant Wheeler.

Grateful passengers say that they appreciate the reception they receive during their stop at Westover.

"Your generous hospitality is really a welcome change after a hard day," wrote Army Specialist David Mortomen of Fort Bliss, Texas.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. David Foote noted that "at times like this when we are headed in harm's way, knowing that we go there with this kind of support makes you feel good about the people and the country we defend."

Mass. Governor Dukakis visits Westover

Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis visited Westover Dec. 10 to view Desert Shield operations here. The governor, who flew to the base aboard a State Police helicopter, toured the Desert Shield Support Center and visited departing GIs at the passenger terminal.

Briefly...

Fusco's Deja Vu

While being mobilized was a new experience for most 439th MAW reservists, that wasn't the case for CMSgt. Charlie Fusco. Chief Fusco, 58, has been recalled to active duty three times. In addition to being mobilized last week for Operation Desert Shield, the 439th's senior advisor was activated for the Berlin Crisis and the Cuban Missile Crisis. He also flew missions as an air reserve technician in C-124 cargo planes to Vietnam.

Recreation offered

Mt. Tom Ski School enrollments are now being accepted at the base gym. The deadline is Dec. 31, and more information is available at ext. 3958.

A Desert Shield bowling league is being formed at the base bowling alley. The competition will be held every Wednesday, starting at 2030.

Westover's theater will show the movie "Darkman" Dec. 14-16 at 1930. Admission is \$2.

Movie buffs can also rent videos and VCRs at the base gym, 24 hours a day.

An organizational meeting for the men's basketball league will be held at the base gym on Jan. 8 at 1700.

Volunteers cited

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

Brig. Gen. Frederick D. "Mike" Walker, 439th Military Airlift Wing commander, presented certificates of appreciation to more than 50 local Red Cross volunteers during ceremonies which recognized their efforts.

The recipients 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 2030 to midnight. Others are on call through the night.

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The optometrist is in...

Appointments are available to see the optometrist on Dec 19 and 20. Priority will be given to those personnel on active duty who are required to have safety glasses, gas mask inserts, and/or military issue glasses. If you have a prescription less than two years old, be prepared to bring it to your appointment. Please call the 439th USAF Clinic at ext. 3565 for an appointment.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

December 18, 1990

Dining hall dishes out Desert Shield vittles

If it's true that an army travels on its stomach, then the Air Force is getting plenty of mileage out of Westover's award-winning dining facility.

Since Operation Desert Shield began last August, the "mess hall" here

has dished out more than 71,000 hot and boxed meals to desert-bound troops and other military personnel.

The overtaxed 439th Civil Engineering Squadron has logged thousands of hours to prepare tons of food

for GIs heading "down range" and support personnel at Westover.

Prior to the Dec. 3 call-up, 439th CES members volunteered for nearly three months to keep the dining facility open around the clock.

The Saudi-bound service members -- some of whom will dine on MREs when in the field there -- are eating in a dining facility that has recently been named the best in the Air Force Reserve.

Westover's food service personnel recently received the coveted Hennessey Award for the second time in four years. The award is sponsored by the National Restaurant Association in conjunction with the Air Force.

"This is like the Oscar," said CMSgt. Ronald Perrault, food service manager.

All reserve and guard facilities are evaluated yearly by AFRES in categories ranging from the cleanliness of the facility to the appearance of the food and the attitude of line-workers, he said.

Next week, Westover chefs will be whipping up a special Christmas dinner for those personnel who will be staying on base for the holiday.



JUST LIKE MOM'S -- SSgt. Richard M. Doty of the 439th CES checks a recipe as he prepares a meal at Westover's award-winning dining facility.

Food Facts...

Feeding the hordes at Westover during a typical Desert Shield week is no small task. Dining hall personnel dish out 600 pounds of potatoes, 200 pounds of onions, 3,000 pounds of meat, 300 loaves of bread and 200 gallons of milk during an average seven-day period.

Desert Shield keeps 337th up in the air

Operation Desert Shield is keeping 337th MAS crews up in the air--constantly. According to Lt. Col. James Gallin, squadron commander, 337th aviators have logged 3,951 flying hours on missions to the Persian Gulf. The 203-member unit has been on active duty since Aug. 22 and has flown hundreds of C-5 missions in support of Desert Shield since then.



Chapel Services

Protestant services are held on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the 337th MAS briefing room in the Base Hangar.

Catholic Mass is held Saturday at 4 p.m. in the briefing room.

For a schedule of daily Mass, call ext. 3031.

During UTAs there will be 7:30 a.m. Catholic and Protestant services at the Consolidated Open Mess in addition to regular services.

Merchants offer military discounts

Eleven Fairfield Mall stores offer discounts to military members.

Offering 10 percent discounts on everything are Leon Davids Shoes, the Pro Image, Jake's Restaurant, Footlocker, and Ilona's Handicrafts. Hot Dogs R Us offers 10 percent off on specials of the day and First Edition Bookstore gives the discount on everything except magazines.

Hannoush Crystal Gallery offers a 10 percent discount on giftware and 30 to 50 percent off jewelry, excluding Waterford and collectibles. Friendly's Restaurant has a 15 percent discount and the Tie Shops discounts 20 percent, except sale items. Just Fun Arcade offers \$1 worth of free tokens with the purchase of \$2 worth of tokens.

Santa Claus is coming to town...

Santa Claus will greet children at the Base Exchange from 1000 to 1400 on Saturday, Dec. 22.

Briefly...

Legal Eagles

When Westover's legal officers were overwhelmed by the demands of activated reservists they turned to the Navy for help.

Six Navy Reserve attorneys under the command of Cmdr. Gary A. Friedle volunteered to lend their services on Dec. 10 and 11. The lawyers from the Navy Submarine Base in Groton, Conn. assisted with the preparation of wills and powers of attorney for reservists mobilized for Desert Shield.

Westover legal officers Maj. Robert Bersak and Maj. Bruce Hawley are serving 30-day active duty tours to assist full-time staff judge advocate Maj. Eric Weiss.

For legal assistance, call ext. 3180.

Food Pantry

The Desert Shield Support Center is soliciting canned goods and other non-perishable food items to help military members and their families in need.

Suggested donations include canned vegetables, dry milk, tuna fish and cereals.

To make a donation, or for further information, call the support center at 557-CARE.

Advisory council active

With more than 1000 reservists called to active duty, the Base Advisory Council will have even more work to do. According to TSgt. Kelly Payne, the council will continue holding monthly meetings Sunday of the A UTAs at 0900 in the dining hall. Members who need help or have suggestions may contact their unit representative, or Sergeant Payne at ext. 3877.

Reserve statistics

As of December 10, 120,281 reservists from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces had been called to active duty for Operation Desert Shield. Of that number, 1,006 are members of the 439th MAW "Patriot Wing".

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Commander's Hotline

The Commander's Hotline is open for questions or suggestions at 557-2097. Fraud, Waste and Abuse reports may also be made on the hotline tape recorder. Callers may remain anonymous or include names and phone numbers for a direct response.

Drop them a note

Several members of the 337th MAS have been deployed overseas to support Operation Desert Shield. Why not drop them a note?:

*Capt. Chris Donovan/MSgt. Joyce Zilinsky
MAC 1682/ALCSP
APO N.Y., 09855*

*SSgt. Cynthia Denote
Det. 1, 625 MASG Box 29
FPO, N.Y. 09540-4100*



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

December 21, 1990

Desert Shield Support Center offers help on the home front

A single mother who was mobilized can't find day care.

An airman is struggling with financial problems caused by the pay-cut resulting from his activation.

A Navy wife, whose husband is in the Persian Gulf, has difficulty "explaining where daddy went" to a three-year-old daughter.

For the past three weeks, the staff at Westover's Desert Shield Support Center have been dealing with those problems, and plenty of others.

"At least two-thirds of the contacts involve financial matters," said Karen Craig, center coordinator. "There are also stress issues - separation from family and problems brought on by working twelve-hour shifts."

The center, which is located in building 1310, has had more than 35 requests for help since it opened. It works closely with the base's legal, personnel, chaplain's and medical sections, and outside social service agencies, to solve problems for those affected by Desert Shield.

According to Ms. Craig, the support center's work is as diverse as the people it serves. It has ranged from compiling lists of day care providers and counselors to creating a food pantry for financially-strapped service members and their families.

"We want to find out the needs of the children," Ms. Craig added. It's important to let the kids know what's going on.

To accomplish that, center personnel are surveying local school guidance counselors to pinpoint the issues and concerns of children affected by Desert Shield.



GOODIES -- Students from the 5th grade class of Mrs. Theresa Pete at Selser School in Chicopee decorate goodie baskets at Westover's Desert Shield Support Center. The center distributed the baskets to needy service families during the holiday season. The baskets and contents were donated by merchants at the Fairfield Mall.

Each unit which has been mobilized at Westover has designated a representative to the Support Center.

"We'll be working closely with units reps, first sergeants and commanders to keep tabs on the types of

problems people are experiencing," Ms. Craig promised.

The Center is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday - Friday, and from 12 noon until 5 p.m. weekends. The telephone number is 557-CARE.

Westover Galaxies: on time and in TIME

The 16 C-5 A aircraft which belong to Westover's 439th Military Airlift Wing are usually on time. This week, one of them is in TIME. The Dec.24 issue of TIME Magazine features a photograph of a Patriot Wing C-5A Galaxy delivering cargo to Saudi Arabia in Support of Desert Shield. The photo, which was taken by civilian photographer Thomas Hartwell, appears with an article about Desert Shield on page 38.

Base outwits Christmas grinch: holiday schedule set

As troops and cargo bound for the Persian Gulf continue to stream through Westover, Operation Desert Shield will mean duty as usual on the holidays for many base personnel.

Still, not even Saddam Hussein can kill the spirit of the season for Patriot Wing members. Here's a list of what's happening at Westover on Christmas:

DINING HALL--The dining hall will be open to families and guests accompanied by an active duty sponsor on Dec. 23, 24 and 25. There will be a Christmas Eve buffet from 5:30 to 8 p.m. On Christmas Day, brunch will be served from 8 to 10 a.m. A holiday dinner of steamship round will be served from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The charges for the Christmas meals will be: brunch, base rate, \$1.85, surcharge, \$2.45; holiday dinner, base rate, \$2.45, surcharge, \$3.15.

CHAPEL--Catholic and Protestant Services will be held in the 337th MAS briefing room in the Base Hangar at 5:30

p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The briefing room will be partitioned to accommodate both services simultaneously. There will be no services Christmas Day.

CONSOLIDATED OPEN MESS--The Open Mess dining room will be closed Dec. 23, 24 and 25. The casual lounge will be serving holiday cheer from 11 a.m. on Dec. 23 to 1 a.m. on Dec. 24; from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Dec. 24 and from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Christmas Day.

BASE SHUTTLE--The on-base and off-base shuttles will operate according to their regular schedules.

BASE GYM--The Base Gym will continue to be open 24-hours a day during Christmas time.

BASE EXCHANGE/FILLING STATION/SHOPETTE--These outlets will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. They will be closed Christmas Day.

Briefly...

Family affair

Brig. Gen. Frederick D. ("Mike") Walker, 439th MAW commander, was the first Air Force Reserve flag officer called to active duty for Operation Desert Shield when wing personnel were mobilized Dec. 3.

The general's son, 1st Lt. Jeff Walker, is a C-130 navigator and Air Force reservist from Selfridge ANGB, Mich. who was also mobilized for Desert Shield. Lieutenant Walker is stationed with his flying squadron in the Persian Gulf.

Ski lessons offered

MWR will offer five weeks of ski lessons at Mount Tom beginning Wednesday, Jan. 2. Lessons will be conducted from 7 to 8:15 p.m. each Wednesday.

The fee is \$58, and rental skis will be available for an additional \$6 per lesson. Sign-up may be done at the Base Gym. For further information, call the gym at ext. 3958.

Make Mom and Dad proud

If you've been activated for Desert Shield, let the world know you're serv-

ing proudly. The Public Affairs office will send a press release to your weekly or daily home town newspaper.

Stop at the Public Affairs office in Building 1100 to fill out a Home Town News Release. For further information, call ext. 2072.

Billeting goes Hollywood

First-run videos are being broadcast 24 hours a day on Channel 5 on all TVs in the Flyer's Inn.

The recently introduced service features popular selections from the MWR collection in the Base Gym. The local video outlet Astro Video is also loaning 20 films every two weeks for broadcast in the Flyer's Inn.

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Ring in the New Year at the Club

The Consolidated Open Mess is prepared to ring in 1991 with style at a New Year's Eve Party featuring dancing to the music of the band High Variety from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Festivities will start with a buffet from 7 to 9 p.m. and open bar from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. There will be

party favors and a complimentary bottle of champagne for each couple. A continental breakfast will be served from 12:15 to 1:15 a.m.

Tickets for reserved seats are \$37.50 per person and available at the Open Mess cashier window. For more information, call the Club at 593-5531.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

December 27, 1990

Unsung heroes keep airlift birds flying

Night on the Westover AFB flightline is a time of men working under the glare of floodlights. Voices carry over the rumble of C-5 engines and crackle of radios, and vehicle headlights shoot up and down the line. That's maintenance getting the job done.

Doing whatever it takes, including 12-hour work shifts, the maintenance men and women are meeting the stepped-up demands of the Middle East airlift.

Westover's designation as the northeast staging area for Desert Shield handed the 439th Avionics, Field Maintenance and Organizational Maintenance Squadrons a big job.

During peak times, the maintenance crews have handled up to 20 incoming aircraft a day. Their first sergeants say maintenance members have proven themselves during four months of around-the-clock air traffic.

"I went through the big buildup in Vietnam in 1965, but even that wasn't as intensive as this," said MSgt. Edward Kolodjay, 439th AMS first sergeant.

According to SMSgt. Edward Guenther, 439th OMS first sergeant, "maintenance members at other bases can tell Westover planes the minute they see them because of the way they are taken care of by our people here.

"We get 'attaboy' letters from everywhere," he said.

"Flight crews praise the capability of our maintenance people. The secret is the attitude of 'TLC' that goes into the job. You can see the result in the appearance of the airplanes," said CMSgt. Sal Palumbo, 439th FMS first



**L O N G
N I G H T --**
Saudi Arabia-bound Army troops do their best to catch a nap in Westover's passenger terminal while waiting for their flight to Europe and the Middle East.

sergeant.

Under ideal circumstances the Galaxies can be 'turned around' in a little more than three hours, but maintenance problems can stretch that into days.

"There are no easy jobs. Everything is big on the C-5," Sergeant Kolodjay said.

"To change a crack on a recorder you have to go 65 feet up in the tail. That's six stories," he said.

Christmas '90--business as usual

Operation Desert Shield meant that it was business as usual at Westover Christmas Day. The base handled 11 aircraft arrivals and 19 departures Dec. 25 as the "surge to Saudi" continued here. It was a hectic day, and not a holiday, for aircraft maintenance technicians, aerial port personnel and scores of other support personnel who worked around the clock to keep the big cargo planes flying on schedule.

Operation Desert Shield: World's largest airlift effort

Save those Desert Shield pins and patches--they're memorabilia from the largest military airlift effort in world history.

Thus far during Operation Desert Shield, U.S. aircraft have flown 2.18 billion ton miles bringing troops and cargo to the Persian Gulf.

During the entire Berlin Airlift in 1948, U.S. transport planes logged 697.5 million ton miles. The operation to resupply the blockaded German city was previously regarded as history's biggest airlift.

According to MSgt. Chuck Jones, a Military Airlift Command public affairs spokesman, ton miles are computed by multiplying the number of cargo tons carried by the number of miles they are flown.

Through Dec. 20, MAC aircraft have hauled 252,000 passengers and 273,000 tons of cargo on approximately 7,900 Desert Shield missions. Approximately 16 percent of those flights were flown by commercial aircraft under contract to MAC through the Civilian Reserve Air Fleet program.

Westover, which is the northeast stage area for the massive airlift effort, has processed 1,250 aircraft, more than 45,000 tons of cargo and in excess of 19,000 troops through Dec. 20.

During the Berlin Airlift--which was dubbed "Operations Vittles"--2,323,067 tons of food and supplies were flown to Germany. Although that number far surpasses the amount of cargo transported thus far during Desert Shield, the 7,500 mile distance from the United States' East Coast to the Persian Gulf has given the current operation a vast lead in ton miles flown.

More than four decades ago, Westover also played a major role in building the airbridge to Berlin. The base was a stage area for

"Operation Vittles" and many of the humanitarian flights to Berlin originated here.

Figures supplied by MAC reveal that Air Force C-5s--including the 16 Galaxies based at Westover--have been bulwarks of the Desert Shield airlift.

Since the operation began last August, C-5s have flown 27 percent of all the MAC missions to the Middle East. The huge C-5s have airlifted 20.7 percent of the passengers and 47.1 percent of the cargo sent overseas thus far during Desert Shield.

Briefly...

VHA news

Since the onset of the Desert Shield airlift, some reservists who have experienced a drop in pay and/or are supporting a household outside of the commuting area are finding it hard to make ends meet.

For these activated members, the Variable Housing Allowance may take up some of the financial slack.

Applicants for VHA should bring proof of mortgage payments, copies of leases and all financial housing documentation to Accounting and Finance, building 2400, as soon as possible. Applications approved now should be paid by March 15.

Discussion Group

Westover's Desert Shield Support center will offer a Discussion Program for all activated military members and/or their families.

According to Karen Craig, support center coordinator, the two-part program will provide an overall orientation to base services as well as a chance for family members to meet and get to know each other.

Part one, the general orientation, will be offered on Jan. 10 at both 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. she said. The second part, scheduled for Jan. 17, will deal with more specific issues relating to the recall of reservists from any of the armed forces.

For more information, please call 557-2273/2876.

WESTOVER today

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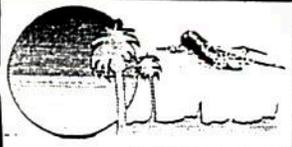
Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act

Do you have a story, good or bad, to tell about your experience with the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act?

The MAC Deputy Staff Judge Advocate is looking for real-life examples in order to support proposed amendments to the SSCRA. Please contact Maj. Bruce Hawley, at 3180 with any information you think may help.

20,000... and still counting

Westover's busy passenger terminal continues to get busier. According to Col. Andrew Kasznay, the 20,000th Saudi Arabia-bound passenger passed through the terminal early this morning.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

December 31, 1990

Aerial porters put "lift" in Desert Shield airlift

The more you know about the Desert Shield airlift, the more you appreciate the job being done by Westover's aerial port team.

From all across the country, C-5s come here day and night with passengers and cargo. Waiting for them are members of Westover's 42nd, 58th and 59th Aerial Port Squadrons, plus personnel from Pittsburgh's 32nd APS and Niagara Falls' 30th APS.

Working 12-hour shifts, the aerial porters orchestrate the heavy flow of cargo and passengers during the staging process to Europe and the Middle East.

Nothing moves at Westover AFB until the men and women of the five aerial port squadrons build and transport the pallets, bus the passengers and do the paperwork that ties it all together. And they do it according to a schedule that tracks elapsed time like a stopwatch.

Daily statistics at Westover measure the aerial porters' efforts.

In the first four months of Desert Shield, they coordinated the movement of more than 20,000 passengers and 48,000 tons of cargo through the base.

The Air Terminal Operations Center in the Base Hangar, put together from scratch and staffed by volunteers from the five aerial port squadrons, is another tribute to "boot-strap" management.

Sparked by the need for an operations center and passenger terminal, a call for help went out during the first days of Desert Shield. Volunteers from the three Westover aerial port squadrons and Niagara and Pittsburgh
(Continued on next page)



JUST CHECKING -- Lt. Col. Charles Hannaford of the disaster preparedness staff checks the chemical warfare defense gear of Westover personnel during a recent training session at the base.

Aircraft go despite season's first snow

The season's first major snowfall Dec. 28 failed to stop Desert Shield operations at Westover. Despite temperatures which dipped into the 20s and snow accumulations which topped six inches, the base handled six aircraft arrivals and 13 departures. Although snow removal crews kept Westover's runways clear, some flights were delayed due to freezing rain.

Aerial Porters

(Continued from page 1)

rolled up their sleeves to set up an ATOC, cargo section, ramp section and passenger terminal. They were assisted by aerial porters on annual tour from Hanscom AFB and Willow Grove, Pa.

They borrowed furniture from Billeting, buses from Pease AFB, N.H., and pencils and telephones from wherever they could find them.

"We were like a family. People watched out for each other. They'd

come in on their day off to see if anything was needed," said SrA. Ken Backlund, 58th APS.

The volunteers from the five squadrons stayed on the job from August until Dec. 3, when the 42nd APS was activated and assumed responsibility for operations. Volunteers from the other four aerial port units continue to account for about one-fourth of the 80-member ATOC staff.

"When the history of Westover's role in Desert Shield is written, the aerial porters will deserve a special place for ingenuity," said Lt. Col.

Robert Kirschling, commander of the 42nd APS. "Everything that has been accomplished here is without precedent...we're writing the manual on the evolution of air terminal operations and inventing procedures as necessary," he said.

"We'd be nowhere without the volunteers who spearheaded the effort," Colonel Kirschling added. "I'm particularly grateful for the contributions of Lt. Col. John Roach, 59th APS commander, who was a driving force during the months he was...on volunteer duty as chief shift scheduler."

Briefly...

On the move

Westover's mobile public affairs office has moved--once again.

PA staffers, who have moved more frequently than circus performers, are now located in the wing/group headquarters at Bldg. 1850.

The telephone numbers remain 3500 and 2020.

Catholic Mass

Catholic Mass will be celebrated Dec. 31 at 5:30 p.m. in the 337th MAS briefing room in the Base Hangar. Mass will also be said there on New Year's Day at 9 a.m.

Safety record solid

Despite the increased demands and activity of the Desert Shield airlift effort at Westover, injury incidents have remained low, according to base safety officials.

"During the first 28 days of December, 15 minor injuries were treated at the base clinic," said Maj. Roger Carl, group safety officer.

The safety officer reminded supervisors that all injuries at Westover must be reported to the safety office. The office is staffed around the clock and can be reached at ext. 3122.

Legion post donation

Thanks to a local American Legion post, Desert Shield personnel at Westover can now enjoy music while they

eat.

Members of the Charles C. Kennedy American Legion Post 275 in Chicopee recently donated a new AM/FM receiver, cassette player, amplifier and paging system which was installed in the base dining hall.

"This is our way of saying thanks for what you folks are doing," said Bill Reardon, a legion member. "We understand that Westover is the last stop for a lot of people on the way to Saudi Arabia.

"As the local legion post, we wanted to show our support," he said.

The \$1,600 sound system was purchased with donations collected from the 350 members of the post.

"We appreciate all they (the legion members) have done for us," said SMSgt. James Buell, dining hall supervisor. "This adds greatly to the atmosphere here."

WESTOVER today

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Social actions office to increase services

Westover's Social Actions office will be open Monday to Friday during normal duty hours, effective Jan. 7.

The office, which was previously open primarily on UTA weekends, will now operate during the week to support Operation Desert Shield at Westover.

"The stress which accompanies an operation like Desert Shield can lead to problems for individual service members and their families," said Maj. Chuck Curci of the Social Actions staff. "We are available to help with human relations issues and substance abuse problems."

The Social Actions office is located in Room 209 of Hangar Five. Further information is available by calling ext. 3581.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

January 7, 1991

Westover proves best in keeping airlift on time

Westover led the way last month in keeping the world's largest airlift flying on schedule.

Of the five 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 Desert Shield missions leaving the base lifted off on schedule.

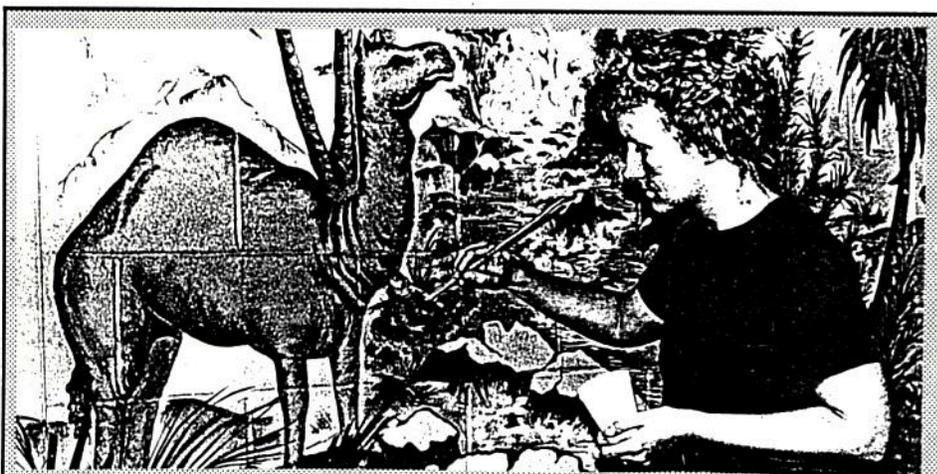
Since Desert Shield began, base operations officials and the Military Airlift Command have been keeping a close watch on the reasons why aircraft carrying needed troops and cargo to the Persian Gulf are late. Explanations for delays include maintenance problems, bad weather, aircrew scheduling, ground transportation issues and higher headquarter directives.

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

Other Desert Shield stage bases include Dover AFB, Del., Torrejon AB, Spain and Ramstein AB and Rhein-Main AB, which are both in Germany. Of the five, 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, Jr., commander of 21st Air Force.

General Landers toured Westover Jan. 4 to view Desert Shield operations here, and said that he liked what he saw.



CAMEL-FLAGE -- You can't have an oasis without a camel and swaying palm trees. Setting the proper mood, TSgt. Kathleen Jensen, a graphics specialist with the 439th CSG, paints a colorful mural scene for the Oasis Room recreational area on the first floor of Billeting's dormitory 5103.

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

Brig. Gen. Frederick D. ("Mike")

Walker, 439th MAW commander, indicated that he was pleased with the effort that Westover was making to support Desert Shield. "It's gratifying to be a leader when it comes to 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."

Early morning missions start off New Year

The New Year was only a few hours old when the first Desert Shield missions in 1991 left Westover. A C-5A loaded with cargo and 66 military personnel bound for Saudi Arabia took off from the base at 4:15 a.m. on Jan. 1. Another Galaxy, also carrying 66 passengers, left here 30 minutes later. Since Operation Desert Shield began last August, Westover has processed 1,383 aircraft, 20,546 passengers and 49,727 tons of cargo enroute to the Persian Gulf.

Briefly...

Smoke-free lounge to open

If smoke gets in your eyes...try the new Galaxy Lounge which opened Jan. 4 at Westover's Consolidated Open Mess.

Located in what was formerly the "Red Room," the lounge offers a smoke-free environment for club patrons.

The Galaxy Lounge's grand opening festivities Jan. 4 featured a live band and free hors d'oeuvres.

Dining hall offers birthday dinner

Westover's Galaxy Dining Facility has created a unique way to recognize the hard-working military members here at Westover AFB.

A birthday celebration will be held on the third Wednesday of every month for any member whose birthday falls within that month.

The special meal will feature steak and shrimp, a vegetable, baked potato and of course...birthday cake! The normally scheduled menu will also be available at this time.

Interested people may sign-up in advance at the Dining Hall front desk or call ext. 2417.

In case of emergency...

Now that Operation Desert Shield has brought many of our reservists on base "permanently," a situation may arise where they need to be contacted in case of emergency. After duty hours, family members may call Base Billeting at ext. 2700. This office is now open 24 hours.

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Weekend daycare

Westover's Desert Shield Support Center is interested in learning if you have the need for weekend daycare. Please contact Karen Craig at ext. 2273 or 2876.

Westover offers solutions for New Year's resolutions

It's 1991, and you're at Westover, pulling 180 days of unexpected active duty. It's probably not the way you envisioned starting off the New Year, but why not make the best of it? Here's a list of New Year's resolutions that Desert Shield personnel can consider making (and keeping):

- **"I'm going to quit smoking."** The base Social Actions Office offers a course that will help you quit the habit. Call Maj. Chuck Curci at ext. 3581.
- **"I'm going to lose weight."** The base gym is open 24 hours a day and staff members there can help create an exercise program suited to your individual needs. The gym also offers an aerobics class and a host of other healthful recreational activities.
- **"I'm going to learn how to ski."** The Mt. Tom ski area is just a stone's throw away, and offers night skiing. Call the base gym at ext. 3958 for information about discount tickets. Skis and other winter sports equipment can be rented at the Four Seasons store, ext. 2974.
- **"I'm going to improve my jump shot."** A base basketball league is currently being organized. The league's first meeting will be held at the gym on Jan. 3 at 5:30 p.m.
- **"I'm going to take that PME course."** Professional Military Education courses are an absolute must for any promotion-minded airman, NCO or officer. Call the Training Office at ext. 3438.
- **"I'm going to earn that sheepskin."** The Community College of the Air Force and the Montgomery GI Bill are two ways to earn that coveted college degree. Call the Education Services Office at ext. 3440 on UTA weekends.
- **"I'm going to save some money."** Open a savings account with the Western Mass. Federal Credit Union, which is located on base in the Accounting and Finance Office in Bldg. 2400. For more information, call ext. 2809 between 9 and 11 a.m. and on UTA weekends.
- **"I'm going to make it to the Hall of Fame."** The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is located just off I-91 on West Columbus Ave. at Union St. in downtown Springfield. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week. A 50 percent military discount is offered on the \$5 admission fee. For more information, call 781-5759.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

January 11, 1991

Clinic offers good medicine in large doses

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

If you eat in the dining hall, use the gym or work in a hangar, you gain from the health services provided by the clinic. Environmental health issues have grown in importance at Westover 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 AFB 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 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
(Continued on next page)



UP THE RAMP -- Westover personnel load an Army helicopter bound for Desert Shield duty in Saudi Arabia aboard a C-5 Galaxy recently.

Surge to Saudi continues

As world attention focused Jan.9 on the talks between Secretary of State James Baker and Iraq Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Geneva, Switzerland, the "surge to Saudi" continued at Westover. A TWA 747 aircraft carrying 380 troops from the 131st Engineering Company of the Vermont National Guard and the 181st Engineering Company of the Massachusetts National Guard left the base the afternoon of Jan.9. The flight carried the largest number of personnel to depart Westover aboard a single aircraft since the Desert Shield airlift began here last August.

Clinic

(Continued from front page)

checking the water temperature in the dining hall dishwasher or the bacteria count in the gym's jacuzzi, he makes the decision if conditions are safe for the public.

The environmentalists, under the direction of industrial hygienist Mrs. Marian Mathieu, also monitor the incidence of communicable disease on base and are responsible for training and maintenance of respiratory protection equipment.

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 began participation in 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 kits 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, Va. and Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. 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.

The clinic is located on Outer Drive and its telephone extension is 3012. "Sick call" hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 2:30-3:30 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.

Briefly...

Italian night

The Chicopee Elks Club is inviting some Desert Shield personnel to be its guests at an Italian Night Jan. 16. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. and will be held at the Elks Club on Granby Road in Chicopee. Call Maj. Rick Dyer at ext.3500 for further details.

Fits to a tee

The newest Operation Desert Shield T-Shirts are on base and they're selling like hot cakes, according to CMSgt. Charlie Fusco, 439th MAW senior enlisted advisor.

The t-shirt features a left pocket insignia of a shield with a C-5 banking right, said Chief Fusco. The American flag adorns the back of the shirt along with the silhouette of a GI, an M-1 tank, the USS Kennedy and an F-15. The t-shirts are being sold for \$10.00 each by MWR through the Chief's Council and the First Sergeant's Association.

There's Hope

Bob Hope's performances for Desert Shield troops in the Persian Gulf at Christmas will be aired Jan. 12 on NBC. The 90-minute special begins at 9:30 p.m. and features appearances by Hope, country-western singer Aaron Tippin and former Cincinnati Reds catcher Johnny Bench. WWLP (Channel 22) in Springfield will carry the program locally.

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Couch potatoes, take note!

To help make the coming months a little more pleasant for Desert Shield personnel, Westover's gym is now open 24 hours a day and hosts trips and activities to satisfy a variety of interests.

- Karate classes begin on Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 6:00 p.m. The introductory class will be free of charge for all interested people.
- For those who would rather observe, the Springfield Civic Center will host the Springfield Indians vs. Maine, Jan. 20. Tickets, which include transportation, are \$6.00 at the gym.
- A ski trip to Mt. Snow is scheduled for January 15. The \$36 tickets include the bus ride and price of a lift ticket. The bus will leave at 6:45 a.m. and will return at 6:45 p.m. Space is reserved for the first 45 people to sign up at the gym.

For more information about these and other upcoming events sponsored by MWR, please call ext.3958.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

January 14, 1991

Saudi mission teaches pilot about life in the sand

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 the 337th MAS, piloted the C-5 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," said Colonel Gallin.

The facility, which is operated by personnel from Dyess AFB, Texas, was recently the subject of a broadcast on Cable News Network. According to the squadron commander, it's a tent city built in the desert, with few of the amenities of home.

"There were tents with air conditioning ducts everywhere," Colonel Gallin said. The major recreational facility was weightlifting 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.

The colonel said that the troops, who work 12-hour shifts, don't have television but are kept "well-informed" by Armed Forces Radio and by the military publication, "Stars and Stripes."

There is a mobile field kitchen at the airbase which serves hot meals. Food is 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 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," the colonel said.

Despite the fact that he observed some boredom among the troops, Colonel Gallin said that morale at the base appeared to be good.



FROM SNOW TO SAND -- Army personnel board a TWA 747 jetliner outside Westover's passenger terminal Jan. 9 on the first leg of their journey to Saudi Arabia.

"Only God knows"

The possibility of war in the Persian Gulf looms larger today, with Iraq refusing to withdraw from Kuwait prior to tomorrow's United Nations deadline. "Only God knows" if there will be war, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said yesterday after meeting with an intransigent Saddam Hussein. Meanwhile, troops and cargo enroute to Saudi Arabia continue to stream through Westover. Gov. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., of Connecticut, visited the base yesterday to say goodbye to the 142nd Medical Company from his state's Army National Guard. "The nation has made a constitutional decision to say 'no' to lunacy," Governor Weicker told the Saudi-bound soldiers. "You embody that, each one of you here."

Saudi scenes move Connecticut composer to song

A Connecticut musician who was moved by televised scenes of Desert Shield troops has put his in feelings to song.

Titled simply, "*The Desert Shield Song*," the lyrics and music by David Right, 28, of Berlin, Conn. have been gaining momentum since the first time it was aired on Hartford's WCMX

radio station last Thursday morning.

"My telephone has been ringing off the hook since the song was aired. There are obviously many people who share the sentiments expressed in song," he said.

The song covers a wide gamut of emotions. The lyrics touch on the hardships of loved ones pulled far

from home by the call of duty. It concludes with expressions of support for those making the sacrifice demanded by Desert Shield.

"I was watching the 11 p.m. television news and it hit me when I saw families saying goodbye and men and women serving under difficult conditions in Saudi Arabia," he said.

"I went to my piano and began writing lyrics. A week later I took a tape to WCMX. Since then the response from the public has been overwhelming -- more than I ever expected," he said.

Right has been an amateur song writer for 10 years. Encouraged by the popular response to his song, he is planning to market *The Desert Shield Song* nationally.

Briefly...

Super Sunday

Westover's Consolidated Open Mess will feature a Superbowl Sunday party on the evening of Jan. 27. The bash will feature complimentary refreshments, door prizes and a large-screen T.V. for viewing the gridiron action.

Quick Cash

Baybank has opened an X-Press 24-hour banking machine at Westover. The machine is located in the Base Exchange parking lot and is available 24-hours a day. Baybank is a member of CIRRUS, NYCE, and Yankee 24 networks. Plus System cardholders are also welcome to use the machine and Mastercard and VISA cardholders can use their cards to make cash advances.

Seminars scheduled

Westover's Desert Shield Support Center will sponsor two financial management seminars Jan. 23. The seminars will be held at the center (Building 1310) at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Topics will include income tax preparation and family financial planning. For further information, contact the center at 5457-2273 or 557-2876.

Support Center news

Westover's Desert Shield Support Center is interested in learning if you have the need for weekend daycare.

The center is also seeking interest for bi-monthly bus trips to Hanscom AFB for use of the commissary and BX. This offer will be open to all active and reserve military personnel. Interested parties should contact Karen Craig at ext. 2273 or 2876.

New meal rates set

New meal rates became effective on New Year's Day at Westover's dining facility:

MEAL	BASE RATE	SUR-CHARGE	TOTAL
Breakfast	1.10	1.65	2.75
Lunch	1.90	3.10	5.00
Dinner	1.90	3.10	5.00

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Westover stepping up base security

The deteriorating situation in the Middle East has prompted increased security at the base.

Military installations throughout the world have increased their state of readiness. Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein has threatened world-wide terrorist activity in the event of hostilities with his country.

All persons entering Westover must show their ID cards. Concrete "jersey" barriers have been positioned at the Main Gate and security has been beefed up at all base

gates, and along the flightline.

"There's concern--both locally and globally--about 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 urge all personnel to report suspicious persons or packages to Westover's police at ext. 3557.