



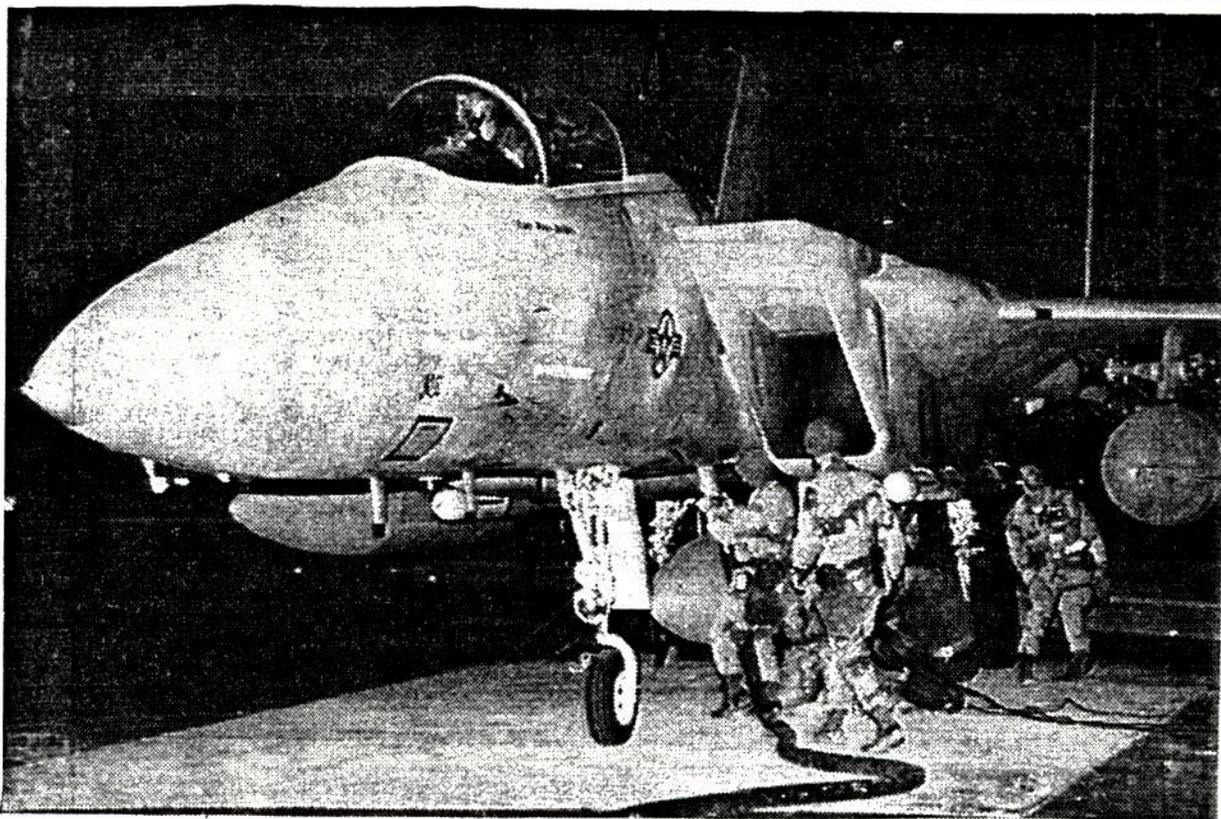
WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

January 17, 1991

WAR TO LIBERATE KUWAIT BEGINS

FUEL FOR FIRE -- An Air Force F-15 which participated in the bombing of Iraq is refueled at an air base in Saudi Arabia this morning. U.S. jets inflicted heavy damage on Iraqi targets. (AP Photo)



Desert airlift continues: Westover aircrews safe

The United States and its allies launched a massive aerial "pounding" of Iraq last night as the war to free Kuwait began.

U.S. Air Force F-4 and F-15 fighter bombers from an airbase in Central Saudi Arabia spearheaded the assault, which saw wave after wave of warplanes hammering strategic targets with bombs and missiles.

"The liberation of Kuwait has begun," President Bush said in a televised address to the nation at 9 p.m. last night.

As Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm, Westover continued its crucial role of providing airlift to the Persian Gulf.

Twelve, eight-member C-5 Galaxy aircrews from Westover's 337th Military Airlift Squadron were "in the system"--flying troops and cargo on military missions--when the hostilities began.

According to Lt. Col. James P. Galin, commander of the 337th MAS, all of the Westover personnel are safe.

One crew, led by 337th pilot Capt.

Ryan Rickarby, was at an airbase in Saudi Arabia when the war began. Captain Rickarby and his crew took off from the base there approximately an hour and a half after the bombing of Iraq commenced, and flew to Torrejon AB in Spain.

At Westover, the massive military airlift effort, which began here immediately after Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2, continued. The base processed 23 aircraft, 237 passengers and 835 tons of cargo yesterday, and more cargo (Continued on next page)

Westover crews safe

(Continued from front page)

missions will leave Westover today.

Shortly after the aerial assault began last night, 130 soldiers from a military police unit in Manchester, N.H. arrived at the base enroute to Saudi Arabia. They spent the night at Westover's passenger terminal, napping on cots or watching news accounts from the Persian Gulf.

The unit--the Army Reserve's 94th Military Police Company--flew from the base this morning.

When news of the attack on Iraq reached the base,

Westover's crisis action team convened to monitor activities locally and throughout the world.

"It looks as though our 'high tech' Air Force is doing an excellent job," Brig. Gen. Frederick D. "Mike" Walker, 439th Military Airlift commander, said.

General Walker indicated that the unit would continue to play a key role in the Persian Gulf operation, flying airlift missions and operating Westover as a major northeast stage area for Saudi-bound troops and cargo.

"Everyone at Westover can take pride in the role we've played and continue to play," General Walker said. "Our people here may not be in the theater of operation, but our airlift support is crucial to the United States' success there.

Casualties light thus far in massive aerial operation

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney announced during a televised press conference at noon today that one American aircraft and one British aircraft had been lost during the heavy bombing of strategic targets in Iraq and Kuwait, as of 9 a.m. this morning. The pilot of the U.S. warplane was killed, while the status of the British crew remains unknown. The secretary said that the unrelenting aerial assault by the U.S. and its allies had inflicted heavy damage upon the Iraqi military. As Operation Desert Storm continued today, President Bush told the American people that "We shall persevere."

Super Bowl Sunday

Westover's Consolidated Open Mess will sponsor a spectacular Super Bowl party on Jan. 27.

Festivities will begin several hours prior to kickoff at 4 p.m.

Gridiron fans will be able to view all the action on large screen TVs. The club will also offer door prizes and complimentary refreshments. For further information, call the club at 593-5531.

WESTOVER today

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Passenger terminal earns praise

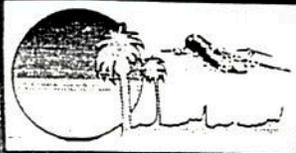
Over the past few months, Westover's Air Passenger Terminal has received an abundance of praise.

The most recent letter of thanks came from Susan Brigham, the wife of MSgt. Mark Brigham of the 2952nd CLSS, Hill AFB, Utah. Mrs. Brigham wrote to Lt. Col. Robert Kirschling, commander of the 42nd APS to express her gratitude for the exceptional treatment her Saudi-bound husband received during his stopover at Wes-

tover.

In her letter, Mrs. Brigham said "I would like to express my sincere thanks for the treatment given and hospitality shown by your organization."

Comments of this type are common according to Colonel Kirschling. "As long as we've been running the Pax terminal we've been getting positive feedback, because we've been treating them like the professional soldiers and human beings they are."



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

January 22, 1991

Westover airlifters play key roles as Desert Storm rages

As Desert Storm rages in the Persian Gulf, Westover airmen throughout the world are doing their part in the massive air war to liberate Kuwait.

This past weekend, one Westover C-5 crew airlifted Patriot missile batteries from a location in Europe to Israel.

The Patriots, used to shoot down the Scud missiles being launched against Israel by Iraq, were shown on Cable News Network being offloaded from a Galaxy by Westover loadmaster MSgt. Stephen Gates. He was a member of a C-5 crew led by Maj. William Bradford, Maj. Peter Gray and Maj. Robert Stewart, pilots with the 337th MAS.

Across the sand at an airbase in Saudi Arabia, a Westover crew, commanded by pilots Lt. Col. Joseph Butler and Lt. Col. John Gallagher, sought cover in bomb shelters as Patriots successfully intercepted Iraqi Scud missiles aimed at the base. From the ramp, SSgt. Jeffrey Chmura watched the Patriot light up the sky as it leaped from its launcher and slammed into the approaching Scud.

While members of the 439th Military Airlift Wing play a major role in the headlines of the day, hundreds of Patriot wing members at Westover form the backbone of the Desert Storm airlift operations here.

During the first three days of the war to free Kuwait, Westover processed nearly 2,000 tons of military cargo, 56 transport planes and 795 troops bound for the Persian Gulf.

"It's important for our troops to realize that those serving at Westover are also on the 'front line', and their mission here is just as important as the missions being performed in the Persian Gulf," said Brig. Gen. Mike

Walker, wing commander.

According to Lt. Col. Robert Kirschling, commander of the 42nd APS, Westover's aerial porters loaded 835 tons of cargo alone during a 24-hour

period which ended at 8 a.m. last Thursday. "Our 60 people are normally tasked to load 12 planes a day," the colonel said. "During the past
(Continued on next page)



SHOW OF SUPPORT -- Demonstrators came to the main gate last Saturday, Sunday and Monday to send a message of support to U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf.

Executive Order extends call-up authority

President Bush on Friday signed an executive order declaring a national emergency and authorizing the Secretary of Defense to call up to one million reservists to active duty for a period of up to two years. The emergency order eliminates restrictions on reserve call-ups mandated by current federal law. Under that law, the President could activate only 200,000 reservists, for 180 days, without congressional approval. The 201 members of Westover's 337th MAS, who have been on active duty here since Aug. 24, will almost immediately be affected by the order. Their 180-day tour would have ended Feb. 19, but with C-5 aircraft playing a bulwark role in the Desert Storm airlift, they will continue to serve on active duty.

Briefly ...

Trotter tickets

Tickets are available for the Feb. 20 Harlem Globetrotters game at the Springfield Civic Center. The cost of \$10 per ticket includes transportation. The bus will depart from the base gym at 6:45 p.m. Sales close Feb. 13. Call ext. 3958 for details.

Discount ski passes

Recreation services has a supply of discount coupons good for lift ticket reductions at Catamount Ski Area in New York. Coupons are free, and the discount varies with the time and day a ticket is purchased.

Call ext. 3958 for details.

Garage rates

Activated Westover reservists may find some relief from mounting car insurance rates in Massachusetts.

Drivers who live outside of the commuting area and are now living on base are entitled to change their legal place of garaging on their current insurance policy to Chicopee, Mass.

According to Lt. Col. Joseph Curley, Westover's deputy commander for medical resources and the owner of an insurance agency in Wakefield and Reading, Mass., garaging rates in Chicopee are lower than 125 of the 360 Massachusetts communities.

"People who live in bigger cities like Worcester and Boston might

benefit from the decreased risk of garaging their cars in a smaller city like Chicopee," Colonel Curley said. "Everyone should check with their own insurance agent."

Basketball roundup

After one week of roundball action, the Jammers are sitting atop the sixteen-team Men's Basketball League with a 2-0 record.

Under the tutelage and scoring arm of player-coach Steve Posey, the Jammers coupled a 65-61 double-overtime victory over the Hawks with a previous 2-0 forfeit win over the Security Police. The Jammers try for three-in-a-row Tuesday at 6:30 in the base gym against the MMWEC quintet.

Desert Storm

(Continued from front page)

three days, they handled as many as 23 a day."

As of Saturday, nine, eight-member aircrews from Westover's 337th MAS were "on the road" flying Desert Storm missions.

"Doing our job may be more stressful going 'down range', but now that the war has started we are glad to be able to support the guys who are already over there," said Capt. Clyde L. Pritchard, a pilot with the 337th.

Members of Westover's three maintenance

squadrons--the 439th OMS, 439th FMS, and the 439th AMS-- have been contending with long work shifts and frigid flightline temperatures as they battle to keep the big cargo planes flying.

Maintenance technicians have just three hours and 15 minutes to service the aircraft before the huge planes are ready to take off again. To do that, they've been working arduous, 12-hour shifts. "The cold takes its toll, and makes the work tedious," said Capt. Cam LeBlanc, wing maintenance control officer. "But the war makes our job that much more important, and all our people know that."

WESTOVER today

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Dining hall menu

Tuesday 1/22

Lunch

--American Chop Suey
--Chicken Kiev
--Barbecue Pork Sandwich

Dinner

--Beef Stroganoff
--Stuffed Peppers
--PB & J Sandwich

Wednesday 1/23

Lunch

--Roast Pork Loin
--Fetuccini Carbonara
--Chicken Pot Pie

Dinner

--Shepherd's Pie
--Baked Scrod
--Turkey Club Sandwich

Thursday 1/24

Lunch

--Baked Meatloaf
--Grilled Bratwurst
--Grilled Cheese

Dinner

--Liver and Onions
--Mexican Chicken
--Pastrami Reuben

Friday 1/25

Lunch

--Baked 'Pier 17' Fish
--Scalloped Ham and Potato
--Barbecue Beef Sandwich

Dinner

--Honey-dipped Chicken
--Steak-umm grinder
--Egg Salad Sandwich



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

January 25, 1991

Third recall boosts Desert Storm ranks at Westover

While the punishing air war against Iraq continues in the Persian Gulf, more Westover reservists have been recalled for service at home and abroad.

Activated today were 310 members of Westover's three maintenance squadrons and the DCM staff, 110 reservists from the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and 36 law enforcement personnel from the 639th Security Police Flight.

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 latest mobilization is the third recall at Westover since Kuwait was invaded by Iraq Aug. 2. With the latest recalls, approximately 1,500 members of the Patriot Wing are now on active duty.

Those activated began reporting to the base yesterday and will process today through a mobilization line in the base hangar.

The 74th AES, whose members are primarily nurses and medical technicians, will shortly deploy to two locations overseas.

The unit's medics 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."

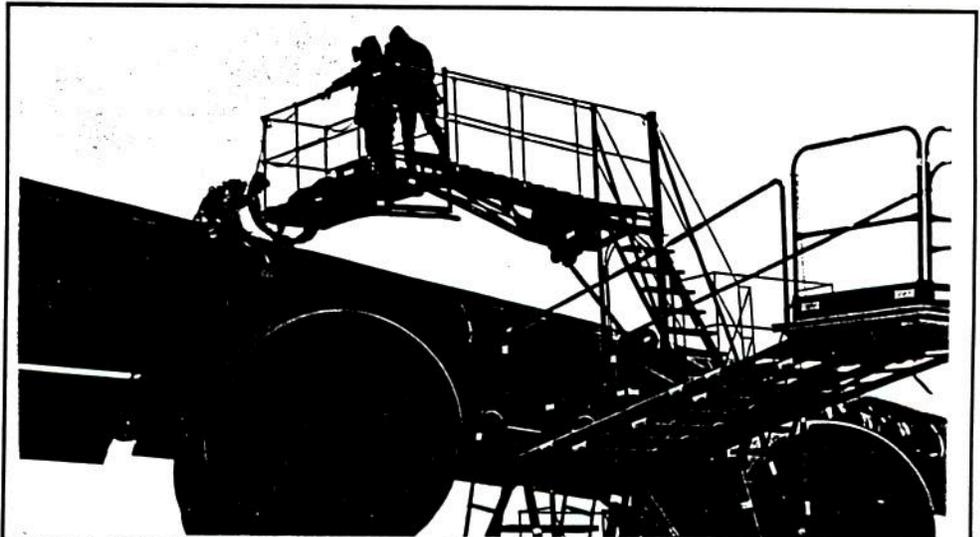
Although the 74th AES personnel will be deployed, the other reservists activated today are expected to remain at Westover.

The personnel from the 639th SPF will augment existing security opera-

tions at Westover, while the members of the 439th FMS, 439th AMS and 439th OMS will work on the fleet of 16 C-5A aircraft assigned to the base.

Westover's Galaxies have been "in the system" flying troops and heavy

cargo to the Persian Gulf since last August. Base officials expect the big planes to return here in the near future for maintenance, and called up additional personnel to help meet increased workloads as the C-5s are serviced.



WING WALKERS - Westover's maintenance personnel become modern-day wing walkers as they work three stories above the ground to repair the wing of a C-5A Galaxy.

Hometown hero a gung-ho hit

1st Lt. Bryan Currier, formerly of the 58th APS and Westover CAP, recently won praise on national TV for his performance as an A-10 pilot in combat.

Lieutenant Currier, son of MSgt. John Currier of the 58th APS, was cited on CNN for his gung-ho spirit following a successful Desert Storm mission. During an interview last Friday, his flight commander named the Warthog pilot as among those responsible for the success of a mission which "eliminated a target."

The former CAP cadet served as an airman in the 58th APS for three years in the early 1980s before enrolling in ROTC at Western New England College.

Kennedy visits Support Center, pledges congressional aid

Senator Edward Kennedy came to Westover Jan. 18 to pledge that the men and women of Desert Storm, here and overseas, will have the full support of Congress.

The Massachusetts senator also said assistance for families of those activated is a top priority.

Referring to the recent Congressional debate, Senator Kennedy said "there has been a division on national policy; there is no division

on support of the men and women in national services."

Speaking at the Base Hangar where Marine reservists were awaiting their flight to the war zone, he praised the "extraordinary job being done by well-trained and skilled men and women." The senator added that "now that the President has made the decision I am certainly going to do all I can to see that those involved in the conflict

have all the support they need to carry this decision out."

Senator Kennedy, who also toured the Westover Family Support Center, said "it is important to focus on the needs of the families of those activated." He expressed concern for such problems as day care, health care and financial obligations.

"There are a number of things which hopefully we can help them on," Senator Kennedy said.

Briefly ...

Tax time

It's that time of year again.

Westover's Desert Shield Support Center will offer two "tax help" seminars Feb. 6 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to aid military personnel and family members in tax preparation.

Jerry and Barbara Davis, professional tax preparers, will provide helpful pointers for those struggling with their 1040 forms. The sessions will be free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis.

For information call the Support Center at ext. 2273

Family groups offered

Westover's Desert Shield Support Center will sponsor a weekly children's play group beginning this Sunday, from 2-4 p.m. at the center.

The play group will offer children the opportunity to meet friends and enjoy the center's play area while their parents socialize.

The support center will also hold a family discussion group meetings Jan. 31 at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. The group discussion will continue where the last meeting left off. For details about the play group or the family discussion group contact the Desert Shield Support Center at ext. 2273.

FLIGHT LINE -- Since last August when Desert Shield began, 1,735 aircraft have landed at Westover.

WESTOVER today

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Dining hall menu

Saturday 1/26

Lunch

--Spaghetti and meat sauce
--Roast veal w/herbs
--Grilled ham and cheese

Dinner

--Sweet and sour pork
--Baked Ham
--Roast Beef Club Sandwich

Sunday 1/27

Lunch

--Ginger Pot Roast
--Beef Ravioli
--Turkey salad sandwich

Dinner

SUPER BOWL BASH
--Buffalo Wings
--Knockwurst and sauerkraut
--Cheese Tortellini
--Southern Fried Catfish
--Potato Skins
--Corn on the cob
--Swedish meatballs

Monday 1/28

Lunch

--Breaded Veal Cutlet
--Roast Top Round of Beef
--Bacon Cheesburger

Dinner

--Szechuan Beef
--Stuffed Cabbage
--PB & J Sandwich

Friday 1/29

Lunch

--Eggplant Parmesan
--Roast Turkey
--Tuna Fish Melt

Dinner

--Beef Goulash
--Parmesan Fish
--Chili Dog

Menu subject to change



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

January 28, 1991

74th AES readies for deployment

The 109 members of the 74th AES who reported for Desert Storm active duty last Friday will spend the next few days at Westover preparing to ship out to two locations overseas.

According to Capt. David Zamorski, operations officer with the 74th AES, the unit will leave the base in the near future. He said that the exact departure date is still not known.

The 74th members--43 flight nurses who are officers and 66 enlisted medical evacuation technicians--will provide in-flight patient care aboard military cargo aircraft converted into "flying ambulances."

The locations where the Westover medics will serve is classified, Captain Zamorski said.

Base officials say that when the 74th AES leaves, it will mark the first war-time, large scale deployment of Westover military personnel since the Vietnam War.

On Friday, members of the 74th processed onto active duty through a mobilization line in the Base Hangar. Since then, the flight nurses and medical technicians have been receiving "refresher" training in ground chemical warfare defense, aircrew chemical warfare defense and firearms.

"They are ready without a doubt," said Captain Zamorski. "They've received excellent training, and their equipment is all up to snuff."

As their departure date approaches, 74th members will spend most of their time receiving training, packing their equipment and belongings and attending to personal affairs. The toughest task, some say, will be that of saying goodbye to loved ones.

(Continued on next page)



LAST MINUTE DETAILS -- Members of the 74th AES process through the mobilization line Jan. 25 after they were called to active duty to support Operation Desert Storm. Nearly 500 reservists were activated in Westover's third call-up since Iraq invaded Kuwait last August. (photo courtesy of John Suchocki, *Union-News*)

Here comes the judge

Among the approximately 500 reservists recalled to active duty Friday at Westover was a Connecticut Superior Court Judge. Judge Andre Kocay, of West Hartford, Conn., will now be known as Lieutenant Colonel Kocay. The colonel, a staff judge advocate with the 439th MAW, traded his judicial robes for an Air Force blue suit when he processed onto active duty here. His activation caught the interest of several Connecticut news media outlets which were at Westover covering the call-up.

New Mass. governor promises support

Newly inaugurated Massachusetts Governor William F. Weld visited Westover last Friday night.

The governor greeted troops bound for the Persian Gulf in Westover's passenger terminal, and listened to the concerns of Desert Storm personnel and their families in the Desert Shield Support Center.

"I'm here to show support," Governor Weld said. "I'm doing what I can to make sure the state will do what it can to accommodate those who are serving our country."

The governor predicted that "the first piece of legislation I sign" would be a bill now before the state legislature authorizing the payment of a bonus to recalled reservists.

Governor Weld also promised to look into a request for the waiver of Mass. Turnpike tolls paid by military personnel who are commuting to Westover during the Persian Gulf crisis.

The governor was given a tour of Westover's flightline by Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander.

Westover couple trades aisle for mobilization line

There wasn't time for a church service, a reception or even the traditional cake.

In fact, within two hours after Steven Chyra and Brenda M. Dupuis were married last Friday, both the bride and groom were dressed in BDUs and walking together through a mobilization line in the Westover base hangar.

Steve, 25, and Brenda, 23, are both staff sergeants and medical technicians with the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, which was activated here last week.

The couple, who met at Westover, had planned to be married this May. But when they were notified of their call-up at 9 a.m. last Friday, they decided to wed immediately.

By 11 a.m., they had gotten their marriage certificate and the approval of a local probate judge, who waived the required waiting period. By noon, they were being married by a justice of the peace in New Britain, Conn., Steve's home town.

"We didn't even have time to tell our

parents," said Brenda, who is a resident of Fitchburg, Mass.

Less than two hours after the ceremony, the newlyweds were processing onto active duty at Westover. At the end of the mobilization line, they received their activation or-

ders, and a bottle of champagne hastily purchased by their friends at the base.

"We hope to have a church wedding and reception next May, if we're back," said Steve. "If not, we'll have the wedding as soon as possible after we return."

Activation is photographer's toughest story

As the chief photographer for Channel 61 TV in Hartford, Conn., Tom Manning has been to all kinds of new events.

The one he filmed last Friday at Westover, however, will undoubtedly rate as one of the toughest assignments of his career.

1st Lt. Cathy Manning, Tom's wife of three months and a flight nurse with the 74th AES, was activated Friday and processed onto active duty through a mobilization line in the Base Hangar.

Along with 109 other members of the 74th, Lieutenant Manning will shortly leave Westover, and her new husband, for Desert Storm duty overseas.

Along with a reporter from Channel 61, Tom covered the mobilization of Cathy's unit last Friday.

"It's upsetting," Tom admitted during a break that he spent with Cathy. But I support her 100 per cent. We talked about the possibility (that this could happen) before we were married."

The couple, who wed last October, have been living in Springfield. Prior to her activation, Cathy was employed as a nurse at the Bay State Medical Center.

While the lieutenant is overseas, Tom will continue working at Channel 61, covering all types of stories. The ones about Desert Storm, he says, will now have a very special meaning.

WESTOVER today

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Deployed

(Continued from front page)

MSgt. David Hawkins of Wales, Mass., a 48-year-old high school art teacher in civilian life, will leave behind his wife and three daughters, ages 22, 21 and 11.

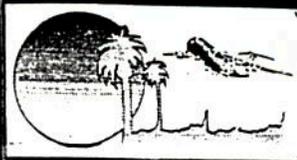
"They'll certainly miss 'Dad'," Sergeant Hawkins said. "But they are committed to this country and understand what I have to do."

The veteran NCO said that he has

been buoyed by the show of encouragement he's received since being called up.

"My family, my employer, the other teachers, and all the kids at school have been extremely supportive," he said. "They've been great."

Sergeant Hawkins added that he felt well-prepared for the days ahead. "I'm ready, and I'm committed to this," he said. "In the end, I'm sure we'll come out on top."



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

February 1, 1991

Patriot Wing rushes missile-killing Patriots to Tel Aviv

Saddam Hussein has one more reason to be mad at the Patriot Wing. The Iraqi warlord's campaign against Israeli civilians has been frustrated by Westover aircrew members who delivered Patriot missiles to Tel Aviv.

When a quick airlift of the anti-Scud missiles was needed in the first days of Desert Storm an aircrew under Maj. Bob Stewart made three runs into Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport.

The Patriot Wing aircrew knew why they were there. "We could look toward the mountains and see where the Scuds had come over the night before," said TSgt. Nelson Serrao.

"Going into the airport we had our chemical warfare gear out just in case. We were nervous," the flight engineer said.

The world was watching the events on the Ben Gurion flightline. Those at home saw Maj. Peter Gray, pilot, and MSgt. Stephen Gates, loadmaster, on CNN.

"When we were moving to park, I had my head through the hatch on top of the plane when I saw a group of people with a camera waving and motioning to me," Major Gray said. "I waved at them and later, in my hotel, I saw all of us on TV. It was very strange."

Living in a small country under attack, the Israelis appreciate the support. "We were immediately surrounded by Israelis who were in awe of the C-5. The people were all smiles. We gave tours to Israeli C-47 and C-130 crews and swapped patches," Sergeant Gates said.

"Tel Aviv is a beautiful city which sits on a flat plain by the sea," he said.

The Gulf War, however has taken a toll on the besieged city. Major Gray

(Continued on next page)



THANKS – Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, wing commander, greets Jerrold Ziff of Springfield during a reception yesterday at the base for organizations and individuals who've supported Westover during Operation Desert Storm. (photo courtesy of Mike Gordon, *Union News*)

Thanks to some 'mighty important' friends

Westover yesterday began its first round of "thank you" to some of its generous friends.

Approximately 40 community leaders, whose companies or organizations have made major donations of time or products to the base's passenger terminal, were feted at the base. They toured a C-5 and received briefings on Westover's key role in the Desert Storm airlift.

"They are mighty important," Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, wing commander, said of his guests. He added, "We have received hundreds of thank yous from soldiers and others who have been recipients. This is our way of passing on the thanks."

C-5 lands safely at base after bird strikes cripple engines

A C-5A Galaxy from the 433rd Military Airlift Wing at Kelly AFB and flown by an Air Force Reserve crew from Dover AFB, Del. declared an in-flight emergency shortly after takeoff from Westover yesterday morning.

The aircraft, enroute to Torrejon AB in Spain on the first leg of a Desert Storm mission, received extensive damage to its number three and four engines when it was struck by several birds as it lifted off from the base at approximately 10:45 a.m.

There were no injuries. The plane, piloted by Maj. John Haszard of the 709th Military Airlift Squadron at Dover, landed safely back at Westover at approximately 10:50 a.m.

The C-5, which carried 16 crew members and 142,000 pounds of cargo, was required to jettison some of its fuel prior to making the emergency landing.

Westover firefighters and other emergency personnel stood by as the Galaxy touched down without incident. The aircraft did not catch fire during the emergency.

According to base maintenance officials, the "bird strikes" caused heavy damage to the engines, which will have to be replaced.

Major Haszard immediately lost power in one of the plane's engines, and was required to shut down the second due to the damage as it approached the runway.

"Major Haszard displayed exceptional airmanship in safely landing the aircraft," said Lt. Col. Gale French, wing safety officer.

Col. French said that base safety officials are investigating the incident. An Air Force board will also investigate and prepare a report.

Briefly ...

High praise

Westover has been getting some high praise lately from people in high places.

Each pilot who passes through the base on a Desert Storm mission has the opportunity to fill out an "aircraft commander's report on services and facilities." The base has been earning a number of rave reviews.

"Outstanding in all areas and aspects--airlift support at its absolute finest," wrote Capt. Gary S. Dilda, a pilot with the 56th MAS of Altus AFB, Ok.

Captain Dilda, who was at Westover Jan. 30, had special praise in his report for the base's transportation, maintenance, life support, billeting, ATOC, stage manager and intelligence personnel.

He said that base services were "the best I've seen in 17 years."

"Is this just the way activated reserves operate or is this the new MAC?" Captain Dilda asked.

Evening legal hours

Legal Officers from Westover's Staff Judge Advocate's Office have scheduled night hours next week.

The lawyers will be available Feb. 6 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Room 220 (OMS Career Advisor's Office) of

Hangar 3.

Personnel who work nights and need a will, power of attorney or conference with an attorney are encouraged to stop in.

Contact the legal office at ext. 3180 for further details.

Basketball roundup

With two weeks gone in the 1991 MWR roundball season, the Jammers continue their domination with an unblemished 3-0 mark.

Coach Steve Josey's quintet remained perfect with a 57-39 takedown of Dave Gubala's MMWEC five. Josey hit 21 for the Jammers, while MMWEC's Ken Colamore led with 25 for his squad.

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Patriots

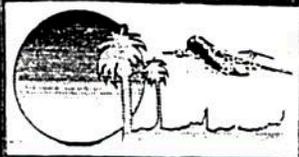
(Continued from front page)

described the airport as a "ghost town...activity is greatly reduced because of the ongoing threat to the area. All international flights have been canceled," he said.

The Patriot Wing aircrew

stayed on the ground less than two hours each time and "we kept our chemical warfare gear close all the time," Sergeant Gates said.

Others in the aircrew were Maj. William Bradford, pilot, MSgt. Robert Albert, flight engineer, and loadmasters SSgt. Dennis Delisle and SrA. Ted Malysz.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

February 5, 1991



READY TO GO – The 110 members of the 74th AES will be departing Westover this week for Desert

Storm duty overseas, marking the first time since the Vietnam War that a Westover unit has deployed.

Nurses, med techs set to leave for wartime duty overseas

Nurses and technicians from the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron will deploy from Westover to two overseas locations this week, possibly as early as today.

Although the exact times and dates for the departures were still being finalized Monday morning, 74th AES officials say that the unit will leave on two flights from the base within the next 48-72 hours.

Some of the medical personnel will be sent to Ramstein AB in Germany. Another contingent of 74th AES nurses and technicians are being deployed to a classified location overseas.

The 110 74th AES reservists processed onto active duty here Jan. 25. Their deployment for Operation Desert Storm marks the first time Westover has sent a unit overseas for wartime service since the Vietnam War.

"Everyone is ready," said Lt. Col. Dorothy "Dee" Holliday, chief nurse.

"We've been meeting together in small groups and the attitude is very positive."

According to Capt. David Zamorski, operations officer with the 74th AES, the nurses and technicians will provide in-flight patient care aboard military cargo planes converted into flying ambulances.

Unit personnel will form 22 flight crews. They will serve at the two locations along with medical personnel from other active duty and reserve units.

Since their call-up a week and a half ago, 74th members have been undergoing refresher training at Westover, packing their equipment and belongings and attending to personal affairs.

Legendary vocalist voices support

Sporting pins that read "Support our troops", Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons visited Westover Saturday to view Desert Storm operations here. "The vast majority of the American people support you," said Valli, who recorded such popular songs as "Sherry," "Walk Like a Man," "Let's Hang On," and "Big Girls Don't Cry." The legendary vocalist and his group visited with the members of Westover's NCO leadership class, toured a C-5 Galaxy, and received a briefing from Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, wing commander. Valli was enroute to a benefit concert in New York City after appearing Friday night at the Hu Ke Lau Restaurant in Chicopee.

Mobilized reservists shifted to active duty pay system

Mobilized Westover reservists are now paid under the JUMPS active duty pay system which has advantages over the reserve program, according to Base Finance officials.

Those mobilized for one year or more have begun being paid under the Joint Uniformed Mobility Pay System of active duty members.

Records will be kept at Hanscom AFB, however reservists will con-

tinue to receive assistance through the Westover Finance office, said Richard McGinty, accounting and finance officer.

Advantages of JUMPS include more accurate tax withholding and the capability set up allotments.

"There have been complaints of incorrect tax withholding because the reserve pay system is designed for short periods of service. The biggest problem has been under with-

holding that leads to a large tax bill, Mr. McGinty said.

The JUMPS system also allows allotments, such as to savings accounts, mortgage companies or bonds, he said.

Mobilized reservists are paid on the first and 15th of the month. Everyone in JUMPS, including those previously exempted by a "grandfather clause," must be enrolled in Direct Deposit.

Briefly ...

VIP cards

Area merchants think military members and their families are Very Important Patriots and are showing their appreciation.

VIP cards will be available which entitle families of service members to discounts and other assistance from area merchants. Participating merchants can be identified by decals in their windows.

Sponsored by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the VIP program includes discounts at stores, assistance in home and auto repair, and professional services, such

as medical, legal and financial.

"The VIP program is one way to both show support and help families who are making sacrifices for Desert Shield and Desert Storm," said MSgt. John Sullivan, Westover liaison with the program.

Temporary cards are being mailed to activated reservists and permanent cards will be available at the Family Support Center beginning Feb. 14. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 557-CARE.

Aerobics offered

To help beat the mid-winter doldrums, MWR is offering a lunchtime aerobics program at the Base Gym.

Classes are held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The fee is \$1 per class.

For more information, call the Base Gym at Ext. 3958.

Public forum

A forum titled "How to Talk With Our Children About the War" will be held at the Baystate Medical Center's Wesson Bldg., 140 High St., Springfield, from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7.

The forum will be led by Robert Zucker, Baystate director for pediatric bereavement counselling.

It will be free and open to the public. To register or for more information, call 784-5456.

WESTOVER today

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MassMutual comes through

Activated reservists who work for MassMutual will benefit from their Company's new policy toward active military members.

MassMutual has extended the active duty pay (offset by military pay) and benefit coverage for associates who have been mobilized by their military reserve units. Benefits will now continue for a full year of active duty as opposed to 180 days. Continued group insurance coverages will also be available to any interested employees.

Tax forms available

Federal and state tax forms are now available at the Legal Office, Building 1875. For people having trouble, free tax advice can also be obtained through your Unit Tax Advisor. Contact SMSgt. Kusiak for more details, ext. 3180.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

February 8, 1991

Westover Goes to War

74th flight nurses, medics deploy for Desert Storm duty

With bagpipe music, hugs and tearful goodbyes, Westover on Tuesday sent its 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron off to war.

The 110 flight nurses and aeromedical evacuation technicians--whose motto is "We'll bring 'em back alive"--left the base for Desert Storm duty overseas aboard two C-5A Galaxies.

One group of 50 medics left the base at 2:38 p.m. Tuesday on a flight to Ramstein AB, Germany. Sixty other 74th members departed from Westover approximately three hours later, enroute to a "classified location" abroad.

Their deployment marked the first time since the Vietnam War that a Westover unit has been stationed overseas for wartime service.

The 74th's nurses and technicians will provide in-flight patient care on airevac missions aboard C-130, C-9, and C-141 planes which are converted into "flying ambulances."

Once in place at the two locations, the 74th members will form 22 flight crews. Each crew consists of three technicians and two nurses.

Although the squadron medics have previously trained primarily in C-130 aircraft, their wartime assignment will also have them flying aboard the larger C-9 and C-141 planes.

"They'll get an excellent education in all three aircraft," said Lt. Col. Richard C. Carr, 74th AES commander.

With the United States facing the imminent possibility of ground combat in the 22-day-old war with Iraq, units like the 74th AES could play a key role in the treatment of casualties.

"I'm ready to do my job...to help

(continued on next page)



TWO BY TWO—A pair of Army HUMVEE vehicles destined for the Persian Gulf await airlift from Westover on a C-5 A Galaxy. Since last August, nearly 69,000 tons of heavy equipment and supplies have been flown from the base during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

Balmy day, busy day

Tuesday's balmy 64 degree temperature set a new record for the warmest Feb. 5th ever. The previous high temperature recorded on that date was 48 degrees, according to base weather officials.

But Desert Storm meant that base personnel had no time for spring fever. Westover handled 19 aircraft arrivals and 14 departures Tuesday, as aerial porters from the 42nd APS processed 280 passengers and nearly 331 tons of cargo. "It was our busiest day of the war," said Lt. Col. Robert Kirschling, 42nd APS commander.

Gulf operation clears shelves, boosts sales at BX

Since Operation Desert Shield began last August, Westover's Base Exchange has seen its sales in some areas increase significantly.

According to Lori Beranowski, soft lines supervisor, the exchange is frequently "running out of health and beauty aids for both men and women."

BX officials say that they are also selling increased amounts of socks, underwear and sweatsuits. Troops that have come to Westover on TDY duty here from the South have also made large purchases of "warmer clothing."

Among the most popular items are Desert Shield and Desert Storm memorabilia, including T-shirts and sweat-shirts. There has also been a large demand for American

flags and yellow ribbon.

According to Ms. Beranowski, one unique item that sold out almost instantly was a stuffed bear, dressed in desert fatigues. "The first shipment was gone almost immediately, and we haven't been able to get another order of them since then," Ms. Beranowski said.

Troops transiting through Westover's busy passenger terminal have accounted for a large amount of the increased business at the BX.

Exchange officials say that desert-bound troops also seem to have "sweet teeth." Hard candy sales have increased dramatically since last August.

Briefly ...

Stress seminar slated

Are the pressures of dealing with a loved one's activation or deployment getting you down? Are you comfortable leaving the civilian world for your new military life?

The Family Support Center will be offering a stress management workshop Feb. 21 for anyone who is feeling the pressure of the many changes associated with Desert Storm.

Capt. Ted LaRoche, USAF Clinic flight surgeon, will be running the sessions which are tentatively scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and/or 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call the Support Center at 557-CARE.

Ash Wednesday

Two Catholic Masses will be celebrated at Westover in observance of Ash Wednesday. The services are scheduled next Wednesday at 12 noon in the Chaplain's Office on the second floor of Building 1408, and at 5 p.m. in the Squadron Briefing Room of the Base Hangar. Ashes will be distributed after each Mass.

Children's self-esteem

Longmeadow psychologist Dr. Ingrid Schweiger will conduct a seminar on building self-esteem in children at the Desert Shield Support Center at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Issues will include identifying problem behavior and what to expect

and how to respond to a child's questions during stressful times.

A supervised play area is available upon advance notice. For more information, call 557-CARE.

Military tax breaks

Enlisted members serving in the Persian Gulf have been exempted from federal tax on their pay earned since Jan. 17. The first \$500 of officers' monthly pay is also exempted.

A recent executive order also extends the filing period for 1990 federal income tax returns for at least 180 days after an individual leaves the combat theater.

Call 1-800-829-3676 to receive IRS Pub. "Tax Information for Military Personnel."

WESTOVER today

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Westover says goodbye to its own

(continued from front page)

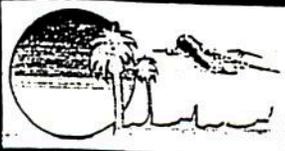
other people," said MSgt. Robert Mathieu, a 74th med tech.

"We'll take care of them," said chief nurse Lt. Col. Mary Roche. "We'll support them. We'll help them mend."

Before leaving Westover Tuesday, squadron members bade an emotional farewell to a throng of colleagues, friends and loved ones who came to see them off.

Bagpipers from the Springfield Kiltie Band played patriotic songs and senior wing officials stood nearby to salute as the departing medics boarded the waiting C-5s.

As the huge cargo transports taxied off, family members and well-wishers waved and shouted words of encouragement. "Come back soon," was the phrase most frequently heard.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

February 15, 1991

Westover praised by AFRES Commander

TORREJON AB, SPAIN--"Westover sets the standard for all Military Airlift Command bases," the Chief of the Air Force Reserve said Sunday night during a flight here from Chicopee.

Maj. Gen. John J. Closner III, a veteran fighter pilot who assumed command of AFRES last October, flew to Torrejon from Westover on a C-5 Galaxy piloted by a 337th MAS aircrew.

Earlier Sunday, he toured Westover with Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander, and viewed Desert Storm operations at the base.

"The esprit de corps at Westover is better than at any base I've seen," General Closner said. "I've always been impressed with Mike Walker, so it didn't surprise me that he was on the leading edge of the (Desert Storm) airlift mission."

General Closner, who was enroute to observe Air Force Reserve medical units stationed in Europe for Desert Storm duty, said that the Reservists he commands were well-prepared for the war with Iraq.

General Closner said that he was pleased with the performance of Reserve units such as the 337th MAS during the Persian Gulf airlift. "Statistically, the Air Force Reserve handles a large percent of the war's strategic airlift, and we do it quite well," he said.

The AFRES commander, who flew 300 combat missions as a fighter pilot during the Vietnam War, also had praise for the job being done in the Gulf by guard and reserve A-10 units.

(continued on next page)



SHOW OF SUPPORT— An American Legion honor guard marches to the main gate as part of a huge pro-policy rally held outside Westover amassing up to 8,000 people on February 9 and 10.

Niagara's 914th TAG shines during Desert Storm

C-130 aircrews from the 914th Tactical Airlift Group at Niagara IAP, N. Y., have been earning accolades for their efforts during Operation Desert Storm.

The 914th, a unit of the 439th MAW, is serving in the Persian Gulf as part of the 1650 Tactical Airlift Wing (Provisional). The Niagara fliers have participated in a wide variety of tactical operations during Desert Storm, including the airlift of more than 14,000 troops and 12,000 tons of cargo. Along with the 927th TAG, the 914th has flown 1,000 combat support missions since the war began, and has assisted the provisional wing in compiling a 100 percent combat mission effectiveness rating.

Westover pilot witnesses Patriot-SCUD intercept

Lt. Col. Kent D. Stephens was surprised several weeks ago when he saw a bright flash in the sky while flying a Desert Storm mission over Saudi Arabia.

The 337th MAS pilot thought at first that it might be lightning. He was puzzled, however, because he knew from a pre-flight weather briefing that no thunder storms were predicted for the area.

Colonel Stephens later learned that what he witnessed wasn't a bolt of lightning. It was actually the explosion caused when a Massachusetts-built Patriot missile successfully destroyed an Iraqi SCUD missile that had been launched toward an airbase in Eastern Saudi Arabia.

"I was quite surprised, because we hadn't been expecting lightning, and there were no radio reports about SCUD launchings," the colonel said.

The veteran pilot estimated that the C-5 he was flying was "a couple of hundred miles away" from the point where the Patriot

intercepted the SCUD. He described the mid-air explosion as a "lightning-like" flash with a reddish glare.

It was only as he prepared to land that the Westover pilot knew for certain what he had seen.

Despite his relatively close encounter with a SCUD, the colonel said that he's not overly worried about the enemy missiles when he's flying in the Persian Gulf region.

"A bigger concern is 'where's the other guy?'" he said, referring

to the danger of mid-air collision. "With all MAC and TAC missions we have flying in the area, mid-air is a bigger concern."

Colonel Stephens, who was employed as manager of the Federal Aviation Administration's Boston office prior to his activation last August, said that all pilots and aircrews take special precautions to avoid such mishaps while flying in the Middle East theater.

"There's increased awareness and vigilance when you fly in the AOR (area of responsibility)," Colonel Stephens said. "Cockpit activity increases. You make sure the third pilot is up front and everyone watches out for other aircraft."

Westover Praise continued...

He noted that the use of U.S. reserve forces in the Persian Gulf contrasts starkly with the way reservists were employed during the Vietnam War.

"There's a real big difference between the Vietnam era and now," the AFRES chief said. He believes that the "Total Force" concept adopted by the Department of Defense in the early 1970s, plus a concerted effort by the active force and Congress to modernize the guard and reserve, made it "inevitable" that reservists would play a larger role in the Middle East conflict.

General Closner added that the invasion of Panama a year ago further convinced U.S. military officials of the reserve's importance. "Operation Just Cause proved that they could count on us, with very short notice, to do the job."

The AFRES commander said that his immediate priorities include aiding the families of activated reservists, and ensuring that employers continue to support workers who have been called to active duty.

"The biggest challenge will be when

Johnny comes marching home," said General Closner. "The efforts of our returning reservists have to be recognized."

There are currently approximately 19,500 members of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve serving on active duty during Operation Desert Storm.

The general said that he wants his reservists at home and abroad to know that he is "extremely proud" of the sacrifices which they have been making.

WESTOVER today

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Briefly...

Free theater

The long-running Broadway hit "Nunsense," will be offered free to Westover personnel Feb. 15th and 22nd, and March 1st and 8th.

Tickets for the Coachlight Dinner Theater will be available at the base gym Monday morning before each Friday's performance.

Members with a red or green military ID will be entitled to two tick-

ets on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact the base gym, ext. 3958 for more details.

Military ski race

Westover's First Military Open Ski Race Weekend will be March 9th and 10th at Stratton Mountain.

If you are interested in competing, or just want to watch, call Chris at ext. 3958 for more details.

Turn out and support Westover AFB team members!



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

February 18, 1991

Bahrain airlift mission: a 25-hour day for 337th aircrew

BAHRAIN--A day-long mission flown by a 337th MAS aircrew Feb. 12 carried 70 tons of Desert Storm cargo to this tiny, sun-splashed island-nation in the Persian Gulf.

The airlift operation also offered a revealing glimpse at the tedious, "25-hour" workday put in by Westover crew members each time they fly "down range" to the war zone.

At 11:30 p.m. on Feb. 11, Lt. Col. Peter Eiche, a veteran 337th aircraft commander, alerted the rest of his eight-member C-5 aircrew at Torrejon AB, Spain. They had arrived in Madrid, after a seven-hour flight from Chicopee, approximately 14 hours earlier.

By 12:30 a.m. on Feb. 12, the crew was riding a shuttle bus to Torrejon's flightline area.

Colonel Eiche went with co-pilots Maj. Chuck Saul and Capt. Keith Guillotte to base operations where they filed a flight plan and received various mission briefings. The rest of the crew headed through the pre-dawn darkness to the waiting Galaxy.

There, the loadmasters--TSgt. Chris Maille, SSgt. Sherri L. Bigelow, and SrA Ted Malysz--hailed the luggage and flight gear onboard. While they performed the ritual "bag drag," flight engineers MSgt. Paul Harrison and TSgt. Andy Dupuis prepared the big plane for the mission which would cover 6,400 miles round trip.

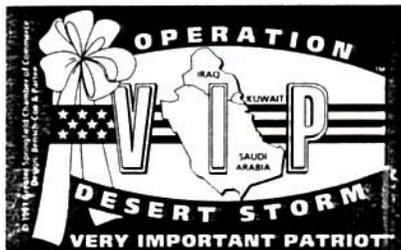
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SHIP'S LOG -- SrA Ted Malysz, 337th loadmaster, completes one of the many forms which document and monitor cargo balance, configuration, weights and destinations during a day-long Operation Desert Storm mission to Bahrain Feb. 12.

The hardest jobs of all...

There are approximately 19,500 U.S. Air Force reservists on active duty for Operation Desert Storm. Nearly 1500 of them are serving here at Westover, operating the northeast stage facility for the war's airlift effort. Maj. John J. Closner III, Chief of the Air Force Reserve, wants every man and woman here to know that their individual contributions are vital, even if they don't serve overseas. "I have the greatest respect for those who stay behind to serve," said General Closner after visiting Westover last week. "In many ways, they have the hardest jobs of all. It doesn't go unnoticed," he added.



Bahrain mission... (continued from front page)

As they worked on the flight deck, the loadmasters checked the 140,000 pounds of military supplies chained below to the floor of the Galaxy's cavernous cargo compartment.

By 3 a.m., all of the crew was aboard. After an hour delay due to maintenance problems, Colonel Eiche started the C-5's engines.

The Galaxy taxied onto the runway at 4:23 a.m. Nine minutes later, MAC mission 19815 was flying toward the Middle East.

The non-stop, seven-hour flight

to Bahrain--a Persian Gulf island located just off the Saudi Arabian coast and less than 200 miles from Kuwait--was grueling. To get there, the 337th aviators flew over the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, and 750 miles of desolate desert.

Colonel Eiche landed the Galaxy in Bahrain at 11:20 a.m. As the cargo was unloaded, the Westover crew watched from the tarmac as several sand-colored British fighter bombers thundered down the airport's runway bound for raids against Iraqi targets.

The stopover in Bahrain lasted slightly more than three hours.

On the trip back to Torrejon,

crew members spelled each other for brief rest periods and meal breaks. The "sandwich-in-a-box" flight lunch was the only food which the crew members ate during the entire mission.

"It's tough, but you get used to it," said Airman Malysz, who estimates that he's flown "down range" more than 20 times.

The mission neared its end when the Westover crew landed at Torrejon at 11:15 p.m. At 12:30 a.m. on Feb. 13, the crew hit their quarters, another 25-hour Desert Storm workday behind them.

Within the next day, they expected to start another one.

Briefly...

WATS line offered

Communications Development Service of Danbury, Conn. has established a WATS line for family support conference calls. Every morning at 7 a.m. (EST), family members of loved ones serving in Operation Desert Storm have the opportunity to participate in the calls. Family members can speak with others in similar situations to exchange their feelings and information on how to cope. Volunteer counselors also offer support. The service is free by dialing 1-800-253-7558 (203-790-2968 for

persons living in Danbury, Conn.)

Desert Ride and Share

SSgt. David A. Paladino of the Wing DCM staff is organizing a ride-share program for Desert Storm personnel interested in carpooling to the base. Operation Desert Ride & Share can help you save gasoline and reduce your transportation costs. Further information is available from Sergeant Paladino at ext. 3202.

Computer link

A quick, convenient and FREE way to send messages to troops serving overseas is being offered by a Nor-

thampton high school teacher.

Susan Barocas, a computer science teacher, will send electronic messages from computers in U.S. universities to a "bulletin board" in Saudi Arabia, where they are printed and placed into the U.S. military postal system.

The messages can be up to 20 lines long. For further information, contact Susan Barocas at the Northampton High School. The telephone number is (413) 586-6970.

Coachlight tickets

To anyone interested in free tickets offered by the Coachlight Dinner Theater, due to popularity tickets are limited to one per activated reservist.

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Tips offered on reimbursement pitfall

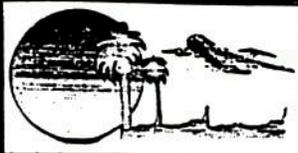
For many Desert Storm personnel at Westover, being on active duty during the current recession is not only mentally taxing but also financially strenuous.

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.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

February 22, 1991

Saudi missions never routine for 337th MAS aircrews

SAUDI ARABIA—As the Westover C-5 crew approached their desert destination in the pitch-black sky, the pilots turned off the lights and guided the Galaxy in for a landing using visual flight rules (VFR).

Because they were without radar, 337th MAS crewmembers crouched by the cockpit windows, scanning the night sky for other aircraft. If one was spotted, the pilot would flicker the lights to alert others of the plane's location.

The Westover aircrew, led by pilot Maj. Colin MacDonald, successfully landed last week at an airbase here which is located less than 60 miles from the Iraqi border.

It was one of many missions which 337th aviators have flown "downrange" since the war to liberate Kuwait began in January. Since then, none of the airlift operations have been routine.

Westover crews who haul the freight of war in the Persian Gulf confront long hours, the threat of SCUD attacks and chemical warfare, and language barriers.

On this mission to Saudi Arabia, Major MacDonald and his co-pilot, 1st Lt. William Rolocut, had to request clearances from numerous air traffic controllers along the way. As they did so, they became aware that due to language barriers and lack of communication between control centers, it was possible that their aircraft wouldn't be expected at its final destination.

"Constant communication is extremely important," said Major MacDonald. "We must constantly alert our destination of our arrival, because if they didn't expect us, we could be shot down."



IN-FLIGHT PLANNING — Maj. Colin MacDonald, aircraft commander, confers with 337th pilot 1Lt. William Rolocut during a C-5 mission to Saudi Arabia last week.

The Westover crew was flying close to the Iraqi border, and that added to their sense of heightened vigilance. "The slightest mistake may lead you into enemy territory," Major MacDonald said.

After the huge Galaxy landed at the desert airbase, ground personnel scurried about in the darkness of the cold Saudi Arabian night. All that was visible was an occasional flashlight as

(Continued on next page)

A pat on the back from MAC

The commander in chief of the Military Airlift Command gave Westover a big pat on the back in a recent letter sent to Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander. "The Military Airlift Command, Department of Defense and our nation are proud of what you have done," wrote Gen. Hansford T. Johnson. The four-star general added, "We share your pride in what you have accomplished. The comments from all who have transited Westover in the past few months can be summed up in one statement—You have done it right." General Johnson asked General Walker to "convey my sincere appreciation to the men and women of the Patriot Wing for their commitment and phenomenal support."

Never routine... (Continued from front page)

they worked to open the rear hatch.

Finally, the C-5's rear doors opened and light spilled onto the dark ramp. The Galaxy's cavernous cargo compartment quickly became a hodge podge of uniforms--flight suits, BDUs and desert cammies. Everyone carried chemical warfare masks strapped to their hips.

Ground workers and loadmasters

worked shoulder-to-shoulder to unload the heavy pallets of supplies. Then 40 weary soldiers boarded the plane for transport back to Europe.

Many of the troops hadn't bathed in nearly two months and their BDUs were caked with desert sand, which had the consistency of talcum powder.

The tired, dirt-matted warriors requested news about the war and the world in general. "Being out there in the middle of nowhere, we never know what's going on," said one sol-

dier. He was going home to attend his father's funeral.

The aircrew finished loading the C-5 and took off for another airba in Saudi Arabia, several hundred miles away. There was another three-hour stopover, and then a tedious return flight to Europe.

Some 30 hours after the mission began, Major MacDonald landed the C-5 in England. The Westover crew was guaranteed 12 hours of crew rest, then they'd hit the road again.

Briefly...

Benefit dinner

A dinner for the benefit of Westover's Desert Shield Support Center will be held Feb. 22 at the Fairview Knights of Columbus home on Memorial Drive in Chicopee, starting at 8 p.m. The dinner is sponsored by a number of Chicopee citizens and civic leaders. Military personnel with green ID cards will be admitted free. Tickets for civilians cost \$5.00 and may be purchased at the Support Center or at the door.

Bible study scheduled

The Chaplains' office will offer an ecumenical bible study at 7 p.m. on each Tuesday of Lent from Feb. 26 to March 26.

The readings from the ecumenical lectionary will be held in the second floor day room of dormitory Building 5102.

Those interested may also join the Chapel staff for a supper gathering in the Dining Hall at 6:15 p.m. on each night of Bible study.

For more information, call the Chaplains' office at ext. 3031.

Free sports show

Admission to the Springfield Sportsman's Show, Feb. 21 - 24, will be free to all military members who show up in uniform, according to Mr. Bill Borchers, Sr. and Mr. Frank Souza, the event's organizers.

The show, sponsored by the Outdoor Sports Expo Group, Inc., is being held at the Eastern States Exposition fairground and will include seminars on big buck hunting, ocean fishing, turkey and deer calling and much more.

The gates will close at 10:00 p.m. Friday, and will reopen at 10:00 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Remember to bring an ID and enjoy the show!

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914th TAG flies front-line resupply mission

SAUDI ARABIA--A C-130 aircrew from the 1650 Tactical Airlift Wing (Provisional) recently performed the first tactical resupply airdrop mission of Operation Desert Storm.

The crew, which was comprised of members of the 914th TAG and 927th TAG, dropped eight pallets of MREs and water to U.S. Marines dug in near the Kuwait border.

The 914th TAG is from Niagara Falls, N.Y. and is a unit of the

439th MAW at Westover. The 927th TAG is an Air Force Reserve unit based at Selfridge ANGB, Mich.

The 1650 TAWP also was also cited recently for accomplishing an unprecedented 100 consecutive on-time takeoffs in its C-130E aircraft.

The unit has been in the Persian Gulf for over four months. Crews fly 16 C-130-E Hercules cargo transports on a variety of tactical airlift missions, often in harsh operating environments.