

WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

May 11, 1991

Federal judge denies bid to block night flying operations

A federal court denied a request May 6 for an injunction against nighttime Desert Storm flying operations at Westover.

Judge Frank H. Freedman of the U.S. District Court in Springfield issued the ruling in a lawsuit initiated in March against the Air Force and the federal Council on Environmental Quality by a group known as Valley Citizens for a Safe Environment.

Valley Citizens had sought the injunction to stop the Air Force from flying cargo missions to the Persian Gulf from Westover between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7 a.m.

The group argued that the Air Force was bound by an April 1987 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which provided that "no military activity would be routinely scheduled" at Westover during those hours.

Valley Citizens also contended that the Air Force had violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by failing to obtain a supplemental EIS before commencing the night flying when the Persian Gulf crisis began last August.

The Air Force countered that the ongoing Desert Storm airlift operations at Westover constituted an emergency which, under federal regulations, exempted it from strict compliance with NEPA requirements for another EIS, and which justified the 24-hour operations.

Judge Freedman noted that the decision by the Council on Environmental Quality and the Air Force that the Middle East crisis was an emergency "cannot be called arbitrary and capricious."

"The affidavits of various officials depict a complex, global flight schedule that relies in large part on the twenty-four hour availability of Westover AFB's C-5A capabilities," the

judge wrote.

He added: "The Air Force has not attempted to justify nighttime C-5A operations by speaking vaguely of national security or world peace. Rather, defendants have pointed to specific military concerns with regard to troop redeployment, flight scheduling, cargo transport and other operations that necessitate the use of C-5A operations on a twenty-four hour basis."

Although a supplemental EIS was not compiled, the Air Force, at the request of the Council on Environmental Quality, did commission a special environmental assessment which examined the night-flying operation at the base, particularly with regard to

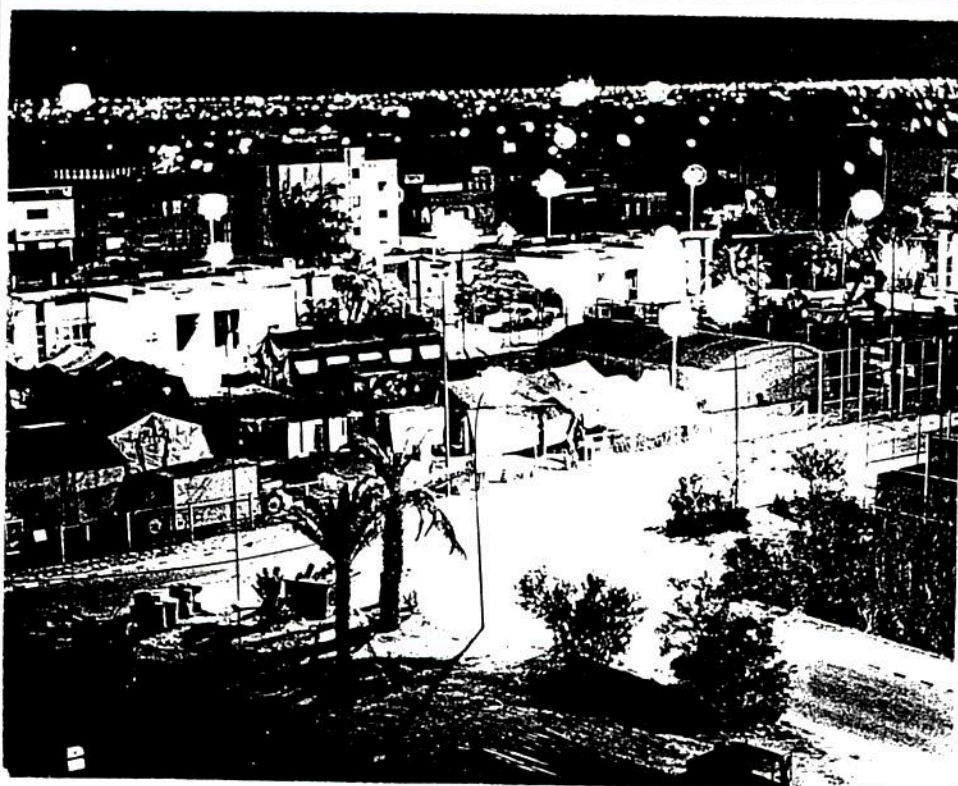
noise levels.

The assessment was released by the Air Force this week, and public comment on its findings will be accepted until June 3. Copies of the assessment, and the address to which comments may be mailed, are available at the base public affairs office.

In affidavits presented to the court during the case, the Air Force stated that it expected to cease night flying operations at Westover by next July, when most of the Persian Gulf airlift is expected to be completed.

Judge Freedman indicated in his decision that the court expected the base "on or about July 1991" to

(Continued on back page)



NIGHT LIGHTS-- With the threat of SCUD attack eliminated, the lights of this large Saudi Arabian city glow throughout the night. This photo was taken recently by SrA Kym Taylor of the 439th MAW Public Affairs staff.

Westover to celebrate Desert Storm successes at Riverside

The men and women who have been hard at work at Westover AFB since last August will be guests at a celebration honoring them June 16.

Riverside Amusement Park in Agawam will host a day-long "Heroes and Friends Day" at the park to honor base military and civilian personnel for their Desert Storm successes.

"It's our way of saying 'thanks' to all the people at Westover for the super job they've been doing in the Desert Storm airlift and homecoming celebrations for Persian Gulf veterans," said Ed Carroll, Riverside Amusement Park president. "The men and women at Westover played a major role in our nation's victory in the Gulf, and they are all heroes, too."

More than 500 base military, civilian and volunteer personnel, and their family members, will be admitted to Riverside free of charge starting at 9:30 a.m. June 16. They'll be treated to all of the rides at the park free of charge, and the same type of barbecue they've been providing around-the-clock to the Desert Storm troops who've been landing at Westover.

Local businesses which have provided food and beverage for the homecoming parties in the base hangar will provide provisions for the barbecue at Riverside, which will be held

in the park's "Picnic Grove Area."

The amusement park will be open to the general public starting at 11:00 a.m. on June 16. Riverside will donate \$2 from each paid admission that day to the Westover U.S.O. chapter's Operation Patriot Home celebration fund.

Westover and Riverside officials announced "Heroes and Friends Day" yesterday at a press conference at the park. A contingent of 439th airmen, led by Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander, warmed up for the event by taking a "test flight" aboard Riverside's "Cyclone" roller coaster.

"We are grateful to Riverside for their support and kindness in hosting this event for our people," General Walker said. "We've been working hard during the past 10 months, and I know that everyone will enjoy this special day."

With the ongoing homecoming and airlift missions, base officials noted that June 16 would still be a work day. However, they said that every attempt will be made to arrange schedules during the day to allow for maximum attendance.

The park will be open until 11:30 p.m. June 16. Information concerning the event is available at unit orderly rooms.

Briefly ...

Blood drive

The Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Westover May 22 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the base gym. Give a pint -- all you will feel is good.

Play group

The Children's Play Group of the Desert Shield Support Center has

scheduled several activities during May.

This Sunday, a sing-along will be conducted at the center starting at 2 p.m. by Sharon Jarvis, activities director at Heritage Hall in Agawam.

On May 12 and 26, story hours will be held at the center at 2 p.m. The story hours will be led by Wanda Szafranski, who worked with preschoolers for many years at the Springfield Library.

For further information, contact the Desert Shield Support Center at ext. 2273.

Adult Education

Cambridge College, Springfield Center will be holding an information session Wednesday, May 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Desert Shield Support Center. Cambridge College is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and offers preparation for master's and graduate studies in education and management. For more information, please call ext. 2273.

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(Continued from front page)

"resume adhering to the conditions of the 1987 EIS" which prohibit non-emergency night flying operations.

Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander, said he was gratified by the decision.

"It supports our position, which is that we have been and are involved in a vital military operation during a time of national crisis," General Walker said.

The wing commander added that Westover's C-5 A aircrews are still actively involved with both the Desert Storm airlift, and the Operation Provide Comfort flights which are carrying humanitarian relief supplies to Kurdish refugees in Turkey.

"As much as anyone, the men and women at Westover look forward to the time when we can resume a more normal schedule of activity here," General Walker said.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

May 14, 1991

Westover units aid relief effort for Kurdish refugees

Westover personnel are making headlines again, participating in the air and on the ground in the operation to aid Kurdish refugees fleeing from Iraq into Turkey.

C-5A aircrews from the 337th MAS, and nurses and medical technicians from the 74th AES, are involved in the humanitarian relief effort, which is known as "Operation Provide Comfort."

Several million Kurds have exited Iraq since late March, when troops loyal to Saddam Hussein quashed a rebellion by Kurdish tribesmen.

President Bush sent U.S. troops to protect the refugees, who have massed in camps along the Turkey-Iraq border. He also ordered the huge airlift of food and other humanitarian supplies for the impoverished Kurds.

"We have been airlifting thousands of pounds of foodstuffs, mostly canned goods, to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey," said Maj. Ken Hall, a pilot with the 337th MAS. He flew a "Provide Comfort" mission to Turkey several weeks ago.

Major Hall said that after C-5 and C-141 aircraft fly the supplies to Incirlik, helicopters and C-130 airplanes from the U.S., France and Great Britain carry the humanitarian cargo to the refugee camps, which have been built in the mountains near the border.

The major said that the massive relief operation brings "a much needed food source to the starving refugees." "We also bring in other supplies...the Kurds are using practically everything we deliver," Major Hall added.

Major Hall reported, however, that the Kurds will not wear Army-style field jackets, apparently out of fear that Iraqi forces would mistake them for U.S. soldiers.

He also said that the refugees were

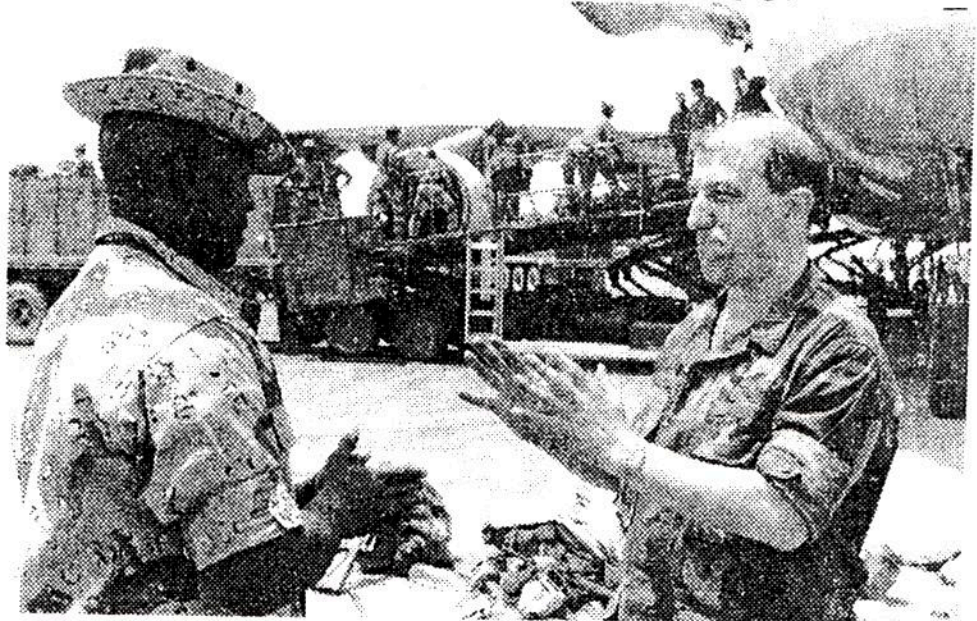
refusing to eat potatoes which were airlifted to their camps.

U.S. military cargo planes have also carried tractors and other vehicles to the mountainous region where the

camps are located.

The vehicles are needed to transport tents and materials to outlying areas, Major Hall said.

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BAGGAGE CHECK -- Maj. Wayne Petitto of the 439th ALCE team, discusses baggage with a homeward-bound soldier recently in Saudi Arabia. This photo was taken by SrA. Kym Taylor of the 439th MAW/PA.

Art imitates life

In the midst of a number of real-life homecomings at Westover last Friday, the base also played host to a make-believe welcome celebration. The base flightline was converted into an outdoor sound stage when a 35-member film crew from September Productions in Boston produced an advertisement for United Technologies Corporation. The ad, which will be broadcast nationally on television within the next month, is United Technologies' tribute to the men and women who participated in Operation Desert Storm.

Actors and actresses, some dressed like armed forces members in desert camouflage BDUs, recreated what one producer described as a "heartwarming" homecoming scene. Members of the 439th MAW Public Affairs office provided technical assistance during the eight hours which it took to film the 60-second commercial.

ALCE team expects to return from Saudi Arabia in two weeks

The Westover ALCE team, which on Sunday airlifted the last troops of the Army's VII Corps out of northern Saudi Arabia, expects to return home in about two weeks.

Seven of the ALCE members have been told to expect to start home sometime during the last week of May. Maj. Wayne Petitto and MSgt. Tom O'Brien may move on to Riyadh for two or three weeks of duties with the ALCE staff in the Saudi Arabian capital.

The nine-member team of the 439th ALCE, under the command of Lt. Col. Robert McMillan, have been coordinating the airlift at the Saudi Arabian air base since the beginning of April. Their main mission was assisting in the redeployment to Germany of the 100,000 troops of the VII Corps who made the end run into Iraq.

The VII Corps headquarters members furled their flag and conducted a parade at the air base on Sunday to mark the end of their presence in Saudi Arabia.

Following a brief lull, Westover's ALCE team is now overseeing the airlift of 6,000 to 8,000 members of the Third Armored Division. A flow of C-130s is bringing the troops from Kuwait to the air base where they stay in tent cities before proceeding on MAC and civilian contract aircraft.

The Air Force presence at the Saudi Arabian air base has been reduced to about 300, from about 2,000 earlier this year. The ALCE team will be leaving as the full heat of summer approaches.

The temperature goes over 105 degrees every day and recently hit 115 degrees. Many flights are rescheduled to the evening hours when cooler air provides more airlift.

Sandstorms roll through about twice a week.

As the homecoming approaches, the ALCE members are thinking about their families, Major Petitto said. "On Mother's Day the telephone lines were all tied up," he said.

Kurdish relief effort *(continued from front page)*

Members of the 337th have been flying "Operation Provide Comfort" missions since April 16, when four Westover Galaxy crews were dispatched to Incirlik.

Wing officials expect that the humanitarian flights will continue for at least several more months, especially in light of the great need of the Kurdish refugees, and the remote area where their camps are located.

Thirteen members of the 74th AES are currently stationed in Turkey, serving in a Mobile Aeromedical

Staging Facility (MASF) located not far from Incirlik.

The 13--Capt. Ellen Restivo, Capt. Lisa Beth D'Amico, 1st. Lt. Rosanna Chaloux, 1st. Lt. Theresa Ciccolo, MSgt. David Hawkins, MSgt. Leslie Howe and MSgt. Mark Johnson, TSgt. Brian Major, SSgt. Eric Kennedy, SSgt. Rafael Reyes-Almanzar, SSgt. John Wise, Sgt. William Anderson and SrA John Galvany--had previously served in Saudi Arabia.

The 74th personnel are part of the 23-member mobile medical facility,

which was established to treat military personnel who working there in support of Operation Provide Comfort.

According to Capt. David Zamorski, operations officer with the 74th AES, the Westover medics are living under field conditions in Turkey. They reportedly are located more than a mile from the nearest shower facility, he said.

In addition to the 13 personnel from the 74th in Turkey, seven members of the unit are stationed in Germany, and four others are still in Saudi Arabia, Captain Zamorski said on Monday

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Briefly ...

Blood drive

The Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Westover May 22 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the base gym. Give a pint -- all you will feel is good.

Manchester Day

The return of local Army reservists and plans for a "Manchester Day" will likely make Thursday one of the busiest days yet at the Base Hangar. Scheduled to arrive about 12:45

p.m. on Thursday are 42 members of the 173rd Medical Group of Westover. Six members are remaining in Saudi Arabia. The soldiers have been in the Middle East since early December.

Also returning on the commercial aircraft will be the 803rd Medical Group from the Boston area and members of the 619th Transportation Company. They will total about 200 troops.

In addition to family members, several thousand residents of Manchester, Conn. are expected to be welcoming troops home as part of a "Manchester Day."



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

May 17, 1991

Warm Westover welcome greets 173rd Medical Group

The families of more than 250 New England Army reservists, including Westover's own 173rd Medical Group, yesterday joined with a "Manchester, Conn. Day" crowd of several thousand for a memorable welcome home celebration. Together, they rocked the Base Hangar with one of the most emotional "hero's welcomes" yet.

From the moment the troops' L-1011 touched the runway the cheers were deafening. Before the soldiers reached the red carpet, tears were flowing among waiting wives, husbands and children. They walked down the carpet carrying children, clutching loved ones and sharing the emotion of the moment with clamoring well-wishers.

Returning with the 40 members of the 173rd were reservists of the 803rd Medical Group, Boston; and the 619th Transportation Company, Auburn, Maine.

The joy was in contrast to a tense and apprehensive farewell when the 173rd left Westover last December during the Desert Shield airlift.

They served as medical administrators at a combination housing and administrative site called Al Kabar Towers in Dhahran. Duties included coordinating emergency care when a SCUD missile fell onto American military housing just before the cease-fire. It hit Americans living about four miles away.

"About 8:30 p.m. we heard the sirens. We saw a flash, which was a Patriot, and heard a big boom. Fifteen minutes later we got the call about to help evacuate the casualties," said Spec. 4 Alaina Miller of Enfield.

"We called ambulances and helos in and did other command and control," she said.

Since the cease-fire, the medical administrators had been coordinating care for injuries and illnesses among Allied forces.

"During most of the time we worked 12-hour days, seven days a week. It was only in the last two weeks that we had time off," Specialist Miller said.

Six members of the 173rd volunteered to remain on duty in Saudi Arabia.

The 142 members of the 619th Transportation Company rolled up 1.6 million miles hauling ammunition by tractor trailer.

Among them was SSgt. Richard Hussey of Auburn, Maine, who during the ground war drove 20 hours a day delivering ammunition to the front. During the air war he one time went 47 hours without rest delivering 2,000 pound bombs from Damman Port to a base used by the

(continued on next page)



HOME AGAIN -- Martin Falcon, a member of the 173rd Medical Group, raises a flag as he returns home from the Persian Gulf yesterday. (photo courtesy of the Union-News)

The numbers keep growing

Westover greeted 373 returning Desert Storm heroes yesterday--250 of whom arrived aboard a commercial L-1011 aircraft which touched down shortly after 11:30 a.m. In the ten weeks since the war with Iraq ended, the base has welcomed 26,281 Persian Gulf veterans home from the desert. The homecoming celebrations in the Base Hangar have been going on around the clock since March 9--possibly setting a world's record for history's longest-running "welcome home" party.

Saudi dinner exposes ALCF officer to local customs

If you are invited to dinner in Saudi Arabia, be prepared to sit on a rug for a leisurely meal of excellent food, interrupted by prayers and ending abruptly following the serving of tea.

That was the recent experience of Lt. Col. Robert McMillan, 439th ALCF commander, at King Khalid Military City when he was invited to the home of the Saudi airfield manager. The other guests were nine Saudi Arabian men wearing white robes and Arab headdress and another Air Force officer.

Colonel McMillan expressed the feeling of many Americans when he described Saudis as capable of being friendly, generous hosts concerned for their guests' comfort. All those at the dinner spoke excellent English, but live by the Saudi traditions upon which their society is based.

"Our host's wife had spent the day cooking, but we never saw her," Colonel McMillan said. "We saw his six sons,

ages 2 to 16, of whom he was very proud, but we never saw his daughter," he said.

The dinner, which took place during the Moslem holy season of Ramadan, broke a day time fast. The Saudis broke the fast at sunset with water, dates and herbal tea, after which they went to a nearby mosque to pray.

When they returned the main meal commenced on a plastic sheet over an oriental rug which was covered with food from wall to wall. The guests sat on the floor and the main course was an "excellent" large platter of chicken and rice, Colonel McMillan said.

During the meal the host served a dark burgundy beverage in quality glassware which proved to be a Kool-Aid type drink.

The meal lasted an hour and a half, until the Saudis excused themselves to again pray. When they returned, tea was served after which everyone left in accordance with the Saudi custom of not lingering following the meal.

Briefly ...

Medic returns

Capt. Michael Carey, a 74th AES flight nurse, returned home from Turkey last Friday to be with his wife Andrea, who is about to give birth to the couple's first child.

Captain Carey was at Incirlik AB with 12 other members of the 74th AES. He had previously served at Riyadh and other locations in Saudi Arabia.

Protesters convicted

Thirteen people were convicted

yesterday in Chicopee District Court on charges that they trespassed at Westover AFB last October.

The defendants were found guilty after a jury trial and sentenced to perform 100 hours of community service or serve 30 days in the House of Correction.

The 13 were arrested during a demonstration in October when they refused police orders to stay out of the road and off base property. The defendants were protesting U.S. military involvement in the Persian Gulf.

Chance reunion

Two members of the Citadel's Class of '76 swapped stories about the

rigors of academy days when Capt. Robert Freniere, 337th Military Airlift Squadron intelligence officer, had a chance reunion in the Base Hangar with classmate Marine Maj. Ronald Bean.

The two had shared the military regimen of the Charleston, S.C. "West Point of the South" from "knob year" freshman initiation to graduation with their class of 400.

"To welcome home one of our guys and to find he's a classmate was an outstanding feeling. It's a brotherhood," Captain Freniere said.

Major Bean, a CH-46 standards/evaluation officer, was returning home to Cherry Point after duty in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

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Money seminar slated

Child and Family Services of Springfield and the Pioneer Valley have announced a money management program designed for the needs of single parents. The program is offered free of charge to assist single parents in managing their finances. For further information call 737-1426.

173rd returns... (continued from front page)

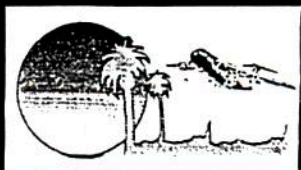
Air Force. When Sergeant Hussey finally got to sleep, it was in his truck, but the effort of delivering the bombs was worth it, he said.

"Four hours later they were dropped on Iraq," he said.

Approximately 1,000 residents of

Manchester, Conn., were on hand in the base hangar throughout the day to greet the returning troops.

Several of the town's school bands were on hand to play for the large crowds, and Mayor Terry Werkhoven presented Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander, with a proclamation honoring Westover and the Desert Storm troops.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

May 23, 1991

439th maintenance: class of the Desert Storm field

When it comes to fixing giant aircraft and launching them on time, Westover's maintenance and supply personnel have proven that they are the class of the Desert Storm field.

The Patriot Wing maintenance and supply team has led the other C-5 stage bases in on-time takeoffs in

four of the past five months.

Statistics recently released indicate that Westover's maintainers had departure reliability rates of 85 percent in January, 82.6 percent in February, 87.8 percent in March and 89.1 percent in April.

The figures are based upon the

number of missions which are delayed during a month due to maintenance or supply problems.

During the Persian Gulf airlift, maintenance personnel have been required to have the enroute ("quick turn") aircraft which arrive here ready for takeoff within three hours and 15 minutes from the time they land.

Thus far in May, Wing maintenance personnel are leading their counterparts at the other bases with a remarkable 90 percent departure reliability rate.

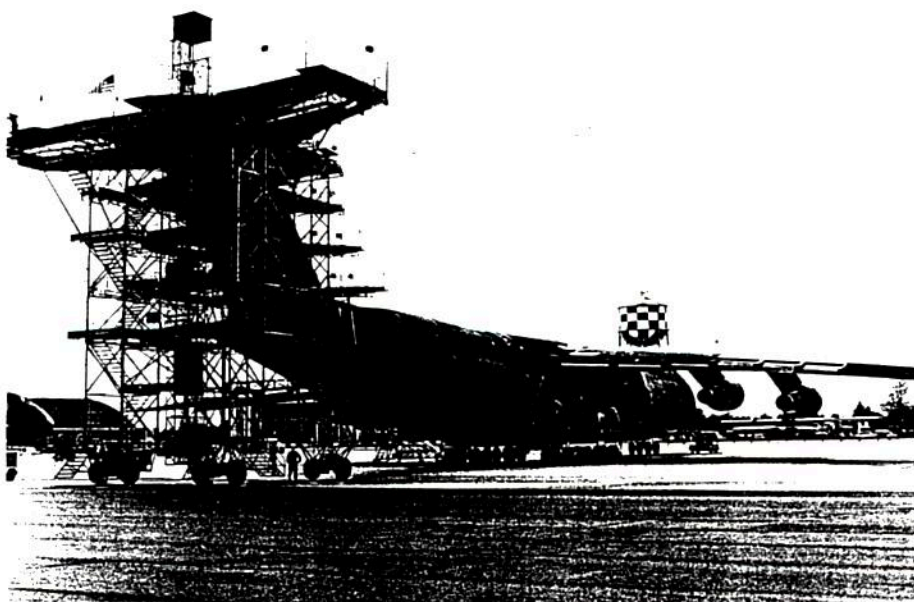
During the period from January-April, the other C-5 stage facilities were Dover AFB, Torrejon AB, Rhein Main AB and Ramstein AB. In May, Travis AFB was added to the list of stage bases.

The only month in which Westover did not lead in the maintenance reliability figures was February, when it placed second to Ramstein.

Westover had 288 departures during February, 50 of which were delayed due to maintenance/supply problems. Ramstein had 29 departures and four maintenance-related delays that month.

Members of the base's three main-

(continued on next page)



TALL TAIL--Thanks to a motorized, seven-story tall platform, Westover maintenance workers now find it easier to perform repairs on the C-5A's lofty tail section. The T-tail stand can be driven on Westover's flightline and has an elevator, crane, and sliding platforms which allow access to both sides of the tail at various levels.

Some ballpark figures

As of 8 a.m. on Tuesday, 32,987 military personnel have been airlifted from the base to the Persian Gulf, and 27,266 troops have flown back here from the sand. Cumulatively, 60,253 passengers—for an average of 6,000 per month since last August—have passed through Westover's passenger terminal during history's largest military airlift. According to MSgt. John Spencer who did the research, the number of pax flown out of Westover could nearly fill Fenway Park twice. Sergeant Spencer also notes that if the more than 110,000 tons (220 million pounds) of cargo airlifted had been automobiles, our aircraft would have airlifted every passenger car registered in Chicopee, Westfield and West Springfield. The base also pumped more than 57 million gallons of JP-4 jet fuel during the Persian Gulf operation. Per Sergeant Spencer, that's enough to fill every passenger car and taxi now operated in Massachusetts.

Maintenance....(continued from front page)

tenance squadrons--the 439th OMS, 439th AMS and 439th FMS--plus personnel from Westover's supply unit and the deputy commander for maintenance staff--are responsible for compiling the enviable statistics.

"It's everybody...everyone pulled together during Desert Shield and Desert Storm to make this happen," said Maintenance Officer Capt. Cam LeBlanc. "We knew we had experienced people in the reserve, and this showed it."

All of the other Desert Storm C-5

stage bases are active duty facilities. Westover was the only stage run entirely by an Air Force Reserve unit.

Captain LeBlanc said that maintenance and supply personnel learned from mistakes made early in the Gulf airlift. He also cited "tremendous cooperation" from other Westover units.

"We couldn't have compiled this type of record without great assistance from the other functional areas, such as fuels, transportation, base operations, fleet service and the flight crews," the maintenance of-

ficer said. "Getting quick turns off on time consistently takes real coordination and teamwork."

Captain LeBlanc also pointed to another statistic which speaks to the quality of maintenance at Westover.

In a "normal year," the Patriot Wing's 16 C-5A Galaxies fly about 4,400 hours. Since Desert Shield began last August, Westover's C-5s have amassed 17,666 flying hours.

"That's a tribute to quality maintenance and a superior aircraft," Captain LeBlanc added.

Westover dining facility praised by Secretary of the Air Force

The Westover Prime RIBS team isn't perfect, but Secretary of the Air Force Donald Rice declared his great satisfaction with their Desert Shield/Storm record last Saturday.

When Prime RIBS members traveled to Chicago to receive the coveted Hennessey Award from him, Secretary Rice jokingly noted a blemish on the cooks' record. He reminded the Patriot Wing cooks that after preparing 22,000 box lunches they received their first complaint when a piece of chicken was left out of a box.

"He kidded us about it, but said that was an outstanding record. One in 22,000 is a percentage that would be hard to compute," said CMSgt. Ron Perrault, food service manager. The

cooks have prepared more than 44,000 box lunches since August.

The Hennessey Award recognizes the Westover dining hall as best in the Air Force. Those at the ceremony were Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker, wing commander; Col. Thomas Har-

gis, base commander; Chief Perrault; SMSgt. Mike Spano and SMSgt. James Buell, food service superintendents; and food service specialists MSgt. Nate White, SSgt. Bill Brewster and Amn. Alexander Walczyk.

Briefly ...

Employer Day success

Westover hosted its first "Employer Appreciation Day" on Tuesday, with more than 40 bosses in attendance.

According to Lt. Col. Michael Roy, project coordinator, the event, which was held to thank the employers of activated Desert Storm reservists, was highly successful.

Other employer appreciation days are planned for June 8 and 12.

For reservations or further information, contact MSgt. John Sullivan at extension 3590.

Benefit brunch

The Polish American Veterans' Club in Wilbraham will sponsor a

breakfast brunch to benefit the Westover Desert Shield Support Center June 2 from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon.

The brunch will be held at the club, which is located at 28 Stony Hill Road in Wilbraham. Tickets cost \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12.

For tickets call 543-4085 or 543-2076.

Colonels selected

Two Westover officers who played major roles in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm have received Senate confirmation of their promotion to full colonel.

Col. Robert J. McMillan, who is coordinating airlift activities in Saudi Arabia with the 439th ALCF, pinned on his eagles in the desert May 17.

Lt. Col. Robert W. Kinley will assume the new rank June 1. He is commander of the 439th FMS.

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WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

May 30, 1991

ALCE team returns to well-deserved hero's welcome

Westover's ALCE team members who helped airlift home thousands of others received their own welcome home last Friday.

Six of the nine members walked down the red carpet after two months at a northern Saudi Arabia air base overseeing the airlift of VII Corps and other troops.

They had spent their last two days in Saudi Arabia enduring a sandstorm that coated everything with dirt.

"It was hard to breathe. We put sheets over our faces to stop the dirt," said MSgt. Fred Fraini.

"It was the worst nightmare. There was no escaping the sand. Everything was coated," he said.

"According to satellite pictures, the sandstorm covered an area from Baghdad to Riyadh to Dhahran," said Col. Robert McMillan, ALCE commander.

Sandstorms in recent weeks have caused low visibility and upset the airlift schedule, he said. At times the bad weather caused aircraft commanders to divert to other air bases.

The sand in the air apparently affected the weather, causing temperatures to drop to about 80 degrees during the day. The temperature in recent weeks had reached as high as 115 degrees.

"When we landed in Spain on the way home everyone commented how it was good to be able to breathe in a dust free environment, to breathe the fresh air and smell the moisture in the air," Sergeant Fraini said.

During their two months at the Saudi Arabian air base, the ALCE team helped airlift home more than 53,000 troops. They came home wearing Desert Storm patches bearing the words "Mission Completed."

Besides Colonel McMillan and Sergeant Fraini, there were Maj. Thomas Mauzaka, SMSgt. Frank Ruotolo, TSgt. Greg Morin and TSgt.



FEATHER IN HER CAP – Maj. Natalie Iryshe, 439th USAF Clinic, maintains her poise while dealing with an unexpected hazard of public speaking. She was guest speaker at Memorial Day services in Holyoke's Veterans Park when an errant bird landed on her hat. Shooing it away is Normand Michon of Holyoke. (photo courtesy of Transcript-Telegram)

Jim St. Cyr.

Still serving at the Saudi Arabian air base are Maj. Wayne Petitto, MSgt. Bob Seaton and MSgt. Tom O'Brien. They are conducting the airlift of mem-

bers of the Third Armored Division and are scheduled to remain until the last week of June.

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Patriots on parade

When the rest of the country was enjoying Memorial Day weekend at home, Westover patriots appeared at more than 17 speaking engagements and Memorial Day Parades throughout western Massachusetts. Some members of the Color Guard donated their time both Sunday and Monday to ensure that Westover's presence was felt in the many local communities who have been so supportive during Operation Desert Storm.

Citizen-airman becomes Airman Citizen

A1C Alexander Walczyk has had many memorable moments in the last few months. The 24-year-old Westover reservist was activated and deployed to the Persian Gulf. Returning after months of desert duty to a hero's welcome was one of the proudest moments of his life -- until last Friday.

As he stood in Hampden County Superior Court in his blue service dress uniform with his right hand raised, an eight-year-old dream finally came true. As Airman Walczyk promised to "support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic," he finally became a U.S. citizen.

Ironically, the airman had spent the last four months doing just that.

Airman Walczyk and five other

cooks from the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to the Middle East Jan. 11 where they fed hundreds of troops fighting the Iraqi forces to free Kuwait. They returned home April 12.

"This is very special for me," he said. "I am more than happy. I was waiting eight years for this."

Airman Walczyk was 14 when his family fled their hometown of Krakow, Poland for Austria. His father, a steel worker, was active in Solidarity and the family feared for their safety -- and rightly so. One week after they left Poland, martial law was declared and many in the movement were imprisoned.

"My father would probably would have been jailed," said the airman. "Many people died. The government wanted to get rid of adversaries."

After two years in Austria, the family

received political asylum and chose a country to settle down in. The choice was easy. "It was a natural choice to come here. The freedom is the number one reason," Airman Walczyk explained.

As he took his oath of citizenship, Airman Walczyk was surrounded by his parents, Emil and Maria Walczyk and his sister, Regina. Making the ceremony even more special was the presence of 25 fellow Westover reservists, all dressed in their blue dress uniforms. The civil engineers from the 439th CES came out to support the airman after word spread that he was about to become a citizen.

"We are very proud of Alex," said Lt. Col. Wayne Booker. The colonel explained that the airman was able to serve in the war because his application for citizenship was already in process.

ALCE ... (continued from front page)

They will likely see increasingly harsh weather, with forecasters expecting several weeks of high winds beginning in the second half of June.

The Westover trio is coordinating the activities of about 125 ALCE members. During the operation, the airlift was conducted by ALCE members from 12 active duty bases, five reserve units and 4 National Guard units.

WESTOVER today

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Briefly ...

Medics to return

Five members of the 74th AES were in Incirlik AB, Turkey on Wednesday awaiting a flight home.

Scheduled to return after duty assisting the Kurdish relief effort are nurses 1st Lt. Rose Chaloux, 1st Lt. Theresa Ciccolo and medical technicians MSgt. Leslie Howe, TSgt. Donald Sage and Sgt. Bill Anderson.

Twelve members of the 74th AES remain in Turkey and four in Riyadh.

Savings Bond Month

June is U.S. Savings Bond month at Westover. Civilian employees and air reserve technicians may sign up to purchase savings bonds each pay period through the payroll deduction program.

Under recent federal legislation, the interest earned on U.S. Savings Bonds may be tax free if used towards a child's college education.

2nd Lt. Ed Miller of the 439th CES

is serving as the bond drive coordinator. For further information about the savings bond program, contact Lieutenant Miller at ext. 2417

Blue Skies Gone

Sandstorms and acrid smoke from burning oil wells in Kuwait are playing havoc with the skies over Saudi Arabia.

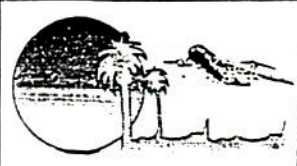
According to SSgt. Vin Blanchard of the 439th MAW Public Affairs Office, the mixture of dust and oil is severely impacting visibility. The Saudi skies are now frequently black during the day or, under the best conditions, gray.

Sergeant Blanchard was in the Persian Gulf last weekend, accompanying a C-5 cargo mission flown by Lt. Col. Jim Gallin, commander of the 337th MAS.

Pool opens

The Westover swimming pool is open every day from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The first day was last Friday.

Admission is 50 cents. A season pass is available for \$8 for individuals or \$30 for a family.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

June 6, 1991

Going home: reservists to begin demobilization on June 16

The end is near.

Reservists at Westover who were mobilized for the Gulf War will start leaving active duty June 16, approximately one month earlier than was previously expected.

Earlier word from the Military Airlift Command and the Air Force Reserve had indicated that Patriot Wing members would begin to demobilize on July 15.

Personnel from Westover's Consolidated Base Personnel Office began a series of pre-deactivation briefings for the soon-to-be-civilians yesterday morning in the Base Theater. Over the next two weeks, a number of 439th MAW members will be completing the paper work which will transform them from active duty Air Force members back into part-time citizen-airmen.

Approximately 1,550 Air Force reservists from Westover were activated here during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Members of the 337th Military Airlift Squadron have served the longest period of time on active duty. The 202 pilots, flight engineers, loadmasters, intelligence technicians and support personnel have been flying C-5 missions to the Persian Gulf since last Aug. 24.

The rest of the Patriot Wing personnel were mobilized during call-ups last December, January and March.

"Demobilization is a beautiful word," said TSgt. Kim Beebe, an administrative specialist with the 439th MAW's orderly room.

Sergeant Beebe will begin terminal leave June 17 and return to her full-time civilian job as an investigator with the Criminal Investigations Division of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Many members have accumulated several weeks of unused leave time during their active duty tours. Accord-



10,000-HOUR MAN — MSgt. Thomas Durkin, flight engineer with the 337th Military Airlift Squadron, receives a champagne shower from MSgt. Henry Olearcek. The C-5 mission landed June 3 marking 10,000 flying hours for Sergeant Durkin. (Courtesy of Springfield Union-News)

ing to the CBPO staff, these members will have the option of either receiving a lump-sum payment for the unused leave, or going on terminal leave status. If they opt for terminal leave, they will continue to draw salary, earn

retirement points and retain eligibility for Air Force benefits while they are on that status.

"June 16 is the pivotal date," said

(Continued on back page)

TOPS IN BLUE

MSgt. Kelly Payne of CBPO was "shocked and very, very honored" when she learned this week that she had been named Airman of the Year by the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA). She was among 12 airmen honored Air Force wide by the association.

Sergeant Payne will be a guest of honor at the AFSA annual convention in Washington, D.C., in September.

She will also be honored as the Air Force Reserve Airman of the Year at the First Sergeants Conference in San Antonio in August.

Sergeant Payne served as a communications specialist during four years of active duty at Robins AFB, Ga. A CBPO Air Reserve Technician since 1987, she is personnel data base manager.

MSgt. Tom Durkin hits 10,000 flying hours milestone

TORREJON AB, SPAIN -- As Westover's aircrew prepared to head home on June 3, it was more than a routine flight for MSgt. Tom Durkin, 337th MAS engineer. Four hours into the flight home, and 34,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, Sergeant Durkin marked a rare career accomplishment: amassing 10,000 hours flying time.

Crewmembers celebrated the occasion by signing an oceanic plotting chart printout marking the exact location that tallied 10,000 hours. The icing on the cake was flying the celebration flight with his son, SSgt. Tom Durkin, Jr., 337th MAS loadmaster.

The celebration beverage was postponed until they touched down at Westover when Sergeant Durkin was doused with champagne.

The 32-year 337th veteran said the 10,000 mark was one of the goals he had set for himself. According to Lt. Col. James Gallin, 337th MAS commander, Sergeant Durkin's accomplishment is one very few aircrew members achieve during their careers. CMSgt. Fred Allard, 337th flight engineer, is the only other 337th member to reach the 10,000-hour milestone. Chief Allard, 28-year reserve veteran and an

Enfield, Conn. resident achieved the honor in Dec. 1990.

Sergeant Durkin began his military career in 1953, serving with the Marine Corps in security and maintenance career fields for almost four years. He joined the 337th in 1959 and has tallied flight engineer flying time in C-119s, C-124s, C-130s and C-5s.

According to the trim, 56-year-old Windsor Locks, Conn., denizen, the C-130 is his favorite aircraft. "We had more versatile missions, landing on dirt runways, doing a lot of short hops with different types of airdrops," he said.

Sergeant Durkin just missed involvement in the Korean War by three months but flew missions from Westover to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. He said the hectic flying schedule of the past several months has been tiring, but he has been proud to be a part of Desert Storm.

As he nears his four-decade mark with the military, Sergeant Durkin reflects that overall, he's had a great career. "I've seen places I never thought I'd see," he commented.

Sergeant Durkin is an Air Reserve Technician as a civilian and resides in Windsor Locks, Conn. with his wife Joan. Besides their son Tom, the couple has two daughters.

(Going home...)

Capt. Armand Tourangeau of the CBPO. He said that not all 439th members will be leaving the active duty rosters then. Some unit members would go on terminal leave on that date, and others would remain on active duty for a while longer.

With the Wing still involved in airlift missions to the Persian Gulf and ongoing homecoming celebrations, some members are expected to remain voluntarily on active duty during the next several months.

WESTOVER today

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Briefly ...

Victory Parade

Volunteers are needed to march with the Westover contingent in Chicopee's Victory Parade at noon Sunday, June 9.

The uniform will be short sleeve shirt and "wheel cap" for men and beret for women. Marchers will meet in front of the Wing Headquarters Building, 1850, at 10:30 a.m.

To volunteer, call the 439th CSG orderly room at Ext. 2957.

Iraq Medevac

MSgt. Leslie Howe and SrA. John Galvany of the 74th AES worked together on a C-130 medical evacuation of one British and two American soldiers from northern Iraq May 28.

The mission removed the injured troops from the Sirsenk, site of Saddam Hussein's summer palace, to In-cirlik, Turkey. Sergeant Howe, who saw it from a distance, described Hussein's palace as roughly similar in outline to the Jefferson Memorial.

Airman Galvany continues to serve at Sirsenk. Sergeant Howe returned to

Westover last Friday evening with 1st Lt. Rose Chaloux, 1st Lt. Theresa Ciccolo, TSgt. Donald Sage and Sgt. Bill Anderson.

Petitto in Charge

Maj. Wayne Petitto, one of three members of Westover's ALCE to remain in Saudi Arabia, is now the acting commander for more than 75 MAC ALCF forces still in King Khalid Military City. "It's exciting," he said. "Because we don't have enough people to work, I do my ops job at night and the command paperwork during the day." Major Petitto plans to finish his work at KKM by the end of the month, although he may remain in the desert until early fall.

Pictures needed

The Public Affairs Office is seeking photographs of Westover's role in Desert Shield/Storm for inclusion in a book being prepared by staff members. Photos may be of activities here and overseas.

To submit photos or for more information, call the Public Affairs Office at Ext. 2034.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

June 12, 1991

Base officials to pull curtain on Westover Stage

The Westover Stage, created to keep crews and planes moving quickly and efficiently during the torrent of Desert Shield/Storm missions, will conclude operations on Saturday.

The decision to close the Stage offices in the Base Hangar is a milestone in the return to the pre-war level of operations at Westover. At the peak of Desert Storm, the 337th MAS members in the Stage offices were coordinating crews and planes for up to 25 missions a day. In recent weeks, that's dropped to a few missions a day. Responsibility will return to members of the Command Post.

The Stage operations were begun last September by Lt. Col. Terry Trent who was later joined by Maj. David Doyle. They set up a system which managed a pool of transient and Westover aircrews as planes arrived during the hectic months when Westover was a main staging area for the Mid-East airlift.

"It was like the Pony Express, except that instead of horses, we changed aircrews. As a result, aircraft needed for critical missions didn't sit on the ramp for 16 hours of crew rest," Colonel Trent said.

"When MAC designated Westover a staging area, the Command Post needed help coping with the sudden flow of aircraft," he said.

"Stage operations had never been done at the squadron level. We were breaking new ground and not worrying if there was a precedent. It seemed to work," Colonel Trent said.

During Desert Shield/Storm more than 110,000 tons of cargo and 60,000 passengers moved through Westover, going to the Middle East or coming home.

"It worked because of an outstanding effort from the transportation crews, billeting, ATOC, the dining hall, MWR and everyone else. The staging operations made extra demands on people from every corner of Westover," Colonel Trent said.

"When a plane landed, two crew buses, fuel trucks and maintenance people descended on it. Everyone was geared to do their job. Westover has that reputation among aircrews around the world," he said.

Westover aircrew members rotated between duty in the Stage offices and Desert Shield/Storms missions.

"They went into the system, gained experience and stayed attuned to the problems aircrews faced. When they returned to the Staging offices, they were sensitive to the needs of aircrews who were stressed after three missions to Europe," Colonel Trent said.

Westover was designated a staging area to supplement Dover AFB, Del. The base's location near the air route to Europe meant that aircraft flying from points throughout the

U.S. had to make only minor diversions to stage out of Westover.

Due to the location and favorable tail winds, a C-5 flying out of Westover had a larger cargo capacity because it required 24,000 pounds less fuel than when departing Dover.

(continued on next page)



COMMANDING PRESENCE -- Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, wing commander, marches along the parade route Sunday during Chicopee's Welcome Home Parade. *(photo courtesy of the Union-News)*

CINCMAC's coming back

Gen. H. T. Johnson Jr., commander of the Military Airlift Command and the U.S. Transportation Command, will visit Westover on Saturday to participate in Volunteer Appreciation Day ceremonies beginning at 2 p.m. in the Base Hangar.

"General Johnson shares with all of us at Westover a sense of appreciation for the contributions the volunteers have made to welcoming home the troops of Desert Storm," said Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker, 439th MAW commander.

More than 500 volunteers from the Red Cross and USO have worked around-the-clock in the Base Hangar since the return of the first troops.

Westover's "C-141" blindsides Blitzler

Westover's Strategic Air Command C-141, which "struck fear in the hearts of our enemies," flew over Washington, D.C., in Saturday's Desert Storm Victory parade. At least, that's the version of events the worldwide audience of CNN television received from broadcaster Wolfe Blitzler.

Blitzler, who gained prominence for his coverage of the Mid-East war, fumbled the details but captured the spirit of the event when he said the Galaxy awed the crowds at the capital's gala parade.

Patriot Wing Galaxies received national and local coverage when Westover was represented in Desert Storm Victory parades in Washington, D.C., and Chicopee last weekend.

The 337th MAS's C-5 was the only Galaxy in the 58-plane flyover in Washington, D.C. on Saturday. Lt. Col. James Gallin, squadron commander, was aircraft commander, leading the crew of pilots Lt. Col. Glenn DeForge, Maj. Daniel Nichols; flight engineers TSgt. Roland Greenwood, TSgt. Richard Jedrey; and loadmasters Sgt. Richmond Farr and SrA. James Nichols.

Those who marched in the Washington parade were Capt. Elaine D'Aprile, 74th AES; MSgt. James Lagasse, 439th AMS; and SrA. Richard Cameron, 337th MAS. Captain D'Aprile served in Saudi Arabia and Turkey. The Westover delegation also marched in the New York City's parade on

Monday.

Brig. Gen. Mike D. Walker, wing commander, marched at the front of more than 125 Westover reservists in Chicopee's parade on Sunday. He was accompanied by Col. Thomas Hargis, base commander, and Lt. Col. Barry Monahan, deputy base commander.

The Westover contingent led the parade down Chicopee streets lined by cheering crowds estimated at up to 40,000. About 20 Westover members who are Chicopee residents marched as a unit, as did about 20 members of the 74th AES.

Colonel Gallin was aircraft commander of the Galaxy which turned heads when it twice flew over the parade route.

Briefly ...

Independence Day

The first Westover reservists to be deactivated will have special reason to celebrate Independence Day.

Those who will finish their duty on June 17 will be eligible for terminal leave, which will gain their "independence" with deactivation on July 4. Or as Maj. Roger Carl quipped, "re-born on the Fourth of July."

Honorable mention

Melanie LaFrance, daughter of CMSgt. Joseph LaFrance,

439th CSG first sergeant, was named valedictorian of her graduating class at Plainfield High School at Plainfield, Conn.

Melanie, who was ranked number one in her class and was president of the school's chapter of the National Honor Society, will major in biochemistry at the University of Connecticut.

Schedule change

Now that many Westover personnel are getting off of active duty, it's time to pay closer attention to UTA schedules. The dates for the July UTA have been changed to July 13-14 in order to meet mission requirements. There will only be one scheduled UTA for the month.

WESTOVER today

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Medics return from Desert duty

Five members of the 74th AES returned home from the Middle East this week. Nine members remaining on duty in the Incirlik, Turkey area are scheduled to return this week.

Capt. Ellen Restivo was welcomed back to Westover from Turkey on Monday night. On Tuesday, 1st Lt. Catherine Manning, MSgt. David Perrault, SSgt. Russell Shaw and SSgt. Mary Elwell returned from Riyadh.

Stage... (continued from last page)

The end of the stage operation also means that the 16 Patriot Wing Galaxies are coming home. During the Middle East airlift, MAC aircraft were scattered around the world with different aircrews.

Westover planes will now remain at Westover with Patriot Wing crews.

WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

June 19, 1991

MAC boss says Westover set pace for airlift

Gen. H.T. Johnson Jr., commander of the Military Airlift Command and the U.S. Transportation Command, came here last Saturday to applaud Westover's role in the airlift home and to declare the effort to be virtually completed.

General Johnson, following a rally in the Base Hangar to honor community volunteers, said MAC airlift planners have gained an increased respect for Westover.

"Westover has been an important part of MAC. The importance of the location has gone up in our eyes. You have outshone our greatest expectations," the MAC commander said.

Several times he mentioned the importance of Westover's location in the Northeast as of strategic importance.

A C-5 burns about 2,400 fewer gallons of fuel flying to Europe from Westover than from Dover. Aircraft from around the country, including Dover AFB, fly near Westover to reach the most favorable flight path to Europe.

More than 63,000 passengers and 111,000 tons of cargo passed through the Westover stage.

The MAC commander ranked Westover's contributions to Desert Shield/Storm in importance with Rhein-Main, Ramstein and Torrejon Air Bases.

"If we are going to project force, Westover is key," he said.

While noting that about 60,000 troops remain in the Middle East, together with about half of the equipment sent there, he said they are engaged in the conclusion of operations. "In essence all those who can come home have come home," he said.

The MAC commander said airlift and the C-5 proved themselves in the Mideast war.

"In the airlift business we're not cutting back. Airlift continues to enjoy high priority; in fact it's increasing," he said.

"The C-5 is the airlift of choice for carrying people and equipment," he said.

Addressing reservists in the Base Hangar, General Johnson said "Total Force was embodied in our activities in Desert Shield. Our nation called and you responded...you have served with great honor and great patriotism."

He called Desert Shield/Storm "the biggest airlift we ever had," noting that it carried as much in six weeks as the massive Berlin Airlift did in six months.

The MAC commander said the airlift was successful because, "people wanted to serve and did so very, very well."

He noted that at the beginning of Desert Shield, when a call was made for medical volunteers, the response was so overwhelming that "we literally had to draw straws to determine who would serve our great nation."



WESTOVER WELCOME -- Gen. H.T. Johnson Jr., MAC commander, experiences first hand the welcome received by returning troops in the Base Hangar. He was here Saturday to help salute the community volunteers in the hangar. See related story on back page. (Photo courtesy of Union-News)

Mission accomplished

Those who answered the call of Desert Shield/Storm have completed their mission. Westover's reservists will return to the civilian world by July 31.

Under MAC guidelines, terminal leave must be completed by the end of July. Those who choose to remain on duty without taking leave until July 31 will receive their base pay when they "sell back" their leave time.

CBPO members overseeing the demobilization process will hold mandatory briefings in the Base Theater at 9 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Wednesday through Friday. All activated members must attend a briefing.

Homecoming volunteers lauded for patriotism

The men and women who made the homecoming troops feel like heroes were themselves recognized Saturday as patriots in the finest tradition.

Gen. H.T. Johnson Jr., MAC commander, attended the Volunteer Appreciation Day celebration in the Base Hangar. "Volunteerism is as strong as in the days of Paul Revere...I thank you for what you've done for this community and nation. I'm proud to be among patriots today," he said.

Volunteers from the Red Cross, USO, veterans groups, corporations and more were on hand 24 hours a day, always ready to cheer troops or fill coffee cups.

"What we accomplished here at

Westover could not have been done without all of you...New England has a long tradition of service to the country... here a new chapter was written by the volunteers and friends of the Patriot Wing," said Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander.

"You certainly assisted in the strategic air mission of Westover," he said.

General Johnson told the volunteers when he first saw on television the loud cheers of a Westover welcome he assumed that such enthusiasm could only be for local troops.

"I realized that you welcome everyone as a member of your family and a patriot of our great

country," he said.

"You were the first Americans and the first place in America the troops saw on their return. You showed them exactly what all Americans think of them....

"At Christmas time I saw the gifts and boxes of letters. I thank you on behalf of all our forces for your cards, letters and love," he said.

The MAC commander, who earned a Silver Star in Vietnam, said the homecomings were also for veterans of other wars.

"Our President and our country made sure we not only won the war for the Middle East, but also won it for our members from Vietnam and Korea."

Briefly ...

Worship services scheduled

Catholic and Protestant services will continue the current schedule until June 30, after which services will only be offered on UTAs.

Catholic Mass is offered at noon on weekdays in Bldg. 1408 and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 9 a.m. on Sundays in the Base Hangar squadron briefing room.

General Protestant worship services are offered at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays in the squadron briefing room.

New hours at gym

The Base Gym has announced the following new hours which became effective on Monday.

The gym will be open from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays. The Sunday schedule will be from noon to 8 p.m.

ALCE members packing bags

Three ALCE team members, the last of the wing still deployed in the Middle East, are packing their bags with hopes of coming home on Saturday.

Maj. Wayne Pettito, MSgt. Tom O'Brien and MSgt. Bob Seaton are at Saudi Arabia's King Khalid Military City. They are assisting in the airlift of Army troops from Germany to Kuwait to relieve members of the VII Corps now serving in Kuwait.

WESTOVER today

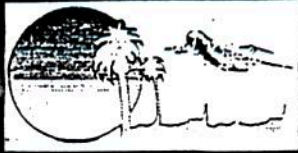
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Last of 74th come home

The last of the 74th AES members were welcomed home Thursday night, which meant it was time to remove the green and yellow wrist bands worn by the unit since February. MSgt. George Gad bois, 74th first sergeant, led the group in ceremonially cutting off the bands in the Base Hangar.

When they put on the wrist bands shortly before the February deployment of 110 members, they vowed to keep them on until the last person returned home safely.

The last members who flew home from Incirlik, Turkey were Maj. Anne Cole, Capt. Lissa Beth D'Amico, MSgt. Mark Johnson, MSgt. David Hawkins, TSgt. James Helems, TSgt. Brian Major, TSgt. Deresa Johndrew, SSgt. Rafael Reyes-Almanzar and SrA. John Galvany.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

June 26, 1991

Demobilization continues as airlift winds down

Despite mountains of paperwork and a severe staff shortage confronting Westover's CBPO, most of the Patriot Wing's 1,550 activated members will be discharged by July 31.

"We're on schedule," said Capt. Denny Jobes, chief of the CBPO. "We're not manned to do this, but our staff has been absolutely awesome in handling the workload," she said.

According to Captain Jobes, the military personnel staff has been burning the midnight oil in their effort to transform all of the activated Patriot Wing members back into part-time, citizen-airmen.

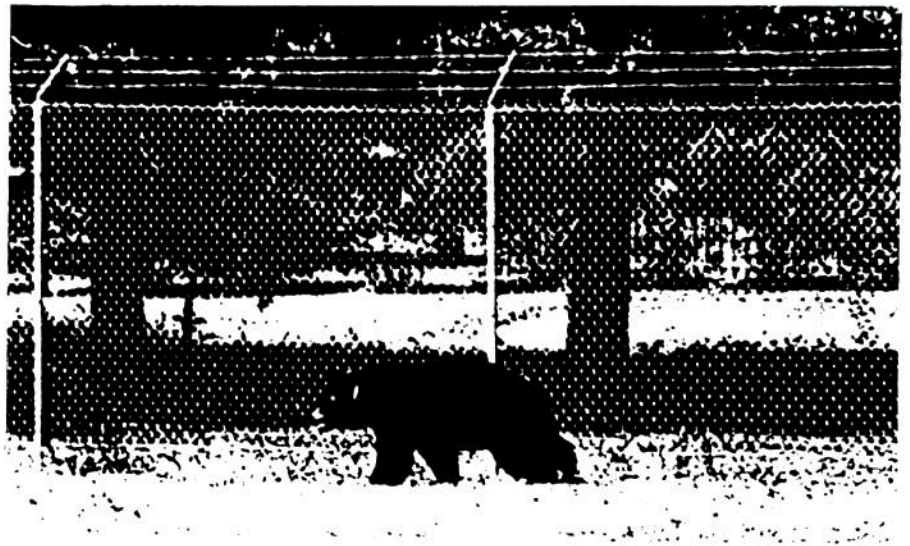
She noted that during the last seven days of this month, CBPO staffers will handle more than 5,000 transactions as they prepare discharge papers, new identification cards and hundreds of other documents for those being deactivated.

"The CBPO people have kept their sense of humor and are doing everything humanly possible to make the (deactivation) process as painless as possible for the customers," Captain Jobes added.

The CBPO chief said that about 400 wing members left active duty on June 16. Most of the remaining Patriot Wing members will be discharged by July 31.

Captain Jobes said that a small number of Patriot Wing members have requested permission to remain on active duty longer, due to hardship reasons, such as lack of a civilian job. However those extension requests, which have to be approved by higher headquarters, are not frequently granted.

"Statistically, AFRES has been granting only about 15-20 percent of the hardship requests," Captain Jobes said.



GRIN AND BEAR IT – The only POW and casualty at Westover during Desert Storm was a 300-pound black bear that wandered onto the base June 11. Environmental officers used a tranquilizer dart to capture the bruin near General Walker's back yard. The bear was later released on its own recognizance near the Quabbin Reservoir.

As wing personnel begin to leave active duty, Westover is rapidly reverting from a war-time airlift nerve center back to its prior status as an Air Force Reserve training base.

Although the Base Hangar reception area for returning Desert Storm troops is still open for business during

the day and early evening, few planes carrying the Gulf veterans are now landing at Westover.

The 439th MAW will celebrate its deactivation and its Desert Storm successes on July 13. A formal military ceremony, and "end of tour" victory party are planned for that date.

Unemployed? The JAGs want to help!

The Westover legal office wants to learn about unit members who believe that they will be unemployed after they are deactivated.

According to Lt. Col. Andre Kocay, staff judge advocate, Patriot Wing members who have lost their civilian jobs should inform their unit first sergeants. The first sergeants will forward the names to the legal office, which will contact the labor department in the members' home state. Reservists who were activated are protected by several federal reemployment laws, and the early identification of affected wing personnel will help the JAGs and labor department officials to provide necessary assistance.

First sergeants, or individuals with questions concerning reemployment rights, should contact the legal office at extensions 3180 and 3165.

Last of the Patriot Wing now back home

The Desert Shield/Storm deployment of Westover contingents to Europe and the Middle East came to a happy conclusion when the last three 439th ALCF members walked down the red carpet last Saturday afternoon.

The ALCE team of Maj. Wayne Petitto, MSgt. Tom O'Brien and MSgt. Bob Seaton returned from King Khalid Military City where they had been overseeing airlift operations since the beginning of April. The team originally included nine members, headed by Col. Robert McMillan.

The trio had remained at the Saudi Arabian airbase near the tri-border area with Iraq and Kuwait to assist in the airlift of Army armored cavalry units arriving from Germany to relieve troops in Kuwait.

When they returned they shared the common experience of all other Westover members moving from a desert to a temperate climate.

"We landed at Mildenhall where it was great to see all the green and smell the humidity in the air and see clouds," said MSgt. O'Brien. "There aren't clouds in the desert. We hadn't seen grass or trees in almost three months," he said.

At King Khalid Military City life was a constant struggle against blowing sand.

"One minute it's clear as a whistle and the next minute you can't see five feet ahead of you. It's like talcum powder, you couldn't keep it out. Unless you put your things in plastic bags, they would be covered with it.

"You learn to adapt," Sergeant O'Brien said.

"Now I'm washing all my clothes and vacuuming my books and other property to get the sand out.

Like the more than 30,000 who came before them, the ALCE members were cheered as heroes in the Base Hangar. About a dozen other troops were part of one of the last Desert Storm welcome home ceremonies in the hangar.

They followed in the footsteps of the 203 members of the 337th MAS who served overseas and kept up the exhausting shuttle to the Middle East from the first August days of Desert Shield, the more than 100 members of the 74th AES who served in Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Germany beginning in February; and the six Prime RIBS cooks who came home in April from four months in the Middle East desert.

Briefly ...

Job Fair

More than 850 New England employers have been invited to participate in a job fair titled Operation Job Storm at NAS South Weymouth, Mass., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday.

The fair is free and open to veterans of any era. Resumes are recommended.

WESTOVER today

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For more information, call the Desert Storm Transition Office at NAS South Weymouth at (617) 786-2559 or 2893.

New clinic hours

The 439th USAF Clinic has announced new hours of operation. The clinic will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Sick call will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays.

A medical technician will staff the clinic from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. A physician will be on call.

For emergency medical care, call Security Police at ext. 116.

Seafood Buffet

The Consolidated Open Mess will host a Super Seafood Buffet featuring crab, oysters, scrod, shrimp, and fried clams from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday.

The buffet will include a wide as-

sortment of other dishes, including fried chicken, pasta, salads and ice cream sundae.

The price will be \$10.95 for adults and \$5.95 for children under 12.

Operation Crime Stop

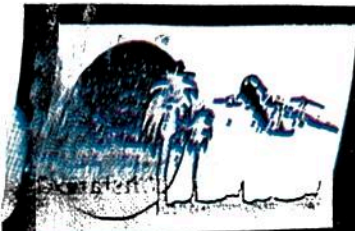
If you spot a crime or suspicious activity, the base Law Enforcement section wants to know.

Operation Crime Stop, sponsored by the 439th SPS, includes a phone line directly to the Law Enforcement desk. To report a crime or suspicious activity, call ext. 2144.

Oasis Room hours

The Oasis Room on the first floor of enlisted barracks Bldg. 5103 will be open from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Free coffee and a microwave are available, and sandwiches, beverages and other fast food items are on sale in the Oasis Room.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

July 3, 1991

Wing bash to celebrate "job well done" July 13

This one's for us.

The Base Hangar, where more than 33,000 returning Desert Storm troops were welcomed back to America, will be the site of one more massive party July 13 when the Patriot Wing celebrates its deactivation and successful completion of its Desert Shield and Desert Storm missions.

Base officials have dubbed the event "Patriot Thanks." "This will be our day," said Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander.

A formal military ceremony will be held on the base ellipse starting at 10 a.m. Several distinguished visitors are expected to attend, including Lt. Gen. Robert L. Rutherford, Military Airlift Command vice commander, and Maj. Gen. John J. Closner III, commander of the Air Force Reserve.

Several awards will be presented during the ceremony, and unit photos will be taken afterwards on the ellipse. The uniform of the day will be blue trousers or skirts and short sleeve shirts. Men will wear wheelcaps and women will wear blue berets.

Following the formation, 439th members will celebrate with a "surf and turf" meal and party starting at noon in the Base Hangar. "It will be the mother of all clambakes," promised CMSgt. Charlie Fusco, the wing's senior enlisted adviser and one of the party's organizers.

Since last August, 439th MAW members have played a crucial role in history's largest military airlift. While Westover's Galaxies flew hundreds of cargo transport missions to the Middle East, Patriot Wing members serving here operated the base around the clock as the major northeast C-5 stage facility for Desert Shield/Desert Storm.



TEARFUL REUNION -- Massachusetts National Guard Sgt. Larry Tarr hugs his fiancée, Julie Hodgdon during welcome home ceremonies in the Base Hangar Sunday night. Several hundred Massachusetts and Rhode Island Guard members arrived from Saudi Arabia on Sunday and Monday in what may be the last large welcome home celebrations at Westover. (Photo courtesy of Union-News)

TH-TH-THAT'S ALL FOLKS

All good things must come to an end -- even twice-weekly newspapers. This is the last issue of Westover today.

During the past seven months, we've attempted to keep you informed about happenings here and overseas during the Gulf crisis and war.

Our "beat" has taken the Westover today staff all over the base -- and the world. From our perspective, it was easy telling the "Westover story." The men and women who worked here did so many things -- and did them so well -- that we were never short of stories.

We only wish we had more space -- and time -- to write about every one who served here during the "Storm." As we publish our final edition, it's probably appropriate to borrow one of Bob Hope's most famous lines: "Thanks for the memories."

(continued on back page)

Wing flies 300,000 safe hours

The three 439th MAW flying squadrons came through the wartime demands of Desert Shield/Storm with perfect safety records that total more than 100,000 accident free flying hours each.

The aircrews of Westover's 337th MAS flew more than 20,000 accident-free hours from August 1990 through last June. That brought their accident free flying hours since January 1966 to more than 119,000.

The 20,000 hours is more than four times the 337th's normal annual flying schedule of about 4,400 hours.

The 328th TAS of Niagara Falls safely deployed their eight C-130s to the Middle East where they flew missions throughout Desert Shield/Storm. They flew 3,164 miles to raise their total of accident free flying hours to more than 100,000 since June 1961.

The 758th TAS of Pittsburgh has

flown more than 103,000 accident free hours since June 1963, including more than 3,160 hours during Desert Shield/Storm.

The safety records of the three squadrons represent 83 years and 323,550 hours of accident free flying.

"The impressive flying safety records reflects on the experience and professionalism of our aircrews and the maintenance people who give us quality airplanes to fly," said Lt. Col. Gale French, wing chief of safety. As an example, he noted flight engineers CMSgt. Fred Allard and MSgt. Thomas Durkin have logged more than 10,000 career flying hours.

"It's a tremendous record, especially considering such factors as the New England weather and the fact that the flying hours include complex low-level formation tactical air drops," Colonel French said.

Bash

(continued from front page)

More than 33,000 military passengers, and more than 80,000 tons of cargo, were airlifted to the Gulf from Westover. Following the Feb. 28 cease fire, more than 31,000 Persian Gulf vets, and more than 49,000 tons of cargo, were returned to the U.S. through the base.

"We've proven to MAC and the nation what our citizen-airmen can do," said General Walker. "We have an awful lot to celebrate on the 13th."

The festivities will also mark the departure from active duty of the reservists who were mobilized during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. During call-ups in August, December, January and March, 1,550 of the 2,300 439th members at Westover were activated.

Wing personnel began leaving active duty on June 16, and most will be discharged by July 31.

Briefly ...

Blood drive

The Red Cross will sponsor a blood drive in the Base Gym from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 23.

Volunteers sought

Westover personnel are being asked to volunteer at the American Legion's state convention to be held July 11 at American Legion Post 275 in Chicopee. "Post 275 was extremely helpful to Westover during Desert Shield/Desert Storm," said CMSgt. Charlie Fusco, 439th MAW senior enlisted adviser. "It would be nice if we could reciprocate."

Volunteers are needed to assist at a barbecue. For further information, contact Chief Fusco at ext. 2214.

Summer Pops tickets

The Springfield Symphony Orchestra is offering free tickets to the opening night Summer Pops concert at Westfield's Stanley Park on Thursday, July 11.

Tickets for the "Red, White and Blue Salute" concert of patriotic music are available at the Base Gym.

Santa is coming to town

Santa Claus will make an out-of-season visit to the Consolidated Open Mess 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, for a Christmas Party.

The party, in the Casual Lounge, will feature snacks, prizes and surprises. Santa will pose for pictures.

WESTOVER today

This publication was edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 439th Military Airlift Wing. Contents are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

Morgan horse show

The New England Morgan Horse Show Regional Championship at the Three County Fairgrounds, Northampton, Mass. will give free admission to military members and their guests on Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27.

Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, wing commander, will give the opening address and the Westover Honor Guard will perform during a "Salute to the Troops" at 7 p.m., July 26.