

# PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

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## *New names, new structure mark wing's reorganization*

By Maj. Rick Dyer

The Air Force's dream of a leaner, cleaner organizational structure has meant a nightmare of sorts for the sign painters and printers who work at Westover.

The Air Force's recent reorganization of its commands, and the implementation of the "one base, one boss" Objective Wing concept here has resulted in a name change for many of the units at the base.

That has meant instant obsolescence for most of the signs, unit emblems and pieces of official stationery at Westover. It also signaled significant changes in the way the

Patriot Wing is organized.

"The reorganization will help us to become better focused on our mission," said Col. James P. Czekanski, wing commander. "It should also make us more efficient."

The 439th Military Airlift Wing commanded by Czekanski is now known as the 439th Airlift Wing. Under the new structure, it will consist of four groups--the 439th Operations Group, the 439th Support Group, the 439th Logistics Group and the 439th Medical Group.

Czekanski refers to those groups as the "four building blocks" from which his wing is constructed.

"Every other wing in the Air Force

is built the same way, with separate groups for operations, support, logistics and medical.

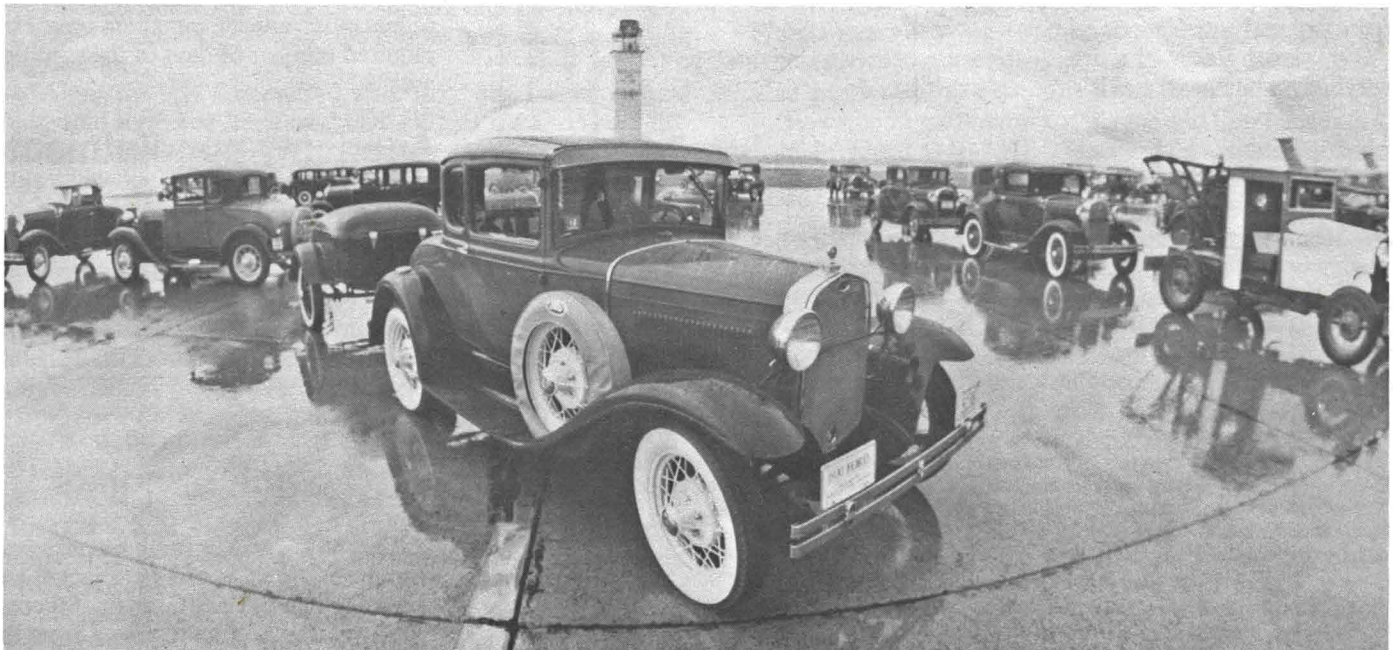
They're identical, and that's why they've been dubbed 'objective wings,'" he said.

Under the new Air Force-wide reorganization plan, the wing commander also serves as installation commander. This replaces the practice--at Westover and at most other Air Force bases--of having two different people fill those roles.

Czekanski said that the revised wing should become fully operational when the new fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

One of the most noticeable changes

*(Continued on page 6)*



**OLDIES BUT GOODIES--**Westover was the scene of the Western Massachusetts Model A Ford Restorers Club gathering on May 31. The owners of 133 Model A's

braved pouring rain to meet in front of the Base Hangar to spell out "Good Morning America" which was to be aired on the national morning TV program.

SrA. Mike Lyman



## EDITORIAL

## It's the right thing to do

As world leaders were gathering in Rio De Janeiro last month for the U.N. Earth Summit, most Westover reservists viewed a brief video tape as part of their UTA training.

The video depicted Air Force personnel responding to an environmental disaster at a base similar to Westover. A forklift accidentally punctured a fuel container, fouling a containment area and nearby waterway. The brief presentation showed Air Force officials scurrying to contain the toxic spill, and taking measures to prevent similar mishaps.

You can expect to participate in more training like this in the future. One of my most important goals as commander will be to make Westover the community leader in environmental compliance.

If you have any doubts about the relevance or importance of this type of training-- or about my commitment to it-- pick up today's newspaper, or tune in to any television or radio news broadcast. I guarantee that you will see or hear at least one account of an environmental crisis. Quite frankly, stories about acid rain, global warming, polluted water systems and the illegal dumping of deadly toxic waste scare me to death. I suspect that they have a similar effect on every member of the Patriot Wing.

There is another important reason why we should increase our knowledge of--and commitment for--environmental issues and regulations. There are a number of federal laws which impose strict civil and criminal penalties for negligent or illegal activities which harm the environment, and more are pending in Congress.

It's my belief, however, that the desire to do the right thing--rather than fear of retribution--will motivate the Westover community.

What can we do to help? While our roles and responsibilities may vary, there are certain basic steps which each of us should take to safeguard the environment. We must ensure that all hazardous materials are properly stored, handled and labeled. We must dispose of all waste properly. We must immediately report environmental accidents or crimes.

Our planet Earth is a fragile treasure. Preserving and protecting it is everybody's business, and it's the right thing to do.

**Col. James P. Czekanski**  
Wing Commander

## Briefs

### Oates nominated for BG promotion

Col. Ralph H. Oates, 14th Air Force vice commander, has been nominated for promotion to brigadier general.

Prior to assuming his present duties at Dobbins AFB, Ga., Oates was vice commander of the 439th Military Airlift Wing at Westover.

### Kuwait medal

Military members who served in Southwest Asia between Jan. 17 and Feb. 28, 1991, may receive the Kuwait Liberation Medal, (KLM).

To receive the medal, servicemembers must meet one of these criteria:

- have been attached to, or regularly serving for one or more days with an organization participating in ground or shore military operations.

- participated as a crew member in one or more flights directly supporting military operations in the area.

Members who received the Southwest Asia Service Medal are not automatically eligible to receive the KLM. Documentation such as travel orders or special orders must indicate members served the required number of days in the specified area.

### Academy appointment

Darren Paladino, son of SSgt. David Paladino, an information specialist with the 439th AW, DCM staff, has received an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy. A recent graduate of Berlin High School in Connecticut, Paladino reported to the Academy June 29., fulfilling a lifelong dream.

### MAC patch obsolete

The MAC patch will be removed from the BDU shirt and field jacket and replaced with the AMC patch. All command patches will be removed from the flight suit and replaced with the vivid color AMC patch.

As of this time, the AMC patch is unavailable. Therefore, remove the existing command patch and leave open until AMC patches are procured.

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

#### 439th AW Commander

Col. James P. Czekanski  
Base Commander

Col. Thomas G. Hargis  
Chief of Public Affairs

Gordon A. Newell  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Rick Dyer  
Base Public Affairs Officer

#### Public Affairs Specialist

Monica M. Lindberg

#### Editor/NCOIC

MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

#### Deputy NCOIC/Media Relations

TSgt. Tom Allocco

#### Deputy NCOIC/Internal Information

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# Chief Fusco to retire from top NCO position

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

Seated in his executive chair, with his oak desk before him and his Air Force memorabilia behind him, CMSgt. Charlie Fusco looks like a man comfortable with himself and relaxed amid the trappings of authority.

As senior enlisted advisor, he carries with ease the responsibility of the wing's top NCO. The 59-year-old senior enlisted advisor's retirement in July will make the desk and office space seem a little smaller. As much as anything else, it has been Chief Fusco's presence during his two and a half year tenure that has lent authority to Westover's top NCO position.

A framed painting of an Indian chief hangs from Fusco's wall symbolizing the prestige of an Air Force chief master sergeant.

No less impressive is the assurance and deepness in the senior enlisted advisor's voice. The voice rings true, whether counseling an airman recruit or advising the wing commander.

That may be one reason he was originally chosen for the top spot from among dozens of qualified candidates.

His voice resonates with the experience of a lifetime in air planes and on flightlines. When he was nicknamed "Hot Dog One" for the Desert Storm homecoming, nobody had to tell Chief Fusco how to work with people.

"I always had people working for me. All kinds of problems came up, personal problems, everything," he said.

In the old days, when Westover needed a field training area, he joined with SMSgt. Ken Gilbert and MSgt. Gary Miller to design "Dog Patch." Before there was a Westover Honor Guard, he brought out the Easthampton High School band to play taps for Westover's first military funeral. His daughter played lead trumpet.

"I started in the Air Force by cleaning drip pans and ended as a maintenance supervisor," the former crew chief and flight engineer said.

"Along the way I wondered who 'they' are. I always heard 'they said this' and 'they said that'. When I was offered this position I figured I could find out and be one of 'they'," he said with a chuckle that came up from a barrel chest.

"I found out that 'they' are usually people doing a tough job and trying to do it the best they can. In most cases they appreciate the help that comes up from the ranks below them," he said.

As top NCO at Westover, it was Chief Fusco's job to help keep the flow of communication moving up and down the line.

Chief Fusco grew up outside Boston, one of six children of Italian immigrants. "My parents were from Vittorito, in the mountains, 60 miles southeast of Rome. Good wine country," he said.

As a teenager in the 1940s he heard the homecoming stories of World War II veterans, like the neighbor recently returned from flying in B-17s. In 1952, with the Korean War on, Charlie Fusco joined the Air Force over his mother's protests and went to boot camp at Sampson AFB, outside Ithaca, N.Y.

During the next four years he served as crew chief on C-47s, F-86s and T-33s at Lanstul Flutplatz, now Ramstein AB, Germany, and Nellis AFB, Nevada. The overseas tour included TDY missions to the former Wheelus AFB, 10 miles outside Tripoli, Libya.

As a two striper, he earned the Soldier's Medal for pulling a pilot out of a crashed and burning F-86, with live ammunition on board.

A few weeks after getting off active duty, he joined the 89th



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

**CMSgt. Charlie Fusco**

Fighter Bomber Wing which was flying F-80 Shooting Stars at Hanscom. "When I came home, I missed the smell of JP 4. That's a true story," he said.

He owned a gas station and garage and later became a C-119 flight engineer as an ART. He served on active duty during the 1961 Berlin Crisis and the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

During the Cuban crisis he flew to Tampa. "We were waiting to go to Cuba when Kennedy came on TV and it ended. We had been ferrying cargo to Florida for weeks. There were so many airplanes, Florida was going to tip over," he remembers.

From 1967 to 1973, he island hopped across the Pacific on C-124 missions to Vietnam.

When the squadron transitioned to the C-123, he flew with the aircrew of Brig. Gen. Billy Knowles, former wing commander, to set a C-123 endurance record with a 17-hour flight from Westover to Gulfport, Miss. and on to Norfolk, Va.

Chief Fusco's next move was to OMS maintenance supervisor, a position which earned him the AFRES award as Senior Maintenance NCO of the Year. He was the AMS maintenance supervisor when appointed to the top NCO post.

One of the senior enlisted advisor's last contributions to Westover was working with community groups to encourage the Italian aerial demonstration team Frece Tricolori to come to the July airshow. The effort prompted his most recent nickname, "Capo I," which means boss in Italian.

In retirement, Chief Fusco will be spending more time on his 28-foot boat, "Vincenza" on the Connecticut River.

Fusco and his wife, the former Virginia Russo, reside in Easthampton. They have three daughters and four grandchildren.



## ***AFRES accolades pouring in***

# **Westover finance office hits award bonanza**

By TSgt. Sandi Michon

When AFRES tallied up the awards for fiscal year 1991, Westover's finance office hit pay dirt.

Financial management and comptroller Raymond P. Gilbert, was selected AFRES Comptroller of the Year, and the accounting and finance section, under the leadership of Richard McGinty, was chosen AFRES Disbursing Agent Office.

Base Budget Officer, John Diffley, was named Air Force Budget Civilian of the Year and Air Force Reserve Unit Budget Officer of the Year. His award was published in March.

All of the comptroller awards were formally presented at a budget officer/comptroller conference in June at Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

When it comes to managing Westover's money, the buck stops with Ray Gilbert. "We are the watchdog of the dollars," he said. Gilbert is delighted with the recognition, but transfers the praise to his entire unit.

"Our record speaks for itself. Each section is doing a fantastic job. Basically, I'm riding on their coattails," said Gilbert.

Gilbert, who was selected by AFRES without a nomination procedure, competed against approximately 14 other comptrollers. He was cited for his extensive background in finance skills, his leadership abilities and technical knowledge.

He has been at Westover since 1983 and supervises 22 members of the financial management section. He served 20 active duty years in the Air Force and has 17 years civil service.

The activity of Desert Storm and Shield kept Gilbert and his staff busy as they met the extraordinary financial needs of the war. High demands called for 24-hour, seven-day work weeks, and requirements normally spread out over a month, now happened in one day. Fund disbursement increased 400 percent, and monies were tracked through three different systems. Crisis situations required innovative thinking, and the finance section met the challenges.

"Our overall performance was very accurate, with very few errors," said Gilbert. "But it's more than doing the job with accuracy, but having good rapport with each other and the customer."

According to Gilbert, Westover became a model for command directives, and gained great respect with AFRES. "During Desert Storm, we went wild," said Gilbert.

Even without the war, Westover's finance office is very busy.

"We have more action here in one day, than other unit finance offices do in a week," said Gilbert. "That's what makes the job so exciting."

That excitement is mixed with a lot of hard work, and the 17-member accounting and finance office overcame many obstacles to earn the AFRES Disbursing Agent Office Award.

"We were on the firing line during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. We were the reserve base with the most people affected," said Dick McGinty, head of financial services. "The

bottom line was to see that everyone was paid in a correct and timely manner. Blending two different pay systems during Desert Shield/Storm created a constant challenge," he said.

"It was pretty neat though to work toward solutions together, and then help Dobbins implement our solutions AFRES-wide," said McGinty.

The disbursing office is responsible for paying civilian and military personnel and paying all the bills. They provide the funds to pay travel vouchers and military pay. They also pay for commercial services provided by civilian contracts.

All military pay is tied directly to the accounting and finance system in Denver, Colo. and, according to Gilbert, Dick McGinty's prior work experience in Denver proved invaluable to Westover's finance section.

"He was a godsend to us," said Gilbert. "His expertise was critical to solving many of the unique problems created through Desert Shield and Storm." Prior to the war, the disbursing office paid

out between \$60,000 - \$80,000 per month. During Desert Shield and Storm, the monthly figures became a normal daily amount.

As head of disbursing, McGinty is responsible for administering the finance plan set by the AFRES accounting and finance section at Dobbins AFB, Ga.

Like everyone else under the comptroller umbrella, McGinty is well-acquainted with teamwork. He speaks highly of his section, and the team effort throughout finance is obviously an award-winning style.

As Gilbert ponders retirement, he is very satisfied with the performance of his section. "We are a very tight-knit unit. All of our functions interact together - it's critical that we work together well." It's easy to see that the finance section is not just a job to Gilbert, but an extended family.

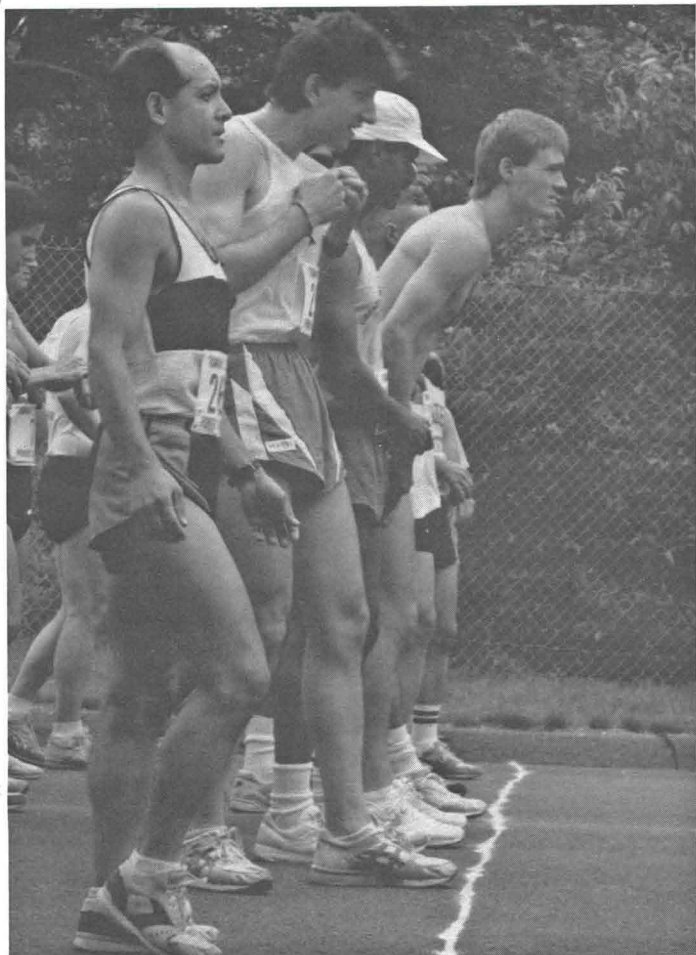
When Gilbert does retire, the Ware, Mass. resident plans to return to his native state of Maine. He and his wife Tammy have four children.



**Raymond P. Gilbert**



## Pioneer Valley USO is big winner in road race



**EARLY PREDICTION--** Even at the starting line Robert McKinney leans ahead of the pack. He remained ahead and won the 10-K race with a time of 33:05.

Article and photos by SrA. Mike Lyman

Despite excessively hot and humid weather, over 260 people participated in the Pioneer Valley USO's first fund-raising 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) road race and three-mile walk at Westover AFB, June 7. By days end, participants had raised over \$3,000 for the Edwards' sponsored event to benefit the Pioneer Valley USO.

The walking and running events, which began at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. respectively, both concluded on Runway 33 where they were followed by other family entertainment, highlighted by performances by the Strawberry Jam Band and the Come See 4 Clown Lip Sync Show. Yet, the climax of the day was the 10-K race and three-mile walk.

For walkers and runners young and old, the weather was not the only obstacle that made the course difficult.

Robert McKinney, the men's 10-K winner, said the lack of hills was a factor which made this course particularly challenging. "It was a very tiring race, psychologically," said McKinney, a 28-year-old resident of Springfield, Mass. "The long straight-aways were deceiving, you just didn't feel like you were moving. I usually like to look way ahead, but today, I just tried to stay focused on the ground in front of me."

Taking everything into account, McKinney was still satisfied

with his effort. "I'm pleased with my time (33:05)," said McKinney. "I run in races every two or three weeks and usually finish in the top three, depending on who shows up."

The men's second place finisher, Celio Hernandez, was also effected by the humidity. "I felt pretty good but it was very humid and I didn't run as well as I would have liked," said Hernandez, a 439th EMS aircraft hydraulics specialist.

The surprise of the day was Catie Dean, a resident of Holyoke. Taking part in her first road race, Dean finished first for the females in the running event. "Everyone was very helpful," said the 22-year-old University of Massachusetts graduate. "It was nice to see people handing out water every half mile."

"For our first Pioneer Valley USO Road Race, everything went pretty well," said Fran Del Padre, race coordinator.

In fact, the road events went better than smoothly. "The runners with whom I spoke said this was the best organized race they had ever participated in," said Exie Holl, the Pioneer Valley USO director.

"The runners were especially surprised with the number of water stops, and the fruit and juices made available by an abundance of volunteers," Holl said. "We at the USO can thank Westover's military and civilian personnel staff, without whose support the event would not have been possible."

"We were fortunate to have such a good turnout from the base and the outside community," Del Padre said. "But without the support of Westover, the volunteers from around the base, particularly the security police and the medical personnel (Clinic and 74th AES), and our primary sponsor (Edwards), the race would not have been possible," she added.

"It was a great event--it's something for everyone," said Brig. Gen. Mike Walker. "I take my hat off to the runners," said the general--who was a walker. "I hope they continue the event in the future."



**HOT WHEELS --** Stephen Piascik, of Westfield, Mass., spins to victory in the wheelchair division with a time of 34:52.



# Objective wing concept will heavily impact Westover

(Continued from page 1)

created by the reorganization will be the way various units have been aligned within the groups.

For example, the 439th Operations Group will put the 337th Airlift Squadron, the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, the 42nd and 58th Aerial Port Squadrons, the 439th Operations Support Squadrons and Flight and the 439th Airlift Control Flight under the same unit banner.

"Our operational mission is to move personnel, cargo, and patients from one point to another point," Czekanski said. "So it only makes sense to put the people who load the cargo, fly the planes and care for the patients on the aircraft all together under the same umbrella."

Czekanski explained that the new organization also clarifies the chain of command. "In the past, some of our squadrons were not under a group and reported directly to the wing commander. Now, every squadron will report to a group commander."

The Patriot Wing's maintenance and supply units will be merged within the newly created 439th Logistics Group.

The 439th Support Group--successor to the 439th Combat Support Group--will be comprised of civil engineering, security police, MWR, communications and other mission support units.

All Westover medical personnel--with the exception of the 74th AES members--will be under the 439th Medical Group.

Staffers from the public affairs, safety, history, judge advocate, chaplain, comptroller and plans offices, and command post personnel, will report to the wing commander.

The implementation the objective wing concept here is one

of several recent changes in the Air Force which have an impact on Westover.

On June 1, USAF reorganized its command structure. MAC, SAC and TAC became acronyms of the past when the Air Force unveiled the Air Combat Command, the Air Mobility Command, the Air Force Materiel Command and the Air Force Intelligence Command.

The AMC replaces MAC as the 439th AW's gaining command. All of the Air Force's C-5 and C-141 aircraft, most of its C-130s, and nearly 600 tanker planes will fall under AMC control.

Missions previously flown by SAC and TAC will now be under the control of the ACC commander.

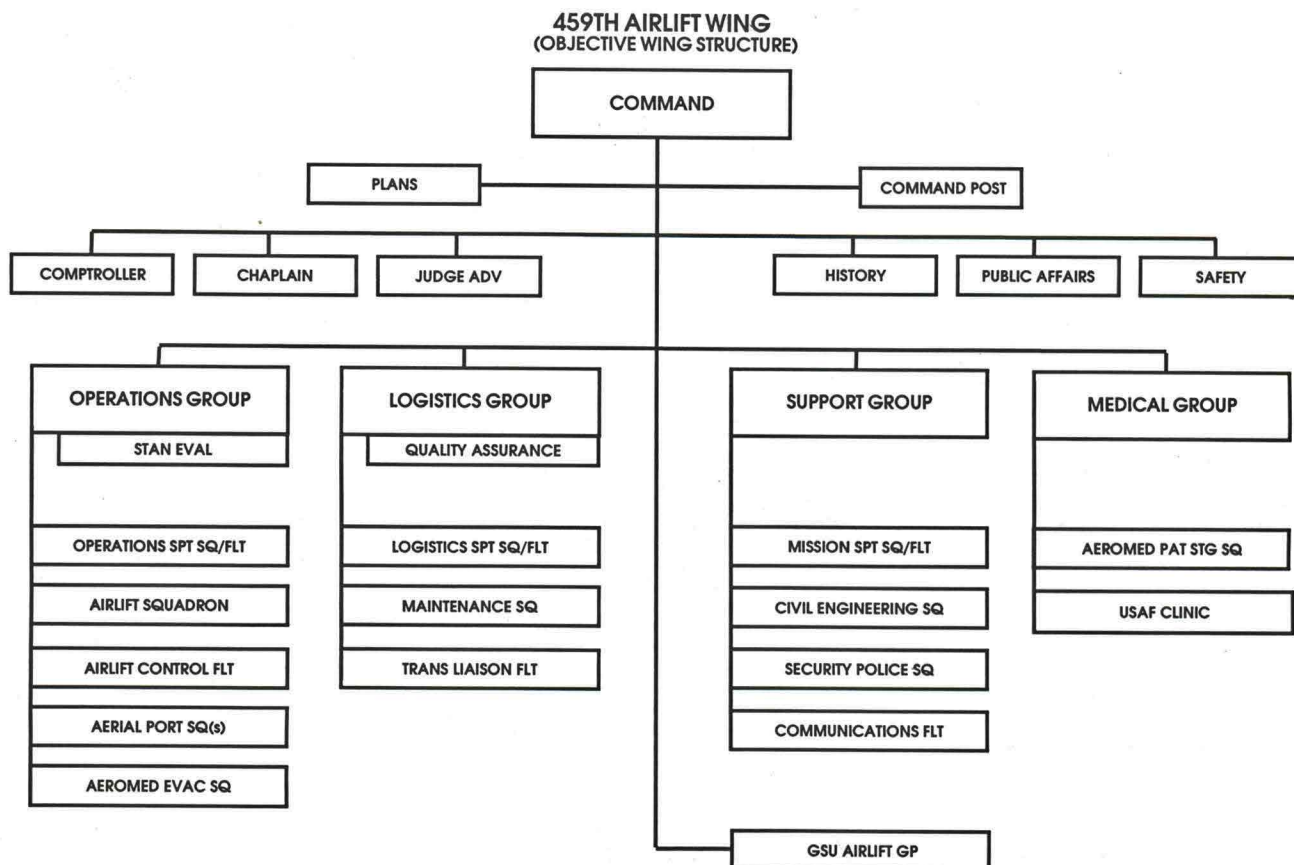
A restructuring of the Air Force reserve will also affect the 439th AW. The wing will lose its two detached C-130 units, the 914th Tactical Airlift Group from Niagara, N.Y and Pittsburgh's 911th Tactical Airlift Group.

However, the unit will gain new aerial port and medical units from Hanscom AFB, Mass., Griffis AFB, N.Y and Roslyn, N.Y.

Two Westover-based units, the 59th Aerial Port Squadron and the 439th Mobility Support Flight will be deactivated. According to base officials, all members of the two units will be absorbed into slots elsewhere in the wing.

"The downside of all this reorganization is that there will be change, and a few downgrades or deletions of positions", Czekanski said.

But for the most part, I believe that the efforts to reorganize will have positive results and enable us to perform our missions more efficiently."





## Westover show will present panorama of aviation history

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

Visitors to Westover's Great New England Air Show on July 24, 25 and 26 will have the rare opportunity to see a display of military aircraft from World War II to Desert Storm, combined with aerial demonstrations by the Italian Air Force, the Army's Golden Knights and privately owned vintage aircraft.

The weapons of Desert Storm, the futuristic F-117A Stealth fighter and the Patriot missile, and a weapon from the Cold War, the historic U-2 reconnaissance plane, will be among the highlights.

The aircraft and missile, once among America's best kept military secrets, will head a line-up of aircraft and aerial demonstrations expected to draw up to one million visitors.

They will join the Italian jet aerobatic team "Frece Tricolori" (Tricolor Arrows), the Army's Golden Knights precision parachute team, and more than 100 aircraft, dating to World War II's B-17 Flying Fortress, and the former Soviet Union's Yak fighter, in the air show. The panorama of history and high technology is projected to make the Great New England Air Show the third largest air show in the United States in 1992.

The air show will give visitors a look at the radar evading Stealth fighter, whose existence wasn't even acknowledged until 1989. For six years before that, the angular, bat winged Stealth was flown only at night over the Nevada desert to protect the secrets of its technological breakthrough.

It was an F-117A Stealth that delivered the opening shot of Desert Storm when it dropped a 2,000-pound bomb on a telecommunications building in downtown Baghdad. Stalking their prey at night, the Stealths hit Iraqi communications, command centers, radar stations and missile-control stations with laser-guided bombs. The effort helped render helpless much of Iraq's anti-aircraft defenses.

The Patriot missile and launcher to be displayed will represent the anti-missile network which parried Saddam Hussein's Scuds aimed at Riyadh, Dhahran, Tel Aviv and other Middle East targets.

The high flying, long-winged U-2, a Cold War workhorse in air reconnaissance for decades, pried secrets from America's adversaries around the world.

The Italians will fly 10 Aermacchi MB-339 two-seater trainers in their first appearance at Westover. Painted in the

**The Great  
New England  
Airshow**

Italian national colors of red, white and green, they will be in America as part of the 500th anniversary celebration of Columbus' 1492 voyage.

The black and gold clad Golden Knights, have previously thrilled Westover crowds, with maneuvers that include streaming red smoke while accelerating to more than 150 mph during a 2 1/2 miles descent.

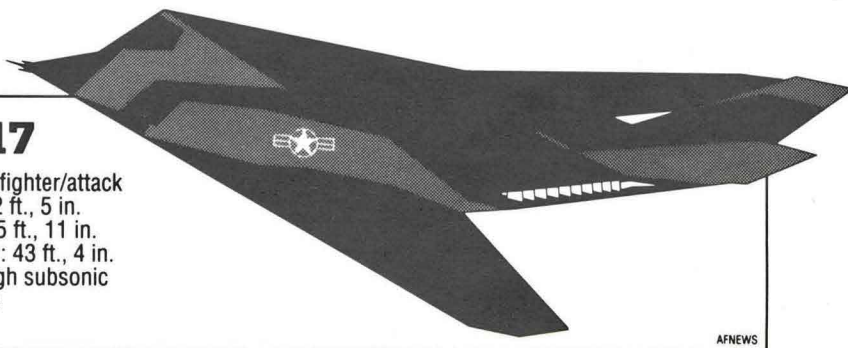
Marine Corps aviation will be represented by two AV-8B Harriers from Cherry Point MCAS, N.C., which will perform aerial demonstrations.

Also performing all three days of the air show will be the Six of Diamonds, a team of World War II trainers from the Army Air Corps days. Other vintage aircraft on display will include the B-24, B-25, PBX Catalina and Gee-Bee Sportster.

Westover's gates will open to the public at 8 a.m. each day. Admission and parking will be free.

### F-117

Function: fighter/attack  
Height: 12 ft., 5 in.  
Length: 65 ft., 11 in.  
Wingspan: 43 ft., 4 in.  
Speed: high subsonic  
Crew: one



## CBPO best in Air Force for second year in a row

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

The Westover CBPO members who overcame every challenge of the Desert Shield mobilization, have been named the best in the Air Force for the second year in a row.

The 1991 Gerrit D. Foster Jr. Outstanding CBPO Achievement Award will be presented to Maj. Denny Jobes, chief of personnel, in Savannah, Ga. in August. It will be displayed in the CBPO building next to the 1990 plaque.

The 55 members of the CBPO are also the first such organization ever to win the top CBPO AFRES award for the third

year in a row. They were selected as best among 40 other CBPO organizations.

The CBPO team was cited for exceptional performance during the hectic days of Desert Shield/Storm. They started by processing American citizens repatriated from Saudi Arabia in the first days of the crisis.

During the mobilization and demobilization they kept more than 1,500 Westover reservists moving efficiently through lines, checking everything from dog tags to awards data. Among their extra duties were the efforts to set up the Family Support Center.

"This is only the second time the

CBPO members have competed at the Air Force level and they have won both times. That kind of success is only possible by everyone working toward the common goal of customer service," Jobes said.

"Our goal is to continue to improve customer service. The people at CBPO are in the habit of giving a little extra to reach that goal," she said.

Last year MSgt. Kelly Payne, personnel systems manager, was named one of 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year and Joann Varao-Krieger was named best Quality Force personnel specialist in the Air Force.



# Maintenance crews merge with active duty in Azores

By Capt. Dan Allen

Maintenance crews got a chance to hone their skills and teach a few things to the active duty force while they spent their annual tour in the Azores.

On May 4, five members of the 439th Equipment Maintenance Squadron (EMS) and four members of the 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron (AGS) departed Westover for McGuire AFB, N.J. The following day, they arrived at Lajes Field to assist active duty maintenance personnel.

According to Maj. Lynn Jobs, maintenance officer, supporting active duty maintenance crews "provides a more realistic environment and technicians get a greater exposure to other aircraft." So far this year Westover maintenance crews have also provided support in Panama, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

"Maintenance crews are primarily

doing just what they did at Westover during Desert Shield and Desert Storm," Jobs added. "The activity is not as intense, but it is great experience for them."

For SrA Todd Lasky, the best part of the trip was seeing another culture and how the people live. Because he was assigned to work night shift, he had the opportunity to take in some sights during the day.

"The Azores is like going back to the old country. Life is very simple, farmers look like they support each other and there is no competition," Lasky said. "To see people ride donkeys up and down the streets and farmers using hand held plows pulled by horses really gives you a chance to see what is a part of the past to us."

While on the job, Westover maintenance personnel spent almost as much time training as they did learning. "We had much more experience on the C-5 than the active duty maintenance crews

did. They were really surprised how much we knew and could teach them," said Lasky.

When the Westover team wasn't brushing up their skills with C-141 aircraft, they trained their counterparts on the C-5 in areas such as refueling procedures, kneeling the aircraft, lowering ramps and changing tires.

In addition to Lasky, other members of the 439 AGS included SSgt. Edgar J. Moss, SrA. Thomas M. Evangelisto and A1C Peter G. Cyrus.

The team from the 439th EMS included team leader MSgt. David R. Page, SSgts. Byron B. LaBrecche, John B. Allen, Robert L. Stawasz, Stephen C. Idica and SrA. Todd R. Panico.

Jobs reported there are at least two other enroute support trips planned for this year - so more Westover maintenance crews will get the opportunity to strengthen their skills and hopefully, enjoy a great experience.

## Suspect arrested after alleged robbery attempt at base

An incident which police describe as the attempted robbery of Westover's Shoppette ended May 25 when state troopers arrested a suspect inside the store.

Base, Chicopee and state police officers were called to the Shoppette around 5 p.m. May 24 after a man allegedly brandished a gun and demanded money from three clerks who were preparing to close the store.

One of the employees tripped a silent alarm, alerting base police. Westover police officer David L. Echols entered the Shoppette and led the clerks, who were uninjured, to safety. Officer Charles M. Vilakis of the base police department covered Echols from the store's entrance.

At approximately 12:25 a.m. on May 25, state troopers entered the building and arrested Gerald D. Vanlandingham of Dover, Del. without incident.

Vanlandingham, a reservist and major with the 337th Airlift Squadron, was taken into custody on robbery and weapons charges.

His case is pending in Hampden County Superior Court.

According to base officials, Vanlandingham's case will be tried in

state court under a 1974 agreement which gives Massachusetts concurrent jurisdiction with federal authorities over offenses committed at Westover.

A decision as to whether or not Vanlandingham will be charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice has been deferred pending the outcome of the state court case, base officials said.

"This was a very unfortunate incident," said Col. James P. Czekanski, 439th Airlift Wing commander. "I'm grateful that no one was injured, and I was pleased with the quick thinking and reaction of our Shoppette employees and with the very professional manner in which our DOD guard force and the civilian police responded."

### *A message from the chief of staff*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter is from the Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Merrill A. McPeak.*

"The Air Force entered a new era June 1. The activations of the Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command culminate the most fundamental change to the organization of the Air Force since 1947, when we became a separate service.

"Today we are building a new Air Force from the ground up -- a more capable Air Force based firmly on the foundations and traditions of the past 45 years. The creation of ACC and AMC brings us into the era of integrated airpower and organizes us in peacetime as we will fight in war.

We have come a long way in the nine short months since Secretary Rice and I announced our restructuring initiatives. We could not have come this far this quickly without the hard work and support of the entire Air Force. For that I thank you. The restructure you are part of is helping build the world's most respected air and space force."



## Norman Lorange becomes new civilian personnel director

By SrA. Mike Lyman

Norman P. Lorange, a former chief of labor/employee relations for Westover's civilian personnel department, became the new civilian personnel director, on May 31.

"Being in the midst of the activity surrounding human resources is very exciting," Lorange said. "You've got it all and you have to stay on top of it in order to provide top quality services to all of the customers--both managers and employees," he added.

"Our purpose is to support the mission here and at Niagara Falls, N.Y. (civilian employees)," Lorange said. "Our immediate goals are to see that the objective wing is aligned properly and to ensure that the employees are aware of their benefits, entitlements and rights in all matters of employment.

"One of our biggest challenges in the near future will be the addition of Willow Grove, Pa., Youngstown, Ohio, and Pittsburgh, Pa., to the wing which will add an additional 1,000 people to our strength," Lorange said.

In replacing Robert Gibson who left earlier this year for a post in Virginia, Lorange brings 21 years of employee-related government service experience to Westover. For the past 20 months, he served as the Quality Assessment Team Chief for the Plans and Evaluation Division, Directorate of Civilian Personnel, HQ USAF where he evaluated civilian personnel programs all over the world.

From December 1989 to September 1990, he served as a LEGIS fellow for a U.S. Senate subcommittee, working primarily for Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, performing staff functions. He also served as the chief of labor/employee relations for Westover's civilian personnel department from December 1980 to February 1985.

With previous experience as a classifier, staffer, labor relations, employee relations and personnel officer, Lorange brings a broad and diverse background to his new job position. "Hope-



**Norman P. Lorange**

fully, I can use this experience to our advantage in the human resource issues concerning Westover," Lorange said.

His education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Framingham State College, Mass., in 1971 and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Troy State University, Ala., 1987.

Lorange and his wife Susan have two children: David, 8, and Aimee, 6. His avocations include skiing, golf and coaching youth sports.

## WWII reflections: The Arctic Convoys

Article and logo by SrA. Mike Lyman



The Arctic Convoys, in accordance with Churchill's pledge to send vital war materials to the Soviet Union via the shortest and most dangerous route, have to date been successful. While the Murmansk-and Archangel-bound convoys can deliver but a trifle of the Soviet Union's gigantic needs, by the end of 1941 they deliver some 750 tanks, 800 fighters, 1,400 vehicles and over 100,000 tons of other cargo.

In June, however, the situation changes dramatically when the British Admiralty learns that the Germans are planning an all-out assault from their bases in Norway to destroy the next Russia-bound convoy. Though the Allies are now aware that the next convoy faces disaster and seek to delay operations, political circumstances compel a convoy to leave from Iceland to

Archangel in late June.

As the convoy enters the Barents Sea in early July, the cargo ships are forced to scatter due to the threat of an attack from German surface raiders. Without escort protection, 23 out of 33 ships are sunk by U-boat and air attacks, forcing the Allies to suspend Russia-bound convoys until autumn.

On the Russian front, Sebastopol falls to the conquering Germans. In this sector alone, the three-month siege costs the Soviets two armies including 90,000 prisoners taken by the Germans.

In Egypt, the British 8th Army defeats Rommel's Afrika Korps at the First Battle of El Alamein. But the British don't follow up their victory with an attack, allowing Rommel's forces to dig in and await reinforcements--a mere 60 miles from Alexandria and the Suez Canal.



# Payne shares stage with Bob Hope

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

When the producers of a Bob Hope TV special wanted someone who best represents the image of women in the Air Force Reserve, they chose MSgt. Kelly Payne, Westover's chief of Personnel Systems Management.

When she was asked to join Bob Hope on stage as he hosted "Women of Courage" in May, Payne didn't have to think twice. Like everyone in uniform today, she grew up thinking of the entertainer as something of a legend.

"I don't think there's anyone in America who doesn't have a positive recollection of seeing Bob Hope on stage in front of cheering troops over the years. I remember growing up in Chicopee and watching him on TV entertaining the troops in Vietnam," she said.

"We've all seen the old black and white films of Hope and his entourage on stage in World War II and Korea. I never thought I would share a small role in the Bob Hope show," she said.

Payne had her moment in the limelight on an outdoor stage in Columbus, Ohio, when Hope Enterprises filmed before an audience on May 6. The trip included limousine service from the airport for Payne and Maj. Denny Jobes, chief of personnel, who accompanied her.

Before going on stage, Payne received the attention of a make-up artist and a hairdresser. Helping to keep everything on schedule was Maj. Jerry Broeckert, a Marine public affairs officer who serves as advisor to television's "Major Dad."

Despite the first-class treatment, the taping involved a long day of "hurry up and wait" until 7 p.m., including rehearsing and rewriting of the script.

As seen by the national audience, Payne joined a group of women on stage representing all branches of the service. They were introduced by Loretta Swit of MASH fame following one of Bob Hope's trademark rapid fire monologues.

"Loretta Swit is not at all like Hot Lips Houlihan. I was very very impressed by her. She's very well-spoken, very professional and easy to talk to," Payne said. "When I had a problem



**MSgt. Kelly Payne**

with my script, she personally handled making changes for us," she said.

Payne was named one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year last summer and is a member of the Air Force Association's Enlisted Advisory Council.

## Walker honors Gulf vets during memorial ceremony

By SSgt. Francis Kelly

Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, who led the 439th MAW through Desert Shield and Storm, helped honor veterans of that conflict during dedication ceremonies of a Gulf War memorial stone in Leeds in May.

The stone stands among similar monuments to the men and women of World War I and II, Korea and Vietnam in Leeds Memorial Park.

As keynote speaker, Walker said the monument, one of the first in the nation, is a fitting tribute to those who participated in the national cause of Desert Shield and Storm.

"For the first time in history, we recognize and appreciate the efforts of the Gulf vets. I feel tall standing before you today, having been part of the 1,000-hour air

and 100-hour ground war, which culminated in a stunning victory with a small number of casualties," he told more than 200 participants in the ceremony.

Walker's address followed the town's annual Memorial Day parade and the laying of a wreath by a Gold Star mother. It preceded the dedication of a Persian Gulf War Veteran's Monument, which was unveiled by Leeds' sole Desert Storm veteran, Army Capt. Mark W. Connelly.

During his speech, Walker detailed the variety of receptions returning veterans have received throughout our history. Although booming victory parades echoed the thanks of a grateful nation during World Wars I and II, this was followed by the silence of a confused country after the Korean conflict. A low

point was reached when some Vietnam veterans were met with a stain of criticism. With the resounding welcome home ceremonies accorded Persian Gulf troops, the country turned full circle in its recognition of those who were called to serve, he said.

"The 439th carried on a longstanding tradition of service and wrote a new chapter in its history. We also hosted the "welcome home," which provided a greeting for 30,000 returning veterans, and put western Massachusetts and Westover on the map. That warmth and outpouring of pride was created by all of you --it just happened at Westover," he said.

Walker concluded his remarks by expressing his gratitude to the people of Leeds for taking the time to recognize and honor the defenders of freedom from all wars.



## "Patriot People"

**Name:** Sherry L. Talbert  
**Rank:** SSgt.  
**Age:** 25  
**Address:** Brattleboro, Vt.  
**Unit:** 439th EMS  
**Position:** Aircraft structural repair technician  
**Civilian position:** Air Reserve Technician  
**Favorite food:** Lobster  
**Years of service:** Six  
**Favorite hobby:** Arts and crafts  
**Ideal vacation:** Disneyworld  
**Best way to relax:** Hot bath  
**Preferred entertainment:** Spending time with my new baby  
**Favorite celebrity:** Bugs Bunny  
**Favorite music:** Rock and Roll  
**Favorite book:** Dictionary  
**Favorite color:** Blue  
**Favorite car:** "1966 1/2" Ford Mustang convertible  
**Pet peeve:** People who are two-faced  
**Best thing about Westover:** Westover's history  
**Worst thing about Westover:** No morale



SrA. Mike Lyman

SSgt. Sherry L. Talbert

## SMSgt. Byrnes will become EMS 'first shirt'

By Capt. Dan Allen

"Diamonds are a girl's best friend" has an all new meaning for one Westover Senior Master Sergeant.

SMSgt. Patricia A. Byrnes of the 439th Equipment Maintenance Squadron (EMS) was recently promoted to her new rank. At the same time, she was selected to be Westover's newest first sergeant.

Celebrating her 15th anniversary with the Air Force, Byrnes said "when I joined the Air Force Reserve, my first sergeant's name was Senior Master Sergeant Scott. I always looked up to him. I decided then, I wanted to be a first ser-

geant."

Being selected to be a first sergeant is both "overwhelming and exciting," according to Byrnes. "I really look forward to continue helping people assisting them more in solving their problems," she added.

Byrnes is currently the Unit Career Advisor for 439 EMS. She began her career in the reserve as a recreation services specialist before moving to maintenance as an orderly room administrator.

In civilian life, she teaches adaptive physical education for special needs children ranging from ages five to fif-

teen.

According to her first sergeant, CMSgt. Sal Palumbo, "there couldn't be a better pick. She knows the administrative portion through her experience as an orderly room NCOIC and more than anyone, she knows people."

Byrnes attended training at Robbins AFB, Ga. in June. On her return, she will begin working on her new goals. "I want to help improve morale; strengthen relationships between sections of the squadron, the base and the community; and be recognized as a person people know they can come to for assistance...and be glad they did," said Byrnes.

## Patriot praises

### REENLISTMENTS:

CMSgt. Allard, Frederick R.  
 CMSgt. Ploof, Ronald A.  
 SMSgt. Norton, Joseph M.  
 MSgt. Groeber, William D.  
 MSgt. Luhta, David J.  
 MSgt. Svec, Stanley C.  
 MSgt. Wood, Kathleen M.  
 TSgt. Brown, Robert E.  
 TSgt. Davis, Alan J.  
 TSgt. Delia, Guy F.  
 TSgt. Desorcy, Roger P.  
 TSgt. Ferrelra, Kenneth P.

TSgt. Gallagher, James J.  
 TSgt. Hniedziejko, James  
 TSgt. Hull, Robert G.  
 TSgt. McGetrick, John  
 TSgt. Mercure, Robert M.  
 TSgt. Schmadl, Joseph Jr.  
 TSgt. Wells, Larry M.  
 TSgt. Williams, Thomas  
 SSgt. Boucher, Allan R.  
 SSgt. Burgess, Jon  
 SSgt. Burke, Shawn P.  
 SSgt. Cabana, Luisa V.  
 SSgt. Casson, Jeffery J.  
 SSgt. Demers, Thomas F.

SSgt. Denault, Thomas J.  
 SSgt. Fournier, Joseph Jr.  
 SSgt. Hurley, Paul G.  
 SSgt. Manville, Duane S.  
 SSgt. Paladino, David A.  
 SSgt. Perrault, Steven J.  
 SSgt. Sacharo, William F.  
 SSgt. Smith, Gary L.  
 SSgt. Sylvain, Ronald A.  
 SSgt. Waldron, Francis Jr.  
 Sgt. Caouette, Joseph E.  
 Sgt. Comtois, Richard P.  
 SrA. Kelso, Donna J.  
 SrA. Nichols, James Jr.

### ENLISTMENTS:

SSgt. Abatiello, John S.  
 SSgt. Blackman, Anthony J.  
 SSgt. Fertig, Richard L.  
 SSgt. Manegre, Kenneth R.  
 SSgt. Pierce, Thomas J.  
 SrA. Collins, James P.  
 SrA. Delnegro, Thomas M.  
 SrA. Martel, Donald R.  
 AB Kycia, Julie A.  
 AB Pandolfi, Christopher  
 AB Thurber, Justin E.



## SrA. Belitza Morales honored by Chicopee Chamber

Article and photo  
by SrA. Mike Lyman

SrA. Belitza Morales, a 21-year-old administrative technician with the 439th Component Repair Squadron has been selected Westover's 1992 "Airman of the Year" by the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce.

"I'm grateful to be recognized for the work I do," said Morales, a resident of South Hadley.

In being honored as the Airman of the Year, Airman Morales received an award and a \$50 gift certificate from the Chiefs' Council.

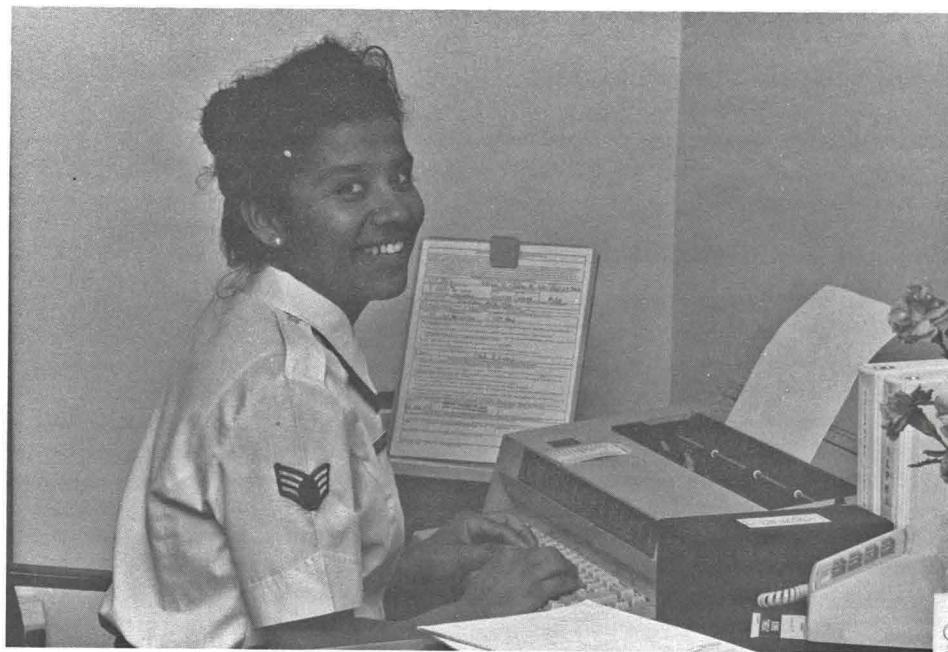
Morales began her career as a Westover reservist three years ago and since last October, has performed her administrative duties with the 439th CRS as an Air Reserve Technician.

Specifically, she is responsible for the pay and attendance schedules for both the ARTs and reservists, (the STARS and UTAPS programs), while assisting to the needs of the unit commander and the maintenance supervisor.

Though many people would find this type of administrative work unglamorous, Airman Morales feels it is the person who makes the job interesting and challenging.

"Sure there's a lot of paperwork that comes with my job, but there's also a great deal of interaction with other people which I enjoy," Morales said. "I also get a chance to work with computers where I make it a point to learn something new every day."

In a nutshell, her work philosophy is



**SrA. Belitza Morales**

total quality management. "I've always tried to be helpful, flexible, and open to new ideas," she said. "I make every effort to go out of my way for people, so much so that sometimes my own job suffers."

In addition to her usual duties as a reservist, Airman Morales is a representative on the Base Advisory Council. Her other interests include sports, cross-stitching, photography and cooking. She has also sponsored a child in the Christian Children's Fund since 1989.

This fall she plans to attend college at either Holyoke Community College or

Springfield Technical Community College.

"Belitza is one truly outstanding individual and a real asset to our squadron," said CMSgt. Paul Mersincavage, maintenance superintendent of the 439th CRS. "Her ability to see that something needs to be accomplished and then gets it done in a timely manner really helps the organization be more efficient."

"She's a self-starter," he added. "She never hesitates in accepting responsibilities and carries them out almost flawlessly. I wish I had another like her."

# PATRIOT

Coming in August: Great New England Air Show



Published monthly for Patriots like MSgt. Henri M. Drenthe, of Ware, Mass., and 2,400 members of the 439th AW at Westover AFB.

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