

PATRIOT

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

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The Northeast Air Station

Westover's past may be its prologue

By Maj. Rick Dyer

What role will Westover AFB play in a post-Desert Storm Air Force facing budget cuts, base closings and force reductions?

Base officials believe that the key to Westover's future may well be found in the pages of its past.

More than 50 years ago, Chicopee Mayor Anthony J. Stonina urged President Roosevelt and the War Department to build a major "Northeast Air Base" on the lush tobacco farmlands where Westover is now located.

The base subsequently played crucial roles as a staging facility during World War II, the Berlin Airlift and, most recently, during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Air Force officials are now reviewing a proposal to permanently designate Westover as a contingency aerial port of embarkation and debarkation (APOE/APOD). Under the concept, Westover would become the Air Force's "Northeast Air Station" and serve as a crucial hub in future large-scale military airlift operations.

"We are trying to construct a reserve infrastructure at Westover that will allow us to immediately function like we did during the Gulf War," said Col. James P. Czekanski, 439th Airlift Wing commander.

During the period between 1974, when Westover became an Air Force Reserve base, and the onset of Desert Shield in August 1990, Westover did not function as an APOE/APOD.

That changed practically overnight, however, after Saddam Hussein ordered Iraqi troops to seize neighboring Kuwait. With planeloads of desert-bound troops and equipment swarming into Westover, the base was transformed from a C-5 training facility into a major stage base for the Persian Gulf Airlift.

Air Force planners discovered that



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

ON-LOADING-- Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 172nd Infantry of the Vermont National Guard, board a chartered airliner at Westover during Operation Dragon Hammer, a joint training exercise conducted in May. Westover will be the site of similar deployment drills in the future if the base is designated as the Air Force's Northeast Air Station.

Westover's location, expansive runways and fuel storage capabilities made it an ideal site. The base's proximity to Europe allowed each departing Galaxy to carry 25,000 more pounds of war-time cargo than could have been transported if the missions originated at other East Coast military installations.

During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, more than 63,000 military passengers and 121,000 tons of cargo flowed through Westover on aircraft missions to and from the Persian Gulf.

More than 3,600 aircraft passed through the base during that period.

"The idea behind the Northeast Air Station concept is to enable us to train as a contingency APOE/APOD," Czekanski said. "We want to have everything in place so that we could immediately function like we did during the

Gulf War--but without the learning curve and growing pains."

According to Col. James Gallin, the 439th's vice commander, the reductions in the U.S. military's size and budget will ironically mean more work in the future for airlift units like the Patriot Wing.

With decreased budgets and troop strengths, we will not be basing as many troops and as much equipment in foreign locales as we have in the past," Gallin said. He believes that this means there will be greater reliance on airlift missions in the event that U.S. armed forces must be rushed to a future trouble spot.

"The demands for airlift won't decrease," Gallin added. "They may increase."

The Wing's senior leadership
(continued on page 10)

EDITORIAL

They deserve nothing less

Not long ago we celebrated Memorial Day, and this month we will observe Armed Forces Day.

It's traditional--and highly appropriate--around this time each year to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives to keep us free.

But observances like Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day are not merely occasions when we remember our fallen war heroes. They are also excellent opportunities to celebrate the bonds which unite us as a people, and to rededicate ourselves to the good works and sacrifices which protect and enhance our hard-won freedoms.

The late Adlai Stevenson knew the significance of such days.

In a 1952 address to the national convention of the American Legion, Stevenson told his audience: "I venture to suggest that patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

You obviously subscribe to that credo, or you wouldn't be serving in the Patriot Wing. Much of what we do in the Air Force Reserve isn't glamorous, but it is all vitally important. We proved that during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. And we continue to prove it every day at Westover as we launch and support a wide variety of global reach missions.

A year ago at this time, we were celebrating both our victory in the desert and the rekindling of our national pride. Today, we face new challenges--both at home, and around the world. As recent news headlines indicate, some of those challenges involve the fundamental issues of justice and tolerance which were the basic goals of our founding fathers.

Today, perhaps more than ever, we have to recommit our efforts to the preservation of peace and to the cornerstone American values which we cherish.

By doing so, we pay homage to those who wore the uniform before us. By performing our jobs and mission as well as we possibly can, we create a living memorial to our fallen comrades.

That, in the final analysis is the most fitting tribute we can render them. They deserve nothing less.

Col. James P. Czekanski
Wing Commander

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Briefs

Civilian Award program started

Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing, has initiated a Civilian Award program at Westover Air Force Base beginning with the first quarter of 1992.

Nominations will be open to all civilian employees of the base, including technicians and nonappropriated fund personnel.

Nominations should describe the employee's outstanding contributions or service during the quarter and be limited to a one-page narrative. Selectees for each quarterly award will automatically be considered for a Civilian Employee of the Year award.

Questions may be referred to Tom Gray, wing executive officer, extension 3562 or Dave Michaud, base executive officer, extension 2967.

Suggestions pay

Four employees of Westover Air Force Base received cash awards and another was presented a certificate of appreciation for ideas they submitted to the base's suggestion program.

Janis K. Watson received \$250 for her suggestion while Richard G. Butler got \$75 and Diane Lessard and Robert J. Krstyen each received \$50. Edwin G. Driscoll Jr. was the recipient of a certificate of appreciation for having his suggestion accepted.

Further information on the Suggestion Program is available from Susanne M. Schmidt, extension 2355.

Tours cancelled

Public affairs tours of Westover Air Force Base and static displays of 439th Airlift Wing C-5A aircraft have been cancelled during the month of July because of the Great New England Air Show which is scheduled for July 24, 25 and 26.

Tours will resume in August. Anyone interested in setting up a tour must contact the Public Affairs office at extension 2020.

Capt. Mooney leaves for top security position in 14th AF

Article and photo by SrA. Mike Lyman

Westover's Chief of Security Police, Capt. Robert A. Mooney, has left after five years of service to accept a top security position with 14th Air Force.

In leaving the only chief of security police position in AFRES, Mooney becomes the new director of security police plans and programs division at 14th AF headquarters, Robins AFB, Ga.

"My primary task will be to identify and respond to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and his counterpart in AFRES as to the impact of security throughout AFRES on a daily basis and for future planning," Mooney said. "This will include adjusting the security requirements through the down-sizing process as well as providing guidance for the normal security police functions on active duty and reserve bases."

While serving as commander of the 439th SPS and chief of security police, Mooney oversaw the installation of electronics and surveillance equipment to safeguard the fleet of C-5As. "Even with all of the new equipment incorporated into the system, they will never replace the person," Mooney said.

In addition, Mooney was instrumental in developing a strong relationship with the state and local police in the area. As a result, the state police train their canine units on base while the Hampden County Sheriff's Department uses Westover's facilities for its weapons training courses.

Mooney's highest praise goes to the members of the security police who handled themselves in a professional manner during the Desert Shield/Storm demonstrations.

"The members of the squadron were able to ignore the spitting and jeers of protesters," Mooney said. "With all of the humiliating circumstances to be aggressive, they maintained their professionalism."

"For police officers, the Gulf War was a real civil and administrative success," he said. "In fact, the only person who was injured during the demonstrations was Capt. (Daniel) Mays (439th SPS security officer) who slipped. "Personally, I don't think we were appreciated enough."

Mooney began his Air Force career in 1961 as part of its security police force and served a tour in Vietnam.



Capt. Robert A. Mooney

From 1969 to 1989 he served as a Delaware state trooper. Mooney transferred to Westover from Dover AFB in 1987 to become the acting commander of the 439th SPS. In October of the following year he was appointed the full-time commander of the 439th SPS.

"I've been a cop all my life," said the captain.

Though Mooney is no longer the chief of security police, he will continue to be responsible for coordinating security for the Great New England Airshow in July.

The 49-year-old Pennsylvania native, and his wife Nancy, have two children, Kathy, 21, and Raymond, 19.

Captain Mays will replace Mooney until the appointment of a new permanent chief of security police.

Base gym scheduled to undergo \$800,000 renovation

By SSgt. Kymberly Taylor

Scheduled renovations for Westover's base gym will involve more than \$800,000 worth of improvements for the structure, according to Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander.

It is planned that the gym will be brought up-to-date with some of the most modern health clubs when it's finished, he said.

When the expected funding is approved through AFRES this summer, proposals for renovation contracts will be solicited and the project will begin in early fall. Westover's gym is in dire need of a new roof which is estimated to cost nearly \$200,000.

Part of the building, including the basketball court, was built in the early

1940's. "The rest of the facility was constructed in 1956," said Michael McNichols, chief of recreational services. "We've been taking care of the building for a long time now and things are really starting to fall apart from age."

The floors of the basketball and racquetball courts will be refinished and spectators will cheer their teams from new bleachers.

"In addition, an entire wall will be removed from the interior structure of the building," said McNichols. "There is a storage room behind the wall that the LifeCycles are set up on. Once that space is open there will be a special area for all of the electronic machines like stair-climbers and treadmills."

This new room will feature special

lighting, a large-screen television monitor and piped-in music.

For those who like to sweat without the exertion, both the men's and women's saunas and locker rooms will be completely gutted and modernized with new pipes and fixtures. The men's sauna will additionally be separated into wet and dry facilities.

"The changes will mean an easier time for my people," said McNichols. "But my staff has been great and willing to work with whatever we have."

According to Hargis, base personnel are looking into alternative opportunities for eligible people to use gym facilities while Westover's building is under renovation. Watch upcoming issues of the *PATRIOT* for more information.

74th AES named the best by 14th Air Force

By TSgt. Sandi Michon

The 74th AES edged out 11 other aeromedical evacuation squadrons and groups to be named the 14th Air Force nominee as the Outstanding Reserve Tactical Aeromedical Evacuation Group/Squadron for 1991.

The nomination is the first in the 74th's history, and Lt. Col. Richard Carr, commander, is elated. "Our people are professionals in every sense of the word," he said. "I regularly get unsolicited feedback praising the readiness level and expertise of our unit members."

According to Carr, the nomination criteria rates the job performance and accomplishments of the unit. The 74th gave the 14th AF plenty to look at.

In addition to filling all unit administrative requirements for 1991, the AES met the challenges of Desert Shield/Storm with flying colors. "Of the 160 AES members, 115 were activated in

January 1991, and deployed for an average of three months to Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Germany. Every single person that was called showed up, despite many hardships and obstacles," he said.

"Everyone we interacted with on active duty commended our unit on all phases of readiness," said Carr. "They regularly used our people in leadership positions." During Desert Shield several 74th members contributed to their own fine reputation by voluntarily working many backfill medical slots around the country.

The 74th AES is tasked with worldwide tactical medical evacuation. In wartime, they serve as "air ambulance" for the wounded from the field. They provide inflight medical treatment as they evacuate patients to medical facilities for more definitive care.

"During Desert Storm, we provided 25 five-member inflight medical crews,

and I still get letters praising our involvement," said Carr, beaming with pride.

Once back at Westover, the dedication of many 74th members was instrumental in the success of Operation Patriot Home which welcomed back more than 33,000 military members.

During the homecoming celebrations, the 74th members were at the Base Hangar round-the-clock coordinating and directing homecoming events.

According to MSgt. George Gadbois, 74th first sergeant, his unit is "number one, tops, the best."

"People make the program, and we've always had great people," said Col. Joseph A. Curley, deputy commander for medical resources. "It's just a matter of doing the paperwork to document what they've done," he said.

The aeromedical evacuation squadron is now competing for the 1991 AFRES Medical Unit Award.

Four from clinic named by 14thAF

By TSgt. Sandi Michon

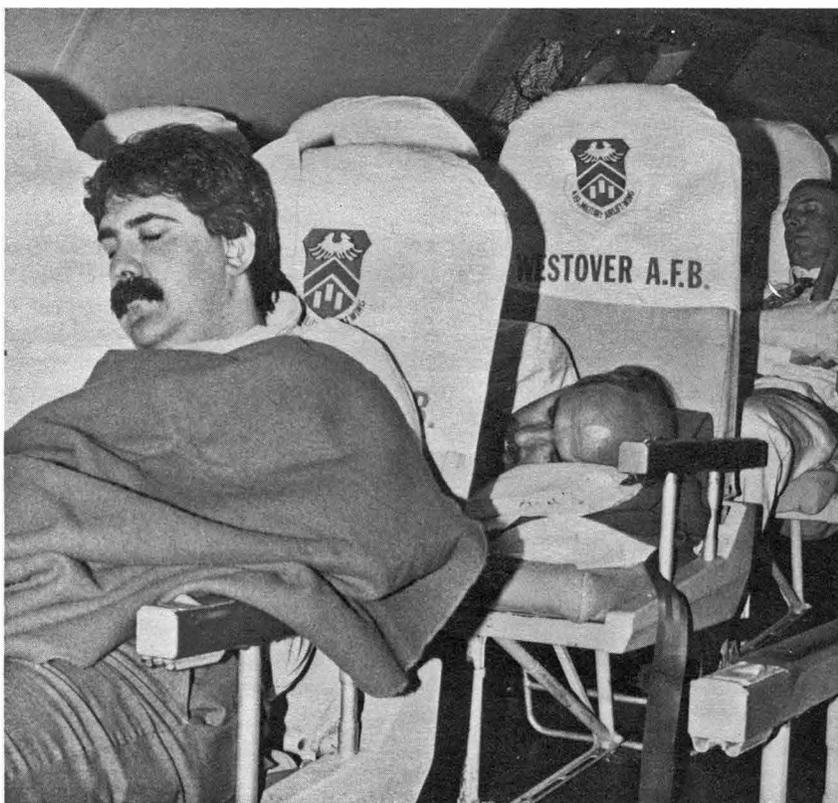
In the recent 14th Air Force medical award competition, the 439th Clinic pulled in a healthy share of individual awards. Four medical reservists have been nominated by 14th to the AFRES HQ Surgeon's Office to compete at the AFRES level.

Maj. Burton Finkel was nominated as Outstanding Reserve Dental Officer, while Maj. John Adams was selected Outstanding Reserve Biomedical Service Corps Officer. Capt. Robert Sousa was named Outstanding Health Services Administrator and MSgt. William Archambeau earned the Outstanding Reserve Medical Airman award.

The nominations are based on many factors which include attitude, education, experience, accomplishments, leadership, training, professional performance, outstanding contributions, and other activities.

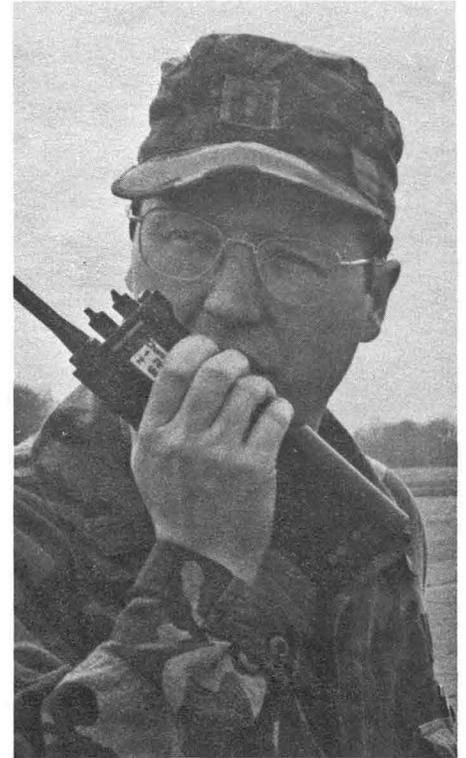
Col. Warner Jones, 439th Clinic commander, is also proud of his unit. "These people make me very proud of our unit and confident in the capabilities of the Air Force Reserve," he said.

Col. Joseph A. Curley, deputy commander for medical resources, agrees. "It shows quality comes to the top," he said. "For any unit to take four individual nominations in competition is quite an accomplishment."



HOMEWARD BOUND -- Members of the Galaxy Community Council get some rest on their night flight returning from Colorado Springs, Colo. The Civic Leaders' Flight, on April 28-29, gave 27 members of the Galaxy Council a first-hand look at the C-5, the aircrew, and gave them a better understanding of Westover's mission. Council members took turns touring the flight deck while en route. The two-day trip offered fast-paced tours of Peterson AFB, Cheyenne Mt. AFB, the Olympic Training Center and the Air Force Academy.

TSgt. Sandi Michon



Base-wide mass casualty

Photos by SSgt. Christine Mora

Westover personnel took part in a mass casualty exercise on the flightline during the May A-UTA.

"The exercise was a realistic opportunity for the clinic to interact with all the base agencies that would respond in an emergency," said MSgt. William Archambault, 439th USAF Clinic.

In the past, clinic exercises were limited to basic medical response. The May drill was the first to include total base participation.

A C-130 crashed into two base workers spraying pesticides, according to the scenario. Fire Department personnel responded immediately, evacuating the aircraft. Clinic medics rushed to the scene to treat injuries, which included decapitations.

Other agencies participating in the exercise included, disaster preparedness, public affairs, base operations, security police, 74th AES and 24th MRS.



439th Prime BEEF teams invade Panama

By TSgt. Tom Allocco



SWEATY PALMS--Four members of the 439th CES work on an outdoor drainage system at Howard AFB, Panama. Building the new drainage system was part of the six-week project to remodel a carport into apartments.

There are more people than housing at Howard AFB in the Panama Canal Zone, and also more jobs than people to do them. Westover's civil engineers spent six weeks at Howard helping out with both shortfalls.

Three Prime BEEF teams of about 50 members each rotated in two week shifts to remodel a former VOQ carport into two floors of eight apartments each with laundry facilities. The apartments are a step toward relieving a chronic housing shortage at Howard resulting in part from expanded anti-drug efforts in that part of the world.

"We're more involved in the drug war and in need of space for TDY members from all the military services and the DEA," said Capt. Fred Andrews of Howard's 24th CES. "We don't have the manpower to build housing in addition to our primary duties, which is why we appreciate the help from Westover," he said.

The civil engineers had personal experience with both the housing shortage and the drug war.

The Prime BEEF teams stayed in a creaky barracks with temporary interior walls dividing two to 10-member rooms. The barracks at Albroom Station was across the Panama Canal's Bridge of the Americas from their Howard AFB worksite.

SrA. Jeanette Soucy, an exterior electrician, was with a group that took an MWR trip to Panama's Caribbean shore and went for boat rides in motorized dug-out canoes. Later in the day, one of the boat owners was hired by two Latin Americans.

"His wife heard screams and the next day Navy SEALs found his boat drifting," Soucy said. Authorities said boatmen are frequently the prey of drug dealers because they know the reefs and currents.

Although they were only two hours flying time from Charleston AFB, S.C., the civil engineers knew they were in a different world.

Amn. Steve Rudert, refrigeration specialist, took a taxi to Panama City shortly after a shooting in the city. Normally a 30-minute ride, his taxi was stopped at three roadblocks manned by

TSgt. Tom Allocco

Panamanian police toting M-16s or shotguns.

Despite some of the ominous aspects of the country, the Westover reservists mingled and felt secure in many areas in the city and countryside. For a few dollars they took taxis on a short ride to panoramic canal locks, one of a series which lift ships across a mountain range as they make their way across what's billed as the "crossroads of the world."

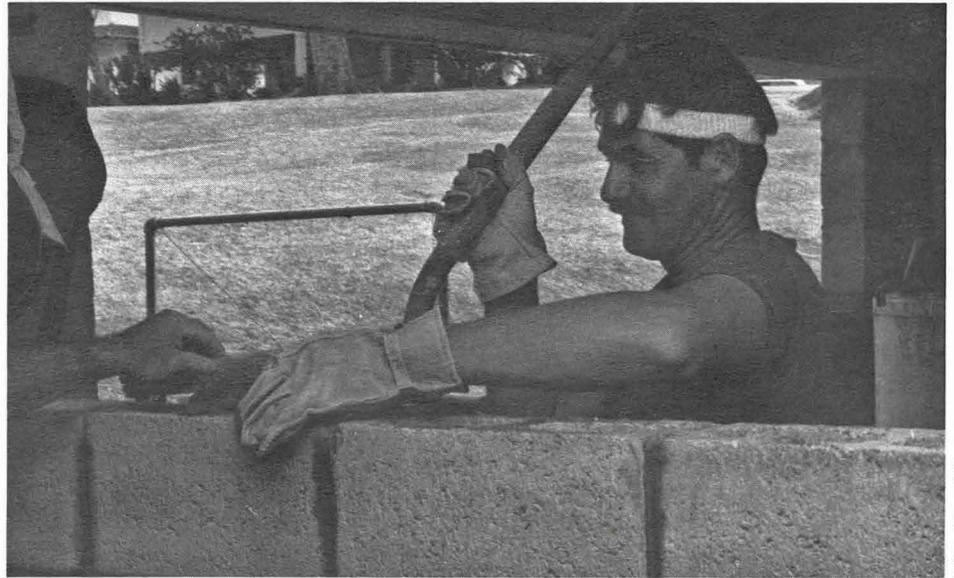
Spanish speakers like SSgt. Francis Robles and SSgt. Bill Rodrigues, Holyoke school teachers, helped smooth the way. They did everything from translate street signs to bargain down the price which Panamanian taxi drivers and shop owners inflated for English speaking "nordamericanos."

On an MWR trip to the Caribbean shore, they found themselves without hotel rooms. "A family took care of us...we slept on the floor in a room lit by candlelight," Rodrigues said.

The family lived in a village where people washed from pails and built their homes next to dirt roads. "When you get to know the Panamanians, they are friendly people. The family offered us food, but we bought ham, cheese and Pepsi for them," he said.

Others tried their luck at lake fishing and brought back more than 100 peacock bass.

The MWR trips were brief breaks from long days working under a tropic sun. Temperatures topping 100 degrees were made more uncomfortable by smothering humidity that made the civil



TSgt. Tom Allocco

SETTING THE BLOCKS--TSgt. Everett Simonds of the 439th CES uses a shovel to level the blocks before putting on another tier.

engineers pray for rain.

"About 3:30 every day the clouds will come in," said SSgt. Morris York, heating systems specialist. "It would rain for five or 10 minutes and then be just as hot," he said.

"The rainy season is late coming...when it comes there will be more than 100 inches. That's what the drains we built are for," Rodrigues said.

After everything else, the civil engineers will remember those drains and the sweating labor it took the roads and grounds crews to clear away the old concrete to build them. After days of wres-

ting sledge hammers and jack hammers they succeeded in breaking the steel rod reinforced 18-inch concrete. Just when they were feeling good about getting the job done, the big hydraulic hammer arrived which was designed to pound through the concrete with a fraction of the effort.

They were part of the last group, under Major Tali Maidelis, and by the time they came home in April, they had put up walls and done the initial work for laundry facilities, electricity and air conditioning. To do it, they had shifted seashells out of quarried dirt to make mortar for cinderblock and knocked down walls with sledgehammers.

On the last day at the work site the senior NCOs called a formation and joined Maidelis as he walked down the line to shake each member's hand and say a word of thanks. The normally brash civil engineers, who rarely miss the opportunity to find a joke or prank in any situation, accepted with solemn pride the sincere show of appreciation for a job well done.

Also with the final group of civil engineers were Prime RIBS members under SMSgt. Don Inglis who worked in the dining hall and its storeroom. Among them were SSgt. Norm Bineault who helped the Panamanian baker at Howard prepare desserts for American tastes.

Ten firefighters under MSgt. Charles Woodruff served with the Howard fire department, and responded when an Army helicopter crashed without loss of life.



SSgt. Wayne Begnoche

CEMENT CARPET--Members of the 439th CES lay cement to cover the drainage pipes inside the renovated officer's quarters. CES members from left to right are SSgt. Kevin Brown, MSgt. Michael Garceau, MSgt. John Indomenico and SSgt. Byron Phillips.

Reservists get firsthand view of Honduran hardship post

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

Global reach takes on new meaning for Patriot Wing members who fly supply missions to Soto Cano, the Honduran Air Force base in the mountainous interior of Central American country.

In April a Westover aircrew, maintenance and security police members of a mission under aircraft commander Lt. Col. Alan Heinrich and co-pilot 2nd Lt. Timothy D'Annolfo, spent a day at the air base after unloading food and equipment.

The mission was in support of about 1,200 American soldiers and 250 airmen stationed at the base. The C-5s and C-130s that fly over the mountains are appreciated by the Americans who are dependent on airlift for all their needs while serving in the rugged back country. The Westover Galaxy took out a disabled truck which couldn't be repaired at the base and flew in a generator for a Stewart AFB C-5 which had been waiting for three days.

The American presence at Soto Cano, formerly known as Pamerola, started in

the 1980s in response to the military build-up of the Sandinistas in neighboring Nicaragua. Soto Cano is now a center of drug interdiction efforts, Army training, communications and American assistance to Honduras.

Soto Cano sits at 2,000 feet above sea level in a landscape that's like a bowl which is entirely surrounded by mountains 20 miles away. In April the flightline already stewed under a humid heat that was more than 100 degrees. The pilots' flight plan has to factor in the elevation and heat which reduce lift, the relative proximity of the mountains and the unpredictable winds in the high country.

For airmen such as TSgt. Greg Wylie, Charleston AFB, Soto Cano is a hardship post where they count every day of their 120-day tours.

"I've seen a line of South American army ants come out after dark and stretch more than 500 yards, and a swarm of killer bees that covered a small palm tree," the transient alert specialist said. "If the killer bees are nearby, you have to

stand still. They're attracted to movement. You can't outrun them and if you try, they'll come at you," he said.

There is bass fishing in a nearby lake and shopping trips to buy such souvenirs as wicker baskets, but they are not allowed unescorted trips to the nearest town of Comayagua.

"After 6 p.m. you can't be on the perimeter road around the base or you'll be shot at," Wylie said. "A while ago, a Honduran guard shot at a Honduran officer. He received a letter of reprimand for missing," he said.

Recreation on base is largely limited to softball games with the Hondurans, Showtime on cable TV and Spanish language classes. Twice a week the isolated airmen are allowed free telephone calls home.

Wylie lives in a two-man "hootch" with a banana tree outside and iguanas scurrying around the area. Still, he says, things could be worse. "I had a choice of here or Saudi Arabia. At least here I can see green and drink a beer," he said.

Westover base operations again wins Rex Riley accolades

By TSgt. Sandi Michon

Westover's base operations showed its continued commitment to excellence by once again being rated for the Rex Riley Transient Services Award.

According to Robert Motley, chief of airfield services, Rex Riley examiners make unscheduled visits to various bases and score base operations on their performance.

"They rate how the aircraft is met and parked, the transportation facilities, billeting, assistance in filing flight plans, and appearance and attitude of base operations personnel," said Motley.

"Our people have a real 'service' attitude, and our reputation is well-known," explained Motley.

Base Operations provides service to aircrews. They provide all necessary maps, charts and information regarding destination bases, and they assist in filing flight plans, provide airfield information, parking, fueling, and local information for transient crews not familiar with the area.

There are six dispatchers, two flight records personnel, three administration technicians and three transient alert personnel

who handle almost 100 transient aircraft each month.

"Our people go above and beyond a good job," said Motley. He cited the three transient alert maintenance personnel as having an excellent attitude towards servicing aircrews. Lester Squires, Joseph Rudolph and Richard Gingras make up the transient alert crew that performs or coordinates transient aircraft maintenance.

Westover initially received the Rex Riley award in 1979, and they have retained their award each year consecutively. As Westover's role as the primary Northeast Air Station emerges, base operations is a key player in servicing the increasing numbers of transient aircraft. Due in part to Desert Shield/Storm, transient aircraft figures at Westover jumped from 881 in 1989 to 2000 in 1990, and 2771 in 1991. Westover has logged 272 for the first three months of 1992, which represents a 40 percent increase in normal operation figures.

"The war educated people as to what Westover has to offer," said Motley. "Without exaggeration, I get a letter a week from transient crews praising us for our level of service."

"Even though the award recognizes base operations, it is a reflection of base-wide quality," he commented.

The reserve retirement point system credits service

The reserve retirement point system is something all reservists are aware of but few understand, according to Mrs. Ann Beebe of the Customer Service branch of CBPO.

"All credit for service is recorded by the point system," she explained. "All participating members of the Air Force Reserve are provided with a summary

News from CBPO

of points and service annually, usually about 60 days following their retirement/retention date," she said.

"Points earned through UTAs, AFTPs, or correspondence courses are inactive duty points," said Beebe. "By Air Force

regulation, no more than 60 points will be credited for inactive duty training per year towards retirement."

Active duty points include special tours, school tours and annual tour, and all count towards retirement. A satisfactory year requires a minimum of 50 points, of any combination. Call Mrs. Beebe with questions at 3427.

Chiefs' Council will again award college scholarships

By MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

The Westover Air Force Base Chiefs' Council will once again this fall, award 10, \$300 scholarships to eligible applicants.

According to CMSgt. Larry Lose, chairman of the scholarship committee, candidates must be either dependents of current 439th Airlift Wing enlisted reservists or be reservists themselves.

Lose also said candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Have been accepted to or are presently attending any accredited college or university, carrying a minimum of six credit hours per semester.

2. If entering college, they must have maintained a scholastic rating of a "B" average or better during their senior year of high school. If in college, have a cumulative average of at least 2.75.

3. Submit an autobiography, to include any outside activi-

ties, scholastic or extracurricular activities.

4. Submit a letter of recommendation from their school official.

All candidates and their applications will be screened by the chiefs' council scholarship subcommittee and winners will be notified prior to the awards being presented.

A presentation dinner for recipients and their guests is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 8. Scholarship winners will be guests of the Chiefs Council at the dinner while parents and guests will be asked to pay.

All applications must be submitted no later than June 6. Applications are available at unit orderly rooms or the one on this page may be used. Completed applications should be mailed to CMSgt. Larry Lose, 439 SG/CES, Westover AFB, Ma. 01022.

Along with Lose, CMSgt. Vince Viglione, CMSgt. Joe LaFrance and CMSgt. Ludwig Schwechheimer make up the scholarship committee.

439th AW WESTOVER CHIEFS' COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

STUDENT'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

AGE _____ SCHOOL ATTENDED _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

CLASS STANDING _____ SCHOLASTIC RATING _____

COLLEGE DESIRED _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE ACCEPTED _____ MAJOR/COURSE SELECTED _____

NAME OF 439TH AW RESERVIST PARENT _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

UNIT ASSIGNED _____ RANK _____

LENGTH OF SERVICE _____

LENGTH OF SERVICE IN 439TH AW _____

RETURN TO: CMSgt. Larry Lose, 439th SG/CES, Westover AFB, Mass. 01022

Midway -- the tide turns

Article and logo by SrA. Mike Lyman

In the Central Pacific, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral Chester Nimitz, privy to the Japanese plans to attack Midway Island, sends his depleted fleet northeast of Midway to ambush the massive Japanese strike force.

On June 4, the two fleets clash in the Battle of Midway--one of the decisive battles in history.

The battle begins disastrously for the Americans. Although they are alerted to the whereabouts of the Japanese carrier fleet, wave after wave of attacking torpedo planes and bombers are destroyed without scoring a hit.

But the sacrifice is not in vain. Carrier-based dive bombers, from the same carriers which escaped the Pearl Harbor attack, arrive on the scene and in five minutes, virtually destroy Japan's irreplaceable naval air arm.

In the three-day battle, U.S. naval air power sinks four Japanese carriers for the

loss of one of their own and in so doing, turn the tide in Pacific.

In the Bering Sea, the Japanese occupy the islands of Attu and Kiska in the Aleutians without opposition in an attempt to lure the American fleet away from their prime objective--Midway.

In the Mediterranean, the British simultaneously launch two heavily defended convoys from Gibraltar and Alexandria to relieve battered Malta. Attacked mercilessly from air and sea, 15 out of 17 cargo ships are sunk but the supplies that do reach the island keep the inhabitants fed until the next convoy can get through.

In North Africa, Rommel's new offensive drives through the Gazala line, forcing another British retreat. On June 21, Tobruk finally falls to the Afrika Korps. For Churchill, the fall of Tobruk is a "shattering and grievous loss."

In the Atlantic, the Allies suffer their worst shipping losses of the War to the U-boats and Axis surface raiders. In all, 173 cargo ships totalling nearly 850,000



tons are sunk.

On the Russian front, the Germans launch their second major offensive against the Soviet Union on June 28. In two large movements, the spearheads of five powerful armies encircle Kharkov and then drive towards Stalingrad to the east and the Caucasus to the south.

Northeast Air Station concept proposed (Continued from page 1)

believes that the Gulf War demonstrated both the need for designating the base as a contingency global reach nerve center, and Westover's ability to handle that assignment.

"Desert Storm clearly demonstrated that there was a void, and that Westover could fill it," said Gallin, who commanded the 337th Military Airlift Squadron--Westover's flying squadron--during the war. "By officially designating us as the Northeast Air Station, the Air Force would enhance its national airlift capability and also ensure Westover's long-term job security."

Czekanski, who assumed command of the 439th AW in March, indicated that the designation would not mean large increases in personnel or major differences in the way C-5 flying operations are conducted at the base. Rather, he said, there would be significant changes in the way Westover trains.

"In order to maintain proficiency as a major aerial port operation, we want to expand some of our training capabilities to create more 'hands-on' experiences," the wing commander said.

To do that, Czekanski said that Westover

will invite other military units to conduct deployment exercises here.

He also hopes that Westover will be selected to participate in future real-life airlift operations, such as last winter's Operation Provide Hope humanitarian relief flights to the former Soviet Union.

"Instead of having our people load and unload the same training 'hulk,' I'd rather bring a C-130 into Westover and give our folks the opportunity to load it with real cargo and troops," Czekanski said.

The wing commander indicated that in order to create the infrastructure of a major aerial port at a reserve base, unit members will have to become more efficient,

and put into practice the lessons they are currently learning in the Total Quality Management training sessions.

"We will have to train harder and smarter, and learn to do more with less," he said.

Czekanski predicts that there will be two important benefits if the Northeast Air Station concept becomes a reality at Westover.

"The United States will have enhanced its global reach capacity by having an important strategic airlift facility that can fire up on very short notice," the wing commander said. "And Westover will have ensured its future for at least two or three more decades."

The names, they are a changing

439th Military Airlift Wing -- 439th Airlift Wing (AW)
 337th Military Airlift Squadron -- 337th Airlift Squadron (ALS)
 439th Combat Support Group -- 439th Support Group (SG)
 439th Avionics Maintenance Squadron -- 439th Component Repair Squadron (CRS)
 439th Field Maintenance Squadron -- 439th Equipment Maintenance Squadron (EMS)
 439th Organizational Maintenance Squadron -- 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron (AGS)

"Patriot People"

Name: Kevin Bowen
Rank: AIC
Age: 19
Address: Belchertown, Mass.
Unit: 439th AGS
Position: Crew chief
Civilian position: Unemployed
Favorite food: Italian
Years of service: Two
Favorite sport: Basketball
Favorite hobby: Flying
Ideal vacation: Caribbean cruise
Best way to relax: Sleep
Preferred entertainment: Nightclubs
Favorite celebrity: Bob Merchant
Favorite music: Soft rock
Favorite book: 1-C-5A-2-1
Favorite color: Blue
Favorite car: Lotus
Pet peeve: Slow drivers
Best thing about Westover: Traveling
Worst thing about Westover: Broken C-5s



TSgt. Sandi Michon

AIC Kevin Bowen

Patriot praises

PROMOTIONS:

MSgt. Michael C. Dutton
 MSgt. Thomas F. Fassbender
 MSgt. Douglas M. Hayward
 MSgt. Richard A. Post
 MSgt. Gerard C. Renaud
 TSgt. Timothy G. Brock
 TSgt. Shan L. Clary
 TSgt. Brian K. Copperthite
 TSgt. Howard A. Crawford
 TSgt. Thomas G. Gaglione
 TSgt. Gary A. Hebert
 TSgt. David A. Mottor
 TSgt. Dailey O. Turner
 TSgt. Patrick T. Whelan
 SSgt. Todd E.J. Bergquist
 SSgt. Michael T. Border
 SSgt. Jeffrey T. Burke
 SSgt. Patrick C. Cassidy
 SSgt. William J. Forbes
 SSgt. Phillip P. Gacek
 SSgt. Christopher Hellyar
 SSgt. Michael D. Murdza
 SSgt. James G. Nichols Jr.

SSgt. Edward A. Perreira
 SSgt. Stephen F. Riley
 SSgt. Edward M. Sierzego Jr.
 SSgt. Steven M. Theroux
 SSgt. Stephen A. Trychon
 SSgt. Frank W. J. Venturella
 SrA. Russell J. J. Atkinson
 SrA. Todd A. Bulger
 SrA. MarySue Cirrincione
 SrA. Michael S. Davis
 SrA. Anthony L. J. Deprospo
 SrA. Richard C. Evers
 SrA. William G. Kennedy Jr.
 SrA. Sandy Kimbrough
 SrA. Kevin E. Kroyman
 SrA. Robert B. Lightfoot
 SrA. Lynn E. Pellerano
 SrA. Edward D. Pezanetti
 SrA. Rhonda S. Stephens
 SrA. Raenita A. Wheelock
 SrA. Alan T. Zawistowski
 A1C John R. Arigno
 A1C Anthony C. Banas
 A1C Keith M. Cosentino
 A1C Robert F. Luby

Ann. Kimberly A. Hebert
 Ann. Keith W. Landry

REENLISTMENTS:

SMSgt. Robert L. Pratt
 SMSgt. Robert A. Wise
 MSgt. Joseph I. Demers
 MSgt. Nicholas F. Perfido
 MSgt. James S. Rooney
 MSgt. Dianne M. Thibodeau
 TSgt. Stanley L. Barringer
 TSgt. John P. Betsold
 TSgt. Francis J. Komloski
 TSgt. John B. Langevin
 TSgt. Sandra M. Michon
 TSgt. Kristine M. Seney
 TSgt. Marie R. Vautour
 SSgt. Carol B. Carrington
 SSgt. Scott D. Dudley
 SSgt. Samuel J. Ely
 SSgt. Terrance M. Farrell
 SSgt. Richard C. Green
 SSgt. John S. Jackson
 SSgt. Richard A. Martin

SSgt. Monique J. Menard
 SSgt. Matthew T. Muraski
 SSgt. Steven L. Porteus
 SSgt. Robert N. Tower
 SSgt. Charles F. Woodward
 Sgt. Jonathan D. Guyette
 SrA. Todd J. Lasky
 SrA. David R. Roberge

ENLISTMENTS:

SSgt. Kathleen V. Cullan
 SSgt. Cheri M. Drapeau
 Sgt. Gabriele J. Agnello
 Sgt. Jose A. Cabrera
 Sgt. Gerald F. Hripak Jr.
 Sgt. Laurence D. Kimball
 Sgt. Deidre L. Martin
 Sgt. David S. Perry
 Sgt. Mark A. Pineau
 Sgt. Michael D. Wilson
 SrA. Jason P. Curving
 SrA. William M. Palaia
 SrA. Gary M. Watson

GREAT NEW ENGLAND AIRSHOW

JULY 24, 25 AND 26

Three win flights at the Great New England Auction

SSgt. Kymberly A. Taylor

Three high bidders at Channel 57's Great New England Auction won the opportunity last month to become aircrew members aboard classic aircraft before the Great New England Airshow at Westover AFB.

A crew position in a B-17 Flying Fortress brought in a high bid of \$1,300, the B-25 Mitchell bomber raised \$800 and the PBV Catalina went for \$380.

The crew positions, along with an authentic leather flight jacket, were donated by Westover's Galaxy Community Council, sponsors of the historic aircraft.

Council members, Joseph Bradley of Baystate Medical Center, Barbara Reisbig of Holiday Inn/Bradley International, and Dennis Murphy of United Cerebral Palsy in Springfield served as guest hosts of the annual Channel 57 auction.

In addition, Westover and the Galaxy Community Council provided more than 30 volunteers to take bids on April 11.

While the task of answering phones that seemed to ring non-stop might have deterred some, Westover volunteers clad in Great New England Airshow T-shirts jumped in and had a ball.

"It was a lot of fun," said bid-taker Capt. Christopher Donovan of the 337th ALS. "It was a worthwhile way for Westover to get involved in the community."

The Great New England Auction is held annually to raise funds to keep Channel 57, a public service station, operating.

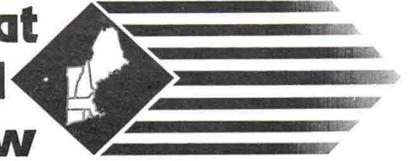
"I'm sorry my shift is over," said Base Commander Col. Thomas G. Hargis, who modeled the authentic A-2 flight jacket.

Channel 57 has developed a working partnership with the Galaxy Community Council and will be producing the airshow video during Westover's extravaganza this summer.

Advance orders for the video will be taken all three days of the show, July 24, 25 and 26.

The Galaxy Community Council is bringing three dozen vintage aircraft to the Westover open house.

The Great New England Airshow



ORI set for January '93

Unit inspection delayed

Westover AFB has earned a reprieve from the Unit Effectiveness Inspection originally scheduled for this September.

The UEI has been rescheduled to take place in the fall of 1993 so as not to detract from the Organizational Readiness Inspection, planned for January 1993.

When Westover was swept into Operation Desert Shield during the summer of 1990, the August 1990 ORI was temporarily postponed.

The stellar performance of base personnel in support of Desert Shield/Storm convinced evaluators to award an outstanding rating for duties performed in lieu of a formal ORI.

"We have set some high standards for ourselves here at Westover," said Col. James P. Gallin, wing vice-commander and former squadron commander of the 337th MAS.

"I have every confidence that we will once again demonstrate our excellence in the upcoming UEI and ORI in 1993," said Gallin.

PATRIOT

Coming in July: MSgt. Payne and Bob Hope



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Waymond Dotson, of Chicopee, Mass., and 2,415 members of the 439th AW at Westover AFB.

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