

# PATRIOT

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

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## 439th CES battles the heat in Panama

By SSgt. Christine Mora

The "jacks of all trades" from the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron battled grueling heat and constant security threats when they performed annual tour at Howard AB, Panama.

The squadron rotated to Panama in three cycles between mid-March and late April to renovate and construct housing units at the base.

Compared to previous tours when reservists worked separately on many different jobs, the Panama trip focused the efforts of all the engineers into one project," said Capt. Jeff Magaw, CE officer.

The engineers rose at the crack of dawn at Albrook Air Station to cross the bridge of the Americas every day. They battled Panama City traffic for up to two hours to reach their work project at Howard AB.

The squadron was assigned to convert existing carports and storage areas into housing units at the military base.

The first task at hand was demolition, which involved more than just sledgehammers. Precise planning was needed by many facets of the squadron.

"Site developers designed the demolition so that it didn't interfere with utility and power lines," said Magaw. "Plumbers and electricians needed to re-search and find those lines so the crew didn't destroy them."

From that point on it was not unusual to see a plumber doing carpentry or an electrician performing masonry tasks.

"That is the nature of our business," said the captain. "In wartime, our unit would be thrown into a scenario and the engineers would adapt to the needs of the mission."

Through intense heat and drenching humidity, reservists attacked the project with jackhammers, sledgehammers, and concrete saws. They tore up floors and

***"Security was a major issue during the tropical tour... Although hampered by security threats and limited resources, the 439th CES got rave reviews from officials at Howard AB."***  
***Col. William Garrity, 439th CES commander***

tore down walls, at the same time, maintaining utilities for airmen living on the second floor of the building.

While pavement and grounds personnel hauled out the debris with front-end loaders, carpenters constructed temporary walls to keep the building standing.

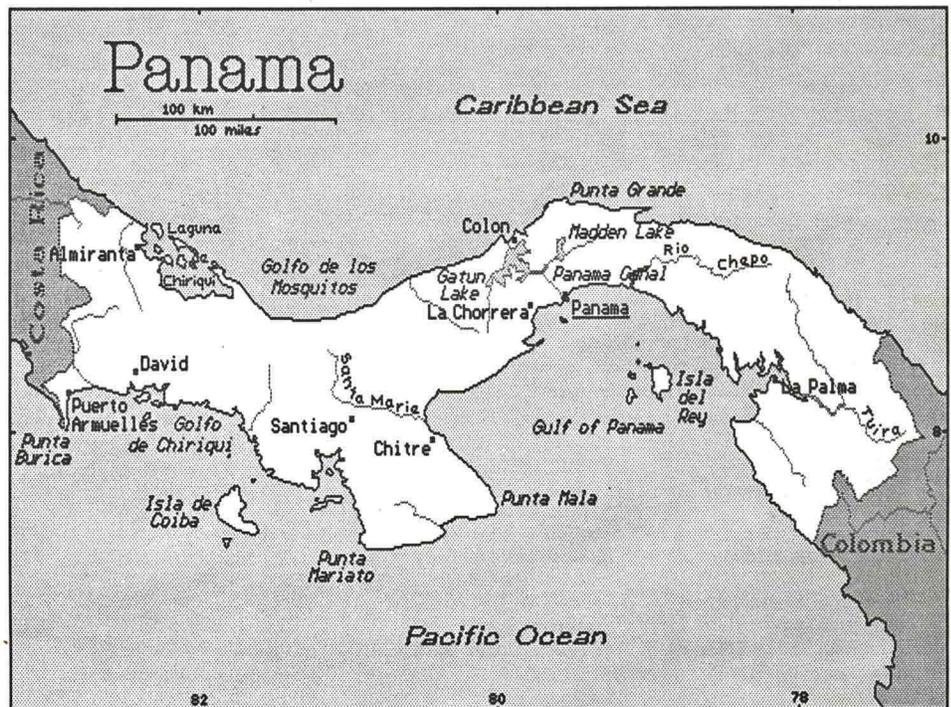
"As the squadron rotated in and out of Panama, new 439th crews began permanent wall construction and rough piping and wiring," said Magaw.

"Eventually, walls, fixtures, air conditioning systems, and bathrooms would

be needed to finish the job," added the captain. Security was a major issue during the tropical tour, according to Lt. Col. William Garrity, squadron commander.

"Our reservists witnessed several political demonstrations and were constantly reminded of high-risk and prohibited areas of Panama City," he explained.

Although hampered by security threats and limited resources, the 439th CES got rave reviews from officials at Howard AB, added the colonel.



## EDITORIAL

## Use it, or lose it.

John G. Filler, manager of Westover's Consolidated Open Mess, recently revealed some disturbing news. Of the 2,438 reservists assigned to Westover AFB, only 15 percent belong to the club.

Filler's statistic is alarming for two reasons. For one thing, it means that only a small percentage of Westover reservists are paying to maintain an asset which benefits everyone on the base. Secondly, lack of support could ultimately threaten the club's very existence.

"I fear that some people might not realize what an important asset it is until it's too late," said Filler, who has managed Air Force clubs all over the globe.

The club manager's fears are justified. In the wake of severe financial constraints and the overall restructuring of the Air Force, a non-profitable club is a sure target for the budget-cutter's axe.

There is also an obvious element of unfairness about the current membership numbers. The 15 percent of Westover reservists who belong are shouldering the load for the freeloaders who use the facility but are "ducking the dues."

At \$5 per month, Westover's club dues are a bargain. The Consolidated Open Mess offers a wide range of activities and services, and a local club card is honored at military facilities throughout the world.

Filler is trying to improve the service at the club, and is eager to hear the complaints and suggestions of his patrons. "We can't make it a better facility if we don't know what's on their minds," the club manager said.

In the final analysis, however, Westover's Consolidated Open Mess needs a solid membership base in order to improve--and survive. Every Patriot Wing reservist should join the club.

It's time to use it, or lose it.

**Maj. Rick Dyer**  
Public Affairs Officer

## Briefs

### Road race slated

The Pioneer Valley Chapter of the USO will sponsor the Runway 33 Road Race June 7 on Westover Air Force Base.

The 10-kilometer course for runners will wind its way through the streets of Westover and end on Runway 33. A three-mile course for walkers will also conclude on the main runway. Walkers will start at 9 a.m. and runners at 10.

The registration fee is \$8 if paid in advance or \$10 the day of the race.

Further information and registration forms are available at the USO in Bldg. 5305, or by calling 557-2522.

### Blood drive

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive at the base gym June 6 and 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Civilians are encouraged to donate on Friday while reservists are asked to give on Saturday. No appointment is necessary.

### Maj. Freniere named

Maj. Robert Freniere, wing intelligence officer and a graduate of The Citadel, S.C. has been named officer-in-charge of the Westover Honor Guard.

He succeeds Maj. Natalie Iryshe, who has accepted a position with the New York National Guard at Stewart ANG Base, N.Y.

The volunteers of the honor guard, carrying M-1 rifles, represent Westover at parades, military ceremonies and formal occasions. For information on serving with the honor guard, call SSgt. George Louvitakis at 557-2150.

### Western jamboree

The Consolidated Open Mess will feature both kinds of music--country and western--at the second Western Jamboree on Friday, May 8. The festivities will start with a western buffet at 5:30 pm. The Yankee Rhythm Band with go on stage at 8:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded in roping and dancing competition. Admission is free and the first 300 guests will receive gifts.

# PATRIOT

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# Three 74th AES sergeants perform final UTAs

By 1st Lt. Paul Koscak Jr.

Three retiring members of the 74th AES will take some base history with them when they conclude their Reserve careers this month.

SMSgt. Richard Haskins, MSgt. William Schindler and MSgt. Robert Mathieu -- all performing their last UTA in May -- together boast a century of service and a total of 10,000 flying hours. But each of the trio represents a unique part of Air Force Reserve story that can't be replaced.

A former Navy veteran, Haskins, 56, served on active duty from 1954 to 1958 and in 1959 became an Air Force Reserve medical technician at Hanscom AFB. In 1972, he transferred to the former 67th AES at Westover and continued to serve in numerous medical management positions after that unit merged to form the 74th AES. Among his duties as an Air Reserve Technician, Haskins, who resides in Longmeadow, manages the unit's training, flight planning, supply and pay functions.

"Over the years, we've upgraded and become more sophisticated," said Haskins, recalling a time when basic medical equipment consisted of no more than liters and bandages. "Now we have cardiac monitors; we're more involved with our patients."

"Haskins attributes his wealth of flight time to Westover's former squadrons of C-123 and C-130s -- aircraft constructed to accommodate the set-up of a mobile hospital. Now, aeromedical personnel must depend on other reserve units that fly those aircraft plus the C-9 to build their flying hours.

The founding member of the 74th AES, Schindler also holds the distinction of logging over 4,000 flying hours during his career.

Some of that time occurred in 1970



SrA. Mike Lyman

**CENTURY OF SERVICE -- SMSgt. Richard Haskins, MSgt. Robert Mathieu and MSgt. William Schindler (left to right), represent more than 98 years of military service**

when the airlift control element NCOIC performed a short active duty tour as an aeromedical technician flying on missions between the Philippine Islands, Vietnam and the United States.

Schindler, 51, was an Army medical technician from 1957 to 1959 before becoming a reservist in 1960. A professional tool and gauge maker, Schindler, for six months in 1966, was the solo and original member of the present 74th AES.

"I was by myself during the UTAs," the Feeding Hills resident said. "I worked as both commander and ambulance driver." Schindler and Mathieu are now the only remaining original members of the 74th AES.

Since joining the Reserve in 1965, Mathieu's career, both civilian and military evolved at Westover.

When he's not the NCOIC of inflight medical care, Mathieu, 46, works as a plumber for base civil engineering.

The South Hadley resident began doing UTAs during Westover's heyday as a big, active-duty SAC base, assigned to the 21st Medical Squadron.

During those early years, he performed a variety of medical assignments and even managed the emergency room of the now defunct base hospital.

"We had about 200 people and we could run an entire hospital," said Mathieu. "Our mission was to take over the hospital if the 99th Bomb Wing got shipped out."

That experience is now applied to training a new generation of medical flight teams. In addition to providing inflight medical care, students must be thoroughly familiar with the aircraft--particularly emergency procedures.

Mathieu said teams practice on a C-130 hulk when an actual aircraft isn't available.

## DoD awards Maj. Rick Dyer top journalism honor

TSgt. Tom Allecco

The news and feature writing of the Patriot's Maj. Rick Dyer has earned him the Thomas Jefferson Award, the Department of Defense's highest journalism honor.

The wing public affairs officer's coverage of Westover in war and peace was recognized with the award of first place among Department of Defense news writers and second place as a feature writer. The panel of journalists cited

his coverage of issues ranging from a C-5A environmental impact lawsuit to the unique role of veterans in the Gulf War welcome home ceremonies.

During the Desert Storm air war Dyer flew to Bahrain, keeping an hour-by-hour log of a typical mission. The result was a detailed record of the wartime stresses on aircrew, which represented all the Westover aircrews who earned their combat pay in the Persian Gulf.

Dyer, a Manchester, Conn. attorney,

did very well in the 14th Air Force and AFRES competition. He took first place in newswriting, feature writing and editorial writing, and placed second in the Journalist of the Year category. Westover Today, produced under Dyer's leadership during Desert Storm, took first place in the Special Achievement category.

In 1986, he earned a second place Thomas Jefferson Award for feature writing and was named Air Force Journalist of the Year.



**"X" MARKS THE SPOT --** Nine Golden Knights link up to form an "X" two miles above the ground. The average Golden Knight is 26-years-old and has over 1,200 parachute

jumps. The United States Army Parachute Team consists of 84 men and women from Fort Bragg, N.C. The Golden Knights have been performing since 1959.

## Golden Knights to perform at Great New England Airshow

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

The Army's precision parachute team, the Golden Knights, will jump from 12,500 feet to open each of the three days of the Great New England Airshow at Westover AFB, Friday through Sunday, July 24-26.

Each aerial demonstration beginning from almost 2 1/2 miles above the landing zone will kick off a full day of activities on the ground and in the air at the Air Force Reserve's largest base.

Westover AFB, home of 16 C-5A Galaxies of the 439th Airlift Wing, will host displays of more than 100 aircraft on its flightline.

In addition to the Golden Knights, aerial demonstrations will be performed by the Italian Air Force jet team Freccia Tricolori (Tricolor Arrows) and vintage aircraft from World War II and Korea.

The black and gold clad parachutists offer a dramatic exhibit of precision, discipline and teamwork from the moment

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their aircraft inches across the sky and the narrator announces "jumper away." As they freefall, red smoke billows from canisters attached to each jumper's boot. The red smoke trails the jumpers while they accelerate through the sky, reaching speeds in excess of 150 mph.

As they fall freely through the air, the parachutists meet in geometric formations. Relying on teamwork and confidence produced by relentless training, they perform such maneuvers as the baton pass, cutaway, diamond track and

diamond formation.

At 2,000 feet the jumpers deploy the team's distinctive black and gold main parachutes and maneuver through the sky to land within feet of a large orange "X" on the ground.

Within minutes after touching ground they have rolled up their parachutes and are signing autographs, shaking hands and posing for pictures with fans of all ages.

These specially selected airborne soldiers demonstrate their aerobic skills each year before 16 million spectators and compete in international parachute competitions.

As the Army's goodwill ambassadors, the Golden Knights have performed more than 6,000 aerial demonstrations in all 50 states and 42 countries.

The Great New England Airshow is projected to be the third largest airshow in the United States in 1992.

Admission and parking will be free to the public.

## Mailhott honored for heroism in rescue of motorist

SSgt. McClair "Mac" Mailhott, a member of Westover's 439th Security Police Squadron, will be honored for risking his life to save a trapped motorist in South Hadley, Mass.

Mailhott, who in civilian life is a patrolman with the South Hadley Police Department, was dispatched to the scene of a motor vehicle accident March 4 at the rotary on Route 202.

An automobile had flipped on its side and was leaking gasoline. Its operator, Roger E. Dean of Sharon, Vt., was pinned inside.

Ignoring the strong gasoline fumes and risk of fire, Mailhott kicked in the car's window and crawled inside to free the driver. According to a witness, he remained inside the wreck for more than 15 minutes until Dean could be extricated with the Jaws of Life cutting tool.

"I was just doing my job," Mailhott, a 19-year veteran of the Air Force Reserve, said later. "Anyone would have done it."

The South Hadley Board of Selectmen expected to issue a commendation praising Mailhott's bravery.

"Sergeant Mailhott's spontaneous reaction without regard for his personal safety in that life-threatening situation was highly commendable," said Capt. Robert Mooney, 439th SPS commander. "Some people might take what he did for granted as just a cop doing his job, but I regard him as another hero in blue."

Mailhott has been a member of the South Hadley police force for nine years. He served on active duty at Westover last year when the 439th SPS was activated for Operation Desert Storm.



SSgt. McClair "Mac" Mailhott

SrA. Mike Lyman

## Cheney's proposed cuts leave Westover untouched, so far

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney's proposal to eliminate 740 Air Force Reserve positions will not affect 439th Airlift Wing units, according to Col. James P. Czekanski, wing commander.

"While change is an inevitable reality in the military structure, there are no signs of any significant personnel cuts to the Westover end strength authorizations," the wing commander said.

"We will be reorganizing the alignment of some functions at Westover, however our numbers of authorized positions will remain constant," he said.

The defense secretary in March announced plans to cut the reserve and National Guard forces of all branches by a total of 140,000 members. About 8,500 reserve and guard positions would be affected in Massachusetts.

In contrast to cuts elsewhere, Westover's role has taken on new dimensions as the key northeast base for missions to Europe since Desert Shield/Storm.

## "Duty, Honor, Country"

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is the text of a speech given by Col. James P. Czekanski, wing commander, during ceremonies held at Westover April 5, honoring the memory of the late Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

It is appropriate that we honor General Douglas MacArthur during April. He died on April 5, 1964. On April 19, 1951, he delivered his unforgettable farewell address to Congress.

In that speech, General MacArthur recalled the words of an old Army song: "old soldiers never die." He added, "like the old soldier of the ballad, I now close my military career and just fade away."

It is also fitting that we honor that venerable patriot in this place. His father, General Arthur MacArthur, was born in Chicopee, and some of his descendants still live in the Pioneer Valley.

Perhaps more than anyone else, Douglas MacArthur's life embodied the West Point motto of "Duty, Honor, Country." We remember him, of course, for his heroic defense of the Philippine Islands, and his smashing

victories later during World War II as Allied Commander in the South Pacific. He had retired from the Army in 1937, but returned to active duty when World War II began.

General MacArthur was "America's Warrior." He fought in World War I, World War II, and Korea. He administered Japan after World War II, and had earlier served as Army Chief of Staff.

He was truly a man of brilliance, about whom there was no middle ground. His accomplishments were many, but on occasion they were accompanied or followed by controversy. What is undisputed is that he was a giant in the annals of our nation's history.

America is much the richer for MacArthur's service and example. We could use more men and women like him today.



**BROKEN WING** -- EMS reservists repair the wing of a Galaxy in the sheet metal shop. Maintenance personnel

must search thousands of hull components to locate loose bolts, stress fractures and breaks.

## EMS specializes in curing C-5 ills

Photos and article  
by SSgt. Christine Mora

Compare aircraft maintenance to medicine, and you may be able to figure out the difference between Westover's three maintenance squadrons.

CMSgt. Vincent Viglione, 439th Equipment Maintenance Squadron superintendent, sums it all up. "Members of the Aircraft Generation Squadron (formerly Organizational Maintenance Squadron), are like paramedics or general practitioners. They are the first team to initially assess a problem with the aircraft and perform generalized repair.

"Then, they call in the specialists, the EMS (formerly the Field Maintenance Squadron). The reservists handle repair, maintenance and mechanical work on the aircraft.

"For really complex work, we hand the case over to the microbiologists, the Component Repair Squadron (formerly Avionics Maintenance Squadron). More specifically, the CRS repairs navigational, computer, and radar equipment."

The Deputy Commander for Maintenance staff rounds off Westover's maintenance force. DCM staff provides job control, quality assurance, produc-

tion analysis, supply, administration, plans and scheduling.

The largest squadron of the three, the EMS, is divided into four major branches of highly trained specialists, according to Viglione. These include Aerospace Ground Equipment, Fabrication, Propulsion, and Aerospace Systems.

Just about anything seen on the flightline that is not an aircraft will be handled by the AGE branch. The group repairs and maintains support equipment used by the squadron. The equipment includes over 30 types of machinery, such as power units, heaters, light carts and hydraulic test stands.

Whether it's a tiny bolt, or the giant wing of a C-5, the fabrication shop can create a replacement. The machinists and welders repair damaged parts usually by making new ones, said the chief. Survival equipment for the 16 Galaxies is constructed in this branch and corrosion control is also performed.

Over in the Propulsion Section, personnel work on the jet engines of the aircraft. The mechanics repair the engines on the flightline, or may actually remove one of the huge engines and bring it into Hangar 9 for maintenance.

The primary responsibility of the Aerospace Systems branch is to

troubleshoot and maintain the different systems of the aircraft. The specialists repair pneudraulic, electrical, fuel and environmental problems.

"Our squadron's major strength is the incredible amount of experience," said Lt. Col. James Pielli, squadron commander. "Our people have worked together for years and while at times, they may not love each other, they work well together."

"Many people don't understand the complexity of our work," said Viglione. "Our reservists must deal with multiple overlapping 63 systems and the size of the C-5A creates a great amount of danger during repair."

The average turnaround time for maintenance of a Galaxy is about a week, said the chief. "During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, we had a turnaround time of three hours."

The dramatic rise in workload was tough for the reservists at first, but after about a month, "thanks to General Walker, our people began to realize what great contribution they were making to the big picture," said Viglione.

By the end of the war, Westover maintenance personnel made their mark as one of the best units in the Air Force, he added.



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**MAKING REPAIRS --**  
SSgt. Ed Mathurin of  
the 439th EMS,  
(above) repairs one of  
the four actuators of a  
C-5 engine in the jet  
propulsion section.  
TSgt. Richard Post of  
the 439th EMS, (left)  
uses a milling machine  
to manufacture an  
aircraft part in the me-  
tals technology shop.

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# Simulator to be ready by September

By SSgt. Christine Mora

Construction of Westover's new state-of-the-art C-5 simulator is right on track and expected to be operational by September, according to Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, AFRES/CV special assistant.

The Weapons System Trainer #7, manufactured by Canadian Aircraft Electronics, Ltd. was completed in April and will be installed in the newly-built shell in the Base Hangar.

The simulator, described as "the most advanced training environment...for crewmembers operating the C-5 aircraft" was built on six hydraulic legs which can replicate the movement of a C-5 Galaxy.

The trainer's computer-generated imagery system simulates the sights and sounds of an actual C-5 mission.

"The system includes five video screens and a Mylar mirror to project the sights and conditions of a scenario", said Walker.

"If we program a Westover-based exercise, the aircrew will even see the yellow-ribbon around the tower."

According to Carl Smith, of FlightSafety Services Corporation, 15 C-5 specific data bases duplicate such scenarios as air to air refueling maneuvers, low-level approaches, and various daytime and nighttime emergencies.

FlightSafety Services Corp., was contracted in 1990 to design, construct and operate the simulator at Westover. "You can set up particular problems for aircrews in the simulator which you couldn't do in the aircraft", said Mr. Smith.

Westover aircrews currently fulfill simulator training requirements at Dover AFB., Del.

Construction of the Northeast simulator will allow aircrews from both Westover, Stewart ANG, N.Y. to complete their training here, instead of traveling to Dover, Altus AFB, Oklahoma, or Travis AFB, Calif.

## Diseased red pines in base forest being removed

Article and artwork

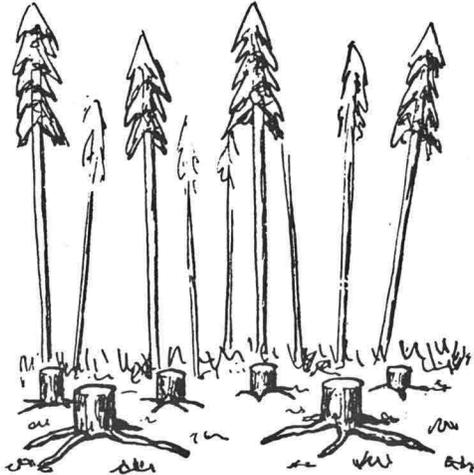
by SrA. Mike Lyman

The 30-year-old red pine population around Westover, diseased with a root-rot fungus, is being systematically removed and will eventually be replaced with white pines.

"The red pines are infected with a disease called Fomes Annosus, which has been spreading through the red pine population for the past five to ten years," said Harry Wandelowski, chief consulting forester for Bay State Forestry Service. "The disease, unique to the red pine species, will eventually kill all of the red pines in this area," Wandelowski said.

"Our primary concerns in removing the diseased red pines are to slow the spread of the disease and the general protection of the wetlands," said Base Environmental Engineer Jack Moriarty.

"At present, between five and 10 percent of the red pines are 'dead to the stump,'" said Moriarty. "Though we may



have to thin the surviving sections by 50 percent in a few years, eventually the entire red pine forest here will be doomed.

"These trees are a real safety hazard," added Moriarty. "They're so dead the wind is knocking them over.

"The first phase in the long term management of the base forest is the removal of ten different sections of the red pines which total approximately 50 acres or nearly 5,000 cords of wood," Moriarty said.

"The project which started in September 1991, was originally scheduled to begin this spring but because of this year's mild winter, it began in January," Wandelowski said.

"At present the four loggers who are subcontracted from the Rocky Mountain Wood Company, Monson, Mass., are about 80 percent completed with the first phase of the project."

According to Moriarty, the logs are being chipped on site and hauled to Maine for resource recovery.

"Once the red pines have been removed, replanting with white pines not susceptible to the disease will begin late spring and through the remainder of the year," Wandelowski said.

## Reservists are authorized use of Commissary Privilege Cards

All members of the Selected Reserve are eligible to be issued a Commissary Privilege Card which is good for 12 days usage per year, according to CMSgt. Barbara D. Ledom, Westover's chief of personnel programs.

If however, a reservist joined after Jan. 1, usage of the card would be prorated, she said. For example if a member were to join the reserve on April 1, he would receive nine days of commissary usage that year.

"Use of the card is also authorized

### News from CBPO

during periods of active duty of any kind for one day or more. For example, a reservist on five days of active duty (say Jan. 5 to 9) can shop in the commissary only on those days," Ledom said.

Ledom also explained that spouses or other authorized dependent, not accompanied by members may use the commissary with proper identification, a Commissary Privilege Card or orders. The cards are issued through unit orderly

room personnel.

Also authorized commissary privileges are those members who are assigned to Headquarters ARPC in the non-affiliated Reserve Section and retired reservists.

Ledom pointed out that reservists no longer need to produce a leave and earnings statement to take advantage of the base exchange. She said reservists need only to show a reserve identification card (red) and now may use the BX on an unlimited basis throughout the year.

# MWR offers full slate of summer activities

by TSgt. Sandi Michon

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation section has a full supply of activities to keep up with summer demands.

The MWR section offers a fully-equipped gym, bowling center, tennis courts, fit trail, recreation supply store, intramural sports, summer camps, swimming pool, and many special events.

## Base recreation complex (gym) 557-3958

5:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. M - F, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. non-UTA Sat.

UTAs: Sat. 5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sun. 5:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The recreation complex offers an extensive weight training program with free weights and a full line of Nautilus equipment. There are two racquetball courts, full basketball court, pingpong, billiards, saunas and whirlpools.

A well-supplied video rental store offers a wide variety of videos.

Intramural men's and coed softball leagues start May 11. There are two softball fields, (one with lights), that can be reserved through the base gym.

Aerobic classes are offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

## Recreational Supply Store (Four Seasons) 557-2974

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. M - F, 9 a.m. - noon Sat.

The rental store offers a full line of rental equipment including boats, fishing gear, campers, tents, camping gear, summer sports equipment, lawn mowers, chain saws, bicycles, and more.

Brochures are available at the base gym or the rental store which list all equipment and prices.

## Base Pool 557-2980

The base pool opens the first week of June. The pool has two stair entrances in the three-foot area which extends to five-foot depth. There is a roped-off 12-foot diving area. There are plenty of lounge chairs, a snack bar and dining tables with sun umbrellas.

The pool is normally open seven days a week. Hours will be announced in June. Swim lessons are held in July for ages four and up. The lessons are free and are usually held on weekday

mornings.

Admission to the pool is .50 per day with season passes available. Special passes are also available to reservists performing two-week annual training.

## Tennis Courts

Adjacent to the pool are three asphalt-surface tennis courts. There is lighting available for nighttime tennis.

## Fit trail

Across the street from the pool is a 23-station fit trail which provides aerobic training and spot exercise workout by completing all stations according to posted directions. Additional information is available at the base gym.

## Base Bowling Center 557-3990

The base bowling center is located across from the Base Exchange. The 16-lane house offers ten pin bowling, rentals and leagues.

There is a snack bar open for breakfast from 6:30 - 8:30, and for lunch through dinner from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The center is currently offering Saturday night movie bowl and Sunday afternoon sports bowl. For \$6, per person, bowling and a late-release movie is shown from 7:30 - 11 on Saturday night, and bowling and TV sporting events are offered Sun., 1 p.m. to 4:30.

The bowling alley has computerized scoring equipment and can run TV or video on the scoring screens.

## Special Events

### Melha Shriners Circus

May 2, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. West Springfield Coliseum

Bus leaves the gym at 6:30. Sign up for discount tickets, \$5.

### Giant Flea Market June 6, Saturday, 10-4

### Consolidated Open Mess Parking Lot

Great collectibles, games, bands, raffles and refreshments. Anyone interested in participating or for more information, call Chris at 557-2328.

### White Water Rafting

A white water rafting trip is being organized for June. Contact the gym for further information.

## WWII Reflections: The battle of the Coral Sea

Logo and article by SrA. Mike Lyman



In the Indian Ocean, the Allies launch their first invasion of the War when they land on the Vichy French island of Madagascar on May 4. The successful invasion prevents further Axis expansion in the Indian Ocean and enables the Allies to learn valuable lessons associated with amphibious warfare.

In the Pacific, a Japanese task force intent on capturing Port Moresby, New Guinea, is intercepted by Allied warships in the Coral Sea on May 7. For the first time in history, a naval engagement takes place between forces out of sight from each other. The battle is a strategic victory for the Allies. Though each side loses a carrier, the Japanese are forced to withdraw, halting their advance in the

South Pacific.

Elsewhere in the South Pacific, U.S. carrier-based aircraft raid Japanese bases Lae, Tulagi Island and Rabaul, with the help of the Royal Australian Air Force.

In the Philippines, the "Gibraltar of the East," Corregidor, falls to the Japanese.

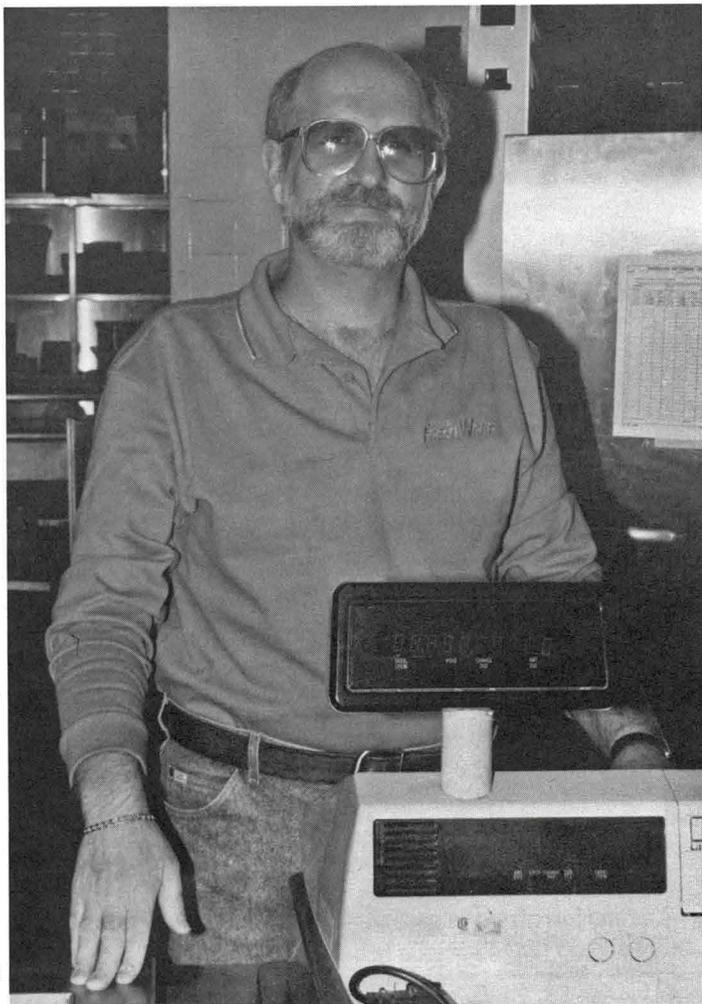
In Europe, the 8th Air Force, the first U.S. Army Air Corps based in Britain, is placed under the command of Gen. Carl "Tooe" Spaatz.

The RAF launches its first 1,000 bomber raid against Cologne, Germany on May 30. Bombing by night, the attack is the first in a series of saturation raids against major German cities.

In the Atlantic, U-boats sink a record 125 Allied ships, totalling over 600,000 tons.

# Filler named AFRES club manager of the year

By SSgt. Kimberly Taylor



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

**RINGING UP BUSINESS** -- John Filler, manager of Westover's Consolidated Open Mess mans the register at the end of the lunch line.

John Filler, manager of Westover's Consolidated Open Mess, has been named AFRES Club Manager of the Year for 1991.

While most people have trouble throwing a party for a few close friends, Filler has planned parties and other social events at the club while managing to earn a profit of more than \$20,000 last year.

In spite of an added task load that Filler took on in response to Operation Desert Storm, the manager implemented new interior design changes, planned extensive future renovations and devised money-saving functional improvements.

The building was treated to a facelift including new furniture for the casual bar, fresh paint in the dining and ballrooms and new draperies in the blue room.

"We used our own manpower to do the painting and replace the drapes. We have a fantastic staff here and everyone worked together to make the improvements," said Filler.

Club members may notice one of the largest money-saving improvements every month when they receive their bill. The monthly event calendars, which are now designed and produced using in-house resources, are mailed bi-monthly instead of with each bill for a yearly savings of more than \$11,000.

The manager's responsibilities relating to Operation Desert Storm were many. Filler, who usually spends long days at work, expanded his duty day to satisfy the troops who needed an early cup of coffee and served as overseer of the dining hall until it was up and running, staffed by Prime RIBS.

Special events catering to the activated reservists during Desert Storm drew tremendous response from the many troops stranded far from home.

"John's participation in Desert Storm/Shield was instrumental in his being recognized as a superb club manager," said MWR Chief Ken Cunningham.

"I was absolutely elated to hear that he won," said Cunningham. "Sometimes it's difficult to find the time to reward people, but for someone like John Filler, you just have to make the time."

Filler's award makes him eligible to compete in the race for the USAF Meritorious MWR Award this spring.

## Base transportation receives 14th Air Force award

By 1st Lt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

The 439 CSG base transportation section has been awarded the 14th Air Force outstanding performance award.

The honor recognizes the unit for performing its mission far beyond its stated objective.

Of particular note, base transportation was lauded for its phenomenal accomplishments and commitment during the furor of base activity throughout the Persian Gulf conflict.

Undeterred by the enormity of their task during the mobilization, base transportation swiftly and aggressively launched a national recruitment effort to build a top-flight contingent of staff and equipment.

That campaign soon swelled the ranks of base transportation to over 200 members, representing an inter-service cadre of both active-duty and activated-reservists.

"More than half of our force came from outside the 439th CSG or from air force bases around the country, which proved to be a colossal coordination and management effort," said Shari Macdonald, base transportation officer, who added that transportation switched to a 24-hour schedule and supported 130 redeployments during that time.

"We handled all Desert Storm freight and commercial transportation," she said. "Base transportation became a mini TMO."

The unit also managed to accumulate

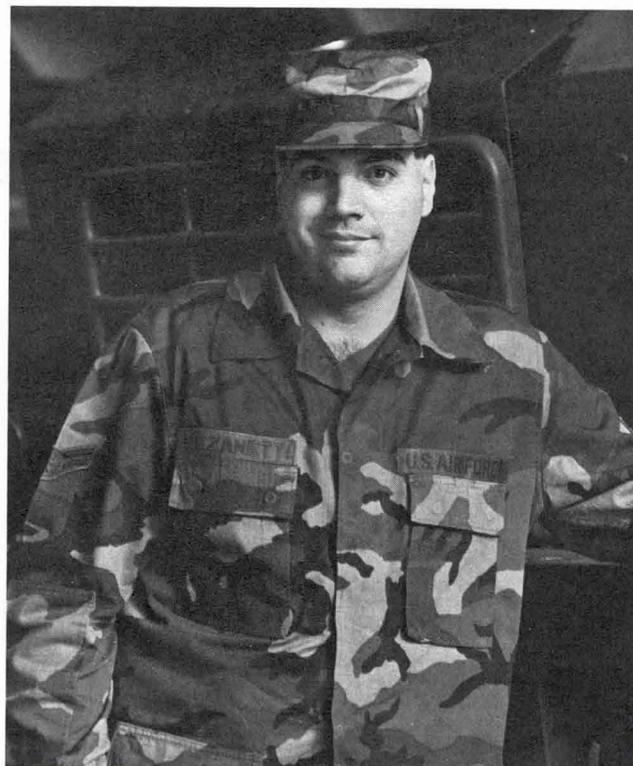
support equipment such as K-loaders, cherry pickers, buses, vans and snow and ice removal gear from throughout the system. They maintained the equipment and, after the war, returned it -- in many cases in better condition than they obtained it, said Macdonald.

"It's also important," Macdonald continued, "to acknowledge the support we received from the 58th 59th and 42nd aerial ports, plus the dozens of reserve and Air National Guard members from around the nation who performed their annual tours with us."

Base transportation also maintained an around-the-clock shuttle providing aircrew transportation to quarters, dining facilities, the flightline and other facilities on and off base.

## "Patriot People"

**Name:** Edward D. Pezanetti  
**Rank:** AIC  
**Age:** 28  
**Address:** East Longmeadow, Mass.  
**Unit:** 439th EMS  
**Position:** Pneudraulics System Specialist  
**Civilian position:** Hydraulics mechanic  
**Favorite food:** Shrimp/seafood  
**Years of service:** One!  
**Favorite sport:** Football and volleyball  
**Favorite hobby:** Camping and biking  
**Ideal vacation:** London, England  
**Best way to relax:** Bottle of red wine by warm fire  
**Preferred entertainment:** Live comedy shows  
**Favorite celebrity:** John Wayne  
**Favorite music:** Heavy metal  
**Favorite book:** Amityville Horro  
**Favorite color:** Black/orange  
**Favorite car:** 69' Olds 442  
**Pet peeve:** People who don't act their age  
**Best thing about Westover:** Beginning new way of life  
**Worst thing about Westover:** In-processing paperwork



SSgt. Nancy Wilochka

AIC Edward D. Pezanetti

## Lt. Decker assigned as new Catholic chaplain



Chaplain (1st Lt.) Jim Decker

By SSgt F. X. Kelley

Less than a year after performing temporary duty here ministering to troops returning from Desert Storm duty, Chaplain (1Lt.) Jim Decker finds himself back at Westover as the new Catholic chaplain.

The 37-year-old Decker, who officially assumed his duties in March, replaces Chaplain (Capt.) Joe Raeke, who left to become associate pastor of Holy Family Church in Duxbury, Mass.

"My initial priorities are to plug into as many activities as possible, providing both a ministerial presence and a listening ear," says the Keene, N.H. native, who was previously assigned to Hanscom AFB.

Decker says his path to ordination was driven by "positive procrastination", which he defines as the ability to delay an activity or a decision so that the last possible moment and the most opportune time coincide.

For Decker, that moment arrived during a Columbus Day climb to the top of Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire.

"I was involved in several church activities -- youth group advisor, parish council representative, and member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society," says Decker. "These were enjoyable, but more importantly, they led others to believe that I had a future as a priest, it was their encouragement which firmed my decision to accept the calling," Decker says.

Decker plans to commute from his permanent position as director of the Newman Center at Keene State College.

# Reservists' children eligible for programs

By SrA. Mike Lyman

The Boys and Girls Clubs of America, with a branch in Chicopee, have been given grants by the Department of Defense to allow free after school and summer programs to children of qualified Reservists and Guard members.

According to James DesRosiers, Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee's executive director, the after school and summer programs are worth \$50 and \$60 per week respectively. "It's really a great opportunity," he said.

"The programs are offered to Reservists and Guard members who were activated during Desert Shield/Storm," DesRosiers said. "In addition, soldiers who were put on alert or stand-by status qualify, as well as any Reservist or Guard member who provided support service during the War, (ie. volunteered at a local hospital or family service center). Children must be between the ages of 6 and 18.

"The after-school program provides qualified families with free child supervision following school until a responsible person can sign them out," DesRosiers said. "While they are here they have access to all our services and programs.

"The eight-week summer camp, which runs from June 22 through Aug. 14, from 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday, includes both indoor and outdoor activities as well as occasional field trips," DesRosiers said. "Our air conditioned facility includes a gym, game

room, computer room and an arts and crafts room. In addition, we also have nearly seven acres of outdoor area which allows us a lot of flexibility with our outdoor summer activities.

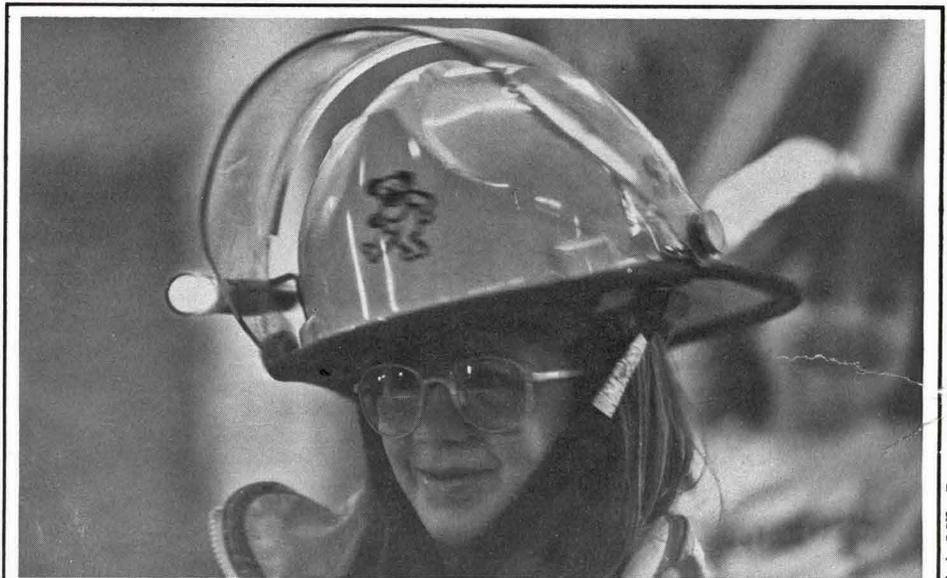
"To make the summer program as convenient as possible for families, we allow parents to drop their children off as early as 7:30 a.m. and pick up them up as late as 5:30 p.m.," DesRosiers added.

"We still have free one-year memberships available to qualified children as part of the Outreach program," Des-

Rosiers said. "These memberships allow youngsters to use all of the club's programs and services during 1992.

"We are more than just a club for children, we are a human resource center, DesRosiers said. "We hope people will take advantage of our programs for their children and for themselves."

For more information about the after-school and summer programs, or other services offered by the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, call (413) 592-6707 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays.



**TOUR TOT --** Five-year-old Ann Pasterczyk, of Chicopee, dons a firefighter's helmet during a recent tour of the base. In 1991, the public affairs office conducted 105 tours which included 4,397 people.

SrA. Mike Lyman

## PATRIOT

Coming in June: Base transportation



Published monthly for Patriots like Maj. Thomas Mauzaka, of Strong, Maine, and 2,438 members of the 439th AW at Westover AFB.

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