

PATRIOT

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PRECIOUS CARGO -- Medics offload patients from a New York Air National Guard C-130 during Patriot Medstar in July. The wounded had been transported

from the Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility in Dogpatch, to the Aeromedical Staging Facility in the Base Hangar.

Patriot Medstar held at Westover

Article and photos
by SSgt. Christine Mora

Westover was turned into a mini-war zone in July when more than 500 medics from around the country descended on the base to take part in Patriot Medstar, a joint-service mass casualty exercise.

The one-week scenario tested the capability of aeromedical evacuation units to deploy, employ and redeploy medical personnel and organize them into response teams.

"The exercise simulated everything that goes on from the time the patient

leaves the front line until the time he is in a hospital back on post," said Lt. Col. Jim Kottkamp, exercise commander.

The reservists operated two Medical Air Staging Facilities in "Dogpatch," and along the north ramp. They also ran an Air Staging Facility out of the Base Hangar.

The MSFs were tasked to evacuate patients from a forward operating or "front line" base. "Patients initially receive treatment at a Battalion Aid Station and then go on to an Army Field Hospital," said Capt. Dan Brown, duty OIC from the 70th AES,

Niagara Falls IAP, N.Y. "Then we take over and evacuate them to the MSF, which is basically a holding area for stable patients before they are transported to an ASF." Brown said that from the ASF the patients would be taken to a civilian or military hospital far from the front lines.

Reservists assigned to the MASFs lived in hardback tents and operated around the clock. Clad in camouflage -- and at times chemical warfare gear -- the medics tended to patients and rushed to the flightline at the sound of

Continued on back page

Excellence epidemic hits Westover medical reservists

Article and photos
by TSgt. Sandi Michon

The medical test results are in from AFRES. The diagnosis - a chronic case of excellence. Four Westover medical members are listed as the worst cases.

Three members from the 439th Clinic, and one from the 74th AES are best in AFRES in their categories. The Clinic and the 23rd APSS were recognized for high achievement on their Health Services Inspection.

"The awards are extremely impressive when you consider that there are only 12 individual awards presented and the 439th Medical Group received one third of them. The quality of the people here is what makes the clock tick," said Col. Joseph A. Curley, medical group commander.

Curley said the awards of the past couple of years has put the Westover medical community on the map. "The awards and the exercises have made AFRES aware of Westover's value to the medical community and the entire Air Force Reserve," he said.

Maj. David Zamorski, 74th Senior ART, is the Outstanding Medical Air Reserve Technician Officer. He has served at Westover for 18 years. As senior ART, he has an overall support position, providing continuity between UTAs, and overseeing many logistical needs such as budget and facilitating C-130 flying support.

As a myriad of people paraded

through his office seeking assistance, Zamorski was brief in his response to the award. "It's an honor," he said.

Zamorski has worked full-time at Westover for seven years. He resides in Hampden, Mass. with his wife Mary (Sullivan) and their three children.

Lt. Col. Sarah Waterman, 439th Clinic senior nurse executive, is the Outstanding Reserve Nurse. She is responsible for nursing services, which is the largest section in the clinic. She oversees training, physicals, and several other programs including CPR, self-aid buddy care, immunizations, infection control and health promotions.

She brought 16 years active duty experience to Westover two years ago. She is recognized for her exemplary contributions to the annual tour mission to Honduras, and her dedication to quality and the mission objective. Waterman also developed and presented a briefing to more than 100 chief nurses and super-



intendents at the 1993 HQ AFRES Nursing Service Conference.

She is thankful for the variety of projects and activities associated with her reserve position, and she speaks highly of the Clinic staff. "I am fortunate to have extremely cohesive and talented people that helped produce the achievements that cinched the award," said Waterman.

She is a hospice worker as a civilian. She resides in Simsbury, Conn. with her husband, John, and two children.

CMSgt. George Kudla, clinic medical administrator, is Outstanding Medical Air Reserve Technician NCO. Kudla's job duties include all the details that keep the clinic operating, and his efforts were instrumental in the clinic's Health Service Inspection rating.

Kudla said, "No award is won without the support of the whole team." He has 18 years as a medical technician. He resides in Ludlow, Mass. with his wife Vanessa.

TSgt. Robert Driscoll, co-NCOIC of nursing services, is Outstanding Reserve Medical Airman/Clinic. Driscoll was also selected wing NCO of the quarter and the year, he was a distinguished graduate at the NCO Academy in October, and was the AFRES nominee for one of 12 Air Force Outstanding Airmen.

"It's been a real good year," said Driscoll, of Medford, Mass.. He mixes professionalism with kindness. "I try to be nice to everyone; that makes a big difference," he said. "It's easy to be your best when you're working with the best. Everyone here is a high achiever, so just keeping up with the norm pushes you to be your best," he added.



PATRIOT

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Bosses' Day successful - More planned

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

During both July UTAs, more than 70 employers of Westover Reservists participated in Employer Appreciation Day.

"I feel this is a very important program," said Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing. "As I've said many times before, without the support of employers, we simply cannot complete our mission. This is a perfect opportunity for reservists to show their bosses what the Air Force Reserve is all about."

July UTA Saturdays were reserved for bosses of reservists assigned to the Operations Group, Medical Group and Wing staff. The September UTAs are devoted to employers of reservists who serve in the Support and Logistics Groups.

Employers will have the opportunity to visit the base and take an orientation flight in a unit C-5A.

Reservists are asked to accompany their employer to a registration session at the 337th AS auditorium in the base hangar at 8:30 a.m. After a brief welcome by Czekanski, some employers will board a C-5 for an orientation flight that will last approximately two hours.

At the same time, the remaining bosses may accompany reservists to their work stations. Reservists are also asked to invite their bosses to lunch, either at the Galaxy Dining Facility or the Westover Club. These bosses will get a chance to fly at about noon while the first group visits work places. The day's activities for employers will end at 4 p.m. Reservists will not fly with their bosses unless they are air crew members.

Reservists should fill out the registration blank that appears on this page and return it to the Public Affairs Office, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103 or fax it to (413) 557-2011 by Aug. 20.



Karen M. Proulx

SHOW AND TELL -- SSgt. Richard Bready, left, 337th AS loadmaster, explains his air crew role to Garson Field, president of Berkshire Electric Cable in Leeds, Mass. Field was participating in an Employer Appreciation Day orientation flight aboard a C-5 in July.

EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY APPLICATION

Employer's full name: _____

Employer's job title: _____

Company name and address: _____

Reservist (name, rank and unit): _____

Reservist's phone numbers:

Day _____ Evening _____ Duty _____

Choice of UTA:

"A" UTA (Sept 10) _____ "B" UTA (Sept 24) _____

Return form to: 439th Airlift Wing, Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St. East Wing, Suite 103 Westover ARB, Mass., 01022-1825 or fax to (413) 557-2011.

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Lt. Col. Fred Castle assumes 337th AS command

by TSgt. Sandi Michon

Col. Terrence N. Trent passed the squadron leadership baton to Lt. Col. Fred F. Castle, Jr during a change of command ceremony at the 337th Airlift Squadron on July 9.

After 25 years military service, 19 years spent at Westover, Trent accepted an Individual Mobilization Augmentee position at Kelly AFB, Texas.

Col. James P. Czekanski, wing commander, paid tribute to Trent. He highlighted aspects of Trent's 25-year career and touted his accomplishments during his tenure as squadron commander.

"I really enjoyed participating in probably the most well-known, and most active Reserve unit in the system. I hope I can continue friendships from afar," Trent said.

Trent is the manager of manufacturing systems at Loral Infrared & Imaging Systems, in Lexington, Mass. His wife, the former Gertrude Reed, attended the ceremony. They reside in



Lt. Col. Fred Castle

Billerica, Mass.

After honoring Trent, Czekanski turned his attention to Castle's qualifications for leadership. He cited Castle's 14 years at Westover and his varied positions within the flying squadron.

Castle has 27 years military service, and in 1970, he was one of the first 52 applicants selected for the new Air Force Reserve's pilot training in the C-130 aircraft. After flying C-130s for 16 years, he was one of the

first four pilots in the 337th to attend C-5 training.

Castle has Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Missouri. In civilian capacity, he is a program manager at Digital Equipment Corporation.

In his first address to the troops, Castle was warmly welcomed with applause. He affirmed their support by saying that he did not receive the assignment based on what he had done, but on "what we can do." Castle said the 337th was a top-notch outfit.

His goals for the squadron include greater reserve involvement to supplement ARTs, increased use of the simulator, and improving cockpit resource management. He is focused on all aspects of aircrew training, and sees retention as important. He anticipates greater use of TQM principles to enhance the squadron.

Castle is married to the former Maureen Donovan, and they reside in Shrewsbury with their two sons.

Jim Moran returns to Westover - as operations group commander

by Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

As a young ROTC cadet in the late 1960s, Jim Moran learned a lot about the Air Force when he took a C-97 ride at Westover Air Force Base. More than two decades later, Jim Moran is back--as a colonel and as the new operations group commander. And he's still learning.

"The perspective here is different," the former vice group commander at McGuire AFB, said. "It's not just the aircrews."

That's an outlook most Westover reservists might find surprising.

But for Moran, a C-141 pilot and an air reserve technician for 19 years, it's a different way of doing business. At McGuire--and all other active duty bases that host reserve units--aircraft support is mainly done by active duty airmen.

"What people need to realize is the hundreds of hours worked by the support people who let the planes fly," Moran said. "Here there's a greater understanding of support folks."

Saturday's June A UTA was only the colonel's second visit to Westover. His sparsely furnished Base Hangar office, with its barren desk, empty cabinets and bookshelves confirmed that fact. Moran's schedule for the next



Col. Jim Moran

few months, however, may keep things that way.

A 1969 University of Massachusetts graduate who grew up in West Concord, Mass., Moran served on active duty at McGuire AFB until 1974 when he became a full-time reservist.

As operations group commander, Moran is responsible for more than 1,000 reservists and seven base organizations.

Reservists help battle wildfires

Article and photo by SSgt. Christine Mora

Editor's note: Mora, a member of the 439th AW Public Affairs staff, was a member of a three-person AFRES PA team sent to the West Coast to provide coverage for the wildfires.

When wildfires raged throughout the southwestern U.S. in late June, more than 30 reservists and three C-130s from the 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson AFB, Colo., were among the first deployed to Southern California and Arizona to battle the early season blazes.

The Hercules aircrews from the 731st Airlift Squadron and maintenance personnel from the 302nd Maintenance Squadron joined Air National Guard units from California, North Carolina and Wyoming to aid the fire fighting effort coordinated by the U.S. Forest Service.

The C-130s were equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS), designed to quickly modify the aircraft from a military to firefighting role. The MAFFS is a reusable fire suppression system used to deploy water and fire retardant chemicals from aircraft in flight. An entire 3,000-gallon load is discharged over a fire in six to eight seconds.

The 731st crew and guard crews from 146th Airlift Wing, Channel Islands ANG, Calif., the 145th Airlift Wing, Charlotte, N.C., and the 153rd Airlift Group, Cheyenne, Wyo., formed an eight-plane fire fighting contingent staged out of Channel Islands, June 28-31. The group flew 28 sorties over a three-day period to disperse more than 100,000 gallons of fire retardant over numerous sites, including the Cleveland National Forest in San Diego County and Sequoia National Forest near Bakersfield.

The California effort, directed by the U.S. Forest Service, was supported by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. When fire conditions temporarily stabilized in California, the contingent was deployed to Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, Ariz., to stage firefighting operations there.

As aircrews attacked the flames, ground crews battled the blazing 137 degree tarmac heat as they continuously serviced the C-130s. "The heat takes its toll on the people and the aircraft," said Maj. Luke Coker, mission coordinator. While maintenance personnel repaired several heat-re-

lated problems on the Hercules, the major reminded the crews to keep hydrated and take a break if they were feeling the effects.

"If you feel like your crew or aircraft are getting tired, take yourself out of the loop for awhile," Coker said to the group at the morning briefing. "Your safety is the first priority."

The MAFFS consist of five holding tanks that fill most of the cargo area, and two large hoses that reach out of the back doors like monstrous arms. The tanks hold 3,000 gallons of fire retardant which is dumped out of hoses by air pressure in six to eight seconds.

The fire retardant is a bright red molasses-like agent composed of approximately 85% water, 11% salt and 4%

flow conditioners, coloring agent and corrosive preventatives. It inhibits the combustion potential of trees and shrubs even after it has lost its moisture and helps prevent erosion by acting as a fertilizer to promote rapid growth of fire-charred terrain. Because the retardant is corrosive, maintenance personnel had to hose down the aircraft after each flight.

While in the air, the six-person crews -- pilot, co-pilot, navigator, flight engineer and two loadmasters -- took direction from the Air

Tanker Boss and the lead plane. The Air Tanker Boss flew high above the fire sight and managed the air firefighting effort. The lead plane from the U.S. Forest Service acted as a "spotter" or guide to direct the C-130s to their drop point.

The two loadmasters man the controls of the MAFFS and as the huge arms reach out of the open cargo doors at about 200 feet, they drop the load and the bright red sash of fire retardant spews out over the fire sight.

"After we drop the load, the plane pitches upward because so much weight -- 30,000 pounds -- is lost so quickly," said SSgt. Mike Scheiderman, 731st loadmaster.

The pilots must compensate for the pitch as well as other hazards encountered on the mission. "Usually the areas we go into are very treacherous," Rawson said.

Still, the major said the firefighting mission is one of the most rewarding. "It feels like we're really doing something good for the people," he said.

By July 3, MAFFS crews had flown 77 missions over Arizona sites dropping 208,000 gallons of fire retardant.



MOUNTAIN OF FIRE -- Two large MAFFS hoses are positioned at the rear of an AFRES C-130 to help douse blazes in Arizona. Wildfires scorched thousands of acres of woodlands in several western states this summer.

439th rodeo team ready to try again another year

Article and photos by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The Patriot Wing was well represented by a hard-charging 28-member team during Rodeo '94 competition which was dominated by the 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus AFB, Okla. in C-5 events.

The Air Mobility Command competition at McChord AFB, Wa. pitted about 70 U.S. and a dozen international teams during the last week of June. Westover's aircrew, maintenance members, aerial porters and security police competed against six other Galaxy teams from Travis, Altus, Kelly and Dover AFB.

At the end, the strong Altus team took home the trophy for best C-5 wing, after winning first in aircrew, aerial refueling, ERO, combat tactics and combat rifle events. In the overall competition among C-5s, C-141s, C-130s, KC-135s and KC-10s, the 19th Air Refueling Wing, Warner Robins AFB, Ga., won the Gen. William G. Moore Award as the Best Air Mobility Wing.

Team commander Lt. Col. Dave Moore and aircraft commander Lt. Col. Sandy Whittier headed an aggressive Westover team that ran hard to the end but was held back by injuries and some close calls.

Falls and strains on the obstacle course caused painful, but not permanent injuries, for security police members MSgt. Scott Buchanan, SSgt. Steve Gilzinger and SrA. Bryan Brosseau and aerial porter SSgt. Gary Watson.

Wearing combat gear and black and green camouflage on their faces, the security police scored well in the M-16 combat rifle and 9 mm combat handgun competition at nearby Ft.



GENERAL WELCOME -- Gen. Ronald Fogleman, AMC commander, welcomes Westover's team during Rodeo '94 opening ceremonies.

Lewis. In the combat tactics event they faced an ambush and snipers in a test of their air base ground defense skills.

Judging of the aircrew began from the moment the Patriot Wing Galaxy touched down at McChord. After a six-hour cross country flight, Whittier put the wheels on the ground within seconds of the scheduled 2 p.m. arrival.

During the rodeo he and 1st Lt. Craig Peters twice flew to the Boise, Idaho area to refuel from a Selfridge KC-135 at 21,000 feet. They were evaluated for timing and accuracy at navigating a course to the air refueling initial point and transferring 10,000 pounds of fuel in a 24-minute period.

Monitoring the refueling kept the pressure on flight engineers MSgt. Gary Harting and TSgt. Nelson Serrao. It was their job to check for fuel and hydraulic leaks, while watching for overheating of the engines and other stresses caused by the aircraft commander's jockeying behind the KC-135.

On the ground, the maintenance team under Capt. Cam LeBlanc performed the impossible when a maintenance problem sidelined the originally scheduled C-5. They were given just 48 hours to bring a Galaxy up to competition standards, and succeeded by working almost around the clock.

LeBlanc had only praise for his

team and those at Westover who made it possible to take a spare plane off the line and take it to the rodeo.

"We came here with a line aircraft that had flown a day or two before and the inspectors said it was one of the best they had seen," LeBlanc said.

TSgt. Ron May, TSgt. Steven Ross and SSgt. Robert Benz took a perfect score in the refueling evaluation.

The maintenance team came in early and stayed late to earn other high scores from the perfectionist inspectors.

The aerial porters were led by SSgt. Dan Witt, a veteran of last year's Little Rock AFB rodeo. Adding experience was MSgt. Patsy DeMichael, whose license plate reads ERO 2, in recognition of two wins he scored while stationed at McGuire AFB.

The aerial porters were judged on how safely and rapidly they could upload and download a vehicle and two trailers. They worked with precision and speed, and did not draw any safety violations.

Col. James Czekanski, wing commander, accompanied the rodeo team and gave them high marks for hard work and enthusiasm.

"It's a success if you're ready to go back and do it again. Who's ready to go back and do it again?" the wing commander challenged the team. Their cheer said it all for the Patriot Wing's spirit in Rodeo '94.

Rodeo roundup

Almost everyone joined in swapping patches, pins and other memorabilia as part of the rodeo fun, but SrA. Michael Serrichio made the biggest score. When he crossed paths with Gen. Ronald Fogleman, Serrichio traded his Westover rodeo cap for the AMC commander's rodeo hat. Serrichio's rodeo souvenir came complete with four silver stars.

For the first year, Singapore (Sing Pur) sent one of its 10 C-130s to the rodeo. The Hercules literally shined on the McChord flightline. Every day aircrew members were out polishing the clearcoat that is applied to every Singapore C-130. The industrious aircrew removed scratches and marks with spray paint touch-ups. The Travis team polished the tires of their C-5 with Armor All, shined the white painted wheels and buffed the APU exhausts.

The Japanese reinforced their reputation for quality control. During an airdrop the pilot of the Japanese Self Defense Force C-130 was giggered for not following proper procedures. Most teams hesitated to appeal a judge's decision because an unsuccessful complaint resulted in a penalty. The meticulous Japanese aircrew showed up at the review with a minute-by-minute video of the cockpit during the flight. The aircrew won the reversal and finished first place as best foreign team.

The competitive spirit was on display everywhere. One team put up a sign by its tent which warned that they had come to kick the competition and chew gum. "And we're fresh out of gum." Another sign handpainted by the proud flyers of an old workhorse Hercules boasted that "When the last C-17 goes to the boneyard it will be a C-130 crew which will fly the C-17 crew home."



UPWARD MOBILITY -- SrA. Bryan Brosseau, 439th SPS journeyman, is helped over a timber obstacle during Rodeo '94. Airman Brosseau injured his knee on the obstacle course and was helped to the finish line by TSgt. John Lupien and SrA. Michael Serrichio.

Lt. Col. Archer Battista, SG deputy commander

by SSgt. Peter Hyde

Lt. Col. Archer Battista has flown all kinds of aircraft during his 26-year career, but his most recent assignment will take him to new heights as a manager.

Battista was installed as deputy commander of the 439th Support Group during the July UTA, leaving his post as Director of Intelligence for the wing.

"I've been lucky, even blessed to have been at Westover for as long as I have been and to know just about every function here," Battista said. "My primary concentration has been in operations. Operations and support mesh very nicely but I've never had the pleasure of working with the support group. As I get out to meet people, I expect to confirm what I've known all along - Westover is a great operation."

With new and varied responsibilities around the base, Battista hopes to spend some time getting to know the ropes and doesn't foresee any "sweeping changes in the immediate future."

What Battista does see however, is a renewed emphasis on Total Quality Management as a means of constant self-appraisal and improvement. His experience as a civil



Lt. Col. Archer Battista

litigation attorney in Springfield may come in handy.

"At the moment I'm a raw novice in TQM," Battista said. "But I plan not to be, and soon. We're going to support TQM in every possible way."

AGS reorganization streamlines aircraft work flow

by Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

Keeping 'em fixed and flying is easier these days. And all it took was a little reorganizing.

It's all part of Production Team Maintenance, a system that peels the layers of oversight associated with assigning specialists to work on aircraft.

"It's a real shift in management," Lt. Col. Robert A. Guillet, 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron commander said.

For those unaccustomed to the scramble of acronyms known as aircraft maintenance, making sense of the changes can be a daunting task. But for the flightline crews, the result is speed and authority.

"Instead of someone being dictated to, decisions can be made by an individual," Guillet said. "You can feel good about that."

But getting more control meant giving up control.

In April, the AGS gave up doing isochronal aircraft inspections. That's where every C-5 receives a thorough check each year. Inspections are now handled by the Equipment Maintenance Squadron. In return, the AGS acquired direct control of the propulsion, hydraulic, environmental and avionics shops, giving AGS technicians command of the work flow.

Under the former system, a crew chief in need of help would call a job controller in Hangar 7 who would then coordinate the request with the proper maintenance squadron. Now, a chief can order extra help directly, Guillet said.

Under the new directive, the AGS performs all flightline maintenance, including removing and replacing parts. Meanwhile, the EMS and the Component Repair Squadron have given up most flightline work and perform their services in the various maintenance shops.

"We should be doing all the flight-

line maintenance," Guillet added.

To ease the AGS's new task, Westover's 16 C-5s are now assigned to specific maintenance flights and the tails are color coded with a blue or red band for easy team identification. Aircraft are referred to as either Blue Bandits or Red Raiders.

The changes are fashioned after fighter squadron maintenance organizations. But where maintenance crews deploy with fighter aircraft, maintenance crews for transport aircraft--particularly the C-5--remain stationed at one base, Guillet said.

"We're experiencing the normal growing pains," he said of the new restructuring.

Nearly half of the AGS staff are air reserve technicians. Although no jobs were lost in the shuffle, Guillet said "some people went up in grade and some went down."

Overall, the entire unit grew from 205 to 280, he said.

Julie Fitzgerald, 53-year civil servant, dies

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. -- Julie P. Fitzgerald, a fixture at Westover Air Reserve Base for 26 years and a Civil Service employee for more than 53 years, died June 19 in Mercy Hospital in this city.

"Julie was certainly dedicated to her Air Force family at Westover. It was only fitting, then, that her family chose the "The Air Force Song" be played during the funeral procession at Sacred Heart Church. The Air Force and Westover, were as important to her as she was to us'" said Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of the 439th AW.

Until her death she was chief of personnel management branch and was responsible for staffing and equal opportunity employment.

"Julie was unquestionably the most dedicated and conscientious civil servant I have ever known," said Norman Lorange, civilian personnel officer.

"Her integrity, work ethic and insistence on doing things the right way, were examples for us all," he said.

"Julie was particularly proud of the many young people she helped get started in government careers. Many employees at Westover today recognize that their careers are in many ways due to the charming, helpful and responsive person that Julie was,"



Julie P. Fitzgerald

Lorange said.

Among her civil service honors were a Sustained Superior Performance Award and a Notable Achievement Award for her work at Westover.

She began her career with the Department of Defense in 1941 when she worked as a personnel clerk for the Army at the Springfield Ordnance District.

In 1946 she began helping World

War II veterans as a clerk with the Veterans Administration where she stayed until 1951. Her next stop was with the Army as a personnel clerk at the Springfield Armory where she advanced to the position of Chief of Administration.

She left when the Armory was closed in 1968 and came to Westover as a personnel technician with the Eastern Communications Squadron until 1970 when that unit left the base.

She then went to work for the USAF hospital at Westover until the Strategic Air Command left in 1974. At that time she was named chief of administration and in 1981 became chief of staffing.

A lifelong resident of Springfield, she graduated from Sacred Heart High School and was a member of its alumni association. She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a member of the Westover Club.

She leaves two brothers, John W. of Springfield and William J. of Beverly; and four sisters, Ann M. Cochrane of West Springfield, Mary A. Fitzgerald of Springfield, Peggy M. Keating of Springfield and Kathleen T. Walsh of Greenfield.

She was buried in St. Michael's Cemetery on June 22.

Retired CMSgt. Theodore H. Erhardt dies in Florida

NORTH PORT, FLA. -- CMSgt. Theodore H. Erhardt, who retired from the Air Force Reserve in 1991, died on June 23 at Fawcett Memorial Hospital in Port Charlotte.

During Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Erhardt served as services manager at Westover Air Reserve Base. He had served in many other capacities as a reservist at the base. He was also an Air Force veteran of the Korean War. Erhardt was a retired 30-year member of the Chicopee Police Department where for many years, he was the department's bomb technician. He also served in every division of the department.

Born in Holyoke, he was a longtime resident of Chicopee before moving to Florida in 1991.

He received an associate's degree in criminal justice from Holyoke Community College, his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Western New England College and his master's degree in criminal justice from American International College in Springfield.

He was a communicant at St. Mary's Church in Chicopee. He was a member of the Massachusetts Police Association, the Chicopee Police Union and the Massachusetts Retired Police and Firefighters Association.

He also belonged to the Florida Sheriffs Association, the North Port Elks Lodge 764, the Port Charlotte American Legion Post 254 and the Retired Air Force Sergeants Association.

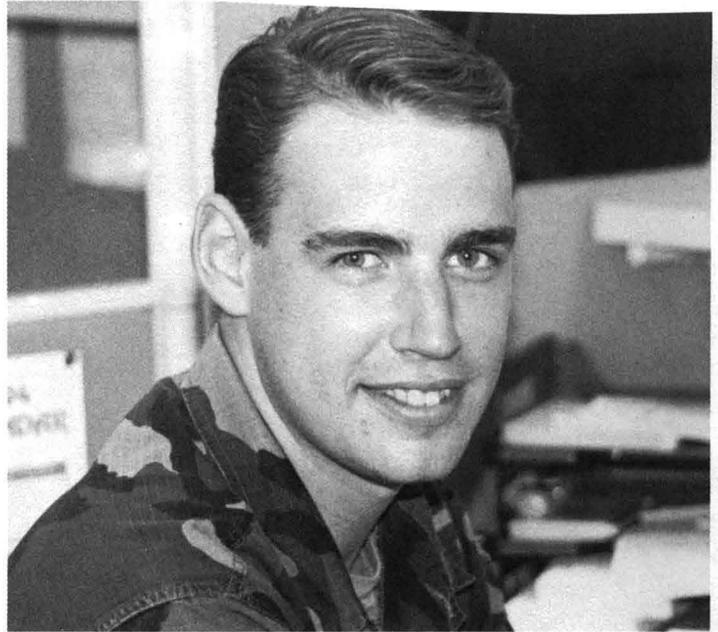
He leaves his wife, the former Jacqueline Forest, a son David A. of North Port; three daughters, Brenda M. Ahern, Joanne H. Pettico both of Chicopee and Cheryl A. Doyle of Columbus, Ga.; a twin brother Robert G. of Chicopee and six grandchildren.

The funeral was held in the Arthur J. Brunelle Funeral Home in Willimansett with burial in Notre Dame Cemetery in South Hadley.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 20 Speen St., Framingham, Mass. 01701-4688.

Patriot People

Name: Robert C. Teetsel
Rank: SrA.
Age: 21
Address: Albany, N.Y.
Unit: 439th AW/FM
Position: Accounting technician
Civilian position: HVAC mechanic
Favorite food: Pizza
Years of service: Almost one
Favorite sport: Baseball
Favorite hobby: Sports
Ideal vacation: Keys in Florida
Best way to relax: Sitting on a deck
Preferred entertainment: Sports games
Favorite hero: Jim Kelly
Favorite music: Blues Brothers
Favorite aircraft: 747
Pet peeve: Lazy people
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Invest



SSgt. Christine Mora

SrA. Robert C. Teetsel

Photo contest

The Galaxy Community Council is sponsoring a photography contest during the Open House and Airshow scheduled for Aug. 27-28.

Over \$6,000 worth of photography equipment will be offered as prizes.

The contest is open to anyone who is not a member of the Community Council. No entry fee is required but entries must be received no later than Sept. 21, 1994. Winners will be announced by Oct. 22.

All photos, no larger than 8" x 10", either black and white or color, must be taken by the contestant. Contestant's name, address and telephone number must be written on the back of each photo.

Mail entries to: Galaxy Community Council, c/o the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, 93 Church St., Chicopee, Mass. 01020.

All entries will become the property of the Galaxy Council.

Categories include the best of Snowbird formation, C-5A Galaxy, B-17 Flying Fortress, P-51 Mustang, B-25 Mitchell, Golden Knights, toddlers and general views.

Chiefs' Council awards 10 scholarships

The Westover Chiefs' Council has again this year, awarded 10 \$300 scholarships to reservists or dependents of reservists.

Those receiving awards were **Margaret M. O'Neil-Laroche**, a health science major at Elms College; **Scott Ellison Noble**, business administration at Bentley College; **Rachel C. Gates**, nursing major at Elms College; **Bonnie Aprille Loisselle**, criminal justice major at Sage Junior College; **Tara Lynn Carter**, a health admini-

stration major at Elms College; **Derrick Paladino**, aerospace engineering at the University of Florida; **Jennifer Dastoli**, who is attending Providence College; **Gina Fioroni**, a psychology major at Westfield State College, **Ruth O'Hearn**, nursing at Greenfield Community College and **Michael Ingham**, forestry at Unity College.

The awards were presented at a dinner at the Westover Club during the July A UTA.

Patriot Praises

PROMOTIONS

SMSgt Miller, John E. II
 MSgt Beebe, Kim M.
 MSgt Brooks, Chesley E.
 MSgt Gilliard, Prince E.
 MSgt Marrone, Michael J.
 MSgt Rehm, Stephen H.
 MSgt Sherwin, Jeffrey B.
 MSgt Smasal, Ricky A.
 MSgt Woodworth, Susanne M.
 TSgt Burnell, Timothy A.
 TSgt Evans, James J. Jr.
 TSgt Fairchild, Cynthia K.
 TSgt Stawasz, Robert L.
 TSgt Wilson, David F.
 TSgt Woodward, Charles F.
 SSgt Brown, Andre
 SSgt Butler, James A.
 SSgt Cawthra, Timothy D.
 SSgt Churchill, Gary C. jr.

SSgt Davis, Christopher W.
 SSgt Gauthier, Robert D.
 SSgt Groux, Michael J.
 SSgt Kociuba, Kevin M.
 SSgt Lozier, Jason K.
 SSgt Luby, Robert F.
 SSgt Mallett, Charmaine M.
 SSgt Manning, Lowell T.
 SSgt Szafko, John L. Jr.
 SSgt Walczyk, Alexander
 SSgt Woodhouse, William J.
 SrA. Asseliñ, Jennifer F.
 SrA. Ballestas, Orlando J.
 SrA. Bergman, Carol J.
 SrA. Clark, Dean M.
 SrA. Del Priore, Nunzio Jr.
 SrA. Farnsworth, Dean P.
 SrA. Flores, Merrari
 SrA. Jaczyk, Michael J.
 SrA. Marotta, Michael J.
 SrA. Montanez, Joseph W.

SrA. Nowak, Mark J.
 SrA. Obrey, Chad E.
 SrA. Tobin, Chris
 SrA. Winters, Stephen D.
 A1C Bazylewicz, Donna M.
 A1C Harrison, John Jr.
 A1C Sargood, Edward J.
 Amn Brindisi, Derek S.

ENLISTMENTS

TSgt Deffley, James J.
 SSgt Conway, Patrick M.
 SSgt Daunais, Robert A.
 SSgt Guertin, David J.
 SrA. Cole, Brian W.
 SrA. Deyette, Thomas W.
 A1C Fijal, Tadd M.
 A1C Hinkson, Marva L.
 A1C Moreland, Christoph D.
 AB Burr, Adam J.

Help for reservists, employers

If members of the 439th Airlift Wing have the feeling that Reserve activity around Westover hasn't decreased that much since the end of the Cold War, they are absolutely correct.

Reserve leaders are concerned that the current tempo of activity could impact readiness and are throwing their support to congressional efforts to help reservists and their employers.

Of interest is a tax credit for employers of Guard and Reserve members and mobilization insurance against income loss incurred by extended military duty.

Although federal law prohibits employers from discriminating against reservists, some employers are skittish about hiring reservists who could be called away at a moment's notice.

Legislation proposed by U.S. Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-Fla.) provides employers with a tax credit of 10 percent of a reservist's salary for military leave uncompensated by the employer. It also would give employers a tax credit of 50 percent of any amount paid by the employer during the military leave of the reservist employee.

During Congressional budget hearings this spring, Maj. Gen. John J. Closner, chief of the Air Force Reserve, said the issue is very real.

"Our increasing role in peacekeeping and humanitarian relief is well-illustrated by the Reserve C-130 rotation to Europe in support of Bosnian relief operations and our F-16s and A-10s flying Deny Flight missions," Closner told Congress. He said such operations "underscore the magnitude of the demands placed on our people, their families and employers" and "may soon reach a point where peacetime requirements exceed our wartime taskings."

Reservists too, are vulnerable to income loss as became painfully evident during Operation Desert Storm. These losses imposed serious hardships and affected recruiting and retention officials said.

More than two-thirds of reservists answering a survey said they would buy mobilization insurance costing \$1 per month per \$100 of coverage. Forty percent said they'd buy more than \$1,000 per month at this price.

"Making low-cost mobilization insurance available to reservists would undoubtedly help retention," Closner said.

"Because we spend so much time away from home and civilian jobs, our families and employers remain two of the most important parts of the Reserve support structure,"

Reservists and taxpayers and voters have the right to inform their Congressional representatives about their feelings on timely issues.

I hope you will agree with me when I say tax credits for employers and low-cost mobilization insurance are subjects that all reservists should vigorously support.

By Col. James P. Czekanski
Commander, 439th AW

Commentary

Briefs

Officer training seminar offered

Westover Air Reserve Base will conduct a Junior Officer Leadership Development Seminar Oct. 14 to 16.

The two and one-half day seminar gets underway Friday evening and runs through the weekend. The course will involve leadership skills which focus on areas such as communication, conflict resolution, team development and career planning.

Reserve officers O-1 through O-4 who would like more information on the seminar are asked to contact Capt. Rosemary Costa at the 74 AES (Ext. 2243) or Maj. Armand Tourangeau, Wing Quality Officer (Ext. 2273).

Reservists win quarterly awards

Three enlisted reservists were selected to receive quarterly awards by the Wing Local Awards committee.

Named Airman of the 4th Quarter was SrA. Andrew Rust of the 439th CRS. SSgt. William Jebb was picked as NCO of the quarter while MSgt. George Hogland was selected as Senior NCO for the period.

On Nov. 5, the committee will review unit nominations for Wing Airman, NCO and Senior NCO of the first quarter of FY 1995. Nominations using AF Form 1206 should be sent to Maj. Thomas B. Gray, CCE, no later than Oct. 23.

Additional information is available at Ext. 2379.

**Great New England
Air Show
Aug. 27 - 28**

Civilian medical teams take part in Medstar finale

Continued from front page

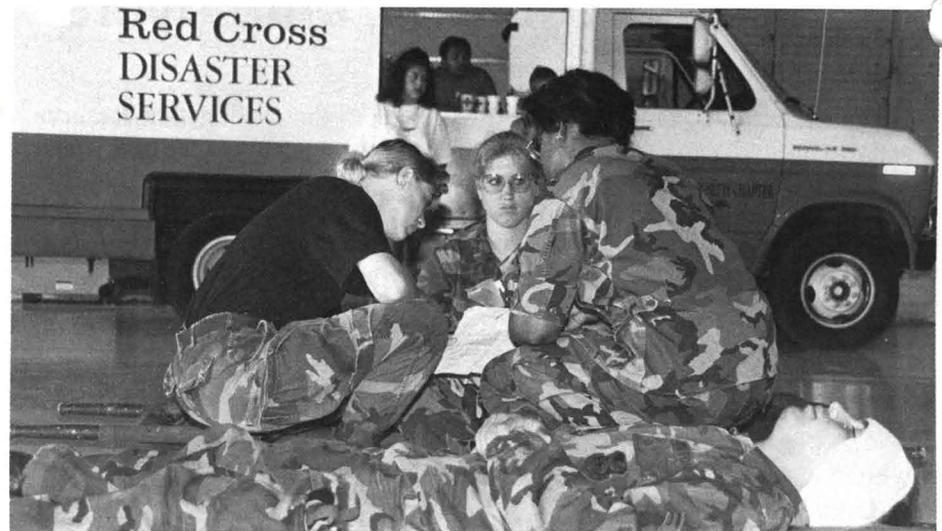
approaching aircraft.

"Usually we receive the patients from ground vehicles or helicopters that have come in from the 'front lines'," said MASF OIC Maj. Rita Mirabelli, from the 32nd Aeromedical Evacuation Group, Kelly AFB, Texas.

"The patients come in with patient evacuation tags, which give their medical status," she said. "We treat them here and await transportation to an ASF."

When the "patients" arrived at the mock ASF, medical technicians raced to the aircraft to offload the litters. The patients were immediately taken to the Assessment Area, according to TSgt. Angel Maldonado, a medical technician from the 74th AES. "At the Assessment Area, we triage the patients and dispatch them to the appropriate wards to receive additional medical care," he said.

Patriot Medstar served as a training ground not only for reservists, but for a new system as well. "After Desert Storm, we completely redesigned the aeromedical evacuation system," said Kottkamp, who is also chief of the aeromedical evacuation branch at AFRES headquarters. "We had command and control problems and essentially we reworked the support



WAITING PATIENTLY --Medics examine the patient evacuation tag before treatment in an ASF ward located in the Base Hangar. The Red Cross offered supplies and drinks to the "wounded" awaiting transportation.

structure and Unit Training Codes to remedy those problems."

The colonel, said that Patriot Medstar marked the first time all the AE elements have deployed. "The exercise was really sustainment training for mature medics who have been here for awhile," Kottkamp said.

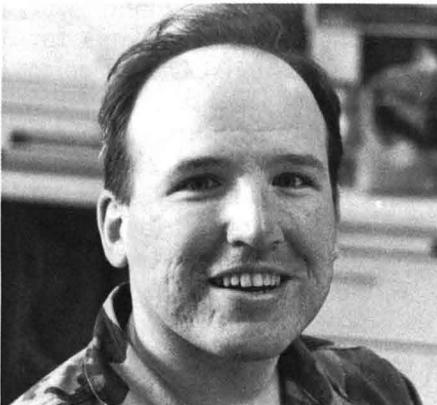
Kottkamp, a veteran of several aeromedical exercises, explained that his experience at Westover was incomparable. "We have never been to a place that wanted us more, or were more willing to help us," he said. "Never before have we experienced

such abundant support from a professional staff."

"Westover had everything we need -- it wasn't the logistical monster we usually encounter when we plan an exercise," he added.

Medstar culminated on July 17 when civilian medical teams converged on the base for a drill that included 28 emergency vehicles and approximately 100 "patients" who were transported to area hospitals. Even foreign observers were on hand to examine Westover's critical role in community disaster response.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Kenneth Tetreault of Plainfield, Conn., and 2,812 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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