

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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SSgt. Christine Mora

LONG BLUE LINE -- Pride and reflection show in the faces of recent retirees as they listen to the words of Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Sandy Van Norden. Former wing

members returned to the ellipse for one more formation to honor past members, living and dead, of the 439th Airlift Wing.

Wing offers nostalgic salute to retirees

by Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

Reserve retirees got their day in the sun, Saturday, during the May AUTA. That's a fact no matter how you look at it. Skies were cloudless and the temperature hovered at 70 degrees.

But the real warmth beamed from the faces of the former airmen as they strode across the outdoor stage to accept commendations for their years of service and the personal thanks of Westover's commanders.

What started with a screeching C-5 flyover, ended 45 minutes later with renewed friendships, socializing and refreshments at the nearby hospitality tent.

Family, friends and a formation of the entire 439th Airlift Wing in dress blues were part of a ceremony that recognized at least 40 reservists who retired within the last few years. A standard retreat and Memorial Day observance were also part of the occasion.

But the event, which took place on the ellipse, required months of planning and research.

"Since we haven't done anything like this since 1985, I suggested this during a luncheon of the Chiefs' Council and base commanders," MSgt. John Wallace Spencer recalled.

Problem was, no list of retirees existed. So Spencer, the Operations Support Squadron and Operations

Continued on page 6

Dery steps into airfield manager's slot

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Westover has a new airfield manager who brings to the job nine years experience as the assistant manager and a military record highlighted by a pair of Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Pat Dery took over as airfield manager in April, after serving for nine years as assistant to recently retired Robert Motley. A former wing lieutenant colonel, Dery won two Distinguished Flying Crosses as C-130 navigator in Vietnam. He retired as Westover's base planning officer last December.

As airfield manager, he coordinates airfield operations and maintains the airfield and its facilities, including Base Operations. Besides supporting C-5 and transient aircraft, Dery faces such diverse challenges as preparing for the August airshow and overseeing plans for a new taxiway, to be completed by 1996.

When Dery retired from the wing, as a reservist, as base planning officer

he concluded a military career that began in 1969, the year after he graduated from Pennsylvania's St. Francis College.

From 1971-73 Dery was stationed in Taiwan, flying rotation missions in Vietnam as a C-130 navigator. He earned the Distinguished Flying



Pat Dery

Cross when his Hercules was wracked by ground fire during fighting at Song Be. The citation of his second DFC recognized the hazards of aerial support for the besieged South Vietnamese Army at An Loc, where a number of C-130s were lost to ground fire.

Dery served with the 913th TAG at Willow Grove, Pa. before coming to Westover in 1975. Before becoming assistant airfield manager, he served as a navigator ART at Ni-

agara Falls and later as Westover's chief ART navigator.

In 1981 Dery, who lives in South Deerfield, earned a master's degree in forestry at the University of Vermont. He and his wife, Jane, have a son and daughter.

1993/94 AWARDS

AF awards

- » Lt. Col. Terry Flynn, Medical Readiness Officer of the Year
- » Ms. Carolann Hunt, Civilian Personnel Specialist of the Year

Unit AF awards

- » 439th SPS, Best Security Police Combat Patol - 'Rodeo 93
- » *The Patriot*, First Place, Funded Newspaper (Small) (AFRES also)

AFRES awards

- » Capt. Paul Koscak, Journalist of the Year, and Newswriting, Third Place
- » MSgt. Tom Allocco, Newswriting, Third Place
- » TSgt. Sandi Michon, Single or Stand-alone Photo, First Place and Feature Writing, Second Place
- » SSgt. Christine Mora, Single of Stand-alone Photo, Second Place
- » SrA. Mike Lyman, Picture Stories, First Place, and Photo Supporting Story, First Place
- » SSgt. Byron LaBrecche, Suggester of the Year
- » SSgt. John Lupien, 1993 Outstanding Reserve Component Security Police NCO/Airman Security Specialty
- » MSgt. Robert Driscoll, 1994 Outstanding Airman of the Year
- » Norm Lorange, Civilian Personnel Officer of the Year
- » Kathy Motley, AFRES Intermediate Program Manager/Specialist

Unit AFRES awards

- » 439th MSSQ/MSI, Outstanding Host Unit Information Management Organization
- » 439th SPS, Outstanding Security Police Unit

Unit AMC Awards

- » 439th OG/OST Outstanding Reserve Duty Intelligence Unit of the Year

Unit 22nd AF Awards

- » 439th LSSQ/LGT, ARC Base Transportation Activity of the Year

439th AW Awards

- » SrA. Shane Robitaille, Airman of the Year
- » TSgt. Robert Driscoll, NCO of the Year
- » MSgt. Doreen Bronner, Senior NCO of the Year

PATRIOT

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58th APS MSgt. Lomax is picky, picky, picky

by SSgt. Peter Hyde

If you believe that God is found in the details, you could say that MSgt. Clarence Lomax is a religious man.

But when you have responsibility for the mobility requirements of the 180 airmen assigned to the 58th Aerial Port Squadron, an eye for detail is more than just a nicety, it's a necessity.

"You have to be picky in my job," explained the 47-year-old as he sorted through the "A and B bags" that contain life-saving equipment for the airmen in his command. "There's a lot of paperwork here and you know you have to fill it out right."

The paperchase that keeps Lomax hopping has a direct effect on his unit's readiness, namely because it's his responsibility to make sure the 58th can deploy anywhere in the world. But it's also a matter of personal pride to Lomax, who cares about the comfort of his buddies.

"I make sure they have everything from shot records to weapons cards," Lomax said. "From the day these people come in here, I make sure they have what they need."

Capt. Paul A. Bailey, mobility officer for the 58th APS, credited Lomax as the driving force behind the unit's high state of readiness. During the last 10 years, Bailey said, the unit has received consistently high marks.

"When you send Lomax out on a mission, you don't have to worry about it," Bailey said. "He's one of the most capable and qualified people in the unit. The amount of dedication he shows to his job as mobility NCO is awesome."

At home in Troy, N.Y., Lomax works as a quality control technician for General Electric, a job he describes as a "different world."

In Lomax however, one finds more than just dedication to detail; his easy-going manner and smile win him the respect and admiration of co-workers as well.

"He has a lot of patience and a very laid-back manner," TSgt. Jeffrey Sauer, assistant mobility NCO for the



MSgt. Clarence Lomax

58th said. "He's very approachable and he knows exactly where to send people to get their questions answered."

Pondering his own strengths and weaknesses, Lomax noted that being able to get along with all kinds of folks is an attribute that's worth having.

"I'm good with people," Lomax said, with a broad smile. "I make friends very quickly and I guess I have the knack of getting along with people."

But his principal weakness is working with computers, a skill, he said, he'd like to develop further when time permits.

Computer literate or not, Lomax is dependable and his unit's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Stephen Gross will be the first to attest to

that.

"The things that catch you are the little details," Gross explained. "But Lomax is always thinking ahead...this guy is always going back to check the details. It doesn't get any better than that."

Unsung Patriot



Courtesy of Don Treeger and the Union News

MAKING FRIENDS -- Westover firefighter Joe Kara, dressed in his on-the-scene apparatus, visits the Pep-

permint Stick Nursery School in Chicopee to review fire safety procedures.

Westover ambassadors tell the Air Force story

by TSgt. Sandi Michon
and Monica Lindberg

The mission of the 439th AW spans the globe, but it embraces the community.

During the first four months of 1994, base personnel have made presentations to more than 500 area residents. Westover reservists serve as public ambassadors, sharing their expertise and experience.

The audience is unlimited, and the impact is immeasurable. A fire safety presentation may save a child's life one day. A historical presentation may revive precious memories, and create renewed appreciation for the sacrifice inherent to military life.

A dream may be planted in a child's heart, as he or she listens to a pilot, with globe in hand, describe the highlights of a worldwide mission. At the very least, the child may stay in

school because a career presentation has fired the imagination.

Last year, elementary school students vaulted a cultural chasm when a Westover pilot detailed his visit to a Russian classroom. As the pilot fielded questions, students discovered many similarities between themselves and their Russian counterparts, and the daily luxuries they took for granted.

Recently, Capt. Keith Guillotte, chief of safety, spoke at a career day at a local high school. Guillotte characterized the school as "rough." Waiting for his turn to speak, he was approached by students serving detentions in the same room. "I was scared, this was a tough crowd," said Guillotte. Yet, during his presentation, he touched some lives.

"Actually, it turned out to be one of the best experiences," he said. "It brings them beyond their environ-

mental expectations, to see that better school performance can open opportunities they never thought possible."

Guillotte speaks at local schools about 10 times a year, and also speaks at the Massachusetts State Police Academy and the Federal Aviation Administration.

The 337th pilot is just one of many reservists who make a difference by sharing their skills. Community requests for Westover speakers are funneled through the base public affairs office as part of the Speakers Bureau Program.

In addition to going out into the community, the base hosts tours for more than 3,500 visitors yearly from throughout New England.

Telling the Westover story and sharing our resources is a team effort. Anyone interested in participating should call (413) 557-2020 for assistance.



SEARCH AND RESCUE -- Westover's four-man team crawl blindfolded through a maze of walls and furniture to locate two "victims" in a race against the clock. Competitors and spectators alike are all smiles with the event winning time of 3:50 minutes. At left, Maj. Gen. Jim Sherrard, assistant AFRES commander, Col. James P. Czekanski, wing commander and Fire Chief Joseph E. Longworth watch the competition. Below are the victors: (from left) Kenneth Weiss, Marc Gendron, George Romvos, and Vincent Pelletier.

Milwaukee is first

Article and photos by TSgt. Sandi Michon

Westover hosted eight Air Force Reserve firefighting teams from around the country for the Fire Protections Skills Competition held May 11-12.

Westover won the search and rescue event, the toughest of the ten events, according to Robert Wilkinson, one of the three judges and fire chief of March AFB, Calif.

As the seconds burn by, blindfolded firefighters, in full gear, maneuver through a mock building to find two "victims" hidden in the interior. It took them only 3:50 minutes, of the allotted 10 minutes, to locate and remove the victims. The closest competitor was more than a minute behind.

"It was technique and teamwork that worked for us," said Ken Weiss, Westover firefighter. He explained that their team used the fire hose to keep them connected, and worked as a team to locate both bodies. As they ripped off their mask, once outside, they were sweaty, but jubilant.

Westover took first in two events, but firefighters from Billy Mitchell Field, Milwaukee took first place in the overall competition. Westover finished second.

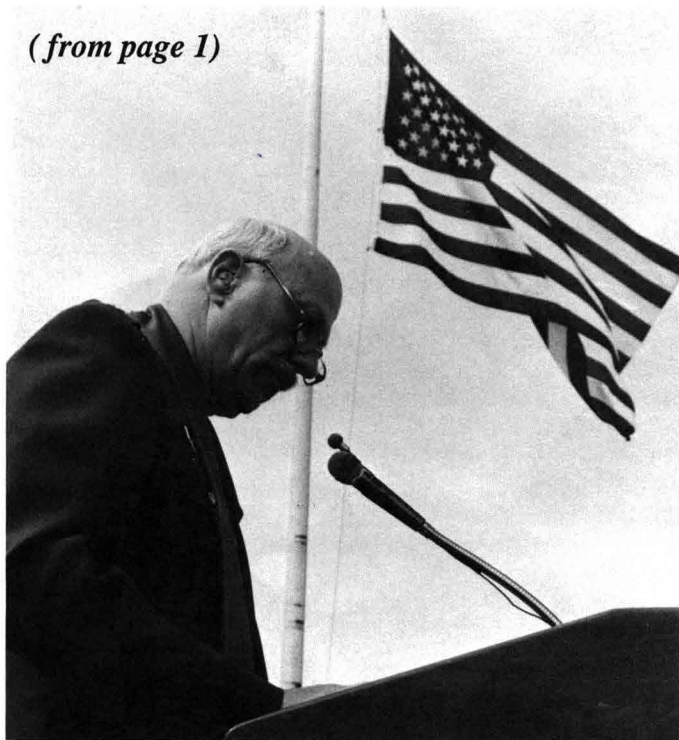
Assistant AFRES commander, Maj. Gen Jim Sherrard, was on hand for the event. He praised their efforts, and lauded Westover as a natural resource for the firefighters competition, and many other exercises and activities.





Saluting America's patriots

(from page 1)



Group first sergeant, created one. Searching through personnel files and records of base organizations, Spencer finally pieced together 199 names.

The retiree appreciation ceremony will now be a yearly event. Spencer was assisted by Capt. Chris Skomars, 439th Logistics Support Squadron executive officer.

And what are the retirees doing with the extra weekend?

Lt. Col. John Roach, former commander of the 59th Aerial Port Squadron, who lives in Peru, N.Y., a small community about 20 miles from the Canadian border, is driving throughout the country in a recreational vehicle. Roach, a retired biology teacher still keeps in touch with kids with his part time school bus driving job.

"It's a honey-do weekend now," CMSgt. James McHugh of Warwick, R.I. said. "Honey, do this and honey, do that!"

While quipping about his wife's demands, the former NCOIC of the 59th Aerial Port Squadron is still not a man of leisure. McHugh works as vice president of sales for an engineering firm.

TSgt. Eugene Landry celebrates his independence with a long, flowing beard. The robust former 439th Morale Recreation and Welfare Squadron manager retired in 1993 and now lives in Willimansett. He also retired from Pratt and Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, Conn., after 32 years of service.

PRIDE AND HONOR --

Westover reservists stand in formation at a retreat ceremony to honor retirees and to remember fallen patriots (top). At left, Chaplain, (Lt. Col.) Sandy Van Norden delivers a benediction. Kevin Holding, 5, of Wakefield, Mass. admires his grandfather's medal collection in the bottom right photo. CMSgt. Joe Duffy, of Wilmington, Mass., retired from the 439th EMS in 1992 after 38 years military service.

(Top photo by TSgt. Don Talbot)

(Other photos by TSgt. Sandi Michon)



Patriot Wing C-5 shuttles food to Croatia

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

A Patriot Wing aircrew delivered 260 tons of food to Croatia to keep the U.N. lifeline flowing to besieged Bosnian city of Sarajevo.

Moslems, cut off in Sarajevo by surrounding Serbian forces, are eating packaged meals flown to the area by a Westover Galaxy under aircraft commander Lt. Col. Sandy Whittier. The 11-member aircrew made three trips from Ramstein AB, Germany, to the international airport at Split on Croatia's Adriatic coast during the last week of April.

Air Force C-130s, flown by active duty, reserve and air guard crews as part of Operation Provide Promise, are shuttling food from Germany to Split to Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia.

The orders to build up the food stocks in Split were an unexpected diversion for the Patriot Wing aircrew. They were notified of the special mission shortly before departing from Westover to Saudi Arabia. Humanitarian flights in Croatia and Bosnia had been temporarily suspended earlier in the month as a precaution following U.S. air strikes on Serbian positions around Gorazde.

Those in Whittier's aircrew were pilots Capt. Brian Shipman and 1st Lt. Michael Smith; flight engineers MSgt. Henry Olearcek, TSgt. Larry Brown and SSgt. Wayne Rehnberg; loadmasters MSgt. Robert Karrasch, TSgt. Bob Motley and TSgt. Daniel Giddinge; and crew chiefs MSgt. Richard Coda and SSgt. Gregory Dill.

They delivered 10,000-pound pallets of Humanitarian Daily Rations, similar to the popular "meal ready to eat." Packaged 10 meals to a box, HDRs were developed by the Pentagon for worldwide food relief.

Due to the humanitarian nature of the mission, the aircrew was cleared to fly over Austria, which normally prohibits military overflights. Each round-trip of about six hours duration was evenly divided between flying and ground time at the Split airport.

At Split it was "like old home week," Whittier said, when they met Maj. Wayne Petitto, formerly of the 439th ALCF, who is commanding the Air Force ALCE team at the airport.

Shell holes were visible on the control tower from when the international airport was hit during earlier fighting between Croats and Serbs. However, Split is a resort city on the Adriatic Sea far enough away from the fighting to be largely unscathed.

Aircrew members had time for a fast shopping trip to a marketplace crowded with open stalls selling food, clothes and other items.

"Split looks like a modern European city. The roads were busy with cars and the harbor was filled with dinghies and fishing boats," Shipman said.

The most obvious signs of war were the helicopters with U.N. markings and Canadian soldiers wearing peacekeeper blue berets who were passing through to



Combat Camera photo by SSgt. Chris Putman

SPECIAL DELIVERY -- MSgt. Henry Olearcek, 337th AS engineer, observes the download of 18 pallets of HDR's for Operation Provide Promise.

Bosnia. Two French C-130s, a Croatian Airlines 737 and a Soviet aircraft with U.N. markings were on the flightline. Also participating in the Sarajevo airlifts are the British RAF and German and Belgian air forces.

Westover's aircrew was accompanied by Air Combat Camera Service photo and video teams from Rhein-Main AB, Germany. Film of the C-5 mission was delivered to Naples, Italy for review by the Operation Provide Promise Bosnian airlift joint task force and to the Pentagon to brief the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The mission was Westover's second to the area since the outbreak of ethnic fighting between Serbs, Croats and Moslems. In November, 1992, a C-5 aircrew under aircraft commander Lt. Col. Jay Lacklen delivered food, medical supplies and U.N. vehicles from Incirlik, Turkey to Zagreb, Croatia.

Employers of Westover Reservists will have the opportunity to visit the base and fly in a C-5A this summer.

On Saturday of the July UTA, reservists assigned to the 439th Operations Group, the 439th Medical Group and Wing Headquarters are encouraged to invite their bosses to the base. The 439th Support Group and the 439th Logistics Group will have their day on Saturday of the September UTA.

Reservists are asked to accompany their employer to a brief registration session at the 337th auditorium in the base hangar at 8:30 a.m. After a welcome by Col. James P. Czekanski, wing commander, bosses of Operations Group members will board a C-5 for an orientation flight that will last approximately two hours.

At the same time, Medical Group and Headquarters reservists may invite their bosses to their work stations. They will fly in the afternoon. Reservists are also asked to invite their bosses to lunch, either at the dining hall or the Westover club. The day's activities for employers will end at 4 p.m.

Reservists should fill out the registration form that appears on this page and return it to the Public Affairs Office by June 15.

Reservists scheduled for the September UTA must return the form by Aug. 20.

Boss day sign up

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 (July 9) _____ "B" UTA (July 23) _____

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.

For more information: (413) 557-3500.

Personal Data Privacy Act 1974 (U.S. C. 552a)

LGS cascade class puts TQM training into practice

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The first five-day course in Quality Management is already producing results. That's because students were required to devise a project aimed at improving communications in the 439th Logistics Support Squadron.

But for many, Quality Management is little more than theory without any apparent application. Westover's instructors are out to dispel that notion.

"We judge the success of Quality Training by how well they [students] can apply what they learn," SMSgt Kathleen Wood, 439th LSS training NCO said. "When they leave the course, they work on a project that's meaningful for their squadron."

That's central to Westover's program.

Wood and 15 other airmen formed a team with the encouragement of Wing Commander Col. James Czekanski

to develop a course in quality management that was short on theory and long on solving real world problems.

The course gives students the authority--and the responsibility--to make decisions. It also gives them a different perspective on management.

"When you are involved in something, you see that making changes is not as easy as you think," MSgt. Paul Gillis, a storage and distribution supervisor for the 439th LSS and a class participant, said. "It makes you appreciate management."

Capt. Christopher Skomars, the 439th LSS quality and executive officer agreed. Oftentimes, he said, subordinates are skeptical about offering management suggestions for change.

But with plans for 22 more classes, that attitude will hopefully change. Wood said those classes are expected to result in 88 projects that will benefit base squadrons.

23rd APSS works with Navy and Air Force in Guam

by TSgt. Dennis Smith
23rd APSS contributor
Photos by Sgt. Anthony Adade

Thirty-nine members of the 23rd Aeromedical Patient Squadron, a geographically-separated unit of the 439th AW, deployed to Guam.

The Feb. 27 - March 13 mission, challenged the ability of DoD medical units to set up and operate a 100-bed Aeromedical Staging Facility (ASF). An ASF serves as a medical holding center during air evacuation.

Medical logistics, pharmacy, mental health, medical administration, and dietary, were among the specialized clinics supported by the 23rd APSS.

Linking with Navy

The Westover unit joined forces with personnel from the U.S. Naval Hospital in Guam, the largest Naval facility outside the continental U.S. "The experience was invaluable," CMSgt. George Milroy, 23rd APSS chief of medical services, said. The Navy's different rank structure and specific terminology made training somewhat difficult, Milroy said, but he commended their consistent support throughout the mission.

Active duty Air Force

Medical administrators and mental health personnel from the 23rd APSS also supported their active duty Air Force counterparts at the 633rd Medical Group Clinic at Anderson AFB.

"The personnel at Anderson AFB clinic went the extra mile to help us achieve our mission," Milroy said.

During duty hours, reservists learned to navigate through the jungle as part of their training. After hours, reservists enjoyed navigating through many of Guam's tourist attractions.

"When you do so much in a place like Guam, it provides a boost to morale by giving the feeling of accomplishment and by providing a positive experience in an exotic environment," Col. Joseph Lorenzetti, 23rd APSS commander said. "For many, it is part of the reason they are in the Reserve."



ALL ABOARD – Reservists from the 23rd APSS enjoy many firsts during their deployment to Guam. Above, reservists board a merchant ship for a tour, and below, Sgt. Patricia A. Collins (right), and TSgt. Aston B. Pyne use a compass to navigate through a jungle area.



UTA schedule for fiscal year 1995

| | "A" | "B" | | "A" | "B" |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| Oct. | 1 - 2 | 22-23 | April | 1 - 2 | 15-16 |
| Nov. | 5 - 6 | 19-20 | May | 6 - 7 | 20-21 |
| Dec. | 3 - 4 | 17-18 | June | 3 - 4 | 17-18 |
| Jan. | 7 - 8 | 21-22 | July | 8 - 9 | 22-23 |
| Feb. | 4 - 5 | 25-26 | Aug. | 5 - 6 | 19-20 |
| March | 4 - 5 | 18-19 | Sept. | 9 - 10 | 23-24 |

Patriot People

Name: John F. Rowan-Stern
Rank: MSgt.
Age: 34
Address: Shutesbury, Mass.
Unit: 439-EMS/LGMI
Position: Inspection Branch Chief
Civilian position: ART
Favorite food: Cajun food
Years of service: 12
Favorite sport: Hiking
Favorite hobby: Radio-controlled aircraft
Ideal vacation: Three weeks in Alaska
Best way to relax: Canoeing
Preferred entertainment: Movies
Favorite celebrity: John Wayne/Cindy Crawford
Favorite music: All except opera
Favorite book: *Red Storm Rising*
Favorite color: Blue
Favorite car: 1967 Corvette
Pet peeve: Ignorant people with no common sense
Best thing about Westover: Dedicated people
Worst thing about Westover: A.M. smell from Granby dump



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

MSgt. John F. Rowan-Stern

Six receive CCAF degrees

by Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

Six reservists received associate degrees from the Community College of the Air Force, the base education office announced.

With more than 350,000 students, the school is the nation's largest community college. The regionally accredited institution enables enlisted airmen to advance their careers through independent study in five vocational subjects: aircraft and missile maintenance, electronics and telecommunications, allied health, management and logistics and public and support services.

Since it was established by the Air Force in 1972, more than one million airmen have earned associate degrees from the college. Last year alone, at least 12,000 degrees were granted.

The CCAF, which is administratively located at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., consists of 120 affiliated Air Force schools at 200 sites throughout the world.

Reservists interested in attending the CCAF should visit the base education office Saturday and Sunday during the A UTA or Saturday during the B UTA.

The May graduates and their majors are as follows:

TSgt. James M McKelligan, flight engineering;
 MSgt. Nicholas S. Demko Sr., fire science; TSgt. Gary L. Matteson, aircraft systems maintenance technology;
 SSgt. Angel Santana, allied health sciences; SSgt. Deborah A. Lau, personnel administration; and TSgt. Airton D. Da Paixao, flight engineering.

Patriot Praises

PROMOTIONS

SMSgt Cormier, Howard F.
 SMSgt Fassbender, Thomas F. Jr.
 SMSgt Flynn, Arthur F. Jr.
 SMSgt Longfield, Faith E.
 SMSgt Tate, Wade W.
 MSgt Demarco, Richard J.
 MSgt Kazalski, Robert J.
 MSgt McGowan, Mark J.
 MSgt Reed, Scott E.
 MSgt Seney, Kristine M.
 MSgt Vezina, Tammy H.
 TSgt Benns, Robert W. Jr.
 TSgt Caza, Thomas E.
 TSgt Devincenzo, Donald D.
 TSgt Flynn, Valli Jo
 TSgt Geissler, Eric H.
 TSgt LaPointe, Forrest D.
 TSgt Major, Daniel J.
 TSgt Terry, Vernon C.
 SSgt Abert, Timothy J.
 SSgt Aselton, Jonathan A.
 SSgt Cook, Darin B.
 SSgt Desmarais, Douglas A.
 SSgt Eddy, David J.
 SSgt Evers, Richard C.
 SSgt Gablaski, Charles E.
 SSgt Howe, Carol M.
 SSgt Kroyman, Kevin E.
 SSgt Lasky, Todd J.
 SSgt Layden, Kevin M.
 SSgt Pezanetti, Edward D.
 SSgt Pitts, Thomas E. Jr.
 SSgt Soucy, Jeanette
 SSgt Wheelock, Raenita A.
 SSgt Wood, Patrick J.
 SSgt Wyman, David J.
 SSgt Zawistowski, Alan T.

SrA Acker, James W.
 SrA Beaudry, Keith M.
 SrA Dayter, Dawn M.
 SrA Flynn, James M.
 SrA Leary, Scott M.
 SrA Pisano, Richard P.
 SrA Sklarsi, Eric J.
 SrA Teetsel, Robert C.
 SrA Uccello, Marc A. Jr.
 A1C Rudert, Steven C.

ENLISTMENTS

SSgt Bright, Robert J.
 SSgt Gowett, Nancy A.
 SSgt Greer, Mayann V.
 SSgt Martinez, Ceferino A.
 SrA Cormier, Michael J.
 SrA Russell, Kenneth M.
 A1C Combs, Robert S. Jr.
 A1C Hendrickson, David K.

BLOOD DRIVE

**Sunday
June 5**

7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Base Hangar

Those 101 days are CRITICAL

by SSgt. Peter Hyde

My father once told me that the quickest way to get to the emergency room in any town was to put the wrong tool in the hands of an idiot. He was right. I recently took a quick trip to the emergency room with a ratchet screwdriver embedded in my right palm.

Fortunately, the injury wasn't that serious and the doctor told me I'd recover well enough to play the piano, which was great because I couldn't play it before.

Kidding aside, the warning I got from my father was clear: "Anything can hurt you if you use it wrong." That goes for everything from alcohol to woodchippers.

If serious injuries are born of accidents, you can be pretty sure that carelessness is the midwife. Anyone who has been seriously injured knows how much that moment of inattention really costs.

During the past three years, the Air Force has lost 100 people to ground accidents, both on- and off-base. A higher-than-normal percentage of airmen were lost in motor vehicle crashes. Furthermore, Air Force officials are reporting a higher on-duty fatality rate for the 1994 fiscal year.

Editorial

Statistically, July and August are the two most hazardous months of the year. Why? Because people are busy celebrating the summer and the holidays. Everything is just a little bit easier during the summer—including the chances of getting hurt.

For the next "101 Critical Days," airmen and their supervisors must make an extra effort to ensure that the celebration of summer doesn't become a period of mourning for the dead or injured. The 101 days commemorate the loss of all those airmen.

Summer is a time for fun, but it's also a time for awareness. Keep a sharp lookout for danger and you may avoid a sharp experience with the wrong tool—that is, unless you want to play the piano.

Commentary: Safety first

By Maj Gen John J. Closner
Chief of Air Force Reserve

There are indicators throughout the Air Force, including the Air Force Reserve, that maintenance may be slipping.

We see this in reduced aircraft mission capable and increased cannibalization rates.

The flying safety and maintenance record of the Air Force Reserve has been excellent, but with reduced

funding we need to guard against complacency. We have made a number of organizational and procedural changes in the past two years that affect flight line maintenance, but our strategy consciously addressed the goal of no compromise in safety.

Although resources and manpower continue to decline, operations have not. Flight lines and maintenance buildings are not places for shortcuts. Be careful, be thorough, and above all, be safe.

Briefs

Slate of officers elected by ROA

Lt. Col. Dave Moore, a C-5 pilot assigned to the 337th Airlift Squadron was unanimously elected president of the Westover Chapter of the Retired Officers Association during the May UTA.

Other officers elected were 1st Lt. John Ryan, vice president; Maj. Armand Tourangeau, ART officer at large; Capt. Andy Hoffman, non-ART officer at large; 1st. Lt. Marie Dufault, secretary and 1st. Lt. Ed Miller, treasurer.

Awards committee honors 3 airmen

The 439th Airlift Wing Local Awards Committee has honored three Reservists.

SrA Michael C. Serrichio, of the 639th SPF was named Airman of the third quarter; TSgt. Michael A. Edwards of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron is NCO of the quarter while MSgt. Mark G. Johnson of the 74th AES is senior NCO of the quarter.

Nominations for the next quarter may be submitted to Maj. Tom Gray, wing executive officer, in wing headquarters.

Four Seasons Store lists new hours

In order to offer better quality service to customers, the base Four Season Store is operating under new hours for the summer season.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, the store will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Fridays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The store is closed on Tuesdays.

Exotic aircraft signing up for Open House

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Some of the most exotic aircraft in the Air Force inventory will be displayed during the Westover Air Reserve Base open house, scheduled for Aug. 27-28.

"We have confirmation that a U-2 will be here again" Col. Gale French, who is operations chief for the show, said.

"We also have been told we can expect a B-52 to fly as well as a static display, an F-14 demonstration plane, an F-15 demo an Apache helicopter demonstrator and an F-16 demonstration team."

He also expects several aircraft from foreign countries, in addition to the Canadian Snowbirds, the show's main attraction.

"The Germans have promised they will be bringing two Tornados as well as a pair of F-4s from Goose Bay, Labrador, where they are part of a NATO unit stationed there."

The Canadians will also send their very popular F-18 demonstration jet, French has been assured. Although he has not received verification yet, a C-130 Hercules from the Royal Australian Air Force is expected to make its biennial visit to Westover.

"We have sent invitations out for an F-117 stealth fighter, a B-1, a B-2 and



TSgt. Sandi Michon

CROWDED RAMP -- Thousands of airplane buffs crowd around rows of static aircraft during the 1992 air show and open house. Similar crowds are expected at this year's event scheduled for Aug. 27 - 28.

a Harrier," he said. "But as yet, we have not received word. Hopefully, they will all be here."

Another special attraction accepting Westover's invitation is the Red Devils, the United Kingdom's parachute team, who along with the Army's Golden Knights will thrill the crowds with their daring jumps.

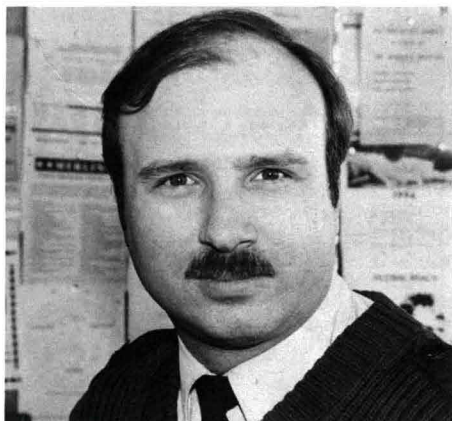
The Galaxy Community Council is negotiating with the Warbirds to once again bring a number of World War II-vintage aircraft to the show.

Lt. Col. Forrest Price, the open house coordinator, expects record crowds again this year, despite the change from a three to two-day show.

"Over the past several years, the people living in the Northeast have shown their appreciation by coming here in huge numbers," Price said. "I'm certain that we will have a top-notch show this year and will again have fantastic crowds".

Gates will open at 9 a.m. each day and close at 5 p.m. he said.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. Richard J. Charest of Plantsville, Conn., and 2,797 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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