

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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Bronze Stars shine on 74th AES members

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Dodging bullets and treating wounded U.N. soldiers for two months is not your average summer vacation story, but it's one SSgt. Jason Harder told when he returned to college last fall.

One year later, the 26-year-old medical technician has another story to tell. He just won the Bronze Star.

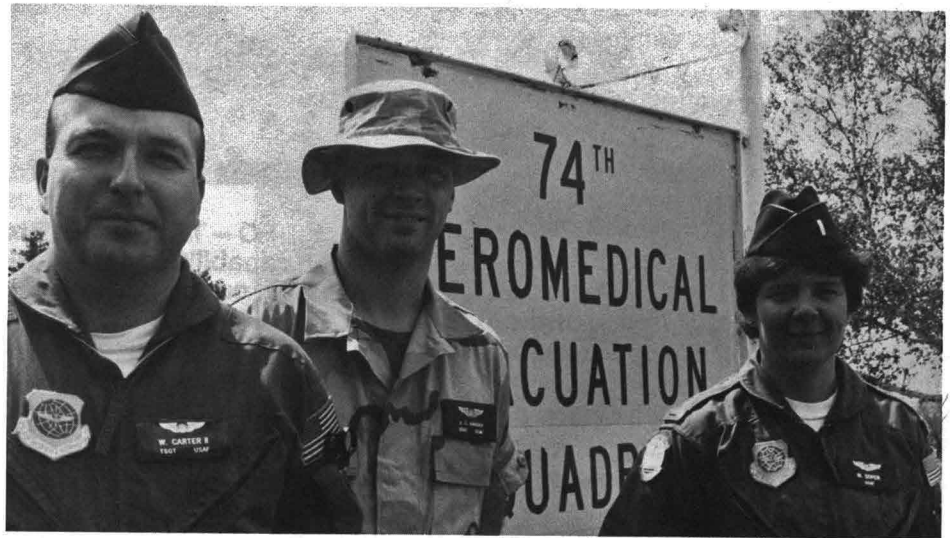
Harder and two fellow 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron medics, Capt. Martha Soper, a flight nurse, and TSgt. William Carter, a medical technician, were awarded the Bronze Star during the November UTA for their service last year flying aeromedical evacuation missions throughout Africa during Operation Restore Hope.

They treated injured soldiers who were part of the U.N. peacekeeping force attacked by gunmen believed to be under the control of fugitive Somali warlord Mohammed Farrah Aidid.

The trio deployed to Cairo West, Egypt and Mogadishu, Somalia from May until July. Although they began their tour after the United States had completed withdrawal of all but a small contingency of forces, fighting flared up again and they were continually caught in the crossfire.

"Shortly after Aidid forces attacked a Pakistani unit, I was tasked to fly aeromedical evacuation missions between Somalia and Pakistan," Harder said. "During an eight-hour span loading wounded in Somalia, we were under constant gunfire."

While Harder took part in the aeromedical evacuation missions, Carter and Soper cared for the



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

HEROES – Three 74th AES members, TSgt. William Carter, SSgt. Jason Harder, and Capt. Martha Soper (left to right), earn the Bronze Star for their service in Operation Restore Hope.

wounded at the U.N. compound in Mogadishu, which took particularly heavy gunfire during the attack on the Pakistanis. The Pakistani raid evolved into Operation Show of Force and gunfire became a daily and nightly occurrence.

The medics worked around the clock in U.N. field hospitals and Mobile Air Staging Facilities, as well as

flying aeromedical evacuation missions throughout the continent.

"I was guarding the Mobile Air Staging Facility during a fire fight one night when five men burst through the door," Harder said "I thought they were Somali troops attacking the tent, but it turned out to be our own secu-

Continued on page 9

Operation Southern Watch; Westover gets early call

When Saddam Hussein once again started rattling his sabers, in early October, the 439th Airlift Wing was one of the first Reserve units to be called into action.

On Oct. 11, a 337th crew consisting of 11 reservists, left Westover for Hunter Army Air Field, Ft. Stewart, Ga., to pick up equipment and troops. The aircraft then returned to Westover, took on fuel and a fresh crew, and headed for Europe in support of Operation Southern Watch.

Training technology nets AFRES savings

by TSgt. Sandi Michon

Mr. Spacely doesn't appear on the screen, but the futuristic images from The Jetsons are already a reality at Westover.

The newest high-tech innovation at Base Training is the AFRES Teletraining Network (TNET), and it has huge cost-saving potential.

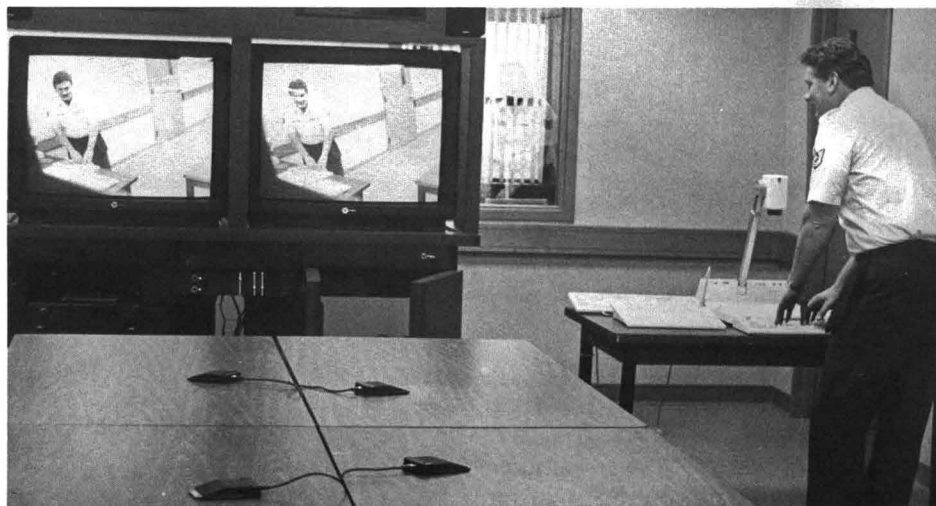
If one picture is worth a thousand words, TNET speaks volumes.

The system literally puts visual and audio interaction with 46 AFRES units a fingertip away, which proliferates the possibilities for all aspects of training and conference needs.

"The system is limited only by your imagination," said Chief of Training, MSgt. Mike Dutton as he raved about application possibilities.

The TNET system is an interactive two-way audio, two-way video satellite-based teletraining/teleconferencing network. It can communicate worldwide, is available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. The system provides fully interactive transmission between a host site and one remote site. Users can see and hear each other, and also utilize a selection of system visual aids. Up to 16 units can participate simultaneously.

Located in newly-renovated Bldg. 1875, the indoor equipment of TNET consists of two 35-inch color monitors, speakers, camcorders, control systems, microphones, sound mixers



SSgt. Christine Mora

VIRTUAL VIDEO – TSgt. Kevin Brown, base training manager, shows the dual screen capabilities of the TNET which can view graphics, slides, the host base site, or any participating speaker.

and a dedicated computer system complete with a graphics tablet. In the near future, another computer system will allow any Windows-compatible presentation program to interact with TNET.

The TNET cameras can capture action in any part of the conference room, and touch microphones around the 30-foot table allow input from any member in attendance.

"Many people are initially apprehensive about the prospect of being heard and seen from a remote site," said TSgt. Kevin Brown, base training manager. "But I've never seen an unproductive meeting yet."

The system can be used from a host site to broadcast information to many remote sites, or all sites can interchange information. TNET was recently utilized for records management training for Information Management section. Four bases participated in the two-day class, with about 20 in each class.

"The class was very productive, and a rough estimate of the TDY cost for at least 60 people is a substantial savings," Brown said.

The TNET system is leased to AFRES through Oklahoma University in conjunction with the U.S. Army. The main objective of TNET is to save money. TNET usage is logged to maintain cost saving figures, and AFRES plans to incorporate more training and education using TNET.

Westover received TNET in June and 40 base personnel are trained as TNET facilitators. "The system is available to any base unit," stressed Dutton. Base training will provide necessary assistance to potential TNET users.

Anyone wishing to use TNET should contact Base Training Office at Ext. 3441 or 3439. Training personnel negotiates scheduling with AFRES. Conferences require five days notice and training sessions require 30-day notice.

PATRIOT

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439th AW Commander

Col. James P. Czekanski

Chief of Public Affairs

Gordon A. Newell

Wing Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Paul Koscak

Public Affairs Specialist

Monica M. Lindberg

Editor/NCOIC

MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Deputy NCOIC/Media Relations

MSgt. Tom Allocco

Deputy NCOIC/Assistant Editor

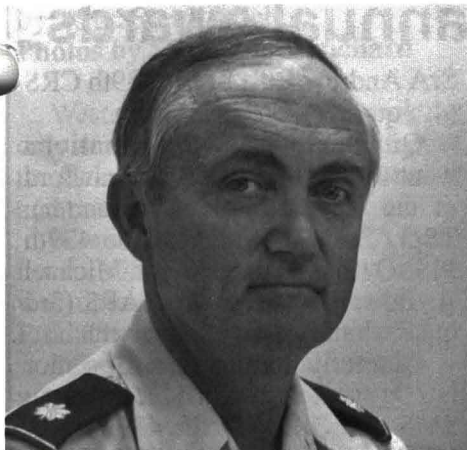
TSgt. Sandra M. Michon

Staff

SSgt. Vincent Blanchard

SSgt. Peter Hyde

SSgt. Christine Mora



Col. Gale French

Former Kolligian winner, Col. Gale French retires

by MSgt. Tom
Allocco

There was no shortage of stories to be told when Col. Gale French gathered with a lifetime of friends to celebrate his retirement at the Chateau Provost, in Chicopee, in September. The common theme was that the wing was losing a man who possesses the cool competence which marks the best kind of leadership.

French's retirement concluded almost a quarter-century as a Westover and Hanscom AFB pilot. His reserve career spanned the era from the days when active duty SAC B-52s were here and 439th TAW reservists flew C-123 Providers. During the last two years he commanded the Operations Support Squadron and also served as a C-5 flight examiner and current operations officer.

As long as men and women fly at Westover, French will be remembered for the remarkable feat of bringing home a C-123 that was being consumed by a fuel fire. On a routine flight at 5,500 feet over the Quabbin Reservoir the aircraft lost an engine and a split fuel line poured out gas which produced dense black smoke and fast spreading flames.

French made history when he put his head out the window for air and visibility to pilot the burning wreck from a populated area back to the Westover runway without injury to his crew. More than 30 percent of the aircraft was consumed by fire before the crew escaped.

His response to the crisis earned French the 1977 Koren Kolligian Trophy which recognizes the aircrew member who most successfully copes with an inflight emergency. Today the nose of the C-123 is on display at The Warehouse Restaurant in Holyoke.

Fellow pilot Lt. Col. David Moore rated French's performance as "the most spectacular piece of airmanship that I know of ever at Westover. It was nothing but a ball of fire. To think of someone flying it...unbelievable."

A native of Manchester, N.H., French graduated from Governor Dummer Academy and was commissioned as an AFROTC graduate of the University of New Hampshire in 1962. He served as a weapons officer before earning his pilot's wings and flying nuclear armed F-4 Phantoms in Germany and England from 1966 to 1970.

In 1970 French joined the reserve 901st TAG as a



DAYS OF GLORY -- In 1977, then Maj. Gale French receives the Koren Kolligian Trophy for successfully coping with an inflight emergency. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Lew Allen Jr. made the presentation.

C-124 Globemaster pilot at Hanscom before the unit transferred here.

From 1973 to 1978 he served as the wing's flying safety officer and then as operations officer until 1984. For eight years he was chief of safety, including the period of the Desert Shield/Storm air bridge, before taking command of the Operations Support Squadron.

In 1990, 1992 and 1994 French juggled the myriad details from attending the International Council of Air Shows convention to getting Pentagon approval necessary to assemble the Great New England Airshows. He became "Mr. Airshow" to those who appreciated one of the great success stories of the wing which brought hundreds of thousands of people here.

At his retirement dinner, he told friends, "we aircrew members often say 'we do it for the stories'. ...we are a reserve family and that is where our main strength lies."

To sum up his philosophy informally, he later said, "you take care of the boys and the boys will take care of you."

His only regret was that the 32 years from second lieutenant at Tyndall AFB to squadron commander went too fast.

Three enlisted reservists receive annual awards

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

The Wing Local Awards Committee has selected three enlisted reservists as top Airman, NCO and Senior NCO honors for 1994.

SrA Michael C. Serrichio of the 639th Security Police Flight has captured top Airman honors, SSgt. William R. Jebb of the 439th Security Police Squadron was named top NCO and SMSgt. Michael A. Major of the 439th Component Repair Squadron was selected as the top senior NCO.

"This is an excellent way for the base leadership to recognize outstanding enlisted reservists," said Maj. Thomas B. Gray, 439th AW executive officer and program

Airman of the Year
SrA. Michael A. Serrichio

NCO of the Year
SSgt. William R. Jeff

Senior NCO of the Year
SMSgt. Michael Major

monitor. "This is an easy way to honor those who truly deserve it."

Quarterly airman nominations went to SrA Dean J. Vilella of the 439th CRS (1st quarter); SrA Kerry E. Balbirona of the 439th CRS (2nd quarter), Serrichio (3rd quarter) and

SrA Andrew Rust of the 439th CRS (4th quarter).

Quarterly NCO nominations went to TSgt. Howard A Crawford of the USAF Clinic (1st quarter); TSgt. Tammy Vezina of the 439th MSSQ (2nd quarter); TSgt. Michael A. Edwards of the 42nd APS (3rd quarter) and Jebb (4th quarter).

Quarterly nominations for senior NCOs went to Major (1st quarter); SMS Ted Gilfoy of the 439th CRS (2nd quarter); MSgt. Mark G. Johnson of the 74th AES (3rd quarter) and MSgt. George L. Hoagland of the 439th SPS (4th quarter).

For further information on the awards program, call Maj. Thomas B. Gray, CCE, at Ext. 3588.

Government credit cards replace travel advance system

by SSgt. Peter Hyde

In the 1960s and '70s, Karl Malden warned American Express credit cardholders not to "leave home without it." This year, Uncle Sam will be issuing the same warning, but to active duty and reserve members of the armed forces who will use the government sponsored credit cards in lieu of cash advances.

On Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year, DoD officials swapped plastic for cash as part of an effort to streamline travel and expense claims, according to Daniel J. McCarthy disbursing agent at Westover ARB.

"Cash is a high-risk item and the Air Force wanted to reduce the amount of cash on hand at all facilities," McCarthy said. "As of Oct. 1, 1994, when a member goes TDY on a per diem status, rather than coming to the finance office to draw a cash advance, he or she will use the government ATM program for cash withdrawals to cover meals and incidental expenses."

Now, U.S. government travelers on official business will be able to cover costs of up to \$1,000 during a seven-day period, with a daily maximum of \$500, all without drawing a cash advance. But there are dangers in becoming over confident with the card. The key to using the card successfully, McCarthy warned, is heeding the words "For Official Government Business Only."

"The American Express government charge card is to be used for official travel only," McCarthy said. "It's only to be used for major charges such as billeting, contract quarters, or an authorized rental car. It is not to be used for personal reasons."

McCarthy explained that servicemembers will submit a travel voucher for reimbursement of the costs charged to

the card and will be held accountable for paying the monthly bill.

"The way the system works, a person goes TDY, incurs charges on the card and later files a settlement travel voucher with us," McCarthy said. "In the meantime, they receive a bill from American Express. We reimburse the member via Direct Deposit, and then he or she takes that money to reimburse American Express."

Servicemembers should be aware that for every \$100 withdrawn from an ATM, American Express tacks on \$2.75 or 2.75 percent of the total. Those costs are borne by the government if the money is spent on government business. However, if only \$50 of that \$100 is reimbursable, the member pays 2.75 percent interest on the remaining \$50.

"The traveller has to submit the original and a copy of his ATM receipt," McCarthy said. "Then he has to figure 2.75 percent of the total withdrawal and include that figure in the reimbursable expenses portion of the travel claim."

McCarthy said that monthly expenses are carefully reviewed for spending that falls outside the usage guidelines and individual servicemembers will be on the hook for non-reimbursable costs. Thus far the only penalty for unofficial use of the card is suspension from the program, but the financial baggage misuse can linger on a servicemember's credit record.

"We are basically the administrators of the program," McCarthy said. "But the debts incurred with American Express are between them and the individual servicemember. We are a middleman."

McCarthy said servicemembers who've opted to use the card should get them within two or three weeks of making the application.

by TSgt. Sandi Michon
Photos by SSgt. Vin Blanchard

Westover's new C-5 wash rack not only scrubs all 42,540 square feet of the Galaxy, but it saves lots of money, and protects the environment.

Westover is the first AFRES facility to utilize the equipment, which was obtained through an Air Force Productivity Investment Fund Grant.

"The new system allows us to wash our aircraft on-site which will save thousands of dollars, and reduce aircraft down time," explained Maj. Jim Joyce, 439th AGS maintenance supervisor.

Prior to last month, C-5 washes were accomplished at Dover AFB, Del. A new host/tenant agreement with Dover charges \$2,400 per wash, in addition to our flying costs to get there. Maintenance schedules require washing every 100 days, so the minimal cost savings of washing 16 C-5s three times yearly is \$115,200. The savings related to flying costs is nearly \$500,000.

"We plan to wash on three off-weekends per month," Joyce explained. He said the old system required aircraft and personnel to be at Dover for three weekdays which increased costs and reduced the number of aircraft available for the busier weekday flying period. "Now, the C-5 is washed and relubricated over the weekend, and back on the flightline by Monday morning," said Joyce. Fleet Services will clean the C-5 interior on Friday afternoon prior to washing.

Regular washing removes dirt and oil, provides corrosion protection, and improves performance by reducing airflow friction. Washes are scheduled prior to isochronal inspections.

As specialists in green suits with long brushes scurry around the massive C-5 in the pull-through hangar, the innovative technology of the new wash system is not readily apparent. The newest equipment includes two power wash compressor systems, and two hydraulic manlift machines.

The power wash systems heat the water to 170 degrees and build 3,000

C-5 wash racks up savings



WASH AND FLY--Westover's AGS personnel scrub all 42,540 square feet of the C-5 with new wash rack equipment in the pull through hangar.



pounds of pressure. The manlift basket can position maintenance specialists as high as the 65-foot T-tail. The manlift operator can maneuver the wash position from within the basket, and can also move the attached vehicle from the basket.

The most impressive technology is actually underground. The runoff of biodegradable soap, water and oil drains through a rectangular grate into a system which separates the oil and water and diverts the water into the sewer system.

The wash rack is also used for

de-icing, and the drain system is equipped with a distillation system which separates the glycol from the water, and recycles the glycol for future use. Base bioenvironmental and civil engineering personnel take regular samples of water drainage to ensure adherence to EPA standards.

According to Joyce, some of Westover's Galaxies are 500 days behind wash schedules. "We're hoping the new system allows us to maintain schedules, increase aircraft performance, and build pride in the fleet," he said.



HAITIAN HARBOR -- A U.S. Navy supply ship provides the backdrop for the Haitian refugee section of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In the center of the photo, approxi-

mately 50 Haitians, wrapped in bed sheets, organize a peaceful protest days after riots in their section of the camp.

Westover helps U.S. efforts in Cuba

by Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

As the families of U.S. servicemen say their tearful goodbyes and head home, Haitian and Cuban refugees continue to pour into the Naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

Uncertain security and excessive use of base resources is placing a strain on military families stationed on the island. As a result, many families are returning to the states, with the military member remaining behind.

"The most popular T-shirt being worn by Americans reads, 'American Refugee from Cuba,'" said SrA Joseph McLean, a 439th public affairs specialist who recently returned from Cuba.

And while most media reports center on how primitive conditions are for those who fill the refugee

camps, it is the GIs who work in the tropical sun while Haitians and Cubans, lounge in the shade.

"Unfortunately, little of this is showing up in the media," McLean said. "When you seen what the Americans are doing, there is a very real sense of mission."

McLean accompanied a Patriot Wing C-5 that delivered not only tents but medical supplies and construction materials. The Galaxy flew from Westover to Norfolk Naval Air Station Va. where staff from the Naval Reserve Cargo Battalion loaded the aircraft.

After landing at America's only real estate in Cuba, the C-5 cargo was ferried across Guantanamo Bay by navy assault landing craft, McLean said.

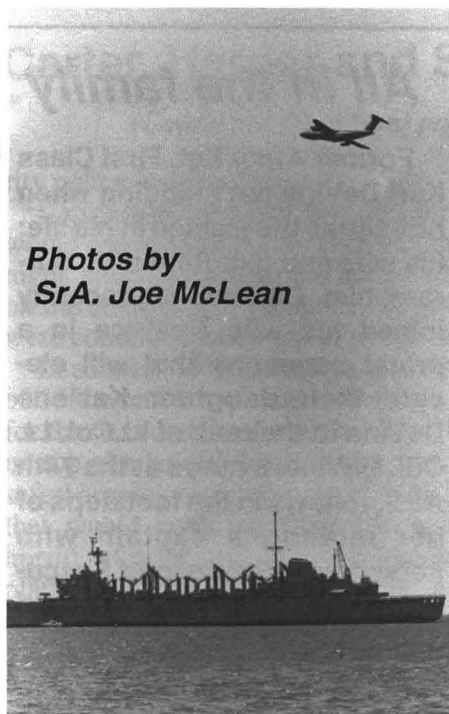
What he observed on the other side, made a lasting impression.

The area was awash in around-the-clock activity. Bulldozers clearing cactus and scrub, backhoes digging trenches for pipelines, soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen pitching in to build a 4-megawatt power plant. McLean said two massive locomotive engines will drive the electric mill.

But there were other things McClean observed that never made the evening news.

Water is in short supply. He said a reservoir and a desalinization plant serve the base. But with thousands of refugees now crowding the base, those sources are being pushed to the limit. "American military personnel grumble at this, especially when they watch the refugees leave the showers running all day long so they can run under them to cool off," McLean said.

Security is now an issue, he said. Marines patrol the desert along the



*Photos by
SrA. Joe McLean*

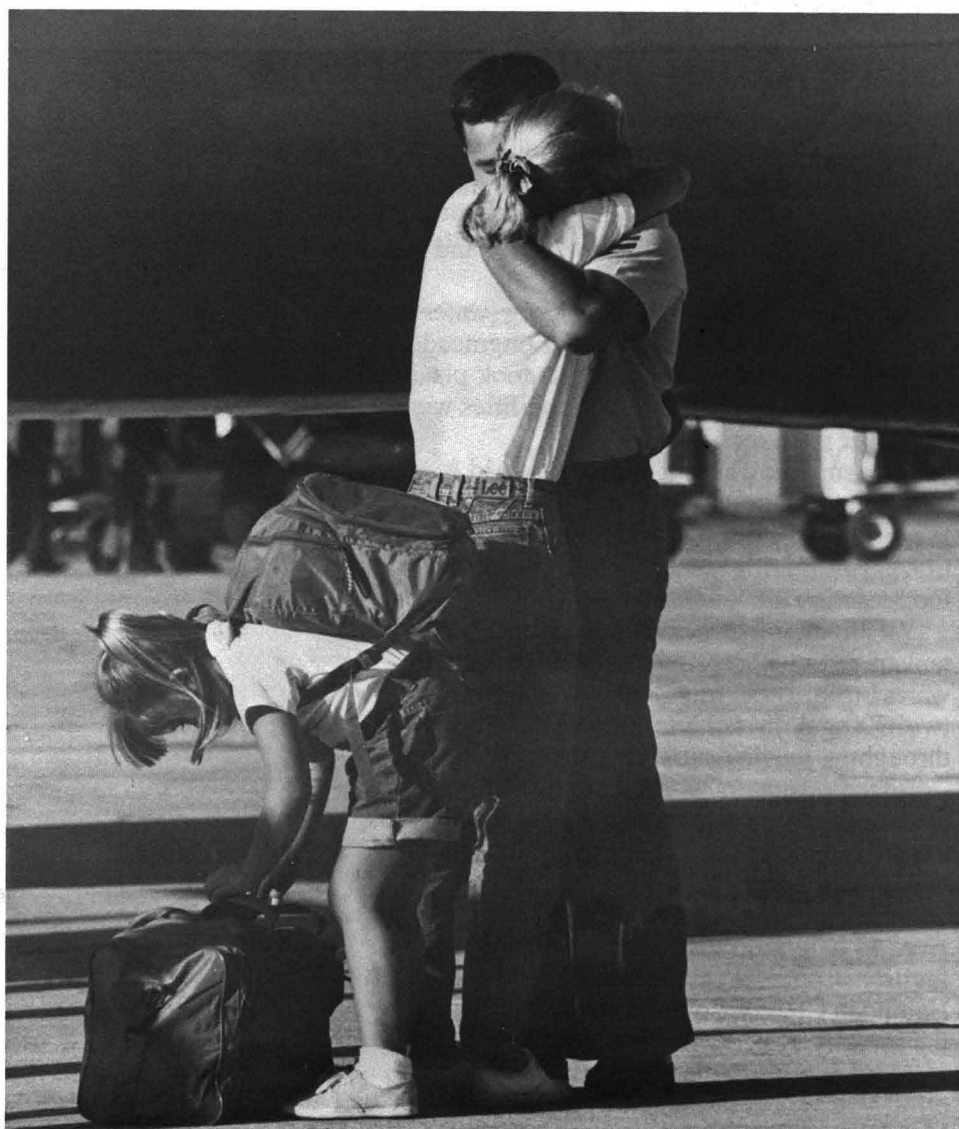


ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES —A Westover C-5 heads north from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in the above photo. The mission to Cuba provided much-needed supplies for the refugee relief effort as shown during the offload in Cuba. The photo at right shows one of the many families faced with tearful separations due to the lack of resources caused by the swell of Cuban and Haitian refugees.

base's perimeter in Humvees mounted with 50-caliber machine guns. During his stay 28 Cubans dashed toward the base from the Cuban boarder, crossing a mine field. Two were badly wounded by exploding mines. And just before his arrival, two servicemen were wounded by rioting Haitians.

"The Haitians have been taking six-foot tent poles and sharpening the metal points on top," McLean said. "Then they throw these javelins at the Americans. One went right through a soldier's boot and foot."

While the outcome of the Haitian situation is unclear, one thing is clear, American servicemen are once again sacrificing to meet the call.





All in the family

Former Army Sgt. First Class Karl DeVine isn't kidding when he salutes the women in his life; his wife and daughter both outrank him. DeVine, left, recently joined his wife Beatrice in a proud ceremony that will elevate their daughter Karlene DeVine to the rank of Lt. Col. DeVine, a nurse at the 74th AES, follows in the footsteps of her mother, a captain who served with the Second Evacuation Hospital that waded ashore at Normandy.

Westover bails out Springfield water crisis

by SSgt. Christine Mora

After a water main break left more than 250,000 Springfield-area residents without water Sept. 14, Westover responded by donating equipment, water and personnel to local agencies.

When the main artery supplying water to Springfield, Ludlow, East Longmeadow and Longmeadow cracked and flooded Birnie Ave., repair efforts took place and the area's water supply and firefighting capabilities were reinforced by Westover resources.

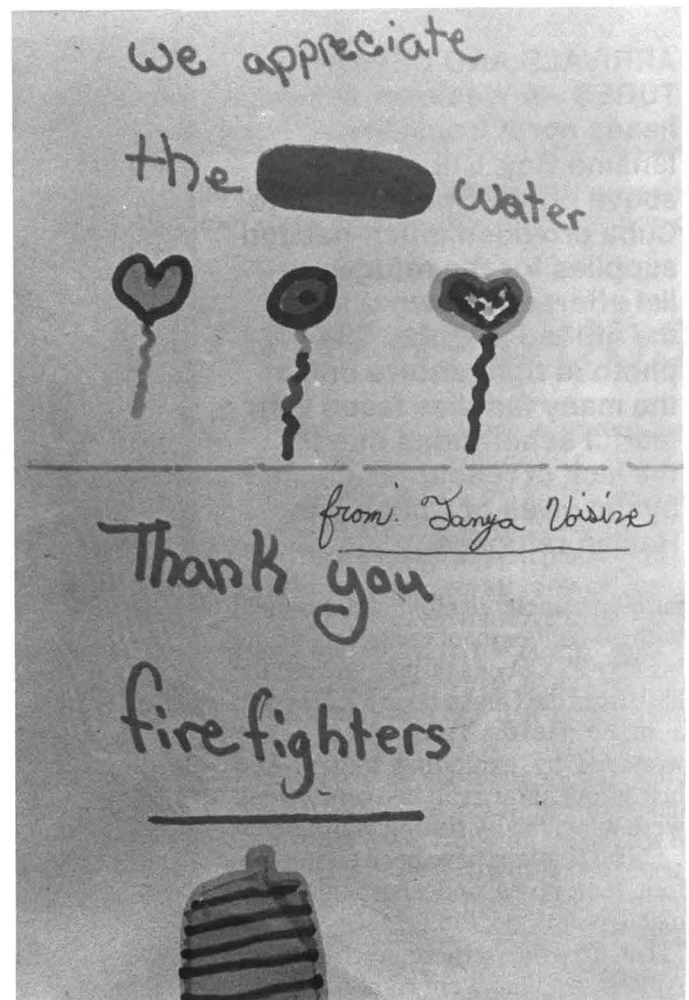
"Our support was part of a Mutual Aid Agreement we have with local communities," said Capt. John Duffy, assistant Westover fire chief. "It was sort of unusual because in addition to firefighting resources, the city asked for potable water too."

Westover's fire department dispatched a 1,500-gallon tanker to the Springfield Fire Department. A 400-gallon water buffalo was transported to the Shriner's Hospital and two 300-gallon vehicles shuttled between area hospitals throughout the day supplying them with potable water.

"Our firefighters worked around the clock ferrying water to the critical care units in the area," said Duffy. "We also donated two portable pumps that were used at the site of the water main break."

Base firefighters were sent to Gerena School on Birnie Ave., to help workers in the effort to pump out the flooded facility. Other Westover firefighters helped supply the Hampden County Correctional Center with water to operate the sanitary systems there.

In total, approximately 20 firefighters participated in the effort that was coordinated by Assistant Fire Chief William Morrissey.



GRADE SCHOOL GRATITUDE -- TSgt. Forrest LaPointe, 58th APS load planner, delivered a package of thank you cards from Our Lady of Sacred Heart School in Springfield, where his daughter Jessica is in second grade.

Carter, Harder and Soper, of 74th AES, receive Bronze Star

(Continued from front page)

rity police looking for cover."

Carter explained that several times, Somali aggressors would break through the fence and raid the compound. At night, attack aircraft would bomb Aidid's troops stationed on the other side of the fence. "It sounded like the bombs were coming right on top of our compound," Carter said.

In addition to their medical duties, the reservists helped build the tent compound that would become their shelter for the next couple of months. They had to build the tents on top of a landfill because that was determined to be the safest area to protect them from Aidid's forces. "The stench that would come up from the spoilage below us was horrid," Carter said. The medics had to build wooden platforms for the floors because the trash buried below kept surfacing.

Trash wasn't the only thing that surfaced. "When we were leveling an area for a tent in the middle of the compound we discovered a mass grave site," Soper said.

As part of the multi-national force, the medics had to orient themselves to the languages of the U.N. countries participating in the effort. "We worked on Moroccan, Egyptian, Italian, French and Russian planes, just to name a few," Carter said. "In addition to re-configuring the aircraft, it was difficult to communicate with the aircrews and patients because most didn't speak English."

"During one mission we had to reconfigure a private Moroccan jet liner to carry patients," Soper said. "We eventually loaded the patients using K-loaders." The flight

nurse said that the Moroccans held funeral services for their dead right outside the aircraft before the bodies were loaded into the belly of the plane.

"When we loaded dead Pakistanis onto a C-141, their survivors tried to stow away on the aircraft," Carter said. "The wounded felt so bad they wanted to give up their seats to let the survivors on the plane."

Carter and Harder finished their tour with the 1610th AES (Provisional) on July 8, 1993. Soper stayed on until July 18. All three agreed that the return home proved to be somewhat difficult.

"It's hard to readjust to everyday life when you've come out of such an intense experience," Soper said. "You want to try to explain it to people but they can't or won't understand."

"Sometimes I still have trouble sleeping because of some of the things that happened," Harder said. Being awarded the Bronze Star is especially poignant for Harder because his father, who died eight years ago, won the medal after service in World War II.

Carter explained that although the situation was very tense, a special type of friendship and camaraderie emerged. "There's a bond that's indescribable and unique," he said.

The sergeant added that participating in a real-world mission like Somalia is when all his training came together. "We gripe about all the classes and different types of mobility training we have to perform on the UTAs," he said. "But it all makes sense when the training saves your life."

Building dedication honors MSgt. Morris



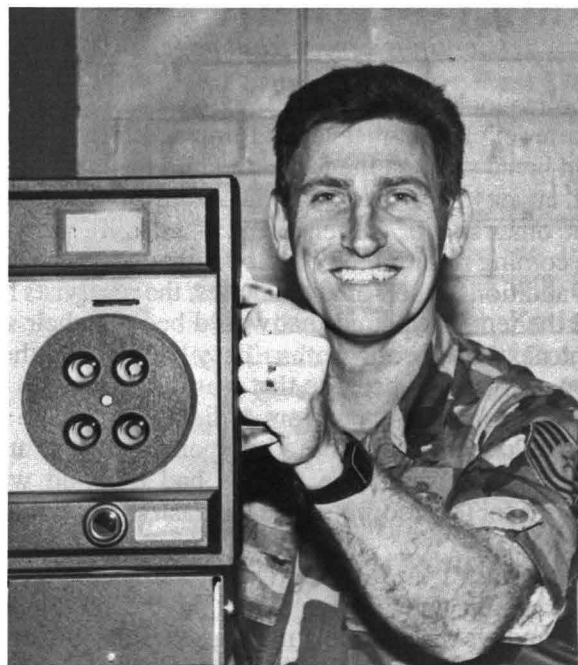
Westover paid tribute to a former member on Oct. 1 when the new Military Personnel Office in Bldg. 1875 was formerly dedicated in memory of MSgt. Barbara A. Morris.

The Morris Building commemorates the contributions Barbara made to Westover before her death in 1992. She served at Westover from 1976 to 1992. Retired Air Force CMSgt. Edward H. Morris, widower of Barbara, cut the ribbon with an assist from Col. James P. Czekanski, wing commander.

(photo by SSgt. Christine Mora)

Patriot People

Name: Raymond Gohra
Rank: TSgt.
Age: 48
Address: Colonie, N.Y.
Unit: 439 SPS
Position: Pass and ID technician
Civilian position: Police sergeant
Favorite food: Barbecued spare ribs
Years of service: 25
Favorite sport: Soccer
Favorite hobby: Fishing
Ideal vacation: Beach
Best way to relax: Sightseeing
Preferred entertainment: T.V.
Favorite hero: John Wayne
Favorite music: Country and western
Favorite movie: *Big Country*
Favorite aircraft: C-130
Pet peeve: Long lines
What I would do if I won \$1 million: retire



SSgt. n Vin Blanchard

TSgt. Raymond Gohra

MSgt. Rup, dies at 56

WHATELY -- Eugene "Jim" Rup, 56, of 38 Christian Lane, a member of the 74th AES, died Sept. 17 at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge.

For 34 years, Rup was employed at the physical therapy department at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton.

He was born in Northampton and graduated from Deerfield High School in 1956.

He was an Army veteran and served in Vietnam. He later joined the Air Force Reserve at Westover and held the rank of master sergeant and was activated during Desert Storm.

He leaves his wife, the former Patricia Harubin; a son Jeffrey of Boston; a daughter, Christie Rockey of Maynard; two brothers, Joseph of Whately and John of Chicopee; five sisters, Anna Richmond of Springfield, Antoinette Adamski and Wanda Helstowski of Whately Edna Bartos and Romana Nieskoski of South Deerfield.

Burial took place in St. Stanislaus Cemetery.

Influenza shot schedule for November UTAs

Saturday A UTA

0700-0800	74th AES	Bldg. 1408 (sign-in)
0730-0830	439th LLS/LG	Hangar 7 (Conf. room)
0730-0830	439th CRS	Bldg. 2426
0900-1000/1300-1400	439th EMS	Hangar 7 (Bldg. 1850)
0900-1000	337th AS	Base Hangar (break rm.)
1430-1530	58th APS	Hangar 9
1430-1530	439th AW/MSSS/SUG	Bldg. 1850

Sunday A UTA

0700-0800	74th AES	Bldg. 1408 (sign-in)
0730-0830	439th OG/OSS	Hangar 1 (south side)
0730-0830/1430-1530	439th AGS	Hangar 3 (break room)
1430-1530	439th ALCE	Clinic

Saturday B UTA

0730-0830	439th LSS/LG	Hangar 7 (Conf. room)
0730-0830/1300-1400	439th CRS	Bldg. 2426/Clinic
0900-1000/1300-1400	439th Clinic	Clinic
1430-1530	439th MSSQ/CCF	Bldg. 1850

*** BE SURE TO BRING SHOT RECORD**

A busy time for Reservists

I've been to war zones before, but I had never seen death up close.

None of my experiences in Panama and the Persian Gulf compared to the sight of a mass grave on a recent trip escorting reporters to Kigali, Rwanda.

As the sun came up over what appeared to be a landfill just beyond the flightline, we were startled by the snarling wild dogs fighting and digging on top of the heap. The repugnant odor that repelled us since getting off the C-5 was the smell of rotting bodies.

After recovering from the shock of the mass grave, a security police approached us and warned us not to step into the field just a few feet in front of us. Apparently, there were unexploded land mines. A couple hundred feet away, we saw the tips of guns above the heads of soldiers from the contentious Rwandan Patriotic Force peeking out above the tall grass.

"Their guns are pointed at us, and ours are pointed right back at them," said the SP, patting his grenade launcher. It had been a busy few hours with eight reported sniper outbursts on base that morning. The SP and his colleagues also explained how they had just finished cleaning up the blood and brains splattering the air terminal where a mortar had put a gaping hole in the roof of the airport.

The scenario stood as a grim reminder of crisis in our world.

After seeing the absolute poverty of the Kenyans living in mud shacks and feeling the oppressive heat and swarms of insects that greeted us in Uganda, the reporters finally started to understand what it was like to be a reservist. They saw the reality of reservists and active duty working side-by-side in the Total Force response to world missions.

While reservist participate in missions that change the world, the world missions change our reservists.

All the tasks that might seem routine to some take on new meaning to those who have seen headlines come to life. You learn to appreciate things more, but, sometimes, it's difficult to forget the extraordinary and horrific scenes. It's a very strange feeling sitting over your bowl of Cheerios mulling over the massive death and devastation you witnessed just a few days ago.

But current events don't leave much time to adjust.

When the nation was on the brink of invading Haiti several weeks ago, Westover was barraged with calls from the media and public wondering when we would mobilized. Not IF we would be mobilized, but WHEN. It seems the public too has become accustomed to the notion that the Reserves will be involved in the headlines of the day.

I guess we reservists have made a name for ourselves.

by SSgt. Christine Mora
Public Affairs Technician

Commentary

Briefs

Lupien in England for SP competition

TSgt. John Lupien of the 439th SPS went to RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom for the first two weeks of October for international security police competition.

He was on the Air Force Reserve team which participated in the Strickland Trophy series of security police events.

In September Lupien competed in Peacekeeper Challenge security police combat competition at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and was earlier on the Westover team in Rodeo '94 AMC competition at McChord AFB, Wa. Lupien is the 1993 outstanding AFRES security police specialist.

25 percent of ALCE take oath together

Members of the 439th Airlift Control Flight may have set a record when 25 percent of the unit re-enlisted on the same day during the August UTA.

For the 16 members of the flight raised their right hands to sign on for another six years.

Those who reenlisted were Msgt. Robert Seaton, operations NCO; MSgt. Thomas O'Brien, loadmaster; Msgt. Gregory Morin, loadmaster and TSgt. Gary Sanderson, personnel specialist. Lt. Col. Philip Petitt, unit commander, gave the reenlistment oath.

AFA elects slate

Lt. Col. C.A. Bost Jr. has been elected president of the Pioneer Valley Chapter 111 of the Air Force Association.

Winston S. Gaskins was selected vice president while MSgt. Kelly Braudis is secretary and Ms. Elsie Sue Alexander is treasurer.

Groundbreaking held for medical facility

Article and photo by
MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

If all goes well, Westover will have a new medical training facility sitting atop Walker Avenue in about a year, according to Leroy Clink, base civil engineer.

"Construction is scheduled to take a year to complete," Clink said during a groundbreaking ceremony held at the site on Sept. 19.

The 16,000 square foot structure, being build by RHD Construction Co. of Tewksbury, will cost approximately \$2.7 million and will replace the current USAF Clinic.

Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing, said during the ceremony that construction of the facility would have a positive effect on the economy of the area.

"Using a formula devised by the government, the \$2.7 million construction cost translates into almost \$10 million for the area. This is a project that we have been looking forward to for a long time," he said.

"I think this project proves that AFRES is committed to continue to make Westover one of the showcase bases in the command," Czekanski aid.

Congressman Richard E. Neal (D-



GROUNDBREAKING SPEAKERS -- Congressman Richard E. Neal (D-Springfield) addresses a groundbreaking gathering for Westover's new medical training facility on Walker Avenue. Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of the 439th AW, right, also spoke to the group.

Springfield), a avid supporter of Westover, also spoke at the ceremony.

CMSgt. George Kudla, NCOIC of the clinic explained that the building currently being used as a medical facility is simply too small for demand.

"We outgrew the current building a long time ago. We're very happy to see construction start on this project."

Kudla also said that the facility will be shared with Navy reservists who are assigned to Westover.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Todd Panico of Chicopee, Mass., and 2,928 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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