

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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MAY 1995

Westover reservists net USAF awards

by Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

Each year, the Air Force recognizes its finest people.

This year, two are at Westover.

TSgt. Cinthia Trask, wing intelligence specialist and TSgt. William (Bill) Jebb, wing law enforcement specialist, are among the 1994 Air Force outstanding noncommissioned officers.

Surprised?

"Oh yes," says Trask, who just got back from a two-week tour at Aviano Italy. "I found out from my OIC while at Aviano."

By coincidence, her Aviano boss, Capt. Gregory Keetch, a reservist at New Orleans Naval Air Station, was the 1994 Air Force outstanding intelligence officer.

Trask, 33, has nearly a decade of Air Force experience, including service in Desert Storm. Recently, she reorganized the wing's intelligence library and developed several training videos.

"Cinthia is the epitome of an intelligence specialist," Maj. Robert Freniere, wing intelligence officer and Trask's supervisor, says. "To work with the best makes the job fun and exciting."

TSgt. Bill Jebb was surprised, too.

But anyone who knows him wouldn't be.

Jebb, 31, is a sergeant on the Chocopee police force. He also has more than 12 years experience in Air Force in law enforcement. It's a stellar career.

While an airman first class attached to the Air Force Space Command, Jebb became a law enforcement flight chief, an unprecedented

accomplishment for a security police officer. That led to another first: enrollment in the Marine Corps Correctional Academy. Jebb graduated with honors, earning the school's Meritorious Mast Award.

And the accolades haven't stopped since Jebb joined the reserve in 1987.

His boss, Maj. Roger Summerlin, says Jebb's contagious ambition as squadron career advisor is keeping manning levels high.

"He is always among the first to arrive and last to leave at every UTA," Summerlin says. "He's a real talented guy."

A community activist, Jebb supports the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the American Legion and the Massachusetts Police Association. He's also involved in neighborhood crime watch and youth anti-drug programs as well as the Explorers, an organization for young people interested in law enforcement.

"It's the pinnacle of my career," Jebb says of the Air Force award. "It ignited me."

Hardly.

Jebb says he's aiming to sew on chief-master-sergeant stripes before it's done.

Mora wins AF writing award

SSgt. Christine Mora, a member of the 439th Airlift Wing's Public Affairs staff, and resident of Torrington, Conn., has taken first place in the news writing category of the 1994 Air Force media contest.

All first place winners are automatically entered in the DOD-wide Thomas Jefferson Award contest which will be announced in May.

Mora, who is employed in the Public Relations Dept. of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, gained entry into the AF contest by placing first in the Air Force Reserve competition.

Mora's entries included stories about a 337th AS crew hammering out procedures to move an F-15 inside a C-5; a Westover quality group winning a top award on Team Work Expo and Patriot Medstar activities at Westover.



SSgt. Christine Mora

Winning prizes for her journalistic talents is nothing new to Mora. In the past she has collected two AFRES-level photo-journalism awards, a first place for newswriting and another for stand-alone photos.

"Christine is the most naturally talented writer I have seen in the 25 years I have worked with newspapers," said MSgt. Gordon A. Newell, editor of the *Patriot*. "I'm very pleased to see she is getting the credit she deserves."



Maj. James P. Joyce

U-2, and others, find Westover

As the Northeast Air Station's reputation spreads, Westover's flight-line and ramp sometimes looks like a mini-air show.

On March 21, the base welcomed a new mission -- the U-2 spy plane.

The not-so-secret spy plane will be staging and recovering out of Westover on a semi-regular basis.

As Capt. David "Hawk" Hawkins stepped from the single seat craft, wearing a bright yellow pressurized flight suit, he was greeted by a bevy of area media, on base to cover the event.

Hawkins and his U-2 were also met by a maintenance and support crew from Beale AFB's 99th Reconnaissance Squadron.

While all eyes were on the U-2, a Navy F-15, which had spent the night on the north ramp as part of a cross-country flight, took off.

A couple of days prior to the U-2's visit, a B-1 bomber from Dyess AFB, Texas, also visited the base.

If Lt. Col. Paul Torpey, who heads up the Northeast Air Station, has his way, the traffic will continue.

"Air Force people are starting to learn about the good facilities that Westover has to offer," he said.



SSgt. Paul Mantikoski

PATRIOT

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Civil Engineering Squadron salutes top leader

by SSgt Christine Mora

When Lt. Col. Wayne Booker re-entered the Air Force 16 years ago, he got an unexpected "second family and career," both of which he will say goodbye to in May when the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron loses the second leader in two months.

With the retirement of Booker, the squadron commander, and CMSgt. Ben Tomlin, engineering project manager, in March, the reins of both the officer and enlisted ranks will be turned over to new hands.

"If we've done our jobs, the transition will take place without a ripple," the commander said. "We've showed

everyone the direction we're headed, and hopefully, the troops have a keen awareness of their responsibility in the big picture."

Leaving Westover life is bitter-sweet for Booker. While he looks forward to spending more time with the family that supported 16 years of missed weekends, two-week tours and an eight-month activation, he will miss the close-knit group of civil engineers that have become such a big part of his life.

"There are years of shared experiences, ups and downs, and unexplainable camaraderie that I'll miss more than I thought," said Booker. "But it's personally the right time for me to leave and it will open up new opportunities for others."

Booker's May exit caps off a military career that spanned 26 years. Commissioned in 1969, the New Jersey native became a B-52 co-pilot and served six-month rotations to Vietnam before leaving active duty in 1974.

While working as an engineer at General Dynamics in New London, Conn., he got a call from an Air Force Reserve recruiter, and decided to give Reserve life a try in 1979.

Tenures in the 905th Civil Engineering Flight, 905th CES and eventually 439th CES prepared the colonel for his role at the squadron's helm.

Like a proud father, Booker describes the tremendous diversity of his unit and the people he refers to as "the salt of the earth."

"The one thing I hope for after I leave is that my troops continue their tradition of commitment and superior work," Booker said. "I want to read somewhere that they did something well and know that I was a part of that."

Ironically, when he filled out his initial "dream sheet" 26 years ago, Booker had three wishes: to be stationed at Westover (it was the closest SAC base to his New Jersey home) become a squadron commander, and fly the F-106.

Two out of three ain't bad.



SSgt. Christine Mora

Lt. Col. Wayne Booker and CMSgt. Ben Tomlin

CMSgt. Tomlin walks away with pride

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Those who know CMSgt. Ben Tomlin, the 439th CES' departed top NCO, know he's a "chief" in more ways than one. The proud American Indian got off the military trail after 26 years in service, and six years as leader of CE's enlisted ranks.

Like his commander, Tomlin has mixed feelings about leaving his "family."

"There is such an intense sense of unity in the 439th CES and I walk away with great pride at just being a part of it," Tomlin said.

Besides camaraderie, Tomlin lists "adapting to change" as one of the unit's most important attributes and one that will serve them well in the coming years. "In addition to the change in leadership, our people are facing a drastic change in the mission of the unit," he said. "With down-sizing and 'doing more with less,' the troops are facing many hurdles."

Tomlin himself has endured many hurdles during his career. "I came

from a poor family and my dad wanted to be in the military, but couldn't get in (because of polio). The family wanted to mortgage the farm to send me to school. I didn't want them to make that sacrifice, so I pursued my education through the military," Tomlin said.

After joining the Army Corps of Engineers in 1962, Tomlin served tours in Korea, Vietnam and Europe. Although he thought he'd be a career soldier, in 1975, family crisis forced him to leave the service.

He joined the Air Force Reserve at Westover in 1979 and began his tenure as part of the Civil Engineer family-first in the 901st CEF and then the 905th and 439th CES.

The chief hopes to be remembered not as someone unique, but as part of a great unit. As to his retirement, "This is not the end, but the beginning of a new journey."

His new journey includes more time at home in Hopkington with his wife Fran, and 21-year-old son B.J.

New ID cards sport high-tech features

by Amn. Richard Cipolla

Keeping up with the latest technology, Westover is now implementing the new Department of Defense Identification card, with state-of-the-art features such as hologram lamination and a bar code, this new ID represents the wave of the future.

According to the DOD, the new card serves as an efficient way to combat fraud, waste and abuse. The holographic image incorporated into the production process makes the card virtually tamper-proof.

The image, the Great Seal of the United States layered over the letters "USA", can be viewed when the card is turned at a 90-degree vertical angle.

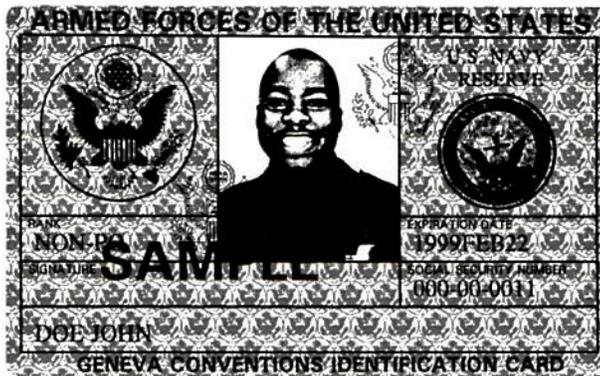
The Realtime Automated Personnel Identification Systems (RAPIDS) Program Office has developed the machine-readable identification card, linking the data read off the bar code to the central Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) data base, preventing fraud of military privileges, the DOD said.

Aside from the obvious, the card possesses numerous other advantages. "It's easier to fit in your wallet," said SSgt Richard J. Grant, personnel journeyman in customer service at Westover. Grant, who issues the new cards, believes they are "more efficient" than the old.

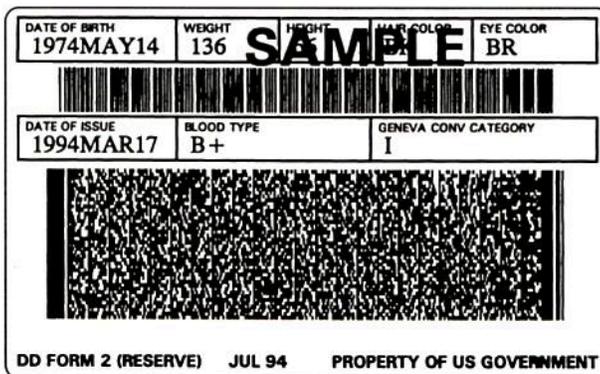
The pictures are computer generated, so there is no film to deal with." So if the picture comes out bad, you can always reshoot.

Another plus, he added, is that the verifying and issuing of the cards can now be done in the same place. No more hopping from building to building, the DEERS hookup gives them all the information they need to process you a new ID card in a matter of moments.

The new card was adopted here at Westover in late January, and by September 1995, should be available at all automated issuing sites around the world, according to the DOD. It will be made available as old ID cards expire or replacements become necessary, the DOD said, and will eventually replace two valid cards currently in circulation.



FRONT



BACK

Out with the old...

TUMBLING DOWN — The former Shoppette and Class VI Store, once Westover's Commissary, was demolished recently. Known as the "ugliest building on base", the rubble from the structure was trucked away. The site will be grassed over.

(photo by Ronald Roman)



Medical positions open

439th ASTS moves to Westover

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

The 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron (ASTS) is the newest family on the block at Westover. The 68-member medical unit, formerly a geographically-separated unit and formerly the 23rd APSS, opened shop on April 22.

The 439th ASTS, under the command of Col. Dee Holliday, train for their wartime mission as a 100-bed aeromedical staging facility. As the 23rd APSS, the unit was deployed during Desert Storm.

The 439th ASTS moved from Griffiss AFB, N.Y., which is scheduled to close by the end of 1995. Their new location, on Seawolf Avenue, is located just outside the Fairview Gate. They will move into Bldg. 1310 when renovations are complete.

There are four medical units attached to the 439th AW, and recruiters are scrambling to fill a number of openings. The 439th Medical Group consists of the 439th Medical Squadron (formerly the Clinic), the 439th ASTS, and the 722nd ASTS (a geo-

graphically-separated unit situated at Roslyn Air Guard Station in Long Island.) The fourth medical unit is the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (formerly the 74th AES).

According to Col. Joseph A. Curley, medical group commander, there are currently 131 vacancies in three main career fields: medical technicians, radio operators, and aircraft ground equipment technicians. The 439th AES has many vacancies due to a manning build-up associated with their mission change to an aerovac management unit, and the ASTS units are losing personnel through retirements and "early outs", and due to the geographical move to Westover.

"Reserve medical positions are a great career for someone wanting to train in a medical field. They emerge from training EMT qualified, and can take advantage of the Montgomery Bill for further schooling," Curley said.

Anyone interested in a medical career, or knows someone who is, can contact Westover recruiters at 413-557-2943.

Some changes of scenery are available

If you are looking for a change of scenery, the 439th Support Services Flight is looking for you. Due to a manpower shortage, the services flight is seeking members to transfer to positions open in food services, lodging and recreational services.

"The positions are open to prior or non-prior service members who enlist. If you know anyone who might be interested in a reserve career, ask them to call us," said CMSgt. Ron Perrault, services manager.

Those who have time available from their regular jobs on UTA weekends are also asked to volunteer a few hours to the unit. Dishwashing and cleaning jobs in food services are performed by civilian employees, but reservists are needed for food preparation and serving. Recreation positions include staffing the front desk at the gym.

The unit has been struggling to fill its mission since the end of Desert Shield when the gym was added to its responsibilities at the same time that the number of authorized slots was reduced from 68 to 46. To cope with the manpower shortage, the 439th Support Services Flight has eliminated the dining hall's fast food hamburger line and the choice of eggs for breakfast.

For more information on job opportunities in the flight, call Ext. 2417.

Briefs

Three receive quarterly honors

Three reservists have been recognized for their outstanding performances during the second quarter of the fiscal year by the Chiefs' Council and the First Sergeants' Association.

SrA. Marianne S. Healey of the 439th MDS has been selected as Airman of the quarter; SSgt. David Roach of the 439th MSSQ is the NCO of the Quarter while SMSgt. John E. Miller II has been named as the Senior NCO of the Quarter.

The base awards committee will next meet on May 6 at Wing Headquarters to review unit nomination packages for the third quarter.

Commanders are reminded that nominations, using AF Form 1206 must be received by Maj. Armand Tourangeau, wing executive officer prior to the May UTA. Further information is available from CMSgt. Paul Mersincavage at Ext. 2379.

Dorn makes bowling history at Westover

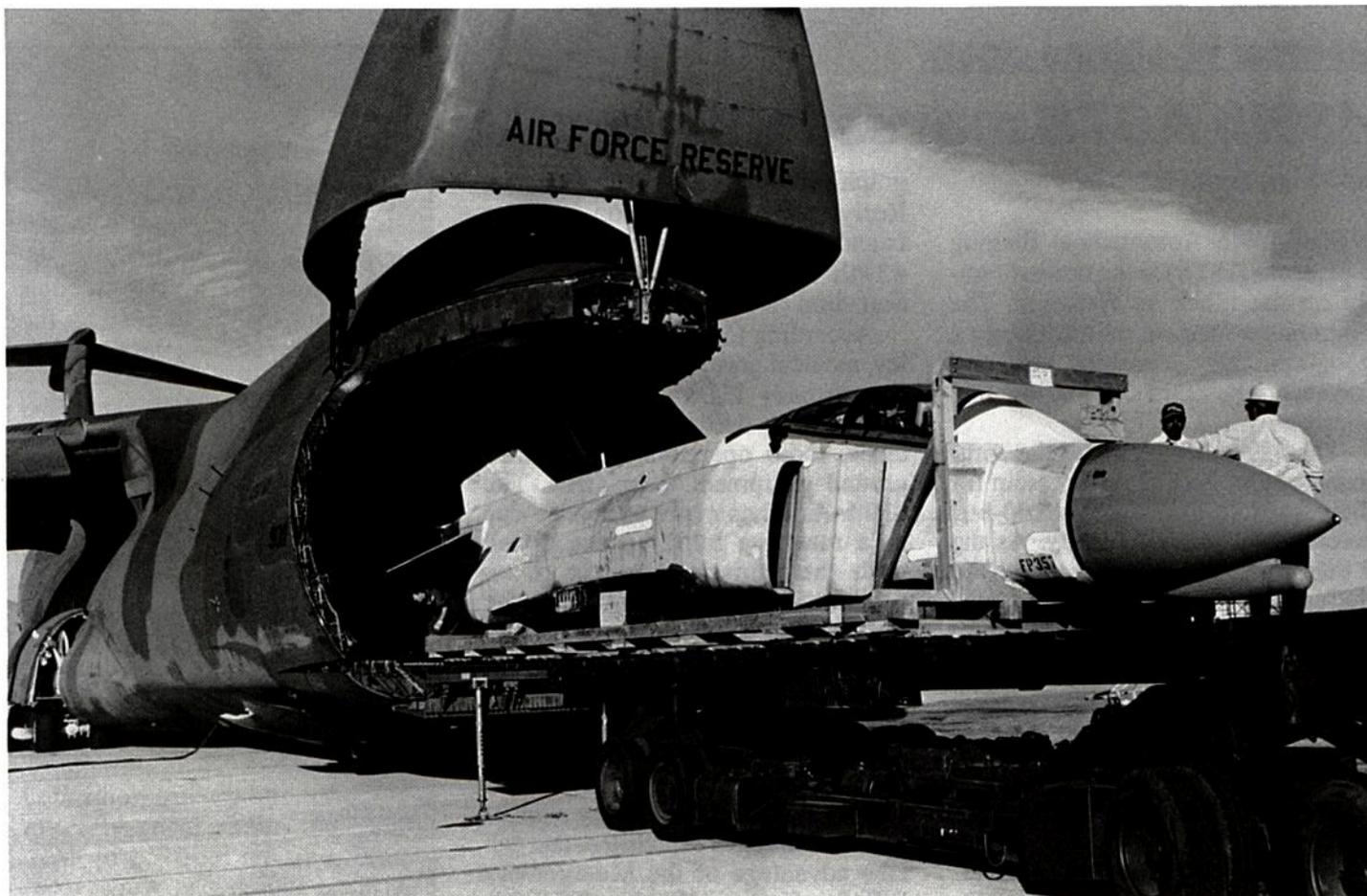
Eric Dorn made bowling history at Westover's Bowling Center recently when he rolled a perfect 300 game while competing in the 439th Airlift Wing's Men's Maintenance League. It was the first perfect game ever rolled at the center.

Bowling on lanes three and four, Dorn strung 12 strikes together in his second game of the evening.

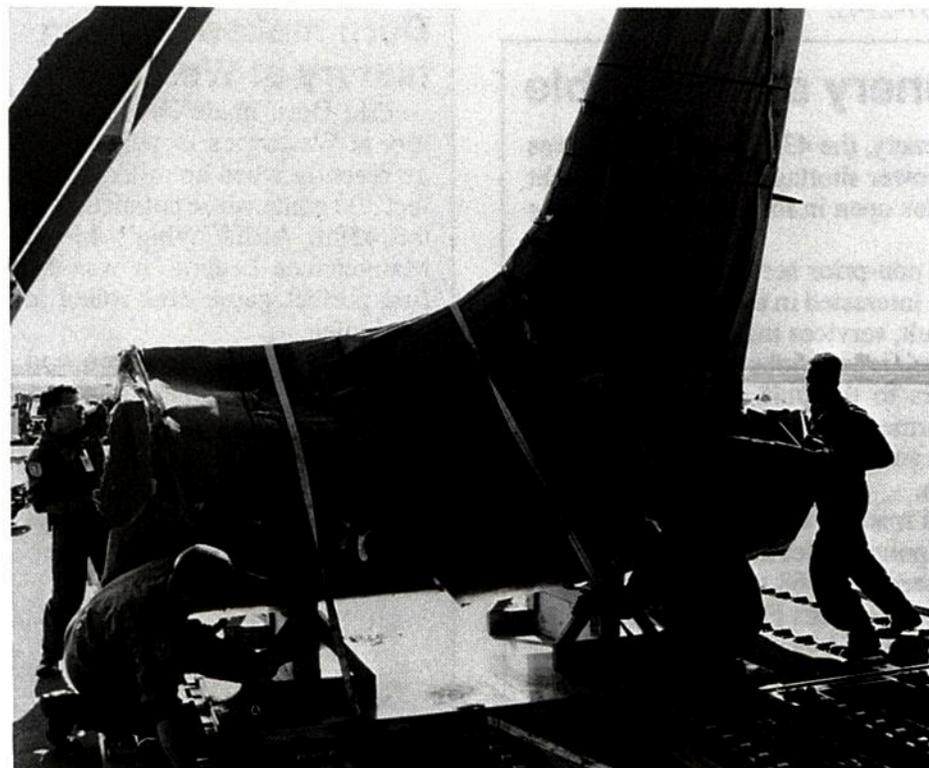
Two weeks prior to his sizzling string, Dorn had set a league high single string of 279.

June UTA dates

A UTA June 3-4
B UTA June 24-25



COMING AND GOING — 337th AS members (above) onload a F-4 Phantom from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. onto a Westover Galaxy, while (below) 337th loadmasters wrestle with the tail section of B-26 during the onload in Benitez, Chile.



F-4 swap for B-2

**Article and photos
by SSgt. Vin Blanchard**

A 439th Airlift Wing C-5 paid a rare visit to Chile, its cargo compartment nearly full on the way down with a F-4 Phantom and on the way back with a World War II vintage B-26 bomber.

The swap was the brainchild of the 122nd Bomb Squadron's Veterans Association and ended two and one half years of work and coordination by the group.

The 122nd Bomb Squadron (Louisiana Air National Guard) flew the Douglas Aircraft-built Invaders from 1948 to 1956.

Variations of the venerable B-26 Invader were used as bombers during World War II, the Korean Conflict and then converted into an attack role during Vietnam.



IN PLANE VIEW — A Westover Galaxy dwarfs hangars at Benitez airfield in Chile (above). In a lighter moment during the 7-day mission, Capt. Bill Beckman, along with crew members, pose on the F-4 Phantom inside the C-5 cargo bay.

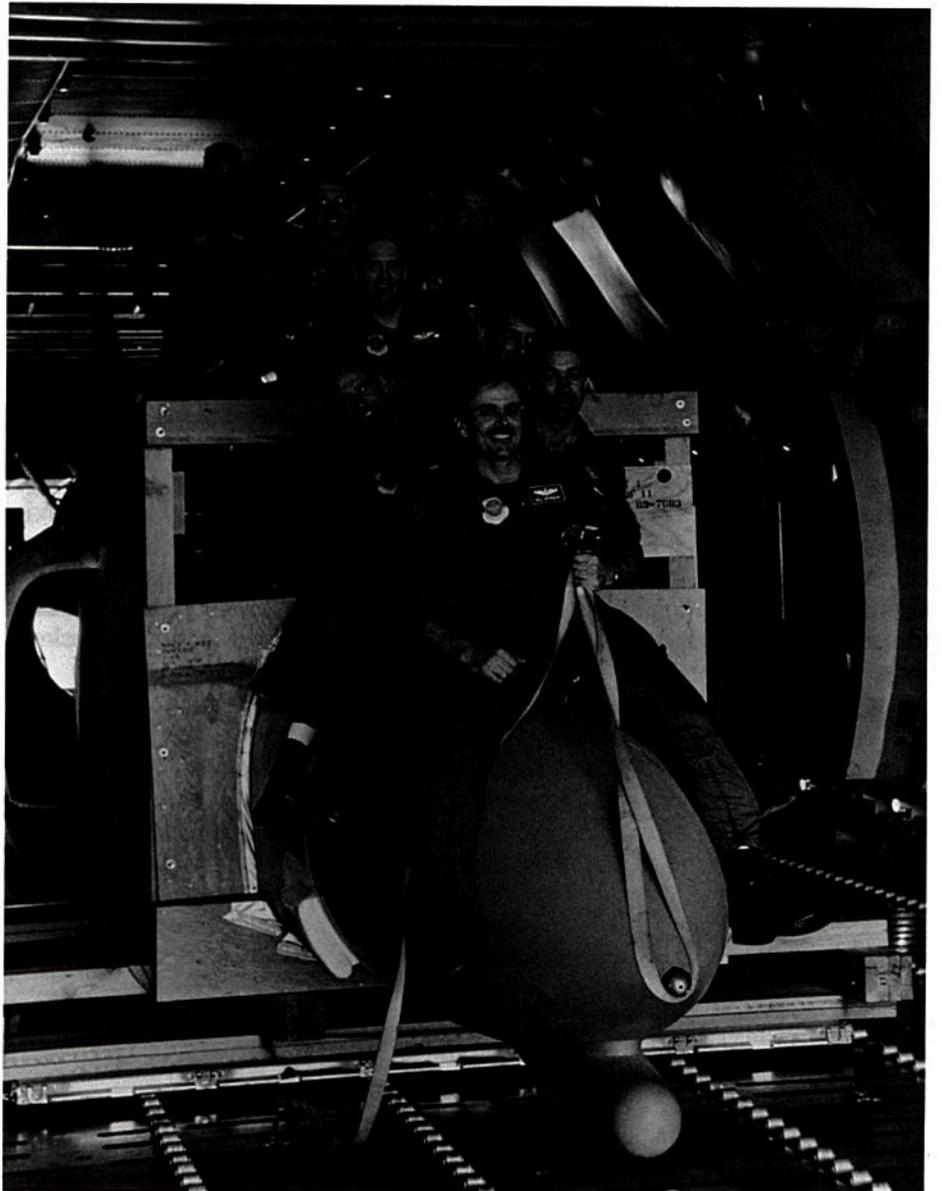
carried out by C-5

The one brought in the belly of the Westover Galaxy will become a static at the Jackson Barracks aviation display near New Orleans but first the aircraft must be restored.

The craft will be the centerpiece of a memorial which will display bronze plaques with the names of 122nd members who served during World War II and Korea.

Jackson Barracks is a large military museum housed on property owned by the Louisiana National Guard and is dedicated to preserving military culture.

To complete the swap with the Chilean Air Force, the F-4 static was donated and picked up by the Westover C-5 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. before being carried to South America.



Invite your boss to come fly with us

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Want to give your boss a better understanding of what you do in the Air Force Reserve?

Invite them to the next Employer Appreciation Day scheduled for both UTAs in September and to sweeten the pot, tell them they are invited to take an orientation flight in a C-5 Galaxy.

They will also have a chance to meet Wing Commander Col. James P. Czekanski and spend some time in your workplace.

"For the Air Force Reserve to satisfactorily complete its mission, we must have the support of employers. We learned this lesson during the Gulf War. It is imperative therefore that they see exactly how important you are to our overall success," Czekanski said. "We will try to make their brief stay with us as informative and enjoyable as possible, so please ask your boss to attend."

The day-long event gets underway when employers will register in the 337th Airlift Wing's briefing room at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday of both drill weekends.

Following a briefing by the Wing Commander, some employers (depending on numbers) will fly while the remainder will accompany reservists to their work place. In the afternoon, the groups will reverse roles. All employers will have the

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. 9) _____ "B" UTA (Sept. 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) 557-2099.

For more information: (413) 557-3500

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

opportunity to fly. Reservists are encouraged to accompany their bosses to the morning briefing and to invite them to lunch either at the Westover Club or the Galaxy Dining Facility.

Reservists are asked to invite their employer to come on the weekend they normally drill.

Each reservist is asked to invite just one employer. Reservists will not fly on the orientation flight.

To make reservations, reservists should fill out the application that appears on this page and return it to the address indicated.

Air Force museum seeks Reserve artifacts

The Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, is planning a permanent Air Force Reserve display and AFRES is asking reservists to make donations.

According to MSgt. Marshall Hathaway, wing historian and drive coordinator at Westover, said the museum is seeking photographs, documents and artifacts which best represent AFRES history.

"The type of things they are looking for," Hathaway said, "include aircraft parts or assemblies, equipment, awards, models, unit flags, histories, uniforms, personal effects or anything uniquely Reserve oriented.

Hathaway said the wing is not expected to part with any of its artifacts but is asking individuals to take part. He also said the wing will not physically collect items.

"The game plan is to compile an inventory of items and the names of those wishing to donate. This information will be sent to the Pentagon no later than Aug. 31, 1995," he said.

Anyone wishing to donate is asked to call Hathaway at (413) 593-1490 or the Wing Executive Officer, Maj. Armand P. Tourangeau at (413) 557-3562.

Patriot Warrior gives reservists a taste of reality

Article and photo by Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

TSgt. Gary Sanderson traded his office keyboard for an M16 -- along with a Kevlar helmet, ammunition pouches, canteens and web belt -- not your typical equipment for an administrative technician, unless you're part of the 439th Air Logistics Control Flight.

The ALCF does more than manage air operations, it can function as a base in hostile territory, providing all the support services, including security.

That's why Sanderson, 32, spent seven days at Patriot Warrior, the reserve's foremost school of combat science at Camp Swift, Texas, about 22 miles south of Austin, learning the finer points of air base defense.

"I loved it," Sanderson said, who along with two Westover public affairs staff, and contended with long days and austere living in modified field conditions. "I enjoyed being out in the field." Tactics, weapon qualification, challenging procedures, first aid and land navigation are among the topics studied at Patriot Warrior.

The emphasis is on doing. Classroom theory is immediately applied in the hardscrabble acreage surrounding in the Patriot Warrior compound. Then it's reinforced through field training exercises, which could be anything from constructing sandbag revetments to a night patrol of an air base perimeter with a fire team.

Since completing the course, Sanderson said he has a better appreciation of his role in the ALCF.

Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr. and MSgt. Thomas N. Allocco, who hold mobility assignments in public affairs, also completed the course.



READY FOR ANYTHING — TSgt. Gary Sanderson recently added Ground Combat Skills to his resume at the Air Force Reserve's Ground Combat Readiness Center.

Transportation's top man moves on

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

CMSgt. Stuart Degray, the man who kept Westover on the move by plane, train and bus, left the wing in March after three decades in uniform.

During his years as a senior NCO in the Transportation Management Office, Degray was known as someone who could be depended on to handle all the big and small details of commercial travel. From arranging purchase for plane tickets, to scheduling and inspecting buses, the TMO office kept people on the road and on time.

Degray served as NCOIC of the TMO office for about 10 years before moving up to 439th LSS chief enlisted manager last year. In the top enlisted spot he supervised the squad-

ron's Vehicle Operations, Vehicle Maintenance and Transportation Management Office.

Degray enlisted in the 905th Troop Carrier Group at Bradley Field in 1965 and served on active duty in Air Transportation here when SAC's 99th Bomb Wing was stationed at Westover.

Since leaving the wing Degray has been looking at options in transportation in the IMA field. He also plans to use his spare time to be active in the Windsor Grange, which supports farm families.

Degray has been employed as a printer most of his adult life. He and his wife have a daughter, son and grandson and reside in Windsor, Conn.



CMSgt. Stuart Degray

Patriot People



1st Lt. Mike Franco

SSgt. Lynne V. Saya

Name: Lynne V. Saya
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 40
Address: Chicopee, Mass.
Unit: 436th EMS/dock
Position: Iso-dock inspector
Civilian position: Air Reserve Technician
Favorite food: Lobster
Years of service: 15
Favorite sport: Softball/volleyball
Favorite hobby: Restoring automobiles
Ideal vacation: Hawaii
Best way to relax: Under a full moon
Preferred entertainment: Jazz Festivals
Favorite hero: John F. Kennedy
Favorite music: Rock and Roll with a little bit of soul
Favorite movie: *Oh God, you devil!*
Favorite aircraft: C-5 Galaxy
Pet peeve: "The glass ceiling"
What I would do if I won \$1 million: See the world!

Patriot Praises

PEP Promotions

CMSgt. Milliken, Lawrence N.
 SMSgt. Polchlopek, Stanley A.
 MSgt. Keyser, Hans J.E.
 MSgt. Michon, Sandra M.
 MSgt. Mueller, Stephen C.
 TSgt. Gallant, Michael A.
 TSgt. Grant, Anthony E.
 TSgt. Guerra, Carlos
 TSgt. Jebb, William R.
 TSgt. Malysz, Thaddeus
 TSgt. Schmitz, Anita L.

Enlistments

SSgt. Natale, Christina L.
 SSgt. Williams, Gregory A.
 Sgt. Sampson, Alfred L., Jr.
 Sgt. Schmid, Maryanna
 SrA. Andrews, Frederick C., Jr.
 SrA. Decker, Stephen C.
 SrA. Dulude, Laura
 SrA. Frieri, Rosanne M.
 SrA. Gilbert, Scott J.
 SrA. Sadin, Scott A.
 SrA. Stephens, Elmer M.
 A1C Carlo, Derrick A.
 A1C Lewis, Shaun P.
 A1C Rondeau, Michael M.
 A1C Sanchez, Pedro L.
 A1C Thomas, Michael A.
 Amn. Beauvais, Joseph, Jr.
 AB Viteri, Johnny A.

Reenlistments

SMSgt. Major, Michael A.
 MSgt. Cimma, Stephen J.
 MSgt. DeMarco, Richard J.
 MSgt. Shaughnessy, Thomas J.
 MSgt. Voiland, Kathleen A.
 TSgt. Bednarz, Joel A.
 TSgt. Duncan, Earl E., Jr.
 TSgt. Lapointe, Forrest D.
 TSgt. Sandman, Richard G.
 TSgt. Shamett, Serge M.
 SSgt. Allen, Bruce J.
 SSgt. Archambeault, Michele A.
 SSgt. Barboza, Paul J.
 SSgt. Beach, Jeffrey S.
 SSgt. Charest, Kenneth
 SSgt. DePaoli, John C.
 SSgt. Dittl, Penny R.
 SSgt. Garneau, Kevin P.
 SSgt. Hall, Michael A.
 SSgt. Lue, Lana L.
 SSgt. Lund, Dean S.
 SSgt. Nieves, Manuel A.
 SSgt. Obannon, Michael E.
 SSgt. Okulicz, Charles J.
 SSgt. Rodriguez, William
 SSgt. Soucy, Jeanette
 SSgt. Steiner, Georgianna
 SSgt. Wetmore, Steven J.
 Sgt. Sonntag, Paul J.
 SrA. Bean, Kendra J.
 SrA. Whelton, James M.

Capt. Charles Barton, Jr., dead at 32

Capt. Charles Bruce Barton Jr., a health services officer who was the 1994 439th MDS Junior Officer of the Year, died March 6 of a pulmonary embolism. He was 32.

Barton enlisted in 1981 and was commissioned in 1987. He joined the 439th Clinic in March 1990.

"Under Chuck, our self-inspection program received high ratings during our last health services inspection," said Capt. Bob Sousa, a co-worker.

He recalled Barton's compassion and commitment to serving people.

"His work with HIV-positive clientele brought many challenges," Sousa said. "But Barton's goal was always to try to make a difference."

Barton, who lived in Bogota, N.J., worked as a civilian with the Center for Disease Control.

Barton was remembered during a Catholic mass, held on the March B UTA and a non-denominational service, held at the clinic on the April A UTA.

Sousa and 2Lt. Lydia Todd, another co-worker, attended Barton's military funeral in Loxley, Ala.

Barton is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Barton of Loxley; one sister, Nancy Godwin of Loxley; a brother, Bret, of Fort Meyers, Fla.; his grandparents, Harry and Juanita Hampton of Loxley; and Nancy Barton of Gulf Shores.



Capt Charles Barton

Firefighters share dream of running marathon

Article and photo by SSgt. Paul Mantikoski

As he rounds the last corner he can see the finish line. Throngs of people are screaming wildly as he strides on. He can't hear them. All their mouths are moving but no sound comes out.

He has been running for almost four hours. These last few miles weren't as bad as he thought they would be. The crowds that line the streets have pushed him on, giving him strength.

A few steps before he crosses the finish line, he triumphantly lifts his head and arms in celebration. He has done it-or has he?

What was his time? Why can't he see the clock?

Suddenly his wonder and confusion are shattered by the insistent blare of his alarm clock.

It is 5 a.m. and as the sun rises, so does Gerry Racine for another of his daily workouts.

For the past five years, Racine, a Westover firefighter has made his daily workout a ritual. He heads for the gym and the peace of mind it gives him.

"After I quit smoking five years ago, I gained a lot of weight," said the powerfully built 47-year-old. "I figured since I stopped one bad habit, I needed to take care of a few others."

Drastically changing his diet and exercise habits helped Racine lose 63 pounds in just nine months. He was losing an average of two and a half pounds a week, dropping from 244 to 175 pounds. Red meat, high fat foods and little exercise were things of the past.

"Fruits, vegetables, pasta, fish and chicken were all I ate," said Racine. "But I went a little overboard and for a while I looked really anorexic."

As he continued his workouts, Racine gradually put on pounds of muscle until he reached a healthier 190 pounds.

It had been a long time since he felt this good he says. He was healthier and happier and his firefighting duties were made easier by his newly found fitness.

About three months ago he decided to set a goal for himself...to run in the Boston Marathon.

With that thought in mind, Racine needed one more ingredient to help him achieve it: a training partner. Enter fellow firefighter and 337 AS loadmaster, TSgt. Tom Durkin who had begun running four years ago for the exercise and enjoyment of the sport.

Racine's dream quickly became Durkin's. Ever since that day they have been running together both to satisfy their physical fitness requirements at work, and for getting ready for the race.

"We're staying realistic, this being the first marathon for both of us, but we'd like to finish in under five hours...but breaking four hours would be nice," Durkin smiled.

But the duo still had one problem, every runner entering the Boston Marathon has to qualify. Since neither had previously run a marathon, they had no way to officially enter.

However, they learned that a small number of non-qualifiers were allowed to enter by special exemptions, for instance, members of certain organizations or groups and mainly running clubs.

Durkin quickly thought of a way to qualify. His cousin is a Boston police officer who also runs, and is a member of the Boston Police Runners Club. He arranged for Durkin and Racine to become "honorary members" of the club.

How could the Marathon organizers say no to "members" of the Boston Police Runners Club? They were in.

"We both have run shorter races, but nothing as long as a marathon. Our longest training run will be about 20 miles," said Durkin. "I figure after 20 miles instinct, determination and the crowd will help bring us home," said Racine.

Racine recently drove the Boston course and gave Durkin some insight about the infamous Heartbreak Hill.

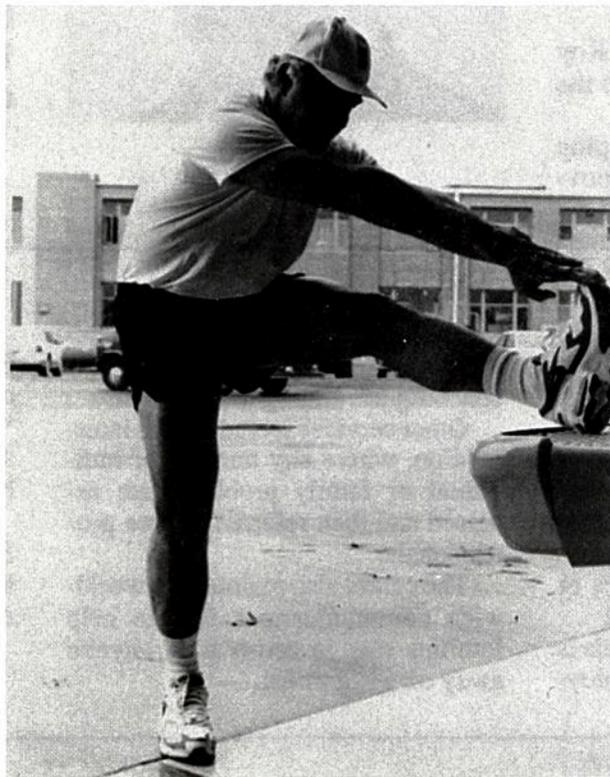
However, Durkin is sure the hills they train on near his home in Suffield, Ct. are more difficult. There are four in a row that are really tough," he said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Racine and Durkin both realized their goal by completed the grueling 26-mile, 385-yard grind that ended in downtown Boston.

Officially Racine was timed at 4:01.20 while Durkin's time was 4:03.01.

Racine had timed himself at 3:59.33 and said the discrepancy was credited to the system race officials used to tabulate results.

"But it doesn't really matter," Racine said, "I know what my watch read, and I'm just happy I finished and did so well."



STRETCHING THE LIMIT — Jerry Racine stretches prior to a five-mile run, to prepare for the marathon.

Family Center strives to serve reserve families

by Capt. Paul P. Koscak Jr.

The steaming coffee, scrambled eggs and stacks of hot pancakes made for a warm welcome at the Family Readiness Center. Just 12-months young, the center is still making itself known as the place for families on the move.

For now, a recent breakfast for at least 30 members of the Chiefs' and First Sergeants' councils was a big step toward spreading the word.

The word, explained director Roy Green, is an agency dedicated to the welfare of military families.

Transition assistance — helping families deal with the stress of moving from one base to another — is the main reason the Family Readiness Center exists.

"A move in the military is like a death in the family," said director Roy Green, who managed family centers in Germany, Turkey and Maine as a civilian employee before coming to Westover. "It's the fear of the unknown."

The center aims to dispel some of that angst by offering information on demographics, schools, churches or anything else about destinations.

More in line with reserve needs is the center's array of civilian employ-



Roy Green

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ment assistance. Job leads, resume-writing guidance and interview coaching are among the services.

Other services include crisis intervention, where any number of individual or family problems are assessed and then referred to area professionals.

The center also maintains a worldwide communications link to help families stay in touch with anyone away on assignment.

CMSgt. Vincent Viglione, 439th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, characterized the center this way: "When someone sees the chief and says I'm in trouble, where can I go for help? I'll know where to send them."

Located within yards of the James Street gate at 22-24 Seawolf, the center's new offices are in a recently refurbished two-family house.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Merrill Pregeant, of Newton Mass., and 2,875 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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