

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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MSgt. Gordon Newell

DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME — A “contaminated” Westover C-5 crew leaves their aircraft and heads for a decontamination station in the Dogpatch area during

the Readiness Assistance Visit by 22nd Air Force held in October.

SEE RELATED RAV ARTICLES ON PAGES 8 AND 9.

RAV scatters reservists, tests skill levels

by Capt. Paul Koscak

When the door of the C-5 opened and the crew climbed down the ladder, you'd think they just returned from the moon.

They wore chemical warfare masks and protective gloves. Their ensemble boots were covered with clear plastic liners. And as they stepped onto the ramp, each crew member was draped in a heavy-ply plastic bag.

For much of the week leading up to the Oct. 26-27 UTA, there were plenty of simulated incidents to keep reservists hopping—from chemical spills to an ex-

plosion at the base job control center. Two teams of reservists deployed.

Aircrews ferried reservists and responded to inflight scenarios.

About 150 miles from Westover, an on-board RAV observer told the crew they just flew through a chemical cloud and the environment was contaminated. They needed to leave the aircraft wearing their chemical equipment.

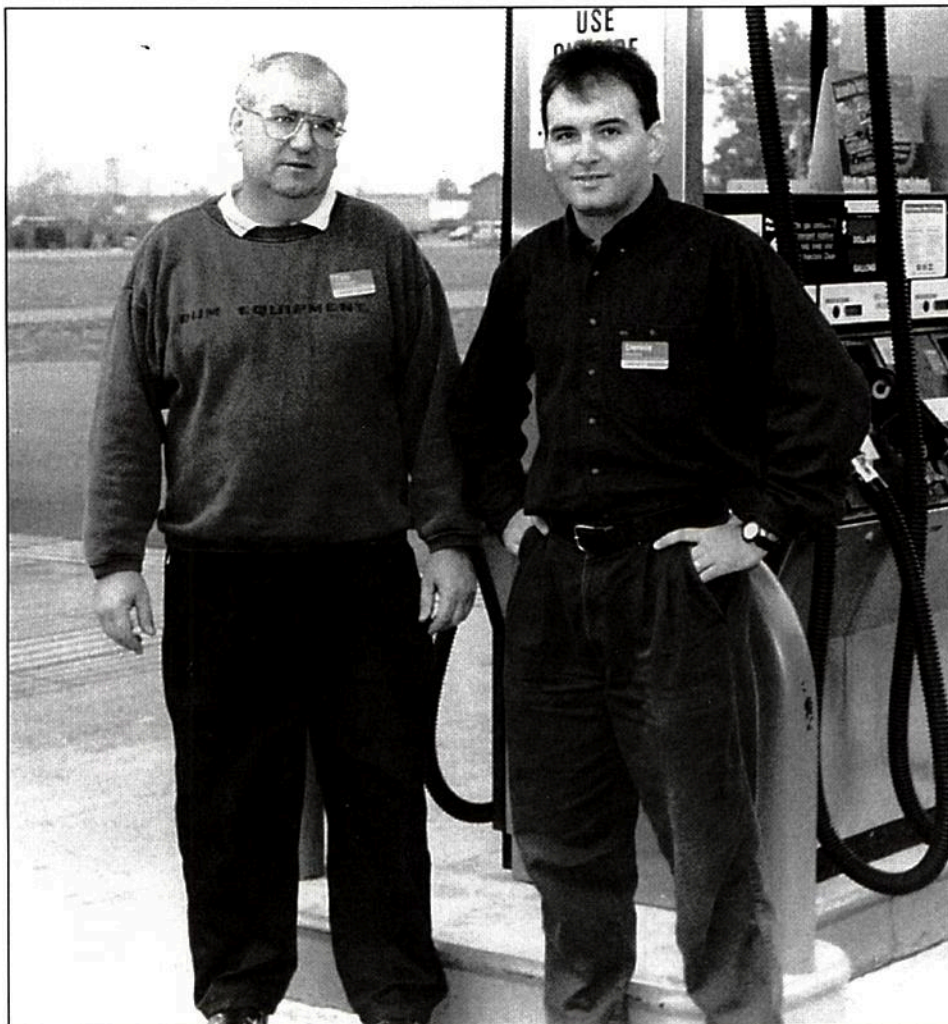
“In the real world we would stop depressurizing the aircraft at 10,000 feet, otherwise we would be taking in ambient air,” MSgt Paul Laroche, aircrew life support supervisor, said. Holding the

pressure while the C-5 is parked on the ground keeps the contaminants out and gives the crew an opportunity to put on their ensembles.

Once at the life support staging area, a technician with a megaphone blared instructions. Under the watchful eyes of RAV observers, the crew members, who looked more like aliens, were directed through each stage of decontamination.

“I don't want my life support people being killed,” SMSgt Les Davy an observer from 22nd Air Force at Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga., said. Concentration is key when working with deadly toxins.

Quick thinking averts gas truck disaster



SMOKEBUSTERS — Tom Pula, left, a shift supervisor at the base Shoppette and Dennis Patton, manager, stand near Shoppette gas pumps. The pair manned chemical fire extinguishers and doused a potentially disastrous blaze in the cab of a tanker truck delivering gasoline to the store.

Photo by MSgt. Gordon Newell

Quick thinking by a truck driver and two Westover employees averted a potential disaster Sept. 25 when a gasoline truck caught fire outside the base Shoppette at 10:45 a.m.

The truck, owned by United Transportation of East Longmeadow and laden with 8,000 gallons of gasoline, was making a delivery to the Shoppette's gasoline pumps when its cab caught fire.

Dennis Patton, manager of the Shoppette and Tom Pula, a supervisor there, battled the blaze with chemical fire extinguishers. Herb Vicaire, 31, a United truck driver, disconnected the tanker from the cab. He then leaped into the smoke-filled cab and drove it a safe distance from the tanker and the Shoppette's gas pumps.

"The brave action of the driver and the two Shoppette employees almost certainly prevented a major fire or explosion," said Gordon A. Newell, base public affairs officer. Newell, who was driving nearby when the incident occurred called the three "heroes".

Firefighters from the Westover fire department responded to the scene and assisted in extinguishing the blaze.

Vicaire was given oxygen at the scene for smoke inhalation but was otherwise unhurt. There were no other injuries.

The Shoppette, a combination gas station and convenience store, was open for business at the time and several automobiles were refueling at the pumps when the fire broke out.

Although the exact cause of the blaze was not immediately determined, Westover fire officials suspect that the fire started in the cab's electrical wiring. The cab was towed from the scene. The tanker was not damaged and the delivery of gasoline to the Shoppette was completed after the incident.

"We're grateful that there were no injuries nor serious property damage," Newell said.

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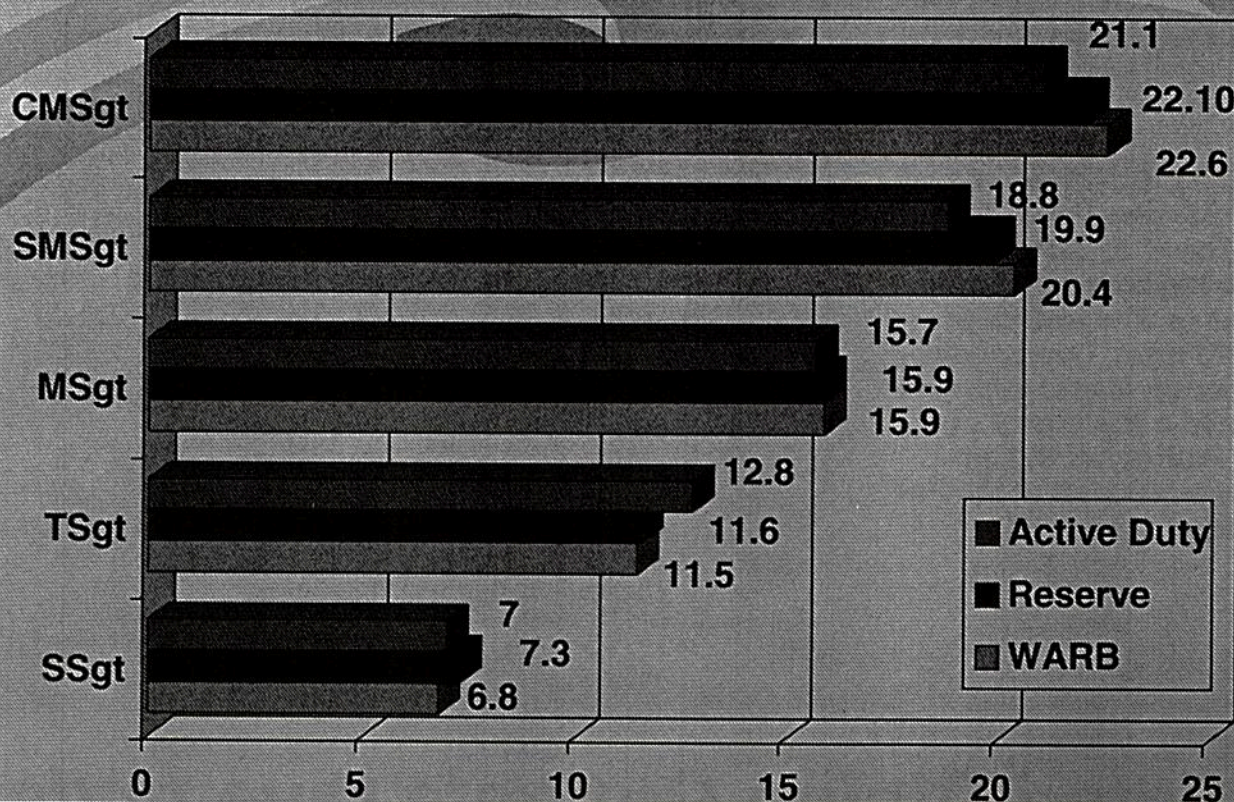
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Enlisted Promotion Timing



Compiled by the Retention Working Group of the Base Human Resources Development Committee

Defense bill designates AFRES as major command

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The fiscal year 1997 National Defense Authorization Act, signed by President Clinton Sept. 23, contains several provisions affecting Air Force reservists.

Key items in the bill provide authority to redesignate the Air Force Reserve as a major command, grant a 3 percent military pay raise and a 4.6 percent hike in basic allowance for quarters effective Jan. 1, and exempt air reserve technicians from reductions in the civilian work force.

Under the 1997 defense authorization act, the Air Force's Selected Reserve will shrink slightly from 73,969 to 73,311. The number of reservists on statutory tours will increase from 625 to an end strength of 655, and the air reserve technician force will not dip lower than last year's 9,802 end strength.

In addition, ARTs will be authorized and accounted for as a separate category of dual-status civilian employees, exempt from Department of Defense adjustments of civilian personnel. In recent years, Congress has annually introduced legislation to protect technicians from reductions in force. However, ARTs will continue to be subject to job displacement because of base closures or realignments.

The 1997 authorization act establishes in law each reserve component as a major command within its respective service. Over the years, the Air Force has treated the Air Force Reserve as a major command because it takes on most missions performed by active-duty troops. In addition, the size of the Air Force Reserve in people and aircraft compare favorably to other major commands.

On the money side, the act approves \$52.8 million for

Reserve military construction and nearly \$1.5 billion for operation and maintenance expenses.

The bill also clarifies or expands on entitlements authorized by previous bills. Some of the provisions of the 1997 bill include:

- * Increase the annual limit on days of inactive duty training creditable toward reserve retirement from 60 to 75.
- * Clarify eligibility of reservists for disability retirement.
- * Clarify eligibility for enrollment in the Ready Reserve Mobilization Income Insurance Program.
- * Expand eligibility for education benefits to include certain Reserve Officers' Training Corps participants.
- * Extend certain enlistment bonuses, certain bonuses and special pay for nurses and authority to pay other bonuses and special pays through Sept. 30, 1998.
- * Provide special incentives to recruit and retain dental officers.
- * Delay the implementation of the Selected Reserve Dental Insurance Plan until no later than Oct. 1, 1997.
- * Require dental insurance plan for military retirees, gray area reservists and their eligible family members, including surviving spouses who do not remarry and eligible dependent children. The program will take effect by Oct. 1, 1997 and provide basic dental care and treatment.

(AFRES News Service)

PATRIOT INDUCTEE -- Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, David J. Campanale was the keynote speaker at Westover's Dining Out on Oct. 5. At right, Campanale, a Worcester, Mass. native, is presented a traditional tri-corner Patriot hat to commemorate his visit to the Patriot Wing.



Enlisted Dining Out gets rave reviews



AND THE WINNER IS... -- The Dining Out set the stage for the Airman/NCO of the year awards. From left to right, SSgt. Ruth Rodriguez, SrA. Jeffrey Picard and MSgt. David Carbin show off their award plaques.

**Article and photos
by TSgt. W.C. Pope**

Except for the bow ties, you would have thought the Westover Club was having a basic training graduation. What actually took place on Oct. 5, was the enlisted Dining Out. It was a full house of 273 airman and their guests.

"We had an excellent turn out," said CMSgt. Kathy Wood, 439th Airlift Wing quality advisor, who served on the dining out committee. "I think the crowd can be attributed to the fact that Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, David Campanale was our guest speaker."

Westover's first dining out in three years lived up to its title "Pride in Patriotism" with the reading of a tribute to Old Glory and a slide show depicting Westover reservists at work.

Keeping with the theme, the podium was drape with red, white and blue banners, flowers and balloons.

The affair had all the pageantry of a military academy ball mixed with the fun

continued on next page

Smits' motto: 'I believe in our people'

Top striper takes hands-on approach

by Capt. Paul Kocsak

Chief Master Sergeant Carol Smits is a walking public relations machine. But when you're the senior enlisted advisor for the Air Force Reserve, that's a big part of the job.

It's meeting people, hearing concerns, providing guidance, offering inspiration.

And she does it with the fervor and finesse of a high-energy politician in a heated election. With an escort and a public affairs officer tagging along for some photo opportunities, it didn't look much different.

Smits visited Westover as a distinguished guest for the enlisted dining out during October's A UTA.

"Hey guys," Smit shouts, leaning into the doorway of a break room while moving down the hallway of the base fire department. "How we doin'?"

The chief strides in and introduces herself to each firefighter with a hearty handshake.

She goes through the same routine with everyone else she sees along the way to the garage, where Smit took one of the base's massive pumpers for a spin down the runway—but not before trying on an aluminized fire suit and helmet.

"You can't understand other jobs unless you do them," Smit says of her demo ride. "It sends the right message."

She applies that philosophy everywhere—whether visiting a medical squadron, a maintenance shop, personnel

office or being a loadmaster for a day. This hands-on approach, Smit says, recently allowed her to offer better suggestions for on-the-job training during one visit after she went through the motions of molding an aircraft part.

Smits, 45, has been a traditional reservist since leaving active duty in 1983, where she worked in personnel and recruiting. More recently, she spent 12

years at Petersen AFB, Colo. as a senior enlisted advisor and first sergeant. She helped manage a catering business and also worked in marketing and sales as a civilian.

Selling is still in Smits' blood. Her job as AFRES senior advisor keeps her on the road about 300 days a year. Ask Smit what she's learning from all those visits to reserve bases and she'll tell you there's a big need for the seasoned troops to assist less experienced airmen to realize their full career potential.

Smits calls it coaching, where someone is matched with a mentor for guidance and professional advice. To enhance that tack, the reserve launched an immersion program Oct. 1 that combines mentoring with a variety of learning tools including compact discs.

"When I came in as an airman basic, I had a supervisor come over and tell me 'let me tell you what you need to do to make staff sergeant,'" Smit recalls as the event that constantly inspires her to demand more of the senior enlisted force.

"I believe in our people. They have the best interests of the Air Force in mind."



FIRE CALL — CMSgt. Carol Smits dons fire gear as part of the Air Force Reserve Senior Advisor's base tour in October.

Dining Out success... continued from previous page

of a family reunion, offering everything from the honor guard posting the colors, to the infamous grog bowl.

CMSgt. Carol Smits, AFRES senior enlisted advisor discussed the role of the Reserve, the per diem changes and the 1997 pay raise.

The evening was highlighted by Campanale's speech about the Air Force family and of the diversity of race and gender in the ranks.

"For my first dining out it was very interesting and everyone should do it at least once," said SrA. Ellen Lamprey, assistant readiness manager for the 439th Civil Engineer Squadron.

"It was good to see all the younger

troops at a military function like this," said CMSgt. Joseph LaFrance, 439th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant. The evening was poignant for the chief as he will be retiring in December.

"The dining out was well worth the effort," said MSgt. David Carbin, of the 439th Logistics Support Squadron, and also dining out committee member. "Everyone I spoke with had a wonderful time and many people have asked to become involved with the next one."

With next year being the 50th Anniversary of the Air Force expect something even more spectacular, hinted Wood.



TSgt. W.C. Pope

NEW FIRST SHIRT — MSgt. Cliff Wittman, newly appointed 439th MSS first sergeant, poses with his wife, Terrie, during the Dining Out.

Westover teams win during Team Expo

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Two Westover teams walked off with plaques during Team Expo '96 held Oct. 22 at the Westover Club.

Sponsored by the Springfield Area Council for Excellence, the Springfield and Hartford Chapter of the Association for Quality and Participation and the base Center for Excellence, the Expo drew 26 area teams competing for six awards.

The base's Computer Learning Center Process Action Team captured Best Idea to Take Home honor for researching, setting-up and implementing a computer learning center at Westover. Members of the team include: Lt. Col. Nelson Newhouse, Dorinda Culla, William Podworny, Jerry Grasso, Jackie Davis, Greg Libby, Leah Gitzen, Nancy Allen, Freeman Wiley, Carolyn Hayward and Armand Tourangeau.

"We were pleased to learn that many Expo participants show a lot of interest in establishing a computer learning center in their work places," said Hayward, a base budget officer.

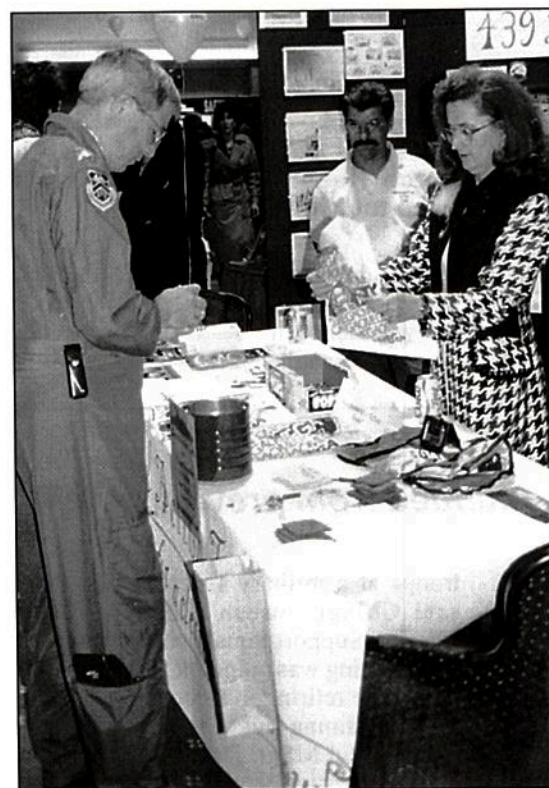
The Logistics Support Squadron's Environmental Action Team took the Most Impressive Results plaque for developing and implementing a plan to redesign the vehicle maintenance shop work area. Members of the team include: Roland Gregoire, Ken Pietras, Jim Cronin, Jim Hillebrand, Cate Fitzgibbon and Larry LaFleche.

Other Westover teams included the 439th Medical Squadron that worked to reduce physical examination processing time and the Space Available team which implemented a Space-A terminal on base.

The medical squadron team consisted of Col. Schiele Brewer, Maj. Dale Rice, Maj. Thomas Henry, MSgt. Marianne Healey, MSgt. Martha Bojczuk, MSgt. Barbara Lozanski, TSgt. Linda Moen, SSgt. David Fallon and SrA Teri Deste-fano.

"We have received plenty of positive feedback from the reduced time it takes to process physical exams," said Capt. Martha Shea, director of logistics for the medical squadron. "Everyone seems to really appreciate the time-saving system we have devised."

Space A team members were CMSgt. Ron Ploof, SSgt. Steve Kukawka, SSgt. Manuel Ray, SSgt. Miguen Colon, CMSgt. Leonard Dube (retired) and CMSgt. Edward Morris (retired).



QUALITY LEARNING -- MSgt. David Carbin stops by the base Computer Learning Center booth to get some tips from Jackie Davis, a member of the team. At right, Lt. Col. Nelson Newhouse visits the Logistics Support Squadron display to be briefed about their project by Shari MacDonald, transportation officer.

photos by TSgt. W. C. Pope

"Space available travel is a valuable benefit for military people" said retired Navy Chief Petty Office Arthur Gouin. "We're getting the word out to retirees and reservists and the response has been terrific."

Maj. Armand Tourangeau, Westover's Quality officer said response

to the Expo was beyond his expectations.

"I am very pleased that more than 300 people came out to see first hand, what Team Expo is all about. I think everyone who attended walked away with some new ideas."

Tourangeau added that work on Team Expo '97 is already underway.

Chief LaFrance leaves a legacy of guidance

by SSgt. Christine Mora

"GOOD MORNING TROOPS."

It's been the monthly Saturday morning greeting for hundreds of reservists throughout the years, and will be uttered for the last time in December when one of Westover's most distinctive first sergeants retires after 30 years of duty.

Former aerial porter CMSgt. Joseph LaFrance spent almost 20 years managing cargo, but it's his last 11 years managing people that he's most noted for and most inspired by.

"Chief LaFrance's legacy is the contribution he made to the careers of so many people," said his old boss, Lt. Col. Rick Dyer, former 439th Mobility Support Squadron commander. "He was extremely loyal to his troops and helped hundreds in unheralded and behind-the-scenes ways."

Taking care of his "troops" became a virtual vocation for LaFrance. "Everyone has some spark of potential that I try to zero in on," he said. The chief readily admits he's known for "constantly getting after people to grow professionally and get their squares filled," but this passion stems from the guidance of many throughout his own career.

"There were many leaders that helped focus me and I was determined to follow suit," LaFrance said. "If it weren't for compassion of people like retired SMSgt. Jim Gillette or the leadership by example of those like retired Brig. Gen. Billy Knowles, I wouldn't have gotten where I am today."

LaFrance enlisted in the Air Force in 1965 where he "felt a sense of belonging and purpose from the very beginning." First stationed at McChord AFB, Wash., he worked as an air cargo specialist and was later transferred to Clark AB, Philippines, performing air cargo rotations throughout Southeast Asia.

Tired of hopping the globe, he left active duty in 1969, but realized the military was more a part of him than he thought. He found a compromise that marked the next 26 years of his life.

"The Reserve offered me the chance to have the stability of civilian life while still filling that military niche," he said.

The chief joined the Air Force Reserve at Hanscom AFB in 1970 and began his tenure as a C-124 loadmaster in the 57th Aerial Port Squadron. He moved to Westover with the squadron in 1973 and later joined the Air Reserve Technician program with the 901 APS as a C-123 loadmaster.

When Westover swapped C-123s for C-130s in 1982, so did LaFrance. After three years with the 337th Tactical Airlift Squadron, LaFrance left the ART program and became a first sergeant with the 42nd Airlift Squadron.

The move signaled a new job and a new calling for the chief. His first sergeant's duties took him to the 439th Combat Support Group, Air Base Group, Support Group and Airlift Wing.

"Before I became a first sergeant, I never guessed that it would become the most significant role of my career," LaFrance said. "When I moved from a unit level to the more diverse support unit level, I gained a vast new perspective of what the Reserve was all about."

According to the chief, he started "thinking outside the box," and got involved in efforts that impacted reservists throughout the base.



Courtesy of Chief Joe LaFrance



TSgt. W.C. Pope

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS -- Joe LaFrance shows off his first stripe while stationed at Sheppard AFB, Texas, in October 1965. At left, Chief LaFrance wears the maximum number of enlisted stripes with his first sergeant diamond, as he moves on to new activities.

When Westover dove into Desert Shield in 1990 and thousands of troops came to and through the base, LaFrance widened his perspective even more. "Desert Storm was a real eye-opener," he said. "We were all thrown into day-to-day problem solving that was much different than one weekend a month."

Although Desert Storm was an important part of his career, LaFrance cites peacetime projects as a more driving force.

"Working on projects like the base retirement ceremony, Dining Outs, wing picnics and airshows was so meaningful to me," he said. "Being able to bring a vision to reality and implement ideas with a team is inspiring."

While LaFrance views his retirement with mixed emotions, he explained what kept him in for 30 years. "There are always changes, always new people to keep you motivated," he said. "Through good and bad times, you find your own special reason to stay on."



Maj. Joan Strong, 916th ARW

"TANKS A LOT" -- A Westover C-5 moves into position beneath a KC-135 to take on fuel during the October RAV. The tanker is assigned to the 916th Air Refueling Wing from Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. At right, SrA. Steven C. Rodert, of the 439th CES, tests field communications.

Mobility trial run tests skills, ORI scheduled for March '97

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Readiness Assistance Visit gave hundreds of Westover reservists an opportunity to do their jobs in a warlike setting. At three locations—Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, Lawson Army Airfield, Fort Benning, Ga, and here at Westover—observers from 22nd Air Force provided guidance rather than scrutiny. It was an opportunity to make mistakes, to work out any difficulties before the Operational Readiness Inspection in March. Public affairs staff covered the events as they unfolded while taking part in the exercise. Here are their stories.*

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The first day of the Readiness Assistance Visit deployment to Lawson Army Airfield started with a 3:30 a.m. mobility line in the base hangar and the pace did not let up for four days. The 113 reservists who deployed to the airfield on the sprawling Fort Benning army post on Georgia's Chatahoochie River, had a right to feel shell-shocked long before returning home on Sunday evening.

Within an hour of the arrival on Thursday they were under simulated chemical

attack. They spent every day doing their jobs while wearing heavy, cumbersome chemical warfare suits and rubber boots in the warm Georgia weather. Frequent announcements of Red Alert and MOPP (Mission Oriented Protective Posture) 4 sent everyone scurrying to don their gas masks and rubber gloves. The procedure was to lay prone under shelter and check snaps and gear before the arrival of the 22nd Air Force inspectors. Those who were unfortunate enough to have their suit in disarray or missing such equipment as a decontamination kit were de-



TSgt. W.C. Pope

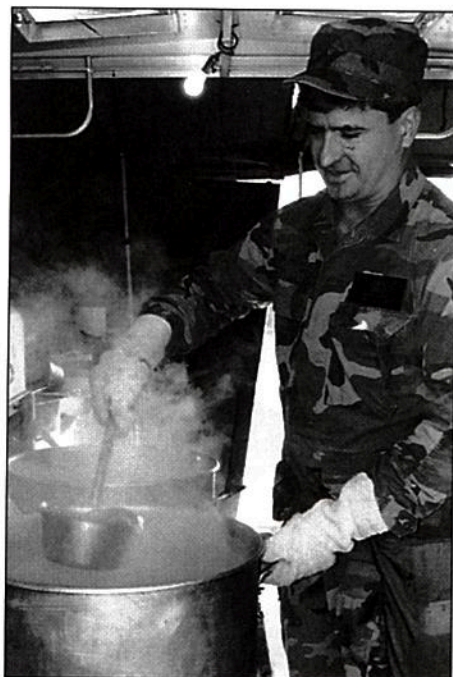
clared casualties and were assigned additional training.

The rigorous training earned high marks from MSgt. James Chappuis, 439th ALCF first sergeant, who served as acting first sergeant of the Lawson deployment.

"We've spent a lot of time in the chemical suits. It's a good learning experience. The intensity of operations is making people more aware of MOPP levels and threatcon. It keeps you on your toes when you don't know what's coming next," he said.



TSgt. W.C. Pope



TSgt. W.C. Pope

The 439th ALCF arrived as an advance team to set up airfield operations and on the first day of full deployment, the airlift specialists kept the flow of aircraft on schedule and facilitated the download of 422,000 pounds of cargo by the aerial porters of the 42nd APS. The airlift brought Marines and their HUMVEES and armored personnel carriers from Cherry Point MCAS, N.C. to Lawson.

The 30 aerial porters worked two 12-hour shifts during the deployment. SrA. Chris Goguen was among the advanced party who reported for duty at 2 a.m. at Westover and ended their workday at 9:30 p.m. at Lawson.

The requirement for numerous engine running offloads (ERO) made the job a real challenge. The aerial porters wore goggles and ear protection as they ran through the engine blast while encumbered by chemical warfare suits, rubber boots and gas mask bags bouncing on their legs.

"We've had just about every simulated contingency that can happen. We've had vehicles contaminated and put out of commission, simulated injuries and combat casualties," said Maj. Joanne Brogis, 42nd APS.

"You have seconds to move in a bomb threat or attack and at the same time it seemed like one ERO after another all day," she said.

Keeping the flow of aircraft moving were 24 members of the 439th AGS and 439th MXS maintenance squadrons who performed "through-flight" maintenance.

As part of the scenario, units provided

DRILL AND FILL -- SSgt. Russell Rockwood (top left), of the 439th CES, defends his position during the RAV at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, while SSgt. Norman Bineault prepares hot meals to feed the tired troops. Bineault is a cook assigned to the 439th Services section. He and several others kept the field kitchen cooking throughout the deployment.

Ohio exercise builds Westover muscle

by TSgt. W.C. Pope

Nothing like some simulated nerve agents, sniper fire and terrorist attacks while you're trying to get your job done. Add some cold, damp, sloppy weather and, presto, you've got the makings of a field mobilization at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio.

The 200 Westover reservists who took part in the deployment represented just about every career field and it took a C-5 and a C-141 to whisk them all to there. After all, creating a base from an open field takes a lot of equipment.

"With these type of exercises, you get a feel for what a mobilization would really be like," said MSgt. J.R. Dunn, a safety technician during the exercise.

For the four days, the reservists had two areas to call home: the tent city, which provided basic shelter and another area, which held all the command functions and the dining area.

Guarding this makeshift base from the bad guys—and there were plenty—was the 739th Security Police Squadron, doing countless perimeter patrols.

The 439th Civil Engineering

Squadron did their share of pitching tents, fixing runways and building assorted structures to keep a tent city in operation.

Services personnel cooked meals, handed out MREs and got hands-on experience using a mobile kitchen.

The 439th Communications Squadron strung wire, installed telephones and set up radios.

Even base fire fighters received extra training, although they had to travel 25 miles to Springfield, Ohio to battle the flames—propane ones, however.

"We don't get an opportunity to do live burns very often," Fire Chief CMSgt. Larry Lose, said.

Reservists from safety, chaplain, public affairs, personnel, finance and mortuary affairs represented the 439th Mission Support Squadron.

By Sunday, the light rain and muddy field didn't dampen the spirits of those packing up for the return trip.

Exercise commander Col. Franklyn Senft said he was pleased with the outcome of the exercise and expressed confidence that any glitches could be worked out before the final deployment in March.

"We need to work out a couple of things before then," Senft said.

Continued on page 13

Mass. ANG 'pulls' duty at Westover

Photos by SSgt. Paul Mantikoski



CABLE NETWORK — Members of the 212th Engineering and Installation Squadron of the Mass. Air National Guard from Worcester spent a weekend at Westover pulling old cables from the base's underground system. Recent renovations included new cables, but the old cables were pulled because lead content could pose environmental problems. Once pulled, the old cables are cut up and disposed of by the Disposal Recovery Management Office in accordance with Occupational Safety Health Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Reserve clamps down on travel card abuses

by MSgt. Thomas Allocco

Reservists who are late paying their government American Express travel cards will face suspension of their account, according to James Perry, Westover financial officer.

After 60 days, delinquent accounts will be suspended until the balance is paid, in accordance with Air Force policy. A second 60-day delinquency within 12 months will result in cancellation of the travel card.

Commanders will have the option of

allowing reservists to reapply for cards, however American Express will review personal credit histories and will have the authority to deny re-issuance of the cards.

In a recent letter to commanders, Maj. Gen. Robert A. McIntosh, Air Force Reserve commander, noted that "the Air Force Reserve has consistently had the highest delinquency percentage within the Air Force. This reflects poorly on us all, and we need to take aggressive action now."

Perry recommended that reservists keep their bills down by avoiding unnec-

essary cash advances from ATM machines while on the road. They can also help avoid penalties by not waiting for reimbursement from the travel section before making travel card payments.

Perry also reminded reservists that government American Express travel cards are the property of the government and personal use can result in severe penalties. Regulations authorize a commander to retain the travel card or withdraw it at any time.

A road map for Westover's medical units

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

If injured in a war — you might be treated by one of Westover's four medical units — depending on how close you are to the front lines.

The four units — the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES), the 439th Medical Squadron (MDS), the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron (ASTS), the 722nd ASTS, — have 527 reservists.

If activated, the 439th AES, and the two ASTS units would work with army personnel to move patients away from the frontlines to various levels of medical treatment. The 439th MDS remains at Westover to medically support the C-5 airlift mission. The MDS and ASTS units are under the Airlift Mobility Command, while the AES is under the Air Combat Command.

Organizationally, the MDS and the 439th ASTS units fall under the 439th Medical Group commanded by Col. Joseph Curley, and the 439th AES functions separately. The 722nd ASTS reports to Dobbins ARB, Ga., but gets mission support and training with Westover.

To understand the primary role of each unit, particularly their wartime mission, a summary is provided:

439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

The 439th AES is commanded by Col. Seymour Wiener, with 260 authorized positions. Of the four units, the AES would handle patients closest to the frontlines. According to Maj. Dave Zamorski, AES Health Services Administrator, the unit has a tasking for three Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facilities (MASF). The MASFs are tents set up in barebase areas, such as a dirt airstrip. They receive patients from a MASH unit and maintain the patient until they can be airlifted for further treatment. "We coordinate all patient airlift movement from the MASH unit — all the way home, if necessary," said Zamorski. "We function like an ambulance dispatch — we provide transportation for the patient, and figure out which medical facility they go to next."

The AES must not only provide all the personnel to man the MASFs, including communications personnel and medical staff, but they also have the ability to provide medical aircrews if necessary. In addition, the AES provides personnel to coordinate the needs of all the MASFs in the theater through aeromedical evacuation command posts. The 439th AES is one of three AES units with such comprehensive responsibilities.

The prior mission of the AES was to generate medical aircrews, but with the new tasking, they must be as proficient on the ground as they are in the air.

The AES is a multi-purpose unit that can deploy as an entire unit, or deploy specialty teams as needed.

439th Medical Squadron

The 439th MDS is a fixed facility at Westover under the command of Col. Yash Malhotra. Their primary wartime mission is centered here at the base where they provide the medical support for all base personnel needed to launch C-5 missions. They provide flight physicals and medical documentation for aircrews. If Westover becomes a stage base, the MDS also treats transient aircrews. The MDS maintains 14 medical career fields to perform their diverse function.

During peacetime, the 96 MDS members provide all physicals, flight exams, dental exams, immunizations, public health screenings and environmental/job-related health concerns. The MDS is very active in community disaster drills and augments civilian resources responding to local incidents.

The MDS does not have a mobility mission, but may send individuals to other bases to backfill positions vacated by active duty personnel sent to a forward operating theater.

439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

The 439th ASTS is one of 23 ASTSs in the Air Force Reserve. Headed by Col. Dorothy Holliday, the ASTS has a mobility mission in wartime to set up a 100-bed treatment station located between airlift locale and a fixed medical facility. "We're like a bus station," said Lt. Col. Pat Walegir, 439th MD special assistant. "We treat them and move them fast."

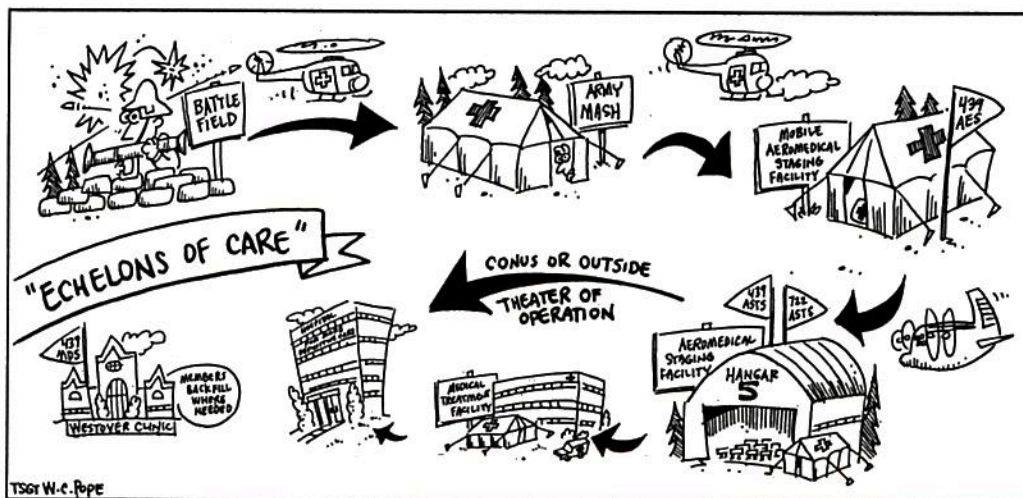
Patients airlifted from the battlefield move from a MASH unit or a Mobile Aerial Staging Facility to an ASTS station. There, the wounded are re-triaged, or receive minimal medical treatment to prepare them for airlift to a fixed hospital.

The ASTS unit is flexible according to wartime needs. They generally come as a total package — people, tents, supplies and gear. Drop them off, and they set up shop. The ASTS can work out of tents set up near flightlines, set up a fixed facility, or augment other medical staffing. The 70 people of the 439th ASTS have no peacetime mission other than readiness training for mobilization.

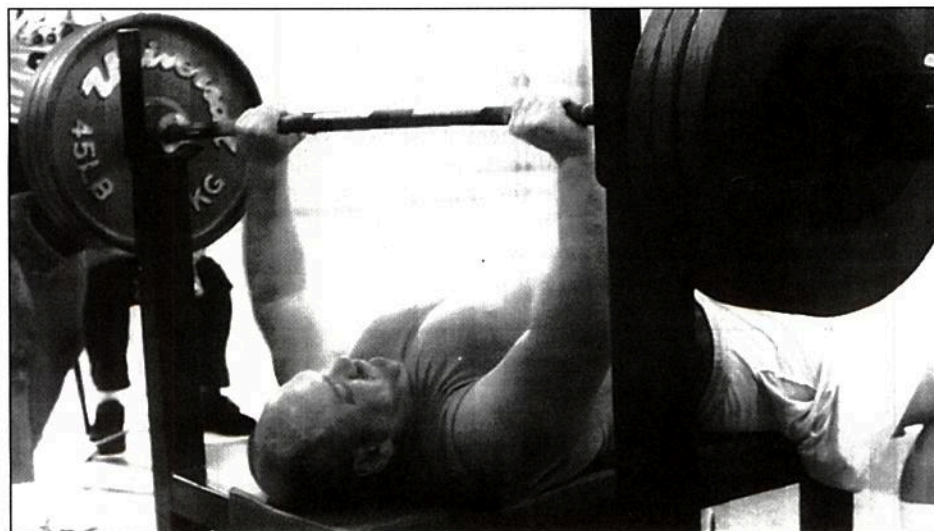
722nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron

The 722nd ASTS is a geographically separated unit attached to the 439th Airlift Wing for support, but physically located in Roslyn, N.Y. Command and control lies with the 622nd Regional Support Group at Dobbins. The unit has 160 reservists and is commanded by Lt. Col. Kathleen Porter.

The mission of the 722nd ASTS is similar to the 439th ASTS except they have a 250-bed staging facility.



Pushing their weight



IRONMAN -- Daniel Berry, 439th MXS airframe specialist, works out to prepare for the Ironman competition to be held at Westover on Dec. 14.

Berry qualifies in the heavy bench press and dead lift. Ironman powerlifting starts at 300 pounds, but is modified for people of different body weight and sex. According to retired Lt. Col. Ned Cramer, former world champion lifter and one of this year's judges, a large number of men and women are expected to compete.

Base Services offers full slate of fall and winter activities

by SSgt. Paul Mantikoski

The Westover Fitness Center, Club and Four Seasons store are getting ready for the fall and winter season. Here's what's happening:

SSgt. John Wheeler, recreation specialist with the 439th Services Squadron wants to let all reservists know that the volleyball nets are set up and available until 8 p.m. on Saturday nights of the UTA. Wheeler encourages those units interested in forming teams to come to the gym for some friendly competition and a good time.

A great way to get a few frustrations out after a hard day's work is knocking over a few pins at the bowling center. On Saturday nights of the UTA, everyone can take advantage of the Saturday Night Special: Three hours of bowling for only \$5! Winter leagues are also starting to form and a kids league is planned for Saturdays, so call the bowling center at Ext. 3010 for all the details.

Does the high cost of tickets prevent you from seeing a movie on the Saturday night of a UTA? The base gym is offering discount tickets for the Showcase Cinemas on Riverdale Road in West Springfield. The tickets are \$6 (a savings of \$1.25) and are valid at any Showcase Cinemas in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The club is sponsoring a Football Frenzy Promotion for members over 21 years old. Fill out an entry form in the Casual Lounge to win great football prizes. The grand prize is a trip to the Super Bowl in New Orleans on January 26, 1997. The trip includes air fare, hotel accommodations and car rental.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and the Westover Club will host a Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet on November 28. Reservations are required and seating will be at 12, 2 and 4 p.m. Prices are \$13.95 for adults and \$6.50 for children. The menu will include roast turkey, baked ham and all your favorite trimmings.

The Four Seasons store is having a clearance sale on all sports equipment and accessories from now until they run out. Stop by for a great deal.

A giant ski sale is in progress at the Four Seasons store. All 1996-1997 equipment is on sale—boots, poles, skis, clothing and accessories at great savings. All top brand names are available with free mounting, too so stop in before it's all gone.

With winter coming soon, your Four Seasons store is gearing up for the ski season. They are offering a complete ski tune up for only \$11, which includes waxing, edge-sharpening and binding service. This price is good all season long. Once your skis are ready, you can save up to \$4 when you buy discount lift tickets to Mount Tom. Call Frank at Ext. 2974 for details.

Don't forget the Pioneer Valley USO Annual Children's Christmas party in December. Call the USO for information at 593-6395.

If skiing isn't your thing, then rent a snowmobile from the Four Seasons store. They come two to a trailer and require a \$100 security deposit. Rental fees are \$55 daily for off-base use and \$80 a weekend (Sat.-Mon.) off-base use. Camping trailers and U-Drive recreational vehicles are also available. Trailers rent for \$20 daily and the RVs \$65.

Not too long after the first snowflakes fly, it's time for the Westover Club's Annual New Year's Eve Party! The club welcomes you to celebrate the new year in their beautiful ballroom. Tickets are \$50 per person and \$7 for billeting. The price includes: Open bar from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., gourmet buffet from 7 - 9 p.m., buffet breakfast from 12:15 - 1:15 a.m.; party favors and one bottle of champagne per couple. A live band will entertain in the ballroom and a DJ will keep the casual bar rocking. Tickets go on sale November 19 at the club. Call 593-5531 and specify that you're booking the New Year's Eve special.

For information on gym events, contact SSgt. John Wheeler or Mike Wysocki at the gym, Ext. 3958; the club at 593-5531 and the Four Seasons store, Ext. 2974

Reservist will notice per diem rate cuts

by TSgt. W.C. Pope

Those used to eating light and pocketing the extra cash while traveling on government orders may soon see a reduction in their per diem.

With the reduction of surcharges at military dining halls Oct. 1, active-duty and reserve officers and enlisted people will get less per diem when they travel if they use military lodging. They will probably be directed to eat all or most of their meals in a government mess if available.

Morale Welfare and Recreation facilities including base exchange restaurants or officer's and enlisted clubs are not considered a government mess.

This change may have a significant impact on reserve members performing

duty at locations with a government mess available, said Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh, in a finance department letter.

The new policy permits officers on temporary duty to eat in most dining facilities. Under the old rule, they could only eat at the dining facility if meals were not available elsewhere on base. Civilian travelers, including air reserve technicians in civilian status, cannot be ordered to eat in government dining facilities, but they will feel a pinch if they are allowed and elect not to eat there.

Under the old rule, military travelers would get \$20.15 a day for basic meal rates and surcharges in a government messing facility, whether they ate there or not. Now, if their orders direct them to eat all of their meals at a government facility, they will get \$9 a day — \$7 to

cover basic meal rates and \$2 for incidental expenses. Under the new rules, the only time bluesuiters won't be directed to eat all or some of their meals at a dining facility is if there are no meals available at the installation or location, if use of government mess will adversely affect the mission or if they are lodged off base.

"Per diem for travel days will stay the same," said Jim Perry, Financial Services Officer. "With all the cutbacks this is a way the Air Force will be saving money and evening up the per diem rates."

For more details contact Jim Perry Ext. 3460, Dan McCarthy Ext. 2950, or Barbara Hurst Ext. 2809 for more information.

New category of paid training

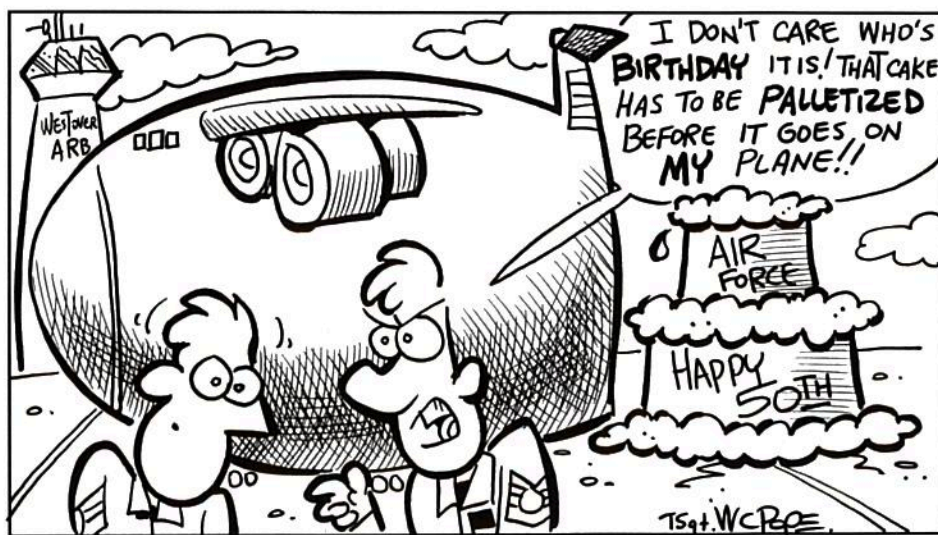
ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Air Force Reservists can use a new category of paid training to accomplish special projects such as getting ready for training and administrative support.

Reservists have had the option to use four-hour Readiness Management Periods since Oct. 1.

In a policy letter on the new category, Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, Air Force Reserve vice commander, said RMPs are available to conduct training preparation, maintenance training or support, unit administrative support and other related training activities. These activities are not authorized during aircrew ground training periods, but RMPs can be used to perform them.

Commanders must authorize the Readiness Management Periods in advance and include the specific training requirements on the reservist's Air Force Form 40A. Performing RMPs is strictly voluntary and permitted in any status—officer, enlisted, air reserve technician, non-ART, etc.

Reservists can use a maximum of 24 RMPs per fiscal year, but they cannot use them on the same calendar day as any type of inactive duty for training, such as unit training assemblies, or active-duty periods, such as mandays. Reservists can only take one RMP per day with one point authorized for pay and points only. They will not receive travel pay for RMPs. (AFRES News Service)



RAV deployment... continued from page 9

their own security forces, with members pulling armed guard duty in addition to their regular duties.

A dozen Westover firefighters headed by SMSgt. Wade Tate manned the Lawson Army Airfield fire station, operating two heavy trucks.

The exercise was so realistic that coded passwords were issued and Services members maintained a simulated mortuary operation. TSgt. Bob Fredette and SSgt. Shane Robitaille operated a mini-version CBPO.

A hard working Transportation team of drivers and dispatchers under TSgt. Kathie Lee kept people moving between the airfield and the old wooden barracks about 10 miles away at an area dubbed

Harmony Church.

Everyone slept in sleeping bags on bunk beds in the World War II barracks but there were no complaints. The billeting and dining hall members were credited with providing outstanding "real world" service.

A group of USO volunteers staffed the Base Hangar with much welcomed hot coffee long before sunrise when the unit deployed, and again when they returned.

The deployment was commanded by Lt. Col. Thomas Mauzaka, 439th ALCF commander, who expressed his appreciation on the final day for an all-out effort during a hard test of peoples' skills and perseverance.

Patriot People

Name: Christopher R. Doyle

Rank: SMSgt.

Age: 41

Address: East Longmeadow, MA

Unit: 439th MXS

Position: Comm/nav shop supervisor

Civilian position: (ART)

Favorite food: Blackened fish

Years of service: 21

Favorite sport: Giants football

Favorite hobby: Sketching graphics

Ideal vacation: Movie set for *Baywatch* show

Best way to relax: Painting to music

Preferred entertainment: Out to dinner and movie

Favorite hero: Ex-president George Bush

Favorite music: Different kinds depending on mood

Favorite movie: *Twelve O'Clock High*

Favorite aircraft: F-4 E/G Phantom "Flying Brick"

Pet peeve: People who are late for everything

What I would do if I won \$1 million: Buy ride in F-4



TSgt. W.C. Pope

SMSgt. Christopher R. Doyle

Patriot Praises

Promotions

Lt. Col. Cole, Anne

Lt. Col. Kohut, Michael B.

Lt. Col. Oshana, Allen L.

Lt. Col. Wishoski, Denise M.

Enlistments

SSgt. Dupuis, Dana A.

SSgt. Horne, Phillip D.

SSgt. Mosley, Brice E.

SSgt. Wise, John C.

SrA. Goulet, Guy W.

SrA. Kinoyan, Steve A., Jr.

SrA. Lis, Daniel H.

SrA. Nadeau, Jeffrey S.

SrA. Salvatore, Santo A.

SrA. Skehan, Timothy J.

SrA. Wilson, Reginald L.

A1C Farrell, Susan A.

A1C Garcia, Richard

A1C Kirton, Floyd M. A.

A1C Kochis, James F., Jr.

A1C Kostecki, Maciej K.

A1C Morgan, Anthony J.

A1C Olmo, Juan C.

A1C Rivet, Dawn M.

A1C Singh, Tony J.

AB Long, William B. E.

AB Morrison, Joshua S.

AB Stewart, Colleen B.

Reenlistments

MSgt. Benoit, Ronald R.

MSgt. Jaundoo, Hubert

MSgt. Lausier, Sharon L.

MSgt. Vadnais, Donald J.

MSgt. Wheeler, John F.

TSgt. Altfeter, Frederick

TSgt. Cincotta, Paul M.

TSgt. Coleman, Warren E.

TSgt. Corcoran, Michael J.

TSgt. Gunter, Beverly J.

TSgt. Holt, Todd T.

TSgt. Lefave, Albert J.

TSgt. Stawasz, Robert L.

SSgt. Atkinson, Russell J., Jr.

SSgt. Bolwell, Robert J.

SSgt. Brown, Edward A.

SSgt. Carey, Paul J.

SSgt. Casey, Timothy F., Jr.

SSgt. Cody, Melissa A.

SSgt. Companik, Michael E.

SSgt. Davis, Christopher W.

SSgt. Dutton, David B.

SSgt. Emo, Douglas W.

SSgt. Falcone, Michael D.

SSgt. Housley, Deborah S.

SSgt. Mongelli, Anthony P.

SSgt. Newton, Brian J.

SSgt. Pelletier, Denis J.

SSgt. Quick, Bert A.

SSgt. Salafia, Ronald J.

SSgt. Theroux, Mark R.

SrA. Dakin, Thomas J.

SrA. Fox, Bennett J.

SrA. Head, Lewis G.

SrA. Lawrence, Constance Y.

SrA. Melvin, Edward G., III

AFRES looking for recruiter candidates

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — The Air Force Reserve is looking for qualified, highly motivated people who are interested in working in the challenging and rewarding recruiting field.

Recruiters serve four-year active-duty tours. Serious-minded, hard-working individuals who perform at a high level can earn a 20-year active-duty retirement. In addition to their basic pay and allowance, recruiters also receive \$375 per month in proficiency pay.

Qualified candidates attend four weeks of training at the Air Force Recruiting Service "school-house" at Lackland AFB, Texas, followed by a week of additional training on Reserve-specific topics.

Eligible candidates must be senior airmen through technical sergeants, have less than 16 total years of active service, able to take a 48-month tour of duty, able to meet the physical qualifications of an active-duty entrance medical exam, adhere to high military appearance standards and be available for duty at any of AFRES' nationwide operating locations.

Anyone interested in applying for a position as an AFRES recruiter, may contact the Directorate of Recruiting's Personnel and Manpower Division at DSN 497-0136 or (912) 327-0136.

Base brings economy home

It's the economy, stupid.

Political pundits of both camps raised that refrain dozens of times throughout the presidential election. So did lots of commentators, columnists and other enlightened media types.

But what *is* the economy?

The 3,500 visitors to the pull-through hanger Nov. 7 know.

Westover hosted Commerce '96, a trade and exhibition show that spotlighted 196 businesses from throughout the Pioneer Valley and beyond.

Editorial

They found out the economy isn't some abstract textbook theory or think-tank flowchart or Madison Avenue or even Wall Street.

No.

It's right here. The business owners who bloody their heads each day promoting their products and services in an economy that still cries out for a jump start. Business owners—better than any expert—know if there's no sale, there's no business—and no jobs. And if there's no business, there's no economy.

Selling is what Commerce '96 is all about. It's where the economic rubber meets the road and where Westover proudly provides a forum for that all to happen.

But perhaps the best message we gave those 3,500 visitors is simply this: Westover is still here and better than ever.

They couldn't miss the cues: C-5s strategically flanking the parking area; the commander's breakfast message to more than 600 business managers and owners and numerous blue suiters browsing the displays in a building that's larger than any other structure this side of Boston.

So while sales matter, Westover does, too.

Capt. Paul Koscak
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Briefs

Computer center plans open house

The base's new Computer Learning Center will conduct two Grand Openings in December. The ceremonies are scheduled for 10 a.m. on Dec. 2, and 9 a.m. on Dec. 7. The center is located in Building 1875 in the former photo lab.

Cheap haircuts offered by school

Broms Academy, a Holyoke cosmetology school, has an offer you can't refuse: free haircuts to anyone in uniform. "All military personnel are free," Director Dean Graziano says. For those willing to take the offer, all barbering will be done by those nearing graduation. Graziano says the school, located at 15 Papineau St., across from the Springdale Park, is already cutting hair for the Air National Guard. For more information, call 536-6429.

Gagnon captures cribbage trophy

For the second year in a row, Gerry Gagnon, Disaster Preparedness technician, earned first place in the National Division 1 competition of the American Cribbage Congress.

Gagnon won the plaque by accumulating points while playing nine games a week in Longmeadow over a 36-week period. More than 3,600 players nationally participated in the Division 1 competition.

His top play made him the only Massachusetts player to win two titles and the only player nationally to win back-to-back titles. Gagnon has been playing cribbage for 30 years and has been a member of the American Cribbage Congress for five years.

UTA SCHEDULE

A UTA Dec. 8
B UTA Dec. 21-22

Recent uniform defect corrected

by SSgt. Joseph McLean

Men's dress-blue coats should be trouble-free now that the Air Force has directed the manufacturer to make changes in the way it the garment is put together.

The defect is a wavy or bubbly appearance on the smooth, flat parts of the coat or the separation of the material from the inner lining when the garment is dry cleaned.

The problem seems confined to coats issued to airmen completing basic training from Oct. 1, 1995 through July 31, 1996.

No defective coats were issued from base supply here at Westover nor were any returned for exchange according to Janet E. Lemieux, manager of individual equipment and uniforms.

Reservists who need to replace uniforms should complete a 439th Air Wing Form 18, a clothing issue request.

Base water supply once again safe for drinking

Article and photo
by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

After three months of flushing and testing, Westover's water supply is safe for drinking, bathing, hand washing, etc. except for two facilities.

The base shut down its water system in June when elevated levels of asbestos fibers clogged a hose nozzle being tested by base firefighters. Bottled water stations and antiseptic towelettes were purchased for base employees as temporary measures. The bottled water contract ended on Oct. 15.

The cause of the contamination was determined to be a 16-inch, mile-long, 50-year-old asbestos-concrete pipe that runs underneath the flight line.

Replacement of the main began Nov. 15 and will finish by the end of February 1997. A sleeve inserted into the current main will stop the contamination and the main then becomes a conduit line. Once this project is complete, there will no longer be any cement-asbestos pipes remaining on base.

Base bioenvironmental officials have taken steps to prevent similar incidents in the future. "We are increasing sampling, above and beyond the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act," said Marian Mathieu, the base's chief of bioenvironmental engineering.

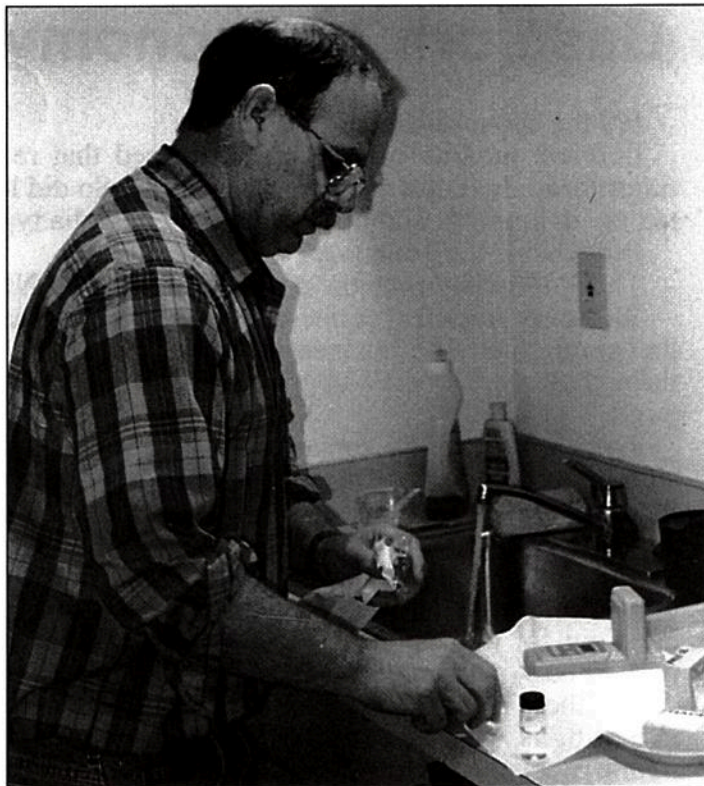
The state Environmental Protection Agency considers water with 7 million or fewer fibers per liter safe for drinking.

She added that the only two sites still affected are Building 2425, a 90-day storage facility that will remain off-line until the 16-inch main is replaced, and Building 1310, which is under contractor control.

"Building 2425 is supplied directly by the 16-inch main so we are unable to flush until the replacement is complete. Building 1310 is undergoing a major remodeling and cannot be flushed without contractor approval. This work should be done in the spring of 1997," she said.

Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing, praised the action of base workers during the crisis.

"Dealing with this problem for the past three months has



PURITY TEST — Robert Pomeroy, a bioenvironmental technician, tests water from a faucet in the Mission Support Group orderly room. Increased sampling of base water by the bioenvironmental section will take place throughout the year.

been a difficult challenge for everyone on the base. We became acutely aware of just how much a good source of potable water impacts the installation. I offer my appreciation for everyone's patience and cooperation in dealing with this difficult situation."

PATRIOT



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Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Joseph R. Lecuyer, of Feeding Hills, Mass., and 2,695 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.