

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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Marine element joins Westover ranks

Article and photo
by Capt. Paul Koscak

The base just got bigger.

Marines from South Weymouth Naval Air Station, which is scheduled to close a year from now, have found a new home here and are expected to move into building 1900 as soon as renovations are complete. Westover's newest neighbor, the Marine Corps Reserve Support Element, is really two units: Marine Support Squadron 6 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 474, Detachment B, which consists of 54 active and 331 Reserve Marines.

The element, which is supported by a

Navy reserve chaplain and a medical detachment that includes two surgeons, manages large numbers of aircraft in support of ground-combat operations. It also provides construction and motor-transport services and utilities, such as mobile electric power, water purification and field hygiene support, according to a Marine Corps report.

For now, the Marines are working in offices that were once Air Force housing on Cowan Avenue, just outside the main gate.

"Westover offers the support we need to be combat ready," Major Rich Roa, site support element commander, says.

Support—and location—is what

tipped the balance in the corps' decision to move here.

For a while, Roa considered moving to Brunswick Naval Air Station, Maine, but the isolation and distance were disadvantages.

"It would have been a tough drive in the winter for our Reserve Marines," Roa says.

Westover's massive modernization as well as its small-arms range, refurbished lodging and amenities such as an exchange and club, were major draws, Roa says. Having the C-5 mission was another.

"We have an agreement to move our

(continued on page 9)



CHOREOGRAPHY — Capt. Rob Burton III, (left front), lunges forward with his rifle during a hand-to-hand combat exercise. Burton, along with SSgt. Ernest

Hoopii (right center) are members of the Marine Corps Reserve Support Element. Physical training is part of the unit's regimen to stay combat ready.

Wing selects top reservists

Article by MSgt. Tom Allocco
Photos by SSgt. Vin Blanchard

The 439th Medical Services Squadron produced three out of the four top enlisted members when the outstanding airmen and NCOs of the year and quarter were selected in September.

SSgt. Ruth Rodriguez was named NCO of the Year and SrA. Jeffrey Picard earned Airman of the Year and Airman of the Quarter honors. Squadron member TSgt. Ronald Labonte was recognized as NCO of the Quarter.

MSgt. David Carbin of the 439th Logistics Supply Squadron was named Senior NCO of the Year and Senior NCO of the Quarter.

Those named outstanding enlisted members of the year were scheduled to receive plaques and AAFES gift certificates at the Enlisted Dining-Out at the Westover Club, Oct. 5. A letter of recognition was also scheduled to be presented at the Dining-Out in recognition of top quarterly honors.

The names of the Airman and NCOs of the Year will be inscribed on the Wing Honor Roll at Wing Headquarters.

Carbin was selected for superior performance as a maintenance data systems analyst. A small computer expert, he developed procedures to ensure computer security and standardization, which protect against computer virus and reduce set-up time and increase productivity. He is also credited with increasing communications between operations and maintenance branches.

Carbin is a founding member of the Logistics Support Squadron Quality

Council and was instrumental in organizing a computer familiarization course.

Rodriguez, NCOIC of the 439th MDS Immunization Clinic, was recognized in part for helping streamline clinic procedures. During the past year she served in Honduras where she performed additional duty as a Spanish translator while helping deliver medical care to more than 1,110 people in eight remote villages.

Her additional duties include serving as immunization clinic trainer.

Picard earned top airman honors for assuming wide-ranging responsibilities during the medical squadron's move into its new facilities. He coordinated relocating and assembling equipment which contributed significantly to making the move without disruption of service. Picard provided similar assistance when the Wiesbaden Contingency Hospital in Germany was moved to Frankfurt.

He serves as the medical squadron's biomedical equipment repair technician.

Labonte was named NCO of the Quarter in recognition of exceptional efforts as senior medic in charge of medical operations during the 1996 Great New England Air Show.

Drawing on his extensive experience, Labonte played a key role in planning for the medical needs of the air show, including allocation of supplies and equipment. His contributions included rewriting the medical portion of the air show emergency response plan and conducting medical emergency response liaison with civilian authorities.

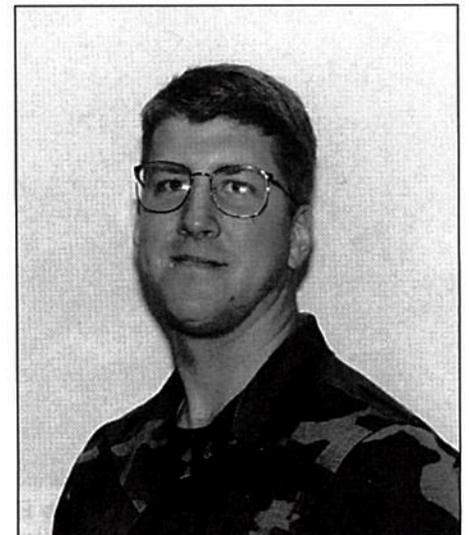
The Wing Enlisted Awards Committee was chaired by Maj. Maynard Mendoza, wing executive officer.



MSgt. David Carbin



SSgt. Ruth Rodriguez



SrA Jeffrey Picard

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

NCOIC/Co-editor

MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Editor/Deputy NCOIC

MSgt. Sandra M. Michon

Deputy NCOIC/ Media Relations

MSgt. Tom Allocco

Photo Editor:

SSgt. Vin Blanchard

Staff

Capt. Mike Franco

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Latest water warning: look before you drink

by Capt. Paul Koscak

Although worries about the extent of Westover's water contamination are over, base health officials are cautioning everyone to avoid drinking or using base water unless there's a sign posted outside your building authorizing its use.

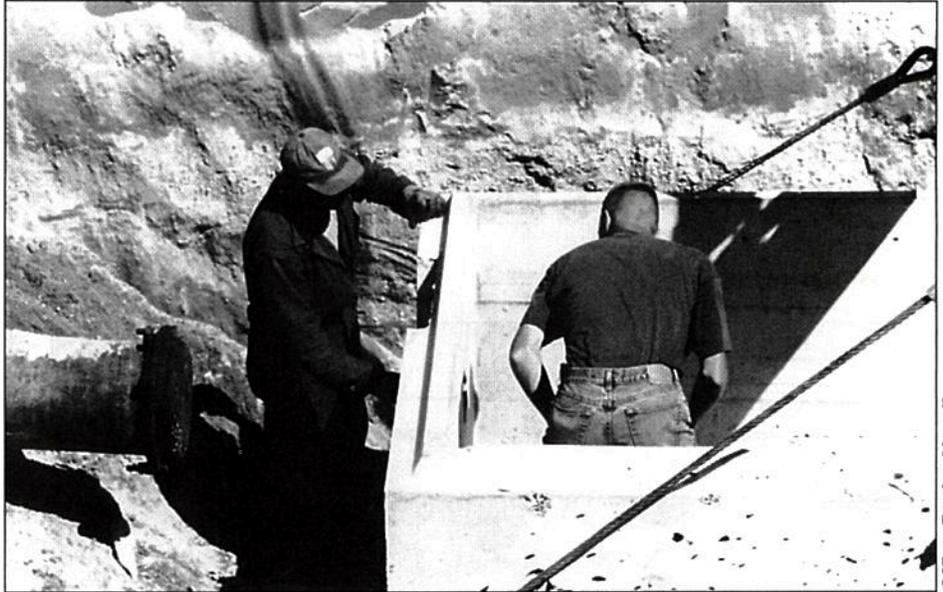
Asbestos fibers forced the base to shut down its water system several weeks ago after firefighters discovered the substance partially clogging a hose nozzle. Within days of the shutdown, vendors set up bottled-water stations throughout the base and boxes of antiseptic towelettes were placed next to restroom sinks.

After anxious searching, the culprit was found: a mile-long, 50-year-old deteriorating asbestos and concrete pipe that runs from a pumphouse and underneath the flight line.

"It's the only line that wasn't replaced" during the \$2 million base water-supply renovation, Marian Mathieu, chief of bioenvironmental engineering, said.

Rather than rip up the flightline to replace the pipe, it will instead be repaired by inserting a sleeve. Until that's done, the pipe will be out of service and the base will get its water from the City of Chicopee through an emergency connection that runs along Anderson Road. Anderson Road is the street that parallels the Westover Club.

Meanwhile, the tainted water that en-



MSgt. Gordon Newell

WATERWORKS — Workers install a back-flow check valve that prevents asbestos contaminated water from flowing into Chicopee's water system. The city allowed the base to use a main to provide water during base flushing operations.

tered the base from the defective pipe is being flushed from the system one building at a time. As each location is done, a notice is posted outside the building.

"We've asked all building custodians to inform their residents," Mathieu said.

As recently as the 1970s, asbestos was used in pipes and construction. Although there's limited evidence that asbestos is a health hazard, the substance

has produced tumors in laboratory animals according to a notice published by base health officials. But asbestos fibers have caused lung tumors in humans when inhaled.

The Environmental Protection Agency considers water with 7,000,000 or less asbestos fibers per liter safe to drink.



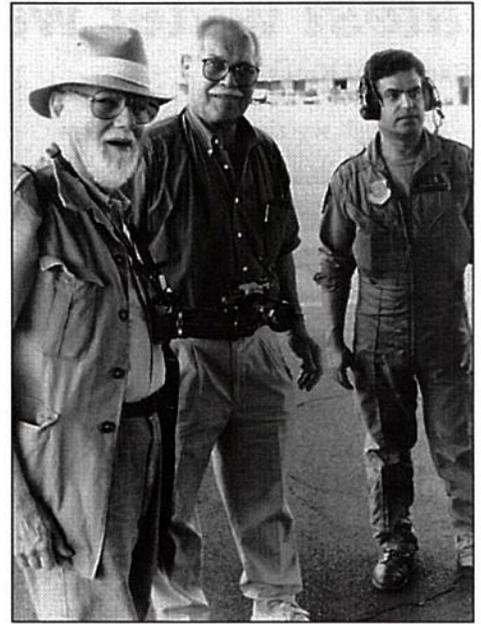
Globemaster visits Westover

CARGO COUSINS — Two C-17s, the Air Force's newest cargo aircraft, visited Westover Sept. 21 - 22 to assist the 58th Aerial Port Squadron with static loading training. Crew members and aerial porters prepared an M-60 tank for on-load. The C-17 is scheduled to replace the C-141 Starlifter.

photo by MSgt. Gordon Newell

Pentagon artists capture C-5 mission

Photos by MSgt. Gordon Newell

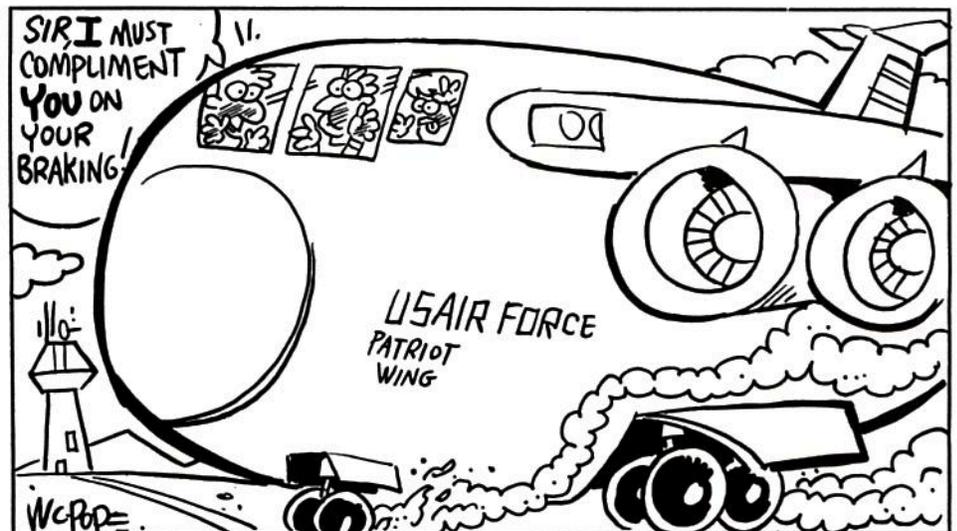


ART GALLERY — Ted Carr, left, and Jean Lebbin (top photo), artists on assignment from the Air Force Historian's Office at the Pentagon, accompanied a 439th AW C-5 crew on a recent mission to Hawaii. They photographed every part of the mission to create original paintings to donate to the Air Force. Standing with the artists is SSgt. Joaquim Pedro, 439th AW crew chief. At left, Carr and Lebbin 'shoot' the Galaxy during the onload at Hilo of troops and equipment bound for Hickham AFB.

Air Force News line

Air Force Internal Information offers a daily five-minute broadcast of stories dealing with Air Force issues. People can listen to Air Force Radio News by calling the toll-free telephone number, 1-800-264-2066. The service virtually guarantees instant access to the program without a busy signal.

The news line is available at any time.



New mobilization insurance safeguards income levels

by TSgt. W.C. Pope

Now there's insurance to protect your income in case you're activated. The Ready Reserve Mobilization Income Insurance Program is now available — but timing is critical.

"For current reservists, this is the ONLY chance to sign up for mobilization insurance," stressed MSgt. Bev Cote, chief of customer service. "Sign ups will be from Oct. 1 to Dec. 1. If reservists do not opt for the insurance during that 60-day window, their decision to decline coverage is irrevocable," she said. No decision is considered "decline by default."

The optional program, enacted by the 1996 Defense Authorization Act, covers reservists called involuntarily to active duty for more than 31 days. The benefit is intended to narrow the potential gap between civilian and military pay.

"Reservists must fill out DD Form 2746 to enroll, or decline insurance coverage," Cote said. "You will need beneficiaries' complete name, address and social security number, as well as your bank account number and bank address," she added.

Once enrolled, reservists can only make beneficiary changes and DE-

Insurance rates

monthly premium	monthly benefit
\$ 6.10	\$ 500.00
\$12.20	\$1,000.00
\$18.30	\$1,500.00
\$24.40	\$2,000.00
\$30.50	\$2,500.00
\$36.60	\$3,000.00
\$42.70	\$3,500.00
\$48.80	\$4,000.00
\$54.90	\$4,500.00
\$61.00	\$5,000.00

CREASE coverage. "Because existing rules are so strict, reservists should carefully calculate their financial situations to be sure they elect appropriate coverage," Cote said. Sample yearly income examples are available to help reservists compare activation income with combined civilian and reserve income.

To receive payments, reservists must

be ordered to duty in support of war, national emergency or to augment active forces for an operational mission. Benefits are not paid to those who volunteer or are called to duty for training purposes. Those currently on active duty are not eligible for the program until they are released from active duty.

Basic coverage begins at \$500 and increases in \$500 increments up to a maximum of \$5,000 per month. Benefits can be received for up to one year or a maximum of 12 months during any 18-month period.

The premium rate is \$12.20 a month per \$1,000 in coverage (see inset for rates). Reservists premiums are deducted from the reservist's bank account when financial paperwork is processed, and two missed months will result in cancellation. Benefit payments are subject to tax withholding.

"Briefings are scheduled at the conference center for the October A UTA and the November B UTA to review insurance details," Cote said. "ARTS and reservists on mandays may enroll at the customer service window in Building 1875 during weekdays." Contact your orderly room, or call customer service at Ext. 3430 or 3427 for more information.

Innovative gym feature provides sound choices

by SSgt. Paul Mantikoski

For those interested in a workout but not the associated noise that can go with it, the Westover Fitness Center has just solved your problem.

The Center has installed a new broadcast system that allows individuals with earphones to listen to one of three television channels while they work out.

If you've visited the gym lately, you'll notice the room with all the stationary bikes, treadmills and steppers is silent — except for the sounds of the equipment.

"People can now come in with their walkmans and enjoy a television show without bothering those who want to workout in silence," said SSgt. John Wheeler, recreation specialist.

All patrons have to do is bring a walkman and tune it to one of the three pre-set stations. The system covers the whole room and is not affected by movement.

Wheeler hopes the new system will help keep the noise down and entice people to come in get in shape.



EXERCISING CHOICE — Lou Boudah, retiree from Chicopee, works out on the NordicTrack. He is listening to the car race on TV through his earphones — part of a new system which translates TV frequency to FM frequency. Three TV sets offers pre-set channels, and sound is accessible to individuals via their personal headsets.



ON PATROL — As a security police augmentee at Riyadh, SSgt. Jeff Green, of the 42nd APS, manned an M-16 machine gun and patrolled desert flightlines in a

HUMVEE during his 90-day tour with Southern Watch in Saudi Arabia.

Aerial porters assist security after Dhahran bombing

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Guard duty on the perimeter fence, armed with an M-16, was among the extra duties for aerial porter SSgt. Jeff Green following the June terrorist bombing in Saudi Arabia.

Green, and fellow 42nd APS member SrA. Jaime Coote, came home in September from 90-day tours at Riyadh Air Base, outside Saudi Arabia's capital. They volunteered for Saudi Arabian duty expecting long hours and desert heat, but they didn't expect the constant tension and confinement caused by the terrorist threat.

The two arrived at the Saudi Arabian air base in June just as tension soared following the terror bombing that cost 19 American lives near Dhahran.

Green and Coote said the 1,500 Americans in Riyadh frequently experienced security alerts sparked by intelligence reports indicating terrorist plots. A pot-shot was fired at an Air Force bus and a road frequented by Americans was blocked in an apparent ambush attempt which was thwarted by security police.

"After the bombing in Dhahran we had no way of knowing if we were going to be next," Green said.

"There was always tension. Sometimes when Americans would go by in a vehicle, kids would wave toy guns just to make the Americans jump," he said.

Green volunteered to stand four six-hour shifts to supplement the security force guarding the perimeter fence.

"Several times we went to threat con delta, the highest level, due to intelligence reports. The most recent time was when we launched the cruise missiles at Iraq. They doubled the security

police, dogs and security checks," he said.

"In Saudi Arabia, I really appreciated the chemical warfare training I received at Westover. We carried the mask and ensemble with us everywhere," Green said.

High security precautions also meant rules against congregating in large groups. Instead of eating at tables in the dining hall, they carried their food to their work area.

"There was a lot of pressure because you couldn't go downtown. For a while we had to travel to and from work wearing civilian shirts. They also tried having 10-car convoys with police in front and back," Coote said.

Security considerations cancelled trips into Riyadh which kept everyone confined to their sand-brick living quarters when not working. Recreation was limited to a small above-ground swimming pool, game room and Armed Forces Radio and Television programming, including Monday Night Football broadcast at 4 a.m.

"After 45 days we were supposed to get R&R, but after the bombing, the trips were cancelled. There was no release; it was back and forth to work. The tension really built up," Green said.

Before the bombing, he made several trips to downtown Riyadh. In the capital he witnessed the regularly scheduled beheadings of criminals with a sword and chopping block. "The crowd really wanted me to see it. I was pushed to the front of the crowd," Green said.

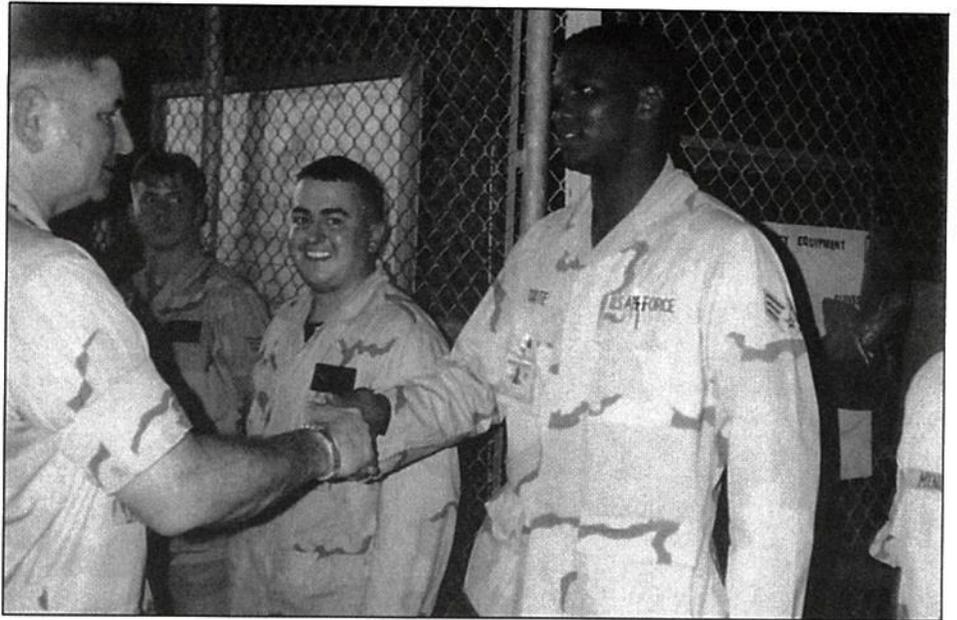
He also remembers the Mutawa — Saudi Arabian religious police who patrol Riyadh streets armed with canes to enforce such rules as closing stores during prayer time.

Coote says he will always remember the heat and the long hours at Riyadh Air Base. "We worked second-shift Air Freight

SAUDI SCENES — Two 42nd APS aerial porters learned about life in the desert and the demanding duties of Operation Southern Watch during recent 90-day tours of active duty. SSgt. Jeff Green and SrA. Jamie Coote, both served as security police augmentees during their assignments in the Gulf. One of the highlights of Airman Coote's tour of duty in the Arabian Gulf Region (top right) was the chance to meet Gen. Ronald R. Fogelman, Air Force chief of staff, who visited Saudi Arabia to view Southern Watch operations.

Green and Coote lived in sand-colored quarters at the Eskan Village Complex in Riyadh (middle photo). Sergeant Green, chats with General Fogelman at the "Mirage" dining facility in Riyadh.

(All photos courtesy of SSgt. Jeff Green)



and didn't finish until the planes were finished coming and going. One day we worked 25 hours because a plane broke," he said.

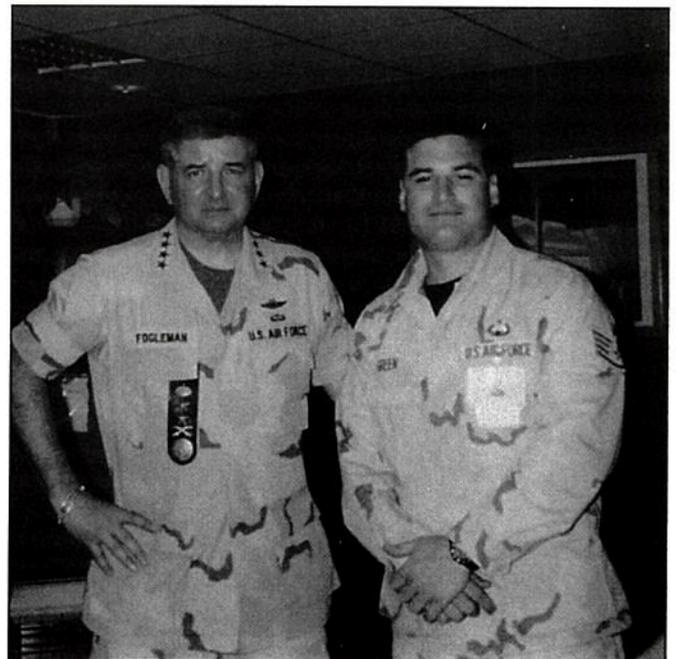
"When we had to drive the forklift backwards into the exhaust, it was so hot it burnt your lips," he said.

"During the last two weeks it rained twice for a few minutes. It felt great to just stand in the rain and feel the water," Coote said.

During his tour at Riyadh, Coote was recognized for risking his safety to stop a runaway maintenance cart during a vicious sandstorm. The sandstorm, which cut visibility, sent the maintenance cart rolling straight toward the engine of an AWACS aircraft before Coote threw his body against the cart to stop it.

Coote and Green also earned Desert Diamond awards for exceptional performance. Desert Diamond is a coveted award initiated by the first sergeants at Riyadh to recognize those who perform above the call of duty. The honor included being featured as "desert warriors" in the Southern Watch military newspaper.

The one consolation of duty in Riyadh was staying in private air-conditioned quarters at Eskan Village outside the city. For security reasons, American air operations are being transferred further south into the desert where members will be housed in a tent city.





'TRIAL RUN

photos by SrA. Rosanne Frieri

GETTING READY — 439th reservists, clad in chemical warfare ensemble (top photo), defend the perimeter during a recent deployment to Alpena ANGB, Mich. In all, 190 members of the 439th made the trip, in preparation for an Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for March 1997.

In middle photo, a moulaged 'victim' awaits medical attention.

In bottom photo, Capt. Don Moran, from the 58th Aerial Port Squadron and an inspector during the exercise, and Lt. Col. Glen Martin of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, observe the removal of a 'wounded soldier' for transport to a medical recovery center.

Marine element from page 1

entire squadron using two C-5s," he adds.

Furthermore, Roa contends, combining the base's expansive training areas with a nearby A-10 squadron at Westfield's Barnes Municipal Airport made the selection even more attractive.

"We can use the aircraft for simulated close-air support," Roa says. "That's what we do."

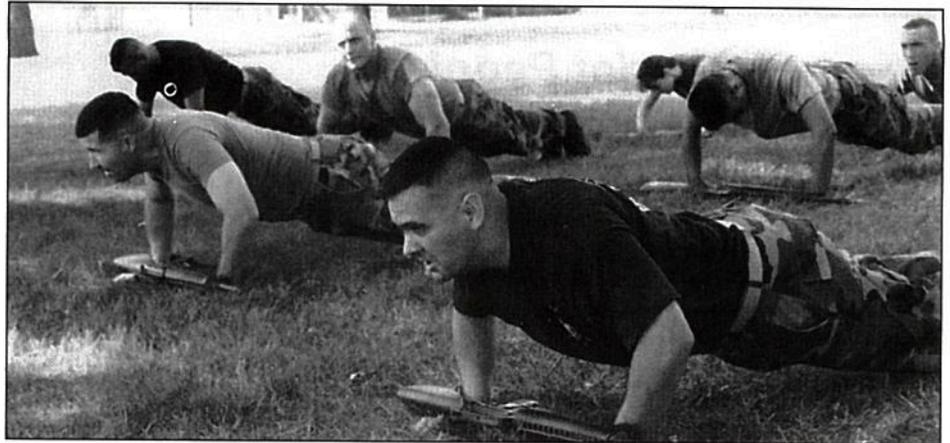
Meanwhile, the Marines may be carrying out their mission from their temporary offices longer than they expect. Securing funds and renovating Building 1900 could take up to two years, base civil engineer Leroy Clink, predicts.

When the dank, brown building is finally transformed, it will contain offices, a classroom, drill hall and armory. The Marines will also have their own motor pool and supply warehouse.

Closing South Weymouth saves the Department of Defense more than \$27 million per year, a 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Commission study shows. But South Weymouth's loss is Chicopee's gain. Not since Westover deactivated in 1974 have so many active-duty personnel reported to work here. And they all need homes.

"We will have 65 families generating \$450,000 in BAQ (basic allowance for quarters) each year," Roa says.

Since July, the base Family Readiness Center has been helping those families



Capt. Paul Koscak

GETTING DOWN — AND BACK UP —Maj. Rich Roa, site commander of the Marine Corps Reserve's Site Support Element, and Capt. Dean Kleveno (left) do their part to stay in shape at the unit's weekly combat training session.

get settled, helping spouses with employment assistance and briefing families on base services, Roy Green, Family Readiness Center director, says.

"We're averaging 12 families per week," he adds.

Aside from its obvious combat role, the Marines are also expected to make themselves known in the community. Roa says outreach programs such as drug education for children, charitable campaigns and color-guard details as well as assisting with disaster relief and civil disturbances are high on the Marine Corps Reserve's agenda.

"We take great pride in telling the Marine Corps story through daily demonstrations of our value to the American people," he says.

DNA collection now standard procedure

by Capt. Paul Koscak

Base medical officials are carrying out a new policy that requires all service members, active or reserve, to provide a sample of their DNA.

Deoxyribonucleic acid collections are now being taken from flight crews, but by the year 2000 everyone will have a record of their DNA filed at a central location, Col. Yash P. Malhotra, 439th Medical Squadron commander, said.

"We hope to start doing the 350 flyers in the wing," he added. "We only have October and December," to meet the year-end deadline for collecting flight-crew DNA set by the defense department.

The policy was set because having a central DNA file is a surefire way to identify the remains of service members in the event of a tragedy. The new method replaces dental records to identify victims.

Identification can be complicated if dental matter is missing from bodies. With DNA, any part of a body can be used to determine a victim's identity, Malhotra said.

DNA specimens are collected from the mucous lining of the mouth using a cotton swab or by a blood smear from a finger prick.

Reservists can expect to have DNA collections performed during their next scheduled medical examination.

"This is done only once and won't be part of the patient's permanent medical records," Malhotra said.

Westover reservist wins trip to Bermuda

SSgt. Daniel Ejdays, a flight engineer assigned to the 337th Airlift Squadron was the big winner in the Air Force Reserve Club Membership Appreciation Days promotion, sponsored by the AFRES Directorate of Services.

Ejdays, who is a member of the Westover Club, won a trip to Bermuda which includes two round-trip tickets on Delta Air Lines and a seven-day stay at the Belmont Hotel Golf & Country Club.

Three other trip winners — Arthur Tambucci and Tony Tumminello of Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station and Martha Verle of Homestead ARS, Fla. each won two round-trip Delta Air Line tickets for use anywhere in the

United States or Mexico. The fifth winner, James Legge, a Pittsburgh club member, received \$500 in AT&T long distance telephone service.

The five winning names were drawn by Maj. Gen. James Sherrard III, AFRES vice commander, at Robins AFB.

Throughout the promotion, the 12 participating AFRES clubs gave away 1,200 AT&T prepaid phone cards, \$3,600 in club bucks and chances to win the grand prizes. The purpose of the promotion was to thank the members for supporting the club system and to encourage others to join and use the club.

Patriot People

Name: Charles E. Gablaski (Gabby)
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 37
Address: Spencer, MA
Unit: 439th Security Police Squadron
Position: Security police
Civilian position: (ART)
Favorite food: Chicken
Years of service: 11
Favorite sport: Softball
Favorite hobby: Collecting USAF insignia
Ideal vacation: The Orient
Best way to relax: Reading
Preferred entertainment: Music
Favorite hero: Mother and Father
Favorite music: Big Band
Favorite movie: *Somewhere in Time*
Favorite aircraft: XB-70 Valkyrie
Pet peeve: None
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Invest, retire



SSgt. V/m Blanchard

SSgt. Charles E. Gablaski

Patriot Praises

Promotions:

SMSgt. Knight, William R., Jr.
 SMSgt. Miller, John C.
 MSgt. Ashman, Michael R.
 MSgt. Brown, Lawrence A.
 MSgt. Lue, Lana L.
 MSgt. McGlynn, Eric R.
 MSgt. Serrao, Nelson A.
 MSgt. Tabb, Joyce L.
 TSgt. Begnoche, Wayne P.
 TSgt. Cobb, James J.
 TSgt. Donofrio, Ronald F.
 TSgt. Ferriter, Mary P.
 TSgt. Gagnon, William B.
 TSgt. Mathurin, Edward O., Jr.
 TSgt. Rossi, Stephan A.
 TSgt. Schmoke, Richard T.
 TSgt. Tirendi, Blaine A.
 TSgt. Sneed, Robert R., Jr.
 SSgt. Cutter, Cynthia L.
 SSgt. Dansereau, David
 SSgt. Darby, Mark D.
 SSgt. Gable, Timothy C.
 SSgt. Gitschier, Stephen A.
 SSgt. Johnson, Kevin T.
 SSgt. Shoemaker, Frank H., III
 SrA. Adams, Jeffrey S.
 SrA. Aikens, Zane R.
 SrA. Bentley, Erik H.
 SrA. Clear, Ruth A.
 SrA. Cleveland, Michael G.
 SrA. Couture, Brian M.
 SrA. DeGray, Eric D.
 SrA. Goracy, Sandy M.
 SrA. Rondeau, Michael M.
 SrA. Seidell, Robert P.

A1C Graves, Kenny D.
 A1C Jones, John P., Jr.
 A1C Natale, Christine L.
 A1C Turgeon, Corrine A.

Enlistments:

SrA. Pacosa, Peter A.
 SrA. Singh, Rowtas K.
 A1C Henry, Rebecca L.
 A1C Manalansan, Vicente V.
 A1C Oparowski, Michele T.
 AB Knight, William C.

Reenlistments:

MSgt. Allocco, Thomas N.
 TSgt. Pare, Donald R.
 TSgt. Smith, Robert J.
 SSgt. Chapman, John R.
 SSgt. Drouin, Claude G.
 SSgt. Gable, Timothy C.
 SrA. Normandin, Donald R.
 SSgt. Hickson, Michael T.
 SSgt. Laroche, Edward F.
 SrA. Brosseau, Bryan C.
 SrA. Normandin, Donald R.

Reservists earn new device for contingency service

by SSgt. Christine Mora

The more than 1,500 Westover reservists called up for Operation Desert Shield and Storm are just a few who can now wear the new "M" mobilization device authorized when President Clinton signed an executive order Aug. 6 honoring reserve contributions.

Reservists who volunteer or are called to active duty for designated contingency operations on or after Aug. 1, 1990, may wear an "M" device on their Armed Forces Reserve Medal. They must have participated on active duty for at least one day during contingencies such as Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Restore Hope in Somalia, Uphold Democracy in Haiti and Joint Endeavor in Bosnia.

Some 24,000 Air Force Reserve personnel were called to active duty during the Persian Gulf War and thousands of others have volunteered for contingency operations. Recognizing the reservists' "special sacrifices in service to the nation," the Secretary of Defense established the "M" device in 1993 for reserve personnel who volunteer or are called to active duty for a mobilization or contingency.

Clinton's new executive order also covers service in more than one contingency and service longevity. An Arabic numeral indicates the number of times the "M" device has been awarded, and bronze, silver and gold hourglass device designate 10, 20, and 30 years of Reserve service.

Westover reservists who qualify for the device should call the Career Enhancement office at Ext. 3436.

Westover turning purple

When you think of it, few military bases—let alone reserve bases—are as integrated as Westover. There's a Navy reserve center, an Army reserve special forces unit and an Army National Guard aviation facility here. Now welcome 350 Marines.

The mix — “purpling” as Pentagon pundits prefer—is the future military, a military of shared resources and mutual cooperation, minus the interservice turf battles and politics. But here at Westover, the future is now.

Our Patriot Medstar exercise, for instance, yearly brings together medical specialists from all services as well as their civilian counterparts. Not only do participants share ideas and make vital professional contacts, they learn each other's jargon.

Patriot Tiger, another perennial production, offers these same opportunities for our aerial porters.

Chances are you'll be dealing with a Navy medical corpsman when it's time for a flu shot.

Members of our family readiness center—a Reserve unit just a few years old—are already seasoned veterans when it comes to helping members of our sister services. “Assistance should be the same for everyone,” director Roy Green says. “It's the new philosophy.”

It wasn't that long ago when the Air Force shelved for good its olive-drab fatigues for the generic DOD-issue battle dress uniforms. Now, Air Force student pilots get their training from Navy flyers, public affairs specialists learn their craft at a joint-service school and airmen learn aircraft maintenance in the Navy.

Consolidation is really cooperation. On the grand scale, it's nothing new.

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant teamed up with Adm. David Porter to rout the Rebels at Vicksburg. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower forged a joint-forces alliance for Operation Overlord. Congress established the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1947.

Consolidation isn't just for civilian employers. It's a practical solution for a government that needs to be cut down to size. The taxpayer demands nothing less.

Capt. Paul Koscak
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Editorial

New AFRES license plates for Conn. residents

Connecticut reservists may soon be able to use a new Air Force Reserve license plate.

The specially-designed license plate requires a one-time \$65 fee -- after that, drivers need only pay the standard registration fees.

MSgt. George Gadbois, former first sergeant with the 439th

Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron spearheaded the effort to get the new plates approved with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. However, the plates won't be printed unless 200 residents apply for one.

For more information, call Ext. 2508.

Briefs

Medal of Honor winners earn tribute

Adding to the charm of the base visitor's center—the former wing headquarters and Westover's oldest building—are trees to honor the state's 247 recipients of the Medal of Honor. In all, 21 trees will form the Medal of Honor Grove. The trees, which were planted by children of reservists, provide an exercise in citizenship as well as environmental awareness, says base environmental engineer Gina Rossi who coordinated the project for Civil Engineering.

Meanwhile, the search is on to locate as many Bay State Medal-of-Honor winners as possible for a Nov. 8 dedication. A plaque marks the grove of two-foot-high trees with names like Patrick Henry osaga orange and Harpers Ferry dogwood.

College on base

Say, what degree isn't complete without the requisite English 101 and Speech 101 courses? These required classes for the Community College of the Air Force are being offered through the base education office beginning Sept. 30. Both are 22-week, three-credit courses available to reservists and their families for \$82 per credit, plus \$6 enrollment fee and the cost of books. Registration is from 9-11 a.m., Sept. 12; 3:30-5 p.m., Sept. 13 in building 1875. The English course requires a placement test. A Veterans Affairs representative will be available during registration to answer questions about benefits and tuition waivers. English 101 will be taught Monday and Wednesday, 11:35 a.m.-12:25 p.m.; Speech 101 is scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday during the same time. Call TSgt. Kevin Brown at Ext. 3441 for more information.

UTA schedule

Oct. A UTA Oct. 5 - 6
Oct. B UTA Oct 26 -27
Nov. A UTA Oct. 26 - 27
Nov. B UTA Nov. 16 -17

Employers fly high during Appreciation Day

by MSgt. Gordon Newell

A total of 42 civilian bosses got the chance to see New England from the cockpit of a 439th Airlift Wing C-5 Sept. 21 when they participated in the base's annual Employer Appreciation Day.

Another group will get their opportunity on Oct. 5 when reservists who drill on A UTAs bring their employers to the base for a look at what the Air Force Reserve is all about.

Kevin Costello, marketing manager for MSC Industrial Supply Co. of Connecticut and employer of Capt. Mike Franco of the 439th AW Public Affairs office was favorably impressed by what he saw during his day-long visit.

"To see and hear about the mission performed by the people at Westover and the Air Force Reserve overall, was an interesting and informative experience. Of course, the C-5 flight was an absolute thrill, something I won't soon forget."

Reservists who are bringing their employer to visit Westover on Oct. 5, should ask them to be at the Westover Club no later than 8:30 a.m. for registration for their orientation flight.

After a briefing by the aircraft commander, Col. James P. Czekanski, 439th AW commander will address the group and solicit questions.

Employers will board the C-5 at approximately 9:45 a.m. for a 10:30 a.m. takeoff. The flight is scheduled to last for about 90 minutes.



SSgt. Christine Mora

SHOW AND TELL -- During a C-5 flight, TSgt. Blaine A. Tirendi, right, shows his civilian boss the responsibilities of his 'other job' as 439th AS flight engineer. The flight was part of Employer Appreciation Day held Sept. 22.

Reservists may bring just one employer as space is limited. No family members of employers are to be invited and reservists, unless they are members of the flight crew, will not be allowed to fly.

After the orientation flight, lunch will be available at either the Westover Club or the dining facility. Reservists are

asked to have lunch with their boss.

At 1:30 p.m. employers will be given the opportunity to tour Westover's maintenance complex and at 2:30 they may visit their reservist's work center.

Applications, which have been published in the Patriot, must be returned to the Public Affairs office.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. John A. Surette, of Granby, Mass., and 2,688 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

439th AW/PA
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE
100 Lloyd Street
East Wing, Suite 103
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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