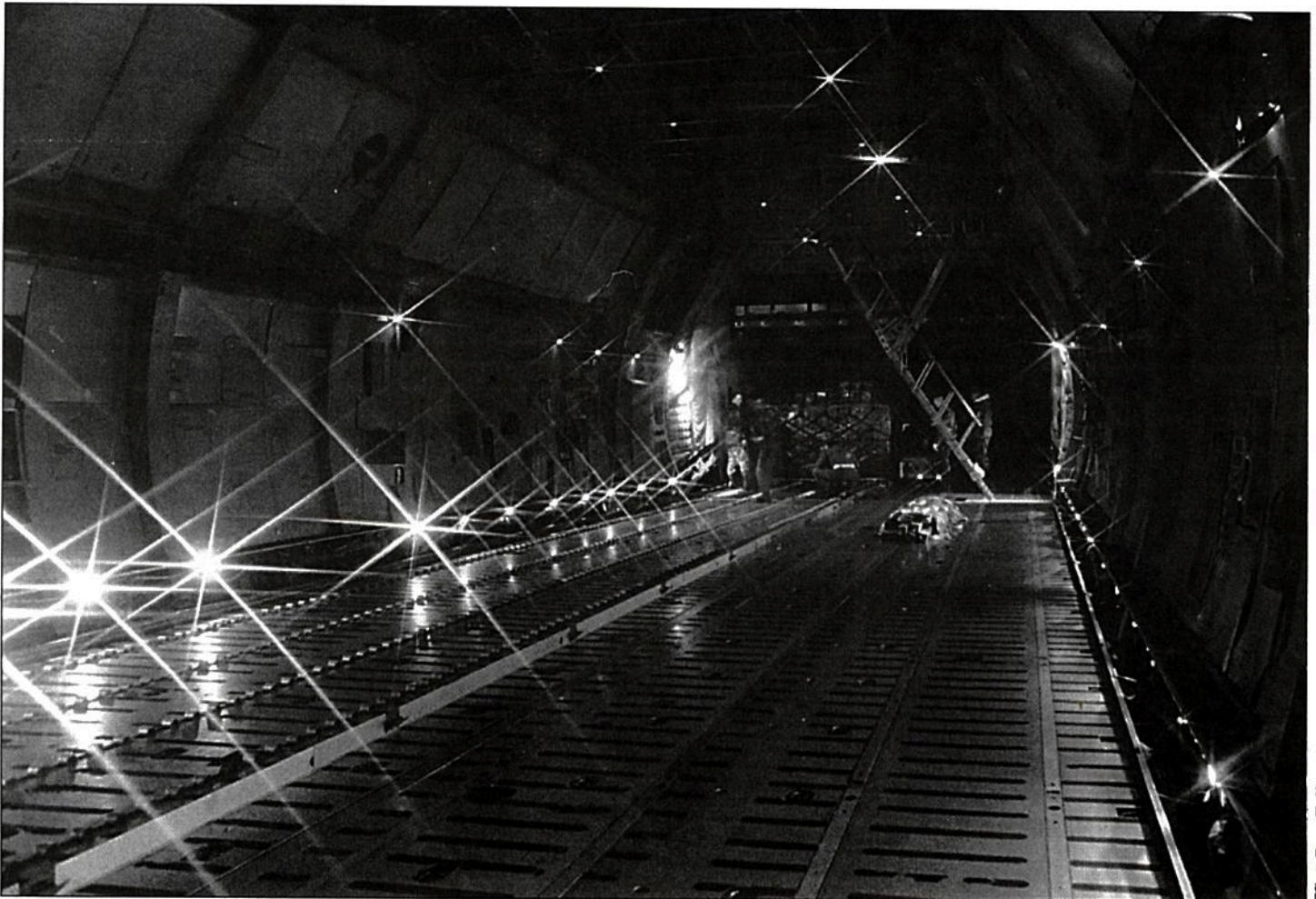


PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 4

APRIL 1997



TSgt. Don Talbot

STAR WARS -- Members of the 337th Airlift Squadron work through the night loading cargo in preparation

for the ORI deployment in March. Crews worked round-the-clock responding to inspection deadlines.

Westover spells ORI: S-U-C-C-E-S-S

by Capt. Paul Koscak

More than 100 Westover reservists got to show their stuff in the field during the operational readiness inspection.

The intense, well-regimented deployments simulated wartime conditions. Everything from mobility-line processing to loading aircraft to security police defensive tactics got a workout—and the scrutiny of the inspector general.

One group, made up of 44 aerial port and maintenance staff, set up shop at the former Griffiss Air Force Base, near Rome, N.Y. Although deployed in a wartime scenario, the

group handled real-world needs supporting the mission of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division.

"We handled 106 pieces of rolling stock and 500 passengers," Maj. Peter DeTone, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron operations officer, said. Rolling stock is anything on wheels—trucks, trailers, cars.

Five members of the Tanker Airlift Control Element from Dover Air Force Base, Del. and another reservist from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., also made up the Griffiss group.

Continued on page 6 and 7

Spending to increase as Reserve modifies under new command

WASHINGTON D.C. — Under the president's fiscal year 1998 and 1999 Department of Defense budgets, the Air Force Reserve Command will set its annual spending climb from \$2.3 billion in FY 1997 to more than \$2.4 billion annually going into the 21st century.

Announced Feb. 5, the proposed Reserve budget for FY 1998 calls for \$2.45 billion and the FY 1999 budget asks for \$2.48 billion.

The FY 1998 request includes some \$815 million for the reserve personnel account, which supports an end strength level of 73,431 and an average strength of 73,203. Some of that money is earmarked for the addition of 308 full-time active-duty positions, established primarily for full-time support at the Air Force Reserve Command unit level. Other changes include additions for the airborne warning and control system associate unit at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. and continuing conversions from C-141B to C-17 aircraft.

Under the FY 1999 request, the reserve personnel account would jump to \$852 million to support in part an end strength of 73,703 and an average strength of 73,298. The full-time active-duty program will expand another 21 positions, and the AWACS

program and C-141B/C-17 conversion will continue to pick up speed.

Both budgets account for these and other shifts in mission requirements. The Reserve expects to dole out more than \$10 million each year for the transition assistance program. It's also setting some money aside for the non-prior-service program to compensate for the lower numbers of prior-service recruits separating from a small active force. The FY 98 budget calls for a 2.8 percent military pay raise and the FY 99 request proposes a three percent pay hike.

Operation and maintenance funding would climb even more significantly—from \$1.495 billion in FY 97 to \$1.624 billion in FY 98 and \$1.631 billion in FY 99.

The FY 98 price tag includes funding to maintain proper preservation levels for Reserve facilities, conversion from associate C-141s to C-17s, the Reserve theater battle control mission, the stand-up of an A-10/OA-10

training squadron, and the AWACS associate unit. These increases would be offset by reductions in associate C-130 flying hours.

Increases in the FY 99 O & M budget reflect depot maintenance realignments, funding for outsourcing/privatization, increases in KC-135 and KC-10 flying hours, increased environmental requirements, and the build up of the A-10/OA-10 training squadron and the Reserve theater battle control mission. These increases would be offset by reductions in associate flying hours and the civilian workforce.

Military construction levels, however, will dip as the active force puts money into housing improvements. The Reserve will get \$14.5 million in FY 98 military construction funds and \$12.3 million in FY 99.

The president's budget must pass both houses of Congress before becoming law. (AFRC News Service)

DOD budget Air Force Reserve FY 1997 - 1999

<u>FY</u>	<u>Billion</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Pay Raise</u>
98	\$2.45	73,431	2.8 %
99	\$2.48	73,703	3.0 %

table by SSgt Joe McLean

PATRIOT

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New command patch



Dyer retires: Westover events a window to history for award-winning public affairs officer

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

A few days before retirement in March, Lt. Col. Richard Dyer reflected on his career as a military journalist and rated himself a lucky man.

"I've always said I had the best-part time job in the world," the wing public affairs officer said of a career that reaped top journalism awards in the Department of Defense and Air Force.

"The things that people here did made it very easy to write about their accomplishments. The esprit d'corps of the people moving the mission made it very easy for a military journalist to do his job," he said.

As public affairs officer, Dyer was at the center of Westover events from the Vietnam era through the conversion from the C-130 to C-5, and the historic airlift that put Westover in "the eye of the storm" during Desert Shield and Storm.

Dyer first served at Westover in 1972 as an ROTC-commissioned second lieutenant in the active-duty 99th Bomb Wing. He returned in 1979 to serve in the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office. He remained as public affairs officer and journalist with the exception of the period from

1993 to 1996 when he commanded the 439th MSS.

As writer and public affairs officer, Dyer viewed the changing world scene from a unique vantage point.

"One day early in the Desert Shield airlift I stood at the James Street gate watching a rally of supporters and I experienced a sense of déjà vu. Twenty years before I was at that same gate covering anti-war demonstrations at the time Westover's B-52s were in Southeast Asia for the Arc Light missions to force North Vietnam back to the negotiating table," he said.

Like so much else in his career, Dyer later wrote about the experience for the Patriot and made it a part of the public record of Westover.

"The best thing about being in Public Affairs was the little window on history that it gave me. I remember coming to Westover as an ROTC student when B-52s here were aimed at the Soviet Union," Dyer said.

"Looking at the old Yankee Flyers (of the 99th Bomb Wing) and Patriot issues you can trace the end of the Vietnam War, the end of the Cold War, Grenada, Just Cause, the Gulf War, and the series of world-wide humanitarian missions" he said.

Dyer saw the Space Shuttle launched, he was in West Germany on the day the Berlin Wall fell and he accompanied a Westover aircrew to the Middle East during the Gulf War.

"I've talked to airmen who took shelter from Scud attacks and people who left their jobs as school teachers to go to war. That's an awful neat view of world events," Dyer said.

As a regular contributor of news, feature and editorial material in the Patriot, Dyer was named Air Force Journalist of the Year and earned five other Air Force-wide first-place journalism awards. He received a first-place Thomas Jefferson DOD award and two second-place honors, including recognition as author of "Westover: The Eye of the Storm," the history of the wing's role in Desert Shield and Storm. Dyer also earned plaudits as the driving force of the Westover Today twice-weekly newsletter which kept wing personnel on top of the breaking story of the Middle East airlift.

"The plaques on his wall aren't the real testimony to Dyer's career. The real testimony is the permanent record he leaves us of more than two decades at Westover told with the deft touch and sure eye for detail that is his trademark," said Gordon A. Newell, chief of public affairs.

"Years from now what people know of Westover and the 439th, they will know through images fashioned by Lieutenant Colonel Dyer," he said.

Lt. Col. David Moore, wing chief of safety, spoke for many when he described Dyer's "Eye of the Storm" as a "very popular book which will be treasured by those whose names are in it. I remember all the good he did for Westover during Desert Shield and Storm. His departure is a real loss."

Dyer was commissioned in 1972 as a College of the Holy Cross AFROTC graduate. In 1977 he earned a degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law. In 1994 Dyer left private practice to serve as a Connecticut Superior Court judge. He and another judge set up the statewide Child Protection Session to address cases of neglected and abused children.

Dyer resides with his wife, Kathleen, and their three children in Manchester, Conn.



MSgt. Tom Allocco

FOR THE RECORD — On a C-5 enroute to Bahrain, via Spain, then Maj. Rick Dyer interviews Maj. Gen John Closner, former chief of the Air Force Reserve. Dyer was on the road covering Westover's role in Desert Storm. In retrospect, he explained that he was glad he took notes as well as a recording because when he later played the recording, all he heard was the steady hum of the C-5.

Giving Back to America

Citizen airman serves country and community

Article and photo
by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Whether lining up maintenance jobs for the C-5, or maintaining line-ups for little league sports, TSgt. Keith Bodley makes things happen.

Bodley is the definitive Citizen Airman — as an airman, he serves his country — as a citizen, he serves his community.

Working on 17 years military service in aircraft maintenance, Bodley is also heavily involved in his community as coach, cub scout leader and school volunteer, just to name a few.

In conjunction with the Air Force's 50th anniversary, the "Giving Back to America" theme recognizes Air Force unit contributions to local communities. While active duty units contribute to communities — reservists ARE the community.

Bodley agrees.

He served eight years active duty in California, New Hampshire and North Dakota and left active duty to establish roots for his growing family. A native of Ohio, Bodley settled in Belchertown with his wife Catherine and two sons, Kevin and Chris, 13 and 11, respectively.

As his sons became involved in local activities, Bodley saw a need for leadership and more volunteers. He saw a lack of commitment in some and was impressed by the commitment of others. "I decided to become part of the solution," Bodley said.

Bodley is humble about his community contributions. He said his experience



Courtesy of Keith Bodley

LEADER OF THE PACK — TSgt. Keith Bodley, rear left, poses with Cub Scout Pack 507 in Belchertown. Bodley is the leader of Den 14 and has served as Assistant Cub Master. His son is in the scout group.

makes him appreciate volunteers and the amount of commitment it takes to make an organization work successfully.

Volunteering has given Bodley a greater sense of belonging and acceptance in his community. "It's nice to walk local streets and see so many familiar, friendly faces," he said. "It makes living in my community more rewarding."

Bodley also described his volunteer work as a window into the worlds of his sons. Kevin and Chris are proud to have

their dad leading their scout group or coaching their teams, and Bodley thinks it strengthens their commitment. "Kids grow so fast; we have one shot to make the most of this time," he said.

Bodley admits that with his reserve requirements and full-time ART job as productions controller with the 439th Logistics Squadron, it's difficult to find time to volunteer. "You find time to do what's important. It's a matter of setting priorities," Bodley said.

Bodley recalled spending eight months planning a scout trip to Washington, D.C. "As we lined the whole group for a photo in front of the Capitol, I realized all the effort was worth it," he said.

Bodley promotes his military experience as an advantage in his community activities. According to Bodley, military abilities like people skills, communication, time management, organizing and problem solving have served him well in coordinating volunteer programs. He said the Reserve provides professional fulfillment, but community involvement is personally fulfilling.

For Bodley, "Giving Back to America" is clearly a positive experience. When asked how long he plans to continue, Bodley replied simply, "As long as they'll take me."

"The reserve provides professional fulfillment, but community involvement is personally fulfilling."

TSgt. Keith Bodley

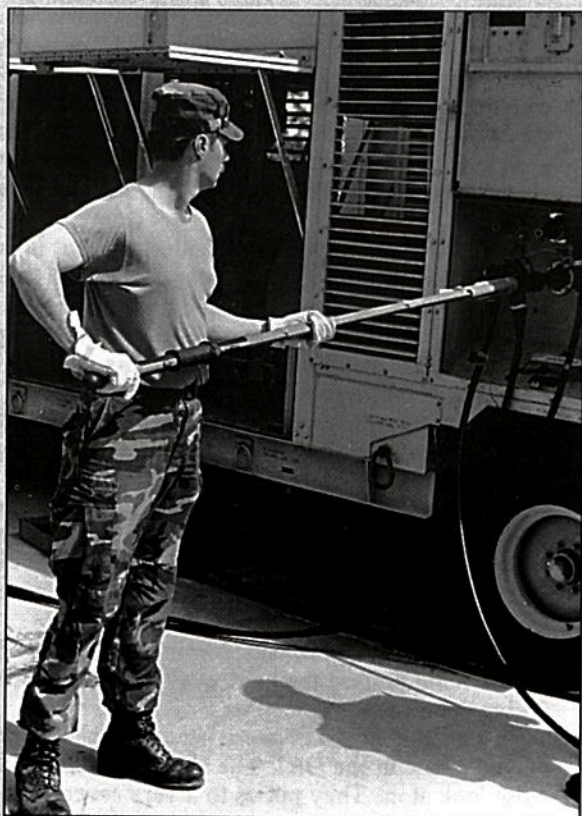


ALL ABOARD — Thirty-six members of the 439th CES boarded a C-130 in February headed for Tynedale AFB, Fla. to participate in Silver Flag, and exercise to test mobilization readiness skills. Shown boarding are: SSgt. Warren Compton, TSgt. Scott Dudley, SSgt. Jeanette Soucy and CMSgt. Joseph Cullen.



High marks at Silver Flag

photos by TSgt. Alan Bailey



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM — A member of the 439th CES, left, demonstrates how to connect a power cable to a mobile electrical power generator. In the photo above, a Silver Flag cadre explains the use of the Mobile Aircraft Arresting system to members of the 439th CES.



HEAD 'EM UP — MOVE 'EM OUT — Westover troops board a 439th AW Galaxy in the pre-dawn hours to mobilize to a simulated forward operating base as part of the ORI scenario. Below, aerial porters secure a vehicle to the C-5 cargo bay floor.

ORI spelled

Continued from page 1

Meanwhile, about 1,500 miles south, another group put in some sweat equity at Cecil Field Naval Air Station, Fla., just west of Jacksonville. With marginal facilities at best, about 90 participants—half from the 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base—came together to do battle in a southwest Asia scenario.

That all happened in the “playfield,” a parched, open area near the end of the runway. There, chemical warfare suits, flack jacket, web-gear and helmet were the daily business attire. Some carried M-16s. Occasionally, the game required gas mask and gloves. Adding a special challenge were humid, 90-degree temperatures.

Still, the four-day exercise ended without injuries or safety violations, Senior Master Sgt. Randy Malek, a civil engineering supervisor, said. Since deployments are routine for the engineers, Malek said the biggest challenge was working with their less-experienced active duty counterparts.

“We know what to do in situations,” he said, referring to his unit’s ability to take control and, if necessary, find creative ways to get tasks done.”

Five miles away, about 50 tents—tent city, as it was called—served as housing. A field kitchen at the site, staffed by Andrew’s food service personnel but managed by Reserve services officer Capt. Andrew Hendl supplemented meals ready-to-eat rations.

Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing praised the hard work of wing members during the inspection.

“I am really proud of every person in the wing who played a role in the ORI. The inspectors took a very close look at us. They put us to a very severe test and we came through as I knew we would. My hat is off to every one,” he said.



SrA. Rosanne Frierl



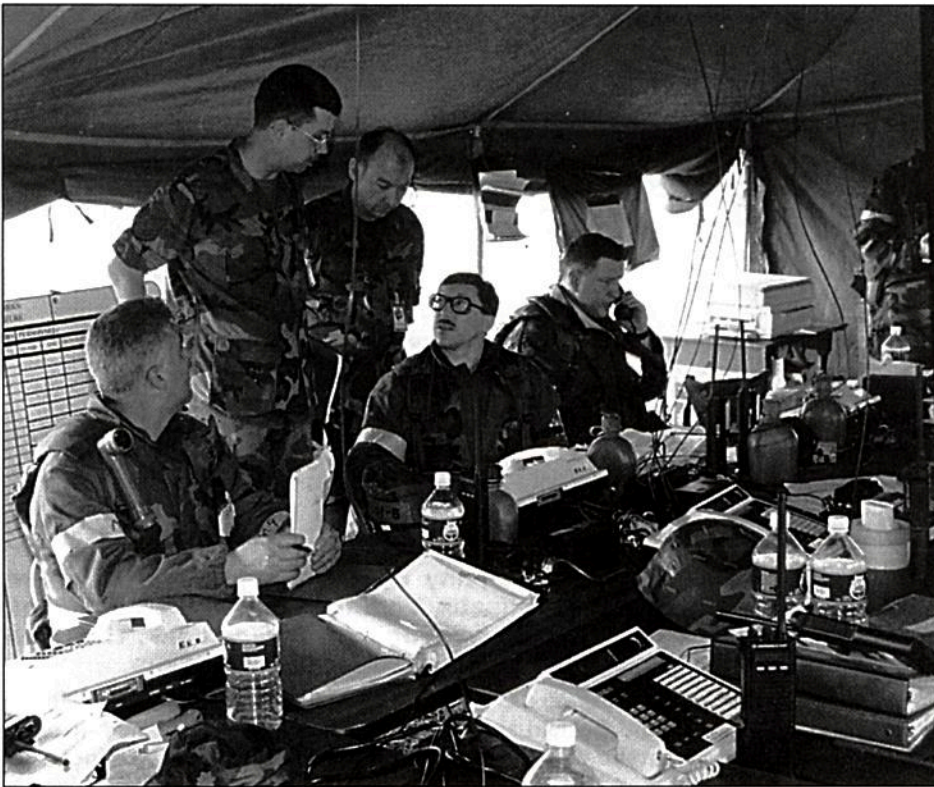
TSgt. Howard Garbarsky



Capt. Paul Koscak

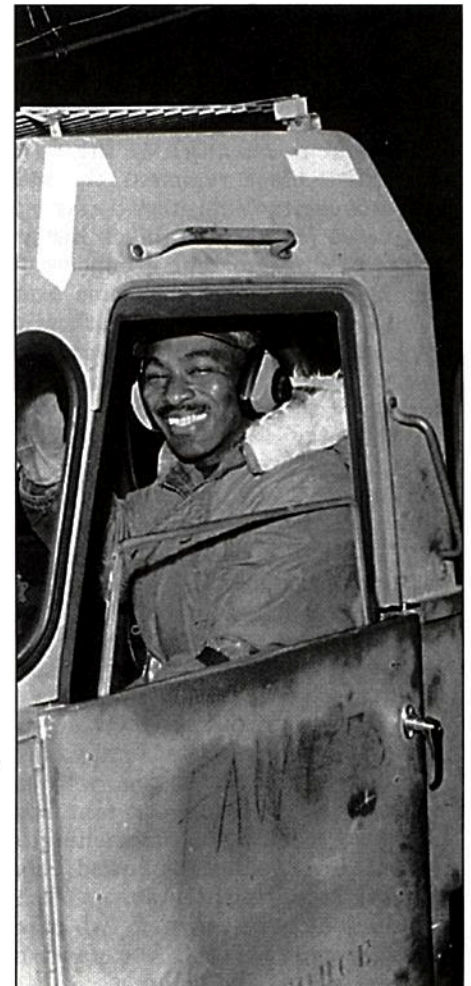
S-U-C-C-E-S-S

CAMP GUARD -- Sandbags mark the perimeters of camp sections at the makeshift base at Cecil Field Naval Air Station, Fla.(above) March winds buffeted the flightline at Westover, lower right, as aerial porters ferried cargo on the K-loader.



Capt. Paul Koscak

WORKING TOGETHER -- Three Westover officers give advice to two inspectors (standing) at the field command post at Cecil Field Naval Air Station, Fla. Seated from left, Maj. Paul Babin, civil engineering, Maj. Paul Filios, communications, and Maj. Roger Summerlin, security police.



SrA. Rosanne Friert

Curley earns Air Force award

Article and photo
by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Col. Joseph Curley caps a career of commanding outstanding units with a distinctive individual award. He is the first reservist to earn the Air Force Medical Service Corps Commitment to Excellence Award.

Competing in an active duty arena, Curley topped the field of full-bird colonel medical administrators for the award which recognizes sustained superior service and significant contribution to the Air Force health care mission.

Curley has 35 years service and was recently assigned as special assistant to the AFRC surgeon general. During his 20 years with Hanscom AFB, Mass., McGuire AFB, N.J. and Westover, Curley commanded five medical units. Units and individuals he commanded logged a steady flow of awards, and Westover has dominated the medical

unit and individual awards for the past 10 years.

"This award belongs to all the medics I have worked with over the years," said Curley. "They've been terrific."

Col. James P. Czekanski, 439th AW commander, has worked with Curley for the past five years. "Colonel Curley was a tremendous asset for Westover's medical units and I'm sure he'll be greatly appreciated in his new position. I will miss his leadership and I'm sure our medics will too," Czekanski said.

Curley received the award in March at the American College of Health Care Executives in Chicago at the 40th Congress on Health Care Management.

Although assigned to AFRC, Curley stayed at Westover for the ORI, and will be back in June to coordinate the reserve medical exercise Medstar.

He resides in Rockport with his wife Christine. They have two grown sons, Robert and Michael. Michael is a staff sergeant with the 439th AES at Westover.



Col. Joseph Curley

Black regiment re-enactment takes center stage

Article and photo
by Capt. Paul Koscak

Several re-enactors of the Civil War's first black regiment, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, showcased Westover's black history month celebration. The group, wearing Bay State Union uniforms fashioned to stunning detail and authenticity, brought a tragic era of America's past to life through the history and exploits of this fighting unit.

"Sometimes we do forget," Staff Sgt. Leo Foster, manager of black history month events said of black veterans and Civil War soldiers in particular. "Even with all the turmoil, they had to pull together."

The re-enactors gave the approximately 200 base employees who viewed the indoor demonstration at the consolidated club, Feb. 27, a first-hand look at some of the skills Civil War soldiers needed to master to stay alive.

Benny White of Boston, who assumes the role of a first sergeant from Company A of the 54th Massachusetts, showed how soldiers followed commands when firing at attackers. As he shouted out each cadence, two other soldiers went through the paces of loading, aiming and firing.



FIRING LINE—Boston resident Benny White huffs commands to two members of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry who demonstrate the sequence of firing their weapons during an attack. The re-enactors bring to life the exploits of the nation's black soldiers.

"They're useful up to 1,000 yards," White said of the 10-pound Enfield rifles the soldiers used for the drill. "A good soldier could load and fire about three times per minute."

Artifacts, including Civil War munitions, money and personal items ranging from smoking pipes to utensils were on display, along with a reproduction of the regiment's flag. A video tracing the 54th history was shown.

About 1,000 blacks served in the regiment that distinguished itself in five major Civil War battles, including the bloody assault of Fort Wagner, S.C. One third of the regiment was killed during the war. However, the courage displayed by the 54th Massachusetts paved the way for 180,000 blacks to eventually serve in the Union army and inspired the making of the film "Glory."

439th ASTS reservist assists in rescue effort

Article and photo
by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Curiosity may have killed the cat, but TSgt. Paul Paratore's curiosity may have saved a woman's life.

In early February, Paratore was driving home from his hotel auditor job in Little Falls, N.Y. Crossing the bridge over the Erie Canal, he saw what appeared to be a person standing in the water about 20 yards offshore.

His curiosity piqued, he turned down a side road to investigate. Walking through the snow to the edge of the water, he saw a fully-clothed woman standing shoulder-deep in the frigid water.

He yelled to the woman, "What are you doing out there?"

"I'm committing suicide," the woman said in an eerie, shaking voice. As she turned to him, he noticed her face was ashen, which he recognized as a symptom of hypothermia.

Appraising the situation, Paratore opted to seek assistance. He calmly backtracked to his truck and sped to the nearest phone to contact the police. When police arrived, Paratore directed them to the woman's location. Within 10 minutes, the fire department and ice-diving rescue team arrived and rescued the woman who was, by then, glassy-eyed and shaking uncon-



TSgt. Paul Paratore

"All life is precious. It doesn't matter whose life it is. It never occurred to me to leave her in the water... I'm glad I spotted her."

trollably.

"She was frozen," said Paratore, who reported that she was taken to a local hospital and listed in serious condition. According to medical authorities, under the given conditions, she would have succumbed to hypothermia within a hour of entering the water.

Although praised by the Ilium, N.Y. chief of police for his actions, Paratore says he is no hero. "Given the circumstances, there was no other option," he said. "I'm glad I spotted her."

Paratore said that, incredibly, some actually chided him for foiling the woman's suicide attempt. He strongly

opposes their viewpoint. "All life is precious. It doesn't matter whose life it is," said Paratore forcefully. "It never entered my mind to leave her in the water."

Paratore later learned the 63-year-old woman is a resident at a local adult care facility, and she has recovered.

A medical administrator with the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Paratore is a resident of Frankfort, N.Y. He said his 10 years Reserve experience helped guide his actions. "As a reservist, we're trained to respond — to lend a hand whenever and wherever we can."

DANTES program offers varied educational opportunities

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

If you have the knowledge but don't have a diploma to prove it, the Base Training and Education Office is offering the opportunity to earn a high school equivalency diploma or college credits.

This opportunity is available to Reservists and their spouses.

The Base Training and Education Office will also offer DANTES (Defense Activity Nontraditional Education Support) education and testing. DANTES is a Department of Defense program to help military members gain college credits for educational attainments that have been self-taught or learned on-the-job.

Among the services offered by

DANTES is the CLEP (College Level Examination Program) in which college credits can be earned by showing proficiency in multiple-choice tests. Tests will be offered in a wide range of college-level subjects. Those who pass tests will have the opportunity to transfer the credits to the college of their choice up to the level of bachelor's degree.

A package of 13 to 18 half-hour video tapes will be available to help prepare for some CLEP tests.

Reservists or spouses can also test for a GED (General Educational Development) high school equivalency diploma through DANTES.

Base Training and Education staff members are available to offer counseling on DANTES testing opportunities.

Also planned is an independent

study program which will offer correspondence courses from participating colleges, including post-graduate level. A catalog of participating colleges and courses is available for review at the Education and Training Section. Testing will be done at the section.

Participating colleges will charge tuition for the correspondence courses. Reservists should check with a VA counselor to confirm individual GI Bill eligibility for tuition assistance.

The independent study program will offer both traditional textbook courses and CD-ROM courses.

For more information on DANTES or other programs offered, call MSgt. Kristine Seney at Ext. 2042 or TSgt. Kevin Brown at Ext. 3441.

Patriot People

Name: Mary McKenna
Rank: Capt.
Age: 34
Address: Clifton Park, N.Y.
Unit: 439th MDS
Position: Nurse
Civilian position: Pharmaceutical sales
Favorite food: Shellfish, vegetables
Years of service: 14
Favorite sport: Football
Favorite hobby: Water skiing
Ideal vacation: Cruise Alaska
Best way to relax: Read a book
Preferred entertainment: Watching my son
Favorite hero: My husband Michael
Favorite music: Pop and classic rock
Favorite aircraft: Stealth
Pet peeve: Incompetent people
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Invest, relax and enjoy life



TSgt. W.C. Pope

Capt. Mary McKenna

Patriot Praises

Promotions

CMSgt. Gilbert, Kenneth J.
 SMSgt. Begue, Santiago J.
 SMSgt. Yarborough, Alec R.
 MSgt. Beauregard, James O.
 MSgt. Lefave, Albert J.
 MSgt. Quick, Bert A.
 MSgt. Turner, Danial J.
 TSgt. Bennett, Everett D., III
 TSgt. Manville, Duane S.
 TSgt. Marchand, Gary F.
 TSgt. Sorak, Jon M.
 SSgt. Champagne, Robert G.
 SSgt. Flynn, James M.
 SSgt. Hoagland, Matthew S.
 SSgt. Lecuyer, Joseph R.
 SSgt. McCurdy, Christopher J.
 SSgt. Monopoli, John R.
 SSgt. Towlson, Richard J.
 SSgt. Urbanski, John J., Jr.
 SSgt. Wilk, Thomas M.
 SrA. Ahmed, Aiman K.
 SrA. Acosta, Maravedis
 SrA. Aponte, Jacqueline E.
 SrA. Baldwin, Angela
 SrA. Barnes, Ronald M., Jr.
 SrA. Beauregard, Brenda L.
 SrA. Columbus, Ryan M.
 SrA. Gaynor, Carlton D.
 SrA. Gilligan, Michael R., Jr.
 SrA. Kinney, David A.
 SrA. Lopez, Clara Y.
 SrA. Newhart, Shane L.
 SrA. Tavilla, Melissa
 SrA. Tupy, Amy L.
 Amn. Christopher, Shawn J.
 Amn. Ciaffaglione, Michael A.

Enlistments

TSgt. Feldbauer, Robert R.
 SSgt. Beaudry, Thomas A.
 SSgt. Brenker, Frederick
 SSgt. Erpenbeck, Bertha R.
 SrA. Rehman, James P.
 A1C Davis, Smith M.
 A1C Hall, Robert S.
 A1C Turcotte, Francis L.

Reenlistments

SMSgt. Archambeau, William
 SMSgt. Budenas, John M.
 SMSgt. Ingham, Michael G.
 SMSgt. Kolodjay, Edward T.
 MSgt. Brames, John H.
 MSgt. Fyler, Miner L., Jr.
 MSgt. Hoskeer, Norman N. J.
 TSgt. Baldwin, Ronald C.
 TSgt. Bogard, Steve, Jr.
 TSgt. Connolly, George F., Jr.
 TSgt. Costa, Martha F.
 TSgt. Dedinas, Alan P.
 TSgt. Evers, Richard C.
 TSgt. Fish, Ronald M.
 TSgt. Gallant, Michael A.
 TSgt. Guerra, Carlos
 TSgt. Hernandez, Celio G.
 TSgt. King, David W.
 TSgt. Labonte, Ronald J.
 TSgt. Marcinowski, Judith A.
 TSgt. Mulcahy, Colin C.
 TSgt. Nalesnik, George J.
 TSgt. Pandolfi, Joseph J.
 TSgt. Pangilinan, Joseph P.
 TSgt. Plouffe, Eric B.
 TSgt. Sandman, Richard G.
 TSgt. Schanzer, Patricia E.

TSgt. Steeves, Peter J.
 TSgt. Whelihan, Diane A.
 TSgt. Zakrzewski, Gregory J.
 SSgt. Anderson, Charles S.
 SSgt. Berkebile, David A., SSgt.
 SSgt. Blackwood, Howard M.
 SSgt. Boganski, Mark C.
 SSgt. Bovino, Vincent T.
 SSgt. Boyer, Timothy
 SSgt. Carter, Randy S.
 SSgt. Ernst, Daniel R.
 SSgt. Greer, Mary Ann V.
 SSgt. Gubber, David P.
 SSgt. Jones, Keith L.
 SSgt. Kline, Craig M.
 SSgt. Kroyman, Kevin E.
 SSgt. Larsen, William M.
 SSgt. Lawrence, John E.
 SSgt. Lee, Shawn W.
 SSgt. Luby, Robert F.
 SSgt. Malie, Patrick F.
 SSgt. Newfield, Francis R.
 SSgt. O'Connor, Michael J.
 SSgt. Paradis, David M.
 SSgt. Pedro, Joaquim H.
 SSgt. Pezanetti, Edward D.
 SSgt. Pitts, Thomas E., Jr.
 SSgt. Robitaille, Shane C.
 SSgt. Rodriguez, Ruth J.
 SSgt. Santana, Fernando
 SSgt. Smith, Robert W.
 SSgt. Stack, Timothy M.
 SSgt. Strauser, Daniel S.
 SSgt. Surozenski, Gary J.
 SSgt. Syriac, Phillip M.
 SSgt. Trombley, Kevin F.
 SSgt. Vargus, Cathy A.
 SSgt. Weagle, James N.
 SrA. Brathwaite, Emmanuel S.
 SrA. McLaughlin, James G.



Col. Sarah Waterman

Colonels confirmed

Lt. Col. Sarah Waterman, 439th MDS head nurse, pins on eagles on April 1.

Other colonel selectees are Lt. Col. Bob Martens, vice commander of the 439th SPTG, effective May 1, and Lt. Col. Merrill Cross, 337th AS commander, effective June 1.

Westover represents AFRC in new Security Forces Group

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Westover's 439th Security Police Squadron will represent the Air Force Reserve Command as part of the Air Force's 820th Security Forces Group.

The 820th, which will spearhead the Air Force's Force Protection plan, was activated March 17 at a ceremony held at Lackland AFB, Texas.

Maj. Roger Summerlin, commander of the 439th SPS said each major command will dedicate one unit to the new elite force.

"Westover was selected because we will soon have Active Guard Reserve status and because we have access to excellent training areas, both here at Westover and at (nearby) Ft. Devens." In addition, he said, "We are located in an area with an excellent recruiting base."

The team Westover assigned to the 820th will consist of one officer and 44 enlisted men. Other teams will be of similar size except for the active duty units which will be slightly larger as they will have three military specialty dogs and handlers assigned.

In addition to AFRC, teams will come from Air Mobility Command, Air Combat Command, Air Force Materiel Command, Air Force Space Command, Air Education and Training Command, and the Air National Guard. A security police headquarters element, augmented by OSI, intelligence, communications, computer and disaster preparedness personnel will be assigned to Lackland.

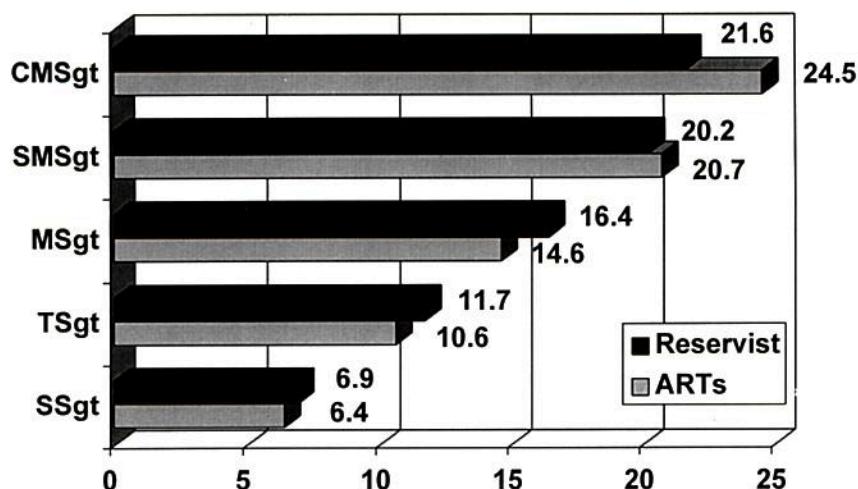
"The reason for establishing this unit," said Summerlin, "is so the Air Force will have the ability to send a highly trained security force into any theater in the world, at the beginning of any deployment."

Summerlin pointed out that members of the 820th must maintain higher physical fitness training requirements than the active force and that they are guaranteed that one-third of their training time will be dedicated to combat skills training.

"We must be able to deploy anywhere in the world with just 24 hours notice and be prepared for any contingency. So we will be looking to recruit highly motivated and dedicated people to be part of this team," he said. A total of seventy AGR slots will be advertised for Westover in April.

Promotion Timing

ARTs-vs-Traditional Reservists



(Compiled by Retention Working Group of the Human Resources Development Committee)

Briefs

Two formulas exist for retirement pay

If you plan to retire from the Air Force Reserve in the next century, you may be surprised to learn that there are two different formulas for computing retirement pay.

If you joined the service before Sept. 8, 1980, the formula base is familiar. It is: divide the total retirement points by 360 to get your years of service, multiply that by the monthly base pay at the time of retirement to determine the final pre-tax retirement pay.

If you entered the military on Sept. 8, 1980 or later, the formula changes after you determine the percentage of base monthly pay you are authorized. At that point, you add the base pays for the last three years (including the year you retired), divide that number by 36 and multiply that sum by the percentage to get the final pre-tax monthly retirement pay. Further information is available from the Military Personnel Flight in Bldg. 1875.

ROA offering membership deals

In honor of the 75th anniversary of the Retired Officer's Association, the organization is offering life memberships at half the normal price until Dec. 31, 1997.

As an added incentive Westover's Chapter 50 is conducting a raffle that will give two members who join under this offer, free membership.

For information on eligibility, the special offer or an application, call Lt. Col. Dave Moore at Ext. 3587 or Capt. John Ryan at Ext. 3460.

May UTA dates

A UTA 3-4
B UTA 17-18

Family Readiness Center expands

by Capt. Mike Franco

Westover's Family Readiness Center continues to grow offering services and solutions for reservists faced with increased demand, according to Roy Green, the center's director. The center also services all other reserve and active duty forces, retirees and Department of Defense employees.

"We won't turn anybody in need away," Green said. We work closely with commanders, units and other agencies to help our members successfully accomplish the mission and to reduce stress placed on families," he said.

He also points out that the unique demands of reserve life complicate the role of family readiness.

"We are in a particularly challenging environment because reservists reside over a wide area," Green said.

The Persian Gulf War highlighted those challenges when more than 23,000 reservists came through Westover.

However, regardless of war or peace, Air Force readiness programs (see inset) are designed to meet needs.

There are added bonuses, too. For example, you can do your taxes at the center, using its TurboTax computer program. Or you can "surf the net" with an on-line service for employment opportunities.



Capt. Paul Koscak

KNITTING PEOPLE TOGETHER — Family readiness volunteers, (left to right) Wanda Aiken, Janet Lempke, Valerie Perry, Erika Barnett and Virginia O'Rourke offer their time and yarn every Wednesday night to knit afghans to donate to the Springfield Red Cross.

FMC DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAMS

- **PFMP:** Personal Financial Management Program offers financial management information, seminars, and counseling.
- **AFAS:** Air Force Aid Society is a non-profit organization that provides short-term financial solutions on a case-by-case basis.
- **CFP:** Career Focus Program assists spouses seeking employment.
- **VRP:** Volunteer Resource Program is an outlet for volunteer opportunities.
- **RAP:** Relocation Assistance Program prepares for relocation to a new base.
- **TAMP:** Transition Assistance Management Program provides transition counseling for separating & retiring members.
- **Family Life Education:** Assistance with deployment and family separation, stress management, and preparation for marriage & parenting.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Stephen M. Rabel of Derby, Conn. and 2,656 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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