

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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Westover plays major role in area's economy

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

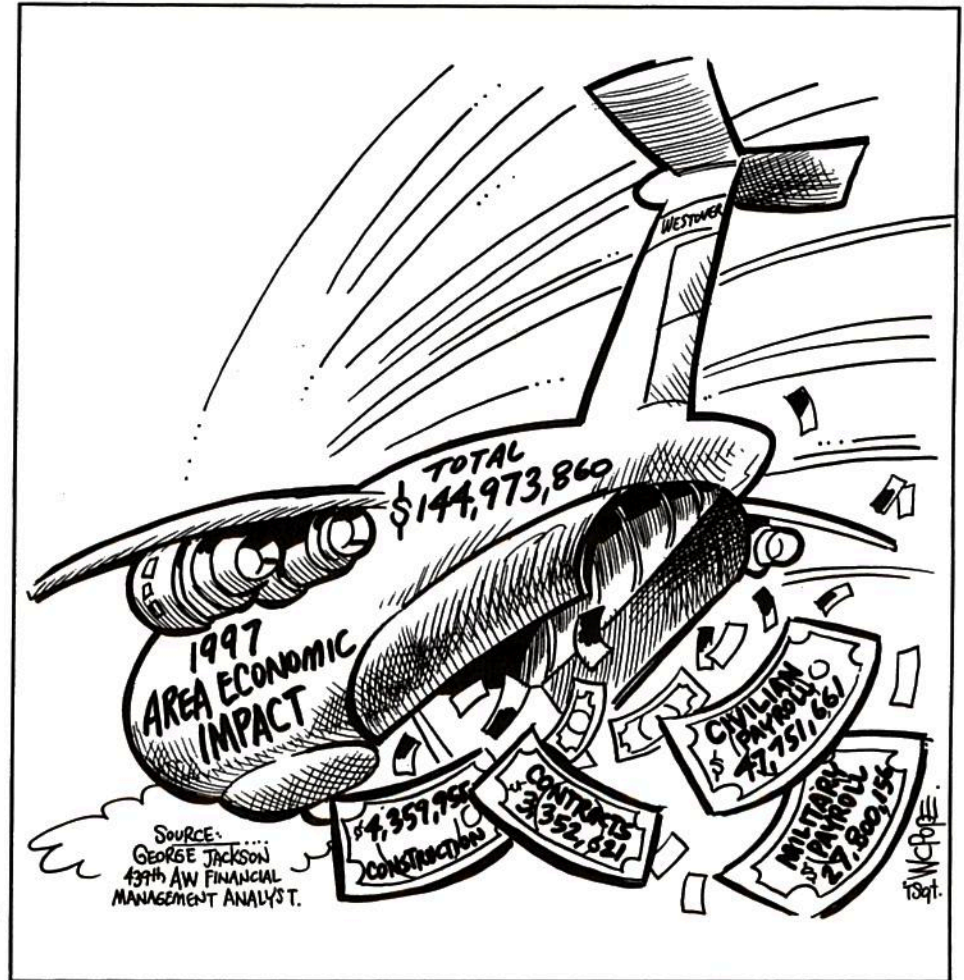
Westover Air Reserve Base continues to play a major role in the economic well-being of Western Massachusetts, according to a reported recently released by the Air Force Reserve Command.

According to the annual report, labeled the Economic Resource Impact Statement, the base pumped \$144,973,860 into communities located within a 50-mile radius of Westover.

"That is quite a substantial amount of money," said Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing. "Westover is a major economic player in this part of Massachusetts and the future looks bright. We continue to get other DOD units coming here to utilize our facilities, which gives the taxpayer more bang for his tax dollar."

The base's total payroll for fiscal year 1997, which for the federal government ran from Oct. 1, 1996 to Sept. 30, 1997, amounted to \$75,551,817, a slight increase over the FY 96 figure of \$75,094,360. Total military pay accounted for \$27,800,156 while federal civilian salaries totaled \$44,399,040. Another \$3,352,621 was paid to civilian employees who work in such areas as the Base Exchange, bowling alley and the Westover Club.

In addition to the 3,442 reservists, national guardsmen and active duty personnel who drill on the base,



Westover employs 999 general schedule and federal wage grade civilians and 227 other non-appropriated fund civilians and contractors.

While construction slowed dramatically during 1997, the government spent \$4,359,955 on several base projects including a new entrance and gate house off Industrial Road and new markings for the entire airfield.

Besides Air Force Reserve units assigned to the 439th AW, Westover is also home to tenant units including Marine Support Squadron Six; Ma-

rine Wing Support Squadron 474, Detachment B; a Massachusetts Air National Guard aviation support facility; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the United States Armed Forces Reserve Center; Dynamic Sciences Inc. (Weather station contractor); Army-Air Force Exchange Service; Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office; a Military Entrance Processing Center; a Reserve Readiness and Mobility Squadron and TOW Platoon HQ Co. C, 4th Marine Division.

Tenants contributed about \$20 million to the 1997 total.

Recruiters seek assistance from reservists

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Base closings, budget cuts and the shrinking of the active duty Air Force are all contributing factors in a public perception that opportunities in the Air Force Reserve are few and far between.

But according to CMSgt. Thom Harvey, senior recruiter for the New England area, nothing could be farther from the truth. "The Air Force Reserve continues to offer great career and educational opportunities for young men and women who have prior service or those who don't," he said. "Opportunities abound in the Air Force Reserve right now and every enlistee receives specialized job training."

Harvey also pointed out that recruits are also able to use this training toward an associate's degree in applied science from the Community College of the Air Force and earn college tuition through the Montgomery G.I. Bill. "Reservists are eligible to receive over \$7,000 in GI Bill benefits," Harvey said.

Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing said Air Force Reserve Command operations tempo will continue to grow as the active force gets smaller.

"With an ever-increasing emphasis placed on high-tech weapons systems and the high operations level at which we are

operating, we must continue to seek the best young people available."

In an effort to get reservists involved in the recruiting drive that is ongoing, a recruiting referral form appears on this page.

"The best source of recruiting leads comes from members of our unit," said Harvey. "So we are asking reservists to brag a little about the opportunities available in the Air Force Reserve."

The referral form may be filled out and returned to any of the recruiting offices listed. The recruiters will do the rest.

I would like to know more about opportunities available to me as a member of the Air Force Reserve

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Sex: _____

Address: _____ Apt. no: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Prior military service (if any): _____

Grade: _____ Specialty: _____

Recruiters are available at the following sites:

**Air Force Reserve
Recruiting Office**
450 Ellipse Drive, Bldg. 1502
Westover ARB
Chicopee, MA 01022-1825
(413)557-2125/2332/2330/
2943

**Air Force Reserve
Recruiting Office**
555 Main St.
Manchester, CT 06040-5105
(203) 645-6700

**Air Force Reserve
Recruiting Office**
3 Robins St., Bldg. 1721
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731
(617) 337-2840

**Air Force Reserve
Recruiting Office**
1215 Western Ave.
University Plaza
Albany, NY 12203-3317
(518)438-3077

**Air Force Reserve
Recruiting Office**
255 Park Ave., Suite 308
Park View Tower
Worcester MA 01609-1946
(508) 753-7616

PATRIOT

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Lt. Col. Torpey commands 439th Support Group

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Lt. Col. Paul Torpey, who for years was Westover's chief promoter as director of the Northeast Air Station, took command of the 439th Support Group in October to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Col. Franklyn Senft.

Torpey organized and directed the Northeast Air Station from 1992 to 1996, during which Westover gained recognition as an ideal host for military, municipal, and civilian training exercises and special events. During Torpey's tenure, the Northeast Air Station paved the way for full utilization of Westover's facilities.

The Northeast Air Station, which has its roots in the high tempo of operations during Desert Shield and Storm, made Patriot Tiger, Patriot Medstar, ROTC encampments, state and municipal police training programs, and other exercises a regular part of the scene at Westover. The Northeast Air Station continues to be one of the most effective tools in "selling" Westover facilities to the national military and civilian communities.

Torpey has also served as air boss for every Great New England Air Show at

Westover since 1988, and last year was named director of the nationally acclaimed air show to succeed Col. Gale French. His committee is already planning for Westover's 1998 Great New England Air Show.

Most recently, Torpey served for one year as commander of the 439th Operations Support Squadron.

As 439th Support Group commander, Torpey oversees about 500 security, civil engineering, mission support, communications and services members who, he says, have been maintaining a hard pace in recent months.

"Anything that happens here at Westover, we in the Support Group are involved, and there have been a lot of things happening during the past 12 months.

"The men and women of the Support Group have been asked to work very hard, there is light at the end of the tunnel. I think in the LORI we'll benefit from all the hard work. When that's successfully behind us, I don't see ourselves taking much of a break, but at least we'll have time for a breather," he said.

Torpey was commissioned following graduation from Southern Connecticut



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

Lt. Col. Paul Torpey

State College, New Haven, Conn. in 1968. During the Vietnam War he served as a C-130 pilot flying out of Saigon.

He came to Westover as a C-130 pilot in 1974 and has been an ART here since 1980. When the 439th AW was activated during Desert Shield and Storm, Torpey served in the command element for the massive airlift which saw as many as 25 C-5s stage through Westover in a 24-hour period.

PayCall provides military pay information anytime

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Air Force bluesuiters can obtain information about their military pay anytime over the telephone.

Dubbed "PayCall," an automatic system allows active-duty, Air Force Reserve Command, Air National Guard and recently separated members to call toll free in the United States via the Digital Switched Network overseas. The stateside number is 1-800-755-7413, and the overseas number is DSN 926-1281. The system, which went into effect in October, may also be accessed from overseas using a toll-free number available through www.att.com/traveler.

Access to PayCall is being phased in, so some locations may not have the service.

First-time callers will spend extra time on the phone establishing a personal identification number. They will answer a series of questions to validate their identity and will need to retain the PIN for use in all future telephone inquiries.

If a customer forgets the number, on-line assistance will be available to help reset the PIN but will not be able to answer pay questions. Air Force members may establish a second number to allow another person, such as a spouse, to have access.

Active-duty people can obtain a variety of information, including amount of last paycheck, reissued W-2 form, federal and state tax information, leave, and debt balances, and allotment and direct deposit information. Members of the Reserve and Guard can get amount of last paycheck,

tour dates, re-issued W-2 form, federal and state tax information, total debt amount, and deduction from last pay. People who separated from the Air Force have until 11 months after their separation date to obtain debt and tax information, final pay amount and re-issued W-2 form.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Denver, which primarily handles Air Force military payroll, is offering the service. The PayCall system uses an Integrated Voice Response System and has limitations on the amount of information available. People with unique pay questions or problems will still need to call or visit their servicing finance or pay office.

(AFRC News Service)

NCO Academy: in-residence

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

Grueling inspections, oversaturated workload, bootcamp-like milieu. If this is what you think the in-residence NCO Academy is like, before you read any further, check out TSgt. Kevin Brown's commentary on page 11 of the *PATRIOT*.

Now that your fears are dispelled, you should find out if you're eligible to attend the academy. If eligible, Brown says you should talk with your supervisor to help decide if you should consider attending.

If you are a technical sergeant looking to be promoted to master, the course is a requirement. But you don't have to wait until you reach technical sergeant to go—a staff sergeant with eight or more years total service is eligible. There are currently 740 reservists at Westover eligible to attend, but only a fraction are able to take advantage of the school: 17 people graduated last year.

And that's a big jump from previous years.

"We were only sending three or four people to the academy a year, but we recently got more slots to meet the demand," says Staff Sgt. Richard Gheen, base education and training manager.

There are 16 slots still available for the

McGuire AFB NCO Academy, this fiscal year. Gheen says the people who fill those slots will get more out of the experience than just military professional development.

A lot of the skills you learn in the academy—leadership, writing, teamwork, management, communications—are skills that carry over into the civilian workforce, Gheen says. Many employers don't mind giving up their employees for six weeks once they realize how their own organization will benefit.

"The reservist also becomes a better leader, and grows as a person," he says.

If you've decided you would like to attend the academy, the next step is to get the approval of your supervisor, first sergeant, and unit commander. Once done, it's only a matter of filling out an AFRC Form 129 and submitting it to the Base Education and Training Office. Details on applying for PME are in the 439th AW Education & Training Guide.

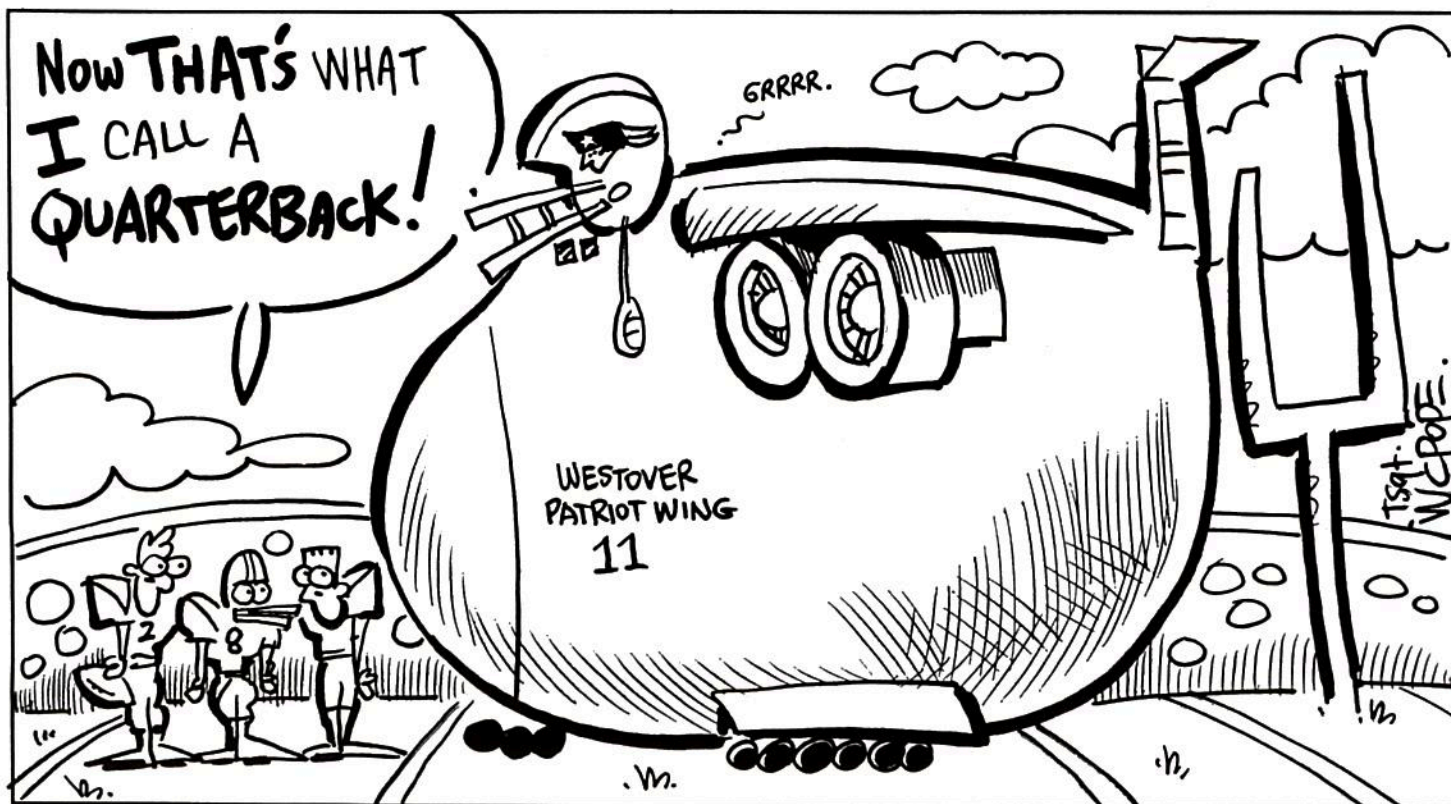
The following dates for the NCO Academy are available in 1998: Jan. 5 to Feb. 12, Feb. 24 to April 2, April 14 to May 21, June 2 to July 10, August 3 to Sept. 10, and Sept. 21 to Oct. 29.

Don't wait too long to sign up because the classes fill up quickly.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

AFI-36-2301, Professional Military Education, contains the eligibility requirements for attending the NCO Academy. All sections will comply with the following:

- Be either a TSgt. select, TSgt. or MSgt.
- If, having attended an NCO or Airman Leadership School, completed two years of service prior to attending the NCO Academy.
- Be personally interviewed and recommended by their unit commander.
- Not be on a control roster, under investigation, or awaiting any punitive action.
- Meet the body fat standards as prescribed in AFI 40-502, the Air Force Weight Program.
- Possess one year retainability after completing the NCO Academy.



Rieth is Family Readiness Center director



Linda Rieth

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Linda Rieth, who grew up in the Air Force and earned a first sergeant's diamond on active duty, became the new director of the Family Readiness Center in October.

Rieth came here from Charleston AFB, S.C., where she served five years as the personal financial program manager of an active duty family support center.

She brings to the new job a lifetime of experience in the Air Force, starting with growing up as an Air Force dependent. Rieth served 17 years of active duty before retiring as first sergeant of the Charleston AFB mission support squadron. She and her husband, retired SMSgt. John Rieth, have five children and reside in Chicopee.

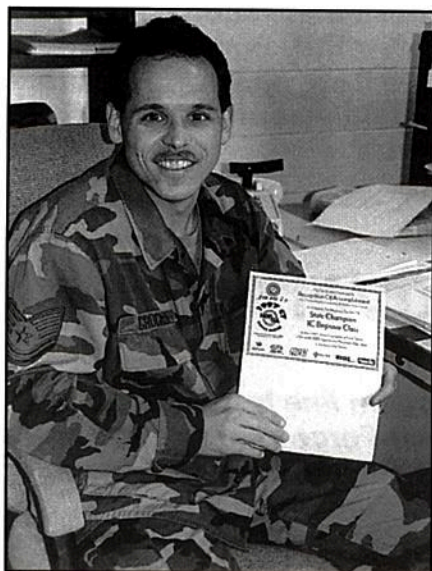
A big part of her job at the Family Readiness Center at 2224 Seawolf Ave.

will be to help reservists prepare themselves and their families for deployment, but such issues as wills, finances and family plans are only part of it.

"We like to think we're the heartbeat of the Department of Defense, because the Family Readiness Center keeps an open door for all military people in the area, including reservists, active duty and civilians," she said.

The center is preparing a "Heartline" quarterly newsletter to offer insights on readiness, deployment, and such issues as relocation and career choices. A learning center equipped with computers, is being developed and will be open to anyone seeking self-help on finances and other issues. Personal finance classes are also being planned.

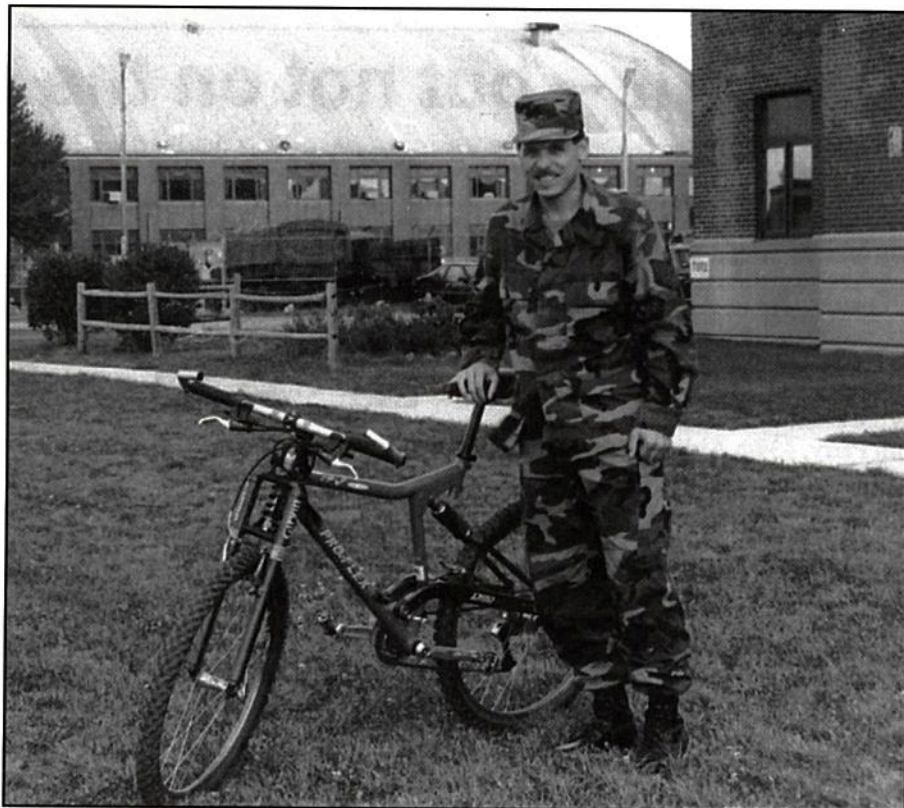
For more information on the Family Readiness Center, call Rieth at Ext. 3024.



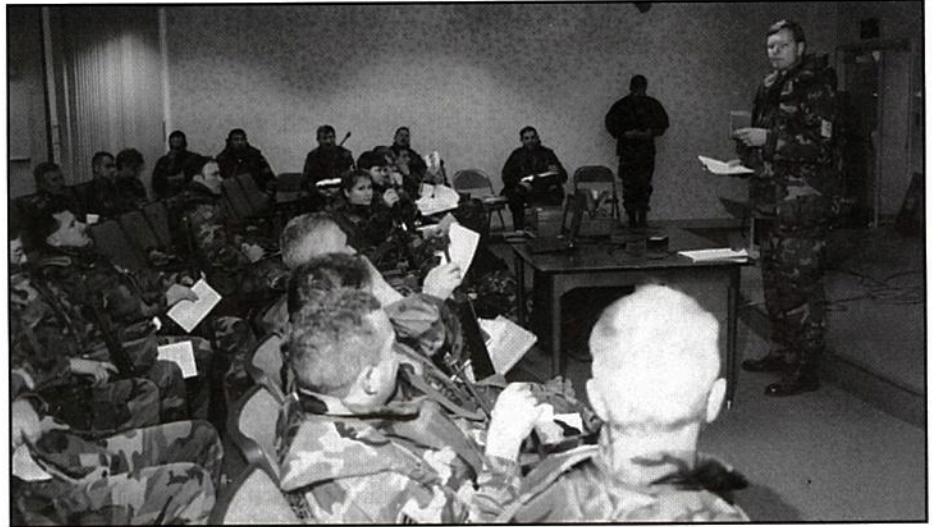
HIGH HONORS -- TSgt. Michael Crochiere, 439th LGS plans and scheduling craftsman, won first-place honors in the Connecticut State Mountain Bike Championship in the beginners' class. The season runs from April to September over nine races. Crochiere is a public accountant in the Westfield area.

Reservist mountain bikes his way to top

photos by TSgt. W.C. Pope



SIMULATED REALITY



photos by TSgt. W. C. Pope

TICKET TO RIDE -- Members of the 439th AW (left) process their mobility paperwork before "leaving" on deployment. Lt. Col. Tom Mazauka (top photo), site commander for the limited Operational Readiness Inspection conducted Nov. 21-23, briefs troops after they completed a mobility line, and before heading to Dogpatch area for the exercise. The exercise provides additional practice in all the details of an actual deployment.

Charge it -- but not on the government

by SSgt. Nancy Robbins

This time of year, it can be pretty easy to slap holiday purchases on some "plastic", but be forewarned - it is also easy for your commander to slap you with some pretty serious charges if the plastic you reach for is your government American Express card.

What constitutes unauthorized use?

Jim Perry, 439th Airlift Wing's financial services officer, says the rule of thumb is simple. If you don't have orders in your pocket, don't reach for the American Express card this holiday season.

But, how will anybody know if an extra hundred bucks is borrowed from your government account? Or, if "Sleep and Snore Ernie" for your two-year-old gets put on your government charge?

American Express will, that's who, and that's just the beginning, says Perry. Especially during the holiday season, American Express is on the lookout for ANY charges that come from retail



"The bottom line is the card is an official Air Force charge card, and should only be used for official government business."

Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers

stores, or if there are cash withdrawals continuously made from locations near your home. AmEx officials then contact the reservists' commander, and that could lead to a number of things, including an Article 15.

Reservists found abusing their credit card privileges can also be denied promotions, and if they don't pay back their debt, their reserve paycheck can be garnished.

John Stull, director of account development for American Express, said his office constantly sees a correlation be-

tween inappropriate use of cash and credit card holder delinquencies. "This is especially true during the holiday season...[last season], the percentage of cash withdrawn by Air Force cardholders increased more than ten percent, leading to a spike in delinquencies," Stull added.

For Westover reservists, 439th Airlift Wing Commander Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers policy is a clear one. "The bottom line is the card is an official Air Force charge card, and should only be used for official government business," Bankers said.

Westover women attend Women's Memorial dedication

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi
photos courtesy of CMSgt. Wood

CMSgt. Kathy Wood was walking among the 30,000 people who made the pilgrimage to the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, "when a women suddenly asked me why I had more medals than her when she had served in World War II."

She didn't say it to be mean, Wood said, she just wanted to know.

Humbled, Wood explained the meaning of each ribbon. They stood in front of a semi-circle granite wall, close to the 60,000-gallon reflecting pool that symbolizes the pooling of voices of all women who served.

Wood's ribbons testified to one woman's achievements, but the memorial also testified to all women's accomplishments, including those like the World War II veteran, who went so long with so little recognition.

Wood, who is the wing quality advisor, and several other women from Westover went to the memorial dedication on Oct. 18 to honor the 1.8 million American women who served their country.

"There were women from all generations, wearing all types of uniforms, and they all had incredible stories to share," Wood said.

Wood said the highlight of the dedication ceremony was when Frieda Mae Hardin, 101, approached the lectern, wearing her World War I Navy yeoman's uniform and a straw hat.

"In my 101 years of living, I have observed many wonderful achieve-



A PLACE IN HISTORY -- A cadre of Westover women were on hand for the Women's memorial dedication. From left (front row) Lt. Col. Karlene Devine, Col. Dee Holliday, Lt. Col. Linda Lear, Maj. Meg Lewis, and back row: CMSgt. Kathy Wood, Maj. Joanne Brogis, Lt. Col. Anne Cole and Lt. Col. Jane Sbardella.

ments," Hardin said, "but none as important or as meaningful as the progress of women taking their rightful place in society."

Hardin, as well as every other woman who served in the military, will be listed on a computerized Register at the memorial. The Register is a database that lists names, photographs, and service records for anyone to access.

"It's a great feeling to be immortalized on this register along with so many other women who served," Wood said. Wood visited the memorial with her new hus-

band, CMSgt. Vince Viglione, at the conclusion of their honeymoon.

Wood said she and her husband were impressed with the way the architects etched quotations of women service members into glass tablets and then used the tablets as a skylight.

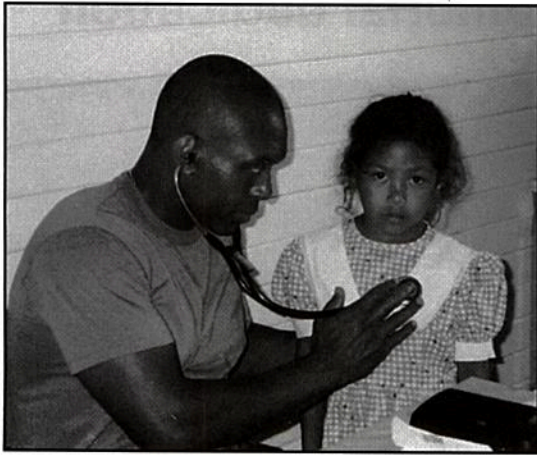
The memorial uses the symbols of light, passage, and water to describe the experiences of women who have fought for this country since the Revolution. The memorial's front consists of 30-foot high hemicycle, which was originally intended to be the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, who took charge of building the \$21.5 million memorial, said the semicircular arms are reaching out "like a mother embracing her children. It reaches out to everyone."

"It was then I realized how big this was. Just look at these people who showed up," Wood said, pointing to a brochure that lists Al Gore, Sandra Day O'Connor, Colin Powell, William Cohen, and many other distinguished guests.

But the people who most impressed Wood were the former service members: veterans like the one from World War II who inquired about Wood's ribbons. On that day the veteran realized barriers have been broken—this was evident when she stood before the Women's Memorial, and then again when she saw the decorated uniform of Kathy Wood.



STAMP OF APPROVAL -- CMSgt. Kathy Wood poses beside a replica of the stamp created by the U.S. Postal Service to honor women in military service.



HOUSE CALL -- Maj. Michael Palmer, chief of aerospace medicine with the 439th Medical Squadron, checks a young South American patient on a recent medical mission to Guyana.

Giving Back to America

Maj. (Dr.) Palmer is a man for all seasons

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Dr. J. can shoot, Michael "Air" Jordan can fly -- but Maj. (Dr.) Michael Palmer is in a class by himself.

In fact, after 27 years of classes, he has three degrees, three medical residencies, a pilot's license, a pro-basketball stint in Europe -- and Westover's chief of aerospace medicine is still looking for new things to do -- and new ways to grow.

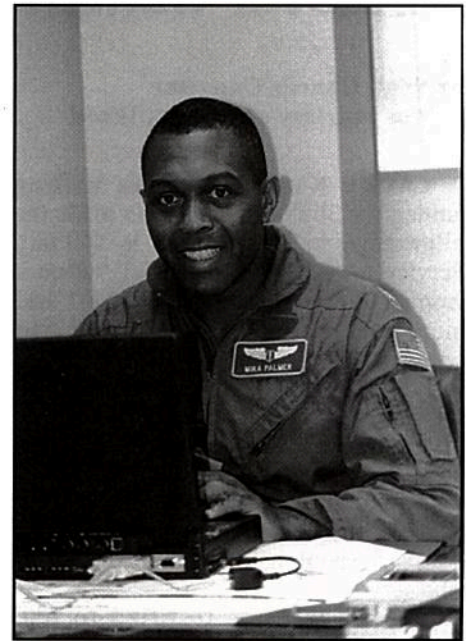
The seeds to most of Palmer's exploits were sown while he was growing up in Springfield, Mass. in a family of four boys. By sixth grade, he thought a little about becoming a pilot or a doctor, but he thought a lot more about playing basketball. In seventh and eighth grade, Palmer averaged 35 points a game. He credits a coach, and later, a physics teacher, for eventually helping him turn his priorities toward academics.

He loved math and science, and visiting aircraft cockpits during a family trip to Europe hooked him on aviation. His father was an orthopedic technician at the local hospital, and as the young Palmer accompanied his father, he became fascinated with the study of the human body. During school, he also volunteered at the hospital, transporting patients and providing sundry patient-care details.

After earning a bachelor's degree in secondary education, with a minor in chemistry and physics, Palmer returned to Europe where he earned a master's degree in Italian arts and literature. Seemingly still searching for what he wanted to be when he grew up, Palmer stumbled into a pro-basketball position in Italy. While attending college, he practiced with the team for exercise, and the coach asked him to join the team. While

playing basketball, Palmer scored hoops and high grades as he enrolled in the University of Rome School of Medicine and Dentistry and completed his medical degree and a three-year residency in traumatology and orthopedics. "It was a wonderful time, said Palmer with a broad smile as he fondly remembered the hectic adventure. "My coach was great. He let me miss away games so I could complete my studies," said the six-foot doctor.

During his time in Europe, Palmer made visits back to the States. Traveling, sports and studies had brought a vibrancy to life that was more obvious to him when contrasted with the rut some of his old friends had settled into. "Life was great for me. I fell into wonderful opportunities -- and I threw open the door when opportunity knocked," he said. His definition of success was honed on the anvil of experience. "Success is not money or prestige, but being where you want to be at any given time, and changing the things you



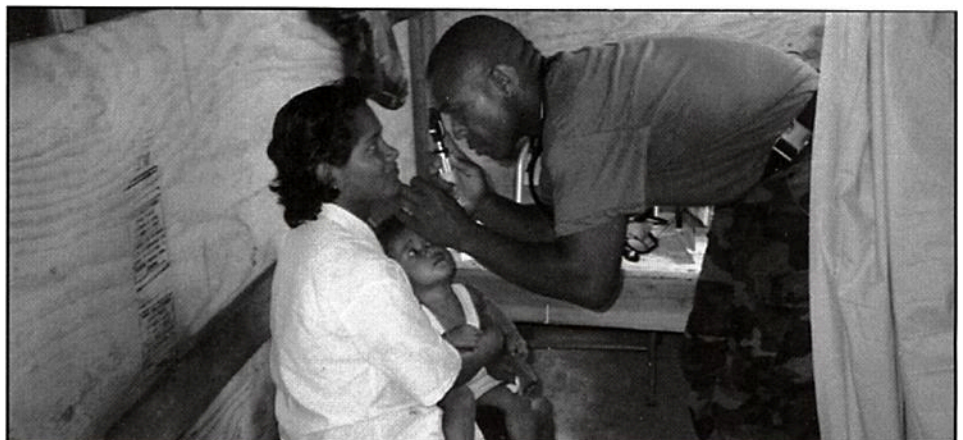
Maj. Michael Palmer

can to move in the direction you want," he said.

Quality of life is important to the Air Force major, so when career opportunities did not match his goals, he began another residency, this time in New York, in internal medicine. While in New York, Palmer joined the Reserve program at Westover in 1989 to fulfill a deferred ROTC commitment from 1976. Igniting childhood memories, Palmer again found himself in a cockpit, this time as a flight surgeon on a C-5 Galaxy.

Not one to settle on his laurels, in 1994, Palmer rounded out his medical background by completing his third residency. He specialized in physical medicine and

continued on page 9



LOOKING GLASS -- Dr. Palmer performs a check-up on a Guyanese mom and her child in a make-shift clinic in Guyana.

Air Force Reserve expands tuition assistance

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

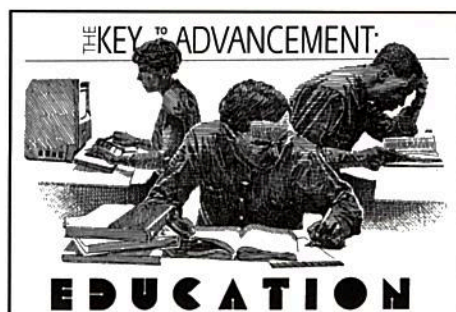
If you want a degree or professional certification, it will soon be easier to obtain. The Air Force Reserve is putting up more money and expanding testing programs to make the best educated military men and women in history even better.

Three new programs will help reservists, their spouses and civilian members earn bachelor's degrees and professional certification without full-time school.

Starting Oct. 2, the Air Force Reserve Command will pay 75 percent of the tuition, up to \$1,500 a year, for reservists who are enrolled in Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) distance learning courses leading to a bachelor's degree.

A DANTES catalog is available at the Base Education and Training Office which lists distance learning programs offered by colleges and universities leading toward degrees from high school through doctorate, plus professional certification.

"During the first year of the tuition assistance program, the Air Force Reserve will offer financial help only for study leading toward a bachelor's degree. However, we have been told that the program will expand to include graduate degrees as funds become available in the future," said SMSgt. Kristine Seney, chief of edu-



cation and training.

"Those who have a bachelor's degree are not eligible to receive tuition assistance for another degree," she said.

A second program will begin next February when the DANTES program will offer free professional certification tests in 32 areas. DANTES currently offers certification tests in automotive services and food protection.

To be eligible for a free professional certification test, a reservist has to be in an AFSC related to that technical area.

"In recent years, many Westover reservists have taken the EMT certification test through DANTES and paid for it themselves. The new program of financial assistance will be welcome news for those in related AFSCs who plan to take the EMT test in the future," Seney said.

In a third step to bolster education programs, the Air Force Reserve will ex-

pand free DANTES testing in college subjects to include civilian employees and spouses of reservists. Contract workers will not be eligible.

"The program consists of a series of examinations that test college-level knowledge you may have gained through your job, reading, travel or hobbies. Tests will be offered in more than 85 subjects in such areas as mathematics, business, foreign languages and humanities," Seney said.

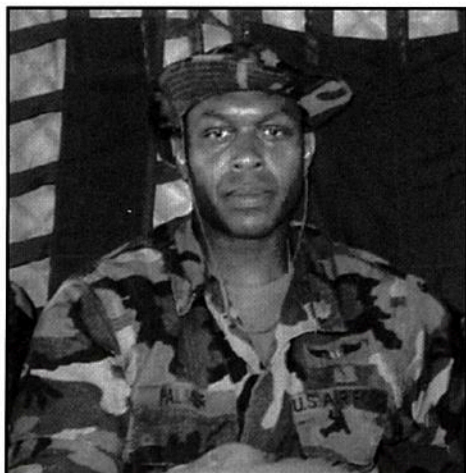
A student guide to assist in college-level study is available on video and audio cassette at the Base Training and Education Office, she said.

"This program will make it easier to earn Community College of the Air Force degrees. Many people are a class or two away from a degree and will be able to fill those final requirements with knowledge they've acquired outside the classroom," Seney said.

"We're offering unprecedented educational opportunities to our reservists, their families and our civilian team members. Anyone who has an interest in improving their educational level should take advantage of the support while it is available," she said.

For more information, call the Base Training and Education Office at Ext. 3115.

Maj. (Dr.) Palmer... continued from page 8



FLIGHT SURGEON -- Maj. (Dr.) Michael Palmer, on a military flight en route to Guyana.

rehabilitation at the University of Pennsylvania, and recently finished a sports medicine fellowship at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York.

Palmer is a physician with Princeton Orthopaedic Associates, and juggling all his activities is no small challenge. His laptop computer is perched on his desk and a myriad of details are logged into his planner -- and he has a hand-held, battery-driven computer planner -- just in case. He has co-authored books, and is on the faculty at Princeton University and at the College of New Jersey. He voluntarily mentors health care apprentices, sponsors sports medicine clinics for student athletes, and sponsors exercise seminars for the elderly. Although he receives a salary for his position as team physician for Princeton High School sports programs, he donates it back to the school to fund scholarships for aspiring sports trainers.

Although a very busy man, Palmer still

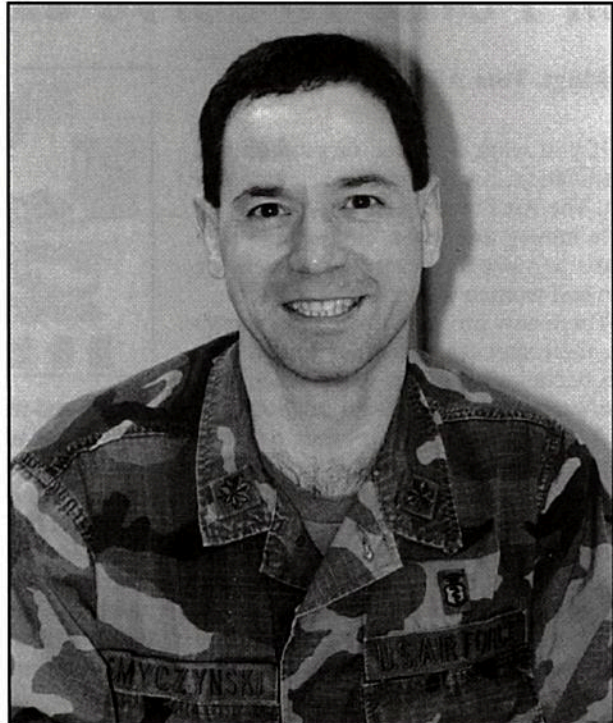
exudes a boyish charm -- a youthful excitement for all life has to offer. He and his wife, Tammy, find time for the sports they both enjoy, and the couple is currently building a home. Palmer is careful to balance recreation with work, but sometimes the distinction is blurred.

"I learned hard work and determination from my father," he explained. "My father came here from the West Indies and worked hard all his life to provide for his family." Palmer said his father taught him not to look for praise, but to just do your job. "He encouraged his sons to take risks. He would warn us, but he let us make our own mistakes," explained Palmer.

For Palmer, life is a full-court press -- play hard and enjoy the game. He may not be as well-known as Dr. J, or Michael Jordan, but his accomplishments are no less significant.

Patriot People

Name: Mark Smyczynski
Rank: Maj.
Age: 42
Address: Shrewsbury, Mass.
Unit: 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Position: Chief of Professional Services, flight surgeon
Civilian position: Cancer specialist
Favorite food: Grilled swordfish
Years of service: 11 years
Favorite sport: Skiing
Favorite hobby: Golf
Ideal vacation: Anywhere with no cell phone or beeper
Best way to relax: Nordic Track
Preferred entertainment: A good movie, or an exciting football game
Favorite hero: Brave cancer patients I've treated
Favorite music: Rock/blues
Favorite movie: *Star Trek* (the original series)
Favorite aircraft: C-47/DC-3
Pet peeve: Tobacco industry
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Invest it and retire when I could live comfortably off the assets.



MSgt. Sandi Michon

Maj. Mark Smyczynski

Patriot Praises

Promotions:

MSgt. Avey, Marie R.
 MSgt. Dedinas, Alan P.
 MSgt. Dube, Marilyn A.
 MSgt. Jesmonth, Jeffrey
 MSgt. Jones, Rosa D.
 MSgt. Quirin, Olga A.
 MSgt. Tomchak, Anthony J.
 TSgt. Asselton, Johnathan
 TSgt. Boganski, Mark C.
 TSgt. Horne, Augustine, Jr.
 TSgt. Lesure, Glenn C.
 TSgt. Libby, Gregory A.
 TSgt. Randles, Lynn
 TSgt. Robinson, Trevor O.
 TSgt. Sequeira, Steven A.
 TSgt. Sims, Michael W.
 TSgt. Tanguay, John R.
 TSgt. Tatko, Lauraine N.
 SSgt. Adade, Anthony K.
 SSgt. Canoy, Shannon E.
 SSgt. Dionne, Theresa B.
 SSgt. Lafleur, Joann K.
 SSgt. Lamy, Michael A.
 SSgt. Lee, Shawn W.
 SSgt. McLaughlin, James G.
 SSgt. Natalie, Peter P., Jr.
 SSgt. Nealon, Craig T.
 SSgt. Pauley, Kenneth R.
 SSgt. Robert, Daniel L.
 SSgt. Skehan, Timothy J.
 SSgt. Snyder, Robert A.
 SSgt. Sutherland, Gerald D., Jr.
 SSgt. Toft, Hezekiah James
 SSgt. Vescovi, John J.

SrA. Crane, Richard J.
 SrA. Gauvreau, Richard W., Jr.
 SrA. Morini, Dawn M.
 SrA. Volk, Simone S.
 A1C Ciaffaglione, Michael A.
 A1C Christopher, Shawn J.
 A1C Creighton, Leslie A.
 A1C Hellyar, Ryan M.
 A1C Knight, William C.
 A1C Taylor, Colleen B.

Enlistments:

SSgt. Cloutier, James R.
 SSgt. Eastman, David C.
 SSgt. Libby, Donald E.
 SSgt. Pinardi, Matthew M.
 SSgt. Rhodes, Edward E., III
 SSgt. Thomas, Charles A.
 SrA. Daly, Gordon M.
 SrA. Hetu, Frederick E.
 SrA. Langone, Stephen M.
 SrA. Rosati, Joseph A., Jr.
 SrA. Smith, William D., Jr.
 SrA. Westcott, Brett L.
 A1C Arnold, Michael L.
 A1C Coache, Carolyn A.
 A1C Rivas, Joel B.
 A1C Sullivan, Michael A.
 A1C Young, Jason J.
 AB Beaudoin, Scott M.
 AB Roberts, Marlene C.
 AB Lyman, Shawn P.

Reenlistments:

MSgt. Barna, Michael K.
 MSgt. Beachell, Paul E.
 MSgt. Colucci, Linda S.
 MSgt. Fioroni, Norman R.
 MSgt. Marrone, Michael J.
 MSgt. Newell, Gordon A.
 MSgt. O'Neil, Christopher
 TSgt. Barrett, John W.
 TSgt. DeLisle, Neil A.
 TSgt. Jesmonth, Jeffrey
 TSgt. Kida, Stephen E.
 TSgt. Louvitakis, George
 TSgt. Olshefski, Karen A.
 TSgt. Seitz, Mark G.
 TSgt. Thomas, Michael J.
 SSgt. Allen, Kevin M.
 SSgt. Benson, David M.
 SSgt. Blaisdell, Donald K.
 SSgt. Cabana, Luisa V.
 SSgt. Cardin, Edward A.
 SSgt. Devane, Madeleine M.
 SSgt. Knight, Ralph E.
 SSgt. Lessane, Simone N.
 SSgt. Lovett, Terry G.
 SSgt. Moriarty, Sarah A.
 SSgt. Page, David A.
 SSgt. Riley, Arthur H., Jr.
 SSgt. Shea, Michael L.
 SSgt. Spence-Elder, Lisa Ann
 SSgt. Warmesley, Floyd, III
 SSgt. White, Jesse K.
 SrA. Bergman, Carol
 SrA. Cooper, Tanya N.
 SrA. Montes, David H.
 A1C Veneto, Edward J.

End of an era

Westover got younger in 1997, but paid the price of experience to do so.

Among the retirees for 1997, 18 were 60-years-old, representing 436 years of combined experience.

According to MSgt. Anne Martin, chief of personnel relocation, it is unusual to have so many 60-year-olds retiring. "It's the end of an era," said Martin, referring fondly to the elder retirees. She said many of them had long breaks of service, or their service times would have been even more impressive.

The high-year tenure program limits participation to 33 years from pay date, or age 60, whichever comes first.

According to Martin, the average age of Westover retirements is between 45-years-old and the early 50's.

NCO Academy touted

I have been in the military for 17 years, and have always done my best to dodge Professional Military Education. Finally, this year, I strapped myself down and decided to go in-residence to the Non-commissioned Officers Academy for six weeks.

I felt a lot of apprehension and anxiety about attending this course. Some of the feelings came from horror stories of it being like basic training all over again. Or that you had to give a million speeches, perform drills and ceremonies every day, stand uniform inspections every morning or, God forbid, you had to study and research every minute of your time. Then, of course, there was the big question: "Do I want to leave my family and job for six long, grueling weeks?"

Let me put all those fears to rest. First off, I want to say that attending the NCO Academy in-residence was one of the best decisions I have made in my military career. The people I met, and the friends I made, will last me a lifetime. The opportunity to co-exist with the active duty, Air National Guard and other reservists provided me with a wealth of information that can never be digested through a correspondence course.

The in-residence curriculum is more adaptable to reality. Courses like Situational Leadership, Quality Leadership, Human Relations and Leadership Behavioral Skills offer hands-on training, as well as Effective Writing and Speech Presentation.

Those horror stories about the Academy being run like basic training are just plain bogus. Your peers run the academy and everyone is treated equally. Yes, you do have to stand uniform inspections. However, they are not conducted to discredit students, but to teach them how to wear the uniform as a professional and how to properly inspect subordinates.

The Academy also teaches an abundance of information during each phase, and self discipline is needed for study habits. Students are required to research and write reports and speeches, but that does not take all of a student's free time. Effective time-management is the key to success.

Probably the most important lessons to be learned are the development of personal leadership and integrity.

Overall, I would recommend attending the NCO in-residence, to everyone who is eligible. It is a great experience, one that will serve you well for the rest of your life.

COMMENTARY



TSgt. Kevin Brown

**by TSgt. Kevin Brown
Chief, Base Training**

Briefs

MXS announces officer vacancy

The 439th Maintenance Squadron has a captain/maintenance officer vacancy than has been designated as a Deserving Airman Commissioning position.

Qualified applicants must possess a bachelor's degree, have scored 100 or better on the AFOQT and meet all other Deserving Airman commissioning qualifications.

A selection board will be held on the A UTA in January. Applicants must submit an AF Form 24 and military resume to Lt. Col. James Joyce, 439th LG/CV by Dec. 21. Further information is available by calling ext. 3816.

Ornaments for sale

Westover's Chiefs' Council is offering Christmas ornaments for sale. This year, the ornament is a special edition, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Air Force. Ornament costs \$5.00 and may be purchased from any Westover chief master sergeant.

Proceeds of the sale go toward Wing enlisted programs such as the NCO Leadership ;Graduation and Quarterly/Annual awards.

Fellowship applicants sought

All citizens of the United States, who are not employed by the federal government, are eligible to apply to become part of the White House Fellowship Program.

The program seeks to draw exceptionally promising people from throughout the nation, providing them with first-hand experience in the process of governing our nation. There are no restrictions for age, sex, race, grade or physical requirements.

Annually, 11 to 19 citizens are selected to work full-time for a year as special assistants to senior executives in cabinet-level agencies or in the executive office of the president.

Anyone interested, should contact the military Personnel Flight in Bldg. 1875.

'Buy local' Commerce '97

by Capt. Mike Franco

Keeping your business local was the primary theme of Commerce '97, a business-to-business showcase held at Westover's "pull through" hangar Nov. 6.

More than 200 area businesses exhibited at the trade show organized annually by the Chicopee and Holyoke Chambers of Commerce, and the Galaxy Community Council.

Commerce fairs such as this provide a venue for area businesses to network, encouraging them to support local business first, according to Gail Sekleski, President, Chicopee Chamber of Commerce. Vendors ranging from manufacturers and construction contractors, to hospitality and health care, participated.

A breakfast kicked off the event while more than 500 people listened to various guest speakers including Jane F. Garvey, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, and Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, Commander, 439th Airlift Wing who expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to host events like Commerce '97.

"The turn out was wonderful," Sekleski said. "We're already taking reservations for next year."

"On behalf of the business community, I want to thank the base for the use of its facilities," she said. "Westover and its people have always been very accommodating to us."



TOW JOB -- Moving a 180-ton airplane is no small task. Personnel from the 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron attach a tow vehicle to the C-5 landing gear to move the Galaxy. The ramp was cleared while lines were repainted on the flightline.

photo by TSgt. W.C. Pope

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Mike Michaud of Dayville, Conn., and 2,590 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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