

MSGt. Sandi Michon

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB
 VOLUME 24 NUMBER 6 JUNE 1997

COMING AND GOING— Pomp and ceremony were the order of the UTA as the 439th said goodbye to retirees and to Col. James P. Czekanski, and welcomed Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers to the helm.

(articles on pages 1,6,7)

Brig. Gen. Bankers takes the reins of the 439th AW

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers took command of the 439th Airlift Wing during a ceremony held in the base hangar Saturday of the May UTA.

Bankers, who was formerly commander of the 315th Airlift Wing at Charleston AFB, S.C. takes over for Col. James P. Czekanski who is headed for Robins AFB, Ga. where he will become Inspector General for the Air Force Reserve Command.

Bankers said he was honored to assume command of the largest facility in the Air Force Reserve. "It's an honor to be selected as wing commander for the 439th, he said. "Westover is a very important base to the Air Force and I'm looking forward to carrying on the tradition of quality and professionalism that people here have earned."

Czekanski, who was at Westover for five years—the longest stay at one base in his 30-year career—said, "As with all families, we grow up and move along. It's time for my wife Susan and I to do that. But I'm sure we'll be back often."

Continued on page 6



MSGt. Sandi Michon

Base hosts thousands June 7-27

Patriot Medstar helps units prepare for the worst

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND NEWS SERVICE — More than six years ago, after several months of buildup, America held its breath and plunged into a hi-tech war with Iraq. Military experts, in and outside the Pentagon, feared record numbers of dead and wounded. Casualties that, mercifully never occurred.

Although they were not needed during Desert Storm, the people who care for large numbers of wounded must still be ready for the worst. Many of them will get that training June 7-27 during a massive exercise staged at several sites in the Northeast.

Dubbed Patriot Medstar, the exercise will feature some 2,000 active-duty and reserve airmen, soldiers and sailors. They will come from the active-duty Air Force, Army and Navy; Air Force Reserve Command; Army Reserve Command; and Army National Guard medical units from around the country. Major deployment sites are Fort Devens, Hanscom Air Force Base, Worcester Municipal Airport and Westover ARB in Massachusetts; Stratton ANG Base in Scotia N.Y.; Fort Indiantown Gap and Capital City in Pennsylvania; and Andrews AFB, Md.

The exercise will test the units' ability during a contingency to deploy to a location, sustain operations and deploy home. This joint service, Total Force exercise will be the first time since Desert Storm that the services and reserve components have exercised the complete medical evacuation system for movement of patients both within a small theater area and over long distances.



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

FIELD CAMP — Thousands of people, military and civilian, flock to Westover's Dogpatch area each year. The major 1997 events are ROTC summer camps, Patriot Medstar, and Patriot Tiger.

"The purpose of this exercise is to train joint medical personnel in the care and movement of patients during joint military operations and to provide realistic wartime skills training," said Col. James Kottkamp, overall exercise director. "At the same time, the Joint Staff and Headquarters Air Force will have the opportunity to test and evaluate new procedures and operational techniques," added Kottkamp, who is chief of the aeromedical evacuation division at Headquarters AFRC, Robins AFB, GA.

Patriot Medstar participants will train in deployment procedures, ground and flight operations, chemical warfare protection, perimeter defense training and field medical care with a special emphasis on patient regulation.

Activity will peak June 21-22 with the testing of a new aeromedical evacuation concept and a National Disaster Medical System exercise. This portion of the exercise will include activation of a five state emergency hospital system. Participating states are Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.

During the employment phase of Patriot Medstar, the medical units will establish a full-scale theater aeromedical evacuation system with aeromedical liaison teams and mobile aeromedical staging facilities at several operating sites. The liaison teams will simulate working with forward medical treatment facilities.

An air transportable hospital, provided by the 509th Medical Group, an active-duty unit from Whiteman AFB, Mo, will go into operation at Westover's Dogpatch training site.

Medical people at the mobile aeromedical evacuation staging facilities will provide initial medical care for patients and prepare them for aeromedical evacuation to an aeromedical staging facility and further transportation on to the United States.

C-130 transport aircraft will fly the patients from the MASF at the forward operating bases to Westover's flight line where the aeromedical staging facility simulates as a rear echelon level of care. C-9 and C-141 aircraft will airlift patients to Andrews AFB, outside of Washington, D.C., to simulate flights to major U.S. hospitals.

PATRIOT

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Women's military role honored during 50th anniversary salute

by SSgt Christine Mora

Women in military history were honored May 4, when hundreds of reservists and guests gathered in Westover's Conference Center to salute the 50th Anniversary of the Air Force with keynote speaker, retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, president of the board of directors of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc.

CMSgt Kathy Wood, 439th Airlift Wing Quality Officer and coordinator of the program, started the event by tracing history through the careers of 50 women representing the year of their enlistment.

General Vaught described the evolution of women in the military and the key events shaping their service.

"Women disguised themselves to serve during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, but the Army officially decided they needed women during the Spanish American War," she said.

Women were contracted as nurses during that conflict, General Vaught said, and the nursing profession ultimately led to the integration of women into the military forces.

The general cited eight milestones marking the eventual inclusion of women.

"In 1901, the Army Nurse Corps was formed, giving women few benefits and no rank," said General Vaught. "The Navy added a Nurse Corps in 1908, but it took both services 25 years to develop a retirement plan, and women who got married or pregnant were immediately discharged."

The second milestone came during World War I when the Secretary of the Navy brought in 10-12,000 women as reservists in clerical positions to work the telephones. By the end of the war, more than 30,000 women had served in the US and in France, but were denied veteran's benefits for 45 years. "By the time they received benefits, most were dead," she said.

By World War II, 305 Navy and Marine Corps nurses were finally given enlisted rank, and throughout all the branches, women worked as officers and enlisted members in most jobs, including cryptography, control towers, and mechanics.

"Their ships and bases were bombed, strafed, surrounded and captured, and 88 females were taken Prisoners of War," General Vaught said "Women's Air Force (WAF) pilots flew 66 million miles ferrying cargo and performing other missions. Thirty-eight were killed."

The fourth milestone in women's military history was marked in 1948 with the signing of the Armed Services Women's Integration Act, giving women a permanent place in the armed forces. According to General Vaught, however, the act came with stipulations. "Women couldn't be admirals or generals, and only nine could be O-6s. The total number of women could not exceed 2% of the military and women couldn't serve in combat roles, (even though they had been serving on the front lines for years)."

By the late 60s "crisis had come and they needed women again," said the general. Women could now serve as admirals and generals and the 2% restriction was removed."

In 1975, the military academies were opened to women, and females were integrated into more and more formerly off-limits areas. "Most of the significant changes for women happened in the last 25 years - after they had been serving for 200 years," said General Vaught.

Milestone six occurred during Operation Desert Storm



MSgt. Sandi Michon

GENERAL AUDIENCES ONLY — Ret. Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught greeted nearly everyone in the audience prior to the ceremony. General Vaught is president of the board of directors of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc. She honored the role of women in the military and wooed support for the memorial as a symbol of pride.

when a gender-integrated force was deployed for the first time from the beginning. "The American public saw the lines of battle and risk blurred," said the general. "It became apparent that the person trained would be the person deployed."

A big concern, according to the general, was how the American public would react to the sight of women coming home in body bags. "They reacted the same way they would if any loved one came home in a body bag," she said.

The role of women during Desert Storm sparked the repeal of the combat exclusion laws. In 1991, women could fly fighter aircraft, and by 1993, women could serve on combat ships. However, the general said, "we still haven't solved all the problems regarding where women can serve."

The sexual harassment scandal known as "Tailhook" marked the eighth milestone of women in the military and their recent scandal at the Army's Aberdeen training site demonstrate that "we still have a lot of work to do regarding men and women interfacing in the military workplace," General Vaught said. "Hopefully we'll evolve to a point where every person can do the best job they can without worrying about harassment," she said. "People will realize it's such a waste of time to cause problems."

**Women's National Monument
Dedication article on page 4**

Safety issues high priority

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Four aircraft accidents within the Air Force Reserve in six months prompted an AFRC-mandated concentration on safety issues during the May training assemblies.

Although Westover's safety record is enviable, reservists participated in a base-wide safety standdown which brought all safety issues to the table.

Col. James P. Czekanski, in one of his last duties as 439th AW commander, briefed the wing on five key areas. He highlighted Westover's impeccable safety record, but cautioned that we could become victims of our own success. Overconfidence could lead to short cuts and complacency. The second point was related to the first and referred to the high level of experience found in reserve staffing. Even if the job's been done a hundred times, Czekanski stressed the continued need for proper guidance and oversight. "Don't assume, double-check," the colonel said. He said we should not avoid constructive critiques of our daily operations.

"We also need to assess the risk factors of our peacetime missions," Czekanski said, referring to the fact that some tasks are high-risk and should be used only when absolutely necessary. The final issue dealt with unprofessionalism. If something is illegal, unethical or immoral — it should not happen.

Czekanski stressed that General McIntosh, head of the Air Force Reserve Command, did not intimate that Westover was guilty on any of these issues, but the possibility for complacency exists in any organization.

Brig. Gen James D. Bankers initiated his new command at Westover a day early to participate in the safety standdown. He stressed the excellence of the Air Force Reserve and said that, for the majority, the safety emphasis was "preventative medicine." Bankers emphasized training saying, "A well-trained person is a safe person."

"The Air Force is all about people — keeping people safe," said Bankers. "Safety means people watching out for

"The Air Force is all about people — keeping people safe. Safety means people watching out for other people."



Brig. Gen. James Bankers

other people." He used as an example the story about a carpenter who questioned something he observed as a crew chief refueled an aircraft. It turned out to be nothing, but Bankers praised the carpenter for getting involved in the "teamwork of safety."

Col. Franklyn Senft provided an overview of safety issues that apply to non-flying, support personnel. Col. Bob Martens, former safety officer, provided a realistic office scenario that helped participants identify potential safety offenders such as distractions, stress, unrealistic goals, fatigue, etc. Martens encouraged all in attendance to get involved. "Friends don't let friends get hurt," he said.

Security police personnel wrapped up the briefing portion by sharing vehicular safety issues on base. Statistics were posted and also methods of avoiding accidents.

The standdown meetings closed with small group sessions which highlighted individual unit safety concerns. Reservists' comments were collected and compiled into a base-wide list of action items.

"The benefits of a safety standdown day are innumerable," said Lt. Col. Dave Moore, wing safety officer. "Safety is a force multiplier in that it protects our human and physical resources.

Women's national memorial to be dedicated

by SSgt Christine Mora

After recounting the evolving role of women in the military, Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught encouraged women service members to take part in the dedication of the national Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 16.

Officially known as the "Women in Military Service for America Memorial," the monument is being constructed near the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery.

"The memorial will enshrine generations of women who have served their country," General Vaught said. "It will also give future military women a sense of heritage and tradition as special and honorable as that of men in the armed forces."

The design of the memorial in-

cludes a reflecting pool, an education center, a theater and an arc of glass tablets bearing quotations by and about women who have served. At the heart of the memorial will be a permanent computerized register with the name, photograph and individual story of the women's service.

The women's Memorial Foundation is searching for eligible women to be included in the register. Those who have served in the Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard, veterans, living or deceased, service auxiliaries, and U.S. Public Health Service uniformed women are eligible to register.

For more information, call 1-800-222-2294 or write: The Women's Memorial, Dept. 560, Washington, D.C., 20042-0560.

Giving Back to America

Reservist helps hometown with volunteer spirit

EDITOR'S NOTE: To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force, the theme *Giving Back to America* recognizes the contributions Air Force members make to communities. Active duty members certainly serve the community — but reservists are the community. It is our pleasure to highlight a cross-section of our Citizen Airmen.

Article and photo by TSgt. W.C.Pope

When SSgt. Donald Martel isn't loading C-5s, he's loading his car with softball equipment for his daughter's team.

Martel, an air transportation journeyman in the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron at Westover, gives not only to his country by serving, but by being a mentor and a role model in his hometown of Barre, Mass.

For example, Martel is the youngest commander of Barre's America Legion Post 246, a post he has held for two years. As commander, he has focused attention on two programs that he feels can have a great effect on young people.

"I wanted to put special emphasis on the Student Trooper and the Boy's State Programs because they had little interest when I took over as commander," he said. "We sent one student to the Student Trooper Academy to learn what's involved in police work."

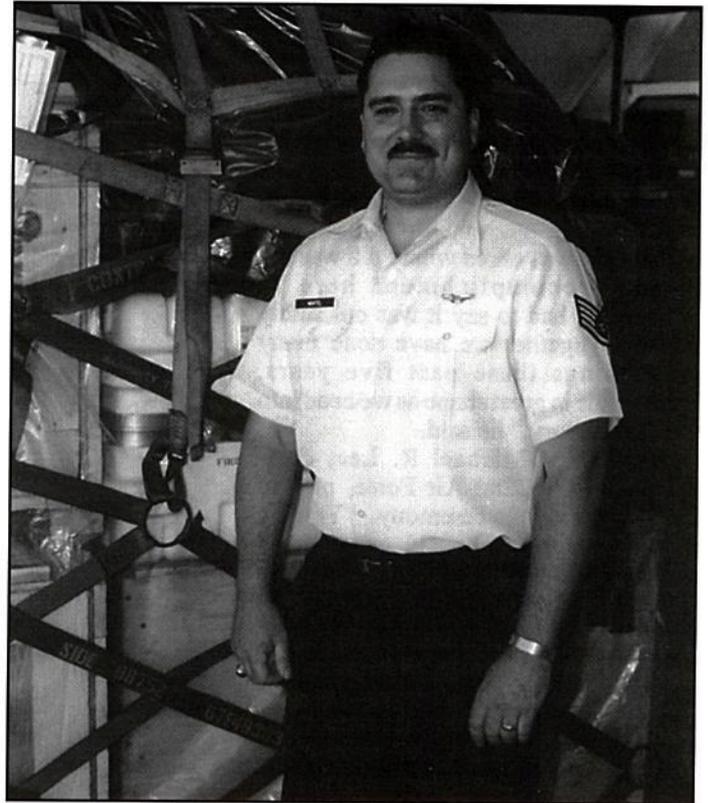
The Boy's State program allows students to get involved in learning about state government for a week. Student selection is based on grade point average, and extra curricular activities.

"I tried to get more people excited about the programs and we have been able to get more candidates involved," he said.

Martel is also a member of the Barre's VFW Post 9093 where he ensures the maintenance and display of flags for veterans' graves in his local area.

"My military background has given me leadership skills that I use to give back to my community," he said. "Leadership and motivation are what our communities need more of and that's what I strive to provide. It's good for everyone."

He also is involved in coaching his daughters. Twelve-year-old Gina plays softball and seven-year-old Kellie plays T-ball. He coaches Gina's team three days a week and Kel-



SSgt. Donald Martel

lie's on Saturday mornings. His wife Sharon is the assistant softball coach and supports his volunteer activities.

"Don is a very dedicated individual," said his wife of 15 years. "He grew up in this area and as a kid he was always involved with sports and other activities, now he's giving back to the community what was given to him."

"He loves the involvement in the community," she said. "He gives time even though he doesn't have much time. I think most reservists are like that, that's the whole idea behind being a reservist. Giving of yourself to your country and community when you already have a job and full life."

"I feel my volunteerism is not only good for the community but it's a way for me to get more involved with my family," Martel said.

Martel works full-time for Northeast Utilities in West Springfield, and participates in their color guard program.

His volunteer spirit has won recognition through the Northwest Utilities Volunteers Program. He was presented awards in 1996 and again in 1997. This year he took top honors which included a prize of \$125 which he quickly donated to the girls' little league program.

Martel attends Springfield Technical Community College and maintains a 3.9 grade point average. He has completed 40 of the 60 credits needed for an associate degree in environmental studies.

Before coming to Westover in 1992, Martel was an active duty C-141 loadmaster at Norton AFB, Calif. where he met his wife, Sharon.



Courtesy of SSgt. Donald Martel

PEP TALK — Coach Martel gives last minute pointers before a softball game.

Change of Command

continued from page 1

Czekanski said he was proud of his work with base employees and reservists and with community officials and volunteers.

"When I was asked what I felt was my biggest accomplishment here at Westover, I had to say it was our safety record. Together we have done many good things these past five years. Westover is in great shape as we head into the 21st century," he said.

Brig. Gen. Michael R. Lee, commander of the 22nd Air Force, praised Bankers during the ceremony. "You are receiving a tremendously experienced and tremendously tested commander in General Bankers. It is with great expectations that we make this change of command," he said.

Czekanski was presented with his second Legion of Merit for his tenure as commander of the 439th.

In part, the citation read, "An extraordinary commander, Col. Czekanski planned the use of \$40 million of project money and brought Westover facilities and quality of life into the 21st century."



MSgt. Sandi Michon

Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers — reporting for duty



MSgt. Sandi Michon

SEAMLESS FORCE — Members of the U.S. Marines Site Support Element joined ranks with the Air Force for the retirement and change-of-command ceremonies held the May UTA. At right, SSgt. Jeffrey Picard and MSgt. David Carbin, last year's Airman and Senior NCO of the Year, respectively, present the wreath to commemorate Memorial Day.



MSgt. Sandi Michon



Retirees receive a final salute at base ceremony

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Change is rampant throughout the Air Force, and Westover's newest retirees are yet another example.

Gone is the traditional image of the aging retiree planning years of leisure. The common thread of the retirees honored at the base's annual Retiree Appreciation and Memorial Day ceremony in May was the closing of old chapters and the opening of new.

"Over the last 17 years, I've missed a lot of family events," said retired Lt. Col. Rick Dyer. "While I'm poorer for the friendships I'll miss, I'm looking forward to the soccer games, the picnics, and freedom to spend time with my wife and children."

"I never realized how much time I sacrificed," said retired CMSgt. Joseph LaFrance, former 439th first sergeant. "I've got 50 percent of my weekends back and I'm doing things I never had time for." Those "things" include canoeing, traveling, and remodeling a house "that's been sitting there for eight years because I've haven't had the time to work on it."

Retired MSgt. Paula Browning is starting a new career with her new chunk of time. "I'm going to nursing school," said the former military personnel specialist. "Retiring from the Reserve has given me the opportunity to pursue something I've wanted to do for a long time."

Performing one of his last official duties as 439th wing commander, Col. James P. Czekanski said, "It has been said that of all the arts of man, the most difficult is that of survival. Those who do more than merely survive, those who distinguish themselves not only by the duration of but by the quality of their service, are to be doubly saluted. Today we salute a notable combination of seniority and service."

The ceremony, which has become an annual event, honored retirees past and present. "It's great to be able to come back year after year for the ceremony," said retired MSgt. Steven Dutilly, former 439th civil engineer. "It helps us keep the Westover connection."

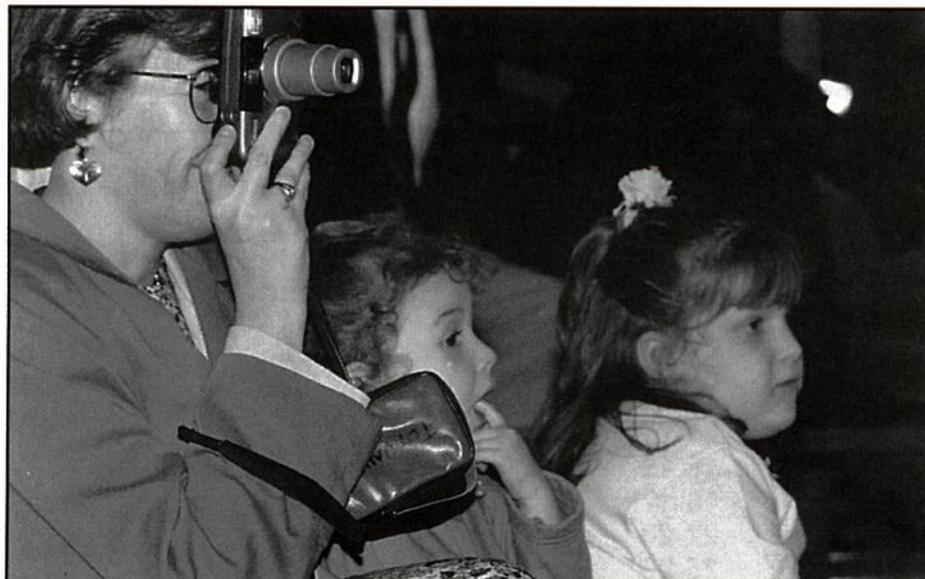
WE SALUTE YOU — Retirees receive a salute from the formation as a token of appreciation for their combined years of service.



HONOR ROLL

MSgt. Alda E. Abramson
 CMSgt. Frederick R. Allard
 Maj. William D. Barry
 SSgt. Robert W. Brown
 MSgt. Paula J. Browning
 Lt. Col. Richard C. Carr

SMSgt. Howard Cormier
 Lt. Col. Paul M. DeSisto
 MSgt. Stephen C. Dutilly
 MSgt. Gordon R. Edmonds
 SSgt. Richard L. Fields
 SSgt. Ronald B. Galvagni
 MSgt. David H. Gundersen
 MSgt. Hans J.E. Keyser
 SMSgt. William R. Knight Jr.
 CMSgt. Joseph R. LaFrance
 SSgt. Ludlow P. Mahan Jr.
 MSgt. Thomas F. McCoy
 MSgt. John E. Mihalchick
 SMSgt. Donald A. Morin
 SSgt. Edgar J. Moss
 Lt. Col. Carol A. Nania
 Lt. Col. James A. Pielli
 CMSgt. Edward M. Sierzego
 CMSgt. Paul P. Tetreault
 TSgt. Mark C. Tutuny
 SSgt. Roy E. Willis



FAMILY PHOTO — Lora Tutuny, wife of TSgt. Mark Tutuny who retired from the 85th APS, photographs the ceremony. At right are their daughters, Elaine, 4, and Melissa, 7.

MSgt. Sandi Michon

MSgt. Sandi Michon

Westover's Dogpatch is prime area for ticks

Article and artwork by TSgt W.C. Pope

Be aware, you are entering a tick zone.

May through early fall are high-risk tick months at Westover according to an assessment done by the U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Activity - North Entomological Sciences Division, Ft. Meade, Maryland.

"The possibility of contracting tick-borne illnesses such as Lyme Disease is high," said Marian Mathieu, Chief, Bioenvironmental Engineering. "The risk is high especially here in the Northeast where we have many mammals and open grassy areas."

An infected tick transmits disease when specific bacteria are transferred as the tick feeds on the host. Ticks thrive in the tall grasses and cling to any mammal that happens to brush by them. The ticks feed on mice, deer, rabbits, cats, dogs, and humans.

Once attached they prefer moist feeding areas like the groin, base of the neck, behind the ears, and armpits. These ticks are very small, similar in size to a ball-point of a pen.

"Once they attach themselves and start feeding it takes 24 to 48 hours for the disease to be transmitted, so the earlier you find them the better," Mathieu said. "After being in high risk areas, a simple body check of yourself or the kids before bedtime or bath would be a good idea."

Lyme disease has become the most common tick-borne disease in the United States.

According to Mathieu, the most common symptom occurring in 50 to 65 percent of cases, is a rash that begins around the tick bite. This rash appears within three days to three weeks after the bite and expands into a ring or bull's eye shape that has a clear center. Other complaints are flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, headache, and extreme fatigue.

Lyme disease rarely causes death but the disease can cause a great deal of pain and discomfort if allowed to

progress to later stages.

"If you have been in a tick-prone area and develop any of these symptoms, especially during the high-risk months, see a physician for evaluation immediately. Typical treatment uses antibiotics, and full recovery is common," she said.

"Always use precautions when using Westover's outdoor training or recreation areas. Use Permethrin on uniforms, DEET on exposed skin surfaces, proper wear of clothing, and a daily body check for ticks."

These measures greatly reduce tick bites. The proper uniform wear involves blousing or tucking pant legs into boots and wearing shirt-sleeves down to cover your arms. Civilians should tuck pant legs into socks, wear long sleeve shirts, and tuck shirt into pants. Light colored clothing makes it easier to spot ticks.

When accomplishing daily body checks, pay special attention to hairy or warm, moist parts of the body, such as the armpits, and at the base of the hairline.

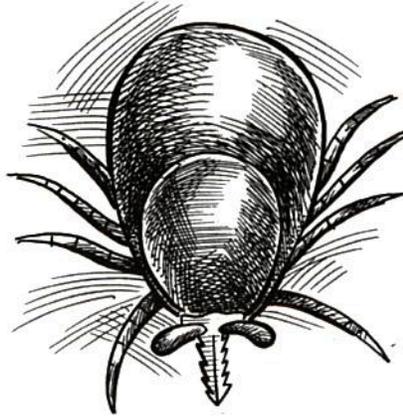
According to Mathieu, if you find a tick embedded in your skin, do not squash or burn it. Use tweezers to grasp the tick's mouth parts as close to the skin as possible and pull it straight out. Pull slowly, firmly and steadily. Because the tick's central mouth part is long and covered with barbs, it can be difficult to remove. The key is to

be patient. The prompt and careful removal of an attached tick greatly reduces the possibility of contracting tick-related diseases.

Once the tick is removed, wash the site and apply an antiseptic. Save the tick in alcohol or freeze it in a pill vial or plastic bag in case symptoms appear and identification of the tick becomes necessary.

"Education is the best defense against tick-borne disease," Mathieu said. "If you have kids that play in the woods or in tall grass make sure you check them daily. Make it a routine."

If bitten by a tick at Westover and diagnosed with a tick-borne illness, please report it to Bioenvironmental Engineering at Ext. 2918.



Projected UTA schedule for fiscal year 1998

<i>Month</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>85 APS</i>	<i>722ASTS</i>
October	4-5	25-26	4-5	18-19
November	8-9	22-23	1-2	15-16
December	6-7	13-14	6-7	6-7
January	10-11	24-25	10-11	10-11
February	7-8	21-22	7-8	7-8
March	7-8	21-22	7-8	7-8
April	4-5	18-19	4-5	18-19
May	2-3	16-17	2-3	16-17
June	6-7	27-28	6-7	6-7
July	11-12	25-26	11-12	25-26
August	8-9	22-23	1-2	15-16
September	12-13	26-27	12-13	12-13

Westover crew flies emergency medical mission

by MSgt. Gordon Newell

The Air Force did not exactly design the C-5 as a medical evacuation aircraft but a Westover Galaxy was recently pressed into emergency service during a Pacific training mission, and according to Maj. Bill Spence who was the aircraft commander, performed very well.

"This is the kind of mission that gives you a good feeling knowing that we were able to help," said Spence. "The patient needed to get to Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii for treatment and we were the only military plane available so we did what we had to do."

The Westover C-5 left Kadena AB in Okinawa and flew to Osan, Korea where it was to have a six-hour lay-over. "Soon after we arrived at Osan, we were notified of the emergency and after down-loading the plane, we pressed on to Japan," Spence said.

Once in Tokyo, the patient, strapped to a gurney, and an eight-member emergency medical team, laden with high-tech equipment were brought aboard for the eight hour flight to Hickham AFB, Hawaii.

"The loadmasters placed the gurney on a 'high-lift' to get to the troop compartment where the patient was made secure for the trip," Spence said.

The crew day lasted some 23 hours but according to Spence, nobody was complaining.

"We saw the sun rise at Okinawa, then saw it set over Mount Fuji (Japan) and rise again over Diamondhead (Hawaii). It was a long day, but it was a wonderful thing to be part of," he said.



Courtesy of Maj. Bill Spence

C-5 MED EVAC — A patient, in need of emergency treatment in Hawaii, was flown from Japan to Hickham AFB along with a medical team, in a Westover Galaxy.

Wildlife guests given green carpet

Large areas of grasslands located within the confines of Westover Air Reserve Base are off limits to base personnel from April 21 until July 31.

There are no military maneuvers going on in those areas, the restrictions are in place to help protect some of the base's most famous guests—the Grasshopper Sparrow and the Upland Sandpiper.

"Westover contains the largest expanse of contiguous grasslands in New England," said Gina Rossi, the base's environmental engineer. "It is premier habitat for the two state-listed endangered bird species," she said.

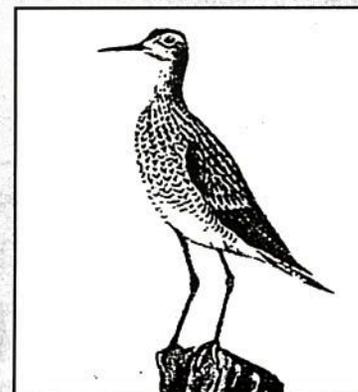
Each spring, the Grasshopper Sparrow and the Upland Sandpiper return to their nesting areas at Westover after spending the winter in South America.

The base is obligated to protect the birds under AFI 32-7064, the Natural Resources Management during those dates.

Vehicle and foot traffic must stay on established roadways and trails to prevent disturbing the nests, Rossi said.



Grasshopper Sparrow



Upland Sandpiper

ROTC invasion

Reserve Officer Training Corps are training at Westover in two waves; the first began on May 24, and the second begins June 24.

Each encampment, consisting of 200 cadets from colleges all over the country, will last three weeks. All cadets will be housed in enlisted dormitories, and a ROTC administrative office will be located in Bldg. 5104.

The Westover liaison team, consisting of Lt. Col. Paul Torpey, Capt. Chris Skomars and SSgt. Wade Chmielinski, is located in Base Operations, and are reached at Ext. 2232.

Patriot People

Name: Joanna O. (Susi) Sheeran
Rank: SSgt.
Age: "Undeclared"
Address: Albany, N.Y.
Unit: 439th MSS
Position: Information management specialist
Civilian position: Language arts teacher
Favorite food: Ice cream
Years of service: 12
Favorite sport: Walking
Favorite hobby: Reading
Ideal vacation: Cayman Islands
Best way to relax: Sewing
Preferred entertainment: Going to the theatre
Favorite hero: Eleanor Roosevelt
Favorite music: Big Band sound
Favorite aircraft: B-52
Pet peeve: People who are always late
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Send my daughter to the best university and stash rest for retirement.



SSgt. "Susi" Sheeran

MSgt. Sandi Michon

Patriot Praises

Promotions

CMSgt. Braudis, Kelly E.
 CMSgt. Hawkins, David F.
 SMSgt. Seney, Kristine M.
 MSgt. Baker, Gregory A.
 MSgt. Fluegge, Ann M.
 MSgt. Marcinowski, Judith A.
 MSgt. Moulaison, Edward J.
 TSgt. Austin, William W.
 TSgt. Chaloux, Theodore J.
 TSgt. Faraday, Thomas A.
 TSgt. Garwacki, Lawrence
 TSgt. Girard, Nicole J.
 TSgt. Parker, Richard A.
 TSgt. Sliwa, Ronald J., Jr.
 SSgt. Adams, Shawn I.
 SSgt. Bancroft, Brian N.
 SSgt. Chalmers, Michael C.
 SSgt. Gendron, Michael A.
 SSgt. Hilario, Pedro A., Jr.
 SSgt. Otto, Danette M.
 SSgt. Palaia, William M.
 SSgt. Picard, Jeffrey
 SSgt. Sackett, Gregory J.
 SSgt. Statezni, Daniel J.
 SSgt. Thomas, Michael S.
 SrA. Creamer, Brian D.
 SrA. Dietzler, Karl M.
 SrA. Erice, Mariel
 SrA. Forbes, Scott M.
 SrA. Martinez, Glenda
 SrA. Moriarty, John C.
 A1C Doss, Rena E.
 A1C Weston, Valerie J.
 Amn. Long, William B.
 Amn. Stewart, Colleen B.

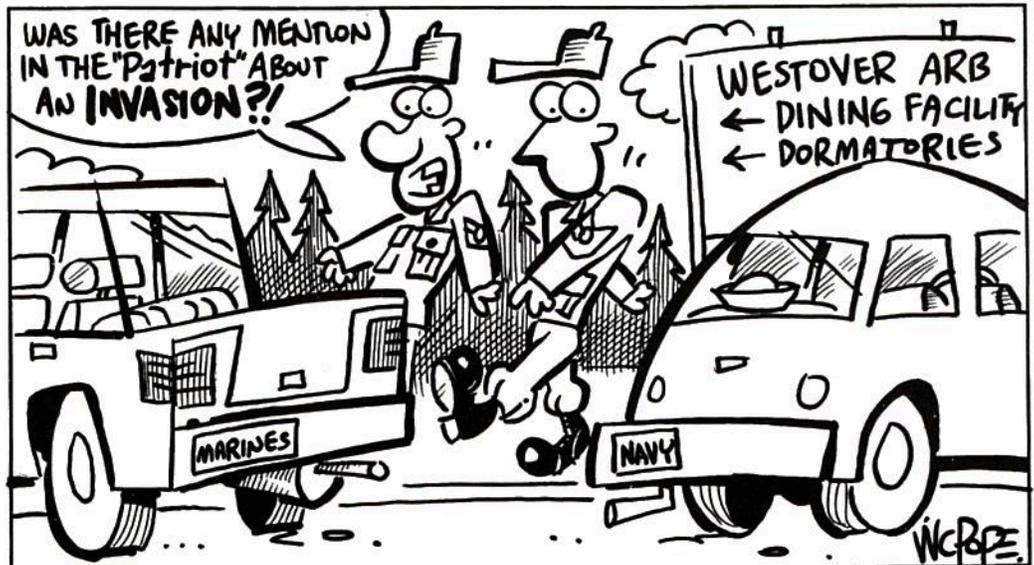
Enlistments

SSgt. Astle, Lawrence D., Jr.
 SSgt. Dixon, Donald S.
 SSgt. Harris, Shawn M.
 SSgt. Lennon, Brian A.
 SSgt. Perkins, Thomas B.
 SSgt. Simrell, Charles A.
 SSgt. Swain, Stewart P.
 SrA. Dietrich, Sabine
 SrA. Fernandez, Joseph, Jr.
 A1C Frank, Kimberly M.
 A1C Jester, Michael J.
 A1C Polson, Paul A.
 A1C Tardy, Jerome M.
 AB Dasilva, Michael D.

Reenlistments

SMSgt. Milliken, Lawrence N.
 SMSgt. Sherwin, Jeffrey B.
 MSgt. Duchesne, Michael A.
 MSgt. Flynn, Glenn M.
 MSgt. Perrault, David A.
 MSgt. Pollier, Arthur J.
 MSgt. Quirk, Brian M.
 MSgt. Riano, James E.
 TSgt. Cekovsky, Robert A.
 TSgt. Darling, Charles F.
 TSgt. Domenichella, Frank A., III
 TSgt. Lee, Kathy A.
 TSgt. Parker, James S.
 TSgt. Ray, Sandra L.

TSgt. Roe, Thomas J., III
 TSgt. Sandoval, Rodolfo, Jr.
 TSgt. Wheeler, Miranda M.
 SSgt. Barone, Mario V.
 SSgt. Cooper, George W.
 SSgt. Durocher, Robert G.
 SSgt. Fulks, Joe A.
 SSgt. Knight, Jeffrey D.
 SSgt. Mancini, Matthew M.
 SSgt. Morrill, William D.
 SSgt. Ritter, Jeffrey T.
 SSgt. Zina, Michael
 Sgt. Baker, Darwin J.
 Sgt. Lacombe, Daniel P.
 SrA. Benoit, Keith D.
 SrA. Capiak, Christina M.



Inspections inspected

You may hear more about the Air Force "slowing down" after several grinding years of deployments, exercises and inspections.

Because we are part of the total Air Force and share so much of the Air Force mission, we in the Air Force Reserve Command have felt the strain as well.

In an effort to reduce some of the workload, we are evaluating a reduced inspection schedule. This may not sound like much, but it represents a significant change in our culture and the way we do business. Possibilities include extending the time between operational readiness inspections, combining inspections with real-world deployments and some other innovative options I'll tell you more about as they evolve. In the meantime, as we move into our summer schedule, work and play hard, but remember to be safe.



Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh
Commander, AFRC

Are your records up-to-date?

You're at home when the call comes.

You've just been recalled to active duty. All at once your mind starts racing and you ask yourself, "What if something happens to me while I'm away? What benefits are my family entitled to? Are my records up to date?"

More often than not, they are. However for some the answer is not the same. Marriage, the birth of a child, divorce or death of a loved one often affects who receives pay and entitlements if something happens to the service member.

That is why it is important for each member assigned to Westover ARB to

periodically review their personnel records to ensure the DD Form 93—Emergency Data Card, Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Form and Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) reflects the most current information. Members can stop at the Customer Service Section of the 439th Military Personnel Flight in Bldg. 1875 to accomplish this.

Any changes such as those mentioned above that affect your status, you must provide supporting documentation such as marriage certificates, birth certificates, death certificates or divorce certificates.

CENTCOM releases new uniform policy

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—Reservists who perform temporary duty in U.S. Central Command area of responsibility for more than 15 days must comply with USCENCOM policy to wear the desert camouflage uniform. Travel days are not included in the 15 days.

According to officials, members may wear woodland battle dress uniform if they will be in the area for 15 days or less. Those remaining for more than 15 days will need three sets of desert uniforms.

"What this policy did was standardize

what uniform people going into the CENTCOM area need to wear, said MSgt. Douglas Smith, a supply procedures analyst at Headquarters AFRC. "The main area covered by this new policy is Saudi Arabia, he said.

The uniforms can be requested through the base supply system or from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass. where the command centrally stores the uniforms. For unit deployments, numbered Air Force officials will coordinate uniform requirements with Westover as the first source.

Briefs

Native American stories are sought

The 439th AW Social Actions office is seeking Westover reservists or civilian employees who are descendants of American Indian ancestry.

As part of National Native American/American Indian Heritage month, which is observed in November, they wish to collect family stories of Westover people who are in any part Native American. The stories will be published later this year. Anyone interested is asked to call Capt. Byron Breese or Capt. Phyllis Bynum at Ext. 2220 or Ext. 3581.

Shoppette offers laundry pick-up

Sentry Cleaners has opened a laundry and dry cleaning drop-off and pick-up point in the rear of the AAFES Shoppette. Alterations may also be accomplished at the location.

Hours of operation are:

Monday - Thursday	0800-1700
Friday	0800-1800
Saturday	0800-1700
Sunday	closed

JOLDS seminar slated for October

Westover ARB will be the site of a Junior Officer Leadership Development Seminar, entitled 'Leaders in Action' Oct. 10-13.

Topics of discussion include Contracting, Teamwork, Negotiating Results and Confronting Difficult Issues.

POC is Nicole Girard at DSN 589-2657 or commercial (413) 557-2657. The e-mail address is deborahfuller@MDG_CC@Westover.

UTA dates

July
A UTA 12 - 13
B UTA 26 -27

An angel with a 'giving spirit'

by Capt. Mike Franco

Through the years selfless people have created a rich history of volunteerism within military Family Support circles. Valerie Perry is one of them.

Perry, currently a family support volunteer at Westover, has more than 30 years volunteer service in family support agencies.

Born in England, she came to America to work at the British Embassy in Washington, DC. She met her husband to be, James Perry, at a USO function there. That was 1964. James Perry is currently the finance officer at Westover.

Throughout her husband's military career and various assignments around the world, Perry consistently endeavored to volunteer giving countless hours to help military families in need.

Family Support is an outlet for one's "giving spirit," Perry said.

She launched her career in 1966 as a volunteer with the Chaplain Family Program at RAF Lakenheath, UK. Later she became a family services volunteer at Strategic Air Command, Offutt AFB, Neb., a follow-on assignment for her husband.

SAC is the birthplace of the Family Services Volunteer Corps and was a proving ground for family support, according to Perry. The command's strict deployment requirements demanded a high level of involvement from F SVC.

"The motto 'we take care of our own,' was coined there," she said. "We provided child care services and handicapped school operations. We also had a 'Lending Closet' where members could get cooking utensils, bed linens, and clothes on loan."

After the stint at SAC, the Perrys were reassigned to Ramstein AB, Germany for nine years, then Bergstrom AFB, Texas, and back to Germany in 1993 for an assignment at Rhein-Main AB before coming to Westover. At each location Perry continued her volunteer service.

"We provided volunteers free-of-charge," Perry said. They worked in MWR, libraries and hospitals giving confidence to families with "the little things that were really important."

Even when Family Support created professional paid positions and merged the volunteer corps with professional family services, Perry chose to remain a volunteer.

During her career, she won Family Service Volunteer of Year, Military Wife of Year, Angel Volunteer, and the Federal Women's Program Award. She was awarded honorary membership to the Air Force Times

1000 Club for Family Service with more than 20,000 hours total service. She even received Dedicated Service Certificates from Gen. Daniel "Chappy" James Jr.

"It's been a big kick and lots of fun," she said. "I never really expected anything in return. The work itself has always been fulfilling enough."



Valerie Perry

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. Anita L. Mancini of East Haven, Conn. and 2,625 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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