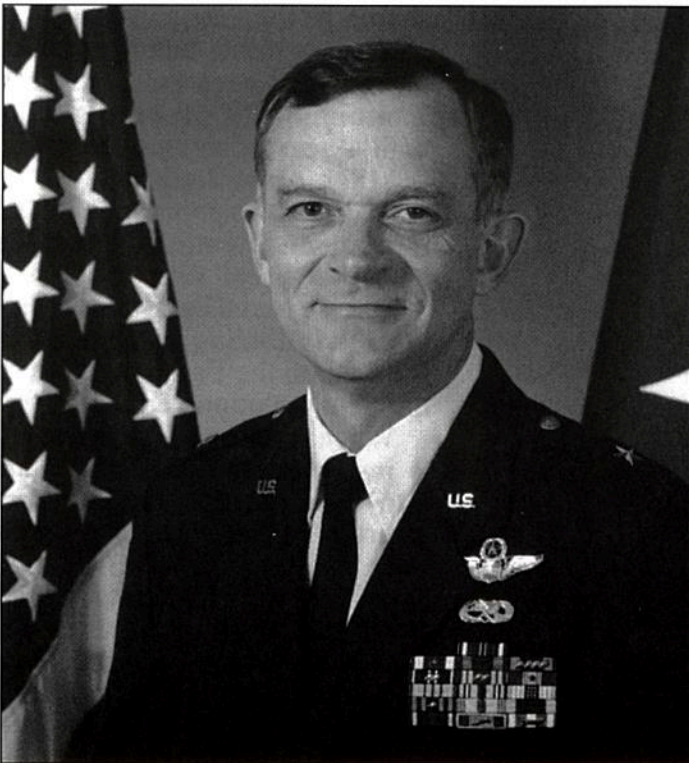


PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB
VOLUME 24, NUMBER 5 MAY 1997

Change of command



Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers



Col. James P. Czekanski

Brig. Gen. Bankers succeeds Col. Czekanski

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers has been named to succeed Col. James P. Czekanski as commander of the 439th Airlift Wing.

A Change of Command ceremony is to be conducted on the ellipse on May 4 starting at 10 a.m.

Czekanski will move to Robins Air Reserve Base, Ga. where he has been assigned as Inspector General for the Air Force Reserve Command.

Bankers comes to Westover from Robins AFB where he has served as a special assistant to Brig. Gen. Michael

R. Lee, commander of the 22nd Air Force. Prior to that the general was commander of the 315th Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

Czekanski said he has known Bankers throughout their careers which have been intertwined several times.

"General Bankers has succeeded me in three assignments. First as chief of Safety at Andrews AFB, then at Charleston and now here," he said.

Reflecting on his five-year stint at Westover, the largest AFRC base in the nation, Czekanski said, "When I first arrived here, I promised the wing would encounter significant change. I

also said the change would be made using the principles of Quality as our guide.

"There have been many changes, and I hope they were for the better. A short ride around Westover will reveal considerable improvements in the infrastructure of the facility as well as new buildings and the removal of sub-standard structures.

"I think that Westover is a more viable national resource that it was when we began this journey five years ago.

(Czekanski bids farewell... page 11)

This is an example of a good year, if you earn:

Unit Training Assembly (UTA)

One point per training period, four periods
per UTA
(four points times 12 UTAs) = 48 points

Membership points

Awarded upon completion of a good year = 15 points

ECI Courses

Optional = 50 points

Sub-total of inactive duty points

Only 75 of these points will count toward retirement = 113 points

Active duty (annual tour, mandays, orders)

This includes Reserve Personnel Appropriations, Active Duty for training and Active Duty for Support (optional) One point for each day = 10 points

Annual tour (15 days)

14 days minimum, 15 days maximum = 15 points

Total points

= 138 points

Total points for retirement

This includes the 75 maximum inactive points per year, plus 15 points for AT and the 10 active duty points the member earned. = 100 points

Minimum points required per year

= 50 points

How to have a good year

by MSgt. Gordon Newell

There are good years, and there are bad years but when it comes to your Air Force Reserve retirement, the former is what you should be thinking about.

Keep in mind, that to complete a good year, a reservist must earn a minimum of 50 points along with a year of service, according to MSgt. Anna Bradshaw.

"Contrary to popular belief, the retirement retention year is not based on fiscal year, but on the date you entered the Reserve," she said. "It is funding for training that is based on the fiscal year, not retirement retention year."

When planning annual tour, it is important that reservists take into consideration the date they entered the Reserve. "Poor planning on the part of a reservist could lead to a 'bad' year," Bradshaw said. "It is also possible to have two 15-day annual tours completed in one retirement retention year but two different fiscal years, thus, one retirement retention year would be less any annual tour points."

Reservists should also count points earned throughout the year. One point is earned for every four hour period spent during UTAs. This together with the 15 points earned for annual tour, plus 15 membership points totals 78 points and contributes one good year toward retirement.

For example, a reservist would earn 48 points a year by meeting monthly inactive duty training requirements. This together with the 15 points earned for annual tour, plus 15 membership points totals 78 points and contributes one good year toward retirement.

Further information is available from Bradshaw at Ext. 3430.

PATRIOT

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439th AW Commander

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Chief of Public Affairs

Gordon A. Newell

Wing Public Affairs Officer

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Public Affairs Specialist

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SSgt. Kim Allen

SSgt. Paul Mantikoski

SSgt. Christine Mora

SSgt. Joe McLean

Giving Back to America

In the home stretch, Martens hits all the bases

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Been there. Done that.

Now how can I help?

After 27 years military service, Col. Robert Martens has been a lot of places and done a lot of things — and he's like a gift that keeps on giving.

A veteran pilot with more than 7,000 flying hours, Martens began his Air Force career at the height of the Vietnam War. After graduation from Catholic University in Washington D.C., with two years ROTC, Martens was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1970. He spent seven years flying rescue missions in HC-130s in Florida and Japan.

He joined the Reserve program at Westover in 1977 as a C-123 pilot and returned to the C-130 cockpit in 1982. He followed a larger ambition to C-5 pilot in 1987. He worked various Air Reserve Technician jobs, including flight safety officer, at Westover from 1978 - 1986.

A native of Manchester, Conn., Martens settled in Belchertown, after active duty, with his wife Susie, and their sons Jeffrey and Mark. A true citizen/airman, Martens brought his esprit de corps to his community with years of baseball coaching and school building projects. Whether flying C-5s or getting a middle school built, Martens is people-oriented. His personable nature generates good will in all arenas. Besides being tall and athletic, Martens' trademarks are his friendly blue eyes and generous smile.

"Bob contributes most by being who he is. He's an upbeat, positive person," said Susie, his wife of 25 years. "Everyone who knows Bob, knows he connected to Westover. He's a walking public relations ad for the base," quipped Susie.

"People make the world go 'round," said Martens. He said working with people in different settings, achieving various goals can be both frustrating and rewarding, but said, "You grow in the process." He said helping others helps validate ourselves.

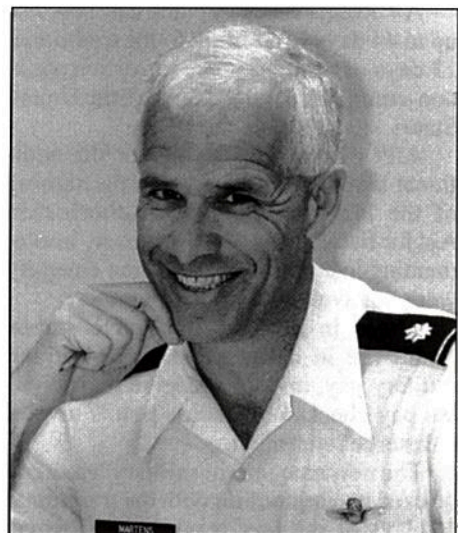
In addition to his community work, Marten's life work gravitates towards helping people. From rescue missions in active duty to C-5 humanitarian missions — it seemed only natural to parlay his flying to help others soar. In

1986, Martens joined the Federal Aviation Administration as safety program manager at the Flight Standards District Office in Windsor Locks, Conn. Martens uses his extensive flying experience to promote safety to 13,000 pilots in his district.

According to Martens, a civilian pilot license requires 40 flying hours versus a military pilot license which requires 200 hours and one year of training. "The military is a superb trainer, and that type of experience helps me to blend theory with real life," said Martens. He has had planes catch on fire, engine failures, serious gear problems and many other potential calamities, but says good training made them all non-events.

Although Martens shuns any credit, the area's general aviation accident rate has fallen, with 1996 marking the lowest rate ever. He teaches aviation safety to approximately 6,000 pilots per year, and supervises additional training. The colonel also speaks in area schools and camps promoting aviation, and emphasizing the link between education and aviation careers.

Marten's military career has now come full circle as he teaches a new generation of ROTC cadets at the University of Massachusetts. He acknowledges that the social climate is very different today from his own Vietnam-era ROTC days, but he is impressed with what he terms, "sharp, motivated kids." Martens sees this "giving back" as a labor of love, and frequently refers to the cadets as "my kids." He hopes he can help bridge the gap between acade-



MSgt. Sandi Michon

Col. Robert Martens

mia and real life.

The words "experience" and "real life" were used often by Martens to describe what the military has given him — and what he shares with others.

It is exactly those two items that dictate Martens' next move. His next venue for "giving back" is the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where he will use his people skills and aviation expertise to coordinate military and civilian resources to speed assistance to victims of natural disasters. Martens joins the FEMA team in May.

Although reluctant to receive praise, Martens is a shining example of a career "Giving Back to America." "Life is what you put into it. At this point in my life, I feel I am a very fortunate man," said Martens.



ROTC cadet Brooke Foley

IN HIS ELEMENT — Col. Bob Martens, 439th SPTG vice commander, teaches ethics to ROTC cadets at the University of Massachusetts.

ARTs have new, expanded military leave category

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Air Reserve Technicians can now use up to 44 days in addition to the traditional 15 days of military leave to participate in non-combat operations outside the United States.

ARTs began qualifying for the additional leave in February with the signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996. However, implementing instructions for the new category were not available until September.

While in this military-leave status, ARTs are in active-duty status without military pay, and will receive their civilian pay checks and accrue points toward a Reserve retirement.

The new category of military leave can be used in conjunction with the traditional 15 days of military leave, annual leave, leave without pay, earned compensatory

time and credit hours.

However, if military duty including paid travel days is performed on an intervening non-workday and traditional military leave is still available, a technician is charged traditional military leave for those intervening non-workdays. For example, if a military tour of duty runs from Friday through Monday and the technician elects to use this new category of leave on Friday and Monday, the two days of traditional military leave, if available, must be charged for Saturday and Sunday. If traditional military leave has been used up, no leave is charged for Saturday and Sunday.

The new military leave category is available on a calendar-year basis and, unlike traditional military leave, leftover balances cannot be carried over to the next year. The 44 days are converted into

hours and charged on the same basis as annual leave. ARTs who work 80-hour pay periods, including flexible and compressed work schedules, qualify for a maximum of 352 hours per year.

This category of military leave is charged for workdays only. If an ART uses the leave for a military tour, there's no charge to this category for intervening days and no civilian pay for those intervening days. Since they are in an active-duty-without-military-pay status, ARTs in this category are:

- * Covered under the Uniform Code of Military Justice;

- * Eligible for compensation due to injury under line-of-duty procedures; and

- * Reimbursed for travel, per diem and lodging on the same basis as their military entitlements.

(AFRC News Service)

Anniversary logo contest

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, GA.

With the Air Force actively celebrating its 50th anniversary, Air Force Reserve Command is readying its own anniversary celebration. The first step in the celebration plan calls for a contest to design a commemorative logo.

"We want to involve everyone associated with the Air Force Reserve in the celebration of 50 years of service to America," said Dale Brinkman, public affairs specialist at headquarters AFRC.

An anniversary committee, chaired by Brig. Gen. David S. Sibley, assistant AFRC vice commander, set a May 30 deadline for submissions to the contest. The only rule is that the logo design can be reproduced clearly in black and white. Members of the anniversary committee will select the winning entry.

"The logo will appear in unit newspapers, Citizen Airman magazine, the AFRC homepage, on letterhead, posters, recruiting materials—just about everywhere we can use it," said Brinkman.

Entries can be submitted in any media, from pencil to computer generated graphic. They should be mailed to HQ AFRC/PAB, 155 2nd Street, Robins AFB, GA 31098-1635. Any questions about the contest can be referred to Brinkman at DSN 497-1762 or 1-800-223-1784. Ext. 1762.

(AFRC News Service)

Changes to Enlisted Performance Reviews

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. —The frequency of enlisted performance reports for unit assigned and statutory tour staff sergeants and above has changed. The requirement for an EPR for a unit assigned reservist is now every two years. Annual reports are required for those on statutory tours. Previously, ERPs were due only when there was a change of station or at the direction of the commander.

The change is the result of a recommendation from the Air Force Reserve Executive Group. In a letter to commanders, Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh, chief of the Air Force Reserve Command, said, "The Air Force Reserve today, possibly more than ever before in its history, requires objective and effective documentation of performance and potential. Recent demands caused by force reductions and increased accountability issues have, in fact, made such documentation critical."

According to Billy Carroll, chief, reserve promotions, Headquarters AFRC, the change has two key impacts. "First, it educates and builds the skills of our reserve supervisors," said Carroll. "It also aids in the nomination process for all types of recognition — decorations, assignments, statutory tours, awards, commissioning, professional military education and unit vacancy promotions."

The first biennial reports for unit reservists are due in September. Annual reports for statutory tour reservists began this month.

Phasing in the new unit EPR requirement over two years should lessen the impact on military personnel flights, Carroll explained.

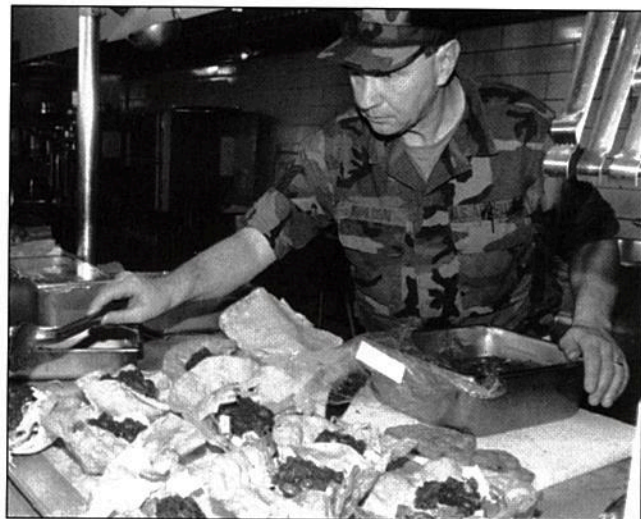
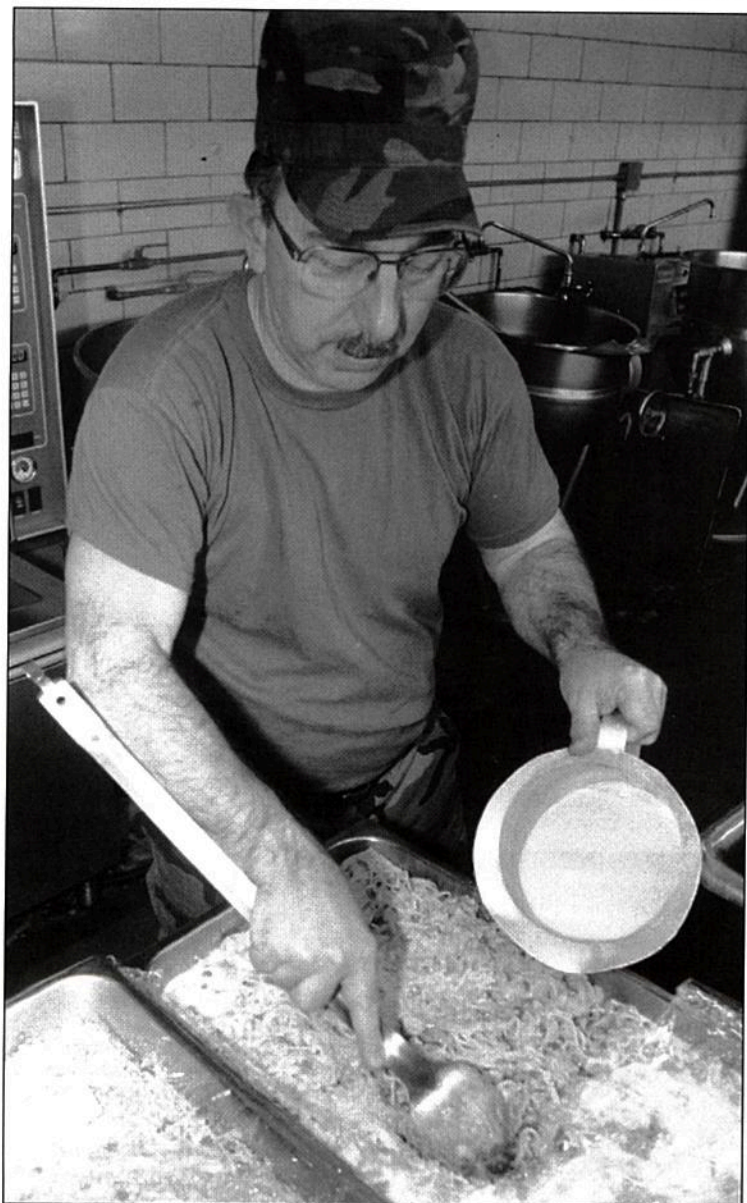
"We've broken down the requirements based on the month an individual arrived on station and the last digit of their social security number. Roughly, if their last digit is less than five, they will probably have an EPR due sometime between 1997 and August 1998." Most others are due during the following year.

"We're revising Air Force instruction 36-2403, The Enlisted Evaluation System, to include the new requirements and reestablish the requirement for unit reservists to have a minimum 16 points under direct supervision of their rater before an EPR is due."

(AFRC News Service)

CHOW TIME

photos by TSgt. W. C. Pope

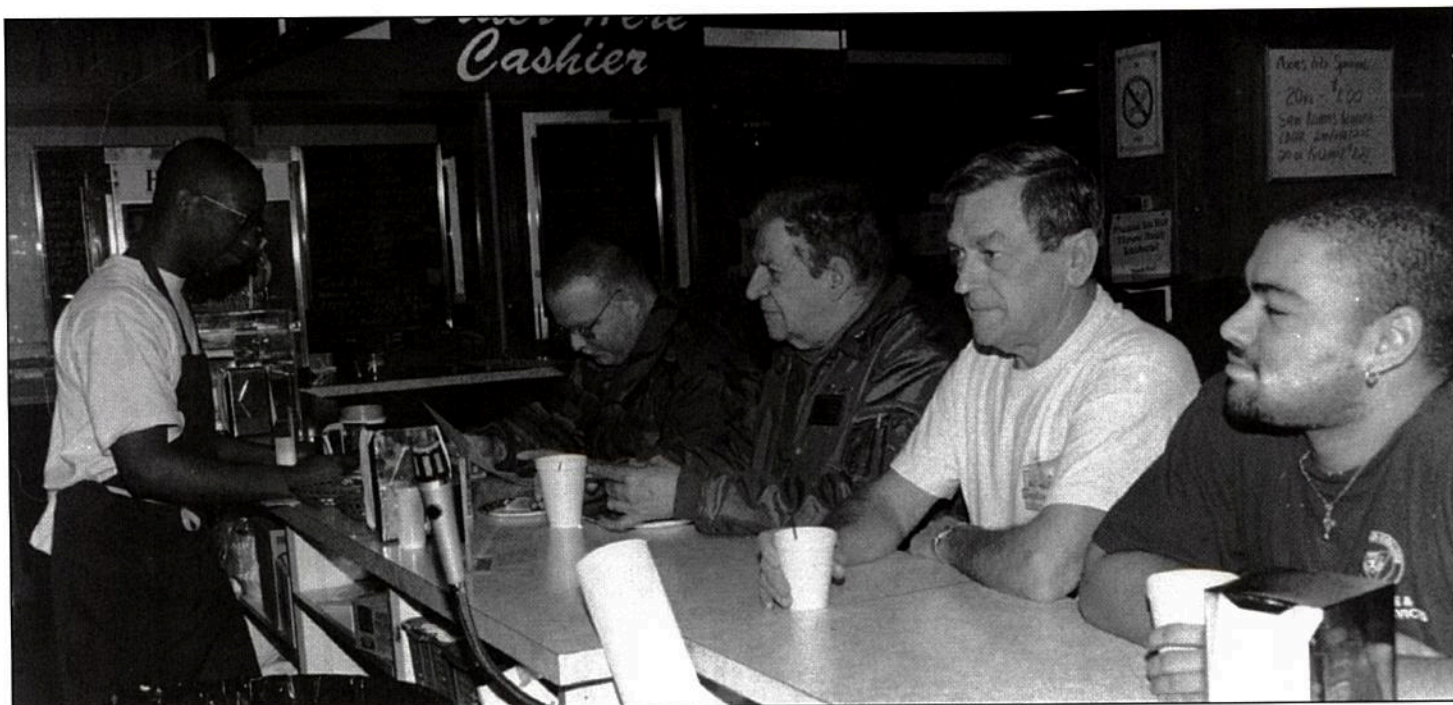


DISHING IT OUT — The dining facility is a busy place on UTAs. At left, TSgt. Paul Rudnicki adds ingredients to chicken tetrazzini. Above, TSgt. Frank Komoski prepares taco salads by the hundreds and, below, SSgt. Anthony Perras cuts chicken to complement the lunch menu.

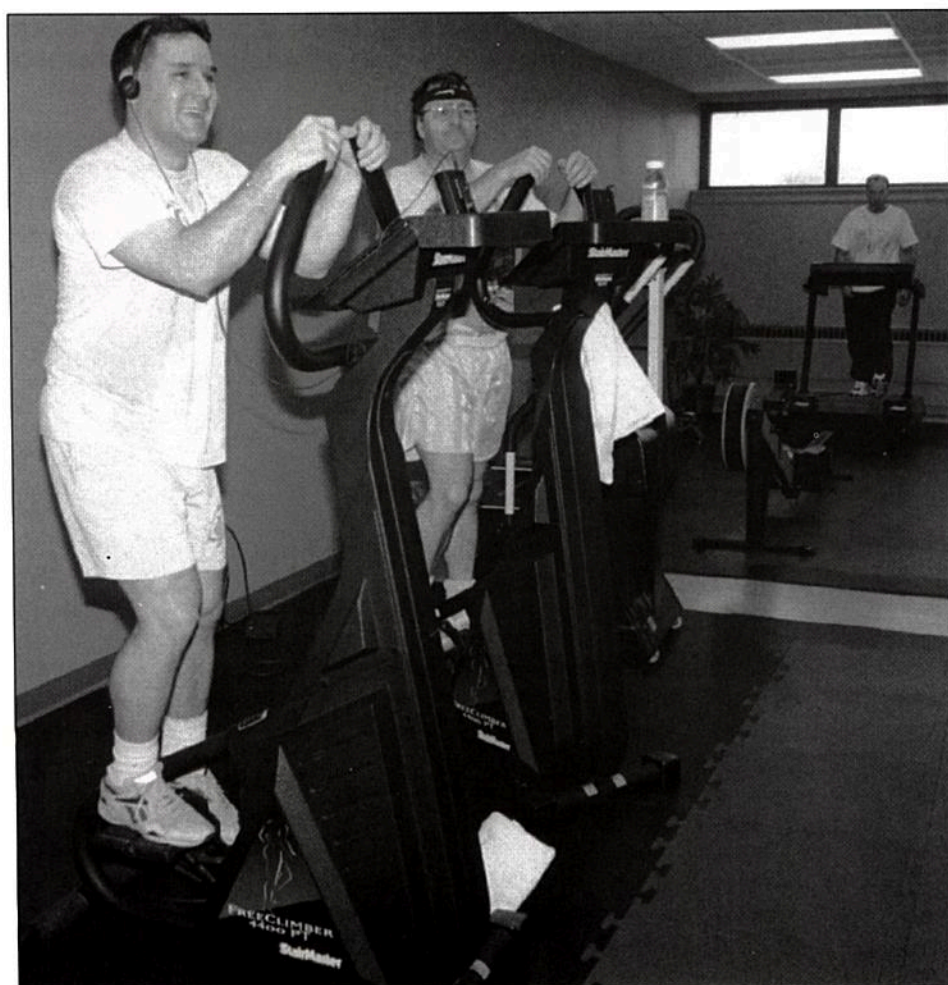


Listed below are quantities for a typical lunch meal prepared by the dining facility staff:

108 gallons.....milk
 48 gallons.....chocolate milk
 60 gallons.....cut salad mix
 25 pound.....lettuce
 75 pounds.....tomatoes
 50 pounds.....onions
 40 pounds.....cucumbers
 20 pounds.....mushrooms
 25 pounds.....carrots
 25 pounds.....celery



FOOD AND FITNESS — The bowling alley now offers breakfast weekdays from 6 - 9 a.m. Seated at the snack bar (above) from left: Dale Keitt, George Cote, Greydon Held and SSgt. Roy Bradshaw. In the photo below, SSgt. Richard Roberts and retired MSgt. Lour Boudah work out on the stair steppers at the base gym.



Services offer

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

The 439th Support Group Services section is gearing up for warmer weather with new programs for spring.

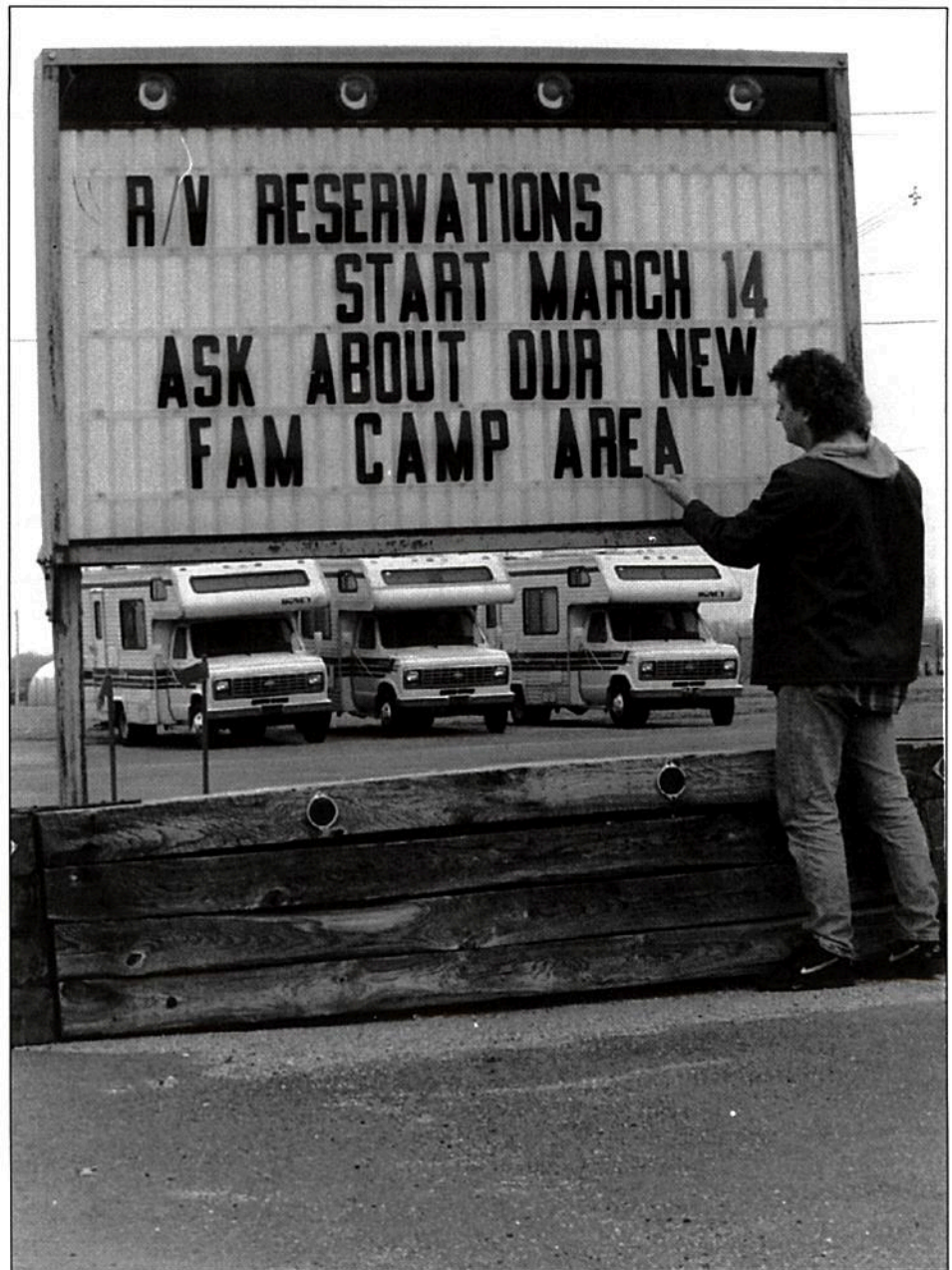
The Four Seasons Rental Store has already begun taking reservations for the new family camping area that will be located behind the Westover Club. The area opens for campers the third week in May and this year, will offer portable restrooms and a centralized water supply.

"It doesn't look like we will have electrical hookups this year but we are pushing for it next year," said Mike Ferguson, outdoor recreation assistant manager. "The idea is to see how big a response we get. Obviously the more the facility is used the better."

According to Ferguson, the Fitness Center will be open for showers and a dumping station will be provided for campers at the Four Seasons Rental Store. For more information and reservations call Ext. 2974.

For those who prefer more physical forms of recreation, the fitness center is

RECREATION RENTALS — Mike Ferguson puts up the final letter in the Four Seasons Rental Store sign advertising recreational vehicle rentals and the new family camping center on base. The Four Seasons carries a variety of summer recreation equipment.



Spring programs

offering new equipment and programs, said Rick Heller, assistant facility manager.

"The center is in constant upgrade," he said. The list of the latest equipment includes a row-bar machine and another set of dumbbells were added ranging in weight from one to 100 pounds.

In addition, a number of older exercise machines have been renovated and a whirlpool for female members has been installed.

A cardiovascular theater, which offers three television sets with personal headsets is also available.

Another popular offering is aerobic class, which is conducted three times a week. Two karate classes and video aerobics are available anytime. For more details contact Ext. 3081.

The base bowling center will be hosting the Massachusetts Tri-County Bowling Association's Annual Championships April 12-13, 19-20 and 26-27, said Colleen Cloutier, bowling center manager.

Entry forms and more information are available at Ext. 3896.

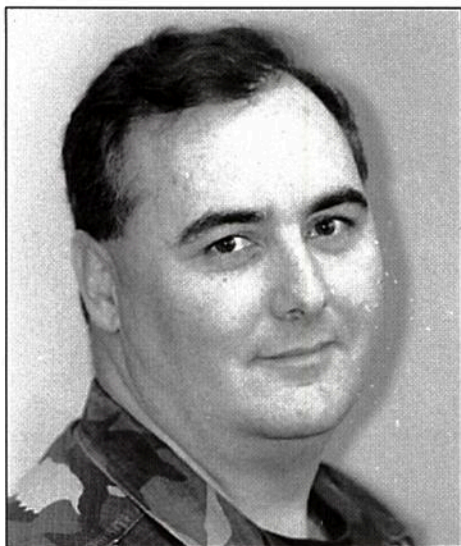
CLUB EVENTS

- **Mother's Day:** seating at 11:30 a.m.; 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. Make reservations early.
- **Karaoke Friday night - April 18.** Show your talent.
- **Bingo every Thursday night at 7 p.m.**
- **Family buffet every Thursday night from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

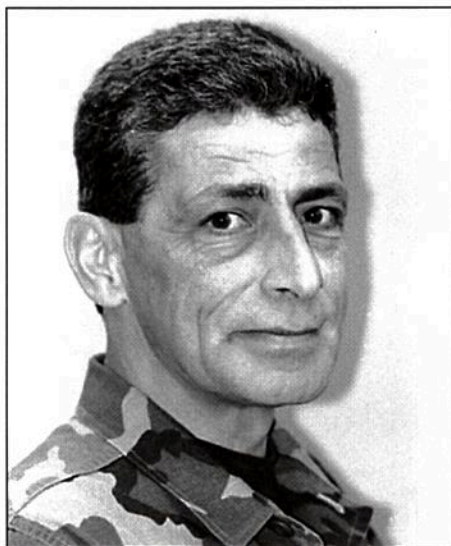
50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVES

Two primary programs are being launched by Air Force services in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Air Force—commemorative prepaid phone cards and commemorative candy tins filled with candy.

Commemorative prepaid phone cards program consists of five designs. Each card sells for \$5 and includes 25 units (US minutes) of long distance phone time. Overseas rates vary by country. A rate of 20 cents per minute provides Services customers with a value on their long distance rates as well as an opportunity to collect all five cards.



SMSgt. Tim Murphy



SSgt. John Monopoli



Maj. Roger Summerlin

Three 439th SPS members cop AF honors

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Westover's Security Police Squadron recently added to their already bulging list of awards when three of its members were named 'Best in the Air Force.'

Maj. Roger Summerlin, commander of the 439th SPS was named the Air Force's Outstanding Police Officer; SMSgt. Tim Murphy, Combat Arms Training and Management superintendent and SSgt. John Monopoli, a law enforcement, was selected as Outstanding SP Airman in the Law Enforcement specialty. All three had previously won Air Force Reserve Command awards.

"I am extremely proud and happy that members of our security police squadron won these awards," said Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing. All three awards are richly deserved and I salute Major Summerlin, Sergeant Murphy and Sergeant Monopoli for their professionalism and dedication."

Summerlin, who has held his current position at Westover

for four years, viewed these latest honors with pride.

"Being named tops in the Air Force is a great honor for me. But the truth is that without such a group of hard-working people as I have in this squadron, it wouldn't have happened. When you as a commander win something like this, you know it's because of the folks you have working for you," he said.

Murphy, a former active duty Marine, who is employed at Pratt and Whitney as a civilian, has spent his entire military career teaching the safe use of weapons.

"Winning this award is a good illustration of the Total Force concept at work," he said. "Reservists are trained just as well as active duty forces and can be woven right into the total force team."

Monopoli, a police officer Worcester, Mass., has been with the 439th SPS since 1993 and was thrilled with his selection.

It's really an honor to represent the unit, Westover and the Air Force Reserve Command all at the same time," he said.

Logistics Group takes Quality steps to improvement

by SSgt. Christine Mora

As the reorganized 439th Logistics Group settles into place, so do their quality improvement efforts.

"Our LG Quality Council is composed of representatives from the 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron, 439th Logistic Support Squadron, and 439th Maintenance Squadron Quality Councils," said Col. Elizabeth Grote, LG commander. "This is an action-oriented council and we are dedicated to the quality improvement of all our squadrons."

The LG Quality Council was

formed in October of 1995 to advise and empower quality improvement ideas at the group level. The council also mediates between the AGS, LSS and MXS when an issue affects more than one organization, and represents the group on more broad issues.

"If someone in the LG community believes there's a better way to do something, it can be addressed through their respective squadrons and up through the LG Quality Council," said CMSgt. Vince Viglione, MXS maintenance superintendent. "Our unit members have an avenue to express Quality ideas."

The chief stressed that the squadron and group councils are forums used for issues that focus on processes.

"We can only focus on situations that we have ownership over," he said. "This isn't necessarily a setting to address personal issues."

To date, the LG Quality Council has standardized the three squadrons' mission and goal statements while, letting the units maintain individual vision and key value statements. The council has also assisted the squadrons in developing their annual plans and is now involved in Unit Self Assessment analysis.

Employee appreciation days slated for autumn

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

The 439th Airlift Wing will hold Employer Appreciation days in September and October.

Reservists will have the opportunity to invite their bosses to visit Westover and take a ride in a unit C-5.

Those who normally drill on B UTAs are asked to invite their employer on Sept. 20 and those who drill on A UTAs should make their invitations for Oct. 4.

Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of the 439th, urges reservists to

take advantage of this program. "Without the understanding and support of employers, we cannot fulfill our mission," he said. "This is the one time of the year that we can thank employers for their sacrifice and cooperation. We need to let them know that your reserve duties are an integral part of this country's defense."

Reservists should ask their bosses to be at the Westover Club no later than 8:30 a.m. The wing Commander will kick off activities with a short briefing and question and answer period.

The highlight of the day for employ-

ers will be an orientation flight on a Westover C-5A that will last for approximately one and one-half hours. Reservists are also encouraged to invite their employer to visit their work place on base.

Each reservist may invite just one boss or supervisor. Only reservists assigned to the aircrew will participate in the flight.

To secure reservations, members must fill out the form that appears on this page and return it to the Public Affairs office. Further information is available at Public Affairs, Ext. 3500.

EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY APPLICATION

Reservist's name, rank and unit: _____

Reservist's home address: _____

Reservist's daytime telephone number: _____

Employer's name and title: _____

Employer's company name: _____

Choice of UTA:

Sept. 20 (B UTA) _____ Oct. 4 (A UTA) _____

I understand that I may nominate one person at a time and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature: _____

Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103

Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

fax: (413) 557-2011, for information, call: (413) 557-3500

Personal Data Privacy Act 1974 (U.S. C. 552a)

Patriot People

Name: Glenn A. MacDonald
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 34
Address: Norwich, Conn.
Unit: 439th CES
Position: Structural Specialist
Civilian position: Drafting/design
Favorite food: Italian
Years of service: 16
Favorite sport: Baseball
Favorite hobby: Wood working/computers
Ideal vacation: Hawaii
Best way to relax: Swimming
Preferred entertainment: Movies
Favorite hero: None
Favorite music: Easy listening
Favorite aircraft: C-5
Pet peeve: None
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Spend it



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

SSgt. Glenn A. MacDonald

Patriot Praises

PEP Promotions:

MSgt. Beachell, Paul E.
 MSgt. Dibrindisi, Michael J.
 MSgt. Philbrick, Mark
 MSgt. Serra, James
 TSgt. Chevalier, Ronald, Jr.
 TSgt. Colon, Miguel A.
 TSgt. Kotfila, Shelli A.
 TSgt. Konunchuk, James
 TSgt. Kukawka, Steve Z.
 TSgt. Shaw, Russell S.
 TSgt. Silva, Sharon E.

GSU PEP:

CMSgt. Mackey, George F.
 SMSgt. Keay, James H.
 MSgt. Oliva, Vincent J.
 TSgt. Bonazzi, Anthony J.
 TSgt. Jimenez, Susan R.
 TSgt. Mongeli, Anthony P.

Enlistments:

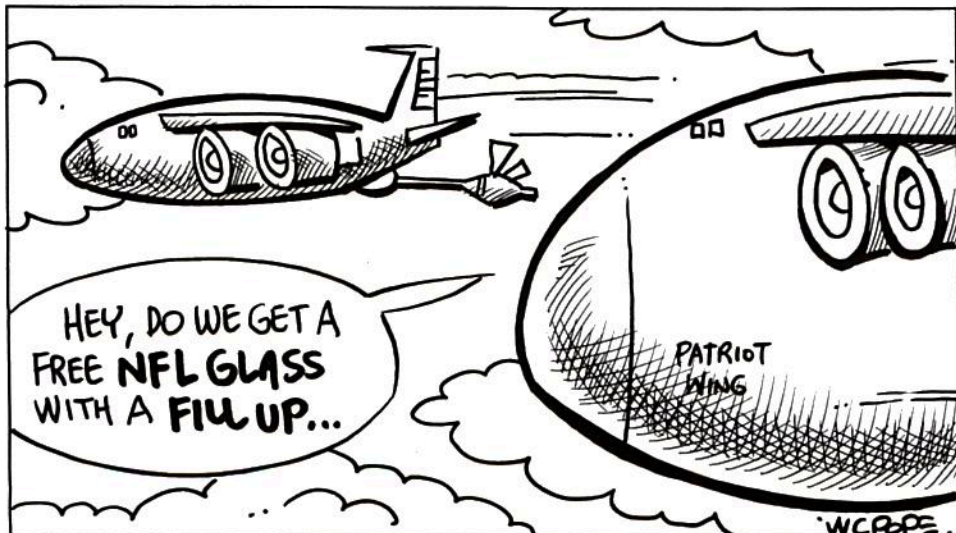
SSgt. Barnes, James K., II
 SSgt. DeBarge, Derek G.

SSgt. Schoonover, Todd A.
 SrA. Frieswick, David H.
 SrA. Gunter, Michael W.
 SrA. Zimmerman, Joseph G.
 AIC Comeau, Jason L.
 AIC Pope, Michael W.

Reenlistments:

MSgt. Anderson, Richard J.
 MSgt. Strzepek, Stanley W.
 TSgt. Fleury, Raymond B.

TSgt. Surette, John A.
 SSgt. Angiulo, Stephen R.
 SSgt. Boudreau, James M.
 SSgt. Faraday, Thomas A.
 SSgt. Landry, Keith W.
 SSgt. Mallett, Charmaine M.
 SSgt. Moquin, Liam S.
 SrA. Rondeau, Thomas P., Jr.
 SrA. Santiago, Steven E.



CCAF Graduates

439th MDS
 TSgt. Albert Lefave
 SSgt. Mary Bittlmeyer
439th SPS
 TSgt. William Jebb
 TSgt. John Monopoli
439th AGS
 TSgt. John Leger
 SSgt. Gary M. Watson
58th APS
 TSgt. Teresa Hendricks
439th MXS
 SSgt. Lynn Saya

Col. Ski bids farewell

When I was privileged to assume command of the 439th Airlift Wing over five years ago, I remember promising that this Wing would encounter significant change and that we would deal with this change using the principles of Quality as our guide. While I admit that these promises may have been easy to keep, I am proud to be part of an organization that has taken these hurdles in stride and continues to be a winner.

Change has certainly been the password for these last five years. All of our squadrons have been affected in some way by the reorganization of the Air Force, BRAC, Two Level Maintenance, personnel reductions, PTM, increased training, new missions requirements and a host of other factors. A short tour of the base will reveal considerable improvements in our infrastructure as well as new buildings and the removal of many substandard and excess buildings.

There has certainly been significant change. Yet throughout this change, the men and women of this wing have continued to excel and set standards that others in the Air Force Reserve Command many of our civilian friends continue to attempt to achieve.

How have we been so successful? I feel our success comes from the hard work, dedication and knowledge of each of you in our Westover family. This family is comprised of reservists, civilians, ARTs, retirees and the volunteers of the Galaxy Community Council and USO. Without each family member's contribution, we could not continue to shine. The proof in this excellence is seen when we launched the entire C-5 fleet during an ORI. When we host 600,000 people in a two day air show, or watch wing members receive Air Force awards for personal and unit superior performance. It is also evident in the way we take on new challenges from the creation of a Space Available Travel program to hosting 400 Air Force ROTC cadets for annual training encampments.

I am positive that the Westover family will seek new challenges in the future and prove to all, the critical importance of our base in the defense of our nation.

One of the tenants of Quality which I have stressed is the ownership of processes and the empowerment to improve those processes. As this wing continues its quality journey, more and more of us are realizing the success in adhering to this rather simple, yet crucial, principle. I firmly believe that a primary reason for this wing's success has been ownership and empowerment and I am confident that more and more family members will continue to improve the way we work, making growth and change easier to accomplish.

As Susan and I prepare to leave, we know that we have been privileged to have been part of this great Westover family. And as in any family, we will still remain close in spirit and fondly remember the good and not so good times we spent "growing up" here. We wish each and every one of you continued success and health and look forward to seeing you again at future family reunions. God bless you all.

Jim and Susan Czekanski



**Thanks for
the memories**

Briefs

Westover named Tree City USA

For the second year in a row, Westover has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

"An effective community forestry program is an ongoing process of renewal and improvement—a program of tree planting and care that continues through the years," said John Rosenow, president of the foundation. "The Tree City award is an excellent indication that there is a solid foundation for that process of improvement."

Coordinator wanted

If you are a goal-oriented senior NCO or officer, you could be a candidate for the position of coordinator of the Unit Self Assessment. The position is being offered by Westover's Center for Excellence and requires an individual who has project management experience.

Candidates must be computer literate and have presentation, writing and analytical skills. Interpersonal skills are a must and Malcolm Baldrige and USA experience are preferred.

Interested parties should contact either Maj. Armand Tourangeau or CMSgt. Kathy Wood at Ext. 2273 or 2876 for further information.

E-4s to convert

All E-4 sergeants will convert to E-4 Senior Airmen effective May 1, according to headquarters, Air Force Reserve Command.

This conversion was first announced in 1991 and will not change a member's date of rank nor his or her pay.

Call MSgt. Beverly Cote at Ext. 3436 for more information..

**June UTA dates
A UTA June 7-8
B UTA 21-22**

Westover

A base for all time

photos by TSgt. W. C. Pope



BACK TO THE FUTURE — A group of high school history teachers from around Massachusetts, studying the area's role in the Cold War, toured several sites at Westover in early April, left photo. The same day, a group of future Air Force officers, ROTC cadets from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (above) were guided through a C-5 by Capt. Steve Taylor. Every year the Public Affairs office conducts tours of the base for civic and school groups. During nearly 100 tours held during 1996, about 2,500 guests visited the base.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Paul W. Kucinkas of Gardner, Mass. and 2,625 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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