

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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Maj. Gen. McNeil keynotes Black History celebration

Maj. Gen. Joseph A. McNeil, mobilization assistant to the vice commander of the Air Force Reserve Command was the keynote speaker during a Black History Month celebration here during the A UTA in March.

In 1960, McNeil and three of his friends sat at a whites-only lunch counter and became part of civil rights history. The 17-year-old black college freshman watched a cop enter the store, slapping his nightstick in his palm. McNeil couldn't help but wonder if the cop planned to pound that stick into his head.

That peaceful protest against racial discrimination at F.W. Woolworth Co., in Greensboro, N.C. ignited protests across the country, persuading Woolworth and other stores to open their lunch counters to blacks.

Although McNeil never did get whacked with the nightstick, he learned that such protest takes sacrifice: the shoves, the insults, and the looks of hatred can cause far more pain than the sting of a cop's nightstick.

That moment in Greensboro is what General McNeil is most proud of, and his accomplishments there compelled Westover to invite him to speak. He and his friends took great personal risk to fight for the equal treatment of blacks, and General McNeil said risk, as well as focus and hard work, can cause such injustices to change.

"Folks sacrificed for equal rights," the general said. "They didn't do it for money or anything like that, they did it because it was the right thing to do."

General McNeil said that although this country has made great strides in equal rights, problems still exist. "Hate groups like the Ku Klux Klan can destroy the fabric of our nation," he said.

"But I am reminded that even though this country isn't perfect, it's still the best in the world," he added.



SSgt. Anne Kymalainen

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — Maj. Gen. Joseph A. McNeil receives a framed photo of a C-5 from 439th Wing Commander Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers during a Black History Month celebration. Looking on is Leo Foster, Westover's Special Emphasis Program chairman.

Because of that, General McNeil said all other countries look at the United States for leadership in human rights issues. It is imperative that Americans understand their roles as leaders and to strive to understand and respect all people, he said.

McNeil was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Air Force ROTC program while attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University. He served on active duty as a KC-135 navigator at Ellsworth ABF, S.D. until 1969. He spent considerable time in Southwest Asia flying Arc Lite Support and Young Tiger missions.

The general is a master navigator with

more than 6,600 flying hours to his credit. In addition to KC-135s, he has flown C-141A's and C-141B's. Among his military awards are the Legion of Merit and Meritorious Service Medal.

General McNeil, a father of five, believes that young people need to understand that it takes dedication, time, and focus for change to occur. "How will the young people take over what we leave behind if they don't understand this," he said.

After the general's words, Brig. Gen. James Bankers presented the general with a framed picture of a C-5A. "What he did he did at great risk," Bankers said. "He is a genuine American Hero."



TSgt. W. C. Pope

ENLISTED SYMPOSIUM — Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, 439th AW commander, addresses the Interactive Informational Symposium held at Westover during the A UTA in March. Organized by the Base Advisory Council, the symposium addressed many issues relating to enlisted concerns.

Symposium offers career enhancement info

by TSgt. W.C. Pope

The Base Advisory Council sponsored the first Interactive Informational Symposium at the Wing Conference Center that offered information about enlisted career enhancement in the Air Force Reserve. According to SSgt. Wade Chmielinski, Base Advisory Council Vice President, the council's primary mission is to do just that.

Special guest speaker, Wing Comman-

der, Brig Gen. James Bankers, discussed the importance of career enhancement and retention of Westover reservists. He emphasized the need for involvement in this program and welcomed everyone to the symposium.

"During this symposium, you are going to learn something," SSgt. Patrick Cassidy, Base Advisory Council president promised in his opening comments to about 130 Westover airmen during the

March A UTA. The symposium covered such topics as enlisted unit vacancy promotions, Promotion Enhancement, awards and decorations, benefits, and education.

The symposium also included discussion about new education opportunities. MSgt. Christine Seney talked about the CLEP and Distance Learning Program. According to Seney, reservists can take CLEP tests at the training office and earn college credits. Distance Learning is similar to the CDC program in which members correspond through the mail for tests and study material.

Chmielinski discussed the Base Advisory Council and its mission. According to Chmielinski, the council has 14 members and is under-represented, considering Westover has 16 units and each unit is authorized two representatives. "We would like more people to become involved on the council," he said. "But we need people who want to be here and represent their units. Anyone interested in becoming part of the council should see their first sergeant."

"We had a great turnout and a lot of good feedback from the people who attended," said Cassidy. "We will be meeting again on Saturday of the May B weekend from 1300-1500 in the 337 AS conference room." He said they will be shooting for a bi-annual scheduling of the symposium.

PATRIOT

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Westover crew's rescue efforts in vain

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

When everything seemed to be going wrong for the pilot of a single engine aircraft, lost and disoriented over the Atlantic, a Westover aircrew came to his assistance in a life and death drama against odds that their best efforts could not overcome.

The 337th AS aircrew, under aircraft commander Capt. Patrick Cloutier and pilot Maj. William Spence, were key players in an effort with Portuguese air traffic controllers to find and guide to safety an American pilot who had become disoriented while flying from St. John's, Newfoundland to the Azores. The Azores are a chain of nine rugged volcanic islands located approximately 800 miles west of Portugal. The rescue effort took place near the Azores in dark, rainy weather between about 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. on a January night.

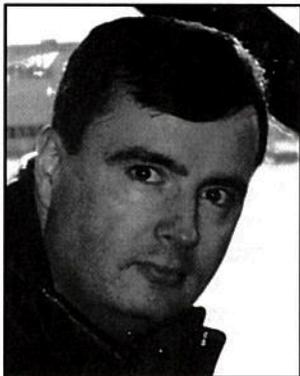
The struggle to save the pilot's life started when air traffic controllers at Santa Maria Oceanic Control alerted the inbound Westover C-5A to a "Tractor" crop duster that was being ferried to the Azores. With SSgt. Chris McCurdy in the flight engineer's seat and the rest of the aircrew at the windows looking for a light, they searched for 30 minutes until picking up a weak radio signal.

"We learned later that the pilot was in his 50's, experienced and competent, but at that moment he was in real trouble. The C-5 crew believed the crop duster pilot may have been suffering from hypoxia from flying too high in an unpressurized plane," Spence said. "The lack of oxygen made his speech seem slurred," he said.

The plane was intercepted about 200 miles from Lajes, sometimes flying wildly off course.

"We acquired the airplane on our radar by 'skin paint' as he was descending to 5,500. We closed to within five miles of the airplane and began to do a racetrack at that point. He informed us that he had one hour of fuel on board and wanted to land at the nearest airport," Cloutier later reported.

"We just knew that if we didn't do anything, his chance of survival was very low. There didn't have to be a lot of discussion. We were his only hope of getting him somewhere he could land or successfully ditch close to an island," Spence said.



"We just knew that if we didn't do anything, his chance of survival was very low... We were his only hope of getting him somewhere he could land or successfully ditch close to an island."

Maj. William Spence

A mountain blocked the Lajes radar and the crop duster was not equipped for an instrument approach. The Westover aircrew did everything they could to shepherd the pilot, using their radar to give him headings to an airfield where the Portuguese flashed lights and set off flares. In the dark, the lost pilot's radio link to the C-5 was his lifeline as the Westover aircrew offered advice, weather reports and alternate landing sites. Despite all the efforts, the pilot orbited the island, unable to find a field or alternate route.

As the C-5 burned fuel, the decision was made to break off contact and land within the margin of safety.

The aircrew later learned that in the dark and bad weather, the pilot crashed into

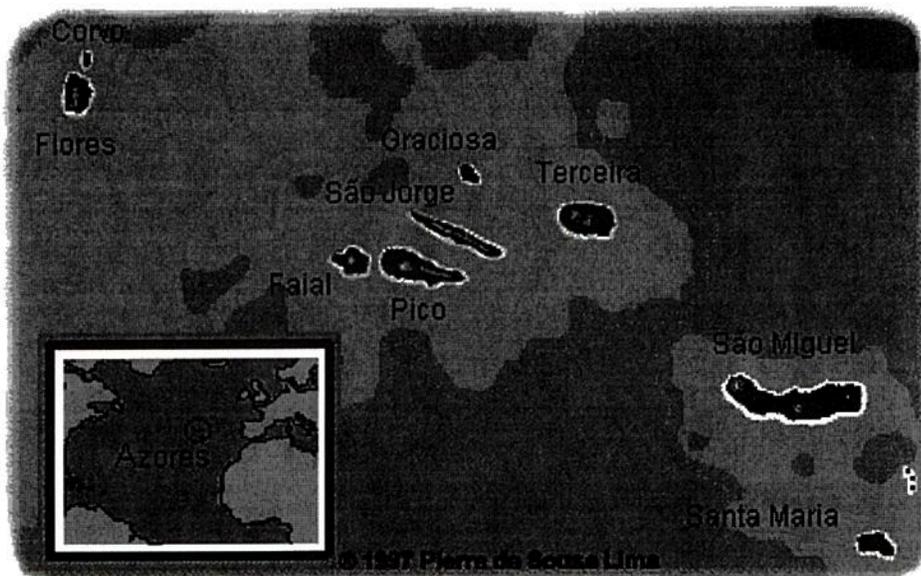
an 8,000-foot mountain rising out of one of the islands.

"It was tough for all of us. We wondered what more we could have done. Too many things had gone wrong for him in a single-seat, single-engine airplane on the long flight across the Atlantic," Spence said.

"We intend to write to his family. We want them to know what happened, that he wasn't alone over the ocean. That may give them a sense of closure," he said.

Other Westover aircrew members who participated in the rescue effort were :

MSgts. Robert Albert, Robert Morin, William Carroll, Paul Benson and Henry Olearcek; TSgt Michael Miller, and SSgts. Christopher Hellyar and Michael Dunn.



Anthrax shots on hold for reservists

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — The shot lines are forming for anthrax vaccinations, but reservists stateside don't have to queue up quite yet.

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen announced March 3 his decision to vaccinate U.S. military personnel currently deployed to the Arabian Gulf region. While the vaccinations for deployed personnel are imminent, no date has been set for mandatory stateside vaccinations.

"The vast majority of our reservists can keep their shirt sleeves rolled down," said Brig. Gen. (Dr.) John Baldwin, command surgeon, Air Force Reserve Command. "The anthrax vaccination is joining the list of required vaccinations, but we don't have an implementation date yet. It looks like it will be late summer at least."

Anthrax is an infectious disease than normally afflicts animals, especially cattle and sheep. Anthrax spores can be produced in a dry form, stored and ground into particles. When inhaled by humans, these particles cause respiratory failure and death within a week.

"The theater of biological warfare is a constant risk," Baldwin explained. "Anthrax is of special concern because the early symptoms mimic cold and flu symptoms. It can be treated successfully only if antibiotics are given within 24 hours of exposure. If not treated in time, anthrax has a 99 percent death rate."

The vaccine is fully licensed by the Food and Drug Administration and has an excellent safety record. In the United States, it is used 400-500 times a year to vaccinate at risk workers, veterinarians, laboratory workers and livestock handlers. Starting in 1970, the U.S. Army inoculated 500-1,000 at-risk laboratory workers each year without complications.

Providing protection against anthrax presents a unique problem for Air Force Reserve Command because of the timing of the doses. The primary anthrax vaccination services consists of an initial dose and five additional doses given at two and four weeks and then at six, 12 and 18 months. Protection levels increase as shots in the series are given, the entire six-shot series is required for full protection, as determined by the FDA.

"When vaccinations are ordered for reservists, it's up to each wing commander to adjust unit training assembly, annual tour and special manday schedules to administer doses," said Baldwin.

For people deploying into the theater, there are sufficient quantities of antibiotics already in place in the Gulf Region for post-exposure treatment according to Secretary Cohen's office. Every service member also deploys with a full ensemble of personnel protective equipment.

(AFRC News Service)

Officers slots available in 439th Logistics Group

Col. Elizabeth A. Grote, commander of the 439th Logistics Group is trying to fill two reserve officer positions in her command.

The 439th Logistics Support Squadron is looking for a commander. The slot is an authorized major's slot with an aircraft maintenance officer AFSC. The second is a projected vacancy for the 439th Maintenance Squadron Commander. It is an authorized Lt. Col. position and has an aircraft maintenance officer AFSC.

Candidates who have a rated, transportation, supply, contracting or logistics officer AFSC; there would be a requirement to attend a 19-academic day accelerated maintenance officer school. cross training from any other career field would require attending a 60-academic day aircraft maintenance officer course.

Interested candidates should send resumes to Grote at 350 Hangar Ave. Suite 213, Westover ARB, Chicopee, MA 01022, by April 30, 1998.

Resumes may also be sent e-mail to elizabeth.grote@cef.afres.af.mil



MARINES ON THE MOVE — Approximately 1,230 Marine Corps Reservists left Westover ARB from winter training in Norway, March 7, 8 and 9. The Marines came to Westover from all over the United States. They were loaded onto civilian aircraft and flown to training sites above the Arctic Circle. At left, Capt. John Mailo and SSgt. Lyn Dukette of Westover's 58th Aerial Port Squadron, supervise the loading.

(Photo by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell)



MSgt. Marshall Hathaway

DEJA VU — A C-54 will once again touch down at Westover, on May 5, to commemorate its illustrious role during the Berlin Airlift 50 years ago. The

C-54 (above), was featured at Westover's Great New England Airshow in 1996, as part of the collection of vintage planes known as the Warbirds.

Westover commemorates role in Berlin Airlift

By MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Westover Air Reserve Base will soon commemorate one of its brightest historical moments when a restored C-54 bound for Berlin, Germany, stops off for a nostalgic visit.

It was just 50 years ago that Westover was the major U.S. hub for overseas flights supporting the costly air bridge that the Air Force dubbed "Operation Vittles" but became known to the world as the Berlin Airlift.

The "Spirit of Freedom," one of the original C-54s used during the year-long airlift, will leave Floyd Bennett Field in New York on May 5, circle the Statue of Liberty and head for Westover. Touchdown is expected to be around 9:30 a.m.

The Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation is sponsoring the two-month journey that will make stops in 12 locations, culminating June 25 at Berlin's famous Tempelhof Airport, one of two airports used during the airlift.

Among the 14 people on board the historic aircraft will be retired Air Force Col. Gail S. Halvorsen, who is credited with start-

ing "Operation Little Vittles," the dropping of tiny parachutes laden with candy for the children of Berlin that were held hostage by the Soviets at the height of the Cold War.

Halvorsen, then a young lieutenant assigned to Westover, was one of many pilots flying supply missions into Berlin. One day while his plane was being unloaded, he began talking with German youngsters who congregated outside the barbed wire fence that surrounded the field. Halvorsen told them that on his next flight he would drop candy to them and that he would wiggle his wings so they could recognize his plane.

The legend of "Uncle Wiggly Wings" or the "Candy Bomber" began the next day when Halvorsen fashioned tiny parachutes out of handkerchiefs and attached candy to them. On his next mission, Halvorsen rocked the wings of his C-54 as crewmembers dropped the sweets down the transport's flare chutes.

Word of the drops soon spread to the United States and Chicopee's Mayor Edward Bourbeau spearheaded the idea of making his city headquarters for the candy

drop program. Students from Chicopee and Springfield schools as well as Elms College prepared chutes and attached candy before delivery to Westover. Some 36,000 pounds of candy were flown from the base and dropped to children in Berlin.

When the airlift began, there were only 102 C-47s and just two of the larger C-54s in Europe. Soon, many of the 300 C-54s, each with a 10-ton capacity, began filtering through Westover en route to Berlin.

"The people of this area, played a major role in the Berlin Airlift and it is only fitting that the 50th anniversary flight make its first stop here," said Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, 439th Airlift Wing commander.

"What they did during those dark days of the Cold War, gave hope to the children of Berlin and showed them that Americans truly cared about their plight. It may have seemed a small gesture, but became a vital part of our larger role during that period."

As part of Westover's celebration, Chicopee school children will again be asked to prepare candy chutes that will be dropped from the "Spirit of Freedom"—this time at a rock concert in the re-united city of Berlin.



Barbara Hurst

Hurst tallies 33 years

by SSgt. Nancy Robbins

There have been many variables to Barbara Hurst's career, but as the 439th Financial Management's chief of travel retires, it is the people she will most miss.

Throughout her 33-year Civil Service career, Hurst witnessed many mission changes, a massive mobilization during the Gulf War, and numerous command changes.

"I've made a lot of friends over the years here, and as I look back, it is those friendships and the constant interaction with those people I will miss the most in my retirement," Hurst said.

She began her career at Westover in 1965 as a supply clerk and steadily made her way up the ladder to become chief of supply.

She received many accolades, including Outstanding Air Force Supply Manager of the Year in 1981.

In 1994, Hurst changed focus and became chief of travel, a position that brought her in more one-on-one contact with people.

Hurst said her retirement plans include continued involvement with the Westover Advisory Commission. One of her current projects is the construction of a handicapped fishing pier at Wade Lake on Westover.

Hurst adds she is busy caring for her mother, and wants to volunteer more with elderly programs.

Westover's top airmen to be honored by Chicopee Chamber of Commerce

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Westover's top airmen will be honored at the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Breakfast April 15.

SMSGt. Tammy Vezina, a personnel superintendent with the 439th Military Support Squadron, SSgt. Tammy Davis, a medical journeyman from the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and SrA. Bryan Perry a medical technician with the 439th Aeromedical Squadron were honored as the wing's Senior NCO, NCO, and Airman of the Year.

Vezina won kudos for many accomplishments, most notably taking the reins of the PERSCO team, which went on to win national recognition at the Air Mobility Command level.

"Sergeant Vezina is a great organizer who has an excellent grasp of military personnel programs," said 2nd Lt. Kelly Braudis, director of Military Personnel. "She always keeps the big picture in mind, while never losing focus of the real customer—the individual reservist."

"What really shines through is her strong belief in what she's doing, her job, and her impact on the mission," Braudis said. "That is reflected in her image and her interactions."

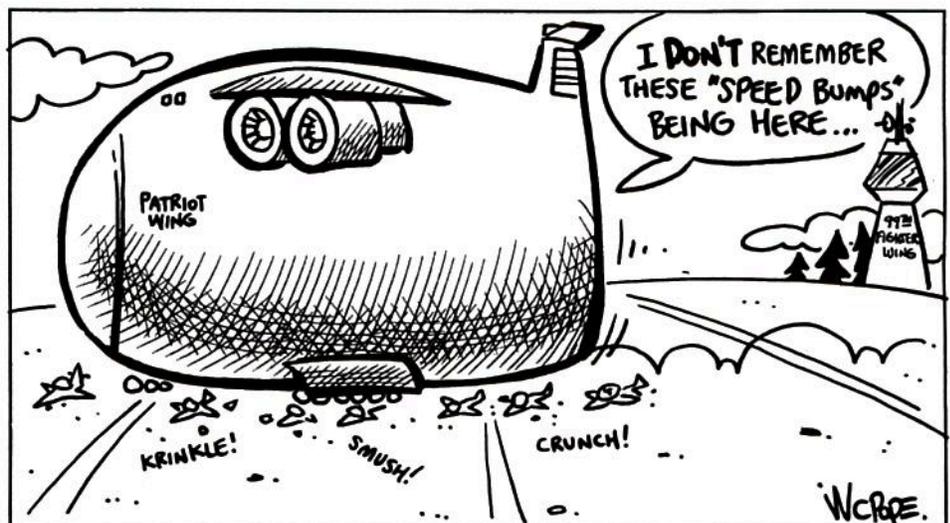
Capturing the wing's NCO prize was just reward for Sergeant Davis, according

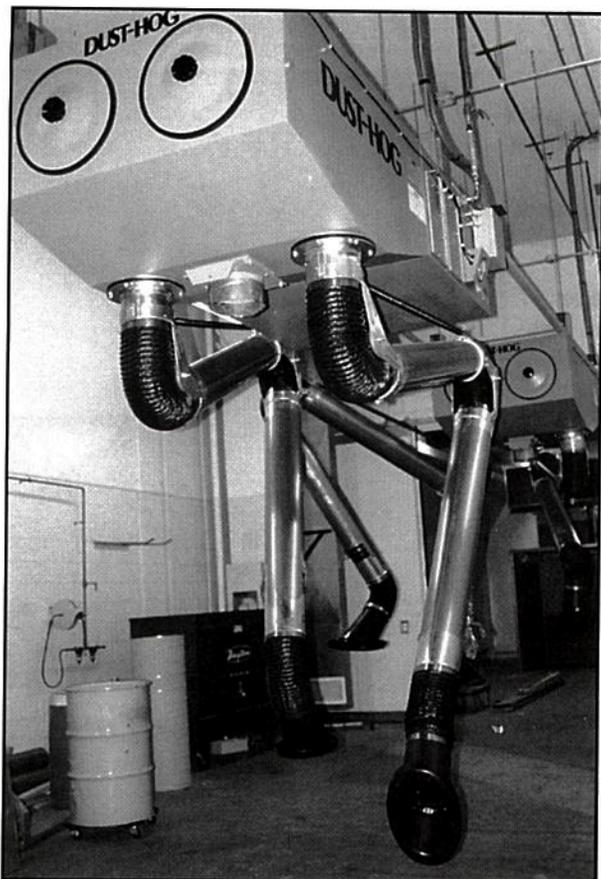
to 1st Lt. Lydia Todd, a medical readiness officer with the 439th ASTS. "In addition to her duties as a medical technician, Davis volunteered for the demanding role of mobility NCO," said Todd. "Within six months of assuming that role, productivity increased from 20% to 98%."

Davis did not renew her enlistment and left Westover in February, and according to Todd, the unit will replace her with three reservists. "Her work here was monumental," said the lieutenant. "Because of her efforts, our readiness posture improved." Todd added that Davis was known for volunteering hours of extra time, often coming in off-duty to handle the myriad details that keep unit personnel ready to deploy.

Winning top honors is not something new for Perry, who was named 439th AES Airman of the Quarter twice in the last two years. He also won Top Graduate honors with a 100 percent overall average for the Aeromedical Service Technical Course and was selected from a field of over 600 to represent the Medical Training Squadron as Top Student Leader.

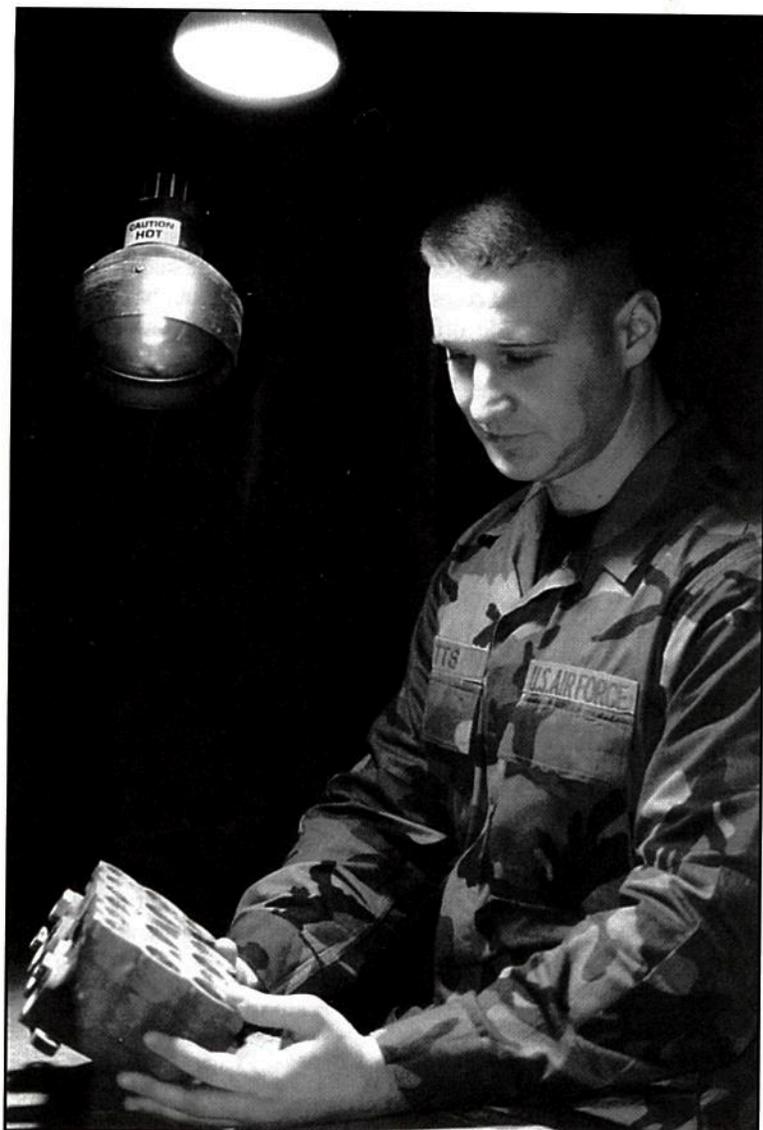
"Airman Perry is such an enthusiastic person and a team player," said Lt. Col. Denise Wishoski, Chief of the Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility. "As he's proven at many exercises, his multiple certifications allow him to support the unit in critical situations above and beyond the role of a medical technician."





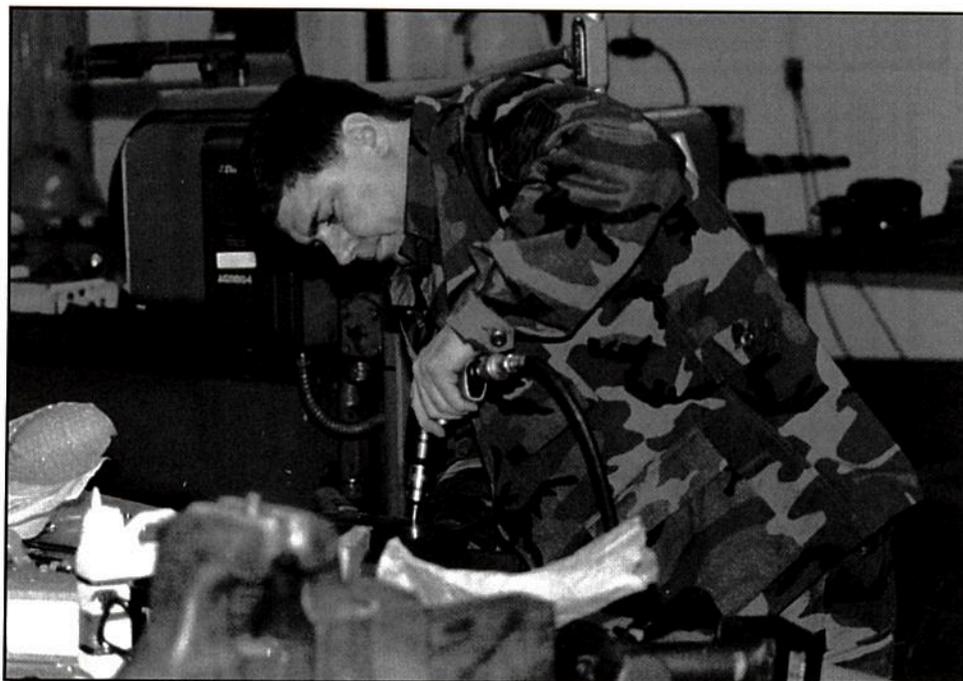
SSgt. Nancy Robbins

Pit crew



SSgt. Nancy Robbins

BEHIND THE SCENES — Members of the 439th MXS work hard to keep Westover C-5s in the air. At top right, SSgt. Tom Pitts examines a part for cracks or signs of wear using a black light. A MXS member drills a C-5 part (right) and the dust hog (above) cleans up after everyone, cleaning the air better than the rigid EPA standards.



SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

Lutz wins AFRC security award

by SSgt. Anne Kymalainen

Capt. Mary Ann Lutz, operations officer for the 439th Security Forces Squadron, is the top company grade officer in Air Force Reserve Command.

After learning that she had been selected for the award, Lutz explained her work philosophy, which mirrors that of Robert Fulgham in his best-selling book, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." "It's the small stuff that counts," she said, "I try to be fair and I don't play favorites. I can't have different rules for different people. That way the people who work for me don't have to guess where I'm coming from."

Lutz found out she had won the award when she began receiving congratulatory e-mail messages. "It's an honor being selected for this award, really special when your peers recognize you," she said.

Maj. Roger Summerlin, commander of the 439th SFS, and who was recipient of the same award a year ago, was succinct in his

praise. "The honor is well-deserved. She is a very hard worker and a committed officer," he said.

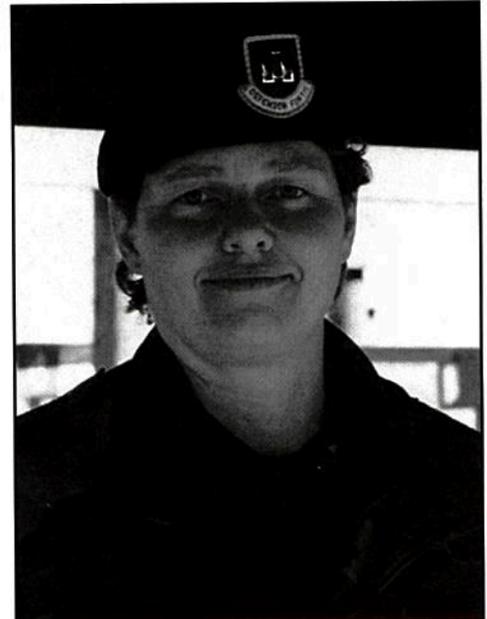
Lutz began her Air Force career 17 years ago when she graduated from Edinboro State University in her home state of Pennsylvania. She received her commission in 1980 from Officers Training School and spent six years as a security officer on active duty.

She left the active force and gave up her commission to become an enlisted Air Reserve Technician, moving to Homestead AFB, Fla.

In May of 1996 she regained her commission and accepted an ART position at Westover.

Her career has stayed on the crime prevention track since earning a degree in criminal justice at college. But she admits she never really plotted a course.

"I had my degree in criminal justice but didn't really see myself as a civilian cop, I don't really know why. I was 22-years-old and I guess I was going wher-



Capt. Mary Ann Lutz

ever life took me," she said.

"I have never been the type of person to set strict personal goals. I plan on staying at Westover for a while longer. I just take things one day at a time."

AIR FORCE
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RESERVE

1948-1998

Out of the Blue

March 28th marks the 25th anniversary of American POWs' release from the "Hanoi Hilton", a French built prison in downtown Hanoi. Lt. Col. Charles Brown, deputy commander of the 439th Logistics Group was among them. On the fateful day of December 19, 1972, Brown, then a captain, was co-piloting a Westover B-52, that took a direct hit from a surface-to-air missile. Before the crippled B-52 disintegrated, four crew members, including Brown, parachuted to safety while two others were reported as missing.

At dawn, Brown was discovered by a seven-year-old boy. "I tried to run but was chased down by the militia and armed civilians, who began to fire on me," he said. "One of the civilians took my revolver and began waving it under my nose." The militia saved him from the crowd and he was taken to the Hanoi Hilton. There he was interrogated at gun point while blindfolded. During his 101 days of captivity he suffered constant humiliation, poor diet and a continual stream of propaganda.

On March 28, 1973, Brown and his fellow POWs were released. Brown then boarded a C-141 aeromedical flight to the Philippines. "I almost cried when I first entered the C-141 and saw the American flag," he said. "It was the happiest day of my life."

He left active duty in 1973, and served some time in the Rhode Island Air National Guard. In 1977, he returned to Westover and has served here since.



By TSgt. W.C.Pope



Source: "Patriot," October, 1980

Chiefs' Council set for next round of scholarships

Westover's Chiefs' Council is again sponsoring its annual scholarship program which is open to all current 439th Airlift Wing enlisted personnel and their dependents.

A total of 10 scholarships valued at \$350 each will be awarded, According to CMSgt. Larry Lose, scholarship committee chairman. Others on the committee are CMSgt. Vince Viglione, CMSgt. Tom Harvey and CMSgt. Paul Mersincavage.

To be eligible candidates must be either accepted by or currently attending an accredited college or university and must be carrying a minimum of six credit hours per semester.

"If a potential recipient is entering college, he or she must have maintained a scholastic rating of a 'B' average or better during their senior year of high school. If presently attending college, candidates must have a cumulative average of at

least 2.75," Lose said.

Cut-off date for registration is July 26. Scholarship presentations will be made at a dinner at the Westover Club, on Aug. 10.

Anyone wishing to apply must submit a biography, recommendation from his or her school, a school transcript and the application form printed on this page. Application forms are also available at unit orderly rooms.

439th Airlift Wing WESTOVER CHIEFS' COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Student name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Age: _____ School attended: _____

College desired/attending: _____

Address: _____

Date accepted: _____ Major course selected: _____

Name of 439th AW reservist/parent: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Unit assigned: _____ Rank: _____

Length of service: _____ Length of service in 439th AW: _____

Attachments:

1. Autobiography of student
2. Recommendation from school official
3. Most recent transcript
4. Council Application Form

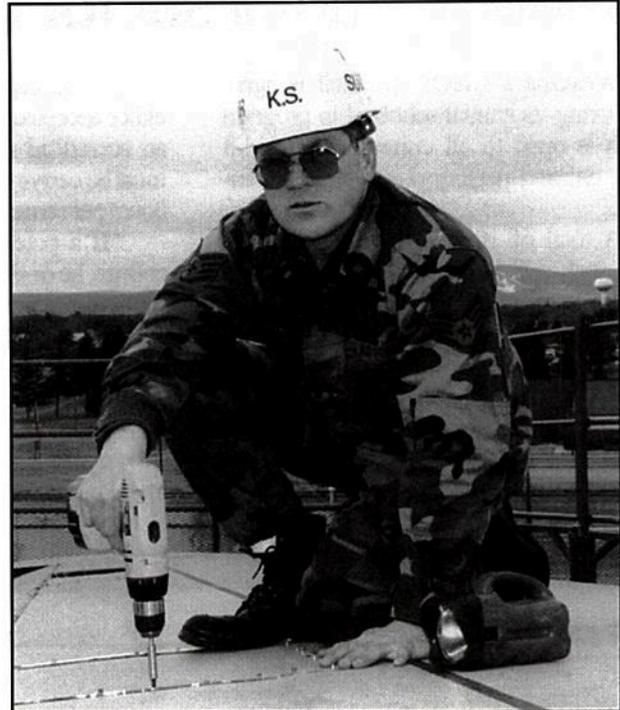
Mail applications to:

CMSgt. Lawrence B. Lose
439 CES/CEF
250 Patriot Avenue, Suite 2
Westover ARB, MA. 01022

Cut-off date: 26 July 98

Patriot People

Name: Karl E. Sweikhart
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 41
Address: Palmer, Mass.
Unit: 439th MXS
Position: Aircraft mechanic
Civilian position: Air Reserve Technician
Favorite food: Steak
Years of service: 15
Favorite sport: Drag racing
Favorite hobby: Motorcycling
Ideal vacation: Florida
Best way to relax: Surfing the Net
Preferred entertainment: Movies/comedy
Favorite hero: Clint Eastwood
Favorite music: Top 40
Favorite movie: *Outlaw Josey Wales*
Favorite aircraft: SR-71
Pet peeve: People who don't clean up their messes
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Buy myself something nice



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

SSgt. Karl Sweikhart

Patriot Praises

Promotions

CMSgt. Driscoll, Robert E.
 CMSgt. Skawski, Zigmund D.
 SMSgt. Goldberg, Michael L.
 MSgt. Conigliaro, Charles E.
 TSgt. Allen, Bruce J.
 TSgt. Armstrong, David P.
 TSgt. Asselin, Jennifer F.
 TSgt. Bihlmeyer, Mari I.
 TSgt. Briigan, John C.
 TSgt. Brothers, Shaoun
 TSgt. Brown, William J.
 TSgt. Dailey, Jeffrey S.
 TSgt. Cohen, Anthony
 TSgt. Ferreira, Steven D.
 TSgt. Gagne, Eugene A.
 TSgt. Harris, Robert W., Jr.
 TSgt. Huffman, David C.
 TSgt. Knight, Jeffrey D.
 TSgt. LeBlanc, Gary R.
 TSgt. MacLeod, Michael S.
 TSgt. Pleva, Mark A.
 TSgt. Reed, Allan S., Jr.
 TSgt. Sandova, John A.
 TSgt. Steeves, Peter J.
 TSgt. Taylor, Robert J.
 TSgt. Torrey, Robert B.
 TSgt. Upshaw, Leah M.
 TSgt. Wesoloskie, Todd R.
 SSgt. Bergemann, Tyler H.
 SSgt. Haskell, Merton C.I.
 SSgt. Lewis, David C.
 SrA. Ajmeri, Rupesh R.
 SrA. Chandler, Jacob S.
 SrA. Dufresne, Gerald E.
 SrA. Farrell, Susan A.
 SrA. Jean, Francois Serg
 SrA. Knerr, Christine E.

SrA. Kochis, James F., Jr.
 SrA. Lopez, Kenny
 SrA. New, Jeffrey D.
 SrA. Thong, Jean Siew Lin
 SrA. Weston, Valerie J.
 SrA. White, Petra V.
 SrA. Williams, Anton L.
 A1C Brown, Andrew R.

Enlistments

SSgt. Holby, Kenneth W., Jr.
 SSgt. Janes, Mark E.
 SSgt. McDermod, Robert H.
 SSgt. Michaud, Marc P.
 SSgt. Sliwa, Andrew E.
 SrA. Kennally, Paul E., III
 SrA. Nelson, Donald A.
 SrA. Young, William J.
 AB Ryals, Amber L.
 AB Wilkinson, Joseph C.

Reenlistments

SMSgt. Arico, Joseph J., Jr.
 SMSgt. Defazio, Frances A.
 SMSgt. Norton, Joseph M.
 SMSgt. Seney, Kristine M.
 MSgt. Bower, Jeffrey B.
 MSgt. Craig, Karen K.
 MSgt. Perreault, George A., Jr.
 MSgt. Rys, Robert F.
 MSgt. Wittman, Clifford M.
 TSgt. Austin, William W., Jr.
 TSgt. Bailey, Alan W.
 TSgt. Barringer, Stanley
 TSgt. Davis, Alan J.
 TSgt. Dudley, Scott D.

TSgt. Facklemann, David M.
 TSgt. Farrington, Mark R.
 TSgt. Ferreira, Kenneth P.
 TSgt. Hniedziejko, James F.
 TSgt. Komloski, Francis J.
 TSgt. Krol, Thomas
 TSgt. Lacroix, James A.
 TSgt. Lau, Deborah A.
 TSgt. Liebchen, Richard F.
 TSgt. Rooney, James S.
 TSgt. Sinclair, Robert E.
 TSgt. Tripp, Darrell J.
 SSgt. Aselton, Carolyn A.
 SSgt. Caron, Drew C.
 SSgt. Demers, Thomas F.
 SSgt. Gable, Timothy C.
 SSgt. Gilzinger, Steven P.
 SSgt. Gustafson, Robert E., Jr.
 SSgt. Niquette, Robert R.
 SSgt. Primiano, Dennis M.
 SSgt. Teel, Charlotte F.
 SSgt. Tynik, Andrew J.
 SSgt. VanWie, Gary
 SSgt. Visser, Joseph H.
 SSgt. Williams, Frederick P.
 SrA. Andrews, Frederick
 SrA. Babineau, David C.
 SrA. Baker, Darwin J.
 SrA. Broadbent, Keith F.
 SrA. Francoeur, Edward C.
 SrA. Johnson, Mark A.
 SrA. Perry, David S.
 SrA. Pica, Donald T.
 SrA. Pineau, Mark A.
 SrA. Reitano, Andrew V.
 SrA. Soares, John T., Jr.
 SrA. Trudeau, John D.
 SrA. Trumble, Scott E.
 SrA. Williamson, David E.

Awards and Decorations

Air Force Achievement Medal

SSgt. David J. Guertin
 439 OSS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. Donald E. Carlton
 439 OSS

Capt. Patrick L. Cloutier
 439 OSS
 (second award)

Capt. Robert P. Fotino
 85 APS
 (second award)

Capt. Anne L. Maker
 439 AES

Operational Risk Management

A sensible way to do business... on and off duty.

Spring is here. Sooner than you think we will be entering the period of the year that we call the "101 critical days of summer". These are the days from Memorial Day to Labor Day. It's the time of year when people go on vacation and have fun.

It's also a period which poses a significantly increased risk of injury or death to our people from off-duty activities.

Much of the year, while on duty, we protect ourselves by the safety element which is built into all of our tech orders and training programs. Safety is intrinsic to Air Force culture and is a key element in everything we do while on duty.

But most of our fatalities and serious injuries result from off-duty activities, things you do at home on days off.

Of course, if people didn't drive, jet ski, swim, operate chain saws, use ladders, or play sports, our off-duty mishap rate would be a lot lower than it is. But they do, of course, and the off-duty mishap rate remains up there.

Operational Risk Management (ORM) applies off duty as well. If you take the time to identify hazards, assess the risks associated with those hazards, and take steps to reduce or eliminate them, you will have gone a long way toward reducing that mishap rate (and ensuring your own self preservation)!

With spring and summer just in front of us, now is a great time for commanders and supervisors to practice risk management by briefing their people on off-duty safety hazards before they depart on leave.

Let's prepare now for a safe 1998.

COMMENTARY



Lt. Col. Dave Moore

Lt. Col. Dave Moore
439th AW, Chief of Safety

Talk up the Reserve

You are our most important spokesperson. Each reservist should be a walking, talking advertisement for the Air Force Reserve. To ensure the public understands what an effective Reserve means to America, it is important each of us does our part to get our message out.

There are many ways to do this. Getting involved with these is as easy as asking your unit public affairs office. When you give a speech to a local civic or business group, escort a scout troop on a base visit,

nominate your boss for an employer support flight or even have a backyard talk with a neighbor, you are helping to tell the American public how important the Reserve is and what we mean to our nation's defense.

The community support you garner is crucial, and your involvement with this responsibility does make a difference.

By Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh
AFRC COMMANDER

Briefs

F-22 Raptor gets A ride in a Galaxy

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIF. — In early February, the first F-22 Raptor next generation air dominance fighter made its third flight, although this time it needed help from the 439th Airlift Wing.

The F-22, built by the Lockheed-Martin-Boeing-Pratt & Whitney contractor team, was delivered to the Air Force Flight Test Center here, inside the belly of a Westover C-5.

The Raptor was loaded onto the Galaxy by a joint team that was led by technicians from the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins AFB, Ga, whose runway is shared with the Lockheed Martin plant.

The F-22 was partially disassembled before being loaded onto the C-5. After it is reassembled, the aircraft will undergo system functional checks.

This will be followed by a series of high-speed taxi tests to clear the aircraft to begin a flight test program in earnest. Flight tests with aircraft 4001 (as the first F-22 is designated) will begin in the spring. The aircraft will mainly be used to test the basic flying qualities of the F-22's design.

Michon places third In AF media contest

MSgt. Sandi Michon captured third place in the Air Force Media Contest in the Special Achievement category.

Michon, who placed first in the same category in the Air Force Reserve Command's media contest, won the award for a special series entitled, "Giving Back to America," which featured accomplishments of Westover reservists who in some way give back to their communities.

April UTA dates

A UTA April 4-5
B UTA April 18-19

Reserve, reservists turn 50 together

by Jim Miller
HQ AFRC

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - When Air Force Reserve Command hits the half-century mark April 14, Staff Sgt. Paul W. Kucinkas will have a second reason to toast the occasion. It will also be his 50th birthday.

Assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., he is one of six reservists in the command's unit program to turn 50 on the anniversary date.

Kucinkas has seen many changes since joining the active-duty Air Force in July 1968 when the total force of active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel was about double its present 500,000-plus size.

One of those changes is a greater sense of teamwork. "Today people are more open to helping each other, to working as one," he said. "That's been my experience in the Reserve."

Another change that hasn't been as pleasant is having to learn numerous changes in uniforms, especially since he had a 14-year break in service.

Kucinkas is used to the old spit-and-polish days and considers his last active-duty tour in law enforcement as the highlight of his military career. Working with the Secret Service and the protocol office at Andrews AFB, Md., he helped protect and escort Presidents Ford and Carter, and other distin-

guished visitors to waiting aircraft.

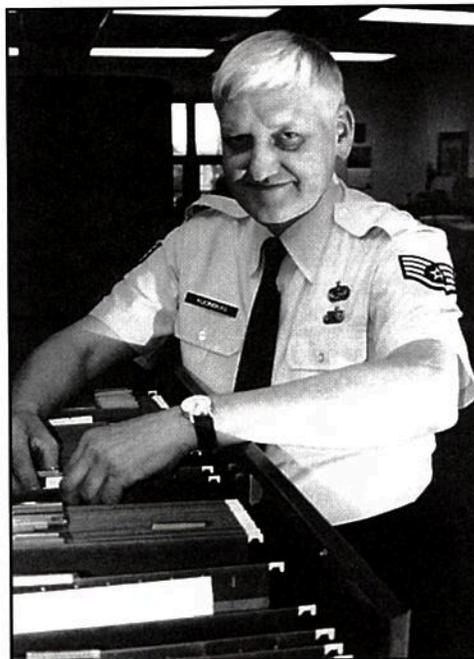
That assignment was his last active-duty tour, separating in 1978 to better support his widowed mother. "I had to weigh my options. I was sending most of my money home to mom and had her declared my dependent because I was providing most of her support. When I came home (to Massachusetts) to care for mom, I worked as a machinist and steel factory worker."

After his mother passed away in 1988, he took another look at what the Air Force had to offer. He already had nearly 10 years service and would have been eligible to retire with a pension if he had stayed in.

"I wanted to join the Air Force Reserve at Westover because I had been stationed there on active duty from 1972 to 1974 but all the slots in administration, my original specialty, were filled," he said. "So I signed up with the Air National Guard at Westfield in November 1991." Fourteen months later the Reserve information management craftsman landed a job with the 439th AW plans shop.

His military service and municipal service at a community school helped earn him a state civilian job in Worcester, where he is the facility supervisor and maintenance custodian for the ANG station.

When he's not at his civilian job, Kucinkas serves two monthly unit train-



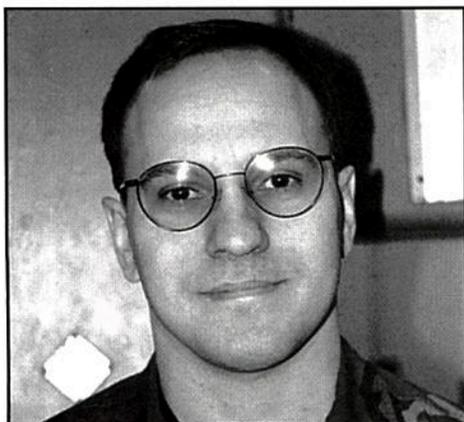
SSgt. Paul W. Kucinkas

ing assembly tours at Westover in the office of Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, 439th AW commander. Kucinkas has been selected for promotion under a new command program and hopes to sew on technical sergeant stripes in November.

With so much activity going on in his life, the single Kucinkas plans to spend his 50th birthday quietly at dinner with his older sister and then later with friends. He doesn't have to be reminded that he is getting older because he's been getting stuff from AARP - the American Association of Retired Persons.

(AFRC News Service)

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Patrick Thompson of Ludlow, Mass., and 2,511 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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

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