

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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Westover units support Gulf effort

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Westover's troops and aircraft have supported Persian Gulf missions throughout the year and most recently aided the U.S. buildup of forces when the 337th Airlift Squadron launched three missions to the region Nov. 21.

The November deployment of forces and equipment was in response to Iraq's recent refusal to cease work on the development of weapons of mass destruction, Department of Defense officials said.

"The participation of the 337th crews and reservists from other Westover units in the Gulf situation is a continuing illustration of the Reserve's role in the Total Force," said Brig. Gen. James Bankers, 439th airlift wing commander.

Air Force Reserve Command units have been in high demand to support a heavily tasked active force. During fiscal year 1997, which ended Sept. 30, that demand averaged more than 1,000 reservists per month to support contingencies and real-world operations, primarily overseas. These reservists served a total of 154,756 mandays.

First Lieutenant John Galvany, a health services administrator with Westover's 439th Aeromedical Squadron and MSgt. Robert Cossaboom, a 439th AES ground radio operator, recently performed active-duty tours in Saudi Arabia, supporting medical response efforts in the region.

During his 90-day TDY, Galvany served as the Officer-in-Charge of the Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Team at Prince Sultan AB. "Our mission was to work with the Army and Navy to coordinate the removal of wounded from the theater of conflict," said Galvany.

The lieutenant explained that he and Cossaboom, who also served on the team during his 120-day stint, were there in a dual capacity. "Our peacetime mission was as the Medical Rapid Response



photo courtesy of 1st Lt. John Galvany

DESERT AMBULANCE -- First lieutenant John Galvany stands in front of the armored ambulance he used in a joint Army/Air Force exercise held in the desert in northwestern Kuwait.

Team (MRRT) in the region," he said. "During a natural disaster or terrorist attack, we would have a medical team airborne in two hours and be on the scene within four."

According to Galvany, the formation of the MRRT was partly a result of the Khobar Towers bombing in 1996. "The team provides the operational logistics and communication to aid any kind of emergency medical response in the region," he said.

The deployment to Saudi Arabia was different than any other, according to Cossaboom. "It was a total culture shock," he said. "For four months, we were completely restricted to the tent city

we lived in, which was in the middle of the desert, 15 miles from the main gate and about 20 miles from the main road."

Personnel were able to leave the camp on a few occasions for specific military missions. "I was deployed to King Khalid Military City just miles from the Iraqi border," he said. "For five days, 13 hours a day in the hot sun, we laid miles and miles of concertina wire." Cossaboom said the average temperature was 130 degrees and on a "cool" day would drop to 90 degrees.

The troops stationed in Saudi had to honor the local culture and that brought unique challenges, according to the ser-

Continued on page 4

Proactive employer relations minimize common problems

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

The best defense is a good offense.

What holds true in sports, also holds true in Reservists' relationships with their civilian employees.

Although there are federal and state laws protecting Reservists' rights, many still experience conflicts with civilian employees. According to Lt. Col. Bob Bersak, from the base legal office, they see about 50 Reservists per year concerning employment problems.

"There are many proactive ways Reservists can avoid employer problems," said Bersak. First, military employees should make sure their boss understands their military obligation — what you do, why and when — in advance. It also helps to educate employers on laws concerning military service time away from civilian jobs. The legal office, in Bldg. 1850, offers helpful brochures and will soon have a short video explaining employment rights.

According to Paralegal Superintendent MSgt. Lorraine Moore, Reservists should nominate their bosses for employer recognition awards. "It's unusual to have problems with a boss who has a plaque on his/her wall," said Moore. Applications for employer recognition awards are available at the Public Affairs Office, also in Bldg. 1850.

The Public Affairs Office also hosts Employer Appreciation Days twice annually. These events help to educate employers about the base mission and their

employee's military workplace and requirements. Bosses are also treated to a local flight on a C-5.

Another proactive tact is to show how military training directly or indirectly benefits the civilian employer. "Once an employer realizes that military skills are transferable to the civilian workplace, and it saves corporate training dollars, it creates a more positive climate," Bersak explained. Moore, who will be attending a two-day Quality management workshop on base, has invited her civilian boss to attend the workshop as well.

"Above all, be reasonable," said Bersak. "Even though Reservists have broad protection under the law, they should be reasonable and flexible, respecting the position of the civilian employer." He said Reservists need to maximize their time and opportunities as they balance the demands of family, civilian jobs and the military.

According to federal law, employers must allow Reservists reasonable time off for military obligations. They must also re-employ Reservists returning from military service into the status they would have been in if they had not left. Bersak stressed that employers do not have to pay Reservists in their absence, but they must honor all seniority-related benefits they accrue during their absence.

"Even though Reservists cannot lose their civilian job due to military service, Reservists should be mindful that they are expected to return to their jobs able to perform the job," explained Moore. "If



MILITARY TOUR -- First lieutenant John Galvany, right, poses on a Patriot missile launcher at Prince Sultan AB in Saudi Arabia. Galvany, 439th AES health services administrator, spent 90 days away from his civilian job when he served a military tour in Saudi this past summer. Galvany praised his employer for their flexibility and support. At left is Capt. Gary Feld from the 86th AES.

repeated absences cause a training lag, that may become fodder for dismissal.

Assistance is available at three levels and the base legal office is involved at every level. The first level is the base legal office, for information and counsel. The second level is the state chapters of the National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and the last level is the Department of Labor, which is the actual enforcement arm for employee rights laws.

According to Bersak, the majority of cases are solved at the lower levels. He said the most common problems involve lower-level supervisors who are not acquainted with the law. Individual states may have laws granting additional privileges, but all states must comply with federal mandates.

PATRIOT

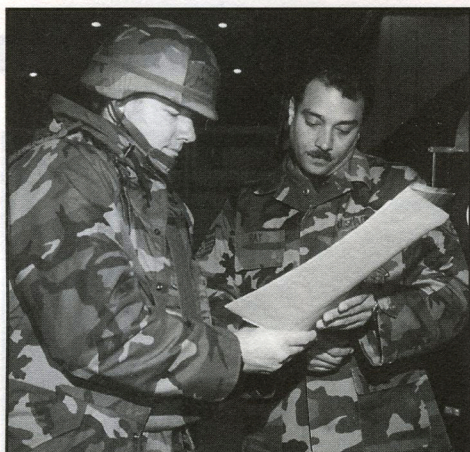
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439th AW Commander
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Public Affairs Specialist
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NCOIC/Co-editor
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Deputy NCOIC/Editor
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Deputy NCOIC/ Media Relations
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"THIS IS A TEST" -- For 235 members of the 439th Airlift Wing, November's Limited Operational Readiness Inspection (LORI) was an exhausting test of military readiness skills. Lt. Col. Tom Mauzaka, 439th ALCF commander and director of the LORI, briefs one of his troops in upper left photo. Bottom left, SSgt. Danette Otto administers a TB test to a reservist. In photo above, the base hangar became the staging area for troops headed for the frigid cold of Dogpatch quarters.
photos by TSgt. W. C. Pope

Intense training pays off during LORI

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The training paid off when the time came for Westover's reservists to show Air Mobility Command what they can do for the record. A cross section of reservists who practiced hard for months felt they earned bragging rights as the scores were tallied for November's Limited Operational Readiness Inspection (LORI).

Air Mobility Command Inspector General teams followed the 235 reservists through three days of LORI simulated combat tests in Dogpatch, starting on the Friday before the "B" UTA. At stake was the wing's ability to field a force which could demonstrate the combat skills necessary to set up and operate a bare base while defending people and facilities against ground and air attack.

"We said all along that we could meet the test of deploying a combat ready force to perform an airlift mission. The LORI gave us the chance to show that during the preparatory training we had learned to work faster and smarter," said Lt. Col. Thomas Mauzaka, 439th ALCF commander, who directed the Westover teams.

Every unit on base was represented,

including civil engineers, aerial porters, medical, personnel management, security police, services and air crews, during operations that began at 6 a.m. and continued until 10 p.m.

The wing members were judged on a full range of combat skills during such scenarios as simulated air drops, missile attacks, chemical warfare and random day and night ground attacks by AMC "opfor" opposition forces. In the field they filled sandbags and built fighting positions. When not in the Dogpatch exercise area, participants were assigned to mount security around their dormitory billets.

A three-day pattern of raw and blustery weather added another element to the test of their ability to cope with whatever was thrown at them.

"The weather was as bad as it gets in November. It was raining, snowing and sleeting at the same time. It put another obstacle in our way that increased the difficulty of the operation," Mauzaka said.

"It takes motivated people with a can-do attitude to perform at a high level under such uncomfortable conditions," the commander said.

Among the bright spots in the exercise

was the survival recovery center (SRC) in which the computerized personnel system ensured 100 percent accountability of participants at all times. Wing members also earned credit for teamwork and safety, in part due to strong supervision.

The reservists made sure to come prepared. Starting in September, they underwent a string of Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) exercises which included medical self-aid, unexploded ordnance disposal and communications tasks while encumbered in chemical warfare gear.

"Our people invested a tremendous amount of time in the training and this directly contributed to the successful outcome," Mauzaka said.

"One example of the pay-off is that they successfully repelled every ground attack. Every time the AMC guys tried to get to our C-5 our security police, plus augmentees, maneuvered to prevent the hostile forces getting to the airplane," he said.

"The bottom line is that we proved hard training is worth the effort, and not just for a successful LORI. Most importantly, our people felt confident in their ability to defend themselves in a hostile environment," Mauzaka said.

Medics steal the show at AMSUS convention

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

At a national convention of their peers, Westover medical personnel again received high accolades -- and shared their success stories.

Westover not only won two unit awards and five individual awards, but was also the topic of discussion as the host of Patriot Medstar, the nation's largest, mirror-force, medical exercise.

"We are more visible and more in demand," said Lt. Col. Paul McPherson, 439th AES chief nurse, referring to Westover's growing presence in both awards and presentations at the AMSUS convention held Nov. 15-21 in Nashville, Tenn. AMSUS is the Association of Military Surgeons in the United States.

The 439th Medical Squadron and 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron won their respective outstanding squadron awards -- for the second consecutive year. The 439th MDS was praised for their impressive annual tours stateside and in Central America, as well as humanitarian missions. Both units were cited for improved management techniques and work flow enhancements.

Capt. Deborah Fuller, SSgt. Ruth Rodriguez and SrA. Jeffrey Picard, from the 439th MDS, earned outstanding Reserve officer, NCO and Airman, respectively. Maj. Christine Gryglik from the 439th ASTS, and MSgt. James Brady from the 439th AES, were selected outstanding Reserve officer and NCO respectively in their squadron categories.

Awards are an important but small part of the AMSUS convention. The gathering provides a clearinghouse of medical information, and Westover folks shared their expertise.

Team Yankee, a Westover pilot pro-

gram that has become the most successful multi-service medical training program, is a training model recognized nationwide. Westover is the first national registry EMT test site for the Air Force Reserve. The program began with 50 participants in 1990 and has grown to 700 participants in 1997. SMSgt. Cathy Skalecki, 439th AES NCOIC of aeromedical evacuation operations team, presented Team Yankee at the convention, and got rave reviews. "Through networking, word is getting around that this is a great program," said Skalecki. Although Skalecki admits she is not a natural public speaker, her boss, 439th AES commander, Col. Seymour Wiener praised her presentation. Many people approached him and rated Skalecki's presentation as "the best, most professional presentation they heard throughout the convention."

Also presenting at the convention were Lt. John Galvany, 439th AES medical administrative officer, who detailed accounts from his 90-day tour in Saudi Arabia during the summer. (See article on page 1.) Capt. Ann Maker, 439th AES chief of medical logistics division, explained CHEER, which is a continuing education program for medical professionals.

Westover's medical personnel are increasingly called on to lead others down the path of excellence. "Our presence at AMSUS has expanded," said Maj. Bob Sousa, 439th MDS medical service administrator. Sousa has designed curriculum for AMSUS, presented topics and is part of the medical service corps leadership group. "Westover gets things done. We have a proven track record, and people want to hear how we do things," said Sousa.



SMSgt. Cathy Skalecki

MEDICAL

HONOR ROLL

(Selected outstanding in categories of competition)

UNITS

439th Medical Squadron

439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

INDIVIDUALS

Maj. Christine A. Gryglik
439th ASTS

Capt. Deborah A. Fuller
439th MDS

MSgt. James R. Brady
439th AES

SSgt. Ruth Rodriguez
439th MDS

SrA. Jeffrey J. Picard
439th MDS

Gulf build-up.... from page 1

geant. "On one trip to Riyadh, our Officer-in-Charge was a female major," he said. "Because the Saudis have strict rules about women in their culture, the major had to wear the native garb that covered everything but her eyes." Cossaboom said the major informed his group that for the trip between military bases, they were not to address her in any way and that should something happen, they should address the male lieutenant in the group. "She had to keep her eyes straight ahead, and could

not even look out the window," he said.

Both Galvany and Cossaboom praised their civilian employers for their support during the long TDYs. "I had to call my employer up to tell him I had to stay an extra 30 days," Cossaboom said. "He could have given me a hard time, but he was very understanding."

"My employer said to me 'Will this make you a better person?'," said Galvany. "When I said yes, he said, 'No question, you should do it.'"

B-52 crash survivor revisits crash site:

Crash memorialized in chapel stained glass

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Men and women who trust their lives to their skill in the air know that there are no guarantees in flight. Retired Capt. Gerald Adler, one of only two survivors of the 1963 crash of a Westover Strategic Air Command B-52, can testify to the price that aviators have paid over the years.

As the years pass, Adler pauses each Jan. 24 to reflect on the crash that took the lives of seven aircrewmembers and changed the course of his own life. This Jan. 24 will be especially poignant for Adler.

On the 35th anniversary, he plans to visit the wilderness site near Greenville, Maine where his life almost ended. He intends to stand at the spot where 35 years ago he tumbled through the sky into trees and snow without benefit of a parachute.

Adler was a navigator in a nine-member aircrew flying on a routine training flight when the B-52's vertical stabilizer snapped at its base due to metal fatigue aggravated by flying at low altitude. When he ejected at low level, he did not separate from his seat, but came tumbling down in the seat until hitting a tree. His skull was fractured, but his life was saved by the combination of the seat absorbing



CRASH SURVIVOR -- Gerald Adler, who was one of two survivors of a B-52 crash in 1963, plans to visit the site of the crash near Greenville, Maine in January. The plane was on a training mission out of Westover when it crashed, killing seven crew members.

the impact of the tree, followed by the cushioning of deep snow.

Unable to extract his survival kit from the collapsed seat, Adler wrapped himself in his parachute for shelter against brutal cold that reached 35 degrees below zero. During the longest night of his life, the parachute was poor protection against frostbite.

Before accepting a medical retirement, Adler spent 14 months in the hospital and lost his left leg below the knee and all the toes on his right foot.

Adler later went to law school, became a University of California law professor and since 1973 has been in private practice. The second survivor of the B-52 crash, Daniel Bulli, who was the aircraft commander, retired from the Air Force as a colonel and resides in Omaha, Neb.

Today Adler stays in touch with Bulli and family members of the seven crew members who did not survive.

These days the Westover Chapel Center, in Bldg. 1100 continues to shelter another tangible link to those who lost their lives 35 years ago. Two sets of stained glass windows memorialize those who died in three aircraft mishaps during Westover's 99th Bomb Wing SAC B-52 mission.

The windows, dedicated in 1964, show airmen with helmets in hands, looking at a flight of B-52s in a "missing man" formation.

Plans are underway for ceremonies to rededicate the stained glass windows this summer and Adler hopes to return to help honor those who did not return from missions. Adler first saw the windows several years ago and found the experience moving.

"On seeing the windows and how they have been preserved, it gave me a feeling of gratitude to those at Westover who kept them through all the changes over the years. I felt gratitude that the original memorial is still being maintained, that the level of remembrance is still out there," Adler said.



MEMORIAL WINDOWS -- SMSgt. James DiVita, of the base chaplain's office, views stained glass windows displayed in the Chaplain's Center. The windows memorialize those who died in three B-52 crashes.

Retired chaplains continue to serve flock

by Capt. Mike Franco

Two former chaplains who are retired from the Air Force, continue to serve here at Westover.

Monsignor Rosario L.U. Montcalm and Father Ernest P. Moreau, who both achieved the rank of colonel while in uniform, became wing auxiliary chaplains in 1984 and 1985 respectively.

They returned home to the Pioneer Valley for part-time Catholic ministry with the 439th Airlift Wing and to serve in local parishes.

Together, the two have more than 108 years combined service as priests. Monsignor Montcalm has more than 61 years while Father Moreau has over 47. The two have known each other since meeting while on active duty in the 1960s.

Monsignor Montcalm was raised in Holyoke and was sworn in at Westover by the base adjutant in the same building that houses the chapel today. He served with the Air Force from 1943 to 1965 before retiring from his last assignment at the Air Force Academy which he cites as the highlight of his career.

He served in other stateside locations such as Mountain Home and Offutt Air Force Bases, and overseas in Japan, Germany, France, and England. He served in Europe during the Berlin Airlift.

Father Moreau, a priest since 1951, is a native of Chicopee. He was an Air Force Chaplain from 1959 to 1985. He also served in many locations as Inspector General for the Chaplain service.

Father Moreau says Alaska was the highlight of his career because of his fascination with its land and people. At Westover, he served two years in the 60s and three in the 80s welcoming troops back from Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

Today, both priests serve in community parishes and continue to maintain their association with the military.



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

CENTURY OF SERVICE -- Two retired Air Force chaplains, who currently volunteer at Westover, have 108 years of combined service as priests. Shown is Father Ernest P. Moreau (left), and Monsignor Rosario L.U. Montcalm.

Civilians assist chaplain's program

Two local pastors volunteer their time twice a month to augment the Chaplain's program on base. Pastors Chet Marshall and Steve Ryan lead the Evangelical Services each A and B UTA Sunday at 7:30 a.m.

Pastor Chet Marshall, assistant pastor at a local non-denominational church, is a native of West Orange, N.J. He graduated from Maryland Bible Seminary and was ordained in 1995.

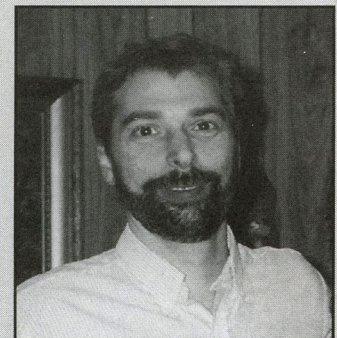
Pastor Steve Ryan was ordained this year, and assists Marshall in staffing the UTA services.

Both pastors see the Reserve population as an extension of their own communities. "We are available to help the chaplain's program in any way we can to meet the spiritual needs of hurting people," said Marshall.

The Evangelical Service is held in the foyer conference room in Bldg. 1850.



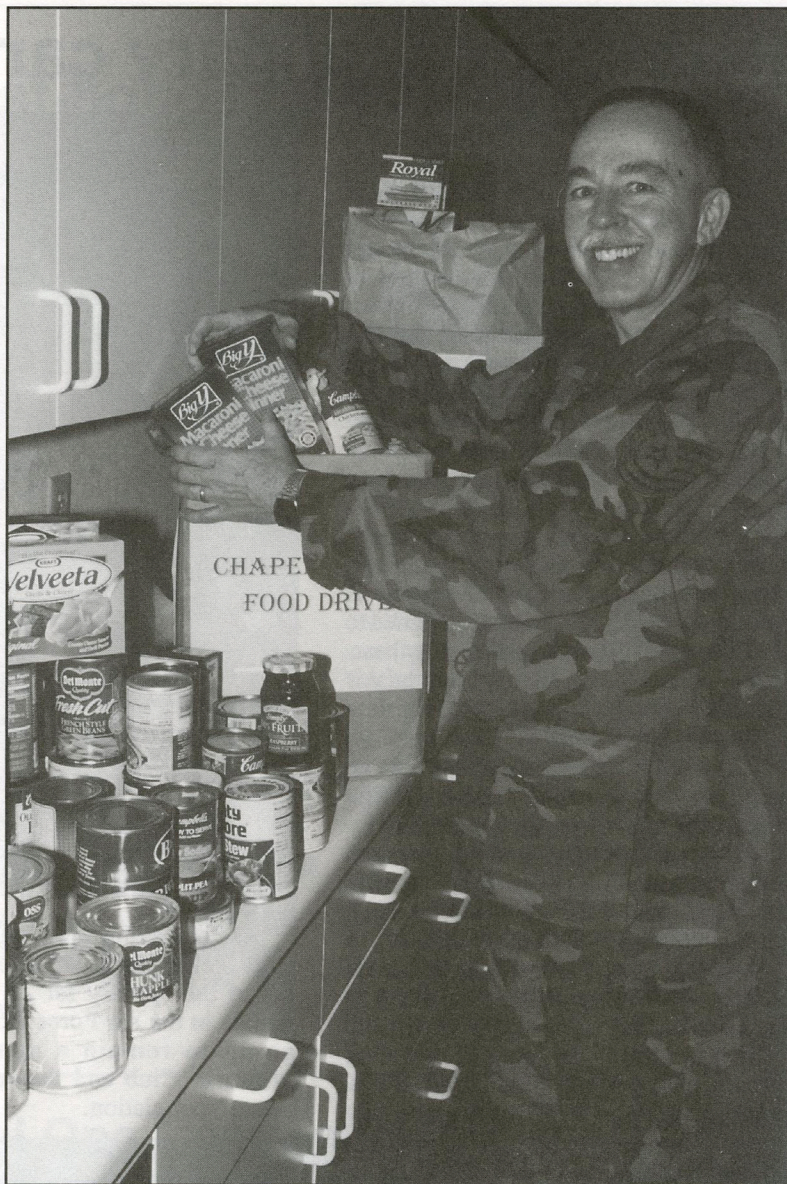
Pastor Chet Marshall



Pastor Steve Ryan

HOLIDAY CHEER

THE GIFT OF GIVING -- The USO, with the help of many Westover personnel, made the holidays brighter for many this year. In bottom left photos, USO volunteers and Marine wives baked holiday treats for the Christmas Party at the base gym, where Santa gave out presents. At right, TSgt. Allan Boucher, from chapel support services, helps pack food contributions to be distributed to needy military families over the holiday season. At bottom right, USO volunteers June Loftus and Bill Murray sort donated food.



photos by TSgt. W. C. Pope

Pelter ends military career

by SrA. Andrew Reitano

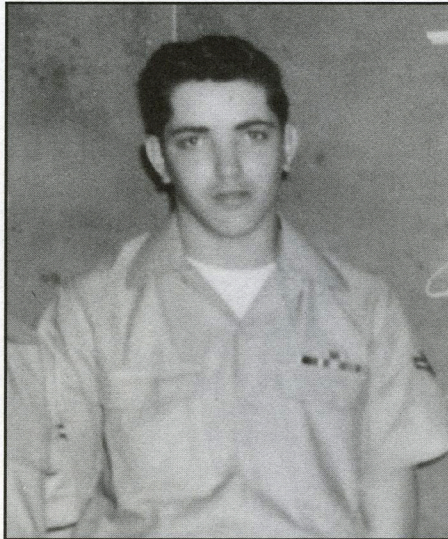
The 439th Airlift Wing bid farewell to one of its long-standing members on Nov. 7 during ceremonies at the Westover Club.

For SMSgt. Van Pelter, 439th Accounting and Finance Division, the festivities at the club marked the closing of his military commitment to the Air Force. In 1987, Pelter retired from civil service.

Pelter, who was best known for his understanding and willingness to help people, first joined the Air Force in 1958. He previously spent four years in the Army, working in a variety of positions. After completing technical school at Sheppard AFB, Texas, he was assigned to Westover AFB, then an active duty base. Pelter took a 23-year hiatus from the Air Force beginning in 1962, before returning as a Reservist in 1985.

"He was great to work with because he was very approachable," said Staff Sgt. Ralph Sonntag, 439th Accounting and Finance Division. "If you had a question concerning anything about travel or military pay, he could show you where to look for it in the regs," Sonntag added.

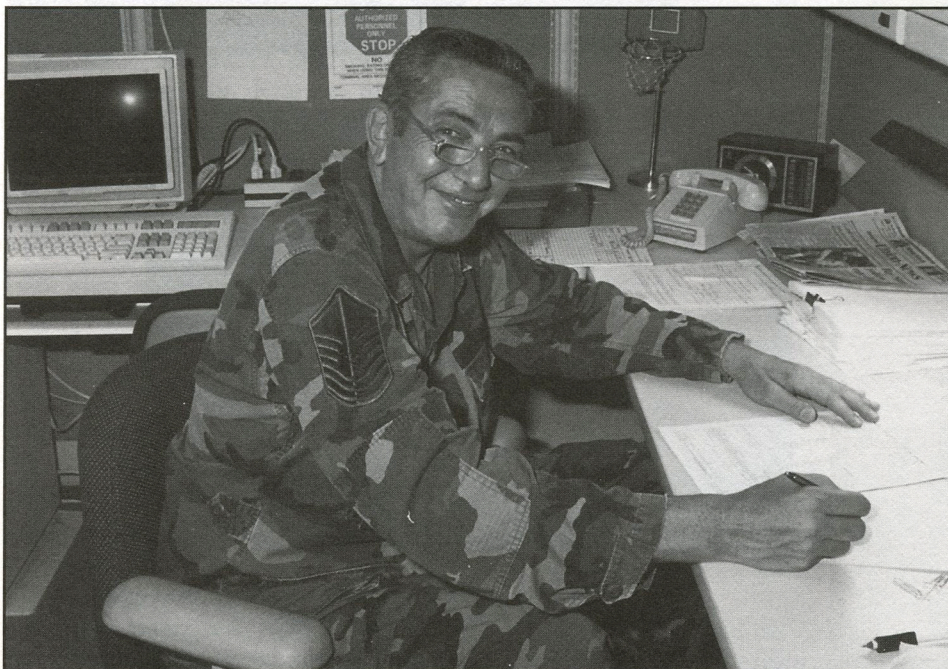
Looking back on his career, Pelter reflected on what made him committed to the mission and enjoy the work he did. "The best part of the job was servicing people and getting them their travel money, especially for all the people going



STOPPING THE CLOCK -- Pelter began his career in the Army in the late 50's. He is shown early in his Air Force career.

and coming back from Desert Storm," said Pelter. "All the people I worked with are good people, that's what I'll miss, the good people."

As for having done anything differently, Pelter said he wouldn't have stayed out of the military for 23 years. But to remain in the Air Force "loop," Pelter is going to remain a member of the Westover Club and the Air Force Sergeants Association.



SERVICE WITH A SMILE -- Pelter served literally thousands of Reservists who came through military pay section with questions or problems.

Ravgiala puts in 40

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

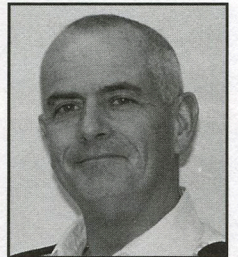
Although MSgt. William Ravgiala of the 439th Maintenance Squadron is retiring next month, he'll continue to make periodic jaunts to Westover from his home in Manchester, N.H.

"I plan on taking a lot of trips in these things," he says, gazing venerably through a second story office window of Hangar 7 at a parked C-5.

Taking advantage of Westover's "Space A" program is one of many things the former structural maintainer will do during his new found free time. Ravgiala, who is staying on at his full time job at AT&T, also plans on volunteering at New Hampshire's community policing program. He plans to continue with volunteer commitments at the Civil Air Patrol.

Ravgiala enlisted in the Marine Corps for four years in 1958, followed by an 18-year stint in the Marine Corps Reserve.

"The most exciting time of my career was serving as a marine on an aircraft carrier," he says. "We carried A4 Skyhawks loaded with nuclear weapons."



After 22 years in the **MSgt. Ravgiala** Marines,

Ravgiala transferred to the Air Force Reserve. Throughout the past 18 years, he spent time at myriad Air Force bases, most of which closed due to downsizing. He finally wound up at Westover in 1994.

"Westover is like a big family; I'll miss the people a lot," he says.

Although Ravgiala had a satisfying career, he doesn't leave the military without concern for the future of the Air Force: "The Air Force just keeps cutting resources and this affects morale," he says, citing the lack of a clear enemy as one culprit.

But he has also seen positive changes, including the surge of women and minorities that have joined the Air Force. He says he's glad issues like discrimination and sexual harassment have been addressed in the military.

New Year readiness check-up

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The adage, 'Don't wait until it's raining to fix your roof,' is still good advice for anyone in uniform. When a notification comes for a recall, deployment or other contingency, it will be too late to start rifling through paperwork to be sure your personal records are up to date.

The personnel specialists of the 439th MPF say family members can be the big losers when reservists wait until it's too late to "fix the roof." They offer some reminders of things that have to be done to keep personal records up to date so that families don't suffer financial loss or delayed benefits.

A first step toward protecting benefits is to periodically review personnel records to ensure that the emergency data card notification to next of kin (DD Form 93), Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI), and Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) reflect such changes as marriage, divorce, birth of a child, or death of a family member.

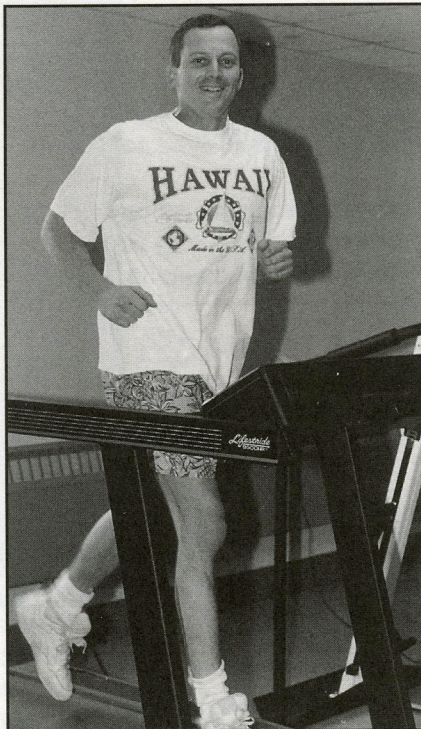
Single parents and those married to another military member must periodically review their family care plan to ensure that family arrangements continue to be valid with caregivers. The checklist includes verifying the accuracy of required documentation, such as the Family Care Certificate (AFform 357), power of attorney and ID cards for eligible family members who are at least 10 years old. It's also smart to review wills and financial arrangements with caregivers.

The personnel specialists remind reservists that they should notify their first sergeant of a change in marital status or the status of a family member so that family plans remain accurate.

Family members can also be protected financially with SGLI coverage. Information is available on how reservists can choose such coverage even when not in military status.

Personnel specialists of the 439th MPF Customer Service Section are available in Bldg. 1875 to help update records or answer questions. Reservists should be prepared to provide such supporting documentation as marriage, birth or death certificates, or divorce decrees.

Post-holiday trimming down



RUN FOR YOUR LIFE -- TSgt. Gary Smith, 337th AS loadmaster, runs the treadmill at the base gym.

If holiday overindulgences have padded your paunch, Westover's fitness center offers a variety of activities to whittle your waist.

In addition to a full line of weights, free and Nautilus, the center has aerobic workout machines including treadmills, Nordic Traks, stair climbers and rowing machines.

The center features a full-court gym and two racquetball courts. Contact the gym (Ext. 3958) for information on intramural basketball and volleyball teams through the winter.

Fitness classes are scheduled for aerobics and karate. Whirlpools and saunas soothe sore muscles after workouts.

If outdoor exercise is your thing, the Four Seasons Rental Store has an extensive array of ski equipment and winter gear.

The base bowling alley has organized leagues, and reasonably priced open bowling.

Don't let Air Force Regulation 35-11 weigh down your new year. Use any or all of the base's recreation facilities to help lighten your load.

Special Ops Command takes over base

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Units from the United States Special Operations command used much of Westover Air Reserve Base as a staging area for a joint training exercise that encompassed most of the northeastern portion of the country during the first two weeks of December. The training involved the insertion, extraction and resupply of forces using Air Force, Army and Marine Corps aircraft and Navy ships.

The nearly 4,000 members who participated in the exercise are assigned to units of the U.S. Special Operations Command, which included elements of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command from Ft. Bragg, N.C.; the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command from Hurlburt Field, Fla.; and the Navy Special Warfare Command from Coronado, Calif.

The exercise included air assaults and airborne operations to familiarize the service members with realistic training in a winter environment. Special Operations forces must be able to deploy anywhere in the world on short notice. The northeast was selected as the site of the exercise because of winter conditions.

A self-contained tent city that housed more than 500 Special Operations members was constructed on Westover's north ramp while another 600 were housed on the floor of the Base Hangar. Support personnel lived in base dormitories.

Night-time flying operations were coordinated with the Federal Aviation Administration and were conducted from coastal New Hampshire, across Massachusetts and Vermont and into upstate New York.

Aircraft used during the training included C-130s, C-141s, C-5s and CH53 helicopters.

Patriot People

Name: Kendra J. Bean
Rank: SrA.
Age: 28
Address: Mt. Vernon, Maine
Unit: 337th Airlift Squadron
Position: Operations Resource Management Specialist
Civilian position: Full-time mom
Favorite food: Seafood
Years of service: 8 years
Favorite sport: Synchronized swimming
Favorite hobby: Listening to music
Ideal vacation: Anywhere without the kids
Best way to relax: Fishing
Preferred entertainment: Tag and lawn sales
Favorite hero: Fred Astaire
Favorite music: Any kind
Favorite movie: *Beauty and the Beast*
Favorite aircraft: "Stealth"
Pet peeve: People who meddle in other people's business
What I would do if I won \$1 million: First, I'd purchase a headstone for brother and father's plot, then clear our credit.



TSgt. W. C. Pope

SrA. Kendra J. Bean

Patriot Praises

Promotions:

TSgt. Aguinaga, Isidro W.
 TSgt. Anderson, Andrew M.S.
 TSgt. Anderson, Guy V.
 TSgt. Barrows, John F.
 TSgt. Batey, Deborah A.
 TSgt. Bathgate, Robert A.
 TSgt. Bergeron, Joseph P.
 TSgt. Bineault, Norman J.
 TSgt. Blackwood, Howard M.
 TSgt. Blake, Robert P.
 TSgt. Bone, Steven P.
 TSgt. Boyer, Daniel P.
 TSgt. Boynton, Richard D.
 TSgt. Bracey, George P.
 TSgt. Brodeur, Paul J.
 TSgt. Brotherton, Peter A.
 TSgt. Brown, Michael J.
 TSgt. Buckhout, Leigh W.
 TSgt. Bulluck, Carlton G.
 TSgt. Burek, Stephen E.
 TSgt. Canfield, Sidney J.
 TSgt. Carson, Richard P.
 TSgt. Case, Ronald S.
 TSgt. Casson, Jeffrey J.
 TSgt. Chapple, Timmy L.
 TSgt. Cirillo, Robert J.
 TSgt. Cloutier, Paul L., Jr.
 TSgt. Coleman, Dorothea V.
 TSgt. Compton, Warren S., III
 TSgt. Craig, Robert N.
 TSgt. Curto, Louis C.
 TSgt. Czarniecki, William J.
 TSgt. Devane, Madeleine M.
 TSgt. Dillon, William B.

TSgt. Donovan, Daniel E.
 TSgt. Edie, Donald G., Jr.
 TSgt. Evelyn, Aidan F.
 TSgt. Fannin, Nevin C.
 TSgt. Ferry, Daniel L.
 TSgt. Fish, Eugene E.
 TSgt. Flynn, Robert F., Jr.
 TSgt. Forde, Timothy A.
 TSgt. Fowler, Teresa A.
 TSgt. Frank, Donald F.
 TSgt. Gagnon, Paul J.
 TSgt. Garrity, James P.
 TSgt. Gelinias, Henry D.
 TSgt. George, Lystrad D.
 TSgt. Gorman, James M.
 TSgt. Greco, Michael V.
 TSgt. Gubber, David P.
 TSgt. Hackett, Michael K.
 TSgt. Hall, Michael A.
 TSgt. Hannaford, Robert G.
 TSgt. Harrison, Thomas J.
 TSgt. Hausman, Paul
 TSgt. Healy, Michael J.
 TSgt. Hickey, Daniel P.
 TSgt. Janusz, Joseph A.
 TSgt. Jenkins, Valerie
 TSgt. Jones, Robert W.
 TSgt. Kelly, Francis X.
 TSgt. Lemelin, Robert E.
 TSgt. Lepsch, Edward J.
 TSgt. MacDonald, Glenn A.
 TSgt. MacLure, Joan E.
 TSgt. Majewski, Robert V., Jr.
 TSgt. Malone, Scott D.
 TSgt. Martin, Richard A.
 TSgt. McCorkel, Michael P.
 TSgt. Menard, Timothy L.

TSgt. Metcalf, Robert F.
 TSgt. Middleton, Jack W.
 TSgt. Mink, Ronald
 TSgt. Moon, Danforth W., Jr.
 TSgt. Morgenstern, Peter T.
 TSgt. Needham, Tracy D.
 TSgt. Neslusan, Paul J.
 TSgt. Newfield, Francis R.
 TSgt. Nii, Richard T.
 TSgt. Norris, Huey R.
 TSgt. Ormerod, Wesley A.
 TSgt. Paradis, Bruce W.
 TSgt. Pelletier, David J.
 TSgt. Perno, Bradley T.
 TSgt. Pietras, Andrew J.
 TSgt. Plushner, James M.
 TSgt. Poteat, James D.
 TSgt. Precht, John J.
 TSgt. Quigley, Joseph T.
 TSgt. Radziewicz, Terry S.
 TSgt. Rooke, Debra T.
 TSgt. Roy, Craig A.
 TSgt. Sauberlich, Erhardt W.
 TSgt. Saunders, Edward A.
 TSgt. Saya, Lynne V.
 TSgt. Schmitter, Mark A.
 TSgt. Scott, David L.
 TSgt. Shea, Michael L.
 TSgt. Sloboda, Katherine M.
 TSgt. Smith, Raymond C.
 TSgt. Smith, Robert W.
 TSgt. Soja, Paul M.
 TSgt. Stebbins, Henry J., III
 TSgt. Strauser, Daniel S.
 TSgt. Trzepacz, Florence W.
 TSgt. Vankruiningen, Daniel
 TSgt. Viel, Robert R.

TSgt. Viens, Ronald R.
 TSgt. Vight, Dennis J.
 TSgt. Winters, Abram L.

Enlistments:

SSgt. Kong, Deron N.
 SSgt. Rivera, Jose O.
 SrA. Martin, Julie L.
 A1C Ceballos, Marcus L.

Reenlistments:

CMSgt. Ploof, Ronald A.
 SMSgt. Begue, Santiago J.
 MSgt. Beachell, Paul
 MSgt. Colby, Mark W.
 MSgt. Pirog, David M.
 MSgt. Sullivan, Thomas E.
 TSgt. Betsold, John P.
 TSgt. Bieri, Mary E.
 TSgt. Degiule, Michael A.
 TSgt. Duntun, Lovell H.
 TSgt. Langevin, John B.
 TSgt. Leydet, Dennis J.
 TSgt. Pollender, Nancy A.
 TSgt. Pope, W.C.
 TSgt. Staszko, Mitchell E.
 TSgt. Vadnais, George H., Jr.
 TSgt. Wooster, Mark N.
 SSgt. Colburn, Robert W.
 SSgt. Cullip, Jason L.
 SSgt. Dorr, Timothy
 SSgt. Greco, Michael V.
 SSgt. Sadakierski, Mark P.
 SSgt. Sedelow, Gerald D.
 SSgt. Stabile, Shane E.

Have a safe New Year

As 1998 makes its debut, take a moment to reflect upon the challenges of the past year. I would characterize that period as fairly intensive. Each of you has faced stressful challenges and your skills have been put to the test. You have given much of yourselves. Heavy tasking, organizational changes, shrinking budgets and personnel turbulence have been the norm.

From my perspective, you have exceeded all requirements. Each of you should be proud of the contributions you have made to our readiness and support of the Air Force mission. Some of the challenges are behind us now, others are still with us and even more lie ahead. I extend my sincere thanks for your dedicated, untiring service. Be proud of the part you played and continue to play.

Along with the new year, comes some worries. We should all be concerned about the potential increase of stress. Commanders and supervisors should be sensitive to potential problems among our people and ensure appropriate support mechanisms are available. There are a variety of resources available to our personnel and their families. Let them know that it is okay to seek help. Providing them with assistance, if and when needed, is not only our job as supervisors and commanders, it is our obligation.

Off-duty safety should be a concern for all of us as weather, alcohol and travel are mixed with varied degrees of success. Although we cannot control the weather, we can use good judgment and control the use of alcohol. It is my sincere hope that none of our members fall victim to an accident this year.

In closing, my staff and I hope this year brings each of you and your families the richest of blessings and joy. Please be safe, stay healthy and have a Happy New Year.

by Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers
Commander, 439th Airlift Wing

EDITORIAL



Brig. Gen. Bankers

'Year of the enlisted force'

Air Mobility Command has selected "Year of the Enlisted Force" as their theme for fiscal year 1998. Because we provide the largest share of our combat ready forces to AMC, this is a unique opportunity for us to focus as well on the enlisted men and women who distinguish themselves daily.

Air Force Reserve Command shares an important common factor with every other military organization; without our enlisted force, we could not exist. The professionalism, technical skill and dedication to duty of these specialists, technicians and first-line managers are key to our combat readiness.

This is an excellent opportunity to publicly recognize the contributions of our enlisted force and for all of us to better understand the important roles they play. Out enlisted corps has been the backbone of the Air Force Reserve from the beginning.

As we celebrate our golden anniversary, I encourage all enlisted reservists to renew commitments to service and professionalism. With a new century around the corner, your continued efforts are crucial to our continued success.

by Maj. Gen. Robert MacIntosh
Commander, AFRC

Briefs

Public Affairs office seeking to fill slot

The 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office is seeking to immediately fill a vacancy for a public affairs officer. Applicants must be commissioned officers, major or below, preferably with at least five years public affairs related experience. The individual must complete a 10-week public affairs course off-station if he/she does not already possess a PA AFSC.

Qualified applicants may apply with cover letter and resume to the 439th AW/PA, 100 Lloyd St., Suite 10, East Wing, Westover ARB, MA 01022-1825 to the attention of Capt. Mike Franco.

Family Readiness gives holiday cheer

Thanks to the generous support and donations from members of the 439th Airlift Wing, dozens of families were able to celebrate the holidays a little bit better this year, with baskets of non-perishable goods prepared by the Family Readiness Office.

Master Sgt. John Sullivan, superintendent for the Family Readiness Center, said about 20 baskets were handed out over Thanksgiving, and about 20 more will be handed out over the Christmas season.

Reservists receive Quarterly awards

The 439th Airlift Wing's Local Awards committee has selected the Airman, NCO and Senior NCO of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 1998.

Honored are: SrA Mark Tourigny of the 439th MXS as Airman of the Quarter; SSgt. William J. Forbes as NCO of the Quarter and MSgt. Thomas E. Cessna as Senior NCO of the Quarter. All three will compete in the annual wing competition.

The committee will next meet on Feb. 7 to select second quarter winners. Nominations are due at QI no later than Feb. 6 in six copies using AF Form 1206 and a PCIII RIP.

Area VIPs tour base

by MSgt. Gordon Newell

Westover Air Reserve Base and the Galaxy Community Council played host to 20 elected officials during a breakfast meeting held at the Westover Club on Dec. 6.

Mayors, City Councilors, Aldermanic Councils and Boards of Selectmen from neighboring cities and towns were invited to the base to educate them about the mission of the 439th Airlift Wing.

"We invited these civic leaders here to open a dialogue with them. We have no secrets here and we want those who live outside our gates to know that we try to be good neighbors," said Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, commander of the 439th AW.

During the breakfast meeting, the general greeted the visitors and explained the wing's mission. Tom O'Donnell, president of the Galaxy Council, which sponsored the breakfast, explained the purpose of the council which is comprised of more than 250 people from area communities and supports the base and wing.

Later, the visitors toured a C-5 Galaxy and got a windshield tour of the base.



TSgt. W.C. Pope

TOUR OF THE GALAXY -- Lt. Col. Peter Gray, 337th AS pilot, explains the operation of the C-5 main landing gear to area elected officials who visited Westover on Dec. 6 as breakfast guests of Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers and the Galaxy Community Council.

PATRIOT



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

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