

PATRIOT

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Col. Martin Mazick: 10th commander of the 439th AW

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The flag of command was passed to Col. Martin M. Mazick, who pledged to his assembled wing, "together we will develop priorities for Westover to take us into the next century." The exchange during the March 7 change of command ceremony in the DC hangar made Mazick the wing's 10th commander as he succeeded Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, who was named Air Force Reserve Command assistant vice commander.

Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie, Jr., 22nd Air Force commander, served as presiding officer. Batbie reminded wing members that Bankers led them to top honors as best Airlift Wing in the 1998 Airlift Rodeo, and he promised that the new commander will "take you farther down the road."

In his first words to his wing men and women, Mazick summed up his emotions as "filled with pride and filled with awe at the responsibility I'm taking on." The new commander asked for the help of every wing member and in return made it clear that he is aware of the burdens on reservists who must balance the needs of family, civilian job and military duty.

"Balancing your needs will ultimately benefit the organization," he said.

He reminded the 439th AW formation that "our job is to do the nation's business." To fulfill that duty, the wing commander is committed to making readiness the wing's top priority, "readiness as a team, as an organization and as an individual." He noted that today's reservists are continually being called to duty and that they must meet the demands of weapons training, mobility requirements and other training. "There is no difference

continued on back page



PASSING THE FLAG — Col. Martin M. Mazick accepts the flag of command from Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie, Jr. as the new commander of the 439th Airlift Wing, as Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, former commander, looks on. Below, visiting dignitaries watch the change-of-command ceremony with wing members in formation in the background.

*photos by
MSgt. Sandi Michon*



Peacekeeping

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Forty-five members of the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron became "U.S. Peacekeepers" for two weeks in February.

The peacekeeping scenario was the backdrop of the Joint Readiness Training held at Fort Polk, La on Feb. 3-17.

Westover's medical reservists joined thousands of Army personnel in extremely realistic training that required them to provide medical support for troops trying to keep warring factions apart.

"The training is considered the "master's course" that tests your career field in realistic wartime conditions," said 1st Lt. Dino White, 439th AES officer who attended the training for the first time. "It was 24-hours-a-day, with no let up for two weeks," he said, and elaborated on digging battlefield positions, defending their area, using radio transmissions to coordinate airlift for casualties, field living conditions and MREs.

It was unanimous – showers were the most missed amenity during the training. "I was glad to get out of the 'box'", White said, referring to the term used for the battle area. "We left with a much better understanding of what our role would be in an actual wartime situation."

Reservists attending the course use their self critiques to rate their skills and to determine what additional training may be necessary at the unit level.



photo by MSgt. Brian Major

ONE IF BY LAND, TWO IF BY AIR — Army troops board a C-130 for evacuation, above. Below, AES members load "casualties" onto a truck for transport to the flightline.

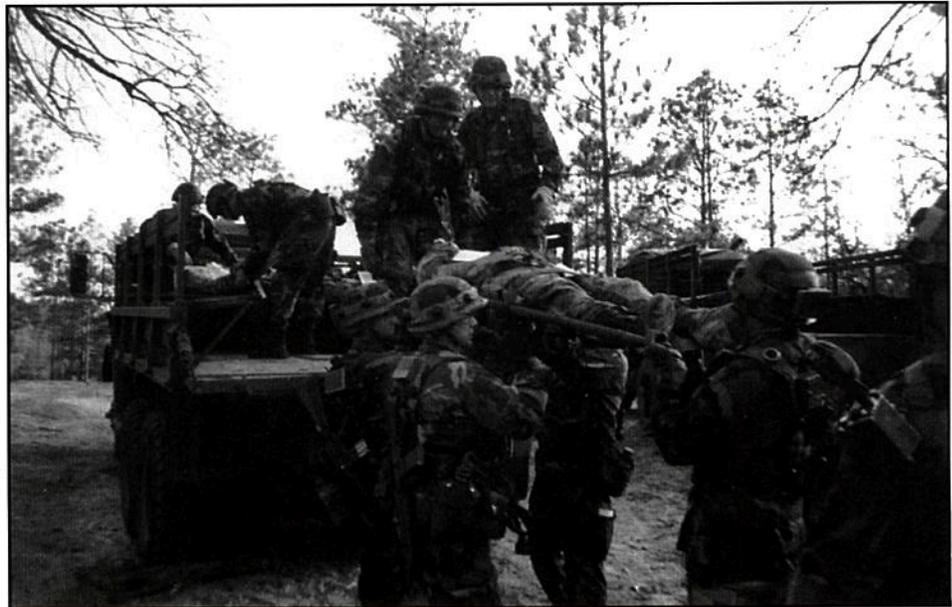


photo by Capt. Diane Murphy

PATRIOT

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photo by MSgt. Brian Major

CLEAN SHOT — SrA. Frank Turcotte (left) and SrA. Scott Loughman clean their M-16s as SMSgt. Kathy Skalecki looks on.

Base speakers program reaches out to community

Article and photo
by MSgt. Sandi Michon

More than 100 hands shot into the air when Maj. Mika Palmer asked, "What is your dream?"

Palmer, dressed in his Air Force flight suit, walked among the 200 students at Duggan Middle School in Springfield on March 5 as kids clamored for his attention.

"I want to be a wrestler," said one. "I want to be a teacher," said another. There were a few "I want to be a pilot" dreams offered into the microphone. The dreams were as varied as the students in the audience, but Palmer funneled them all through the sieve of education.

Palmer, a Springfield native, shared his own boyhood dreams of being a doctor and a pilot. Westover's chief of aerospace medicine now has a pilot's license and is an orthopedist in Princeton, N.J. He also played professional basketball while attending medical school in Italy.

Throughout his slide presentation, he stressed the need for education and highlighted the steps needed to attain a dream — desire, hard work, focus, discipline, setting goals — and most of all — staying in school. He used humor and spontaneity to keep their attention and field their questions after the presentation. To the wrestler-wannabe, he still stressed education. "You need to be very good at math to manage all the money you'll make," he quipped.

Questions ran the gamut of fear of flying, to how much money Palmer made, to how his parents got here from Cuba.

"Nothing is impossible," Palmer stressed.

Duggan's principal, Thomas J. Keating, himself a Navy reservist, was grateful for the assembly designed to motivate the students. "We've been trying for two years to make this happen," he said.

Palmer is only one of a cadre of Westover reservists who serve as U.S. Air Force ambassadors to the surrounding communities. According to Monica Lindberg, base public affairs assistant, an assortment of reservists reached an accumulated audience of more than 5,000 people in 1998. The audience can be young school students, veterans' groups, local chambers of commerce, career days at colleges, parades, Rotary groups or even one-on-one interviews for special projects.

Joe Kara, base firefighter, presents a fire safety and burn prevention program to local



MOTIVATING MENTOR — Maj. (Dr.) Mika Palmer, 439th MDS chief of aerospace medicine speaks in March to an auditorium full of students at Duggan Middle School in Springfield, Mass.

schools and childcare centers. He has already presented to 720 children in the first two months of 1999.

"We have such a wealth of talent at Westover. It is a win-win situation when we can support the community that supports the base," said Gordon Newell, base chief of

public affairs.

Anyone interested in tapping the speakers program, or participating, should call Newell or Lindberg at the public affairs office at 557-2020 (DSN 589-2020) or fax to 413-557-2011.



RETIRED, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN — SSgt. Wade Chmielinski led a group of Westover Base Advisory Council volunteers to the Holyoke (Mass.) Soldiers Home recently. Reservists spent time visiting the veterans housed there. (photo courtesy of Chmielinski)

Unit of the month

Aerial ports keep cargo moving

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Worldwide airlift is the 439th Airlift Wing's most important mission and it's the men and women of the three aerial port squadrons who keep the cargo moving. The slogans of the 85th, 48th and 42nd Aerial Port Squadron's sum up how the aerial porters feel. They tell the world: "We Move the World," "Pride and Professionalism," and "A Patriot Tradition."

Members of the three squadrons take pride in the fact that they have earned a reputation for living up to the spirit of their unit slogans, whether serving at home or away on annual tour.

"Every year sites around the world submit requirements and we help fill their shortfalls," said MSgt. Jerry Grasso of the 58th APS.

"There's a dedication to the mission when this unit deploys. The attitude is that we're here to help you. You tell us what needs to be done and we'll make sure it gets done. After the first day or two, it's a seamless transition," he said.

"We're world-wide tasked and it helps us to work in ports where we'll probably be serving," Grasso said.

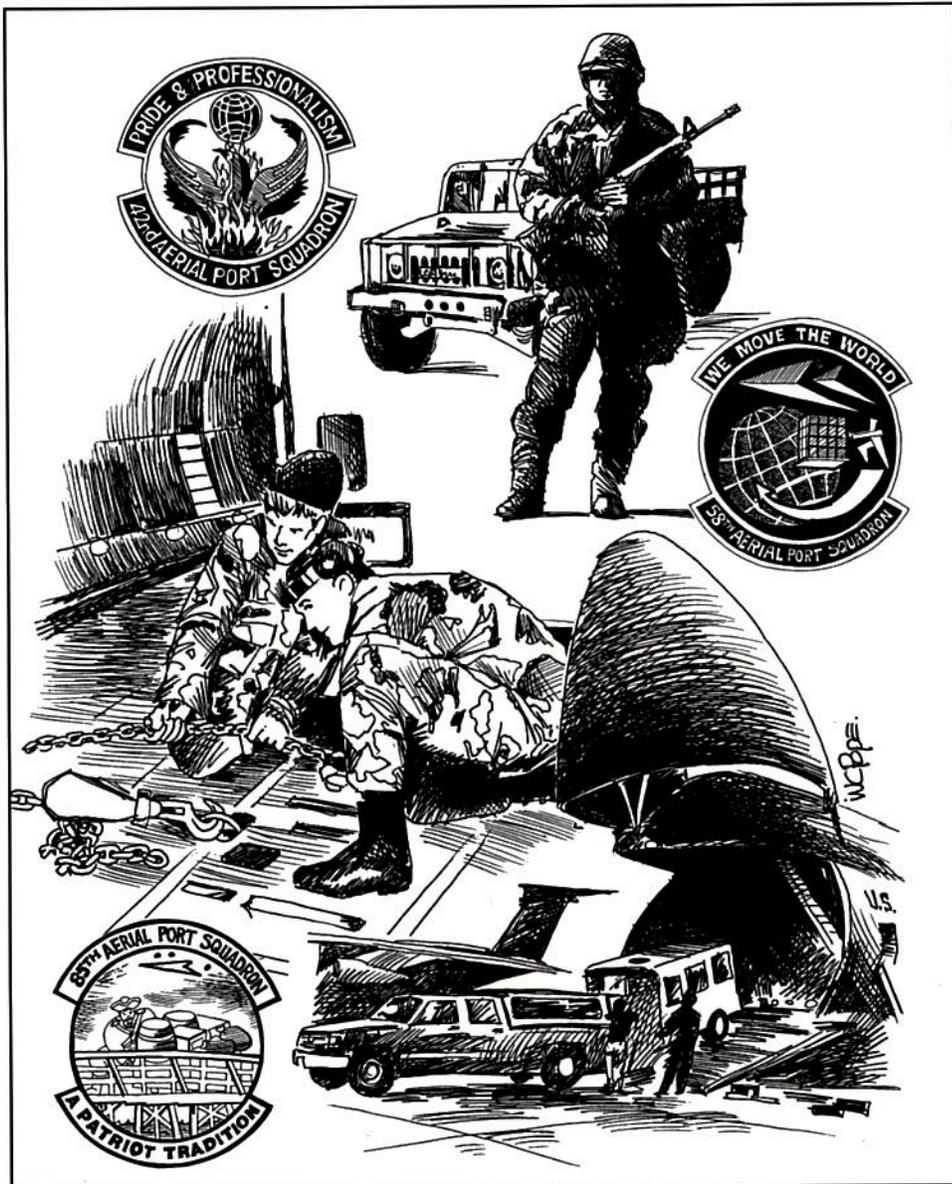
"Our people are always welcomed where they have gone. Our guys take charge," said MSgt. Norman Hoskeer, 58th APS first sergeant.

"We've received lots of letters of appreciation from other units which we support," said MSgt. Michael Brunetti, 42nd APS first sergeant.

The aerial porters of the 85th APS at Hanscom AFB showed what they could do when they loaded four humanitarian airlift missions to Honduras in response to the devastation of Hurricane Mitch.

"As a unit we have a high morale and real dedication to getting the job done," said Maj. Paul Bailey, 85th APS operations officer.

The Hanscom aerial porters get plenty of experience with "on-demand" missions for C-5s, KC-135s, C-141s and C-130s. They also send aerial porters to Boston's Logan airport to train with Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) aircraft. With 217 members, the 85th APS is the largest aerial port squadron in



22nd Air Force.

Last September the 85th APS conducted a successful ORI with the Air Guard's 101st AW, which flies KC-135s out of Bangor, Maine.

They have a 25-K and a 10-K loader, but don't have a hangar. Squadron members come to Westover for clinic, CBPO and other support. Maj. Alan Harrington, who served in the 42nd APS for many years, commands the 85th APS.

Westover's 42nd and 58th Aerial Port Squadron's plan to share Hangar 3 when renovations are completed about mid-2000. Renovations include installation of a passenger service area, new overhead doors, classrooms, a fleet storage area, laundry facilities and a x-ray machine for inspecting baggage.

The 42nd APS has 180 members and

the 58th APS has 130 aerial porters. Their jobs include TOC command and control for operations, cargo handling, aircraft services, a ramp section which operates K-loaders and forklifts and a special handling section which certifies hazardous materials.

The two aerial port squadrons form mission support teams to provide seven-days-a-week mission coverage at Westover.

"We're now more responsible for force protection. Everyone participates in ATSO (Ability to Survive and Operate) training. Everyone qualifies on the M-16 and we do perimeter defense," Grasso said.

One of the best testaments to importance of the work done by the aerial porters is the fact that they are offered a hefty re-enlistment bonus. A staff sergeant or below with less than 10 years of service can receive up to \$5,000 for re-enlisting for six years.



(photos by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

Irish eyes are smiling



NORTHERN HOSPITALITY — Thanks to the generosity of Westover's Galaxy Community Council, the Irish Air Corps Pipe Band, shown here, performed in Holyoke's St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 21, which draws up to 300,000 spectators. The Galaxy Council donated \$3,000 to pay for the band's stay in Western Mass.

Reservist uses Heimlich maneuver to save life

by SSgt. Nancy Robbins

It wasn't a pat on the back that saved his bosses' life, it was actually the Heimlich maneuver. But SSgt. Glen Kvadus earned a pat on the back, and then some, for his quick actions.

Kvadus, a medical technician in the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, says he was in the "right place at the right time" when his supervisor at his civilian workplace started choking on a slice of an orange.

Instinctively, Kvadus recognized the woman's signs of distress, and swiftly reached under her ribs and gave two quick upward thrusts.

But then, things went downhill.

Instead of dislodging the fruit, Karin Speier lost consciousness. Kvadus called to co-workers, telling them to dial 9-1-1.

Perhaps she relaxed after she blacked out, because after a few more Heimlich thrusts, Kvadus said the orange "just popped out."

"It all happened in the span of about three minutes," Kvadus said. "I came around the corner and saw her in obvious distress,



"Situations like this make me realize how valuable my Air Force training is."

SSgt. Glen Kvadus

and just snapped into action."

Speier began breathing on her own, as emergency personnel arrived.

The reservist credits his Air Force training for turning December's crisis turn into a happy ending.

"By the time I finished my year of basic technical school, and the seasoning training at hospitals and clinics, I knew I was prepared for just about anything.

"I just never thought it would happen in my civilian office environment. Situations like this make me realize just how valuable my Air Force training is," Kvadus said.

ASTS Commander Col. Sarah Waterman says it came as no surprise to her Kvadus rose to the occasion. "He's just a really sharp troop, technically, and an overall super person, to boot," Waterman added.

SSgt. Kvadus works at United Healthcare in Glastonbury, CT. He received recognition from the Town Council, accolades at work, and an Air Force Achievement Medal from his unit for his quick actions. Most importantly, Kvadus says, is the invaluable knowledge he takes through life - born, in part, from his Air Force training.



Photo courtesy of the Hartford Courant

A FINAL SALUTE — Hartford, Conn. police officer Jeff Antuna, who is also a staff sergeant with the 439th Airlift Wing as a loadmaster, pays respects to his friend and fellow police officer, Brian Aselton,

who was slain in the line of duty on Jan. 23. (See page 7) On Feb. 9, Antuna was credited with preventing a suicide. The man plunged from a Hartford overpass 50 feet above when Antuna broke his fall.

Reservist/police officer, prevents suicide

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Jeff Antuna's gut instinct saved a man's life.

And it reminded him of a rugby match.

The 41-year-old Westover reservist and police officer in Hartford, Conn., was on duty at 3 p.m. on Feb 9 when the call about a suicide jumper came in.

Less than seven minutes later, Francisco Morales, plunged head-first off the Columbus Boulevard Overpass in Hartford toward the pavement 50 feet below. Just as he was about to hit the ground, Antuna moved forward and caught him, breaking Morales' fall and saving his life.

"It was like a rugby tackle," said the Westover staff sergeant. "He was head first, arms out and he hit me right in the left chest and shoulder."

Antuna had responded with four officers to the bridge over a busy Hartford thruway. As Antuna blocked off traffic below and radioed for assistance, other officers tried to coax Morales off the bridge. Within moments, Morales jumped.

"It was pure instinct," said Antuna, a 337th Airlift Squadron loadmaster. "There was no time to think it through. What was I going to do? Stand there and watch him hit?"

"The impact was too much for me to actually catch him," Antuna said. "He hit me and drove us both to the ground." The jumping man, about 32 years old, weighed about 170 pounds, authorities said.

Antuna was left with bruises and lacerations, while Morales suffered a severe head injury and went into cardiac arrest. Being the obvious first person at the scene, Antuna began CPR. He and fellow officer Sgt. Steven Hauser were able to get him breathing again before transport to The Hartford Hospital.

"Being a city cop, my average workday is filled with diverse experiences. You never know what's going to happen," said Antuna.

"Expecting the unexpected is the norm." Antuna attributes this conditioning to his reflex response to Morales' plight.

Doctors told police that Antuna's effort saved Morales from certain death. Hartford police say it was a heroic act. They plan to award Antuna with the Chief's Medal of Honor.

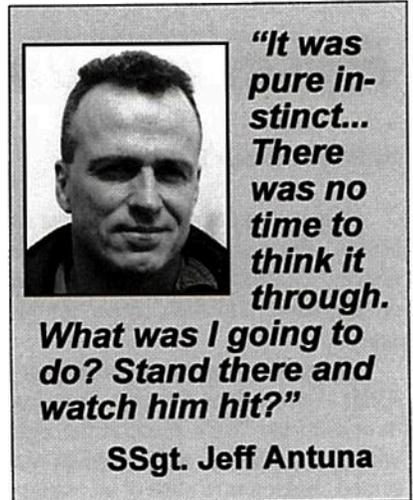
Antuna is quick to deflect the praise. "If Bobby Alfaro (a fellow officer), wasn't on top of the bridge keeping him up there, I wouldn't have gotten there in time to break his fall."

Morales' family offered their gratitude to Antuna. "He is a guardian angel who saved my brother's life," said a tearful Jose Colon.

Released from the hospital with a neck brace and wounded head, the recovering Morales joined his family in offering thanks. "There are no words to express what you've done for me and my family," he said.

Asked how he felt about the experience, Antuna paid tribute to a fallen friend, East Hartford police officer Brian Aselton, who was slain two weeks prior.

"When Brian was killed, that was the worst thing that ever happened to me emotionally," he said. "Whenever I go through an experience like this, Brian is there with me in spirit."



"It was pure instinct... There was no time to think it through."

What was I going to do? Stand there and watch him hit?"

SSgt. Jeff Antuna

Police officer's death touches many at Westover

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

The bullet that felled East Hartford police officer Brian Aselton in January ricocheted through his family and community and wounded the hearts of many at Westover.

Brian was a Marine Corps reservist, a police officer and the brother of TSgt. Johnathan Aselton, a 439th Airlift Control Flight loadmaster and fellow police officer.

The Aselton brothers are part of a sizable group of citizens that serve their country and their communities in an era of growing uncertainty and accelerated risk. Yet, ironically, as personal risk increases in both service arenas, sadly public respect appears to be diminishing, observed Aselton.

Between 50 to 100 Westover reservists work in law enforcement as civilians and Brian's death is a stark reminder of the potential sacrifice each might make. As John grieves the loss of his brother, he maintains an even greater vigilance as he works the streets of Newington, Conn as a police officer. "My brother completed the police academy class right after me," he recalled, staring down at the floor.

For the Aselton family, serving is a tradition. Brian was a Marine, John is an Air Force reservist, and Brian's twin sister, Carolyn serves in the Air National Guard at Barnes. "I'm so glad my father kept bugging us to have our pictures taken in uniform," John said, making eye contact. "Now it means so much to me to have the photo."

After Brian's death, Connecticut communities rallied around the Aseltons. John



TSgt. John Aselton

termed the community support "incredible," which included cards, letters, and donations. A dinner was organized for the Aseltons and the East Hartford police, and a local school donated funds for two additional bullet-proof vests. (See box for scholarship information.)

"Brian's death made people realize what risks we encounter everyday," he said "Brian was professional, honest and he served his community and his country with a lot of integrity," said John, who was likely Brian's friend and role model.

John proudly explained that Brian was recently honored at the O'Connell Elementary School in East Hartford when children were recognized through the "Character Counts" school program. Selected students were awarded a trophy inscribed with: "Character Counts # 251" — Brian Aselton's police badge number.

Memorial scholarship

The family of Brian Aselton has set up a scholarship fund to honor his memory. The scholarship will be available to the children of East Hartford and South Windsor Connecticut police officers who wish to pursue careers in law enforcement and/or police explorer scouts from those two towns.

Donations may be sent to: First Federal Savings, 481 Buckland Rd., S.Windsor, Conn. 06074.

Law enforcement servants like John Aselton are sprinkled throughout the units that make up the 439th Airlift Wing. "There is a natural link between police work and military training," observed Capt. Tim Donnelly, 439th Security Forces Flight officer. Aspects of discipline, rank structure, firearms training, tactical training, danger and risk are common to both fields, said Donnelly. "Foremost is probably the aspect of serving — of protecting other people," he said, referring to the parallel motivations of police work and the military.

TSgt. Martha Costa agrees. She has spent 23 years in the Air Force and has 12 years under her holster as a police officer in Somerville, Mass. "Regardless of the job, the risk factor is still an issue," she said. She recalled an incident that occurred while she was a clerk/dispatcher at the station. "My dad thought I was so much safer at the station until a guy came in and attacked my co-worker with a knife. The attacker ended up dead, but it really makes you think," she said. She has worked six years with domestic violence cases and has been on drug raids, "going in with guns drawn."

Costa is now a community police officer and her job includes working in local schools.

"Respect is way down in our high schools," she observed. "It's particularly unsettling when you have seen fellow officers wounded, maimed or killed serving their communities," Costa said.

Thankfully, it isn't fame or glory that keeps men and women serving their communities and/or country. And hopefully, Brian Aselton's legacy will serve to resurrect public appreciation for those whose lives are potentially on the line day-in, day-out, each and every year.

FAMILY AFFAIR — The Aselton family posed, in uniform, for a family picture this past year. From left to right: John, Newington, Conn. police officer, Brian, East Hartford police officer, and Carolyn, Air National Guard reservist.



Westover airman receives NCO academy accolades

by Capt. Mike Franco

SSgt. David A. Hawksley placed top in his class of 65 students at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy held at Robins Air Force Base.

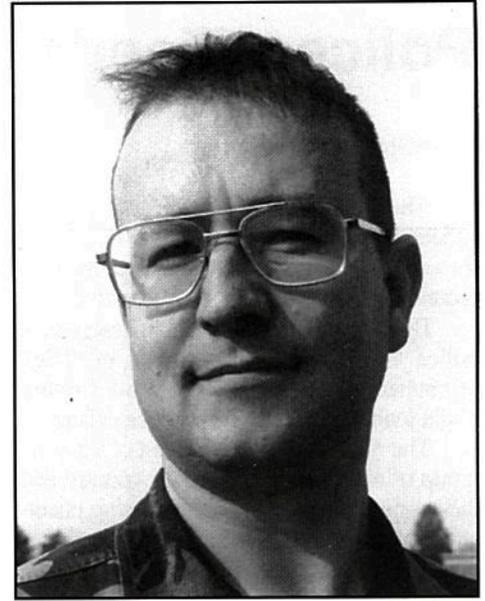
Hawksley, who lives in Springfield, Mass. and is a member of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, graduated from the six-week course Feb. 12.

Hawksley earned the Academic Achievement Award by maintaining the highest level of scholastic excellence in four graded areas during his academy class. The areas included two major tests, a paper and a speech.

According to CMSgt. Stephen L. Johns,

academy commandant, an individual who receives the honor is set apart as a "leader of leaders" and is a role model for others in the Air Force. The NCO Academy course gives students valuable information on supervision, leadership, team-building skills, as well as military history and the profession of arms.

"I loved the course," said Hawksley, who recommends in-resident academy courses for all enlisted people. He advises potential attendees not to be anxious about taking the course because the instructors help students feel comfortable by giving them the time and "tools" to learn and practice their skills.



SSgt. David A. Hawksley

Chief's Council offers scholarships

Having trouble paying your college bills? The Westover Chief's Council may be able to help.

Once again this year, the Chief's are offering 10 scholarships worth \$350, to any current 439th Airlift Wing enlisted member or their dependents.

All one need to do to qualify for a scholarship is meet the following criteria:

- Have been accepted to or are presently attending any accredited college or university, carrying a minimum of six credit hours per semester.

- If entering college, you must have maintained a scholastic rating of at least a 'B' average or better during your senior year of high school.

- If in college, you must have at least a 2.75 cumulative average.

Medal recognizes military volunteers

The military wants to recognize the efforts of military volunteers who often perform many hours of service in their communities.

The Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal honors members' community service, said Army Maj. Bob Stone, deputy director of outreach programs in the Defense Department's Reserve Affairs Office.

The medal came into being in 1991 as a result of President Bush's "Thousand Points of Light" campaign to encourage volunteerism. Stone said the medal recognizes the countless hours military members spend helping their communities.

All service members are eligible for the award, but most know nothing of it. The medal can only be earned through "sustained" community service, Stone added.

"You don't get it for coaching a soccer team for one season, but you could qualify if you work with youth groups for a number of years," he said.

The award is not for duties service members perform as part of their jobs. "This award recognizes the effort you put in to your community, not your unit," Stone said.

Contact your unit's awards and decoration monitor for more information.

Workshop for couples scheduled for May 8

The Family Readiness Center and Wing "Center for Excellence" are co-sponsoring a 'Couples Talk' workshop, on May 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Base Chapel.

The workshop is limited to 25 couples (married or considering marriage) on a first-come, first-served basis. Cou-

ples are asked to bring a potluck lunch item. Each couple will receive a copy of Dr. Stephen Covey's book, "7 Habits to Highly Effective Families."

To make reservations or seek further information, call the Family Readiness Center at (413) 557-3024.

Retirements leave big void in fuels branch

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Westover lost close to a century of experience when fuels specialists and long-time friends Lloyd Hess and Wilfred Mathieu retired in January. The two first wore Air Force blue in the early 1950s, served together here as master sergeants and returned as civilian fuels specialists.

Hess retired as chief of Base Civil Engineer's Liquid Fuels Maintenance Branch and Mathieu's last duty here was as Management and Systems Chief in Base Supply. Their careers and friendship survived war and peace, including a 1972 deployment to Guam in support of the Operation Arc Light bombing of Vietnam and Westover's 1990-91 around-the-clock Desert Shield/Desert Storm airlift operations.

Harry Truman was president when Worcester teenager Wilfred Mathieu went to Air Force boot camp at Sampson AFB, near Ithaca, NY in 1951. Hess joined the Air Force from his native Tennessee in February, 1954 and was first stationed at Hanscom AFB, fueling B-29s, F-89s and F-80s.

Both served more than 20 years before retiring from active duty in the early 1970s.

Wilfred Mathieu

Mathieu's first duty station was as a fuels specialist at the former Williams AFB, near Chandler, Ariz.

In the 1960s he served two tours at Wheelus, AFB in Libya. Wheelus was a training base for NATO fighters before Libya's king was overthrown by Muammar Khadafy who ousted the Americans and British.

Mathieu came to Westover in 1969 when the Strategic Air Command's 99th Bomb Wing flew B-52s here. When wing members deployed to Guam in 1972 for Operation Arc Light, Mathieu went as first sergeant of a security police unit.

Arc Light was one of the many times when Mathieu's and Hess's careers intersected. Hess went to Guam as a fuels specialist.

In the 1950s, Hess participated in Operation Red Wing, a series of B-36 and B-52 atomic bomb tests at Eniwetok in the Pacific.

Hess served in Korea in 1969-70 during a time of heightened tensions following North Korea's seizure of the Navy ship Pueblo and crew.

Lloyd Hess

Hess first came to Westover on active duty 1965 and took a civilian fuels position here following active duty retirement in 1974. He had a prominent role in the development of new equipment and systems when the wing converted from C-130s to the C-5 and the ongoing expansion of fuel services.

Mathieu retired from active duty here as a supply squadron first sergeant in 1973 and became a civilian fuel manager. In 1995 he was named chief of Management and Systems.

For 30 years in uniform and as civilians, Hess and Mathieu worked together in fuels. "Every time he went TDY, I'd do the same. I'd go beside him," Mathieu said.

"It was fantastic working with this guy," he said.

When Westover went into high gear for Desert Shield and



Drawing by TSgt. W. C. Pope

FRIENDS RETIRE — Wil Mathieu, left, and Lloyd Hess retired from the Westover ranks early this year, taking with them almost a century of experience with them.

Desert Storm, "we were handling 20 aircraft a day. He kept the mechanical side of the house running and I kept the logistics side going.

"There were some hairy times, but we got it done. The fuel would come in the front door and go out the back door. It was hectic," Mathieu said.

He gives credit to everyone in fuels. "I'm real proud of all my people. We serviced a lot of aircraft and never once had a delay charged to us," he said.

Both Mathieu and Hess reside in Springfield.

Hess and his wife, Ellen, are the parents of three sons and two daughters. In retirement, he will have more time for volunteer work with the Pioneer Valley Special Olympics. He also plans to travel to Canada and visit family in Virginia.

Mathieu and his wife, Ruth, have seven children.

"Friends at Base Supply have tacked on us the names "Winnebago Willie" and "Ramblin' Ruth" since we bought a Winnebago," he said. They will take it to visit his relatives in Quebec.

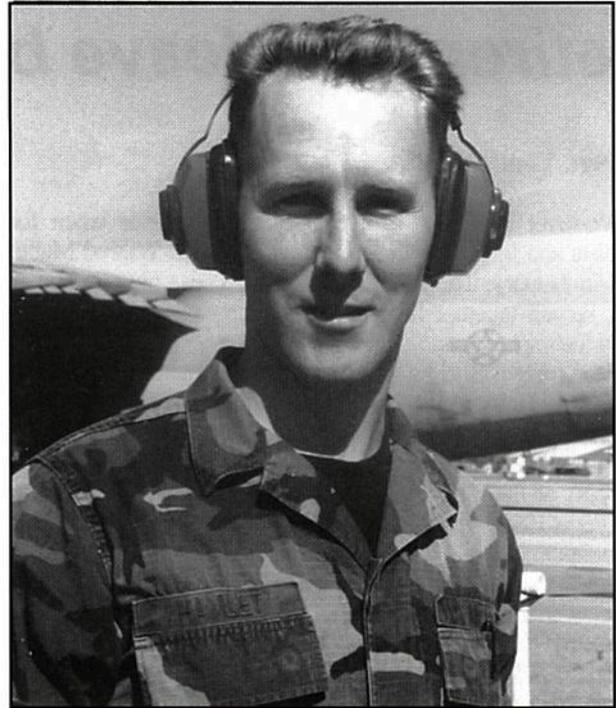
One thing the two old friends will share is good memories of those with whom they worked.

"I'll miss the people, there are a lot of good people," Hess said.

"Mathieu rates Hess as among the good people of Westover. "Lloyd would do anything for you. I can't say enough. I just wish he wouldn't take me TDY every time," Mathieu said.

Patriot People

Name: Mike Hamlet
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 34
Address: Milford, Mass.
Unit: 85 APS
Position: Special handling
Civilian position: Letter carrier
Favorite food: Italian
Years of service: 16
Favorite sport: Cycling
Favorite hobby: Woodworking
Ideal vacation: Trip to Italy
Best way to relax: Go for bike ride
Preferred entertainment: Dinner and dancing
Favorite music: Top 40 or dance
Favorite movie: *Patch Adams*
Favorite aircraft: C-17
Pet peeve: People who don't do their best
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Spend half and invest half



TSgt. W. C. Pope

SSgt. Mike Hamlet

Patriot Praises

Promotions

CMSgt. Budenas, John M.
 SMSgt. McGee, Kirk A.
 SMSgt. Sobczyk, John J.
 MSgt. Breedlove, Frances M.
 MSgt. Delia, Guy F.
 MSgt. Woods, Patrice M.
 TSgt. Beaudin, Philip C.
 TSgt. Bodley, Keith A.
 TSgt. Brooks, William F., III
 TSgt. Carver, Tammy
 TSgt. Cloutier, Paul L., Jr.
 TSgt. Delaney, Otis, Jr.
 TSgt. Doty, Richard M.
 TSgt. Faucher, Norman A.
 TSgt. Gallagher, John
 TSgt. Malie, Patrick F.
 TSgt. Malone, Francis J.
 TSgt. Mercier, Arthur H.
 TSgt. Moquin, Liam S.
 TSgt. Nunnally, Vonsicia S. C.
 TSgt. Olbrys, Peter J.
 TSgt. Otto, Danette
 TSgt. Prada, Ronald
 TSgt. Prinz, Roger P.
 TSgt. Richardson, William
 TSgt. Ritchens, Euclid B.
 TSgt. Roy, Karen A.
 TSgt. Sackett, Gregory J.
 TSgt. Trainor, Bruce S.
 TSgt. Vincent, Edward R., Jr.
 TSgt. Watkins, Dewey R.
 SSgt. Cates, Jerry L.
 SSgt. Folmsbee, Geoffrey
 SSgt. Frazier, Alvino
 SSgt. Frieswick, David H.
 SSgt. Nowak, Mark J.
 SSgt. Obrey, Chad E.
 SSgt. Trudeau, John D.
 SSgt. Vitti, John
 SrA. Coache, Carolyn A.

SrA. Dasilva, Michael
 SrA. Stapleward, Genetta
 SrA. Tiberi, Roberto
 SrA. Young, Jason
 A1C Lyman, Shawn P.
 Amn. Bailey, Michael J.
 Amn. Marini, Jeffrey C.
 Amn. Ryals, Amber L.

PEP Promotions

CMSgt. Malek, Randy J.
 SMSgt. Tryba, Bradley S.
 SMSgt. Wittman, Clifford M.
 MSgt. Belanger, Kenneth R.
 MSgt. Cahill, Kevin P.
 MSgt. Dapaixao, Airton D.
 MSgt. Matteson, Gary L.
 TSgt. Barboza, Paul J.
 TSgt. Lockwood, Mark E.
 TSgt. Marowski, Kenneth J.
 TSgt. Mick, William K.
 TSgt. Powell, Kimberly A.
 TSgt. Ray, Manuel J.
 TSgt. Trombley, Kevin F.

Enlistments

SSgt. Kovendy, Frank J.
 SSgt. Labreck, Todd W.
 SSgt. Mazzey, Christopher D.
 SSgt. Muller, Robert F.
 A1C Clark, Lisa D.
 A1C Grzyb, Rafal P.
 A1C McGrail, Wesley A.
 A1C Mondriguez, Rivera R.
 A1C Zayas, Jose A., Jr.
 AB Sturdivant, Syrina M.

Reenlistments

MSgt. Beckman, Joseph A.
 MSgt. Burnell, Timothy A.
 MSgt. McGee, Kirk A.
 MSgt. Moore, Wayne A.

MSgt. Reed, Scott E.
 MSgt. Silcott, Vance S.
 TSgt. Baldwin, Ronald C.
 TSgt. Boynton, Richard D.
 TSgt. Faust, Peter A.
 TSgt. Ferreira, Steven D.
 TSgt. Hendricks, Teresa I.
 TSgt. Perno, Bradley T.
 TSgt. Shannon, John J., Jr.
 TSgt. Sneed, Robert R., Jr.
 TSgt. Taylor, Keith M.
 TSgt. Viel, Robert R.
 TSgt. Wood, Jeanpierre
 SSgt. Brown, Eric R.
 SSgt. Canuel, Yvonne M.
 SSgt. Cenotti, Daniel L.
 SSgt. Dukette, Lyn F.
 SSgt. Flynn, James M.
 SSgt. Gustafson, Lisa A.
 SSgt. Harris, Kenyatta L.
 SSgt. Hart, Charles J.
 SSgt. Larson, Wesley G.
 SSgt. Luby, Robert F.
 SSgt. Malie, Patrick F.
 SSgt. Savage, Steven P.
 SSgt. Sklarski, Eric J.
 SSgt. Syriac, Phillip M.
 SrA. Marsh, William L.
 SrA. Overly, Patrick R.
 SrA. Taylor, James A.
 SrA. Trumble, Scott E.

Retirements

MSgt. Dempsey, George M.
 MSgt. Dobson, Paul S.
 TSgt. Burns, Holly J.
 TSgt. Donovan, Daniel E.
 TSgt. Lucas, Jack A.
 TSgt. Vaughan, Heidi
 TSgt. Wells, David L.
 Sgt. Chapdelaine, William E., II

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. William E. Baird, Jr. 439 MSS
 (second award)

MSgt. James E. Beauregard 439 CES

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt. Thomas N. Allocco 439 AW
 (second award)

MSgt. Lori J. Martinez 439 MSS
 (second award)

TSgt. Gregory A. Libby 439 MSS
 (second award)

TSgt. Heidi Vaughn 439 AGS

Air Force Achievement Medal

SSgt. Amy L. Azevedo 439 CES

SSgt. James H. Moynahan 42 APS

Balancing two lives

My closet holds a mishmash of military and civilian clothes. The camouflage BDU top, sleeves already rolled, butts up next to my loud yellow Tommy Hilfiger shirt. Each side balances out my closet, just as each side balances out my life.

It's the same balance many reservists maintain. Sometimes it's tough to squeeze both sides together. The combination weighs down the old oak-clothing rod almost to the breaking point. Then I have to pull something off the rack from the military or civilian side: one less man-day, an hour less of class-prep.

Temporarily. To keep the balance.

Most times, though, the balance works. I teach eighth graders, and being a reservist makes me a better teacher. The students enjoy hearing stories of simulated snipers or fake blood during war games. They liked seeing my target filled with holes from 9-millimeter handgun training. Beyond those war-game events, however, my experiences also help me pass on to my students the notion that there's a big world out there. Other people live differently from them. It makes them less prone to believe, as adolescents tend to, that the sun rises and sets in their boot heels.

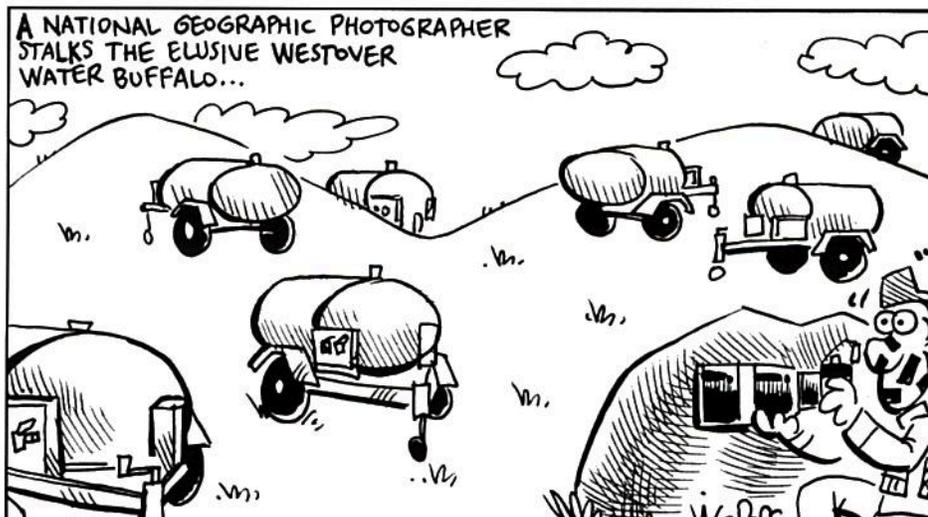
On the other side, being a teacher makes me a better reservist. At school I teach writing, and try to imbue young people with good lifelong habits of reading, thinking and speaking well. I try, ultimately, to help my students reach their dreams, or at least to be good enough to reach them, when those dreams come along. As an officer, I write, and I try to help a more mature audience reach their potential. (Of course, no one at Westover throws spitballs behind my back or asks to go to the bathroom a dozen times a day.)

So both sides exist in balance. It's not always neat—like the bottom of my closet, where my black combat boots lie on top of that crazy blue Hawaiian shirt my wife hopes I'll throw away.

But each side helps maintain the balance.

COMMENTARY

By Capt. Jim Bishop
Public Affairs Craftsman



Briefs

Base Advisory Council looking for members

Westover's Base Advisory Council is looking for people who would like to make a difference. If you are between the ranks of AB and TSgt and are in good standing with your squadron, the BAC is interested in making you a member.

Responsibilities include working closely with the Wing Commander, Chiefs Council and First Sergeants Association on enlisted quality of life issues. They also vote on Quarterly Award and Yearly Award packages and are members of the NCO Leadership Development Program Distinguished Guest Panel. If interested, talk to your first sergeant or call SSgt. Wade Chmielinski at ext. 2799.

Volunteers needed for Korean exercise

Air Force Reservists interested in participating in Ulchi Focus Lens '99 in Korea, have until May 15 to apply.

Headquarters Pacific Air Force at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, is seeking volunteers for the annual joint exercise scheduled for August.

To apply, reservists will need a letter from their unit commander, giving name, rank, Air Force specialty code, security clearance, unit of assignment and PAS code certify eligibility. The letter must be submitted to HQ AFRC/DOOX, 155 2nd St. Robins AFB, Ga. 31098-1635. The telefax number is DSN 497-0198 or (912) 327-0198. More information about the exercise is available on the Headquarters AFRC/DOOX Web site.

Stand-down volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the 1999 Western Mass. Veterans' Stand-down to be held at the base Saturday, May 8. If interested, call Lt. Col. Jane Sbardella at 802-254-4116 or Lt. Col. Karlene DeVine at 860-589-0473 by April 6. Call TSgt. Bill Forbes on base at ext. 3073.

May UTA schedule

A UTA May 1-2
B UTA May 15-16



MSgt. Sandi Michon

Change of command *from page 1*

between you and your active duty counterparts," he said.

In return for their support, Mazick promised wing members "You can expect of me leadership, mentorship, honesty and keeping you informed. There will be no secrets," he said.

Mazick is a command pilot who has flown more than 8,000 hours in airlift, airdrop and air refueling missions.

He previously commanded the 507th Air Refueling Wing, which flies the KC-135R Stratotanker out of Tinker AFB, Ok. He has also served as Reserve Advisor to the Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, IL.; Commander of the 98th Air Refueling Group, Barksdale AFB, La.; and Commander of the 446th Operations Group, McChord AFB, Wash.

A native of Fanwood, N.J., he is married to Air Force Reserve Col. Mary Jo Mazick, who has twice served as a squadron commander. They have two sons, Marty, 11, and Matthew, 7.

The 439th Airlift Wing Honor Guard posted and retired the Colors and performed other ceremonial functions. The National Anthem and Air Force Song was performed by the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve.

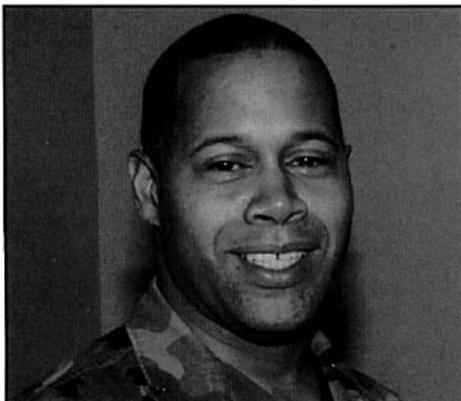
Dignitaries who attended included Brig. Gen. Frederick D. "Mike" Walker (Ret.), who led the wing through Desert Shield and Storm; Lt. Gen. Ralph Oates (Ret.), who served as IMA to the 21st Air Force commander; and Chicopee Mayor Richard J. Kos.



MSgt. Sandi Michon

MEETING THE MAYOR — Chicopee Mayor Richard J. Kos, left, congratulates Colonel Mazick on his new assignment as commander of the 439th Airlift Wing. At right is Brig. Gen. Bankers who is moving to Robins Air Force Base, Ga. where he will become assistant vice commander for the Air Force Reserve Command. At top, wing members salute their new commander.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. Timothy G. Williams, of Springfield, Mass., and 2,404 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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