

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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Construction sites spring up around base

by Capt. James Bishop

After nearly three years without a usable outdoor fire training area, work has begun on a \$1.5 million fire training area for Westover's firefighters. The facility is due to be completed by Aug. 1, according to Fire Chief Philip Boyer.

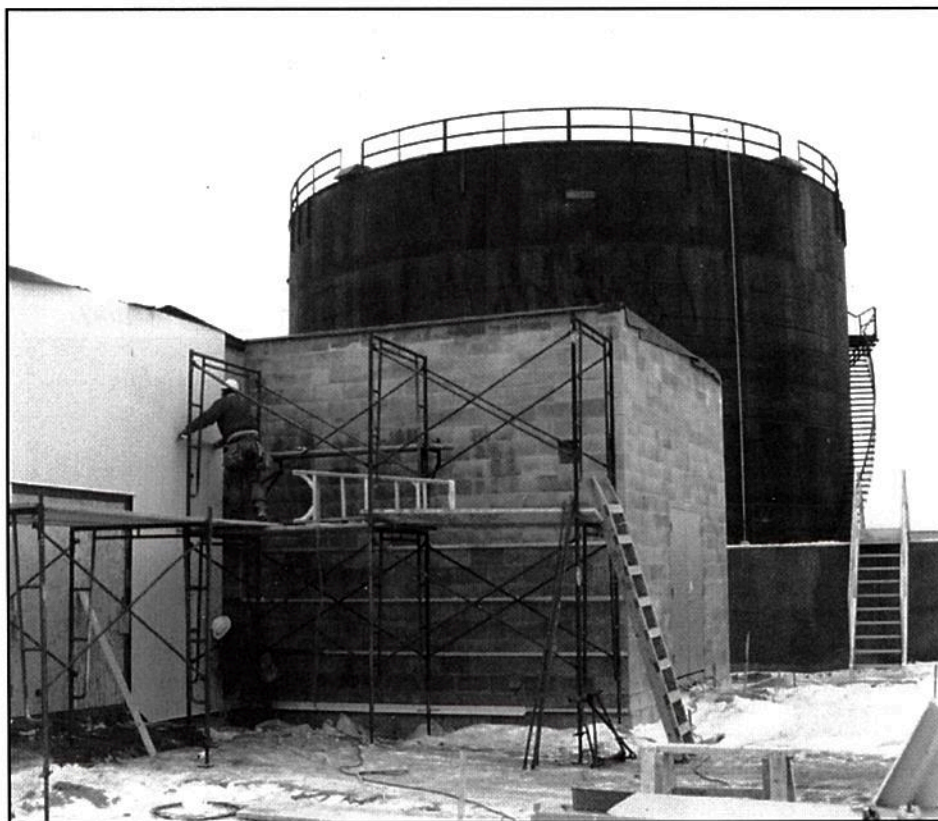
Construction started in November on a reinforced steel mock-up, which will sit in a burn pit measuring 100 feet across, and it will look like an odd combination of various aircraft. On one side will be a high wing, connected to the top of the fuselage as on a C-5, and on the other side will be a low wing as on a KC-135, so firefighters can train to fight a variety of fires. The mock-up will also have a T-tail with an engine and two engine pods under the high-wing, to practice different kinds of engine fires, Boyer said.

In the new burn pit, "we'll be able to do interior firefighting in the cargo area and in the fuselage," Boyer said. The old mock-up, which Boyer called "more or less a plane-shaped hunk of metal," was too small to allow for interior training.

The new facility will work by means of igniters linked to liquid propane gas lines at various points around the mock-up. An overseer in a small control tower can increase or decrease gas flow, simulate a spreading fire, or turn off the fires altogether.

The projected cost so far is \$1,546,434 to build the airframe, fire ignition system, fire suppression system, small control tower and supporting underground utilities—gas, electric and water. The fire suppression system is used to cool the fuselage after the fire, not to protect firefighters inside the airframe, Boyer said, since that creates burning-hot steam. The facility will be able to store 12,000 gallons of LP gas on site.

The area will be environmentally friendly—using liquid propane gas, instead of jet fuel. The last facility was closed in 1996



TSgt. W. C. Pope

AIR FORCE TANKS — Two 840,000-gallon fuel tanks, with state-of-the-art computerized pumping systems are being constructed adjacent to the DC Hangar. The increased capacity, and location of the tanks, is expected to allow multiple fuelings when more than one C-5 has to launch in a hurry.

when the DOD decided, for environmental reasons, to use LP gas instead of jet fuel to train firefighters, Boyer said.

Since 1996, Westover's 97 civilian and reservist firefighters have had to go TDY to train or do without training in some areas.

More rooms at the inn

One building of the visiting officers' quarters is being "completely gutted" and totally renovated, according to Robert Mersincavage, assistant lodging manager.

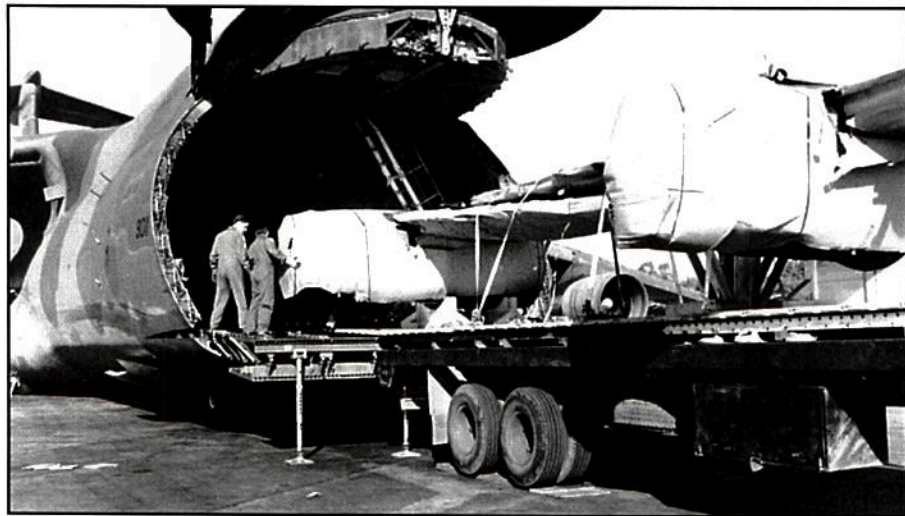
Each of the 41 new rooms will have a private bath, unlike the double rooms with shared baths now. Previously, there were 38 rooms.

The renovations created a hallway that runs the length of the building, Mersincavage said.

Included in the 41 new rooms will be four distinguished visitor suites (same number as before), and four chief's quarters (up from two before). Each DV suite will have a sepa-

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Good as new



BEFORE AND AFTER — In March 1995, Maj. Bill Beckman, 439th AW pilot, flew a C-5 mission carrying a surplus F-4 Phantom (shown loading in top photo) to Chile in exchange for a WWII-era B-26. While visiting the Jackson Barracks in Louisiana recently, Beckman photographed the B-26, now fully restored and on static display.



PATRIOT

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Col. Grote stresses 'we' in Westover

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

When Col. Elizabeth A. Grote arrived at Westover in 1995 as the newly appointed Logistics Group Commander, the C-5s were still beat up from the numerous Gulf War missions they flew a few years before.

"I noticed on one of the aircraft some of the tail-lettering was missing — all you could read was 'stover' because the 'We' was missing," says Grote. "And I thought to myself that in order to get those aircraft back in shape the 'We' had to be brought back into the picture because *we* had to do it together. And *we* did it."

As she prepares to leave Westover in January for a staff position at Dobbins AFB, Ga. she's most proud of how, "We came to together for important contingency operations like Phoenix Scorpion 3, Hurricane Mitch, and Desert Fox," she says from her partially cleaned-out office in Hangar 7.

Says TSgt. Thomas McDonough, a reservist who handles administrative duties for the commander: "She is down-to-earth and approachable, and she respects everyone in the Group."

The colonel is accepting the job at Dobbins because she says experience in a staff position, which she has yet to hold, will bring her closer to her goal: Director of Logistics at Air Force Reserve Command.

Grote was introduced to logistics and aircraft maintenance somewhat serendipitously after graduating from Purdue University with a degree in political science. She wanted to work in Foreign Service and believed experience in the Air Force as an intelligence officer would make her a better-qualified candidate for state or federal jobs.

"But things didn't work out that way," she says, "I won't say the recruiters lied to me, but I ended up in aircraft maintenance. But once I got into it, I suddenly believed that there was some sort of master plan out there for me — call it fate — because I loved it. I wouldn't have changed it for anything."

After five years of active duty beginning in 1972, she spent two years out of the military to become an FAA certified mechanic. She then served in a Reserve unit in Oregon before coming to Westover.

"I want to thank everybody in the Wing and let them know that I'll miss them," she says.

Reservist's job departs from the ordinary

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

Guy DELia works among the living and the dead – depending on the weekend.

He has a rather unusual career combination.

TSgt. DELia has spent 18 years learning how to save lives as a medical technician with the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. In his civilian job, he is a forensic technician investigating deaths with the Western Regional Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

When DELia was in grade school, he had what many termed a "morbid curiosity" about death. DELia explains it innocently enough. "I don't know what made me interested. I grew up close to a funeral home and I was always curious about how they prepared the bodies," he said. While still in high school, he walked into a wake one night and the funeral director thought he was one of the mourners – but DELia was there to ask for a job. He was turned down, but returned after he graduated and started his apprenticeship in 1973.

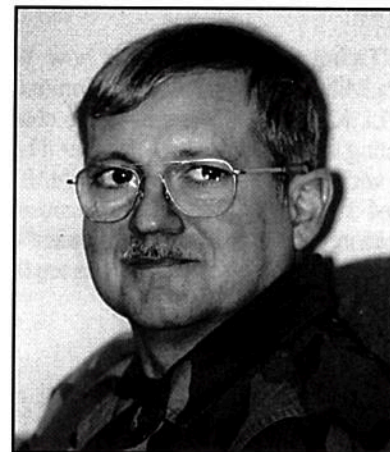
He attended a one-year embalming school in Boston and worked for various funeral homes for eight years until he began his current job with the Medical Examiner's Office. The new job challenged DELia, especially the badly decomposed bodies, and the juvenile homicides. The job involves long hours, and often grisly circumstances, but he says, "Someone has to do it. I feel like what I do is a public service."

DELia is surrounded by death daily but says he has learned to manage the stress. He was once called to the scene of a mass murder of five people in one house. "It's not just an article in the newspaper - I see the actual results," said DELia. He realizes that each body was once a living being, and he finds it tough dealing with bereft family members. But in his profession, he says you have to practice a level of emotional detachment to stay balanced.

Some aspects of his dealings with death have caused life-changing habits for DELia. "When you attend a drunk driving accident where four family members are dead, it really brings power and relevance to the drunk driving message," he said. The 45-year-old reservist has also quit smoking and now works out regularly at the base gym. "I've

"What people don't realize is that life can be more precious when you are surrounded by death."

TSgt. Guy DELia



held many diseased lungs, but when I started seeing people my age dying from smoking and sedentary life styles, I took notice and made changes," he said. "I've lost my 'it can't happen to me' mentality."

Even though DELia has spent decades around death, he has found certain aspects of his life-saving reserve job surprisingly more emotionally draining. While on an annual tour at Pease AFB, N.H., he was assisting in the trauma unit when a car accident victim was brought in. "We worked hard to save her, and I felt deeply moved when she died," said DELia, as if reliving the moment. "At the end of my shift, I was shocked by how drained I felt."

He finds his annual tours very satisfying when people get better under his care.

"In my other job, no one ever gets better," he quipped somewhat sadly.

DELia has to keep a sense of balance. While drawing blood from a patient at an Air Force hospital, DELia was asked about his civilian job. "When I told them what I do, they pulled back their arm and looked at me like I was a vampire," he recalled. While attending the NCO Academy in residence last summer, his civilian profession was included in the introductions. "After I spoke, people raised their eyebrows and quickly moved on to the next person."

He is used to people's negative or uncomfortable reactions but remains philosophical. "What people don't realize is that life can be more precious when you are surrounded by death."



Military Personnel Flight earns high honors

by SSgt. Anne Kymalainen

"Doing more with less" is how Westover's Military Personnel Flight Commander 2nd Lt. Kelly Braudis describes the changes affecting her department during her 11-year stint with various offices in the flight. If it is related to a reservist's career enhancement, education, insurance, family dependent care, or awards and decorations, chances are that it starts and ends with the MPF.

AFRC MPF

They must be doing something more with their "less," as they are the Air Force Reserve Command MPF of the Year for 1998. They will go on to compete against their active duty and Air National Guard counterparts for the Gerrit D. Foster, Jr. Award.

Braudis says it hasn't been easy to keep the MPF user-friendly over the years. "With the advancement of technology, we are expected to answer questions more quickly than ever before," commented Braudis, who pinned on her gold bars last year. "Eleven years ago, there was no voice mail. If someone had a question, they would just call back. There was no e-mail. Information Management would come to the door and deliver the mail from a truck. Now, we don't see the IM people on a regular basis. If we need informa-

tion, we search the Internet for pubs and regs."

So, how did the MPF manage to sway the shift in technology to their advantage to win this award? Braudis credits the 12 Air Reserve Technicians, 16 reservists and 10 civilians who make up the flight. "All the staff really tries to follow Gen. Bankers' philosophy, to make ourselves more approachable.

If a reservist doesn't know what goes on in this section, they are in trouble," she said.

Over 100 reservists each Unit Training Assembly will use the services provided by the MPF. Not only are they there to help out Westover's Air Force reservists, they embrace the total force concept by assisting other branches of the service with I.D. cards and educational testing.

Education and training award

Another award winning segment of the flight is Education and Training, the recipient of the Nathan Altschuler Award for Excellence in Educational Programs.

The office started offering College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests and Dantes Standardized Subject Testing (DSST) in May, 1997 – since then, the number of reservists earning Community College of the Air Force degrees has increased



SMSgt. Kristine Seney

by 25 percent.

Manager award

SMSgt Kristine M. Seney Air Force Education and Training Manager Award winner attributes the teamwork within the office to winning all three awards. "If you don't have the right people working together in an office, you don't win awards like this," said the Chief of Education and Training, who took over the office five years ago.

439th ASTS teamwork produces AFRC award

by SSgt. Anne Kymalainen

When asked to reflect on his feelings for the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, the unit's first sergeant, SMSgt. Chuck Szmurlo, a 23-year service man, sums it up with a simple statement -- "This is the unit I would want to go to war with." Apparently the Air Force Reserve Command agrees with the high praise for the medical unit, as the ASTS is the Air Force Reserve Outstanding Unit for 1998.

Commander Col. Sarah Waterman is proud of the members of her unit. "I have been impressed with the remarkable amount of teamwork, cohesion and seriousness that they display," she said, "while still managing to have fun. They work well together."

Waterman attributes the contagious team spirit to keeping a strong sense of cohesiveness among the unit members, whether they are training or carrying on actual mission responsibilities.

Among the reasons the ASTS was chosen for the award were several formal visits and inspections last year, all of which generated high scores, especially in organizational philosophy and strategic planning.

During the 22nd Air Force staff assistance visit, a self-learning computer program was recommended as a benchmark for Air Force Reserve medical units, and later recognized as "excellent" on a subsequent inspection.

While glowing inspection results certainly helped in securing the award, the unit shone in other aspects as well.

During the 1998 Air Show, unit members interfaced with the Disaster Management Assistance Team to triage and treat patients, of which 52 required the expertise of physicians on site and 11 required transport to off-base hospitals.

The ASTS realizes the importance of helping others, and proves it by donating hours and resources to nonprofit organizations and charities, such as the Westover USO Food Pantry, the Christmas Toys for Tots drive, and the Ronald McDonald House.

The unit's wartime mobility mission consists of receiving patients that have been treated and stabilized and maintaining them until they can be safely transported.

Icy reception



ICE STATION — Despite a thick coat of ice covering the east ramp, the 368th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) loaded trucks and trailers onto a 439th Airlift Wing C-5 for transport to Biggs Army Airfield in El Paso, Texas where the Londonderry, N.H.-based unit will help improve roadways. An ice storm that began on Thursday, Jan. 14 through Jan. 16 forced the closing of Westover on Jan. 15. In the photo above, 337th AS flight engineer, MSgt. Nelson Serrao keeps a close watch as a tanker and trailer are driven up the Galaxy's ramp.

Photo by MSgt. Gordon Newell

Reservists, civilians cited for performance

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Six Westover reservists and civilian employees will receive permanent recognition for their outstanding performance by having their names inscribed on brass plates on the Wing Honor Roll as Quarterly Award winners.

Those honored for the first quarter of fiscal year 1999 were:

- Capt. David Post, maintenance officer, 439th Maintenance Squadron;
- SMSgt Randy Malek, Prime BEEF program manager, 439th Civil Engineer Squadron;
- TSgt Ronald Labonte, training and education specialist, 439th Medical Squadron;
- SrA. Michael Lackman, medical service specialist, 439th Aeromedical Staging

Squadron;

- Edward Sierzego, casualty assistance officer, Military Personnel; and,
- Kathleen Kies, legal assistant, Judge Advocate.

The Westover Chief's Council presented Certificates of Achievement and a U.S. Savings Bond to SMSgt. Malek, TSgt. Labonte and SrA. Lackman. The Reserve Officers Association recognized Capt. Post with an U.S. Savings Bond. Sierzego and Kies earned bonus personal leave time awards.

In announcing the honors, Brigadier General James Bankers, Wing Commander, cited the professional standards of the award recipients. "The outstanding contributions these individuals have made to their respective units and the wing is commendable and deserving of recognition," he said.

Ulchi Focus Lens in South Korea needs volunteers

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.

— Air Force Reserve Command unit reservists have until May 15 to apply for duty in Ulchi Focus Lens '99, scheduled for August in South Korea.

Headquarters Pacific Air Forces at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, is seeking volunteers for the annual joint operations exercise. UFL is the world's largest computer-simulation war game drawing people from around the globe.

The two-phase exercise focuses on the scenario of a coordinated land, sea and air attack supported by the Republic of Korea air force and U.S. forces. The goal of the exercise is to maintain the high state of readiness of friendly forces on the Korean peninsula.

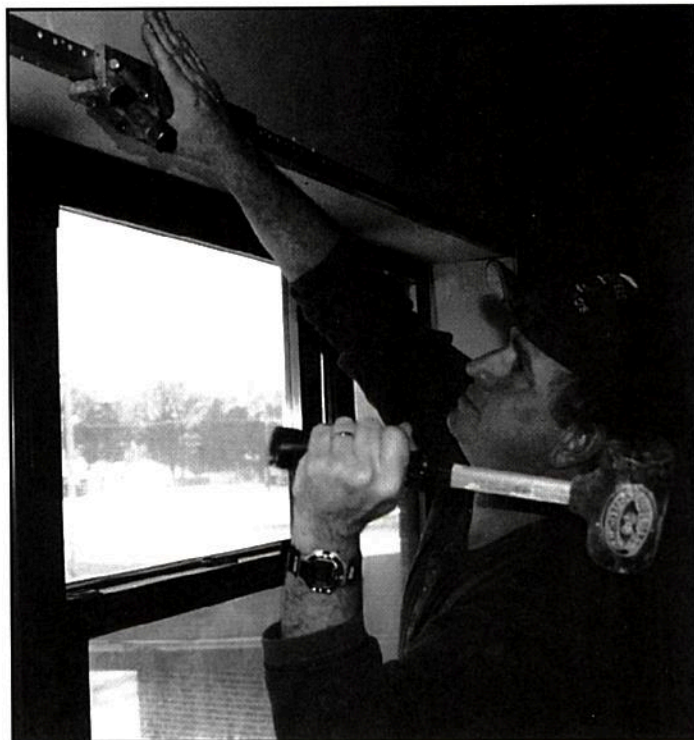
PACAF is looking for A/OA-10, F-16, C-130, C-141, KC-10, KC-135 and helicopter pilots to take part in the exercise. Other rated officers are B-52, KC-135 and C-141 navigators, and C-130 navigators and electronic warfare officers. Desired non-rated officers include those in command and control, intelligence, logistics, security, civil engineer, communications and computer systems, services, public affairs, information management and mission support, and medical.

Enlisted Air Force specialties needed include aircrew, operations, command and control, intelligence, and rescue. Aircraft maintenance, avionics, communications/navigation and support equipment specialties are also in demand.

Other desired specialties are fuels, logistics plans, supply, vehicle operations, air transportation, munitions systems, information management, computer systems, fire protection, explosive ordnance disposal, services, disaster preparedness, medical, personnel, law enforcement, and public affairs.

CUTTING CORNERS — Chicopee drywaller Rick Fletcher (below) works on stilts while installing tape and joint compound. At right, Gerry Crochiere nails corner beads around the window casing. Both projects are part of the Visiting Officer's Quarters (VOQ).

photos by TSgt. W.C. Pope



Construction boom underway on base

continued from page 1

rate living room.

Additionally, two new handicapped accessible suites will be built, and the laundry room will be relocated from the basement to the building's entrance.

The renovations, which are about 50 percent completed, are due to be finished by June.

Each of the new suites will have totally new and better quality furniture, complete with queen-sized beds and new 25 to 27-inch televisions.

Bigger, better fuel tanks

New tanks being installed adjacent to the DC hangar will more than double the storage capacity of jet fuel, and even increase the ability for multiple refuelings.

The \$4.1 million dollar project will allow for quicker turnover of aircraft, according to MSgt. Dennis Loghane, fuels officer at the 439th LSS.

Construction began in June on two 840,000-gallon tanks with a state-of-the-art pumping system. The system will also monitor environmental issues.

The new tanks will decrease dependence on an underground pipeline and give the base a longer operating reserve, according to Paul Lablond, mechanical engineer at Civil Engineering.

Construction is due to be completed in May.



No challenge too high for the 439th CES

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

At any moment the 439th Airlift Wing could become involved in a conflict in a remote area of the globe with no base close by to service its aircraft. The first unit deployed to build a base and runway would be the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron, whose tradition in bare base construction stems from the Army Corps of Engineers.

"We either build the base from soup to nuts, or augment another unit that is setting up or maintaining a base," says SMSgt. Randy Malek, Prime BEEF Program Manager. BEEF stands for Base Engineering Emergency Force.

While CE builds the base, it also must protect it from enemy attack, if necessary. Although the unit boasts its own security personnel, security police units are always on hand. Ideally, army and marine units would have already swept the area as well.

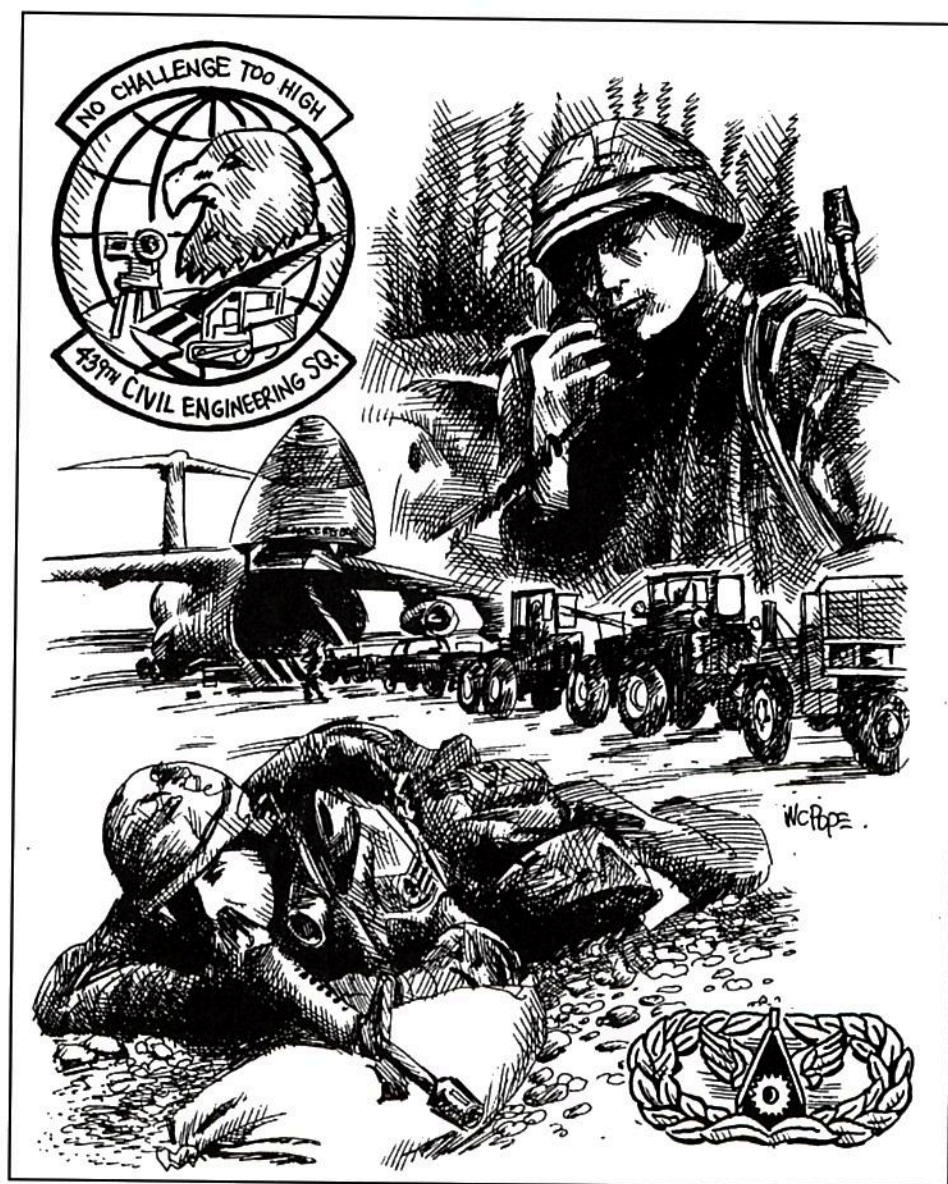
For barren land to be turned into a Tent City, the first things that rise are tents for living quarters, mess hall, latrines, and a command post. Once accomplished, the landing strip is fixed and inspected, and then the base is ready for the arrival of air crews, aircraft maintenance, services, and other support personnel and equipment. Eventually, Civil Engineers would replace tents with wooden buildings called hardbacks. For protection against ammunition, shrapnel, and environmental elements, civil engineers reinforce all structures with sandbags, concrete, and other materials.

The 439th CES has over 120 skilled and talented people. In addition to civil, electrical, and mechanical engineer officers, CE is made up of myriad trades: electricians, linemen, heavy equipment operators, carpenters, welders, plumbers, fuel specialists, surveyors, heating and air conditioning specialists, fire-fighters, machinists, readiness experts, power production workers, and even entomologists — to take care of any insect problems, if needed.

"You never know what the environment is going to be like," says Malek.

Regardless of one's trade, rank, or position in CE, unit members work together. Says Malek, "This shirt comes off, I grab a hammer, and I go."

With base construction and maintenance being its wartime mission, during peace unit members train. And it takes many hours,



projects, and deployments to keep the men and women of CE trained. Westover provides some opportunities for training, but the 439th CES finds its services are needed all over the world. Their training is providing real-world services for many.

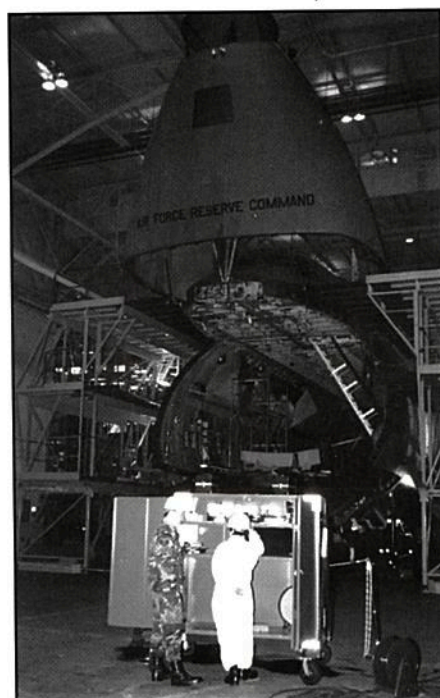
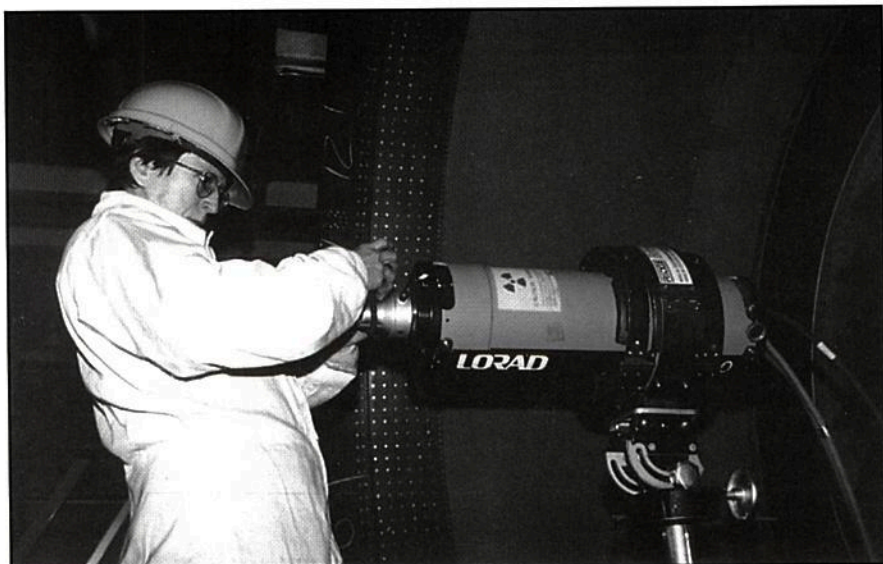
This spring, Civil Engineers will help build four schools and three additions to medical clinics in Honduras as part of joint services exercise. Although Malek says "the purpose of the deployment is training," the Honduran children will acquire some badly needed schools in the wake of a nasty hurricane. The missions were not, however, planned as relief for Hurricane Mitch, hav-

ing been scheduled beforehand.

Missions like the one to Honduras are given to the 439th CES from Headquarters, Air Force Reserve.

With everyone from electricians to entomologists, building everything from school houses to military bases, the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron could find itself in any area of the globe, at any time. But they're confident they will succeed whatever the mission and wherever they go.

This confidence comes from their talent and teamwork, and is expressed through their motto "No Challenge too high."



X-ray vision

SSgt. Tim Cawthra and SrA. Grace Barnes, from the 439th MXS, use radiographic x-ray film on the C-5 engine inlet to check for cracks and internal de-icing tube separation.

photos by TSgt. W. C. Pope



439th MSS gets new commander

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

Maj. Kent Thomas was appointed Mission Support Squadron commander Nov. 1, replacing Maj. William Baird who took on the duties of Support Group vice commander.

Thomas left Minnesota when he accepted a civilian position with Science Applications International Corporation in Massachusetts. In Minnesota he served as Mission Support Flight commander with the 934th Airlift Wing, a C-130 unit which he says

was half the size of Westover.

Thomas, who was commissioned in 1979, says his first task will be to address the manning problems at Westover.

"I have a lot to learn and I am very excited about the opportunities.

Capt. Chris Kiraly-Thomas, Thomas' wife, also now works at Westover as a maintenance officer for AGS. The couple lives in North Brookfield, Mass., with two children, Gabe, 12, and Elijah, 6.



Maj. Kent Thomas

Medical profiles

Physical profiles are a system of classifying military individuals according to physical functional abilities.

The profile (Form 422) is indicated when a medical condition is identified which may adversely impact the airman's ability to perform his/her regular duties. A medical condition may be discovered as part of the military periodic physical, or may be forwarded to the 439th MDS by the member's personal physician.

Profile changes are generally not indicated if disability is expected to last less than 30 days. (A suffix of "T" is added to profile rating if the condition is temporary and expected to resolve in 12 months.)

Profile ratings:

- **P-1:** Healthy individual – worldwide deployable without need for medical care (Member cannot have any known medical condition.)
- **P-2:** Condition which only mildly impacts individual's ability to perform regular duties. Can be deployed worldwide without medical care.
- **P-3:** Significant medical defect but is under good control, not requiring medical checkups. Can be worldwide deployed; individual is able to perform basic duties of his/her rank and position.
- **P-3 SPECIAL CATEGORY – ONLY IN RESERVE PROGRAM**
This special category is AFRC/HQ directed and cannot be changed by local flight surgeon. This is customarily an interim profile and member is restricted to home base participation good for pay and points.
- **P-4:** Significant medical condition or injury, which makes individual medically disqualified. Certain medical conditions mandate a P-4 profile:
Examples: heart attack, insulin dependent diabetes, asthma, diagnosis of psychiatric condition, persons on anti-psychotic medications, or persons on medications which require close monitoring like anticoagulants.
 - P-4 profile may be temporary or permanent.
 - P-4 profile does not mean the end of military career.
 - Members have the following options in P-4 status:
 - Request voluntary separation
 - Request review by Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) and return and return on a special P-3 profile.

When a P-4 condition is diagnosed, the member is informed in writing and given a PEB fact sheet, and immediately referred to MPF who provides a 'member utilization questionnaire' to be completed by the member's commander. The medical unit then prepares a package for AFRC/HQ for special P-3 profile consideration.

- **Pregnancy:** Member provides 439th MDS with letter from physician, is changed to special P-3 profile until six weeks after delivery. A complete recovery letter from physician then results in a return to P-1 profile. (Pregnant aircrew members may be on flying status only in the second trimester.)
- **Dental:** Dental screening is factored into overall profile. Unsatisfactory rating results in P-3 (reserve category) and restriction for worldwide deployment.

Dental class 1 is excellent dental health. Class 2 involves minor oral conditions that would not require emergency treatment within 12 months. Class 3 includes conditions, such as lost filling, decay, abscess or advanced gum disease that would require emergency treatment within 12 months if not treated. Class 4 is rated when members require a dental exam, or dental classification is unknown.

Information contributed by Col. Yash Malhotra and Capt. Mike Szostak from the 439th MDS.

**To
your
health**



Dental health: You won't leave home without it

All packed for annual tour?

Better check your teeth – they could take a bite out of your trip.

During the January UTA, two non-aircrew reservists from two separate units, found their annual tour to Germany in jeopardy after dental checkups.

According to Lt. Col. Barry Cunha, base dental officer, each reservist had an abscessed tooth and was automatically placed in a Class 3 category, which restricts travel. "They were scheduled to leave within the week, and I'm not sure they can correct the problem in time," Cunha explained.

He said people tend to forget that poor dental health can ground them. "Some destinations offer no access to dental care. Dental flare-ups can cause real trouble and impact the mission," he said.



During Desert Storm, dental problems sent more soldiers home than any other malady.

Cunha explained how flying could exacerbate problems like abscessed teeth. Aerodontalgia, the change in air pressure during flight, can cause the pocket of gas produced by the abscess to rapidly expand which results in excruciating pain. "This happened to a guy on a flight, and he was practically suicidal from the pain by the time he landed," said Cunha.

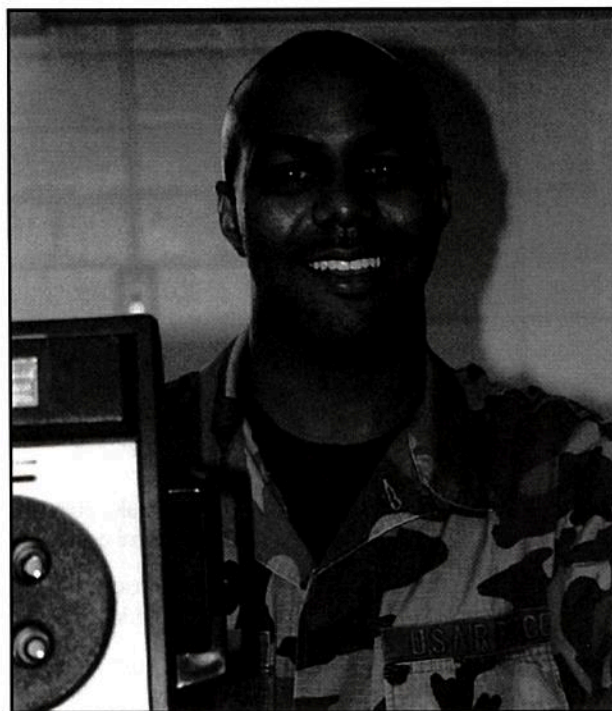
A Class 3 rating, most often caused by periodontal disease, permits the reservist 90-120 days to correct the defect or show significant improvement. During that time period, the member must report each UTA for a dental check.

"Failure to comply results in a P-4 profile, but if a member is making steady progress, we usually grant up to a year to fully resolve the problem," Cunha explained.

He was quick to praise Westover for minimal Class 3 situations. "We get about 12 problem cases a year – 12 out of 2,400 is pretty good," he said. "Think of it as an opportunity rather than a burden."

Patriot People

Name: Laurence Olivier
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 35
Address: Brooklyn, N.Y.
Unit: 439th SFS
Position: Info management specialist
Civilian position: NYCTA bus driver
Favorite food: West Indian dishes
Years of service: 14
Favorite sport: Basketball
Favorite hobby: Car detailing
Ideal vacation: Caribbean
Best way to relax: Friends/movies
Preferred entertainment: Music
Favorite hero: My mother
Favorite music: Jazz/R&B/Raggae
Favorite movie: *Color Purple*
Favorite aircraft: F-15
Pet peeve: "I'm a stickler for time."
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Take care of Mom and Dad and my retirement



MSgt. Sandi Michon

SSgt. Laurence Olivier

Patriot Praises

Promotions

SMSgt. DeMarco, Richard
 SMSgt. Duffy, John J.
 SMSgt. Parker, Garth O., Jr.
 SMSgt. Trychon, Albert F.
 MSgt. Brainard, David N.
 MSgt. DeVincenzo, Donald
 MSgt. Frank Domenichella
 MSgt. Evans, James J., Jr.
 MSgt. Garwacki, Lawrence
 MSgt. Labonte, Ronald J.
 MSgt. Lund, Dean S.
 MSgt. Malek, Deborah
 MSgt. Malysz, Thaddeus M.
 MSgt. Nichols, James G., Jr.
 MSgt. Smith, Gary D.
 TSgt. Alabiso, Michele A.
 TSgt. Allen, Michael E.
 TSgt. Baisi, James
 TSgt. Benson, David M.
 TSgt. Clark, Christopher
 TSgt. Cotton, Alexander J.
 TSgt. Czmyr, Mark A.
 TSgt. Denault, Thomas J.
 TSgt. Edwards, Dale A.
 TSgt. Flynn, James M.
 TSgt. Forbes, William J.
 TSgt. Fuentes, Victor M. J.
 TSgt. Johnson, Richard H.
 TSgt. Morrill, William D.
 TSgt. Okulicz, Charles J.
 TSgt. Olearecek, Julie D.
 TSgt. Perkins, Thomas
 TSgt. Picard, Jeffrey
 TSgt. Robertson, Donald B.
 TSgt. Sala, David C.
 TSgt. Sidebottom, Jeffrey
 TSgt. Simpkins, Dale L.

TSgt. Smith, Gary E.
 TSgt. Vargus, William F.
 TSgt. Wells, David A.
 SSgt. Ballestas, Orlando
 SSgt. Bonvicini, Lyn M.
 SSgt. Braithwaite, Emmanuel
 SSgt. Brewer, Paul D.
 SSgt. Cabrera, Jose A.
 SSgt. Charity, Jennifer
 SSgt. Claffey, William F.
 SSgt. Digiosio, Robert B.
 SSgt. Elwood, Peter R.
 SSgt. Gainer, David V.
 SSgt. Giampietro, Kimberly
 SSgt. Greene, Andre H.
 SSgt. Hart, Charles J.
 SSgt. Hehir, Christopher
 SSgt. Hughes, William H.
 SSgt. Johnson, Robin
 SSgt. Seidell, Robert P.
 SSgt. Tavilla, Melissa
 SSgt. Tourigny, Mark
 SSgt. Wilson, Eric M.
 SrA. Adams, David A.
 SrA. Beaudoin, Scott M.
 SrA. Foye, Daniel
 SrA. Marjault, Eric G.
 SrA. Muller, J. Eric
 SrA. Sullivan, Laura A.
 SrA. Sullivan, Michael A.
 A1C Roberts, Marlene C.

Enlistments

SSgt. Austin, Mark C.
 SSgt. Dufresne, Paul A., Jr.
 SSgt. Grady, Daniel J.
 SSgt. Ojanpera, Timo W.
 SrA. Haberski, Donald J., Jr.

SrA. Linnehan, Michael S.
 A1C Clinton, Joseph M.
 A1C Laplant, Jassen R.
 A1C Mard, Lauren B.
 A1C Pina, Rebecca L.
 AB Nieves, Cristina
 AB Perna, Nicholas P.

Reenlistments

CMSgt. Ferrara, Matthew M.
 MSgt. Albert, Robert G.
 MSgt. Grady, Michael P.
 MSgt. Lorange, Edward R.
 MSgt. Morin, Robert P.
 MSgt. Preis, Raymond M.
 TSgt. Devaney, Mary C.
 TSgt. Filkins, Leopoldo J.
 TSgt. Jenkins, Valerie
 TSgt. Mellor, Thomas H.
 TSgt. Nalesnik, George J..
 TSgt. Sutton, Michael
 SSgt. Abood, Mitchell D.
 SSgt. Durocher, Robert G.
 SSgt. Felton, James M.
 SSgt. Godin, Richard J.
 SSgt. Lawlor, Daniel P.
 SSgt. Ritchens, Euclid B.
 SSgt. Sackett, Gregory J.
 SrA. Allard, Joseph W.

Retirements

MSgt. Walter, Thomas, Jr.
 TSgt. Correia, Alvin T.
 TSgt. Dubois, Daniel P.
 TSgt. Carson, Richard P.
 SSgt. Novak, Alfred J., Jr.

Awards and Decorations

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

MSgt. Paul E Dobson
 439 LSS
 (second award)

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

SSgt. Mark E. Lockwood
 439 MXS
 SSgt. Kevin F. Trombley
 439 LSS
 (second award)

George Custer was the youngest American officer ever to become a general in the United States Army. He made his rank at 23.

Jake draws final cartoon

About a year ago I decided to do something special for the 50th Anniversary of the Air Force Reserve. I was inspired by the annual Veteran's Day cartoon drawn by Peanuts creator, Charles Schulz, and dedicated to his friend and fellow cartoonist Bill Mauldin. Mauldin, of course, gained fame during World War II for his popular Willie and Joe characters.

I decided to do a salute to the cartoonists who served in World War II and who are still active practicing their craft. So, I mailed one of my cartoon characters saluting an empty page, giving the veteran cartoonists room for their cartoon characters.

It took about three months to get the cartoon back from Mort (Beetle Bailey) Walker, Charles (Peanuts) Schulz, and Jake (Here's Jake) Schuffert. The final cartoon appeared in the October issue of Citizen Airman and the November-December issue of Patriot.

Little did I know that this cartoon would be one of the last things Jake Schuffert would draw. Jake's cartoons have been appearing in Air Force publications since 1947 and his work is an Airman magazine icon.

Soon after I received a note from Jake's wife informing me that he had died of cancer at 6 a.m. on Nov. 2, 1998.

Jake had retired from the Air Force as a Chief Master Sergeant in the early 1970s. He began his career as a radioman and a gunner on B-17s. During one mission he survived his plane being shot down over Yugoslavia. Later in his career he spent time at Westover and in a telephone conversation told me stories of the Chicopee area fifty years ago.

I had gotten to know Jake over the years, and with his help and influence was accepted into the prestigious National Cartoonist Society. His work helped inspire my "Pope's Puns" for years, and for this, I thank him. I am saddened by his passing.

The country has lost a great cartoonist, veteran and patriot.

Jake Schuffert, the creator of Boondock AFB, will be missed.

by TSgt. W. C. Pope
Public Affairs Craftsman

COMMENTARY



Briefs

Military clothing catalogs on Internet

The new military clothing catalogs from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which are always free to U.S. service members, are now available worldwide via the Internet at WWW.aafes.com.

The Internet catalog version is designed to provide shopping convenience to active duty and reserve service members who live miles from a military clothing store.

Online purchases require a major credit card or Deferred Payment Plan account.

Command homepage Offering PDC courses

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Reservists and civilian employees in the Air Force Reserve Command can now shop for Professional Development Center courses on the command's homepage.

On the homepage, those interested can view course information by going to the Headquarters AFRC Directorate, then Professional Development Center and Courses.

Under each course heading on the homepage, people can get the course descriptions, requirements, enrollment procedures, dates, points of contact and other details.

Safety slots open

The Westover Safety Office has two reserve openings for safety specialists, one is a senior master sergeant slot and the other is for a technical sergeant.

Complete specialty descriptions are available in AFMAN 36-2108.

Interested reservists are asked to contact Lt. Col. Dave Moore at ext. 3587.

March UTA schedule

A UTA March 6-7
B UTA March 20-21

Former Fire Chief, Haskel Jenkins, dead at 68

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Haskel Jenkins, Westover's retired fire chief, died Dec. 31, 1998 at the age of 68 at Tuomey Medical Center in Sumter, S.C.

Jenkins retired from Westover Nov. 30, 1991, closing a 40-year firefighting career that included 22 years of active duty in the Air Force.

Joe Longworth, who succeeded Jenkins as Westover's top fire fighter, said he would miss his old friend.

"Chief Jenkins was dedicated to the fire-fighting profession. He loved the job and it showed. He did much to gain support in Western Massachusetts and was a great supporter of the Western Mass. Fire Chiefs Association and Hamden County Mutual Aid. He had many friends in the region and will be greatly missed" he said.

A native of South Carolina, Jenkins enlisted in the Air Force in 1951 and after serving stints at Randolph AFB, Texas and Germany got his first glimpse of Westover where he was named assistant chief in 1962.

Years later, Jenkins said the assignment was the most pivotal experience of his life.

The chief concluded his active duty career in 1973 and joined the Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport as fire protection officer.

In 1974 Jenkins returned to Westover as chief and immediately began pushing to modernize the base's fire protection.

Upon his retirement, the Chief explained that one of his biggest challenges at Westover



Air Force file photo

CHIEF JENKINS DIES — Former Westover Fire Chief, Haskel Jenkins, right, died on Dec. 31, 1998. He is shown just after he retired in 1991, flanked at left by former 439th AW commander Brig. Gen. Mike Walker and at right by Joe Longworth, who succeeded Jenkins as chief.

was the C-5 conversion.

"The systems on a C-5 are much more sophisticated. They have more components and our firefighters had to go inside, learn where to go and how to react," he said.

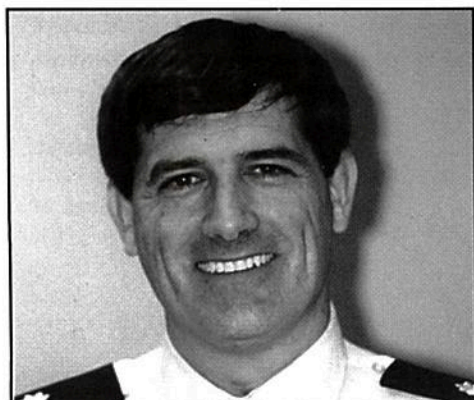
He is personally credited with designing the new state-of-the-art fire protection facility that is currently in service at the base. In honor of his retirement, the street on which the fire station is located was named

Jenkins Avenue.

Chicopee Fire Chief Bob Nunes called Jenkins a great friend.

"I first met Haskel when I was appointed chief in 1983," Nunes said. "He was the first chief in the area to call and offer support and to share his expertise. He knew fire laws and FCC regulations like nobody else I know. Over the years we became good friends and I will dearly miss him."

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like Lt. Col. Barry Cunha, of Lexington, Mass., and 2,706 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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