

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER ARB

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MARCH 1999

Col. Mazick will replace Brig. Gen. Bankers

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing since 1997, has been appointed assistant vice commander for the Air Force Reserve Command and will be succeeded here by Col. Martin M. Mazick.

Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie, commander of 22nd Air Force, will preside over an official change of command ceremony in the base's DC hangar at 10 a.m. March 7.

Mazick comes to Westover, the nation's largest Air Force Reserve base, from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. where he has served as commander of the 507th Air Refueling Wing since 1995.

In his new position, Bankers will move to Air Force Reserve Command headquarters at Robins AFB, Ga.

Reflecting on his tenure at Westover, the general said, "My wife Dorothy and I have truly enjoyed the time we spent here and we'll miss you."

"We faced many challenges during the past two years and much of that time it seems like the wing was under a microscope. But whether it was a Staff Advisory Visit, an Operational Readiness Inspection, a Unit Compliance Inspection or even Rodeo '98, the men and women of the 439th pulled together and came through with flying colors. I am extremely proud of what we've accomplished and every member of this wing should be too."

Bankers said he is very appreciative of community support of the base while he was here.

"The Galaxy Community Council is doing a wonderful job of supporting Westover and I commend them for all their hard work during the air show and other events," he said.

Colonel Mazick said he's looking forward to his new assignment and the opportunity to get back on the East Coast.

"I'm excited about coming to Westover and so is my family," he said. "I look at it as coming home because I was brought up in New Jersey and this will be the first time in my military career that I will be assigned east of the Mississippi River. I am looking forward to becoming part of the Westover team."

Mazick was born in Fanwood, N.J. and received his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a master's degree from the University of Southern California. He was commissioned in the Air Force in 1972.

He is a command pilot, having flown more than 8,000 hours in airlift, airdrop and air refueling missions.



Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers



Col. Martin M. Mazick

Lt. Col. Charlie Brown is 439th LG commander

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The logistics and maintenance men and women who keep Westover's Galaxies at the top of their game have a new commander who has shared past accomplishments and is enthusiastic about coming challenges. Lt. Col. Charles Brown, appointed 439th Logistics Group commander in January, sees himself as head of a winning team that has brought a lot of positive attention to Westover in recent years.

Brown, who succeeded Col. Elizabeth Grote, oversees the efforts of about 1,000 traditional reservists, ARTS and civilians who keep the wing's fleet of 16 C-5s ready when called. Their new commander believes they've earned an Air Force-wide reputation for reliability.

"Westover is an integral part of the national defense effort and we contribute daily towards the national effort," Brown said. "We set the standard for participation in recent operations in the Middle East, such as Desert Fox and Phoenix Scorpion," he said.

Westover C-5s have been in the vanguard of every airlift in support of air campaigns or response to heightened tensions in the Middle East.

During the past decade as a maintenance officer, Brown has seen the logistics

and maintenance mission grow here when other bases closed and Westover picked up more traffic as a northeast hub.

"With the increase in transit activity, Westover has become an integral part of the Air Mobility Command in-route system. That has been done in large part due to the efforts of our Logistics Group people," Brown said.

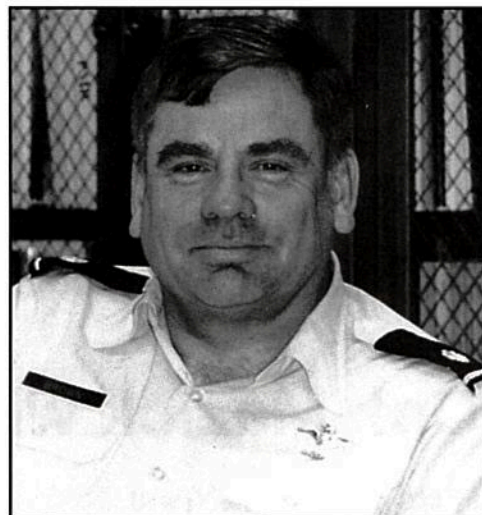
"We are taking steps to meet the changing environment, such as increased mobility requirements and the new two-level maintenance program, which places more focus on flightline repair," he said.

"Westover is the most northern C-5 base, and despite the resulting problems with winter weather, we have the highest reliability rate for active or reserve. Our people do real well," the new group commander said.

Brown is a Vietnam War B-52 pilot who wears the black ribbon awarded to former POWs.

A native of Chicago, he was commissioned following graduation from the Boston University AFROTC program.

Brown first came to Westover when it was a 99th Bombardment Wing SAC base. When the B-52s deployed to Guam in 1972, he flew Arc Light missions over North Vietnam. He was injured and spent



Lt. Col. Charlie Brown

101 days in a North Vietnamese prisoner of war camp after his B-52 was brought down by a barrage of SAMs.

Following the Vietnam War he served several years in the Rhode Island Air National Guard before coming to Westover in 1977 as chief of quality assurance. Brown served as a C-123, C-130 and C-5 pilot before taking command of the 439th Component Repair Squadron in 1989.

Following activation during Desert Shield/Storm he served as a maintenance officer with the 439th Equipment Maintenance Squadron and 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron before becoming vice commander of the 439th Logistics Group in 1998.

Brown and his wife, Martha, have two sons and reside in South Hadley.

PATRIOT

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Change of command ceremony — March 7

There will be a change of command ceremony in the DC Hangar on Sunday, March 7, at 10 a.m.

Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers will transfer command of the 439th Airlift Wing to Col. Martin M. Mazick.

Uniform of the day is service dress, low quarter shoes, flight cap and no sunglasses. Women have the option of slacks or skirt. Security police will wear BDUs and berets.

Family members are invited to the ceremony and are welcome to sit in the general seating area.

Unit of the month

337th Airlift Squadron spans the globe

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

The 2,800 reservists and 1,200 civilians that make up the 439th Airlift Wing share a common mission: to keep the 16 C-5s flying, bringing troops, supplies, equipment, and medical patients to all regions of the globe.

Many Westover personnel are behind the scenes, rarely getting to see the actual delivery of the goods. However, there is one squadron that does so regularly — the 337th Airlift Squadron — the Wing's crown-jewel flying unit.

The squadron has unique challenges and rewards, including working twice as many military days as the average reservist, yet enjoying frequent jaunts to countries around the world.

Pilots, flight engineers, loadmasters, and administrative personnel make up the squadron, which came to Westover from Connecticut in 1966. The unit then flew the C-124 Globemasters, which replaced the outdated C-119 Flying Boxcars it had flown in Connecticut. The squadron has been flying the C-5 since 1987.

Without refueling, the Galaxy — which is the second largest aircraft in the world — can airlift 50 tons of cargo for 5,940 miles or 82 tons for 5,000 miles.

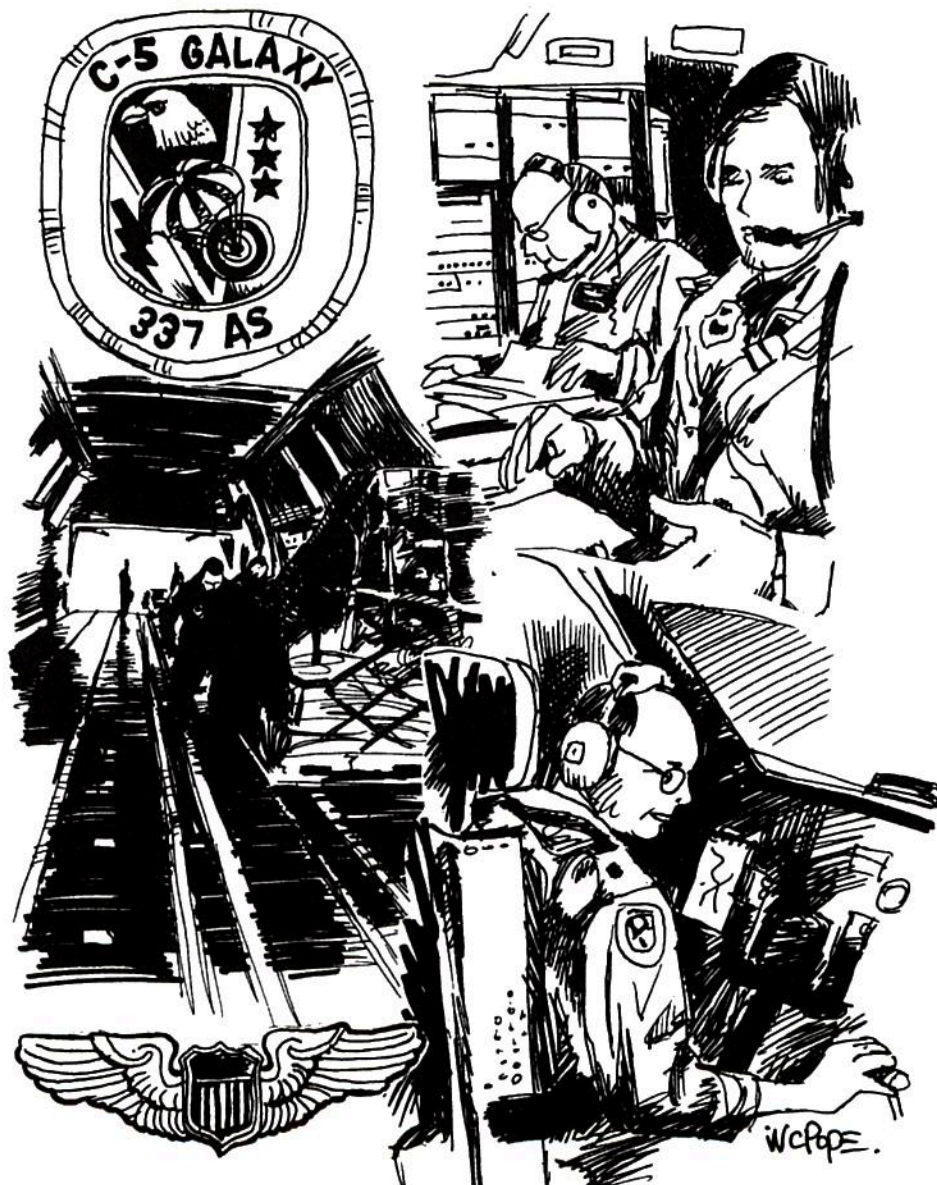
The 72 loadmasters in the squadron are responsible for getting the cargo — be it military equipment, vehicles, personnel, food, or just about anything — safely on board. The weight has to be strategically balanced and spaced, and it takes a year of training for loadmasters to become experts at their jobs.

While loadmasters do their thing, flight engineers prepare the aircraft for flight. "We compute the performance data and monitor, operate, and control all aircraft systems," says CMSgt. Kenneth J. Gilbert, chief flight engineer.

And the 53 pilots complete the squadron, together flying 1,050 hours per quarter.

Today's squadron, made up of 209 people, is busier than ever. Post-Cold War downsizing and the defense department's commitment to "total force" means more missions for reservists. The average Air Force reservist works 58 days per year, while the average aircrew member works a demanding 120 days.

"We fly 50 to 60 missions per quarter,"



says Capt. Andrew P. Hoffman, administrative officer, "Many aircrew members don't hold regular jobs — we have some people in college and others who live off mandays. Most of the pilots work for airlines and they're able to juggle their schedules."

Hoffman says they do lose some people because of the rigorous schedule.

Completing administrative requirements — the fitness walks, shots, classes, paperwork — while flying up to 60 missions a quarter can be a nightmare. On any given UTA weekend only 33 percent of the squadron is present. Hoffman says the squadron tries to get these things done during the January UTA, which is mandatory.

While mission demands may be challenging, the squadron is rewarded in unique ways. Many aircrew members are attracted to the travel — they fly to places like Ger-

many, England, Guam, and Australia regularly.

And aircrews experience camaraderie that parallels that of an elite infantry unit. "The crews live, eat, drink, and breath together — sometimes for 24-hours in a day," Hoffman says, "and as a result these people develop friendships like they've never had."

When safety is critical, and a slip-up can mean disaster, each member of the team depends on each other. "They've got to work together when things are going well, and when there's chaos," he says.

The aircrews are rewarded by seeing the fruit of their labor. Says Hoffman, "When you fly a humanitarian relief mission and see firsthand the disaster — when you see the people that you are bringing food or medical supplies to — you know you're doing something to help."

Lutheran pastor joins chaplain program

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The Base Chapel welcomed 1st Lt. William Wiecher, a Lutheran pastor and Fordham University PhD. candidate, as the second Protestant chaplain here in December.

Wiecher joined Maj. Richard Miesel, also a Lutheran pastor, in ministering to Westover's Protestant community.

He will serve here on Fridays and Saturdays of the "B" UTA. Wiecher offers Protestant services in the Base Chapel at 4 p.m. on "B" UTA Saturdays, and Chaplain Miesel offers services at 7:30 a.m. on Sundays of the "A" and "B" UTAs.

Wiecher's assignment to Westover is his first duty as a reservist, but he is not entirely unfamiliar with the base.

"During World War II, my father came to Westover from St. Louis, Mo. when he was undergoing Army Air Corps officer training. I think that made my assignment here special for him. When I was commissioned, his gift was my first pair of combat boots," Wiecher said.

A native of St. Louis, Wiecher earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1989 from the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago.

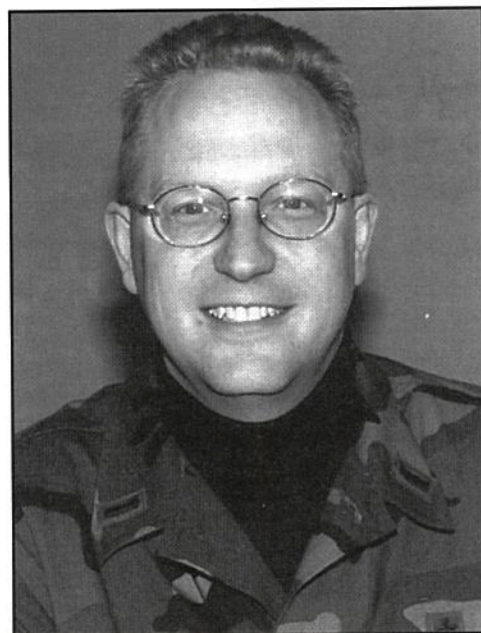
He serves as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in downstate New Paltz, N.Y. He is active with the Student Christian Center Christian Ministry at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Wiecher also commutes to Fordham University, Bronx, N.Y. where he is working on a doctorate in historical theology.

His chaplaincy assignment to Westover is a challenge he welcomes in an already busy schedule of ministry and study.

"The men and women who make up the Westover community represent a unique ministry. I look forward to working with a diverse group of people from different walks of life. I believe this is an important place to be a pastor and theologian," he said.

Wiecher and his wife, Wyneman Hinkel, also a Lutheran pastor, are the parents of three children, Joseph, 6; Mikaela, 4; and Liam, 5 months.



1st Lt. William Wiecher

NationsBank VISA replaces AMEX

by Capt. Mike Franco

Under the new NationsBank Visa Travel Card contract, which took effect Dec. 1, Air Force Reserve Command senior leaders are urging command travelers to use their cards wisely and pay their balances by the due date on billing statements.

The same basic rules (as the former card) apply, according to Daniel J. McCarthy, Westover's financial services officer, the new card should be used for "official purposes and authorized reimbursable travel expenses only and the balance should be paid in a timely fashion."

As of December 1998, some cardholders in the command still had outstanding account balances under the previous American Express program which ended Nov. 30.

Because delinquent accounts reflect negatively on the command and its people, AFRC Commander Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard wants Reserve commanders and supervisors to emphasize closing out all delinquencies as soon as possible.

"We'll track AMEX through March," McCarthy said. All remaining balances should be paid during this time. Delinquen-

cies under the new program will not be tolerated, and misuse or abuse of the card may result in disciplinary actions. Card activity will also be tracked and managed very closely on-line via the NationsBank website with a program called EAGLS (Electronic Account Government Ledger System).

As in the past, government travelers have access to cash through automatic teller machines. Reservists should be advised that there is a 1.9 percent charge for total cash received from ATMs during each billing period. For example, if you withdrawal \$100 from an ATM it will cost \$1.90.

"This is a reimbursable travel expense," McCarthy said. However, travelers must calculate and add it to their voucher with their receipts.

Nearly 47,000 reservists, civilian employees and active-duty people in the command should have received the new NationsBank VISA Travel Card.

Eventually, coordinators will be appointed at the group level to help administer the program. If you have any questions regarding the NationsBank VISA Travel Card program, call Dan McCarthy or Beverly Morley at ext. 3460.

Scams targeting govt. card holders

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—Air Force people with NationsBank VISA government travel cards, need to guard against scams attempting to defraud them or the government.

An individual posing as a representative from a credit card security company called an Air Force servicewoman in January offering a monthly service to cardholders. The woman became suspicious and contacted NationBank to learn an unauthorized charge was made to her account. In January, another individual received an unsolicited e-mail from a travel agent to use his government travel card to purchase airline tickets and obtain "triple frequent flyer miles."

Officials advise AFRC people not to give their government or personal credit card numbers to any unknown source. If solicited by an unknown source, contact the NationBank security desk at 1-800-472-1424.

Travelers cannot use their government cards to purchase anything solicited. (AFRC News Service)

New paint booth up and running

Article and photo
by SSgt. Andrew Reitano

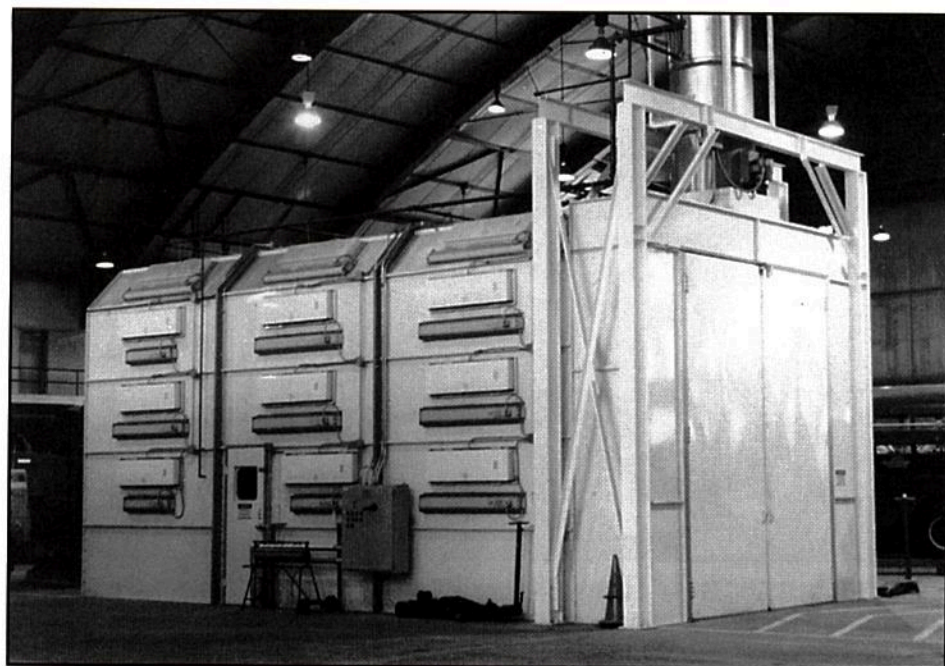
"Uh oh. Better get Maaco?"

Well, not exactly. Fortunately for Westover, the 439th Vehicle Maintenance Flight is once again in the business of painting cars and pulling dents.

Thanks to a new \$75,000 paint booth, Air Force vehicles on base will be looking as good as new. The old paint booth wasn't adequate for the work we had to do," said Roland Gregoire, 439th VMF superintendent. "This new painting booth is bigger, has brighter lighting, and the overall setup is more suitable to our needs."

The new booth also has heating units to help dry the paint. According to Ken Pietras, painter, the heating lights will allow the paint to dry faster, providing a faster turnaround for the customer. The old paint booth is being used as a prep area where the vehicles are sanded down.

Organizations with Air Force vehicles are asked to contact the VMF to schedule



SPRAY CHAMBER — Westover's new paint booth stands ready for action in Hangar 5.

times for their vehicles to be painted. Vehicles in the worst condition will be at the top of the list, said Gregoire.

Currently, with only Pietras doing the prep work and painting, the turnout rate is about one vehicle per week. "Because of the

limited resources we have available, we're only able to do one or two, maximum, vehicles a week," said Gregoire. How fast a vehicle gets done depends on its size, and how much bodywork it may require. So far, Pietras has painted a total of eleven vehicles.

AF Chief of Staff makes readiness top budget issue

by SSgt. Michael Dorsey
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON—The Air Force chief of staff told members of a key congressional committee Wednesday that an additional \$5 billion annually for the next six years is that the service needs to sustain an effective level of readiness.

In the Rayburn Building on Capitol Hill, Gen. Michael E. Ryan and other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff focused on military readiness in testimony to the House Armed Services Committee. The Air Force Chief of Staff said the \$30 billion increase to what President Clinton has already agreed to will stabilize the force by addressing the needs of the people.

The Department of Defense releases its budget Feb. 1.

Increased pay, a revamped retirement system and changing the frantic pace of operations are paramount to retention. Ryan and the rest of the service chiefs agreed that while monetary incentives alone won't fix the problem, but they are a major step in the right direction.

In summation, Ryan told the committee the budget increase is needed because readiness is fragile and the indicators are not good. He cited stateside readiness, down 28 percent from last year, as the largest indicator. He explained, saying the Air Force frontloads its overseas and forward deploying bases so they have high readiness, but as a result readiness suffers at home.

The committee brought up added bonuses for pilot retention but

Ryan said "I am not sure bonuses are the answer, it's all the other intangibles."

In addition to monetary incentives for personnel, the chief said the beefed-up budget would be used to improve and replace an aging aircraft fleet and put predictability into a military lifestyle that performs in an unstable world.

"They want to know how long they'll be gone and when they'll be coming home," said Ryan. "If the family is taken care of, they'll do anything you ask of them," said Ryan in reference to a force that has performed nearly three times more combat, enforcement and humanitarian operations in the last 10 years than in the last four decades.

When queried by the committee about other potential incentives, Ryan said he would consider a 401K-type plan for active duty airmen as long as it remains supplemental and does not replace the improved retirement plan. Under the proposed revision, airmen entering the Air Force after 1986 will receive 50 percent of their base pay upon retirement after 20 years. Currently those under ReDux receive 40 percent retirement.

Despite its magnitude, the retirement issue sums up the appropriate treatment Ryan believes the Air Force's most vital resource — airmen—should receive while serving their country.

"They are our most critical component of readiness," Ryan testified. "The men and women of your Air Force are dedicated and selfless professionals."

Operation So



TRAVEL AGENTS — SSgt. Alice Mitchell and TSgt. Lori Boucher, seated left to right, process deployment paperwork for troops heading to Savannah for Operation Southern Comfort held Feb. 4 - 9.



Wing deploys 288 troops to test readiness

Article by Capt. Jim Bishop
Photos by TSgt. W. C. Pope

A bitter wind bit through deploying troops boarding the bus to Westover's flight line. Though the sun was out, Operation Southern Comfort had an ice-cold start.

After the two and one-half hour flight, the 288 troops deployed to Savannah Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center felt temperatures in the low 70s on Friday. Instead of frostbite and hypothermia, war game hazards included fire ants and sunburn.

The personnel came down in five flights. About 77 advance people from 16 different units arrived on Thursday, Feb. 5. But as early as Monday, two people from Services were already deployed, buying food for the 439th Airlift Wing deployment.

On Friday, three C-5 flights and one C-141 mission brought the remaining 209 people from 23 units to Savannah CRTC. In addition to the 439th Airlift Wing, two Marine Corps units participated—the Marine Corps Support Squadron 6 and the Marine Wing Support Squadron 474, Detachment B, both from Westover.

"The travel down was great. We were treated well by the aircrew, and the in-processing was quick...So far it's been great," said Lt. Col. James Joyce, mission commander.

The summer-like weather was even unusually warm for Georgia, which normally averages a high of 61 degrees in early February.

The mission is to conduct training—to

operate away from home in a wartime environment. In addition to conducting regular unit functions, commanders had to develop plans for base-defense, bunker-making, decontamination, hardening, even relocation plans involving where a unit would move to if its site became contaminated or "blown up."

During the opening commander's call Friday evening, Brig. Gen. James Bankers, 439th AW commander, said, "We're here for training. Have fun and don't get hurt."

Hundreds of people worked behind the scenes to make the five-day Savannah deployment work. And it worked well, according to the people involved.

"There's always something to learn, and it's good training to work in different environments to see what other people do," said TSgt. James Baibi from the 439th AGS.

During the five days of the exercise, the flight crews flew a total of 17 missions.

On the third night of the 439th Airlift Wing's deployment, while many enjoyed the balmy Georgia evening, maintenance workers were repairing an inbound C-5 with a hydraulic leak in the T-tail. They had already put in a full day. By 10 p.m., as the first bus from downtown Savannah was returning, they had fixed the leak.

Every day, a worker from Services got up at 3:15 a.m. to open the chow hall and get supplies ready for the cooks at 4 a.m. By 9 a.m., they reopened to serve breakfast to flightline shift-workers. They kept the

dorms, dining facility and day room at the club running, and they staffed the weight room running until 11 p.m..

On Sunday morning during the warfare exercise, MSgt. Mike Brunnetti was lying on the ground with a simulated bleeding bullet entry hole in his neck and an exit hole in his forehead. The mulage team from medical services had made his wounds so realistic that someone ran up to him and asked if he was all right.

The security forces made sure the area was safe and stood in the hot sun and checked people through to the flight line, said MSgt. Paul Cincotta, one of the two first sergeants for the deployment.

"The senior NCOs did a great job, and there was lots of enthusiasm among the troops," said Brunnetti, first sergeant. We brought a lot of our new people down here and they experienced something they could benefit from, he said.

"We should do this more often," said SSgt. Joaquim Pedro, of the 439th AGS. "Practicing field conditions to build team integrity and simulate a combat town works well," he added.

"This is one of the best deployments I've been on while assigned to the 439th. We had a couple of goals for the deployment, work on our ATSO skills and have fun. Both of these goals were met or surpassed," Joyce said.

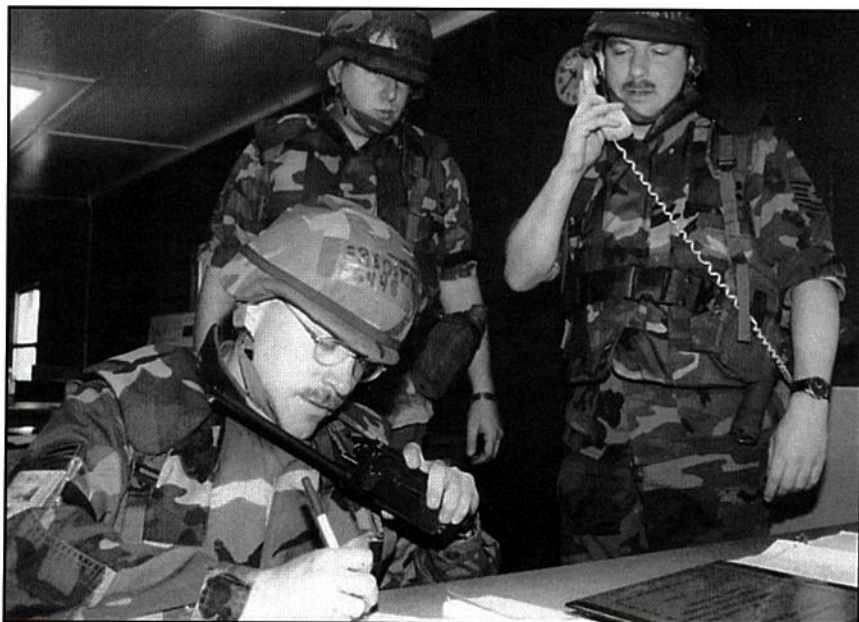
**Additional Southern Comfort
coverage on page 12**

thern Comfort



SAVANNAH SAMPLING —

Troops deployed to Savannah respond to changing scenarios demanding a variety of skills. A total of 17 missions ferried personnel and equipment throughout the exercise, testing air crews and aerial porters. Chemical warfare gear makes even routine tasks challenging (above). Personnel prepare a casualty list from a simulated attack (below).



Scholarship funds offered by Chiefs' Council

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

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

Once again this year, the Chiefs 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.

Candidates wishing to apply must submit the following:

- An autobiography to include any outside activities;
- A Letter of Recommendation from school officials;

- Their most current transcript;
- A completed Chiefs' Council application form.

The deadline for submitting a package is July 10, 1999. An awards dinner for the presentation of scholarships is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 8, 1999. Application forms will be available in unit orderly rooms. The form that appears on this page may also be used.

Completed applications should be mailed to CMSgt. Larry Lose at the address shown on the application.

439th Airlift Wing WESTOVER CHIEFS' COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Student name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Age: _____ School attended: _____

College desired/attending: _____

Address: _____

Date accepted: _____ Major course selected: _____

Name of 439th AW reservist/parent: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Unit assigned: _____ Rank: _____

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

Attachments:

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

Mail applications to:

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

Cut-off date: 10 July 99

Anthrax shot series begins at Westover

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

With anthrax leading the list of biological warfare agents, Defense Secretary William S. Cohen has ordered all 2.4 million active-duty and reserve to receive anthrax shots by 2003. According to the Pentagon, more than 170,000 troops have begun the inoculations, especially those deployed to the Persian Gulf and South Korea.

Westover medical staff will concentrate on aircrew and mobility personnel for the first wave of anthrax shots due to begin this month.

"The anthrax series is six doses over an 18-month period, with the first three doses each two weeks apart," explained Col. Yash Maholtra, 439th MDS commander. After the initial immunization, boosters each year maintain ongoing immunity. "A full time active-duty nurse has been assigned to the base to assist with the program," he said.

Anthrax is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Bacillus Anthracis*. Anthrax spores are highly resilient, can be produced in dry form, stored and ground into particles. They are easily stockpiled as a biological weapon. When inhaled by humans, these particles cause severe pneumonia and death within a week.

The vaccine promotes increased resistance to anthrax by stimulating the body's immune system to produce antibodies.

"The biological threat is there," said Maj. Michael Palmer, 439th MDS chief of aerospace medicine. "If I were being deployed, I would want to be protected."

Palmer stressed, however, that certain individuals should not get the anthrax shots – pregnant military members and people that are immuno-suppressed. "People taking corticosteroids for asthma or chronic pain or people taking cortisone treatments should also not take anthrax immunizations," said Palmer.

Base officials recognize the anthrax series is yet another immunization required for reservists. "No one loves to get shots. I empathize with that, but there is a real threat and this is a step towards force protection," said Maholtra.

"All base reservists are targeted for the shot series because full immunization is a long-term process. Because of terrorist threat to the United States, and possible military contingencies, anthrax immunizations are essential to readiness," Maholtra concluded.

To
your
health



Anthrax:

- ◆ A disease caused by the bacteria *Bacillus anthracis*
- ◆ A highly lethal biological weapon, easy to produce, store and disperse
- ◆ Symptoms generally occur within 24 hours of exposure and include fever, cough, weakness, respiratory failure and death within 7 days.

Vaccine:

- ◆ Vaccination stimulates production of anthrax antibodies
- ◆ Licensed by FDA since 1970 (license no. 99)
- ◆ Manufactured by the Michigan Biologic Products Institute in Lansing, Michigan
- ◆ It is formalin inactivated vaccine which means it uses dead bacteria
- ◆ 30% of recipients experience redness or tenderness at injection site

Vaccination process:

- ◆ Required for all active-duty and reserve personnel by 2003
- ◆ Six shots are required over 18 months, followed by annual booster
- ◆ Contraindicated for pregnant or immuno-suppressed members, or people taking corticosteroids or cortisone injections. If you have an active infection or take prescription medicine, consult health care provider before taking shot.

AF prohibits use of hemp oil products

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

WARNING:

Health food supplements may be hazardous to your Air Force career.

Two recent military court cases have linked the use of hemp seeds and hemp oil with failed urinalysis drug tests. The Air Force now prohibits the ingestion of hemp products as outlined in an amendment to AFI 44-121.

Hemp seed oil products, used primarily by bodybuilders and health product enthusiasts, contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) which is the active ingredient in marijuana. The levels of THC in these products are not significant enough to produce a psychoactive reaction in the body, but are high enough to produce positive results in urinalysis drug tests.

According to Maj. Michael Palmer, 439th MDS chief of aerospace medicine, hemp seed products stimulate blood flow, which purportedly enhances memory and boosts energy. "Reservists using health food supplements should carefully read labels to be sure products do not contain hemp seed ingredients," he warned.

The base clinic is now required to perform random drug testing on 25% of base population each year. According to Col. Yash Maholtra, 439th MDS commander, this mandate has increased from the previous 12% requirement.

"Approximately 50 people per month are targeted for the standard five drug testing," said Maholtra. The standard five tests for barbiturates, stimulants, marijuana (THC), cocaine and opiates.

While the Air Force regulations specifically prohibit use of hemp seed products, Palmer also cautioned reservists regarding ingestion of ephedra and foods containing poppy seeds. Ephedra is found in some diet pills and energy boosting supplements, and may produce a false positive stimulant drug reaction. Ingestion of foods containing poppy seeds may distort opiate levels in urinalysis testing.

Air Force officials encourage the use of caution and common sense.

Patriot People

Name: Brenda Lee Beauregard
Rank: SrA.
Age: 28
Address: Westfield, Mass.
Unit: 439th CS
Position: Information systems journeyman
Civilian position: Residential counselor/student
Favorite food: Linguini with red clam sauce
Years of service: 2.5 years
Favorite sport: Lacrosse
Favorite hobby: Running
Ideal vacation: Cruise
Best way to relax: Listening to music
Preferred entertainment: Concerts
Favorite music: Alternative/rap
Favorite movie: *Top Gun*
Favorite aircraft: T-birds
Pet peeve: People who are late
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Pay my bills and go on a long cruise



SSgt. Vin Blanchard

SrA. Brenda Lee Beauregard

PA staff, *PATRIOT* grab AFRC awards

The 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office has again won several awards in the Air Force Reserve Command's media contest.

TSgt. W.C. Pope was a double winner, placing first in the information graphics category and third in illustrative art.

A special historical edition of the *PATRIOT*, produced under the guid-

ance of **MSgt. Sandi Michon** won first place for special achievement.

SSgt. Charlie Cangemi, collected his first AFRC award, placing second in the photojournalism category.

The "*PATRIOT*" placed second overall, behind the "Associate Press" from McChord AFB, Wash. Both papers will now compete in the Air Force contest.

Patriot Praises

Enlistments

TSgt. Reul, Craig G.
 SSgt. Clausen, Corey W.
 SrA. Heath, Adam G.
 SrA. Maldonado, Jose L.
 A1C DeToma, Francis J., Jr.
 A1C Hobart, Julia R.
 A1C MacDonald, Nichole A.
 A1C Pinto, Donahue R.
 A1C Rogers, Derek W.

Reenlistments

MSgt. Hartling, Daniel G.
 MSgt. Herens, Michael L.
 MSgt. King, Kenneth B.
 MSgt. Letourneau, Carla A.
 MSgt. Mancini, Anita L.

MSgt. Yankus, Paul A.
 TSgt. Aselton, Jonathan A.
 TSgt. Bates, Randy J.
 TSgt. Gates, Aaron D.
 TSgt. Gaglione, Thomas G.
 TSgt. Gagne, Eugene A.
 TSgt. Jones, Robert W.
 TSgt. Konunchuk, James J.
 TSgt. MacDonald, Glenn A.
 TSgt. Major, Daniel S.
 TSgt. Menard, Robert J.
 TSgt. Moen, Linda S.
 TSgt. Monopoli, John R.
 TSgt. Morganstern, Peter T.
 TSgt. Pleva, Mark A.
 TSgt. Ross, Stephen E.
 TSgt. Tanguay, John R.
 SSgt. Allen, Charles D.
 SSgt. Boczanowski, Joanne F.

SSgt. Daigneault, Scott C.
 SSgt. Dziokonski, Norman C.
 SSgt. Gendron, Michael A.
 SSgt. Leeds, Lawrence R.
 SSgt. Markelonis, Brian A.
 SSgt. Moya, Pamela R.
 SSgt. Stack, Timothy M.
 SSgt. Veresko, Paul S.
 SrA. Domingos, Joseph C.
 SrA. Rondeau, David L.
 A1C Riplett, Autumn E. J.

Retirements

MSgt. Beauregard, James O.
 MSgt. Demers, Joseph I., Jr.
 MSgt. Ray, Sandra L.
 TSgt. Owen, Scott M.
 TSgt. Pregony, Douglas A.

Awards and Decorations

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

MSgt. Jack E. Nelson 439 ASTS

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

TSgt. Scott G. Griffin 439 AGS
 (second award)

TSgt. James T. Irla 439 AGS
 (second award)

TSgt. Robert N. Tower 439 CES
 SSgt. Paul J. Barboza 439 AGS
 (second award)

SSgt. Mark R. Theroux 439 AGS
 SSgt. Jon G. Williams 439 AGS

WING QUARTERLY AWARDS

Airman: SrA David Dybski, 439 AES
 NCO: TSgt. Helen Crouch, 439 ASTS
 Senior NCO: MSgt. Bruce Wescott
 439 LSS/LGT
 Officer: Capt. Deborah Fuller, 439 MDS
 Civilian: Patricia Simonds, 439 LSS
 Supervisor: James Kelly, 439 SPTG

Help our recruiters

Answer quickly, what's your favorite benefit that you gain as a reservist? Pride of service? Good part-time pay? Montgomery GI Bill? Training and work experience? Personal recognition? MWR? The fact is, there's no quick answer, because the line-up is so long.

As a reservist you know a lot about benefits. A better question is why don't your friends know about the best part-time job in the world?

Reserve slots that a few years ago were "overmanned" are today going unfilled. Does that mean there are no men and women of prior or non-prior service who are motivated by the call to serve? It's more likely that many people with potential just don't know what they're missing. It's up to us to pass the word.

COMMENTARY

According to SMSgt. Tom Dunford, assistant senior recruiter, "if one-third of Westover reservists made a legitimate referral, our unit manning would never fall before 100 percent again. In our civilian jobs we would never hesitate to refer one of our friends to our employer. Why don't we do the same thing here at Westover?"

Here's something you can start by telling a friend. Right now 20 different Air Force Reserve jobs offer enlistment bonuses of up to \$5,000. That's in addition to \$251 a month for full-time students eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill. Plus, a senior airman with two years of service earns more than \$2,500 annually for the 39 duty days of normal UTAs and annual tour.

And remember to tell about the intangible benefits, like camaraderie, pride and the opportunity to excel. Don't forget how many times you've heard the expression, 'it's the people that make Westover great'.

More information is available in brochures at Westover's recruiting offices. Our recruiters are available at 450 Ellipse Drive, five days a week, including Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and on UTA Saturdays. They can be reached at extension 2232 or 2125 or 1-800-257-1212. They also have offices at Hanscom AFB; Worcester, Manchester, Conn.; and Albany, N.Y.

Do a friend a favor. Pass the word about the benefits of the best part-time job in the world.

by MSgt. Tom Allocco
Public Affairs Craftsman



Briefs

Senior enlisted advisors are now called CCMs

Effective Nov. 1, 1998, senior enlisted advisors are now called command chief master sergeants, to more closely align their job titles to their service counterparts.

Besides the name change for the position, command chief master sergeants will also wear a distinctive new chevron.

In conversational address, command chief master sergeants, or CCMs, will still be referred to as chief, just like all other chief master sergeants.

Westover safety office has three slots open

Westover's Safety Office has three openings for safety specialists (OX1). One slot is for a senior master sergeant, one is for a master sergeant and the other is for a technical sergeant.

Applicants must be able to attend an eight-week course at Lackland AFB, Texas. Anyone interested is asked to send a resume and references to the Safety Office, 100 Lloyd St., Suite 102, Westover ARB, MA 01022. For further information, call Lt. Col. Dave Moore at ext. 3587.

Courses offered

The 439th Airlift Wing Center for Excellence has slots open for four courses over the next several months.

A three-day course entitled "Confronting Difficult Issues" will be held May 11-13. A Customer Focus Training class is scheduled for 14-15 April and again 8-9 June. A three-day course called "Leadership and Performance Management" is set for 9-11 April and again 15-17 June. A Mentoring class will be conducted on May 19.

Anyone wishing to sign up for these classes may call Lt. Col. Armand Tourangeau or CMSgt. Kathy Wood at ext. 2273 or 2876.

APRIL UTA SCHEDULE
A UTA April 10-11
B UTA April 24-25

Additional duty FOD walks keep runways safe

by Capt. James Bishop

SAVANNAH — At 10:33 Sunday morning, the C-5A taxied onto the runway at Savannah International Airport. Clouds of dust and stones billowed out behind the runway. As the large plane lifted off, the runway was immediately closed to all traffic. The FOD (foreign object damage) walk had begun.

After each of the C-5 flights during the 439th Airlift Wing's deployment, the runway, which the Georgia National Guard shares with Savannah IAP, was closed to sweep and pick up rocks and dirt which could get sucked into a jet engine and cripple the aircraft.

While a yellow truck sped up the runway, directing three large-sweeper trucks to problem areas along the runway, 16 people walked shoulder-to-shoulder on the taxiway picking up debris.

"It's the most extensive FOD checks I've seen," said MSgt. Robert Seaton, operations NCO for the 439th Airlift Control Flight, the unit that does command and control of the airlift operation.

Damage from foreign objects such as rocks is a problem here because the runway wasn't built for an aircraft like the C-5, with its 222.9-foot wing span. Another runway, thought to be ready by December, is still being repaired, said Lt. Col. David Henry, Travis Field operations group commander.

And with the \$30-40 million Gulf Stream Five jets being manufactured and flown out of the Savannah airport, along with the regular



TSgt. W. C. Pope

DEBRIS DUTY — Volunteers from all 439th AW units performed FOD walks after each C-5 takeoff and landing in Savannah. The C-5 wingspan was wider than the runway causing clouds of dirt and pebbles to be strewn across the tarmac, creating potential hazards.

commercial and military air traffic, FOD poses a critical problem.

After three minutes, the runway was clear, and a US Airways 737 flew in. Five minutes later, the taxiway was clear. Originally, the Savannah Airport Commission thought that each cleanup would take 45 minutes. The cleanup took eight minutes.

"Your unit has been wonderful in helping us get through this," Henry said.

On one FOD-walk, people found rocks

up to three inches in diameter, and they found enough debris to fill a gallon jug—easily enough to destroy an engine.

"So far everything has gone better than they expected," Seaton said, noting that the airport commission gave specific windows of time for the C-5 to take off. If a crew missed a window, they stayed on the ground.

"The airport commission has the power to shut down our operation, so we keep them happy," Seaton said.

PATRIOT



Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Scott J. Loughman, of Amherst, Mass., and 2,404 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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