

PATRIOT

express

439th Airlift Wing
Feb 25, 2003 #1

- ☑ Westover ARB goes to 24 hour flying operations
- ☑ 850 Westover reservists activated on Feb. 19
- ☑ Base shuttle bus makes rounds every 15 minutes during meal hours

Hours of operation

Fitness center:

Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m.;
Saturday (non-UTA), 9 a.m.-3 p.m.;
Sunday (non-UTA), closed;
UTA Saturdays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.;
UTA Sundays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bowling center:

Monday through Friday lunch and
bowling, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Westover Consolidated Club (open daily):

Breakfast: 6-8 a.m.;
lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; dinner, 5-8 p.m.

Westover Dining Facility (daily):

Midnight meals, 11 p.m.-1 a.m.,
boxed meals provided daily

Family Support Center:

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.;
Saturday and Sunday of A UTA,
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.;
Saturday of B UTA, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
closed Sunday of B UTA

Legal office:

Monday through Friday,
7:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.;
reserve legal office open on A and B
UTAs only

Base exchange:

Monday through Saturday,
10 a.m.-5 p.m.;
Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Shoppette:

Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m.-6
p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Barber shop (located next to BX):

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.;
Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.,
closed Sundays

Daily base shuttle:

Bus will complete route every 15
minutes during meal hours at the
Westover Club and dining facility. It
also makes stops at: Hangar Avenue,
supply and bowling center.



MSgt. Nicole D. Remy, 439th Logistics Support Squadron, and TSgt. Edward D. Pezanetti, 439th Maintenance Squadron, get assistance with their activation paperwork from SSgt. Caroline Roy of the reserve legal office on Feb. 19 at the dining facility.
(photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe)

Patriot Wing hangs out “last chance for gas” sign

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

When the word came in early February from Air Mobility Command that the nation needs an airbridge to move troops and equipment across the Atlantic, the Patriot Wing saluted smartly and went to work. Starting with the help of volunteers, the wing began around-the-clock operations to support an armada of C-5s.

From day one, maintenance and fuels started working two 12-hour shifts to provide “gas and go” service for aircraft carrying all branches of the service. When troops here need meals or billeting, Services and Transportation fill the bill. Aerial porters and the USO have set up a passenger terminal operation that guarantees that troops going overseas will know the meaning of Westover hospitality.

Last Wednesday 850 reservists, mostly maintenance and operations members, started a one-year activation to help put muscle in the war on terrorism. With clockwork efficiency, the 439th Military Personnel Flight conducted mobilization lines in the Dining Hall, addressing needs from immunizations to family and employer support.

For the majority of those activated, it was the second call to duty. Following the September 11 terror attack, about half of the 2,500 Westover reservists were activated. Most were released in August and September, although security police remained on duty.

The latest round of activations and high ops tempo place the wing in the forefront of a great national effort.

(continued on next page)

439th AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces

Texans experience New England chilly

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The Texans who came to New England knew a lot about airplanes, but not much about snow. The 125 maintainers from the 433rd Airlift Wing, Lackland AFB, spent the first two weeks of February on the Westover flightline experiencing one of the worst stretches of a bitterly cold, snowy season.

When they were activated last week, the reservists from San Antonio went home with stories to tell about blizzards and below zero weather.

"You guys deal with something I've never experienced in my life. Cold takes on a whole new meaning," said TSgt. Vincent Cancholo.

"I hadn't seen snow since 1984 when it snowed two or three inches in San Antonio," said TSgt. Jose Landeros. "Working in the cold makes everything more difficult. The cold is hard on the airplanes. There's more maintenance on the seals," he said.

"It was two below zero here and they told me it was 70 degrees in Texas," said SSgt. Al Hyatt. "I've got to get home and cut the grass. And get hay for my horses," he said.

Hyatt is a true Texan who was featured in Citizen Airman magazine in 2000 when he won a steer team roping event in the Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association. But he hadn't experienced a New England winter. "I never saw a river freeze before," Hyatt said.

last chance for gas...

(Continued from page 1)

"Once again, Westover stands at a critical junction of the airbridge of troops and equipment, just as it did before Desert Storm," said Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander.

"Since the September 11 attacks on America the Patriot Wing has been a key player in the war on terrorism. When called, our men and women have performed admirably at home and abroad. They have done so at personal sacrifice to themselves, their families and their employers. I know that as America braces to confront this stubborn crisis, our activated reservists, our volunteers and the rest of our Westover community will again live up to the confidence that the nation has placed in them," the wing commander said.

Westover building up the stats in airbridge operations

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe
and MSgt. Tom Allocco

Since Feb. 2, Westover has handled:
1,624 passengers
5.2 millions pounds of cargo
170 aircraft

Westover's nerve center for the ongoing surge has been bustling since Feb. 2 when 24-hour operations began to support the military buildup in Southwest Asia.

As of Feb. 24, 1,624 passengers had gone through Hangar 3, where the air terminal operations center is located, said CMSgt. Bruce L. Westcott, 42nd APS ATOC superintendent. The ATOC oversaw the passage of 5,221,761 pounds of cargo on aircraft passing through Westover. Of that amount, Westcott said aerial porters handled 224,170 pounds of cargo on aircraft. One

hundred-seventy transient aircraft have landed and departed the base since Feb. 2. While the aircraft have mostly been C-5s, other types have included C-9s, C-130s, C-141s, and C-17s.

"Services came to us on Monday morning and asked what we needed," Westcott said. "We gave them a wish list. By Wednesday everything was all set up and running."

In the hangar are tents, cots, tables and a lounge with TVs, VCR tapes, video games and telephones. Services, with the help of reservists from other bases, offers midnight meals and boxed flight meals at all hours. During the Gulf War, the Patriot Wing set the standard for hospitality towards tens of thousands of troops deploying and returning from the AOR. The current operation builds on that experience. The 439th Communications Squadron donated computers to e-mail

messages home. The Family Support Center donated modems and paid for Internet services. They also donated books, magazines, audio books and writing materials. Troops received calling cards through the VFW's Operation Uplink.

Civilian employees across base pitched in to help. The Base Exchange set up a mini-exchange in which desert camouflage pillows unexpectedly became a fad item among troops who scooped them off the shelves.

"They're my family. That's why I'm here," said USO volunteer Marilyn Spofford of Granby. She was in the hangar with her husband, Air Force retiree Bob Spofford, greeting troops, as they have since Desert Shield. The Spoffords are among the USO volunteers in the hangar all hours of the day and night, ready with a hot cup of coffee, cookies and friendly words for the troops.

PATRIOT express

Contact us:
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Express-ions



- ☒ Army National Guard comes onboard to help Westover with security
- ☒ Second activation of Westover reservists (back page)
- ☒ A half century of Westover highlights (back page)

Briefs

Midnight chow

The dining facility will be open from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. for midnight meals. Box lunches will be provided upon request 24/7 the cost of a box lunch is \$3.25 each. The cost of meals is \$3.25 if members are on per diem.

-from TSgt. David Beauregard,
439th SVS

Medical facility hours

Hours of operation for 24-hour non-emergency medical support 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Normal operations:

-Sick call 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Dental support will only be available this week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

-4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. nurse/technician on duty Ext. 3565 or 2661.

-9:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. on call Medical Coverage Call beeper 730-0488

The medical squadron is working with specific squadrons to have Tricare representatives available from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. If units have needs please contact CMSgt. George Kudla or Lt. Col. Lenore Boris at Ext. 3565.

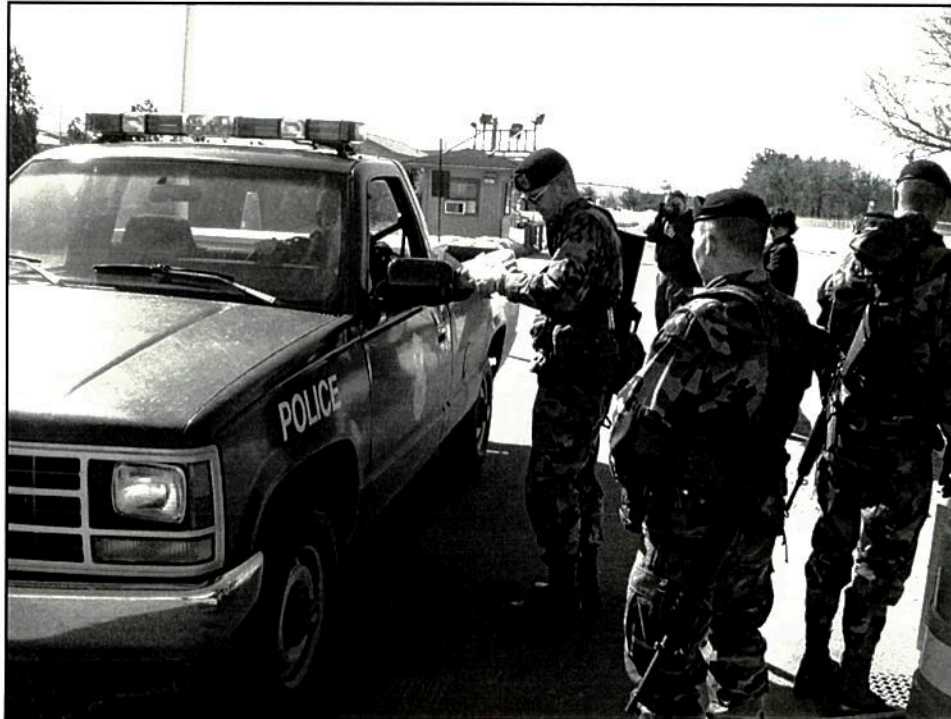
Note: for all medical emergencies call 911.

The staff at the medical facility are awaiting news on possible activations. If it does happen, a permanent schedule for hours of operation will be set up.

-from Lt. Col. Lenore Boris,
439th AMDS

Club serves Texas barbecued buffet

The Westover Consolidated Club is serving a Texas barbecued buffet at 5 p.m. on Friday. Cost for members is \$12.95 per person and \$13.95 for non-members.



SSgt. Joseph Geyster, Massachusetts Army National Guard, checks the ID card of a motorist entering Westover at the Industrial Gate on Feb. 25.

(photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe)

Citizen soldiers stand tall at "Fort Westover" gates

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

It's not exactly "you're in the Army now," but the Massachusetts National Guard is introducing an Army flavor at the gates. The black beret with blue flash of some of the gate guards belongs to an Army infantry regiment.

The new look at the entrances to the base began in mid-February. It's all part of about 50 Massachusetts Army National Guard soldiers assisting the 439th Security Forces Squadron with protecting Westover. The guardsmen are on orders for at least a year, said 1st Lt. David H. Long, platoon leader of the 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, of the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment headquartered in Melrose.

SSgt. Joseph Geyster, a guardsman from Athol, checked ID cards at the Industrial Gate in a chilly wind on Feb. 25. Geyster is billeted in a base dormitory and is able to make it home to see his family on his days off. He is pleased with the accommodations at Westover. "They're taking good care of us," he said.

The activation orders this time around carried a far different meaning than having to travel halfway around the world, Long said. He and Geyster deployed to Bosnia last year for seven and a half months.

(continued on next page)

Medical, airlift control teams activated

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Orders to activate and prepare to deploy came for Patriot Wing aeromedical and airlift control members this week.

The 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron activated four four-member teams who will soon deploy to different locations, including Southwest Asia. The 16 members went through the mobilization line on Tuesday.

Eleven members of the 439th Airlift Control Flight will go through the mobilization line on Monday. The airlift control flight is organized to provide command and control for airlift operations at a deployed location.

The activated airlift control team includes a pilot, a navigator, a command and control officer, operations specialists, loadmasters and an information management specialist. The activated squadron members have not yet been notified of their specific follow-on tasking, said SMSgt. Bob Seaton, ALCF superintendent.

intendent.

The four teams of medical specialists are designated as aeromedical evacuation liaison teams. Each team is made up of a medical services officer, flight nurse and two radio operators. They will work with all branches of the service to request patient aeromedical evacuation that could range from forward locations to hospitals in the United States.

The 439th AES has a proud record supporting Enduring Freedom. Squadron members have served 100-day tours overseas at Bagram AB, Afghanistan and in Pakistan.

"Every time I've called, they've stepped forward. The support and enthusiasm of the members upon being called to duty has been amazing," said Lt. Col. David Zamorski, 439th AES operations officer.

Members of the 439th ALCF were previously activated during the Gulf War when they served for three months at King Khalid Military City in northern Saudi Arabia near the Iraq and Kuwaiti borders.

Guardsmen...

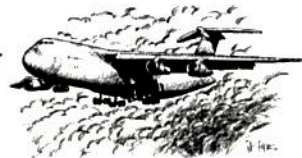
(Continued from page 1)

"It's nice to be close to home," Long said. "This area is in some of the guys' backyards. It works out well." Long, who lives in Brockton, has assigned the guardsmen to not only work the base gates. They are also working with 439th reservists with patrols all over the 2,500 acres of Westover.

Base security officials welcomed the help from the Army Guard.

"Everything's become a joint operation," said Maj. Tim Donnelly, acting commander of the 439th SFS. "This is an opportunity for a joint service operation. It's a training opportunity."

About 140 people in the 439th SFS have been activated since shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Donnelly said. Some will be allowed to leave the base as the Army Guard troops settle in, while other reservists who volunteer will stay on.



Pat Stats

Customers served since Feb. 2, 2003

- 1,819 passengers
- 203 aircraft
- 6 million pounds of cargo

Information provided by
MSgt. Jim Garrity and
TSgt. Kevin Nee, 42nd APS

Westover Memories

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

The '40s – September 1941: Work is completed on Building 1520, a combined fire and police station, constructed on Hangar Avenue near the Base Hangar.

The '50s – April 1, 1955: The 4050th Air Refueling Wing becomes the host unit of Westover as the Strategic Air Command (SAC) takes over the base from the Military Air Transport Service (MATS).

The '60s – Jan. 9, 1961: The 347th Bombardment Squadron – one of three B-52 flying units of the 99th Bomb Wing – is reassigned to McCoy AFB, Fla., leaving the 346th and 348th Bombardment Squadrons at Westover.

The '70s – May 19, 1974: Westover becomes the nation's first Air Force Reserve base.

The '80s – August 1981: Westover hosts "Condor Redoubt," the most massive Air Force Reserve exercise ever held. More than 3,000 reservists and 200 aircraft participate in the two-week training mission.

The '90s – Aug. 22, 1990: Twenty days after Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein ordered his troops to invade neighboring Kuwait, the Air Force activates Westover's 337th Military Airlift Squadron.

Sources for this article include the history archives of the 439th Airlift Wing, past editions of the "Patriot," Westover's base newspaper; a Strategic Air Command website; "An Historical Walking Tour of Westover Air Reserve Base," the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; and "Active Air Force Bases Within the United States of America," by the USAF Historical Research Center.

USO fund-raiser

The Pioneer Valley USO will present A Salute to America fund-raiser starring the USO Show Troupe and Pat Tobin with A Tribute to Frank Sinatra at the Knights of Columbus, 1599 Memorial Drive at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 7. Tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$12 for military members. They will be available at the door or by calling the Pioneer Valley USO at 222-5276.



Contact us:

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Express-ions



☑ Heat wave hits Westover with a high of 39 degrees on Mar. 1

☑ Mass. National Guard uses Westover as staging area for convoy of 70 Trucks.

☑ Ash Wednesday at the Base Chapel

Hours of operation

Fitness center:

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minutes during meal hours at the
Westover Club and dining facility. It
also makes stops at: Hangar Avenue,
supply and bowling center.

You're not going anywhere until the fuelies do their job

Article and photos
by MSgt. Tom Allocco

They call themselves fuelies. They are the team players who never get featured on CNN. But the Westover Fuels specialists know that an airbridge runs on JP-8. And fuelies tell you they live by the slogan "without fuel, pilots are pedestrians."

The 12 wing tanks of a C-5A Galaxy carry 51,150 gallons of JP-8. That's six and a half railroad cars, enough for the family car to make 31 trips around the world. Feeding the four turbofan engines is the job of six Westover fuels specialists on active duty and nine civilians.

Since the start of the surge, Fuels has roughly doubled the JP-8 they pump, to about an average 120,000 gallons a day. Thirteen fuels specialists TDY here are helping top off planes which are starting across the Atlantic.

Fuel is pumped at 600 gallons a minute, either from fuel pits on the flightline or fuel trucks. Mission planners at Base Ops have a mathematical formula to determine fuel needs.

"We'll fuel according to the cargo weight...sometimes less fuel if they are heavy and hitting a tanker. Sometimes it's up to the pilot's preference. He might ask for a little



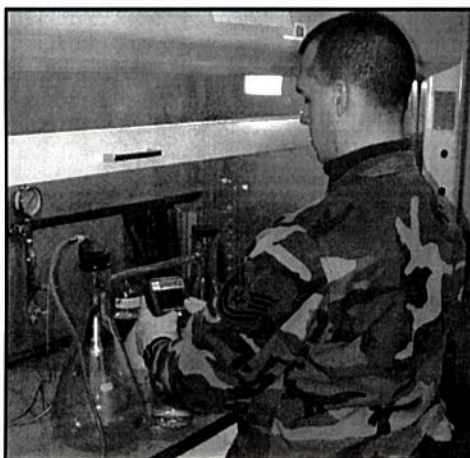
TSgt. Mark Borrelli monitors gauges on a fuel truck as he returns a hose following a refueling.

more fuel and we might give another 10,000 pounds," said Chuck Berry, Fuels manager.

Handling hoses on the flightline is the final step in a long process that can be tracked all the way to pipeline terminals at New Haven, Conn. Fuels specialists start with six weeks of school at Sheppard AFB, Texas where there's an emphasis on safe handling, response to an emergency and testing of fuel, said TSgt. Matthew Lanzi, NCOIC. They have to be adept with everything from accounting books to spill kits to test tubes.

Every day they siphon JP-8 into bottles and run it through a filter in their Fuels lab to test for water, sediment and purity of additives, such as anti-freeze and a chemical to prevent the build-up of static electricity. It's critical that they assure that fuel on a C-5 at 30,000 feet will maintain its properties under extreme conditions of heat and cold. "We want to issue dry, clean fuel. That's the name of the game," said James Maloney.

Responsibilities include delivery of liquid nitrogen, a fire suppressant pumped into tires and empty spaces of fuel tanks, and liquid oxygen. Both are kept at about 300 degrees below zero and require protective face shields, aprons and gloves because even a drop can be dangerous. Fuels also has a truck to pump JPTS special fuel for the U-2



TSgt. Matthew Lanzi, Fuels NCOIC, prepares to run samples of JP-8 through filters to test for purity in the Fuels lab.

(continued on next page)

Fuels... (Continued from page 1)

which regularly stops here.

Safe handling to protect individuals and the environment is the topic of daily safety briefings. But, still Fuels has its own unique ambience.

"My wife complains about the smell in the uniform. When we walk into the orderly room, people will say 'here comes Fuels'. I don't smell it. I'm around it so much," Lanzi said.

Fuels will always have its own cocky attitude toward hard work and play. Posted on their wall is a list of "you might be a fuelie if". One measure of a Fuel specialist is if "you've ever had to take someone to the hospital after a friendly game of basketball."

Ash Wednesday services

The 439th AW Chaplain staff will conduct services for Ash Wednesday on March 5 in Bldg. 1100. Catholic Mass will be held at 11:30 a.m. and Protestant services will be at noon.

Pool tournament at Club

The Consolidated Club sponsors a double elimination eight-ball pool tournament at 6 p.m. every Tuesday.

Flight line photos need PA okay

For security reasons, photography is not permitted on the flight line without permission from the Public Affairs office. For information call Ext. 2020.

Pat Stats

Served since February 2, 2003
1,896 passengers
256 aircraft
7,123,903 pounds of cargo
Info provided by
MSgt. Jim Garrity, 42nd APS



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Lunchtime racquetball at fitness center

A lunchtime racquetball league plays Monday through Thursday at the fitness center. The league is playing a round robin season and will conclude later this year with an end of season tournament. Prizes and trophies will be offered.

League play is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, call Marc Grothues at Ext. 3958.

Wing sets Employer Appreciation Day

by Gordon A. Newell

An Employer Appreciation Day is scheduled for June 26 if mission requirements allow.

Reservists are encouraged to invite their primary employer to visit the base and participate in an orientation flight.

Employers should be at the Westover club by 9:30 a.m. for coffee and refreshments. They will be taken to the flight line at approximately 10:30 for an orientation flight aboard a unit C-5A. After the flight (which will last about one and one-half hours) employers will be guest of

the wing commander for lunch at the club.

If reservists wish to attend the luncheon, they must pay in advance. Prices will be announced as details become available.

Reservists are allowed to bring just one supervisor. Only reservists assigned to the aircrew for the orientation flight will be able to fly.

Reservists must fill out the application form that appears below and return it to the PA office in Bldg. 1850. Invitations will be sent directly to the employers.

Further information is available from the PA office at (413) 557-3500 or 2020.

June 26 - Employer Appreciation Day

Reservist's name, rank and unit: _____

Reservist's home address: _____

Reservist's daytime telephone number: _____

Employer's name and title: _____

Employer's Social Security Number: _____

Employer's company name/address: _____

Lunch for employer: YES___ NO___ Lunch for reservist: YES___ NO___

I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature _____

(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

Express-ions



Some things just don't change...

- ☑ Eight hundred sixty-nine reservists activated as of Wednesday; 148 on MPA
- ☑ 337th crews take to the stage (back page)
- ☑ Street names mark history of base (back page)

Briefs

722nd ready to deploy

Thirty medical specialists of the 722nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, the Patriot Wing's geographically separated unit at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., arrived here by bus on Monday to process through the mobilization line. Those activated include a doctor, nurses, and emergency medical technicians.

They remained at Westover through this week conducting weapons familiarization and other administrative duties. Squadron members expect to soon deploy overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Co-workers support troops

Capt. John Crotty, 439th AES deputy director of administration, has no doubt about the support of his fellow employees at his civilian job. He recently helped deliver boxes of home baked cookies, muffins, brownies and breads to the Pioneer Valley USO.

Troops passing through the Westover Passenger Terminal enjoyed the home baked treats thanks to the generosity of staff members of the Chestnut Hill Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, East Longmeadow.

Crotty's co-workers at the center have also set up a box to collect toiletry articles and other small gifts for troops going overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, said Judith Rescia, director of admissions, who helped deliver the baked goods.

Yes, that was one of Westover's own in Parade

Readers who picked up Sunday's newspaper found a Westover reservist's face on the front page of the *Parade* magazine inside.

CMSgt. John Szewc, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron air freight superintendent, was among a cross-section of people whose faces and civilian salaries were included in the magazine's "What People Make" coverage.

In his civilian life, Szewc is a postman who works in the Hartford, Conn., area.



(photo by MSgt. Tom Allocco)

ARMY MOBILITY -
Sergeant First Class Trevor George inspects a rows of five-ton trucks that were part of about 80 trucks and humvees of the National Guard's 1166th Transportation Company from Ware which staged at Westover in February. Three C-5s airlifted 25 of the trucks to Pope AFB, N.C., while the remaining trucks were hauled on flatbed trailers.

42nd aerial porters put wings on fleet of National Guard trucks

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Patriot Wing aerial porters are in the business of filling C-5 bays with outsize, heavy cargo. So it was just in their nature recently when they thought to match up three empty C-5s with rows of heavy-duty trucks.

The result of a little initiative proved to be a major savings for the Massachusetts National Guard. Westover aerial porters teamed with C-5 aircrews and helped a local Army Guard unit complete their deployment to Fort Bragg, N.C.

Members of the 42nd APS loaded 25 trucks belonging to the 1166th Transportation Company onto the C-5s last week. The large trucks came from Ware. While the guard unit had some 50 trucks remaining to take by flatbed to Fort Bragg, the airlift still saved about \$50,000, said CMSgt. Bruce L. Westcott, 42nd APS operations superintendent.

Westcott, who is also an air reserve technician at Westover, regularly attends wing staff meetings, where he learns of future C-5 missions leaving the base. On his way to a recent meeting, he spotted the rows of trucks sitting in front of wing headquarters. That

same morning, Westcott learned of three empty C-5s going to Pope AFB, located next to Fort Bragg.

"I saw the (C-5) missions start popping up," he said. "The plans office here was involved initially, so they handed us the guard unit's phone number. I called the sergeant major, and it went from there."

Within five hours, the trucks were on their way to being airlifted. However, there was much more involved than simply driving the trucks aboard the Galaxies. Westcott said the aerial porters cleaned and inspected them before the onload. In all, 25 trucks went aboard the C-5s. Each load, which weighed in at about 188,000 pounds, took about 30 minutes.

"We brought the trucks into a hangar," said SSgt. Michael Cormier, a 42nd APS loader. He then drove the trucks through the back end of the massive airlifters, and assisted loadmasters with the correct placement of each vehicle. "Once you get the routine down, it's easier," Cormier said.

Westcott said the aerial porters carried out the mission with great enthusiasm despite

(continued on next page)

Trucks... (Continued from page 1)

the late hours and February's sub-zero temperatures. "You have to see their faces when they hear about this kind of thing," he said. "They just light up. The cold weather motivates you too. That airplane's like a wind tunnel."

Lt. Col. James Carey, 42nd APS commander, said the effort was typical of his squadron's readiness to accept a challenge. "It's indicative of the quality of people we have," he said.

The last of the three C-5s delivered its load of trucks to Pope on March 1.

Pat Stats

Served since Feb. 2, 2003

1,930 passengers

306 aircraft

7,370,723 pounds of cargo

Info provided by

TSgt. Kevin Nee, 42nd APS

Box lunches

1,143 served to Westover people

638 to duty passengers

1,481 hot meals served

Provided by

TSgt. David Beauregard, 439th SWS

Fuel (since Feb. 1)

2,907,037 gallons of JP-8 issued

to assigned and transient aircraft

Provided by

Jim Maloney, fuels accounting

337th AS aircrews take to the stage

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

It takes endurance to make Enduring Freedom work. Since the February kickoff of the surge, Westover aircrews are on the road every day, going on overdrive to deliver the equipment and troops that put muscle behind Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 337th Airlift Squadron concluded more than a year of active duty at the end of last September. Since then eight aircrews have been serving on Enduring Freedom orders.

As of yesterday, five Westover aircrews were overseas operating out of staging areas from which they deliver support material and troops to the Southwest Asia area of operations.

A typical period overseas could last two weeks and include two or more missions downrange. Crews could come home earlier, but at other times mission requirements have kept some crews on the road for up to a month.

Even the shortest, easiest peacetime mission is demanding. For an aircrew it's a

roundtrip of constant attention to detail to take the big Galaxy safely across oceans and continents. It's a trip in which you forget what time or day it is back at home.

Now it's even tougher, while staying within the strict bounds of crewrest for safety. "It can be multiple 24-hour days and minimal crew rest," said Lt. Col. Sandy Whittier, 337th AS operations chief.

Aircrews' families are also in the forefront of the Enduring Freedom stepped up activity. After long missions, aircrews can be home for as little as three days before they are again alerted for a new overseas mission.

"The job they're doing takes commitment. For us to be able to provide five volunteer aircrews on the road is noteworthy," Whittier said.

The Enduring Freedom missions typically use augmented nine-member crews of three each of pilots, flight engineers and loadmasters. They leave Westover to pick up cargo and troops elsewhere and proceed across the North Atlantic where they often refuel from Air Guard KC-135s from Pease ANGB, N.H. or Bangor IAP, Maine.

Street names mark people, aircraft in base history

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Chances are that while we may know where many of the roads take us on base, some of us might not know the relevance of the street names to Westover.

Just like the vintage World War II hangars along the flight line, the street names represent the base's historic past. The following is a list of some of the street signs and the meanings behind them:

Provider Avenue: Named for the C-123K Provider, a small tactical airlifter that was assigned to Westover from 1973 to 1982. The C-123s came from L.G. Hanscom Field, Bedford, Mass., in September 1973, and were first assigned to the 901st Tactical Airlift Group.

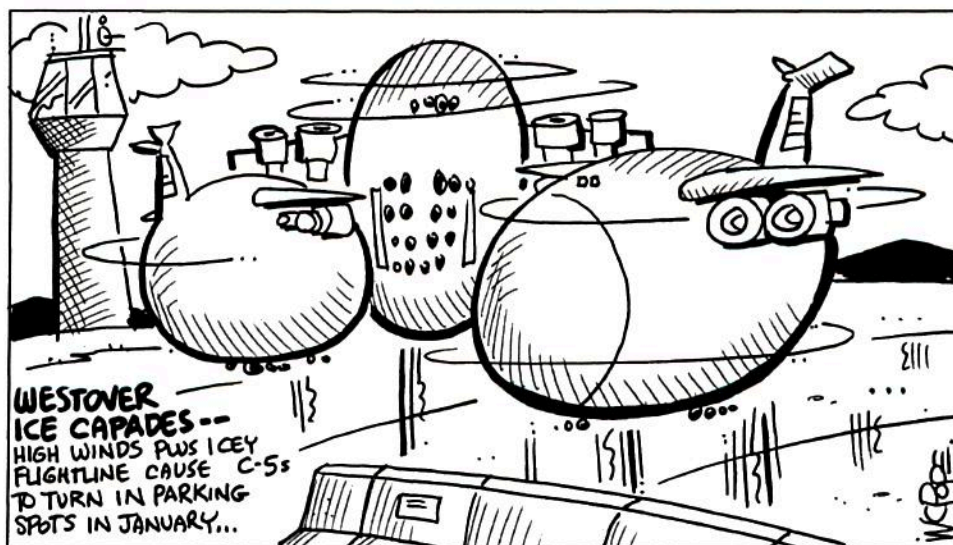
Later on, the group was inactivated, with its members and aircraft falling under the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing (TAW) in early 1974.

Saunders Avenue is named for Brig. Gen. Donald Saunders, who was killed in a KC-135 crash here on June 27, 1958.

Saunders was commander of the 57th Air Division at Westover. He was on board the tanker for a trans-Atlantic world record attempt when the aircraft struck some power lines shortly after takeoff.

The KC-135, the last of three aircraft that took off that night, careened across the newly-opened Massachusetts Turnpike and exploded in a field at about 12:30 a.m. The general was among 15 people on the tanker killed in the crash.

Express-ions



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- ☑ Besides our C-5s, the flight line is filled with Galaxies from Dover, Travis, Lackland & Stewart
- ☑ Shoppette extends its hours (back page)
- ☑ Lt. Gov. comes here to say thanks (back page)

Hours of operation

Chapel center:

Chaplain available 24 hours per day,
7 days per week
(pager: 413-785-3195), base Ext. 3031

Fitness center:

Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
Saturday (non-UTA), 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sunday (non-UTA), closed
UTA Saturdays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
UTA Sundays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bowling center:

Monday-Friday lunch and bowling
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Westover Consolidated Club:

Breakfast: 6-8 a.m. until Thursday
lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
dinner, 5-8 p.m.

Westover Dining Facility (daily)

Beginning Thursday, breakfast,
6-8 a.m., \$1.60 for those on per diem,
UTA status - free
Midnight meals, 11 p.m.-1 a.m.
boxed meals provided daily

Family Support Center:

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday of A UTA,
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Saturday of B UTA, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
closed Sunday of B UTA

Legal office:

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Base exchange:

Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Shoppette:

Monday-Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
(7:30 p.m. starting tomorrow)
Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Barber shop (located next to BX)

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
closed Sundays

Daily base shuttle:

Bus will complete route every 15
minutes during meal hours at the
Westover Club and dining facility.
Other stops: Hangar Avenue, supply
and bowling center.

722nd New Yorkers preparing to leave one front line for another

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The 722nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical specialists don't know where they may be going to war, but they know why they are going.

For the medical specialists of the Patriot Wing's geographically separated unit, the war on terrorism is as real as a slap in the face. From where they work it's possible to go up a tall building and see the gap left in the Manhattan skyline since September 11. That gives a sense of common purpose to the squadron's 30 medical specialists who were activated for Operation Enduring Freedom on Feb. 26 and went through a mobilization line here last week.

"We had a group go down to Ground Zero after September 11 to take a look and see the devastation and why we put the uniform on every day and serve," said MSgt. Anthony Tomchak, 722nd ASTS first sergeant.

"Everyone knows someone who was a victim, involved in the rescue or worked around the Wall Street area," said TSgt. Worrell Francis, squadron senior ART. He and the first sergeant spent hours accounting for the safety of all squadron members. Many

members felt a sense of disappointment when they were not activated as part of the call-ups following September 11.

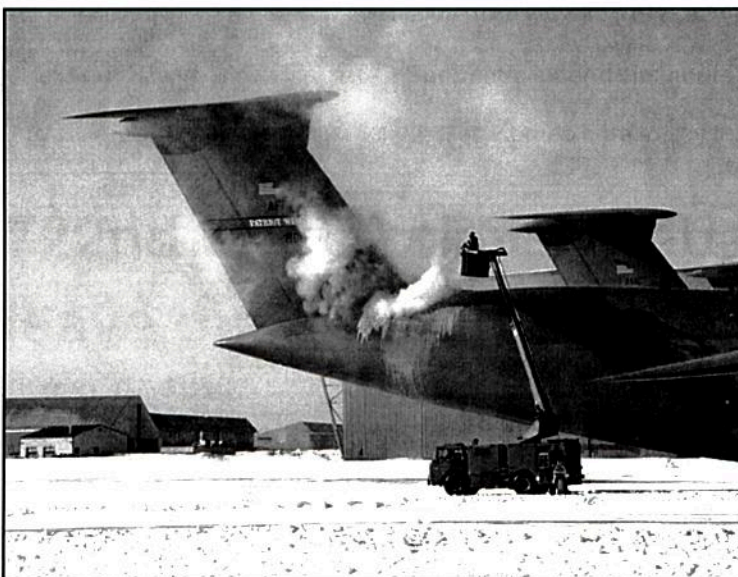
The Patriot Wing medical specialists of the geographically separated unit serve at Fort Hamilton, an Army post located in Brooklyn within miles of the World Trade Center.

They went through a mobilization line here in anticipation of deploying to Southwest Asia. They remained at Westover last week undergoing weapons qualification and performing other administrative duties before returning to Fort Hamilton to await orders on Friday.

SrA. Joseph, a medical technician whose last name can't be used because he is among those deploying, was at Fort Hamilton on September 11. "You could smell the smoke. Even the next morning I walked out of my building and it hit you," he said. All day his frantic wife tried to reach him, but every telephone was down.

A long-time family friend was among the firefighters never found. "His wife didn't hear from him for days. Slowly we came to the conclusion that we had lost him," SrA. Joseph said.

(continued on next page)



Maintainers spray de-icer on a C-5 following last Friday's snowfall and sudden plunge in temperatures that left ice everywhere. The storm dropped 4.2 inches of snow on Westover, bringing the total for the season to 84 inches. The record since 1946 is 107.7 inches, measured here in 1995-96.

(photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope)

NYC... (Continued from page 1)

Fort Hamilton overlooks the Verrazano Narrows Bridge between Brooklyn and Staten Island. The squadron of about 115 members is the only Air Force Reserve unit stationed at an Army garrison. During the Gulf War the squadron served more than six months at King Khalid Military City and Dahran, Saudi Arabia.

The 30 activated aeromedical specialists include a doctor, nurses, emergency medical technicians, biomedical, dietary, pharmacy and supply specialists. The 722nd ASTS members are trained and equipped to set up an aeromedical staging facility to provide medical care and evacuation of patients. The activated group includes a Critical Care Action Team to provide emergency care to critical patients.

MSgt. William, a medical technician and Gulf War veteran, was in Manhattan on September 11. He saw the anxiety of co-workers for their families and spent hours crammed on subways as people fled the stricken city.

"We will be fighting terrorism to keep it away from our families and our own city, away from our back yard. That's the message to convey to our families," he said.

Pat Stats

Served since February 2, 2003
2,571 passengers - 375 aircraft
8,514,761 pounds of cargo
Info from MSgt. Jim Garrity, 42nd APS

Box lunches
1,826 hot meals served
674 to duty personnel
1,674 to flight passengers
Info from TSgt. David Beauregard, 439SVS

Fuel (since Feb. 1)
3,293,354 gallons JP-8 issued
to assigned and transient aircraft
Info from Jim Maloney, Fuels

Lt. Gov. Healey "supports the troops"

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey last Friday brought a message of support from the people of Massachusetts for Westover and the Patriot Wing's role in Operation Enduring Freedom.

The lieutenant governor came to Westover for a first-hand view of the surge on a day when 21 Galaxies from six bases nationally were on the flightline. That may be the largest number of Galaxies ever assembled here up to that day.

TV and newspaper reporters trailed the lieutenant governor as she toured a C-5. Later, she visited a contingent of Army troops in the Passenger Terminal who were awaiting the next leg of their deployment to Southwest Asia.

"We are the largest joint training center in New England...the closest base to Europe," Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander, told the lieutenant governor. He noted that the strategically close location means a C-5 Galaxy leaving Westover for Europe requires less fuel and as a result can carry 20,000 pounds more payload than a similar aircraft leaving Dover AFB, Del.

He spoke of how "individuals have all rallied around." Of the 24-hour operations, he said "we will keep on doing it as long as the Nation needs it."

The lieutenant governor said that during her visit here she could see people "doing an incredible job...important for our country."

"We all hope for a diplomatic solution, but must be prepared. Westover is a very important part of being prepared," the lieutenant governor said.

She said her message to the Patriot Wing is "how incredibly proud the governor (Mitt Romney) and I are of the men and women of Westover and Western Massachusetts. We appreciate your contributions to be prepared for whatever decision needs to be made in the international arena," Healey said.

She and staff members were escorted by 42nd APS members through the Westover Passenger where she greeted soldiers who wore desert camouflage.

In the hangar, Lt. Col. James Carey, squadron commander, presented the lieutenant governor a red 42nd APS hat. "Wear that with pride because we do," he said.

Log your jogging and walking mileage

One of the most effective and safest ways to improve fitness is to jog or walk, and now you can watch your miles grow and win prizes by participating in the Westover Fitness Center's Miles Club.

For every walk or jog you do, whether you choose to go outside or stay inside, you can log your mileage with the Fitness Center to earn points. A progress chart will be posted.

For every 200, 350 or 600 miles you earn a T-shirt. At the end of a year, the three participants with the most miles earn prizes.

For more information, call Marc Grothues at Ext. 3958.

Shoppette open to 7:30 p.m.

The Westover Shoppette will be open later, starting on Wednesday. From Monday through Saturday, it will be open from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sunday hours will remain 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The new hours will be in place on a trial basis for 30 days.

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- ☑ Westover's ramp has record 24 Galaxies (back page)
- ☑ Soldiers get Westover hospitality (back page)
- ☑ Free jazz concert

Briefs

Dining Facility serving breakfast

The Westover Dining Facility has begun serving breakfast every day from 5 to 8 a.m. The charge is \$1.60 for those on per diem.

Midnight meals are served every day from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. and flight meals are available at any time, upon request.

AF Jazz Ensemble to perform locally

The Air Force Ambassadors Jazz Ensemble will perform at the Calvin Theatre, 19 King St., Northampton at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 23. Free tickets are available to see the ensemble, which is part of the Air Force Band of Liberty.

The group performs a jazz ensemble repertoire spanning the past 50 years, including the sounds of the Glenn Miller, Count Bassie and Duke Ellington orchestras. Also featured are the modern sounds of Matt Catingub, Rob McConnel and Matt Harris.

For ticks, send a self-addressed envelope to the Northampton Veterans Services Department, 240 Main St., Room 4, Memorial Hall, Northampton, MA 01060-3113.

Pass & ID hours

On Friday, the Pass and ID office will be closed beginning at 1 p.m.

On Monday, Pass and ID will be open - business as usual. 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. closed from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Pass and ID is located in Bldg. 1520, located on Patriot Avenue.

For more information, call Ext. 2012.

Wheels of Westover keep surge moving

Article and photos
by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

It was just another day at the office for Katrina Bleau, production controller at the 439th Logistics Support Squadron vehicle operations desk. A shuffle of vehicle drivers that bustled in and out of the dispatch office signaled another shift change. The office - the nerve center of the squadron's vehicle section - is where the wheels of Westover begin and end their turns.

"Tango 30, vehicle ops, you're all set," Bleau told the driver. The driver assisted with luggage, and, in this high-tech age, there was something else the aircrew forgot. "Go ahead and pick up the laptop," Bleau told the driver.

The surge of operations at Westover since Feb. 1 has more than challenged the transportation squadron, staffed with reservists and Griffin Services employees.

Most of the nuts and bolts of the LSS vehicle operations section happens right at the dispatch office. "This is the hub," said SMSgt. Marilyn Dube, vehicle operations superintendent.

The numbers are all the proof that's needed. As of March 7 the LSS drivers, staffed by 15 activated reservists, have carried more than 13,000 passengers around the base.



The vehicle dispatch desk is the nerve center of the 439th Logistics Support Squadron's vehicle operations section. From left are, Katrina Bleau, production controller; TSgt. Josh Lambert, chief dispatcher; and SMSgt. Marilyn Dube, vehicle operations superintendent.

The drivers have moved more than quarter of a million pounds of cargo. The demand has forced the squadron to lease several school buses and vans.

Those trips range from transient aircrew pickups on the flight line to taking people back and forth from hotels in western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut.

"We're pretty much a lifeline for those aircrews," said TSgt. Josh Lambert, chief dispatcher. "When they call us up, we deliver it." Lambert said his job title doesn't necessarily describe his day-to-day duties. The chief dispatcher is assigned wherever needed.

SSgt. Christopher O'Brian, a vehicle operator dispatcher, is from Clifton Park, N.Y. He called his squadron the "front line" as Westover's ambassadors. "We're the first ones they see and the last they see here," he said, shortly after he assisted a Travis AFB, Calif., C-5 aircrew with their luggage.

Back at the base, the drivers shuttle hungry troops from Hangar 3 to the dining hall every 15 minutes during the expanded meal hours.

Bleau has worked in the

(continued on next page)



SSgt. Christopher C. O'Brian, vehicle operator dispatcher, assists crew members from Travis AFB, Calif., with their luggage shortly after the pilots and loadmaster landed at Westover.

Wheels... (Continued from page 1)

squadron for three years. The surge has made things the busiest ever for her. "We have five drivers," she said, in between the constant chatter of two-way radio conversation. "Yesterday, we moved 651 people." The pace got so busy that Bleau skipped lunch for a second day in a row.

Augmentees arrived in February to help with the increase in operations. They came from as far away as Lackland AFB, Texas, and as near as the Patriot Wing's military personnel flight and 42nd and 58th Aerial Port Squadrons.

"We couldn't do it without them," Bleau said. "They have been a tremendous help."

On top of everything else with the surge, the LSS transportation section attends to other reservists' needs. If someone has to take emergency leave and get to an airport, they'll take them there, whether it is nearby Bradley International Airport, Conn., or Boston's Logan International.

Dube added to Bleau's words of appreciation for the efforts of the augmentees. "I'd like to thank them – and their respective units," she said. "We've become a team focused on mission accomplishment."

Pat Stats

Served since February 2, 2003

2,599 passengers

438 aircraft

8,856,403 pounds of cargo

Info from MSgt. Jim Garrity, 42APS

Box Lunches

1,959 hot meals served

690 to duty personnel

1,894 to flight passengers

Info from TSgt. David Beauregard, 439SVS

Fuel (since Feb. 1)

3,475,079 gallons of JP-8

info from Jim Maloney, fuels

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We're the C-5 capital of world

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

For at least one day, Westover was the biggest C-5 strategic air base in the world. Only Charleston AFB, S.C. with C-17s and KC-10s, had more strategic aircraft.

Last Tuesday morning there were 24 C-5 Galaxies lined up on the Westover flightline. Not only was that more C-5s than at any base in the U.S., but it was the second time in a week we broke a record for Galaxies on the ground.

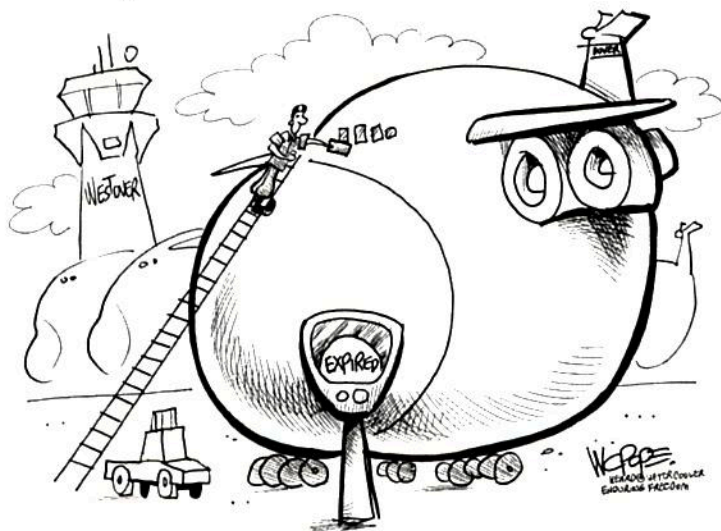
The previous record for C-5s here was last Friday when 21 of the strategic airlifters were on the ground. That day, bad weather at Dover AFB diverted aircraft.

The 24 Galaxies represented almost one in

five of all the 123 C-5s in the Air Force. They were from Stewart, Dover, Lackland and Travis. That is every operational C-5 base in the country. The only other C-5 base is Altus AFB, Okla., which has a training mission.

"It certainly kept us busy from both the passenger and fleet service sides of the house. Our aerial porters were kept hopping," said Lt. Col. James Carey, 42nd APS commander.

"The size of this operation is a tribute to the professionalism and enthusiasm of those who make it work. I consider Westover a benchmark for its ability to generate aircraft," said Col. Thomas Mauzaka, assistant to the wing commander.



Soldiers get "while you wait" service

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

A military haircut is just a haircut, but free haircuts for all the troops in the Passenger Terminal meant something a lot more than a trim to soldiers going overseas last Saturday.

Pioneer Valley USO volunteers Susan Austin and Gay Fleury did what they do best when they showed up at the Passenger Terminal with their clippers, scissors and combs. Susan owns Hairport in Westfield and Gay is owner of Cut 'n Curl in Springfield.

In the hangar, they looked for the best lit spot, set up two metal chairs and got an extension cord and power strip to hook up their clippers. The word quickly got around and lined up in front of their chairs was a row of soldiers wearing Enduring Freedom desert camouflage.

For four hours Susan and Gay cut hair for the soldiers. At the end of the day, 75 troops had fresh haircuts. Better than the haircuts were the sentiments behind the gift.

The two professional hair stylists had worked all week at their shops, but on their day off they came to the Westover Passenger Terminal to send a message of support in the best way they knew how to do.

Susan and Gay are long-time USO volunteers who were part of the red carpet

welcome home celebrations that were conducted for weeks at the end of the Gulf War.

Their recent gifts of free haircuts were a welcome boost for troops who had been in the hangar for several days.

While they were here the soldiers had other experiences of Westover hospitality. After one delay kept them in the hangar, SSgt. Al Nothe of Services opened the Westover Gym for them at 4 a.m. to give everyone a chance to shower.

When the soldiers said they were tired of flight meals, Sandy Wakefield and Marilyn Spofford of the USO took a number of them on a supermarket shopping trip to buy soft drinks and snacks for their flight. The soldiers left Westover late Saturday afternoon.

"When they left, one of them hugged me and said 'Thanks, Mom'. That's when I lost it," Marilyn said. "They were a special bunch of guys. I got too attached," she said.

A few days after the soldiers left, Sandy received a call from one of their mothers in California. She said that her son had reached his destination, called home and described how well he had been treated at Westover. The mother called to express appreciation for taking care of her son. "Westover rocks," the young soldier told his mother.

- ✓ New route for base shuttle (back page)
- ✓ Stop-Loss takes effect May 2 (back page)
- ✓ Food pantry accepting donations (back page)

Hours of operation

Chapel center:

Chaplain available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week
(pager: 413-785-3195), base Ext. 3031

Fitness center:

Daily, 5:30 a.m.-2 a.m.
Ext. 3958

Bowling center:

Monday-Friday lunch and bowling,
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Ext. 3990

Westover Consolidated Club:

Lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
dinner, 5-8 p.m.
Ext. 2039

Westover Dining Facility (daily)

Breakfast, 5-8 a.m., \$1.60 for those on per diem, UTA status - free
Midnight meals, 11 p.m.-1 a.m.
boxed meals provided daily
Ext. 2026

Family Support Center:

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday of A UTA,
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Saturday of B UTA, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
closed Sunday of B UTA
Ext. 3024

Legal office:

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Ext. 3180

Base exchange:

Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Ext. 2901

Shoppette:

Monday-Saturday 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Barber shop (located next to BX)

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
closed Sundays

Daily base shuttle:

Bus will complete route every 15 minutes during meal hours at the Westover Club and dining facility (see back page for updated schedule).
Ext. 3186

Dining facility is oasis of good cheer

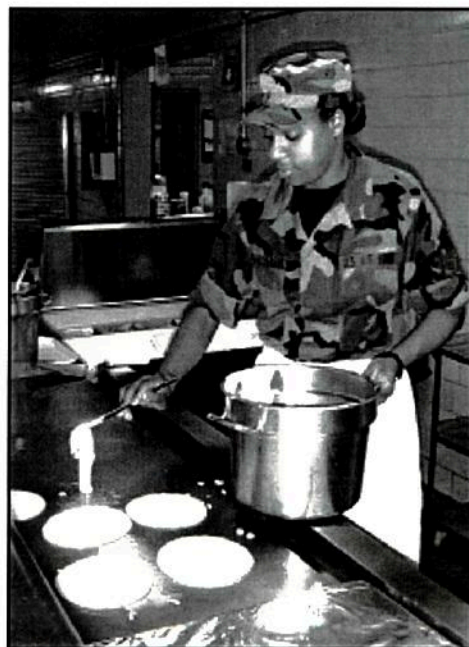
Article and photos
by MSgt. Tom Allocco

For the maintainer embarking on a cold day on the flightline or the security specialist half way through a long night shift, the people who greet you with egg omelets and cups of steaming coffee are like best friends.

The sun is still below the horizon when services food specialists arrive at 4 a.m. and morning light is just beginning to break up black sky when they open the doors at 5 a.m. When you're walking across packed snow on a brisk March morning, the light in the dining facility windows and the mingling smells of frying potatoes, toast, eggs, coffee will make you step up your pace. No matter what happens during the day, you're starting with an advantage.

Since the beginning of the surge, the 439th Services Squadron food specialists have been serving midnight meals for those on the night shift. Following last week's activations of 12 food service specialists, they're now serving breakfast from 5 to 8 a.m.

They approach their job believing that food service means both good food and good



A1C Sadia Del Rosario prepares pancakes for early risers at the dining facility.

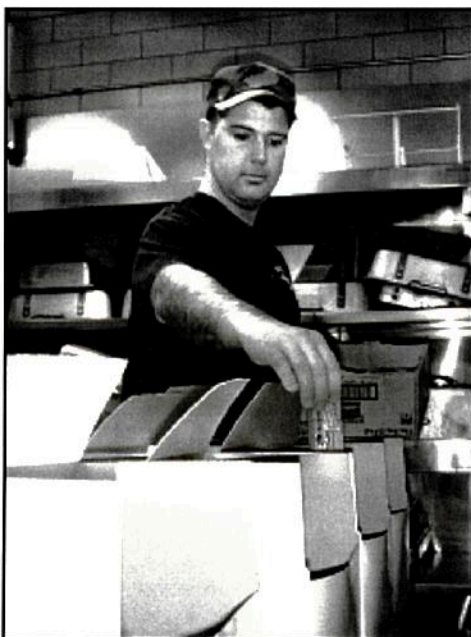
service, both at breakfast and for those working the night shifts. The "midnight meals" from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. includes breakfast meals, burgers, pizza and other choices.

"Basically, we'll go the extra mile to satisfy our customers. Because lots of time it's a morale booster for these people. Having us out here sends the word that they are not forgotten at night, the ones left here overnight while everyone else has gone home" said TSgt. David Beauregard, assistant dining facility manager.

He remembers night of the record February snowfall when security guards, maintainers and snowplow drivers got hot meals because the Services people came to work at a time when the rest of the base was closed. Food service people like A1C Sadia Del Rosario, A1C Mariah Dion and A1C Michael Graves worked 14 or 15 hours.

"People put themselves on bad roads to get to work. We haven't missed a meal because of bad weather," Beauregard said.

Twelve-hour work days are routine. They have served up to almost 100 at



A1C Michael Graves drops treats into flight meals for the troops passing through Westover.

(continued on next page)

Oasis... (Continued from page 1)

midnight meals and prepared 320 boxed flight meals in one day.

One thing they've learned is that there is nothing routine about food service.

"We're on center stage when people come in the dining facility looking for something satisfying. The customer always comes first. We want them coming back," Beauregard said.

Behind the food service line, in that part of the dining facility most people don't see, meal time is a beehive of activity. Beauregard seems to be everywhere at once checking and orchestrating the activity. Services tech school is six weeks at Lackland AFB, where the first rule is safe food handling and the second is customer satisfaction.

Between "customers" on the food service line, Del Rosario recently broke into a few lines of "What a Lucky Day to Win," popular on the classic rock station. Breaks don't come often behind the line. "I'd rather stay busy. There's always something to do. After the meal you have to clean up and start getting ready for the next one," she said.

"Thanks for a great breakfast," a reservist said, walking out the door. "Thanks for coming," Del Rosario answered.

Pat Stats

Served since February 2, 2003
2,655 passengers - 512 aircraft
9,082,878 pounds of cargo
Info from MSgt. Jim Garrity, 42APS

Box lunches

2,124 hot meals served
701 to duty personnel

2,426 to flight passengers

Info from TSgt. David Beauregard, 439SVS

Fuel (since Feb. 1)

3,900,298 gallons of JP-8
Info from Jim Maloney, fuels

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USO Food Pantry helps Westover families

When military families need help, the Pioneer Valley USO is here for them, with no questions asked. A USO Food Pantry on base is offering food to an increasing number of military families following activations and economic downturns.

Sandy Wakefield, director of the Pioneer Valley USO, said activity at the food pantry has tripled since 9/11.

The only requirement for food assistance is a military ID card. No other questions about eligibility are asked of those who come to the food pantry. A family can come to the food pantry twice a month for assistance. People receive help at each visit based upon family size and

the amount of on hand.

Help to military families through the USO Food Pantry is made possible by donations of non-perishable foods from groups and individuals. Veterans groups, schools, scouts, law enforcement agencies, church and other civic groups donate to the pantry. Individuals are also encouraged to donate canned goods, cereals, juice and other non-perishable foods.

The USO Food Pantry is located in Bldg. 1100 on Walker Avenue, near the ellipse. It is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays of "A" and "B" UTAs. The office number is Ext. 3024.

Stop-Loss holds careers as of May 2

Effective May 2, 43 officer and 56 enlisted specialties will be stop-lossed.

The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower & Reserve Affairs) authorized Stop-Loss last week in order to retain specific skills needed to meet national security objectives.

"We do not take this action lightly," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche. "Stop-Loss is designed to preserve critical skills essential to supporting the global War on Terrorism, while ensuring we're prepared to meet other contingencies.

"We've implemented Stop-Loss to ensure we have the necessary skilled

personnel to conduct operations," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper. "We'll use it only as long as necessary to accomplish our mission."

Stop-Loss is being implemented across the total force (active duty, Air Force Ready Reserve, and Air National Guard) for the designated career fields and affects all airmen in the rank of colonel and below, according to Maj. Teresa L. Forest, chief of Air Force retirements and separation policy at the Pentagon.

For more information, call SMSgt. Beverly Cote in the military personnel flight at Ext. 2588.

Base shuttle has new route

The base shuttle has a new route to destinations on Westover. It is as follows:

Base Hangar/Base Ops (Bldgs. 7087 & 7091); proceed down Hangar Avenue - stop as needed; backside of supply (Bldg. 5375); bowling alley (Bldg. 5402); officers quarters (Bldg. 2200 area); airmen's quarters (Bldg. 5102 area); dining facility (Bldg. 5100); Consolidated Club (Bldg. 6640).

On the return, the bus will complete its

route every 15 minutes during posted meal hours. For more information, call Ext. 2186.

Bible Study set for Wednesday

Bible Study will be held at noon on Wednesday in the Chapel Center in Bldg. 1100. This is a one-time change. Bible Study will continue to meet on Tuesdays starting March 25 at noon. All Westover personnel are welcome to participate. For more information, call Ext. 3031.

Express-ions



- ✓ President pledges liberation of Iraq
- ✓ I survived the winter of 2003 - Spring is here!
- ✓ 439th ASTS activated (back page)
- ✓ Holyoke St. Pat's Day parade this sunday

Hours of operation

Chapel center:

Chaplain available 24 hours per day,
7 days per week
(pager: 413-785-3195), base Ext. 3031

Fitness center:

Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
Saturday (non-UTA), 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sunday (non-UTA), closed
UTA Saturdays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
UTA Sundays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bowling center:

Monday-Friday lunch and bowling,
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Westover Consolidated Club:

Breakfast: 6-8 a.m. until Thursday
lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
dinner, 5-8 p.m.

Westover Dining Facility (daily)

Beginning Thursday, breakfast,
6-8 a.m., \$1.60 for those on per diem,
UTA status - free
Midnight meals, 11 p.m.-1 a.m.
boxed meals provided daily

Family Support Center:

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday of A UTA,
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Saturday of B UTA, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
closed Sunday of B UTA

Legal office:

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Base exchange:

Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Shoppette:

Monday-Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
(7:30 p.m. starting tomorrow)
Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Barber shop (located next to BX)

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
closed Sundays

Daily base shuttle:

Bus will complete route every 15
minutes during meal hours at the
Westover Club and dining facility.
Other stops: Hangar Avenue, supply
and bowling center.

Iraqi Freedom under way

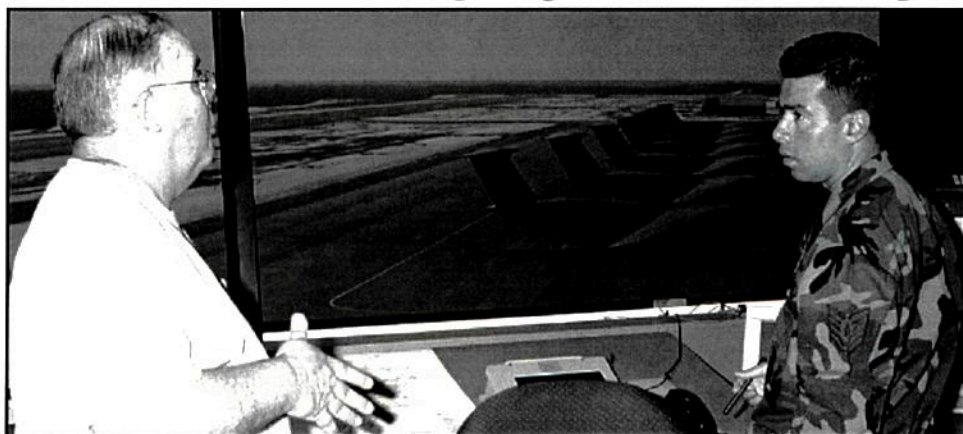
Units of the United States Armed Forces struck military targets in Baghdad and southern Iraq during the first air strikes of Operation Iraqi Freedom on Wednesday.

American forces struck the Iraqi capitol at about 9:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, but the attack took place just before dawn in Iraq.

Air Force B-52 bombers and F-117 Stealth fighters and Tomahawk missiles fired from naval warships were part of Wednesday night's attack.

President George W. Bush addressed the nation on national television at about 10:15 p.m., EST., to inform the American public that Operation Iraqi Freedom was under way.

Controllers keep eye on the sky



Air traffic controller Rich Hunting trains TSgt. Roman Comaduran, a reservist from McChord AFB, Wash., who has been called up to help cover 24 hour operations at Westover. Comaduran is an individual mobilization augmentee who lives in San Diego, Calif.

Article and photos by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

The best view of Hampden County is right here at Westover, 123 feet above the ground.

And those who survey the view the most - 12 air traffic controllers - are busier than



Ron Bainbridge, Westover air traffic manager, checks flight data information in the control tower.

ever these days, working three shifts per day to accommodate the surge of military aircraft flowing in and out of the base.

With 24-hour operations in effect, air traffic manager Ron Bainbridge said Westover has called in two Air Force reservists to help with the additional workload. Before the surge, the airfield was open from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m.

One military air traffic controller is already on board to help. TSgt. Roman Comaduran came from San Diego, Calif. He is an individual mobilization augmentee (IMA). Comaduran normally is called to support the control tower at McChord AFB, Wash. He said he didn't expect to be crossing the country for his IMA duty. Comaduran does not know how long his stay will be at Westover.

"My boss called me from McChord about this," he said. "I said, 'Where's Westover?' I anticipated going to home station."

(continued on next page)

439th ASTS to set up staging facility

The 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron activated 17 members for overseas duty this week. They went through a mobilization line on Monday with one 439th Medical Squadron member who will accompany them overseas.

The medical specialists will be tasked to join a larger unit from Maguire AFB to set up and operate a 100-bed aeromedical staging facility. Those activated include two physicians, medical technicians, administrative specialists, a pharmacy technician and a bio-equipment repair technician.

A three-person Critical Care Air Transport team was activated in March, 2002 and served three months in Southwest Asia.

During the Gulf War, the 439th ASTS's predecessor unit, the 23rd Aeromedical Patient Staging Squadron of Griffiss AFB, NY deployed to Saudi Arabia.

Pat Stats

Served since February 2, 2003
2,824 passengers - 583 aircraft
9,507,665 pounds of cargo
Info from MSgt. Jim Garrity, 42APS

Box Lunches

2,547 hot meals served
749 to duty personnel
2,520 to flight passengers
Info from TSgt. David Beauregard, 439SVS

Fuel (since Feb. 1)

4,118,512 gallons of JP-8
info from Jim Maloney, fuels

Eye in sky... (Cont. from page 1)

The 15-year veteran, who is accustomed to California's sunny climate, arrived just in time for one of the longest and coldest New England winters to pass. Bainbridge and controller Rich Hunting have been spending their workdays showing Comaduran the layout of Westover's runways and taxiways. Thousands of miles from his family, Comaduran said the Westover controllers have made him feel right at home as much as they can.

"The guys here have been great," Comaduran said.

Like all air traffic controllers, Westover's are trained to make sure aircraft are correctly spaced apart.

"The biggest thing is the wake turbulence," Bainbridge said. He stared at a radar screen that monitors a 15-mile radius around the base. The controllers rely on that kind of sophisticated equipment to ensure pilots get in and out of the airport quickly and safely. Aircrews departing and arriving at Westover are passed from Bradley International Airport's radar approach control just as their aircraft reach the outskirts of the Westover air

traffic pattern.

"Our controllers are true professionals doing a mission-essential job," said Capt. Mike Pirrone, airfield operations flight commander. "Our military pilots are flying to uncomfortable locations, it's our job to get them out on time, and get them on the back on the ground and to their families safely."

That is made evident by more than 40,000 landings and departures in 2002. And while people may only see C-5s flying over the base, Bainbridge said that the surge is bringing scores of other C-5s from throughout the Air Force. Besides the C-5s, other military aircraft that use Westover's runways include KC-135s, C-130s, various Army Guard helicopters, and KC-10s.

Westover's air traffic controllers also control civilian aircraft transiting the airspace and landing at the base to park at the adjacent Westover Metropolitan Airport.

"Our controllers are truly the best in Air Force Reserve Command. Frankly, they're at the top of the food chain here in New England," Pirrone said. "Aircrews, civilian and military alike, return to Westover time and time again because they know we'll take care of them."

Military advised of suspicious website

Government officials advise military people of a website that may be used for information gathering on US soldiers and family members.

The website, www.NACEC.org, claims to provide emergency notifications in order to support military families. This site requests such Privacy Act information as service members' names, addresses, Social Security numbers (SSN) and the names and addresses of family members. The site also requests the service member provide the content of a message which is to be sent to family members.

Federal authorities remind military members that this site is not associated with the federal government and should not be trusted. The site represents itself as being

owned by a not-for-profit corporation (which means they haven't filed for non-profit status and made the necessary disclosures).

Government officials said the registrant for the website is a Minnesota person who may or not be an American national. Department of Defense personnel should not enter any personal information on a non-federal website for emergency notification of families or any other reason.

Any information provided to this site could be used for identity theft, intelligence gathering by foreign nations or terrorists and could pose a threat to service members, their families and their privacy.

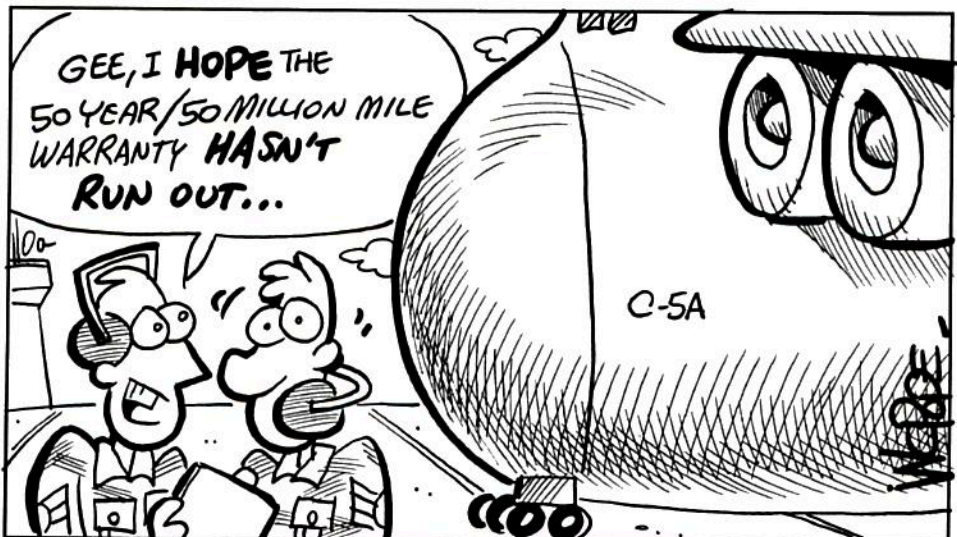
For more information, call MSgt. Scott Daigneault, Westover anti-terrorism NCO, at Ext. 3807.



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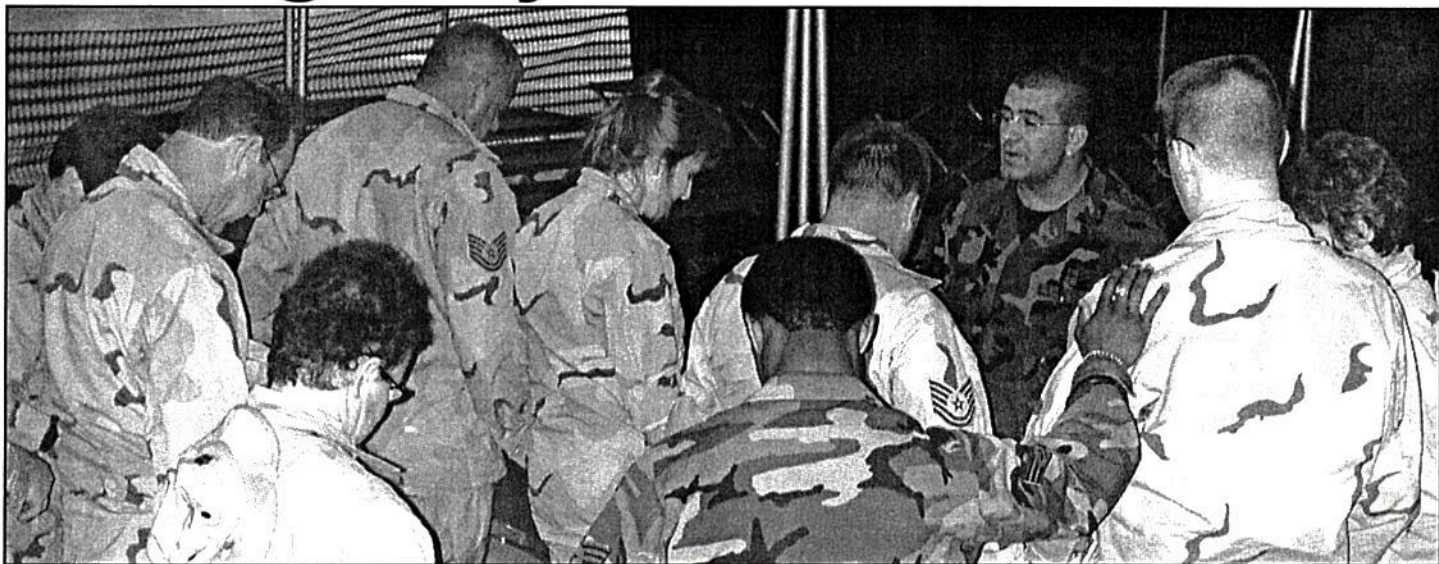
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Express-ions



- ☑ Pax Terminal sees family reunion (back page)
- ☑ Eagle Eyes - security starts with the individual who is alert (back page)
- ☑ Clinic offers sick call (back page)

Tough day in weekend at war



TIME OF CONTEMPLATION – Airmen bow their heads in reflection as Westover Chaplain (1st Lt.) Kenneth Valardi guides them in Sunday Holy Services in the Passenger Terminal. Members of the 56th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, and the North Carolina Air National Guard later departed for Southwest Asia.



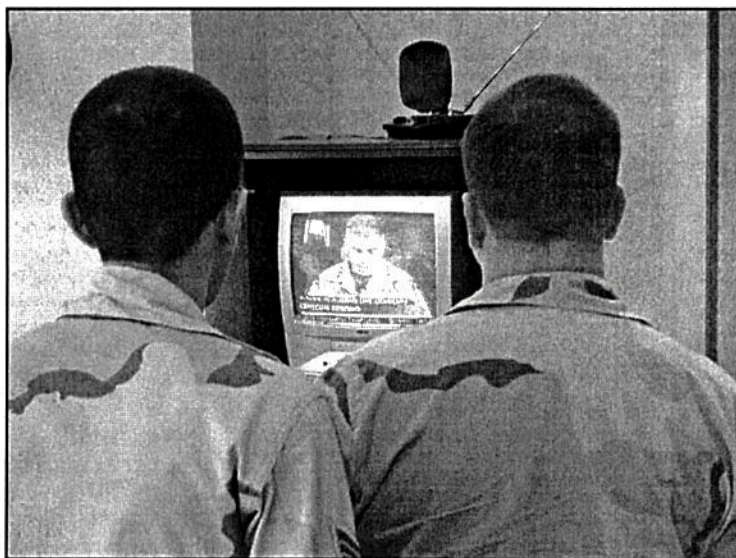
AIR CAMPAIGN – TSgt. Andy Tynik (left) and TSgt. Timothy Forde, 42nd APS, check the Boston Globe headline of a blitz of military and government buildings in Baghdad.



A MOTHER'S GOODBY -- Before departing overseas, Lt. Col. Kathleen spends a few hours with her mother, Mrs. Cosmo Franciose, and daughter, Meghan. (See story on back page)

Together with all Americans, Westover experienced the tension of the first weekend at war. The Nation nervously absorbed the good news and the bad news in hourly updates from the battlefield. Sunday will be marked as "a tough day" in Operation Iraqi Freedom when word came of the capture of American soldiers, as well as casualties on land and in the air. The Passenger Terminal, filled with airmen in desert camouflage, was a cross section of America at war. On the flightline, the Patriot Wing's contribution to the war effort included handling 18 arrivals and 14 departures of Galaxies.

— photos by MSgt. Tom Allocco



PENTAGON REPORT – Two airmen in the terminal focus on a Pentagon news briefing shortly after the capture of Army POWs.

Clinic offers sick call

The Westover Air Base Clinic has begun offering basic sick call and 24-hour on-call coverage following the call to active duty last Friday of 29 members of the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

Those on active duty include physicians, nurses, medical technicians, laboratory, dental and administrative specialists.

They offer basic sick call and referral for more definitive care by civilian providers.

The Clinic can be called at Ext. 3565 or 2661. On-call non-emergency coverage is available 24-hours a day at 730-0488.

The 439th AMDS previously offered air base clinic services following the activation of 19 members after the September 11 attacks on America. The services were discontinued following deactivations last fall.

In other developments among Westover medical specialists, the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron on Monday called to active duty an aeromedical evacuation team of four nurses, six medical technicians and an administrative specialist. Twenty squadron members had previously been activated.

Fifteen members of the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron deployed overseas through Bradley International Airport last Friday.

Pat Stats

Served since Feb. 2, 2003

3,024 passengers - 701 aircraft

10,851,096 pounds of cargo

Info from MSgt. Jim Garrity, 42APS

Meals

3,329 hot meals served

Box lunches: 722 - duty personnel

3,176 - passengers

Info from TSgt. David Beauregard, 439SVS

Fuel since Feb. 1, 2003

4,558,698 gallons of JP-8

Info from Jim Maloney, Fuels

PATRIOT
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Contact us:

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www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

439patriot.editor@westover.af.mil

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Pax reunion is bittersweet

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

For most, hours passed waiting in the Westover Passenger Terminal are a time for departing phone calls and e-mails home, but for a lucky, very few, they are reunion time and the last chance for a hug and a kiss shared with loved ones. Lt. Col. Kathleen, a former Patriot Wing member who lives in North Carolina, was one of the lucky ones who was able to spend her last hours on American soil with her parents and one daughter in the passenger terminal.

She spent most of last Sunday in the passenger terminal awaiting a C-5 departure overseas where she will serve in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She was with members of the North Carolina Air National Guard's 156th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Charlotte, N.C., in which she serves as chief flight nurse. Because she was deploy-

ing, her last name cannot be published.

Her hours in the passenger terminal were an opportunity for Lt. Col. Kathleen served to meet members of Westover's former 74th AES, in which she served in 1991-92.

More importantly, she was reunited with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cosmo Franciose of Barre and one of her daughter's, Meghan, a senior at Anna Maria College, Paxton.

For some precious hours the family was together before the Sunday afternoon call to board the bus that would take the medical specialists to the overseas bound Galaxy.

For Lt. Col. Kathleen, her mother, father and daughter, the final hours together as a family were a bittersweet passage of time.

"No words can express the feeling a mother feels when a daughter has to go off to war," Mrs. Franciose said.

"Eagle Eyes" protects our neighborhood

Security starts with the individual who is alert. That is the strategy behind "Eagle Eyes," an Air Force-wide defensive program to combat terrorism which can protect lives and equipment at Westover.

Special Agent Gardner Whitney, Detachment 307, Air Force Office of Special Investigation described Eagle Eyes as a community-based "neighborhood watch" program that can be applied anywhere - at home, on the way to work, at the gate, while shopping.

"Maintain an awareness. That's the key to the program. The program is designed to help spot terrorism, but it works equally well with criminal activity," he said.

To report suspicious activity, call the Westover OSI at Ext. 3837. After duty hours, call Security Forces at Ext. 3557. In an emergency, call 911.

What to report:

Surveillance. Map drawing, note taking, use of binoculars, etc.

Ellicitation. Attempt to obtain information

about base capabilities, readiness, operations, etc.

Tests of security. Measuring reaction times to security breaches or penetrating barriers to assess strengths and weaknesses of security.

Acquiring supplies. Obtaining explosives, weapons, etc. Or, buying or stealing military uniforms, decals, badges or any controlled item.

Suspicious persons out of place. People who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business, etc.

Dry run. Putting people into position and moving them around according to the plan without actually committing the terrorist act. Can include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

Deploying assets. People and supplies getting into position to commit the act.

If you're concerned, don't hesitate to call, even if you're not sure. It's easier for authorities to track down a false lead than to miss something important because someone did not call, Whitney said.

Express-ions



☒ Total reservists activated as of this week: 946

☒ Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour
Sunday, April 6, 2003, 2 a.m.

☒ Helping kids cope with war stress (back page)

Hours of operation

Chapel Center

Chaplain available 24/7
(pager: 413-785-3195), base Ext. 3031

Fitness Center

Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
Saturday (non-UTA), 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sunday (non-UTA), closed
UTA Saturdays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
UTA Sundays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bowling Center

Monday-Friday lunch and bowling,
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Westover Consolidated Club

Breakfast: 6-8 a.m. until Thursday
lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
dinner, 5-8 p.m.

Westover Dining Facility

Breakfast, daily, 5-8 a.m.,
\$1.60 for those on per diem,
UTA status - free
Midnight meals, 11 p.m.-1 a.m.
boxed meals provided daily

Family Support Center

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday of A UTA,
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Saturday of B UTA, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
closed Sunday of B UTA

Legal Office

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Base Exchange

Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Shoppette

Monday-Saturday 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Barber Shop (next to BX)

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
closed Sundays

Daily Base Shuttle

Bus will complete route every 15
minutes during meal hours at the
Westover Club and dining facility.
Other stops: Hangar Avenue, supply
and bowling center.

Troops reunited after 17 years



TSgts. James Martin, left, and Gilbert Howell, are augmentees helping the 439th Services Squadron with the surge of operations at Westover. Martin is from Niagara Falls, N.Y., while Howell is from Portland, Ore. They became friends while assigned to Ellsworth AFB, S.D., in the early 1980s.

Article and photo
by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Chance beat the odds with this transcontinental reunion after 17 years.

TSgts. James Martin and Gilbert Howell, whose friendship formed during the Cold War at Ellsworth AFB, S.D., were recently reunited despite thousands of miles and almost two decades between them.

The two reservists – now volunteering for Operation Enduring Freedom – found themselves shaking hands in February when they were both assigned to Westover to augment the 439th Services Squadron when the surge of operations started here. Their meeting took place in the Galaxy Dining Facility when Howell did a double-take to find his friend from so many years ago.

"He looked familiar," Howell said. "I stuck my hand out. I said, 'Hey, hey, Jim!' 'He had a shocked look on his face.'"

Martin wasn't so sure it was the same person who was his best man at his wedding. Martin was in disbelief. "I never thought I would bump into him again," he said.

Martin, 42, and Howell, 41, roomed together at Ellsworth in the early 1980s. Then, as now, they were assigned in food services. The difference was they were deep underground in different Minuteman missile solos

throughout South Dakota. They eventually moved off Ellsworth and bought a mobile home together. When Martin got out of the Air Force in 1986, they went their separate ways.

These days, services co-workers recall the classic 1979 movie starring John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd when they see Howell and Martin laughing and joking about their incredible coincidence.

"They call us the Blues Brothers," Martin said. "We hang out with each other."

Martin is with the 914th Services Squadron at Niagara Falls, N.Y., and lives in Toronto, Ontario. Howell, lives in Portland, Ore., and is assigned to the 939th Rescue Wing at Portland International Airport.

Considering the distance between them, the prospect is always there for someone to know somebody, as a way to have something in common, Martin said. "We all arrive at assignments where we want to see if we know someone from active duty," he said. "We just happened to volunteer for the same assignment." With the 17-year gap closed, Howell said six weeks at Westover still hasn't provided enough time for each to talk about what happened with their lives.

"We've got lots to catch up on," he said. "It's our family reunion," Martin added.

Base IEU/clothing store closed

The Base Supply Individual Equipment / Clothing Issue Store will be closed for inventory from March 31 to April 2. The store will reopen on April 3. For emergency issues, call Ext. 2596.

FY-04 UTA schedule for Westover ARB

| | A | B |
|-----------|-------|----------|
| October | 4-5 | 18-19 |
| November | 1-2 | 15-16 |
| December | 6-7 | NO B UTA |
| January | 10-11 | 24-25 |
| February | 7-8 | 21-22 |
| March | 6-7 | 20-21 |
| April | 3-4 | 17-18 |
| May | 1-2 | 15-16 |
| June | 12-13 | 26-27 |
| July | 10-11 | 24-25 |
| August | 7-8 | 21-22 |
| September | 11-12 | 25-26 |

Pat Stats

Served since Feb. 2, 2003
3,130 passengers - 772 aircraft
11,190,761 pounds of cargo
Info from MSgt. Jim Garrity, 42APS

Meals

4,022 hot meals served
Box lunches: 730 - duty personnel
2,490 - passengers

Info from TSgt. David Beauregard, 439SVS

Fuel since Feb. 1, 2003
4,966,249 gallons of JP-8
info from Jim Maloney, fuels

PATRIOT express

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Lone Star troops aid Westover

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The Texans are back at Westover to help keep the surge going 24 hours a day. Last week, about 160 recently activated maintenance specialists came here from the 433rd Airlift Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas.

The maintainers include crew chiefs, hydraulics, engine and avionics technicians and electro/environmental specialists who are working with the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Sheet metal and aerial repair specialists are helping in the 439th Maintenance Squadron shops. Some are also assigned to the Maintenance Operations Control Center (MOCC), formerly Job Control.

The maintainers from Texas are working side-by-side with their Westover counterparts on 12-hour shifts to keep planes moving during the busiest long stretch of activity here since Desert Storm. Immediately following the kick-off of the

surge, many of them served here for several weeks in February in civilian status before being activated and returning to Lackland AFB. Their orders assign them here for up to six months.

The efforts of the Texans are greatly appreciated by the Patriot Wing maintainers, said CMSgt. Michael Major, 439th AMXS Maintenance Superintendent. "When we were activated our manning was for 10 airplanes a day and all of a sudden we got upwards of 20 to 24 on the ground," he said.

"They are doing a fantastic job. They are helping us fix and move aircraft to meet the flying schedule," he said.

"They are integrated in our teams and on our trucks. We have four shifts and four teams on every shift. They possess a tremendous amount of skill and enthusiasm and they have a very positive can-do attitude," the maintenance superintendent said.

Helping kids cope with war stress

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The stresses of childhood can be difficult at the best of times, but since 9/11 children and parents have had to deal with a new set of anxieties for which they may not be prepared. Help is available if you are having trouble talking to children about war and the stresses of the events since the attacks on America.

Roy Green, director of the Westover Family Support Center, and Chaplain (Capt.) William Wiecher are assisting area schools to set up support groups to give counsel and guidance to children and parents. They offer a brochure, "Talking With Children About War," which addresses the concerns of parents and offers insights in how children respond to potentially traumatic events around them.

An important point made in the brochure is that if children are not talking about war, it doesn't mean they are not thinking about it. Sometimes when children feel overwhelmed they can't express themselves verbally and may act out their feelings in other ways. They may be

short-tempered, anxious, have nightmares or withdraw.

For a copy of "Talking With Children About War" or for more information, call the Family Support Center at Ext. 3024 or the Chaplain at Ext. 3031.

Easter buffet at Club

The Westover Club will offer an Easter Buffet, with seating from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Easter Sunday, April 20.

The buffet will include roast turkey, seafood newburg, carved honey ham, roast beef, smoked salmon, shrimp and an elaborate dessert station.

The buffet will be \$14.95 for members, \$16.95 for non-members and \$7.50 for children 6 to 12 years old. It will be free for children five and under.

Parties with five or more non-affiliated adult guests must call the Club two weeks in advance to provide information for the security gate. For reservations call Ext. 2039 or 593-5532.

Express-ions

