

PATRIOT

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING · AIR FORCE RESERVE · WESTOVER AFB

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JUNE 1987

Thunderbirds to highlight gala Westover Air Show

By Maj. Rick Dyer

A long-awaited performance by the Air Force Thunderbirds will be one of the highlights of a gala air show scheduled at Westover, June 6-7.

The Thunderbirds, the official Air Force aerial demonstration team, will perform only on Sunday, June 7, according to Maj. Pat Dery, Westover's assistant airfield manager.

The Thunderbirds had been scheduled to perform at last year's open house, but a drenching downpour throughout the weekend grounded their sleek "Fighting Falcon" aircraft.

"They promised us a rain-check after last year, and we're delighted that they'll be performing for us on Sunday," said Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker, wing commander. "It's shaping up to be a great weekend."

Also scheduled to perform at the air show are the Army Golden Knights skydiving team. The Golden Knights, who were also sidelined at Westover by inclement weather last year, will stage free-fall demonstrations on both days.

C-130 crews from the 337th Tactical Airlift Squadron will be in the air

throughout the weekend, conducting flying and airdrop demonstrations. They'll be joined in the skies above the base by F-15, A-10 and C-5 aircraft.

General Walker said that three of the jumbo C-5 cargo transports will be at Westover for the event, and that visitors will have the chance to inspect the Galaxies.

"There's obviously a lot of local interest in the Galaxy," said General Walker, referring to the wing's proposed conversion in October to an all C-5 aircraft inventory.

According to Major Dery, scores of airplanes will be displayed along the flight line during the weekend. "We've extended invitations to units that fly just about every type of military aircraft," the assistant airfield manager said.

Spectators will be invited to inspect and photograph all of the planes at Westover, Dery added.

The air show will also mean extensive activity on the ground, with Westover units staging numerous exhibits and displays. There will also be plenty of food and entertainment.

"There should be something for everyone," said General Walker. "The air show is our chance to reach out to the community, to thank our friends and neighbors for their support, and to demonstrate our capabilities to them."

The event is being coordinated by Robert Motley, airfield manager, and Lt. Col. Charles "Whitey" Joslin, commander of the 337 TAS. They are being assisted by Dery, and by Maj. Dante Mazzochi of the 337 TAS.



EDITORIAL

Come on down!

With performances scheduled by the world-famous Air Force Thunderbirds and Army Golden Knights, this month's air show at Westover promises to offer plenty of fun and excitement — and, a golden opportunity to every member of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing.

The support of employers and family members is crucial to each and every Reservist. It's difficult to do a good job here at Westover, or to consider re-enlisting, if you are getting flak on the job or at home about your participation in the Reserve program.

Bosses and loved ones generally tend to be more supportive and enthusiastic if they truly know and understand what happens on UTA weekends and during annual tours.

Sure, you can, and should, tell them about your job in the Air Force Reserve. But during the June 6-7 air show here, you'll have the chance to actually show them.

For two days, the wing, its people and its planes will be on public display. Westover C-130 crews will stage flying demonstrations and airdrops that will simulate real missions. Many of the 439th's Reservists will have the chance to exhibit their knowledge and job skills.

This year, invite your family, your neighbors, your co-workers and your employer to attend the Westover Air Show.

It will be a good time, and quite possibly, a good deal more.

by Maj. Rick Dyer
Public Affairs Officer

Gen. Maxwell Taylor is dead at age of 85

Retired Gen. Maxwell Taylor, 85, whose career spanned the triumphant invasion of France in World War II to the American pullout from Vietnam in 1975, died April 19 of a muscular nerve disorder.

Westover's base flag was flown at half-staff until Taylor was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Many of his airborne tactics survive today in the modern operations of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing.

The pioneer paratrooper had been a patient in Washington's Walter Reed Army Medical Center for several months, suffering from Lou Gerhig's disease — amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — which attacks nerves controlling muscle movement.

Taylor's career, which included spearheading airborne warfare from C-47s through C-130s to C-141s, reached its height during the early 1960s when he was named chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's highest military office.

His ascendance followed years of frustration in the 1950s when the foot-soldier's role was constantly diminished by greater reliance on nuclear weapons. Taylor retired in 1959 as Army chief of staff to write a book, "The Uncertain Trumpet," on the dangers of relying too much on nuclear war. His book was read by Sen. John F. Kennedy, D-Mass., who, when he became president in 1961, called Taylor back to active duty as military representative to the president.

Kennedy made Taylor his JCS chairman in October 1962. He served in that post until July 1964 when he was sent to South Vietnam as the American ambassador.

Known as a field commander as well as a gifted military thinker, Taylor first achieved national recognition as the leader of the 101st Airborne Division's daring night drop behind German lines in the 1944 invasion of Normandy.

Taylor, a West Point graduate, led U.N. forces in Korea during the final stages of the Korean War before being named Army chief of staff in 1955.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger hailed Taylor as "a brilliant and daring airborne commander. Throughout his life, General Taylor epitomized what it means to be a soldier, a diplomat, and a scholar."

914 TAG is named Outstanding Unit

ROBINS AFB, Ga. — The 914th Tactical Airlift Group at Niagara Falls, N.Y. is among nine Air Force Reserve units selected to receive the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Other recipients are: Headquarters 10th Air Force, Bergstrom AFB, Tex.; 78th Air Refueling Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.; 327th Tactical Airlift Squadron, Willow Grove ARF, Pa.; 403rd Rescue and Weather Reconnaissance

Wing, Keeseler AFB, Miss.; 459th Military Airlift Wing, Andrews AFB, Md.; 507th Tactical Fighter Group, Tinker AFB, Okla.; 913th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Willow Grove, Pa.; 931st Air Refueling Group, Grissom AFB, Ind.

Award elements for the AFOUA will be presented in August to the unit commanders.

PATRIOT

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Lt. Col. Curley is named commander of the 74AES

By SSgt. Tom Allocco

Lt. Col. Joseph A. Curley, former commander of the most decorated medical unit in the Air Force, has been nominated commander of the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Colonel Curley came to the Westover medical air evacuation squadron in May from the 72 AES at Maguire AFB in New Jersey, whose mission included transporting patients from Europe and Latin America to the U.S.

Under his command, the unit received more decorations than any other Air Force medical unit and was the only squadron to win two consecutive "outstanding" ratings from the Health Service Management Inspection Team from Norton AFB, Calif.

As commander of the 74 AES he will lead the medical unit during the proposed Westover transition from the Hercules to the Galaxy. The squadron will continue its medical air evacuation mission with C-130s from other units.

"The 74th faces a challenge, but the esprit de corps which I've seen in the unit gives me confidence," Colonel Curley said. "I hope I can bring my knowledge and experience to the unit to make it the best in the TAC system."

Colonel Curley has served in the Air Force Reserve since 1962 when he was assigned to the former Grenier AFB in Manchester, N.H., as an enlisted man in the personnel section.



Lt. Col. Joseph Curley meets with TSgt. Lisa Charette, left, and TSgt. Karen Robbins, 74 AES medical administration specialists, while preparing to take command of the unit.

(USAF photo by TSgt. Howard Garbarsky)

He served 32 days of active duty when the unit was mobilized during the Cuban missile crisis in October 1962. The personnel section remained at Grenier airfield working from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, he said.

He later served as a staff sergeant at Hanscom AFB, where in 1968 he received his commission in the Medical Service Corps.

He was commander of the 67 AES when it was transferred to Westover from Hanscom AFB in 1974 and merged with the 74 AES. He served at Westover one year until he transferred to Maguire AFB.

Colonel Curley owns Curley Insurance Agency in Wakefield. He and his wife, Christine, reside in Rockport with their two sons.

439 MSF members deploy

The 439th Mobility Support Flight will send 23 members to Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y. for annual tour training. The Reservists will augment the active duty force at Plattsburgh AFB. They will train in fueling management, supply and other related tasks. The Reservists will assist their counterparts for two weeks.

58 APS goes to Azores

Ten members of the 58 APS will travel to Lajes AB, the Azores for two weeks annual tour to perform air terminal and air cargo duties beginning June 5.

Training in Korea

TSgt. Calvin Mellor, 74 AES radio operations supervisor, wears his chemical warfare ensemble during Team Spirit exercises at Kim Hae Air Base near Pusan, Korea from March 27 to April 13. Other 74 AES members who participated in the inter-service exercise were MSgt. William Roberts, TSgt. Angus Bailey, TSgt. Marie Vatour and TSgt. Daniel Donofrio, medical technicians. They conducted air medical evacuation exercises in South Korea.

Engineers at Eglin

More than 100 Reservists from the 439 CES trained at Eglin AFB, Fla. from Jan. 3 to Jan. 8. Training included classroom and hands-on

experience in rapid runway repair. CES personnel are scheduled to complete the remainder of their annual tour at Westover this summer.

Sentry Yankee exercise

Hundreds of soldiers from the 26th "Yankee" Infantry Division will deploy here in June to set up a forward communications center in Westover's Dogpatch area for exercise Sentry Yankee.

Col. George Caldwell, 439 TAW resource plans officer, said more than 500 National Guard troops from Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire will set up communications to control fighter jets operating throughout New England.



A Red Cross worker prepares to draw a unit of blood from TSgt. Lenore P.S. Bell of the 42 MAPS during a blood drive at Westover during the May UTA. A total of 302 pints of blood were collected during the drive. (USAF photo by TSgt. Howard Garbarsky)

302 pints of blood collected during drive at Westover

By TSgt. Gordon A. Newell

The largest blood drive ever held at Westover and probably the biggest one-day drive in Western Massachusetts, produced 206 units on Saturday of the May UTA.

"The response was terrific," said Maj. David W. Barnard, the Westover coordinator for the event. "We really couldn't have handled any more without stretching into the evening hours," he said.

On Friday, before the UTA started, 96 additional pints were collected, many coming from civilians and ARTs.

Diane Rowe, coordinator for the American Red Cross—Northeast Blood Service, which covers all of Massachusetts and Maine, called the drive an unqualified success.

"The drive was so well organized, it really made our job easy," she said. "Major Barnard did a tremendous job of setting things up and to him, General "Mike" Walker and Lt. Col. Tom Hargis, we owe a big debt of gratitude."

The drive was so successful that Major Barnard is hoping to make it a semi-annual event. Tentatively, the next one is scheduled to take place in either November or December.

"But without the help of the base's first sergeants and individual unit com-

manders, none of it would have been possible. There were so many people around the base that helped get this thing going, that I can't possibly name them all. But I certainly give them all my sincere thanks for their efforts," he said.

Suggestions sought to improve Reserve

DENVER (AFRNS) — Do you have a suggestion on how to improve the Air Force Reserve? If so, now's your chance to speak up.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center/Air Force Reserve Policy and Advisory Council will meet here in June and the Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve Enlisted Advisory Panel will meet here in August.

The council, consisting of both active duty and reserve members, will review recommendations from Air Force personnel about policies that affect the Reserve component.

The panel's recommendations will be reviewed by the director of the Air

National Guard and chief of Air Force Reserve for referral to the Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee and other agencies within the Air Staff. Consisting of 12 members from the USAFR and ANG, the panel is appointed by the heads of both components and serves for two years.

Submissions to both the council and the panel can be made on plain bond paper or ARPC Form 2, "Policy and Advisory Council or Advisory Panel Recommendation," and sent to HQ ARPC/XPXC, Denver, CO 80280-5000. For more information call TSgt. Pearl Dandridge (800-525-0102, Ext. 246 or AUTOVON 926-4988).

Employer Support spokesman honors five at Westover ceremony

The executive director of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve spoke April 28 at Westover about the importance of the nation's reserve forces.

Gary K. Carlson, a former Marine and Vietnam combat veteran, honored five Western Massachusetts and Connecticut members of Reserve and National Guard units.

Westover's A1C Stephen J. Beachell of Belchertown, a non-destructive inspection specialist with the 439 CAMS, was honored for excellence along with Army Reserve Sgt. Michael S. Wong of Mansfield, Conn.; Navy Reserve S2C Albert M. Rybak of Chicopee; Air National Guard TSgt. Richard P. Knight of Springfield; and Army National Guard SSgt. Peter V. Massacani of Lanesboro.

According to Carlson, more than 350,000 employers — representing about half the nation's workforce — have signed "statements of support" endorsing America's Reserve and National Guard forces.

Carlson leads a grass-roots effort to have state committees for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve organize activities which educate both



GARY K. CARLSON

Reservists and their employers on the needs and rights of both parties in the

national defense.

"By explaining the missions of the Guard and Reserve and by increasing public awareness of the role of the employer, a dialogue can be developed among employers, the state employer support committee and local Guard and Reserve unit commanders and members," he said.

Following the awards luncheon, sponsored by Pioneer Valley Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, Carlson attended a joint meeting of the Massachusetts and Connecticut Employer Support of Guard and Reserve Committees.

Connecticut chairman Dave Foster and Massachusetts chairman Stanley Zucker discussed the need for expanding their committees and getting more Reservists to nominate their employers for certificates or letters of appreciation.

"We're not really interested in people nominating their boss for following the law, we're looking for those employers who genuinely support and encourage their employees to participate in the Guard and Reserve," Carlson said.

Westover's C-130's lead Holyoke parade

What better way to kick off a St. Patrick's Parade than with a fly-over by giant green airplanes.

Six C-130s from the 337 TAS saluted the 36th annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade on March 22 by flying in formation above the parade route.

The "Patriot" aircrews — appropriately dressed in green flight suits — flew over Holyoke's city hall just as the first contingent of marchers passed the reviewing stand.

Minutes earlier, the Westover C-130s had airdropped Special Forces troopers of the Army Reserve at the base during training exercise Patriot Muster '87.

On the ground, Westover's firefighters and Reserve color guard joined thousands of marchers in the popular parade to celebrate the contributions of Irish immigrants to this area.

Westover Once Over

20 years ago

(Taken from the Westover Yankee Flyer, June 18, 1967)

A group of Air Force Reservists attached to the 905th Military Airlift Group took off from Westover, Saturday for Vietnam. En route, the C-124 Globemaster will touch down at Travis AFB, Calif., Hawaii, Wake Island, Guam and Clark AB in the Philippines. The 905th has been steadily supporting Air Force global commitments with their huge transports since its transfer two years ago to Westover.

10 years ago

(Taken from The Patriot, June 1977)

Over 38,000 visitors celebrated Armed Forces Day, May 22 at Westover. The biggest attraction of the day was the giant C-5 Galaxy from

Dover AFB, Del, flown in by an all-Reserve crew from the 512 MAW. A steady flow of visitors inspected its cavernous inside and made the steep climb into the cockpit and crews' quarters high above the runway.

5 years ago

(Taken from the Patriot, June, 1982)

The 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron, scheduled to be deactivated at Westover in October, prior to being re-activated at Peterson AFB, Colo., is one of only five Air Force Reserve units to be named recipients of the Outstanding Unit Award.

A veteran Westover Air Force Base Reservist, CMSgt. Henry J. Scott, has been selected as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Air Force Reserve.

Decisions should be made now on Reserve benefit program

By MSgt. James F. Freer
NCOIC Personnel Affairs

Decisions, decisions! You've made plenty of them during your Air Force Reserve career. You'll probably make many more before it's over. There's one you don't want to miss out on. The one concerning your participating in the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan. Very few of your decisions will have the potential for heart-ache or happiness as will that one.

Okay, you ask, what is RCSBP? It is an opportunity for you to provide a monthly annuity (that's money) to your designated beneficiary. The amount depends on your grade and creditable retirement years at the time of retirement. It's something you've already earned once you've attained your 20 creditable retirement years. Let's see how it works.

You'll receive an application for RCSBP along with your notification of retirement eligibility letter. Usually this is four to five months after you've gotten your 20 good retirement years. Once you get your application, you'll have 90 days to make your decision. You can elect either full or partial coverage for spouse and/or children; full

coverage for a non-dependent with an insurable interest or, you can decide not to participate. If you decide not to participate or decline coverage, you will have to wait to age 59½ for another chance. Your decision should be carefully considered.

There's one more decision to make: How much of your pay do you want your survivor benefit to be based on? Both the cost to you of providing the annuity and the amount of the annuity are based on your retirement pay amount. You can base the annuity on any amount of your retirement pay above a minimum monthly \$300 up to the full amount of retirement pay. This amount of retirement pay is called the Base Amount. You decide what that Base Amount should be. Naturally, if your monthly retirement pay is less than \$300, the Base Amount becomes your full retirement pay.

Confused? Have questions? Need help in understanding the Survivor Benefit Plan application form?

Then stop in at CBPO and talk to Personal Affairs. They're located in the Customer Service Office, Room 11, Building 1850. They'll be happy to help you.

earning a **PAT** on the back

Promotions

SMSgt. Ronald A. Ploof
MSgt. Frances J. Coffey
MSgt. Miner L. Fyler
MSgt. Robert W.J. Johnson
MSgt. John W. Spencer
TSgt. Guy V. Anderson
TSgt. Paul G. Benson
TSgt. Albert G. Chenaille
TSgt. Earl W. Cole, Jr.
TSgt. Robert J. Fuchs, Jr.
TSgt. Mark A. Gagnon
TSgt. William A. Gelzinis
TSgt. Thomas J. Harrison
TSgt. Marilyn A. Luchi
TSgt. Robert R. Motley
TSgt. Jean F. Malek
TSgt. Van A. Pelter
TSgt. Stephen J. Smith
TSgt. Dianne M. Wise
SSgt. Paul T. Aylwin
SSgt. Charles S. Anderson
SSgt. Donna J. Anderson
SSgt. Hadlai H. Barrows
SSgt. Robert J. Carbonell
SSgt. Michael J. Carman
SSgt. Thomas P. Cassidy
SSgt. Julie J. Colton
SSgt. Robert J. Croissant
SSgt. Theresa A.S. Hayden

SSgt. Richard A. Hintlian
SSgt. Frances W. Hogan
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SSgt. Russell S. Shaw, Jr.
SSgt. Shannon D. Soja
SSgt. Christina M. Walas
SSgt. John F. Weir
SrA. Karen R. Barnes
SrA. Rene N. Devin
SrA. Melanie L. Diana
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SrA. Tami A. Estabrook
SrA. John S. Jackson
SrA. Bonnie D. Jenkins
SrA. John F. Kearns, Jr.
SrA. Stephen E. Kida
SrA. Charles Livingston
SrA. Tonya A. Maille
SrA. Sharon C. male
SrA. Eric R. Mercier
SrA. Robin M. Miller
SrA. Gerald P. Nadeau
SrA. Renee A. Remedios
SrA. Jeffrey J. Scott
SrA. Daniel Perelli

Enlistments

TSgt. John J. Sobczyk
SSgt. Robert G. Albert
SSgt. George P. Bracey
SSgt. Paul M. Giglio
SSgt. Peter L. Hoffman
SSgt. Cheldon O. Lanier, Jr.
SSgt. William C. Laplante
SSgt. Robert P. Morin
SSgt. Clarence J. Paulin
SSgt. Michael Jean Remillard
SSgt. Vidvanand Setaram
Sgt. Richard A. Bergeron
Sgt. Orlando Centeno
Sgt. Robert J. Powers, Jr.
Sgt. William A. Theroux
A1C. Dan E. Austin
A1C. Howard A. Crawford
A1C. Edward E. Demars
A1C. Robert J. Ingerson
A1C. Thomas D. Lemoine
A1C. Keith J. McCabe
A1C. Robert E. Stec
Amn. Robert L. Duquette, Jr.
AB Felicia M. Ash
AB Annie L. Crockett
AB Kevin J. Graveline
AB Felicia A. Jordan
AB Kim D. Rakowski
AB Mark D. Templeman



"Patriot People"

Name: Theresa Dean
Rank: SSgt.

Age: 28

Address: Springfield, MA

Unit: 337th TAS

Position: Operations resource management specialist

Civilian Occupation:

Reservations clerk/
American Airlines

Favorite Food: Chinese

Favorite Beverage: Mudslide

Favorite Sport: Skiing

Favorite Hobby: Cooking

Ideal Vacation: Australia

Best Way to Relax: Reading

Preferred Entertainment: Dancing

Favorite Celebrity: Robert Redford

Favorite Music: Jazz

Favorite Book: Secrets

Favorite Color: Red

Favorite Car: Porsche

Pet Peeve: Rumors

Best Thing About Westover:

Making new friends

Worst Thing About Westover:

Morning after UTA



HEALTH FAIR — Westover firefighter Dennis Peck, right, checks the blood pressure of SSgt. James Beauregard of the base fire department during a Health and Fitness Fair conducted at the Base Gym from April 30 to May 2. About 360 Reservists and base employees participated in the health fair which included eye tests, computerized body fat tests and literature on cardiovascular fitness. The event was sponsored by Carol Corner-Dolloff, chief of the Labor and Employee Relations Branch.

(USAF photo by TSgt. Howard Garbarsky)

Reservist will be discharged after testing positive for drugs

A Westover NCO faces an administrative discharge after testing positive in the first base urinalysis in December, according to Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker.

The sergeant tested positive for marijuana use. The sample was tested twice at the Air Force drug testing labs at Brooks AFB in Texas and was confirmed by a civilian laboratory.

Air Force policy is to administratively discharge those who use illicit drugs. The NCO was among Air Force Reservists randomly selected at Westover for drug testing during each UTA. He

was the first to test positive.

"The testing will continue indefinitely and may increase in the future as part of an Air Force Reserve-wide program," said Maj. Chuck Curci, wing alcohol and drug abuse prevention training officer.

"The Air Force is firmly committed to eliminate drug abuse. For those who cannot live up to Air Force standards, there will be no second chance. They will have to go," said General Walker.

Those administratively discharged are ineligible for future military service.

Retirement or discharge?

By TSgt. John Wallace Spencer

As an active Air Force Reservist who is not planning on staying on Category A status until age 60, the difference between electing the Retired Reserve or separation by discharge, should be thoroughly understood.

Provided you have met the minimum service requirements to receive retired pay at age 60, including eight qualifying years in a Reserve component, you'll have several choices to make. However, let's consider two of your options: Retired Reserve or Discharge.

In either case, many of the retirement benefits are the same at age 60. But, during the intervening years, there are certain benefits that go along with Retired Reserve status that do not apply to discharge.

RETIRED RESERVE

While awaiting age 60 you keep your Reserve (red) identification card entitling you use of the base recreation facilities, transient quarters, membership in the appropriate open mess facility, and space available travel within the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Samoa, and Guam.

When you reach age 60, you will swap your red ID card for a retired (blue) identification card entitling you to the same benefits as an active-duty retiree.

Your retirement pay will be computed from the pay scale in effect when you reach age 60.

SEPARATION BY DISCHARGE

While awaiting age 60, you lose your Reserve (red) identification card and all privileges that are authorized by such a card. If you entered the service after September 1980 there are more limitations to your benefits.

At age 60 you can request to maintain your civilian status or elect to be reappointed to your commissioned grade or to reenlist.

If civilian status is your choice, instead of a blue ID card you will be issued a permanent "Uniformed Service Identification Card" (DD Form 1173).

If reenlistment is elected, a blue ID card will be issued entitling you to the same benefits as an active-duty retiree.

Commander's Call

AIR FORCE MEDAL

SSgt. Linda L. Bronder
439 CAMS

Lt. Col. Joan T. Hartnett
74 AES

1Lt. Cheryl A. Delaney
74 AES

SMSgt. John C. Burnaat, Jr.
439 TAW

TSgt. Thomas W. Stark, III
439 TAC

TSgt. Karen S. Martin
337 TAS

COMMENDATION MEDAL

Major Lawrence E. Mercker
439 TAW

Major Joseph Lacivita
439 CAMS

TSgt. John E. Miller, III
439 CAMS

SrA. Michael J. Carman
439 CAMS

Volant Rodeo winners eager for Airlift Rodeo competition

The winners of last year's joint airborne inspection competition are relying largely on their experience to win load rigging contests next month at Airlift Rodeo '87.

Air Force Reserve C-130 loadmasters MSgt. Thomas C. Kelly, Nashua, N.H., and TSgt. David A. McKemmie, Windsor, Conn., will represent the JAI defending champions — Westover's 439th Tactical Airlift Wing.

"We expect to win again," said Kelly, a civilian contracting supervisor at Hanscom AFB who is a member of the 337th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Westover.

This year's ninth international airdrop competition at Pope AFB in North Carolina may be the last for Westover's 337th Tactical Airlift Squadron, the unit which may be swapping 16 C-130E turbojets for C-5A jet transports in October.

"Our actual preparation consists of doing the day-to-day things we have been doing the last six-to-eight years and also intense sessions of reviewing current rigging tech orders," said Kelly.

"We practice by rigging international malfunctions that the other must find and correct," he said. "We take

turns testing each other."

In the competition, the loadmasters inspect a heavy equipment platform and a container delivery system package.

The event tests the loadmasters' ability to find defects or malfunctions cleverly built into the heavy platform loads — parachute-rigged heavy equipment such as jeeps and howitzers — and into CDS bundles — containers used to parachute smaller crates of ammunition or rations and cans of water or fuel to ground troops behind enemy lines.

During the actual competition, each parachute load will contain an unspecified number of defects and malfunctions. The point value for correcting each defect or malfunction will vary.

The inspected loads are actually used in the international air delivery competition on the drop zones of Fort Bragg, headquarters of the 82nd Airborne Division and Special Forces.

If an airdrop malfunction occurs, the failed parachute or rigging failure is attributed to the JAI portion of the airdrop event. Points are deducted from the score earned for the static load inspection.

Sergeants Kelly and McKemmie have been airdrop equipment riggers for

about eight years and teach other Reservists in the aerial port squadron at Westover. According to federal law, employers must allow Reservists time off to train one weekend a month and for two weeks during the year.

In 1984, Kelly and McKemmie, a supervisor of a local wire and cable company, tied for the top spot in their graduating class at the Fort Lee airdrop inspection school in Virginia.

Last year, after inspecting extraction lines, parachutes, slings and other complicated mechanisms of an airdrop, the two Reservists won the competition with 192 points out of a possible 200. The Westover pair finished 13 points ahead of a team from Dyess AFB in Texas.

Westover sent a 27-man team to the competition last year and won the title of Best in the Air Force Reserve and ranked fifth against 30 competitors, which included active duty and Air National Guard units, Marine Corps, German, British, Australian, Portuguese and Canadian teams.

Comedian Bob Hope will kick-off the competition on May 10 and his performance at Airlift Rodeo will be televised nationally on NBC on May 25.

SrA. Luisa Velasco of 439 TAW headquarters posts a Thunderbird Air Show poster to publicize the June 6-7 event at Westover.



HQ 439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MA 01022

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