

PATRIOT



439TH MILITARY AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

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OCTOBER 1987

**337th TAS wins
Chennault Trophy**

Patriot Thunder

Family Day

Endangered Species

THE PATRIOT
WESTOVER'S FIRST C-5A

(USAF photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

EDITORIAL

The time is now

This time, it's for real!

For the past three years, Westover has tackled the mammoth task of preparing for the C-5 conversion. We've spent thousands and thousands of hours planning for the big airplanes — and a big, new mission.

Now, the time for preparation has ended. Our first C-5 arrived Oct. 1, and by the end of this month, we may have five of the Galaxies on the ramp at Westover.

The dedication of our unit on Oct. 3 as the 439th Military Airlift Wing signals something far greater than a name change. It means that we are an on-line, mission-ready C-5 unit. It means, in short, that we are doing it for real.

The job we've undertaken for the Military Airlift Command is exciting, challenging and a tremendous responsibility. The wing has already begun flying regular C-5 sorties for MAC, transporting heavy equipment, cargo and personnel to locations all over the globe.

By the time we reach our projected full strength of 16 C-5s and nearly 3000 reservists, the 439th will be responsible for a large slice of MAC's total U.S.-based strategic airlift response.

Because our responsibilities have been enlarged, so also has our unit's importance to the national defense. Each and every member of the 439th must remember this — particularly since mission readiness depends on the individual effort of each reservist at Westover.

The weeks and months ahead will be hectic. There will be a great deal of extra work to do as we confront new and unfamiliar assignments. Many of you will be called upon to work longer hours and make other sacrifices as we expand our operations.

I know that I can count on every person at Westover to meet the challenges, make the sacrifices and get the work done. The time is upon us, the time is now.

— **Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker**
Wing Commander

Seabees qualify on Westover range

Thanks to Chief Master Sergeant Eugene Longfield and Master Sergeant Robert Boisvert of the 439th CSG, 135 Seabees of the U.S. Naval Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion 27 were able to qualify with the M-16 rifle for the first time in four years on the 25

meter range.

Sergeant Boisvert and other combat arms instructors provided training for Detachment 527's Seabees and over 95 percent of the men qualified, with eleven firing experts.

PATRIOT

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BRIEFS

Westover courses

Springfield Technical Community College's Division of Continuing Education is conducting a dozen credit and non-credit courses this fall at Westover.

In the past, STCC has taught Fire Science classes for fire department personnel at the base and regular college courses were held.

Increasing interest from both civilians and reservists prompted STCC officials to offer the classes once again.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays and will run for 14 weeks.

To accommodate personnel who work at Westover and commute each day, classes begin at 4:30 p.m. enabling people to attend classes.

Buildings 1408, 1850, 1100 and 1700 are expected sites for classrooms with a maximum of 25-30 seats available in most courses.

For more information and to register for spring classes, call 781-1314.

Medals available

A bronze Vietnam Veterans National Medal, commemorating the men and women who served in the Vietnam conflict, is now available to the public from the U.S. Mint.

The medal's designs were selected from entries submitted by Vietnam veterans, medallist artists and others. The medal is made of bronze and has been issued in two sizes: a three-inch for \$16 and a 1½-inch for \$2.25.

To receive the medal send a check or money order to: The U.S. Mint (Medals), P.O. Box 500, Philadelphia, Pa. 10150.

Top security police

ROBINS AFB, Ga. — The Air Force Office of Security Police has named a 439th MAW member among the Air Force Reserve winners of the 1986 outstanding security police individual awards.

SMSgt. Charles J. Stanford of the 911th Combat Support Squadron at Greater Pittsburgh IAP, Pa., was named outstanding reserve combat arms training and maintenance manager.



THEY BROUGHT HOME THE TROPHY—Members of the 337th TAS pose with General McAdoo at the awards banquet in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Shown from left to right are: Lt. Col. Gale French; 1st Lt. Steven Merrick; Lt. Col. "Whitey" Joslin; SMSgt. Ralph Branyen; Maj. Gen. James McAdoo; Maj. Robert MacDonald; MSgt. Bertrand Paradis; 1st Lt. David Maloy; and Maj. Paul Torpey.

(USAF photo by Nora MacKay)

337th TAS receives Chennault Trophy

By Nora McKay

As the 337th Tactical Airlift Squadron prepared for its mission and aircraft conversion from C-130s to C-5s over the past year, the unit amassed a collection of accomplishments impressive enough to win them one of the most coveted awards in the Air Force.

The General Claire L. Chennault Trophy, awarded for all-around excellence of performance in mission accomplishment, was presented to the 337th by the 14th Air Force Association at the 40th annual awards banquet on Sept. 12 in Orlando, Fla.

"This is the most prestigious award a 14th Air Force flying unit can receive," said Maj. Paul Torpey of the 337th. "There's a tremendous amount of tradition, going back to before the creation of the 14th Air Force. There's no other award like it in 14th Air Force or in AFRES," he said.

That tradition began before the United States entered World War II, with the renowned Flying Tigers with General Chennault as their commander. The Flying Tigers consisted of the American Volunteer Group, who were nearly all ex-military pilots, and fought the Japanese for the Chinese government. The AVG pilots became legends in their own time while flying P-40

fighters with the distinctive shark-toothed emblem.

After the US entered the war, the Flying Tigers became the nucleus of the 14th Air Force. Today, the 14th Air Force Association, which presents the trophy in conjunction with 14th Air Force, is a group of former Flying Tigers and former members of 14th Air Force.

The 14th Air Force Association has a membership of more than 3,500, according to William Bonneaux, convention vice-president for the association. More than 1,000 were in attendance at the awards banquet.

"After working all year, we felt the 337th had a good shot at winning the trophy," Major Torpey said. "When we eventually wrote the nomination papers, we realized just how much we had accomplished.

"This has probably been the busiest year in the 337th's history," he said.

Of the 18 flying units in 14th Air Force, the 337th was chosen for its excellence in performance despite the difficulties brought by the C-5 conversion at Westover, according to Maj. Gen. James McAdoo, commander of 14th Air Force and the presenter of the trophy.

"The accomplishments of the win-

ning unit alone would be enough to win this award," General McAdoo said. "But the achievements of the 337th are particularly noteworthy because the unit was preparing for a difficult conversion to C-5 aircraft from C-130s, and for a mission change from tactical to strategic airlift."

Among the squadron's outstanding accomplishments noted by General McAdoo were the rescue of a burning tugboat off the coast of Guatemala, the squadron's performance during Volant Oak in which they successfully carried more than one million pounds of cargo, and the accumulation of more than 5,000 safe flying hours during the award period.

The difficulties facing the squadron with the conversion were felt most acutely in the area of manpower shortages, according to Major Torpey.

"For three-quarters of the year, much of the squadron was away at C-5 school," he said. "But the reservists left in the C-130 business jumped in and did the job way beyond anyone's expectations."

This is not the first time a unit from Westover has received the coveted Chennault Trophy. In 1981, the award was given to the 337th, and in 1978, to

(Continued on Page 13)

FAMILY DAY: bigger, better, closer

Article and photos
By TSgt. Sandi Michon



LITTLE MISS WESTOVER—Carrie Bersak, 3, daughter of Maj. Bob Bersak of the 439th Wing legal office, checks out a C-130 cockpit.

Although dark clouds threatened to dampen the family picnic on Sept. 12, the weather actually improved the entire day by drawing people closer together.

The day before the September UTA, all equipment was moved from the athletic fields to the Base Hangar. "At first, I was disappointed about moving into the hangar," said Lt. Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander.

"But it went so well, we may plan to hold future picnics there, rain or shine," he said.

More than 1,200 reservists and DOD personnel plus their families attended "Family Day" which ran from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. "We had to keep extending the disc jockey," said CMSgt. George Kudla, picnic committee member in charge of entertainment.

In addition to dancing, there was volleyball for the adults and pony rides for children. There was also a movie room, bean bag games and T-ball for the kids. A C-130 and C-5A were on static display throughout the day for everyone to tour.

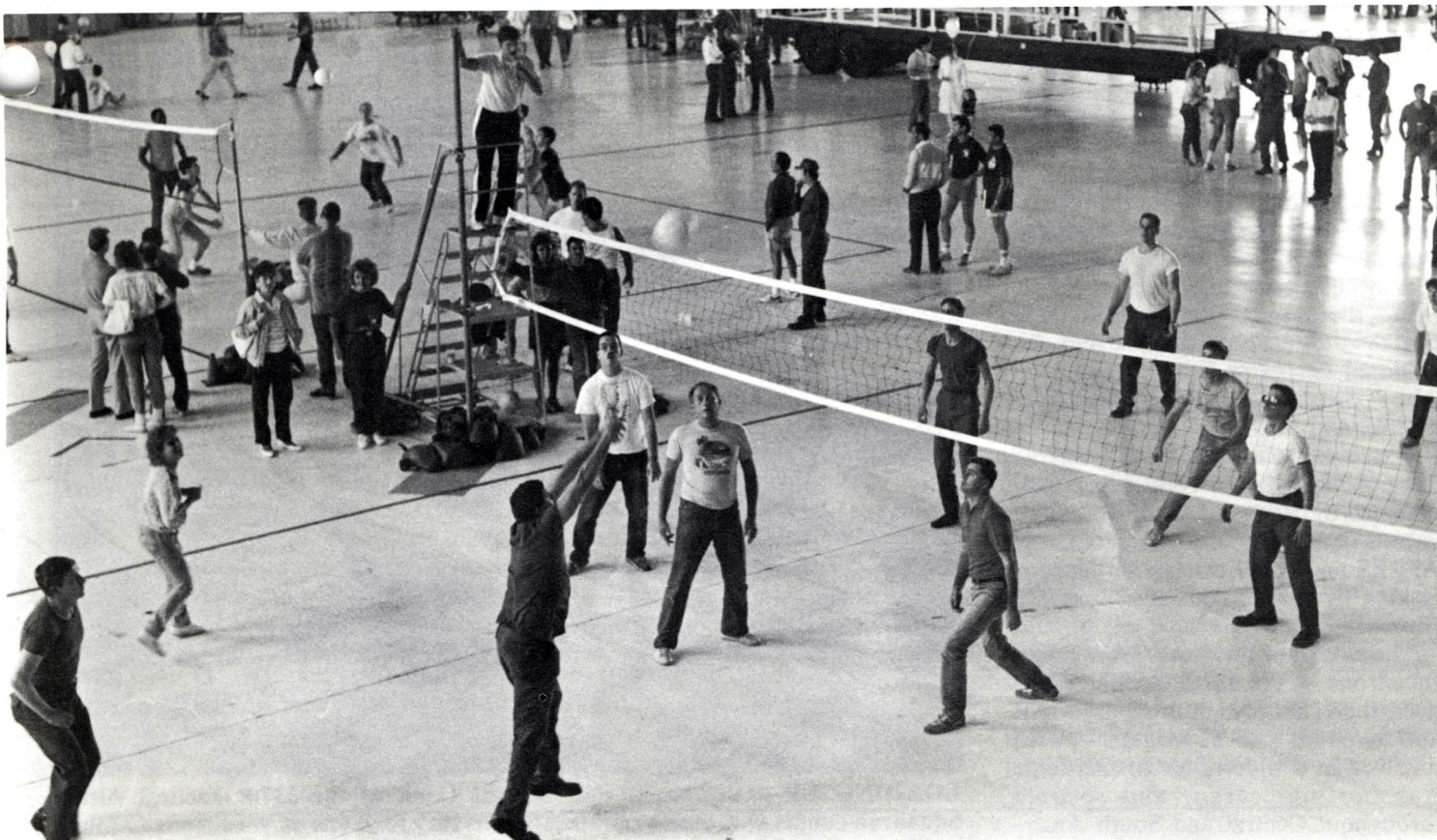
Brig. Gen. Frederick Walker, wing commander, was the first "dunkee" at the picnic's dunking booth. "We made over almost \$250 from the dunking booth," said Chief Kudla. The proceeds went to the Chiefs Council Scholarship Fund.

The day's menu included two roast pigs, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, corn-on-the-cob and 300 pounds of salmon. "The general caught some of the salmon himself," said Colonel Hargis. "In fact, most of the cooking was done by officers and commanders at Westover."

The picnic was organized by a picnic planning committee, headed by CMSgt. Charlie Fusco, and was primarily financed by the Chiefs Council and the First Sergeants Association.

"General Walker initiated the picnic," said Chief Kudla, and "MSgt. Randy Malek deserves credit for all the legwork he did."

"We like to get our families out at Westover so they can better identify with our mission," said Colonel Hargis. "As I see it, all the goals the picnic was designed for were met and then some."



4th AIRBORNE—Volleyball enthusiasts competed throughout the day with the 439th ABG emerging as the winning team.



FUTURE PILOT?—Shane Michon, 4, son of TSgt. Sandi Michon and SSgt. Ron Michon tests the controls in a C-5 cockpit.



HIGH AND DRY—MSgt. Sophie Bartosik, 439th personnel technician, anticipates the cold water in the dunking booth tank.

Volant Oak marks 10th year as Westover ends C-130 era

HOWARD AB, Panama (AFRNS) — The names changed over the past decade from Cold Oak to Coronet Oak and finally Volant Oak, but the tactical airlift mission remained the same and Westover AFB played an important role in Latin America.

For the past 10 years, Air Reserve Forces — Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard — have provided all Air Force in-place tactical airlift in Central and South America.

Westover's "Patriot Wing" was an integral part of this Total Force support, which began Oct. 1, 1977, and involved quarterly rotations of six AFRES and ANG transports here for tasking by the unified U.S. Southern Command.

The C-130s of the 439th TAW flying squadrons — the 337th TAS at Westover, the 911th TAS at Pittsburgh IAP and the 914th TAS at Niagara — were involved in a wide range of missions: transporting cargo and people throughout Central and South America, parachuting cargo and troops into Panama Canal area training ranges and drop zones in support of defense training operations, search and rescue, disaster relief operations and evacuation of U.S. citizens.

Since Volant Oak's inception, AFRES C-130s have logged some 4,100 missions, clocking in more than 21,000 hours of flying time, with almost 67,000 people airlifted or airdropped into Central and South America.

Mission records reveal the significance of Volant Oak and the AFRES role.

Earlier this year, in the aftermath of March earthquakes in Ecuador, AFRES units flew relief missions to the most badly damaged areas. The C-130 Hercules transport crews from the wing's 914th TAS at Niagara Falls, N.Y., flew three missions to Quito and a C-141 crew from the 315th MAW at Charleston AFB, S.C., flew one. Their relief supplies included 500 tents, 5,000 blankets and more than 60,000 pounds of plastic sheeting to be used in providing shelter for the 10,000 left homeless by the earthquake.

In December, a 337th crew participating in Volant Oak saved a dozen Canadian sailors by dropping a life raft alongside their burning vessel. The news media representatives were wait-



LOADING UP—Loadmaster Sgt. Dwight Cook of the 337th Tactical Airlift Squadron counts U.S. Army paratroopers as they load one of Westover's C-130Es at Howard AB in Panama during a Volant Oak mission. (USAF photo by Frank Faulkner)

ing at Westover when the crew returned.

Prior to these missions, the Reserve had earned the praise of senior Air Force and Department of Defense officials for deliveries of humanitarian cargo during fiscal year 1986. AFRES units transported some 150,000 pounds of goods to Central America under the Denton Amendment to the 1985 Defense Authorization Act.

At that time, Richard L. Armitage, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, said, "The amendment and the AFRES support of this program have done much to alleviate suffering in that region of the world..."

The Denton Amendment makes the services of AFRES and ANG aircrews available to humanitarian organizations so food, medical supplies and other related materials can be delivered to the people of Central and South America as well as other areas of the world.

According to AFRES officials, even before the Denton amendment, Volant Oak was important to area humanitarian efforts.

"Throughout our support of the Volant Oak mission, we've been called

upon to provide relief," said Billy M. Knowles, a former commanding general of the 439th TAW at Westover who is today director of operational plans at AFRES headquarters. "During the Nicaraguan earthquakes and disasters in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru, we were there to help. And even during standard missions, we provide medical support, search and rescue and accident relief."

An earlier example of the diversified Volant Oak effort took place in June and July 1979, when AFRES crews flew 18 missions in 79.1 hours to evacuate 1,417 people and airlift numerous tons of cargo from Managua, Nicaragua, to Panama and the Canal Zone during a political struggle.

In 1979, the 337th TAS from Westover AFB, conducted emergency airlift operations when a political disturbance in Bolivia called for the evacuation of 133 U.S. citizens.

From June 27 to July 1, 1983, reservists from the 439th, Air National Guardsmen, active duty Air Force people and Panamanian national guardsmen delivered 170 tons of food and medical supplies in the wake of tropical rains in Piura, Peru.

C-5s participate in Red Flag exercises

"Bandits at 3 o'clock high — rolling to six... break right!"

That's the new vocabulary C-5 aircrew members from Dover AFB, Del., learned recently when they became the first C-5 entry into Tactical Air Command's Red Flag exercises at Nellis AFB, Nev.

Red Flag exercises give United States and allied military members the opportunity to practice and develop combat tactics for their weapons systems. Aircrews practice simulated combat in a high-threat environment with mock opposition. Up to 250 aircraft fly a total of 3,500 sorties during a two-week period.

Red Flag 87-4 exposed the 436th Military Airlift Wing crews not only to low-level training flying at 500 feet above the ground, but also to the problems associated with planning and co-

ordinating a combat mission. The members learned about a wide array of threats, from surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft artillery, and small arms fire to enemy fighter aircraft, all modeled and employed according to Soviet military doctrine and tactics.

The frequent aircrew training exercises help ensure the ability to deploy and maintain combat forces anywhere in the world.

During Red Flag 87-4, the "Red Air" was composed of F-5 Freedom Fighters and F-15 Eagles flown by Nellis "aggressors."

Aggressor pilots, trained in Soviet doctrine and tactics, "fly the same type of profiles we expect the typical Soviet-trained pilot to use in combat," said participant Capt. Stephen Thompson, a pilot from the 3rd Military Airlift Squadron.

Blue Air, or the "good guys," con-

sisted of Air Force OV-10s, A-10s, F-16s, F-4s, EC-130s, AWACs, the C-5, Navy F-14s, and Marine F-18s.

While realism is the key in TAC's Flag training programs, learning was the key for Dover aircrews. "A successful combat mission requires many hours of planning and coordination between all players," explained Captain Thompson. "With a thoroughly coordinated and studied plan, and good timing from takeoff to landing, the chances of a successful combat mission are optimized. For every two-hour mission during the exercise, we planned for eight hours.

"Lessons learned will be of great value to the wing's special operations employment cadre and combat aircrew training programs.

"This was one exercise that never will be forgotten by the crews and the people who made it happen," he added.

MAC Intelligence now computerized

By SrA. Alan Duffy

A Westover C-5 aircrew is sound asleep, but in less than 24 hours they could be called to undertake a priority mission of transporting vital supplies to an overseas location.

The MAC mission plays a significant role in the defense of our country, and an important part of the mission's success lies in the hands of people like Captain Mary Mosley-Vann, an intelligence analyst. Her interpretation of information could mean the difference between success or failure of a critical mission.

The mission's success depends strongly on the information provided by MAC headquarters Intelligence directorate, to units around the world.

The link between Scott AFB, Ill, and units like Westover's units was recently made stronger with the activation of a new \$5 million computer data base.

The Intelligence office no longer has to wade through massive amounts of paperwork to get to worldwide situations, terrorist activities, and just about any information that could affect a mission.



OVER WING—A C-5A passes over the 439th Military Airlift Wing headquarters building. By the end of October, as many as five Galaxies may be stationed at Westover.

(USAF photo by Sgt. Vin Blanchard)



PILING BRASS—SSgt. John Zaleski, Jr., from the 103rd WSSF, Connecticut Air Guard, Bradley, IAP sets up a M-60 MG near the riverbank. He was one of the key defense points.

(USAF photo by Frank Faulkner)

By SSgt. Tom Allocco

Muzzles were capped and the weapons fired blanks, but the noise, dust, insects, hornet stings, and fatigue were real when Westover's security police hosted Patriot Thunder on the weekend of Aug. 22 and 23.

The exercise was a full-dress rehearsal of a weapons security systems squadron's ability to move into a bare base by helicopter, set up a perimeter anchored with M-60 machine gun nests, send out reconnaissance patrols and defend against guerrilla bands.

Westover's 439th WSSF and others

from the 459th WSSF, Andrews AFB; 514th WSSF, McGuire AFB; 911th WSSF, Pittsburgh; and the 103rd WSSF, Hartford took M-16s, M-60s and Soviet AK-47s to the Knightville Dam area in the Berkshires near Huntington.

Teams of aggressors and defenders got down in the dirt and disputed ownership of a field designated a bare air base. Covering the area of a couple football fields, the "base" sat in a depression. The surrounding high ground was held by four teams of aggressors — Alpha from Pittsburgh and Baker, Charlie and Delta from Westover.

PATRIOT



(USAF photo by TSgt. Howard Garbarsky)

It started with a hot LZ landing by the defenders who roared in Saturday morning in Hueys of the Army Guard from Bradley International Airport. They established a perimeter defense around the field under "gunfire" from the aggressor bands. A pair of CH-54 Flying Cranes churned up the field when they landed with more security teams.

For the next 24-hours all involved in Patriot Thunder had a taste of whatever their job. The defenders dug machine gun positions in it, the aggressors crawled and hid in it and the observers who refereed the exercise kicked up clouds of it behind their jeeps.

TSgt. Thomas Stark of the 439th Tactical Hospital washed it off victims of bee stings. SSgt. Brian Goodnight of the 439th Communications Flight breathed it when it blew into his tent and SSgt. Teresa Hyndman of the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron tried to keep it out of the stew when she served hot meals.



DRY CYCLE—Reservists attempt to dry their boots by the night fire.

(USAF photo by TSgt. Howard Garbarsky)

THUNDER

At night, those who were able to grab an hour's sleep hugged the ground against the unseasonable chill.

Those who did sleep had their rest disturbed by Foxfire flares, simulated artillery blasts and bursts of automatic weapons fire. They signalled attacks by aggressors who spent the dark hours prowling and infiltrating the base perimeter.

Among the aggressors making trouble was SSgt. William Jebb. He was with the eight-member Delta team headed by TSgt. Randy Humphries. The Westover aggressors left their hidden base camp, crossed an ankle-deep stream and crept up on the bare base perimeter positions.

Team members managed to sneak through the lines and find hiding places in the undergrowth. For hours they lay silent in the cold while waiting for a 4 a.m. coordinated attack by all four teams of the opposing force.

During the night, TSgt. George Hoagland, Bravo team leader, and SSgt. Thomas Gaglione twice broke into the bare base. Early in the evening

(Continued on Page 10)



(USAF photo by Frank Faulkner)

AGGRESSOR PROBE—ALPHA team, above, from the 911th WSSF moves up an abandoned road to the base camp as part of their aggressor attack. Below, reservists exit from a CH-54 from the Connecticut Air National Guard at Bradley.



(USAF photo by TSgt. Howard Garbarsky)

Patriot Thunder continued

Sergeant Hoagland emptied his M-16 in the base's command post.

Charlie team, under SSgt. Gerard Renaud, also harassed the defenders when they commandeered a supply truck. The uproar gave a captured infiltrator, Sgt. Raymond Henry of Bravo team, the opportunity to "kill" a guard and escape back across the stream.

Before Patriot Thunder was over, there had been dozens of such escapades as defender and aggressor met and clashed.

The action moved from a string of firefights along the stream at the base perimeter to a probing attack that disrupted lunch to a 20-minute assault by three Connecticut Air National Guard A-10s from Bradley which buzzed the ground forces in simulated strafing attacks.

By Saturday night, Sergeant Jebb had been captured, "wounded," "killed," handcuffed, bound in a restraining strap and interrogated.

He had ambushed and been ambushed in a half-dozen firefights. More painfully, he had also been stung at least 10 times on the face, neck, back and legs when he walked into a hornet's nest on a ridgeline.

More than once, aggressors and defenders ran from bees and hornets whipping around their heads and crawling into clothes and pockets. Members of the 439th Tactical Hospital and 74th AES treated them.

At sunrise on Sunday, weary reserv-



SURROUNDED—1st Lt. Thomas Smith (center) receives an assessment of enemy positions from the 514th WSSF, McGuire AFB, N.J.

(USAF photo by Frank Faulkner)

ists attend Protestant services conducted by Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Miesel of Westover and Catholic services conducted by Chaplain (Maj.) William Dougherty of McGuire AFB, N.J.

Patriot Thunder concluded with a critique by Army air base ground defense instructors from Fort Dix, N.J.

"Every year we get a little better," said Maj. Frank McCormack, 439th

WSSF commander.

Patriot Thunder was organized by TSgt. Donald Lahue and TSgt. Douglas Young, with the assistance of TSgt. Michael Dutton, all of the 439th WSSF.

Col. Wayne Harris, 14th Air Force Security Police commander, and 439th ABG commander, Lt. Col. Thomas G. Hargis, were observers at Patriot Thunder.

Col. Smith retires after 36 years of military service

Col. Clarence E. Smith, former deputy commander of resources, has retired from the Reserve program after more than 36 years military service.

After four years active duty spent stateside and in Korea, he served 32 years as a reservist at Hanscom AFB and Westover.

Colonel Smith will continue in his civilian position as Westover's chief of supply. He resides in Maynard, Mass., with his wife Madeline. The couple has three grown children.

As with many retirements, Colonel Smith's caused a ripple effect in career advancements. Lt. Col. Frank Purnell assumed the position of deputy com-

mander for resources. His new responsibilities include coordinating the activities of five aerial ports: the 59th, 58th and 42nd APS from Westover, the 30th MAPS from Niagara IAP, N.Y., and the 32nd MAPS from Pittsburgh IAP, Pa. The colonel will also oversee wing representatives from transportation, supply and resource planning.

Colonel Purnell has accumulated almost 25 years military service. He and his wife Nancy reside in Wilbraham, Mass., and have two grown children.

Maj. Barry Monahan moved from commanding the 42nd MAPS to the Reserve 439th CSG vice-commander

position vacated by Colonel Purcell.

As the vice-commander of the new 439th Air Base Group, Major Monahan will operate as a backup to the base commander, Lt. Col. Thomas G. Hargis with the Reserve aspects of the 439th ABG.

Major Monahan said his role also enables him to resolve problems in the officer and enlisted ranks and he is concerned with the morale and welfare needs of not only the group, but the entire base.

Major Monahan has 22 years military service and resides in Wellesley, Mass., with his wife Corinne and their four children.



MOVING DAY—Members of the 42nd APS move their gear from nose dock 36 into the Base Hangar. The 42nd's move is the first of many caused by pending construction projects.

Out with the old, in with the new at the 42nd APS

Articles and photos
By TSgt. Sandi Michon

The 42nd MAPS has a new commander, a new location and a new designation.

Lt. Col. Geraldine Dodson-Smith is commanding the new 42nd Aerial Port Squadron. The Boston native comes to Westover after a three-year statutory tour in Washington, D.C., as reserve forces advisor to director of transportation.

She has more than 20 years military service, including five years active duty in administration and public affairs and approximately 15 years Reserve time in various transportation fields, including eight years with the 89th APS at McGuire AFB, N.J.

Colonel Dodson-Smith will be responsible for overseeing unit operations and she foresees a major emphasis on training. "Our designation changed Oct. 1 from MAPS to APS because of the C-5 mission change," she said.

"While the C-130s deployed into forward operating theaters and accomplished a variety of running drops, the C-5 Galaxies have a strategic mission to bases overseas," Colonel Dodson-Smith said.

"Since flyaways are the best form of training for our particular mission, we will be working to make them as productive and realistic as possible," she said.

Colonel Dodson-Smith is married to a KC-135 pilot with the Maine Air National Guard. The couple has five children.

In addition to moving her family from Virginia to Maine, Colonel Dodson-Smith's first UTA at Westover held yet another move as the old 42nd MAPS moved from nose dock 36 to become the 42nd APS at the Base Hangar.

Because the nose docks are to be razed to accommodate the C-5s, the aerial port personnel were able to practice their moving skills on their own be-

longings.

"The move went smoothly," said CMSgt. Ron Ploof, wing transportation manager. "About the only effect the move will have on the 150-member unit is to increase the available office space."



Lt. Col. Geraldine Dodson-Smith

439th CAMS to use split UTA system

By SrA. Alan Duffy

The 439th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron began a split UTA system in August. About 200 maintenance members reported on the B weekend for duty and training on the C-5s.

The new multiple UTA routine will consist of Westover's units splitting their manpower in half or in some cases into thirds to carry out training.

Each unit on base will have two UTAs per month, and some may have three UTAs as Westover gains about 1,000 more reservists.

Lt. Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander, said, "The new split UTA system is being utilized to aid us with properly training our reservists, and for the plain and simple fact that we as reservists must help to meet the mission as a total force."

The 439th CAMS has set its UTA schedule on what they term A and B weekends. SMSgt. Salvatore Palumbo, CAMS first sergeant, said, "The A

weekend will be used to get personnel physicals, shots and so on. The B weekend will be used for the people who have most of these requirements met to primarily get OJT, schooling, and to perform direct maintenance."

Sergeant Palumbo's outlook was very positive to the changes. "Of course if someone needs travel pay or a shot on a B weekend, they would be allowed to do so. The split system will be flexible enough to accommodate these people; however, we will try to schedule people on the proper weekend for these things."

According to the first sergeant, members of the maintenance squadron have the same positive outlook as he does.

"Because of the additional amounts of training that we will be able to accomplish, the esprit de corps will be high," he said. "People will have a genuine knowledge of their job and will have a strong sense of belonging."

Primary UTA Schedule

1987

Oct. 3-4

Nov. 7-8

Dec. 5-6

1988

Jan. 9-10

Feb. 6-7

Mar. 5-6

Apr. 9-10

May 7-8

Jun. 4-5

Jul. 9-10

Aug. 6-7

Sep. 10-11

Reservists urged to plan ahead for dependent care

By TSgt. Sandi Michon

With the worldwide mission potential of the 439th Military Airlift Wing, if you are training overseas or mobilized, will you be worried about loose ends left behind in New England?

That's a serious question that Westover personnel officers are asking our reservists and they expect an answer.

"Since our main focus in the Air Force Reserve is to be prepared for possible mobilization, it is essential that we cover all the bases," said Capt. William Baird Jr., military records OIC.

"Thinking ahead concerning family matters probably tops the list in readiness," he said, "because even a highly trained reservist can be distracted from the mission if there are loose ends at home."

Military families where both parents are reservists, or single-parent families have the most to gain by planning ahead, he said.

Reservists in these categories are re-

quired to complete Air Force Form 357 which outlines dependent care plans in the event of mobilization and requires signatures from the proposed guardian. These forms should be in military records and are reviewed annually each October.

To insure military benefits for your family in the event of mobilization, every reservist with dependents must complete DD Form 1172, commonly referred to as the DEERS form.

The DEERS form (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System) is simply a pre-enrollment for an active duty ID card and its privileges. DEERS forms may be obtained at the Customer Assistance Office in room 11 at Base Headquarters.

"DEERS forms and other dependent paperwork is vital if mobilization occurs, and will insure that your dependents receive the benefits due them," said Capt. Robert White, CBPO chief.

"Military personnel with dependents

have only until the November 1987 UTA to complete and submit the DEERS form to CBPO," said Captain Baird. "Also, since the form would automatically generate identification cards for dependents, social security numbers are required for children age 10 and older."

Reservists can also obtain optional identification cards for their dependents for use today. "With the C-5s now stationed at Westover, security has been tightened dramatically," said Captain Baird. If dependents want access to the base they will need to present an ID card at the gate.

Applications for these optional ID cards (AF Form 446) were mailed to all reservists with spouses. Completed applications may be mailed to the Customer Assistance Office for pre-approval which will speed processing.

Reservists can also obtain applications at the Customer Assistance Office Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., or during UTAs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chennault Trophy

(Continued from page 3)

the former 731st TAS, a C-123 unit at Westover.

The trophy was accepted for the squadron by Lt. Col. Charles "Whitey" Joslin, 337th TAS commander.

Also attending the awards banquet for the squadron were: Lt. Col. Gale French; Major Torpey; Maj. Robert MacDonald; 1st Lt. David Maloy; 1st Lt. Steven Merrick; SMSgt. Charles Arvin, Jr.; SMSgt. Ralph Branyen, Jr.; MSgt. Bertrand Paradis; and MSgt. John Forgetta, Jr.

The receipt of the Chennault Trophy by the 337th is "outstanding and well-deserved," according to Brig. Gen. Frederick Walker, 439th Military Airlift Wing commander.

"If you look back over the year, the squadron was very busy," General Walker said. "They never gave up through the process of preparing for the conversion from C-130s to C-5s.

"They did a very good job," he said, adding he felt the squadron would face the new job — the C-5 conversion — with the same determination.



TROPHY TIME—Lt. Col. Charles "Whitey" Joslin, 337th commander, accepts the Chennault Trophy from General McAdoo. To the left is William Bonneaux, convention vice-president for the 14th Air Force Association.

(USAF photo by Nora MacKay)

439th Civil Engineers compete in Readiness Challenge '87

By Sgt. Vincent Blanchard

Reservists from Westover will compete this month against four other Air Force Reserve units in a test of Prime BEEF and Prime RIBS skills at Robins AFB, Ga., during Readiness Challenge '87.

CMSgt. Pete Casey, team leader of the Westover contingent, said 23 reservists from 439th Civil Engineering Squadron will participate in the Oct. 4-9 competition.

Readiness Challenge '87 will determine the unit with the best Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF) and Readiness In Base Services (RIBS) teams.

Overall winner of the Headquarters AFRES-sponsored event will represent the command at the Air Force-wide competition in December at Eglin AFB, Fla.

Competing against the 439th CES are reservists from the 94th Civil Engineering Squadron at Dobbins AFB, Ga.; the 442nd CES, Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo.; the 910th CES from Youngstown MAP, Ohio; and

the 934th CES at Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP, Minn.

Last year, the 910th CES represented the command and placed third overall in the worldwide competition at Eglin AFB.

Readiness Challenge '87 will test each unit's engineering and services training and ability to respond to real-world needs. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to train for wartime and peacetime emergencies.

Health Fair slated for November UTA

By Nora MacKay

A Health Fair, focusing on winter health and fitness, will be held Nov. 5, 6 and 7 at the base gym.

"The Health Fair is a way for the base to show reservists and civilian employees that we care about their fitness and overall well-being," said Lt. Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander.

"We hope to give people information about winter sports programs, and to offer assistance in getting fit for winter," he said.

There will be several stations at the fair, including testing for blood pressure, hearing, eyesight and glaucoma, and body fat. A highlight will be an expert on proper foot care and footwear for athletic activities.

Representatives from Weight Watchers, Smokers Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous will be available for counseling, as well as counselors on stress management, nutrition and diet, among others.

Hoping to top their record collection of 206 units of blood from the last drive held at Westover in May, the Red Cross will be back on Friday for base employees and Saturday for reservists.

"Hopefully, this will be a way for people to fight the holiday 'battle of the bulge' by getting into a fitness program now," Colonel Hargis said.

For further information, contact Chris Greenia, chairwoman of the Fitness Program and Health Fair, at 2532 or 3990.



TAKING THE OATH—Second lieutenant Andy Hoffman, formerly a master sergeant, is sworn in by his supervisor, Capt. Lynn Spendley, wing intelligence officer. Lieutenant Hoffman earned his new bars through the Air Force's Deserving Airman Commissioning Program.

(USAF photo by Sgt. Vin Blanchard)

Westover reservist trades chevrons for gold bars

A six-year-old dream came true for Andy Hoffman during the September UTA.

Hoffman, formerly a master sergeant with the wing intelligence office, traded his NCO chevrons for gold bars on Sept. 12 when he was commissioned a second lieutenant. He became an officer through the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program.

"I've been trying to earn a deserving airman's commission for the past six years," the new lieutenant said after taking the oath from his boss, Capt. Lynn Spendley, wing intelligence officer. "My number finally came up."

On hand for the swearing-in were Lieutenant Hoffman's colleagues from

the intelligence office, his wife, Mary Lou, and his daughters Susan and Margaret.

Lieutenant Hoffman, 38, is a 17-year veteran of the Air Force and Air Force Reserve. A resident of Wethersfield, Conn., he holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Central Connecticut State University and is employed as data processing manager for the Zygo Corporation in Middlefield, Conn.

The veteran reservist has served with the intelligence office for a number of years as its NCOIC. He will remain there in his new capacity as an intelligence officer.

AFRES activates Airlift Control Flights

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) — The Air Force Reserve will reorganize its airlift control elements into 12 airlift control flights Oct. 1 to better meet Military Airlift Command requirements.

The change will permit the 10-person flights to be activated directly without mobilizing an entire wing. If mobilized, a flight would serve as the focal point for all airlift activities at an operating location to coordinate operations and control resources. Air Force

Reservists would perform the same duties as active-duty members, including scheduling mission time, crews and aircraft loading.

The flights will be located at Andrews AFB, Md.; Charleston AFB, S.C.; Dobbins AFB, Ga.; Dover AFB, Del.; Gen. Mitchell IAP, Wis.; Kelly AFB, Texas; McChord AFB, Wash.; McGuire AFB, N.J.; Norton and Travis AFBs, Calif.; Peterson AFB, Colo.; and Westover AFB, Mass.

Reserve, Guards seek changes

DENVER (AFRNS) — A Department of Defense-wide identification card for reservists' dependents and the use of morale, welfare and recreation equipment on or off base were among suggestions reviewed by Air Reserve Forces policy boards recently.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center/Air Force Reserve Policy and Advisory Council convened here to look at 16 recommendations for improving the Reserve. The Air National Guard/AFRES Enlisted Advisory Panel gathered at the ANG Support Center, Andrews AFB, Md., to evaluate 20 ideas affecting the Reserve and Guard.

Seven items were approved by the advisory council. Items affecting AFRES members were recommendations to investigate the inequities and inconsistencies in the payment of per diem between officers and enlisted members and to make educational benefits available to officers regardless of their degree objective.

The enlisted panel endorsed six ideas. Those items included suggestions to:

- Have the Air Force consider adopting a ribbon similar to the Army Reserve components' overseas training ribbon.
- Allow a deduction for U.S. Savings Bonds from reservists' monthly pay.
- Establish leave procedures for use by the active service and the American Red Cross for emergency situations affecting reservists.

Items approved by the advisory council were sent to Maj. Gen. Roger P. Scheer, chief of Air Force Reserve. Recommendations endorsed by the enlisted panel went to General Scheer and Maj. Gen. John B. Conaway, director of the Air National Guard. The generals review the items and refer them to the Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee and other agencies within the Air Staff.

Reservists may present recommendations to the council or the panel on plain bond paper or ARPC Form 2, "Policy and Advisory Council or Advisory Panel Recommendation," and send them to HQ ARPC/XPXC, Denver, CO 80280-5000.

"Patriot People"

Name: Mary Coyle
Rank: Lt. Col.
Age: 46
Address: Milton, Mass.
Unit: 74th AES
Position: Chief nurse
Civilian Occupation: Trauma nurse specialist
Favorite Food: Golumbkis
Favorite Beverage: Mateus wine
Favorite Sport: Hiking
Favorite Hobby: Gardening
Ideal Vacation: Vermont
Best Way to Relax: Watching sunsets
Preferred Entertainment: Theater and music appreciation
Favorite Celebrity: Clint Eastwood
Favorite Music: Classical
Favorite Book: Lion in Winter
Favorite Color: Mauve
Favorite Car: Pontiac
Pet Peeve: Negativity
Best Thing About Westover: People committed to ideals
Worst Thing About Westover: People who complain



Lt. Col. Mary Coyle

earning a **PAT** on the back

TSgt. W. Bowles buried with honors

TSgt. William A. Bowles, 51, a member of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing, died Sept. 1.

He is survived by his wife Clair (Cote) Bowles and a son, William Jr.

At the time of his death, Sergeant Bowles was an administrative specialist in the Wing orderly room. He joined the unit in 1975 and worked in Pass and ID section until 1986 when he transferred to the orderly room position.

A Korean War veteran, Sergeant Bowles served on active duty in the Air Force during the 1950s, including a tour in England.

He had been employed at Perkins Machine, Spencer, Mass., where he was a quality control manager for 19 years until the company had cutbacks earlier this year. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a parishioner of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Spencer.

Sergeant Bowles was buried with military honors provided by the Westover Honor Guard and Color Guard.

Promotions

CMSgt. Ronald C. Perrault
 SMSgt. Benjamin P. Tomlin
 MSgt. Lee R. Haring, Jr.
 MSgt. Michael G. Ingham
 MSgt. David Kelly
 TSgt. Richard H. Frost
 TSgt. Teresa I. Hyndman
 TSgt. Earl R. Strange
 SSgt. Carl D. Allen
 SSgt. Robert E. Berne
 SSgt. Peter E. Bottella
 SSgt. David F. Bourcier
 SSgt. Edward A. Brenton
 SSgt. Donald W. Callan
 SSgt. David Diaz
 SSgt. Thomas G. Durkin, Jr.
 SSgt. Joseph A. Fernandes
 SSgt. Douglas M. Hayward
 SSgt. Michael P. Healy
 SSgt. John J. Lupieri
 SSgt. Edward J. Miller
 SSgt. James E. Molitor
 SSgt. Mark J. Pirog
 SSgt. Margarita M.C. Roxo
 SSgt. Michael J. Schwein
 SSgt. Edgar Valle
 SSgt. Robert T. White II
 SrA. Dante J. Artioli
 SrA. Michael Borkowski
 SrA. Ronald J. Labonte
 SrA. Thomas D. Lemoine
 SrA. David A. Robert
 SrA. Deborah Sammatario
 SrA. Richard G. Sandman
 SrA. Dawn M. Sanocki
 SrA. Drew J. Smith

A1C Michelle Banville
 A1C Michael K. Barna
 A1C Kristine M. Colby
 A1C Christine Greenia

Enlistments

MSgt. Ronald C. Perrault
 SSgt. Jerald L. Buckingham
 SSgt. William A. Carroll
 SSgt. Charles M. Deponce
 SSgt. William R. Durpe
 SSgt. David W. Lawton
 SSgt. Frederick Lougal
 SSgt. Annamaria Lumb
 SSgt. Julius Nero
 SSgt. Keith R. Sykes
 SSgt. Richard B. Tucker
 Sgt. Vincent P. Blanchard
 Sgt. William A. Carlson
 Sgt. Brian T. Fielding
 Sgt. Tomas D. Lee
 Sgt. Michael A. Place
 Sgt. Walter D. Schloski
 A1C Paul R. Ames
 A1C Michael Iannuzzi
 A1C David E. Shaw
 A1C Joseph P. Weathers
 Amn. George Louvitakis, Jr.
 AB Jeffrey D. Barker
 AB Richard K. Cameron
 AB Yvonne M. Canuel
 AB Lisa A. Jones
 AB Christine M. Mora
 AB Jose R. Rivera

Reenlistments

SMSgt. Michael E. Florida
 MSgt. Thomas V. Dzwonkus
 MSgt. Christopher A. Lee
 MSgt. Donna M. Schroder
 TSgt. Eugene P. Butler
 TSgt. Kathy G. Gasaway
 TSgt. Raymond W. Gohra
 TSgt. Henry Grace
 TSgt. Gary R. Josefiak
 TSgt. Francis P. Langone
 TSgt. Leslie G. Howe III
 TSgt. John E. Mihalchick
 TSgt. John C. Miller
 TSgt. Charles E. Porter
 TSgt. Stephen H. Rehm
 TSgt. Karen S. Robbins
 TSgt. Michael A. Spano
 TSgt. Raymond W. Wright
 TSgt. Louise M. Young
 SSgt. Allen T. Barnes
 SSgt. Richard D. Boynton
 SSgt. Vincent R. Chiodo
 SSgt. Lillian M.R. Cote
 SSgt. Monica A. Heard
 SSgt. Donald C. Lanny
 SSgt. Janet E. Marcello
 SSgt. Mark O. Murphy III
 SSgt. Dale G. Schaffer
 SSgt. Deborah N. Smith
 SSgt. Richard L. Smith
 SSgt. Sharon L. Sturgill
 SSgt. Robert R. Viel
 Sgt. Morris A. York, Jr.
 SrA. Jose Alicea
 SrA. Alan D. Duffy
 SrA. Paul A. Maratos
 SrA. Manuel J. Ray

Endangered birds rely on Westover for survival

By Kevin Barrett

One is 10 inches tall...the other at its peak, six stories tall. They both soar through the air and call Westover AFB their home. We all know the latter goes by the name of C-5A and is here to stay, but the former, well, we better introduce the upland sandpiper before he disappears.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program is conducting a study at Westover this summer focusing on two birds of special concern.

The upland sandpiper is on the state's endangered species list and the other, the grasshopper sparrow, is classified as a bird of "special concern."

According to wildlife biologist Scott M. Melvin, who is heading the study, Westover is one of the two largest sites in the state where upland sandpipers are known to still exist.

There are 10-15 pairs of upland sandpipers at Westover out of a total of only 35-40 pairs left in Massachusetts.

Melvin said the base is also the largest nesting site in the state for grasshopper sparrows with approximately 55 pairs located here. Less than 20 sites in Massachusetts remain nesting places for the grasshopper sparrow.

Funded by the Air Force, the study's main objective is to help maintain the current population of endangered birds at Westover by offering recommendations on how the Air Force can better manage their wildlife, said Melvin. He sadly noted that there is not much chance of increasing the population of these rare birds and that their efforts are focused primarily on maintaining their current numbers.

Working in conjunction with Civil Engineering at the base, Melvin and student intern Kim Bates from the University of Massachusetts are doing field observations of the birds in their habitat and investigating possible ways to prevent these birds from dying off.

A similar study conducted by Melvin at Camp Edwards in Otis for the Army National Guard helped save a part of wildlife at the camp that was a prime upland sandpiper nesting site. The land had been a proposed site for a battalion training complex and Melvin and his group were able to persuade the

The upland sandpiper is on the state's endangered species list and the other, the grasshopper sparrow, is classified as a bird of "special concern."

Army to move to another location.

Because the upland sandpiper and grasshopper sparrow nest and lay their eggs in the open grass they are subject to many dangers both natural and man-made. Areas of concern cited by Melvin mainly center on predators that prowl the woods of Westover. Red foxes, weasels, red tail hawks and even an occasional coyote are known to feed



Grasshopper sparrow

on young chicks of these rare birds.

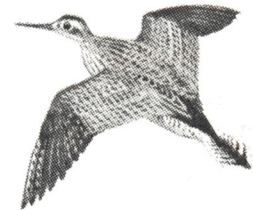
Also of concern to Melvin is the cutting of grass around Westover and the accidental destruction of nests and eggs while mowing. The Air Force cuts its grass around the base according to regulations which specify a length of six to eight inches. This discourages large birds, seagulls, etc. from feeding near runways and creating the possibility of a bird strike with an airplane.

With the stationing of C-5As at Westover come October, there has

been concern that they may have a negative effect on these birds as suggested in the Environmental Impact Study that was conducted for the conversion at Westover. Melvin squashed those concerns and stated that he sees no effect at all on the rare birds because of the C-5A's arrival at Westover in the fall.

With development slowly eating away the state's remaining wildlife sanctuaries, Westover is one of the last breeding grounds available for these rare birds to return to each spring after migrating each winter to South America. "From our standpoint, we are very glad that the Air Force and Westover are here and providing a home for these rare birds because if they were not, these birds would have died off a long time ago," emphasized Melvin.

For the upland sandpiper and grasshopper sparrow, Westover AFB truly is home sweet home.



Upland sandpiper

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

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