

PATRIOT

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

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(Transcript-Telegram Photo by Bill Bayer)

Westover firefighters help battle airpark blaze

By Nora MacKay

Westover firefighters were first on the scene and instrumental in controlling a raging and highly toxic three-alarm fire in Westover Industrial Airpark on Nov. 15.

Members from the 439th Security Police Squadron were the first to spot the Sunday night fire at Titan Roofing Inc. while on a routine flight line patrol about 6:45 p.m.

They reported the fire to Westover and Chicopee Fire Departments. Westover firefighters were the first on the scene.

"About one whole corner of the building was on fire by the time we got there," said Assistant Westover Fire Chief Bill Morrissey. "The fire was spreading pretty quickly because of the roofing material in the warehouse."

The 300-foot long warehouse was shared with American Relief Abroad, a private firm which ships medical and food packages to Poland and other

European nations. Firefighters removed ARA Trucks, loaded with food and Christmas gifts, from the burning building.

According to Chicopee Fire Chief Robert Nunes, the fire started near pallets in the rear corner of the converted nose-dock. By the time the blaze went to three alarms, about 40 city firefighters from five stations battled the blaze for more than five hours before bringing the blaze under control, he said.

Under the mutual aid agreement between Westover and Chicopee's fire departments, Westover will assist the city and other neighboring communities "whenever help is needed," Chief Morrissey said.

"It was a lot faster for us to get to the fire and initially knock it down for the city, before it had the chance to really spread," said the veteran Westover firefighter.

The Westover Industrial Park building, formerly a hangar for 8th Air

Force B-52s until the Air Force Reserve took control of the base, was filled with shingles, insulation, fiber board, fiberglass and other roofing materials.

According to Chief Nunes, the building was damaged more by the intense smoke, which could be seen for several miles, than by the heat.

Chief Morrissey said the dense black smoke was the Westover crew's biggest problem. "We had to use breathing apparatus, which makes it hard to see at night," he said.

"We were trying to be very careful with our men to make sure they had air packs on," said Chief Nunes. "It was terrible. It was so black and heavy."

Petroleum-based roofing materials, Styrofoam and insulation was toxic, according to the Chicopee fire chief.

Chief Morrissey said about a dozen firefighters and the three fire trucks from Westover left the scene around 11 p.m. Crews from Chicopee remained

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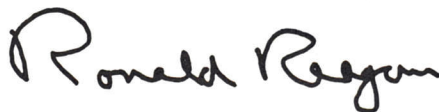
Holiday Message From the President

As Americans celebrate this joyful season, it gives me great pleasure to send heartfelt greetings to the members of the United States Armed Forces.

Traditionally, this is a time to gather around the hearth with loved ones; to celebrate and give thanks for the peace and abundance with which God has blessed this great land. But in the midst of the good cheer, the joyous reunions of families and friends, and the many and varied rites we treasure in these special times, it is appropriate also to remember that the freedom and security that have made them all possible have been bought for us at tremendous price. That price is still being paid by you, the guardians of our liberty.

All of you could have taken paths other than the military life you chose. During Yuletide the sacrifices you are called upon to make seem more acute, most especially for those who must spend the holiday season away from home and family. But each of you understands that the protection of freedom and democracy is a full-time job, that our readiness and vigilance must never be relaxed. The professionalism and spirit with which you maintain our defense are sources of deep and abiding pride in the hearts of all Americans. To you who willingly shoulder that burden, and to your families who stand beside you as you carry out your vital duties, I send the thanks of a grateful nation. No matter where you serve, your countrymen think of you.

As your Commander in Chief, I am proud to salute you. Nancy joins me in wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday, and health and prosperity in 1988. God bless you, and God bless America.



Ronald Reagan



PATRIOT

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BRIEFS

MWR cuts

Air Force has asked Congress to repeal or change a law passed last year denying appropriated funding for base morale, welfare and recreation activities.

The fiscal 1987 Appropriations Act directs the services to reduce MWR appropriated fund support by \$69.5 million. The Air Force's share of that cut is \$21.5 million.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Hickey, Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel, told Congress some activities would have to close and others would have to cut their hours and raise their fees and charges in order to comply, resulting in an average increase of \$27 per month for Air Force personnel.

New transportation command activated

The United States Transportation Command was activated Oct. 1 at Scott AFB, Ill. with ceremonies led by Deputy Secretary of Defense, William H. Taft, IV.

Ceremonies began with an illustration of the advances made in transportation modes, when a historic Army wagon from the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, drawn by four mules, drove across the parade grounds while a Military Airlift Command C-5 flew overhead.

The new unified command, to be known as USTRANSCOM, consolidates global air and sea transportation and is commanded by Air Force Gen. Duane H. Cassidy.

Task force formed

AFNS — Defense Department has approved formation of the Joint Task Force Middle East, with responsibility for all U.S. operations in the Persian Gulf and Northern Arabian Sea. The Task Force will absorb the responsibility and forces of the Middle East Force as well as supporting units provided by other commands. The change, according to a DoD news release, will strengthen command and control arrangements.

Westover C-5 crew returns defector to U.S.

By Maj. Rick Dyer

A Westover C-5 crew on a mission to Holland and Germany returned to the United States, Nov. 6 with an unexpected passenger — an American soldier who defected last April to the Soviet Union.

The 337th MAS Galaxy flew Wade Roberts, a 22-year-old Army private from Riverside, California, from Rhine-Main AB in Frankfurt, Germany, to Dover AFB, Del.

Roberts had been arrested in Frankfurt the previous day, several hours after he returned to Germany on a flight from the Soviet Union.

The soldier created an international furor last spring when he defected to Russia with his West German girlfriend, Petra Neumann.

Roberts said that he returned to the west because he and Neumann were expecting a child, and he wanted to resolve the charges pending against him.

Neumann returned with Roberts to Frankfurt, but she did not accompany him to the United States.

The defector was taken aboard the Westover C-5 by two uniformed army guards who flew with him to Delaware. When the flight landed at Dover, military authorities drove Roberts to Fort Dix, N.J., where he is being held in custody.

"Roberts is being held on a charge of desertion filed by his former military unit in Germany last April," said Rose Waldrop, public information officer at Fort Dix.

The Westover aircrew was on a three-day Military Airlift Command mission to Europe when it was assigned to pick up the defector.

"When we landed at Rhine-Main on November 5, we were told that a prisoner would be flying back to the U.S. with us," said MSgt. Stephen M. Gates, a 337th MAS reservist and the aircraft's primary loadmaster. "We found out later that he was Roberts."

Roberts, bearded, and dressed in civilian clothes, was escorted onto the plane after 60 other active duty and retired military passengers had boarded. He was handcuffed throughout much of the flight.

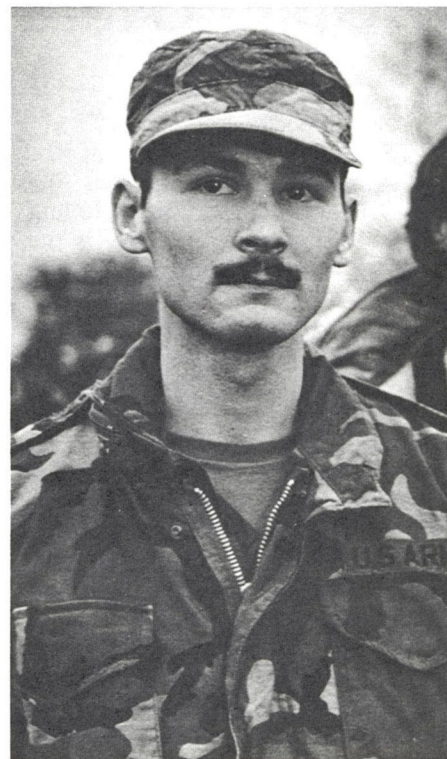
"I had a copy of *Stars and Stripes* sticking out of my helmet bag, and a story about him was visible," the loadmaster recounted. "He pointed to it and said, 'Oh, that's me!'"

According to crew members, Roberts refused a hot meal served to the aircraft's passengers, but did drink a cup of coffee.

"I didn't hear him talk at all," said Lt. Col. Alan Clune, 439th MAW maintenance staff officer. "He never displayed any emotion whatsoever."

Twenty-three Westover reservists — aircrew, security, and maintenance personnel — were aboard the flight. Maj. Sandy Whittier of the 337th MAS was the aircraft commander.

"This European flight demonstrates our C-5As are already hard at work on important missions for MAC," said



Wade Roberts

(AP photo)

Dr. Frank Faulker, Westover public affairs officer. "It was the first of many newsworthy assignments the 439th will take on as our Galaxies fly all over the globe.

"In our first month as a military airlift wing, Westover D-5As have flown to Holland, Germany, Spain, Italy, the Azores, Great Britain, Bahrain and Alaska," Dr. Faulker added.

C-5A crew shadows pilotless Harrier 500 miles

British air traffic controllers contacted an airborne C-5A crew flying from Mildenhall RAF to Dover AFB on Oct. 22 and asked them to check out a test aircraft being tracked by radar.

Dover officials told the Associated Press that C-5A pilot Capt. Jerry Brunz was asked to make a visual examination of the jet fighter which the British had last contacted by radio over Salisbury in southern England.

At 31,000 feet off the coast of County Kerry, Ireland, the Galaxy crew spotted the new Harrier GR-5 flying at

about 500 knots without a canopy. The C-5A drew closer and reported no pilot was aboard the fighter.

For nearly an hour, the Dover crew flew alongside the vertical takeoff craft developed jointly by McDonnell Douglas Corp. and British Aerospace.

About 500 miles west of Ireland, the Harrier crashed into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Ministry of Defence reported a life raft and the body of civilian test pilot Taylor Scott was found the following day in a field about 10 miles from Salisbury.

RAF officials said no distress call was received from Scott and no signals were detected from the personal radio beacon attached to his flight suit.

Scott had been making a final test flight in the Harrier GR-5 before making delivery to the Royal Air Force.

"Whatever happened to the pilot is a mystery," the RAF reported. "We can only assume a problem occurred and he was forced to eject, leaving the plane continuing to fly out over the Atlantic."

Westover Once Over

Five years ago
(Taken from *The Patriot*
December, 1982)

TSgt. George Hoagland of the 905th WSSF has completed the NCO Leadership school at Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C. He is the first Air Force Reservist to complete the course.

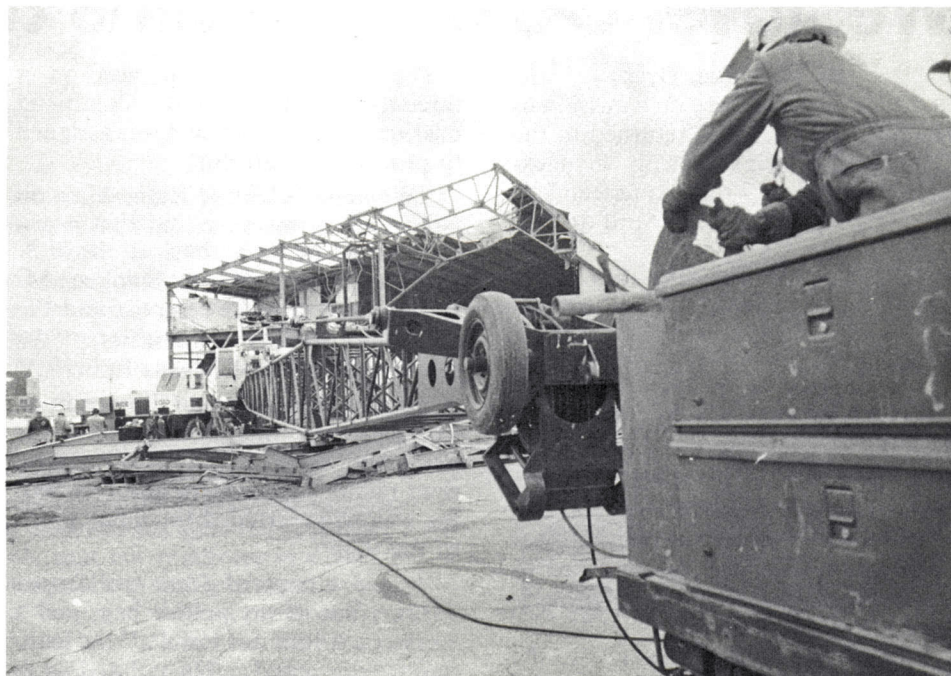
Ten years ago
(Taken from *The Patriot*,
December, 1977)

Westover and its 74th Aeromedical Squadron will host a tactical aeromedical evacuation exercise for the 14th Air Force medical units in July 1978.

The exercise will involve 750 persons including medical, technical and support personnel.

20 years ago
(*Westover Yankee Flyer*
December, 1967)

The Westover Yankee Flyer took second place in the Strategic Air Command's Category IV newspaper contest for 1967.



(USAF photo by Nora MacKay)

C-5 CONSTRUCTION—Workmen from Lane Construction Company tear down Nose Dock #36 to make way for the C-5 parking area as part of a \$14 million contract.

Combined Federal Campaign aids Pioneer Valley citizens

More than 160 local and international agencies are part of the Combined Federal Campaign now underway at Westover in conjunction with the United Way of Pioneer Valley.

Last year, federal employees in the Pioneer Valley pledged \$159,157.50 for local, national and international organizations. The bulk of the contributions — some \$66,085.48 — was donated to United Way agencies serving Pioneer Valley citizens.

Another \$28,503.05 was pledged for local Westover-area organizations not affiliated with the United Way of Pioneer Valley.

National health agencies received \$48,025.73 and national and international service agencies obtained pledges of \$15,343.24 from federal workers here.

As in past years, payroll deductions are authorized for charitable donations to the many nonprofit organizations which aid people both here and abroad.

Unlike some requests for contributions, the CFC program encourages individuals to specifically target both the charitable organizations and donation amounts.

A three-digit code identifies each of the 161 voluntary agencies. This year the campaign organizations range from the Chicopee Boys' Club and Kate's Kitchen in Holyoke, to such regional agencies as the Jimmy Fund and Brightside.

Some of the far-ranging organizations are the American-Ireland Fund, Africare, the International Rescue Commit-

tee and the Pearl S. Buck Foundation.

Contributions may also be earmarked for Vietnam Veterans of America, Civil Air Patrol and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

Donations may also be made to 54 health and disease agencies ranging from the Alzheimer's Disease Association and Goodwill Industries to Sunshine Village in Chicopee and the Willie Ross School for the Deaf in Northampton.

A complete listing of all the voluntary agencies, the function each performs and the organization's three-digit code is available from Westover's 1987 CFC program chairman, MSgt. George Copeland at Disaster Preparedness at the Base Hangar.



Readiness Challenge 1987



Twenty-one reservists from Westover's 439th Civil Engineering Squadron competed Oct. 4-9 at Robins AFB, Ga. in Readiness Challenge '87, and AFRES-sponsored exercise testing the skills of five Reserve civil engineering units.

The 439th CES placed fourth overall in the 25-event competition designed to test the units' base engineering emergency forces, known as Prime BEEF, and readiness in base services, known as Prime RIBS. Also competing were the 94th CES, Dobbins AFB, Ga.; the 442nd CES, Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo.; the 910th CES, Youngstown MAP, Ohio; and the 934th CES, Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP, Minn. The winner of Readiness Challenge, the 442nd CES, will represent AFRES in the Air Force-wide competition at Eglin AFB, Fla., in December.

Photos from top right: men from the 439th Prime BEEF team saw plywood as part of the hardback tent construction competition; a 439th marksman sites his target on the M-16 rifle range; (rear right to front right) MSgt. Michael Ingham, SSgt. Henry Lomba, MSgt. Paul Bates and SSgt. Ed Miller prepare to run the first leg of the obstacle course carrying a 100-pound dummy on a litter for one-quarter of the course where the next team picks up the litter for the next leg.

(USAF photos by Nora MacKay)

T-shirts sold for museum funds

By Nora MacKay

For 47 years, Westover has contributed significantly to the culture and development of Western Massachusetts, and a group of base officials and local citizens is planning to enshrine that history.

Officials hope the museum will be fully operational by 1990 when Westover celebrates its 50th anniversary as Chicopee marks its 100th birthday.

The Military Affairs Committee of the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce is planning the Westover AFB Visitors Center, which they hope to have ready for visitors in time for the proposed international air show in 1990.

Some donations for the museum project are being raised already through the sale of sweatshirts, t-shirts and baseball caps.

Massachusetts State Trooper Al DiCarlo, the primary organizer of the Westover museum project, said all proceeds from the sale of these items will go directly to support the museum.

The sweatshirts sell for \$12, the t-shirts for \$8 and the caps for \$5. Only the t-shirts are available in both children and adult sizes, and all items are on sale at Sentry Uniform, which is run by Military Affairs Committee member Neil O'Leary.

DiCarlo said he first got the idea for a museum about a year ago when Chicopee chamber volunteers were discussing a B-52 park in the city. DiCarlo said that because he felt the local area is full of memories and memorabilia on the history of the base.



(USAF photo by Nora MacKay)

SWEATSHIRTS FOR SALE—Kim Tougas, Diane Haskell, Sharon Peters and Sue Schmidt try on WABF Visitors Center sweatshirts now being sold by Trooper Al Di Carlo and by Sentry Uniform to help raise money for the Center.

"I can remember when downtown Chicopee was wall-to-wall with 'blue-suiters,'" he said. "I know there has to be a massive amount of material just in the immediate area alone."

DiCarlo hopes to find corporate sponsors and to solicit donations of aircraft.

The museum will be an Army Air Corps and Air Force museum featuring the history of Westover. Although DiCarlo has already personally collected some material for display, he said he is still looking for articles. The collection he has already assembled includes flight gear, travel orders, uni-

form parts, post cards sent home by Westover men overseas, and original works of aviation art.

The proposed museum will also have static aircraft on display.

Additionally, donations for display items are needed. DiCarlo said anyone who would like to contribute an item can arrange to do so by calling (413) 527-7567.

Outright donations will become property of the museum and material lent to the museum on a long-term lease will also be accepted, he said.

"Everyone should remember, no item is too small or too insignificant," he said.

Conservative Republicans request base study

Westover was among seven military installations in Massachusetts targeted in early November by a conservative group for a General Accounting Office study for possible closure.

The nation's largest Air Force Reserve base, plus 42 other facilities nationwide were selected Nov. 2 by a group of conservative Republicans in the House.

U.S. Rep. Robert S. Walker, R-Pa., chairman of the "Conservative Opportunity Society," said closing some bases could help save the \$23 billion necessary to bring FY 1988 spending in line. Gramm-Rudman legislation expli-

citly prohibits the closure of military bases.

"Most, if not all, of the bases are in Democratic districts who have been for tax increases and against solid defense positions," said Congressman Walker.

Republican National Committee chairman Frank Fahrenkopf Jr. termed the idea "foolish" and added, "I'd advise against it."

An aide to U.S. Rep. Edward P. Boland, D-Mass., said he doubted the 42 bases would be closed. Atty. J. David Keane said the attempt "would not be the first time punitive legislation has been suggested."

At a Washington, D.C., press conference two days after the initial announcement, the 15 House conservatives reduced the number of military facilities to only 28, but Westover remained on the list.

On Nov. 5, U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Mass., said, "The proposal to randomly curtail activities at 28 military bases nationwide is nothing more than a malicious attempt by a handful of members of Congress to undermine the legitimate efforts of administration and congressional leaders, who are currently meeting to negotiate a reasonable approach toward deficit reductions."

337th MAS gets first female crew member



(USAF photo by Nora MacKay)

INSTRUCTION POINTS—TSgt. Ronald Robbins, 337th MAS loadmaster, instructs SSgt. Barbara Robotti on the C-5 aft loadmaster control panel.

By Nora MacKay

SSgt. Barbara Robotti knows it's not easy to be a pioneer.

On Nov. 7, Sergeant Robotti was sworn in as a C-5 loadmaster for the 337th Military Airlift Squadron — the first female ever to be assigned to a flight crew at Westover. Women have only been eligible to participate in flight crews since the C-5 conversion

officially took effect on Oct. 1.

Sergeant Robotti says being a "first" has been exciting, though it has had some pitfalls.

"It's lonely," she said. "You like to have other women to have lunch with, to socialize with. There just aren't any women on the crews to do that with."

Sergeant Robotti said that the men from the 337th have been receptive to

her since she has been assigned there.

"For the most part, my rapport with the men has been beautiful," she said. "A lot of the men have been very helpful to me. I ask a question and they're right there to help me."

Sergeant Robotti filed all the necessary paperwork to become a flight crew member a year ago, when she first heard about the C-5 conversion. Before joining the 337th, she was a technical sergeant and an aeromedical technician with the 74th AES.

"To become a loadmaster, I had to voluntarily take a stripe off to get the slot. That's how important it is to me," she said.

She joined the 74th more than five years ago because she wanted to fly, she said. She has been in the Reserve since 1982, and prior to that, in the active duty Air Force at Plattsburg AFB, N.Y. In civilian life, Sergeant Robotti lives in Easthampton with her 10-year-old daughter, Heather, and is employed by Westover at base supply as a supply clerk.

Sergeant Robotti still has a long way to go before she can actually work as a loadmaster. On Nov. 18, she left for basic loadmaster school at Sheppard AFB, Texas, and returns Jan. 6. On Feb. 11, she will go to Fairchild AFB, Wash. to attend C-5 school. Once she successfully completes all her schooling requirements, she will be ready for her local check out.

Patriot named best newspaper in AFRES again

For the fourth year in a row, the 439th MAW's *Patriot* has been named both the best of the funded unit newspapers in AFRES and the best publication in the command.

In October, the monthly Westover newspaper and the public affairs staff won six of the seven applicable 14th Air Force awards.

In November, the *Patriot* was judged the best AFRES newspaper and was entered in the annual Air Force contest.

Maj. Gen. James E. McAdoo, 14th Air Force commander, also presented first-place awards on Nov. 13 in Atlanta, Ga., to SSgt. Tom Allocco for feature writing; to Maj. Rick Dyer

for editorial/commentary; and to Dr. Frank Faulkner for photography. Major Dyer also received an award for news writing and was named "Journalist of the Year" for the command.

Maj. Gen. Roger P. Scheer, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRES commander, congratulated the winners as the best in the public affairs program noted Air Force-wide for effective newspapers.

"The internal information program is essential to mission accomplishment by reinforcing the priorities and objectives of our commanders," General Sheer said.

"Unit newspapers play a significant

role in keeping our reservists informed of the importance of their total force mission," he said. "They are the commander's prime communications tool."

Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker, 439th MAW commander, said the *Patriot* and the high quality of the writing and photography has been an important factor during the mission change to C-5A Galaxies.

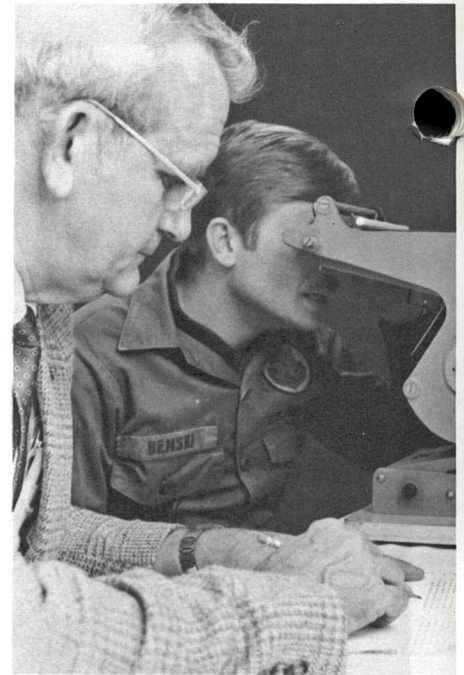
"Our public affairs staff, especially Major Dyer, have won armloads of awards over the past five years," said General Walker, "but this year, with so much public and unit concern over developments at Westover, this recognition of the *Patriot* staff is especially appreciated."

WESTOVER HEALTH FAIR

Article and photos by TSgt. Sandi Michon



Maj. Mary Griffin-Bales (l), 74th AES flight nurse instructor, shows 2nd Lt. Maureen Knibloe, 74th AES flight nurse, how to use the Nautilus machine.



Robert Motley (l), chief of airfield management, administers a general eye test to SSgt. Don Benski, training manager with the 439th FMS.

Westover recreation personnel hosted a 21-station, comprehensive Health Fair Expo on Nov. 5-7 with more than 400 people attending.

The health fair is a brain child of Lt. Col. Thomas Hargin, base commander, and was organized by TSgt. Rick Oliver and A1C Christine Greenia with the help of the 20-member fitness committee.

"I can't think of any other single place that contains as much information as we offered at the health fair," commented Sergeant Oliver, athletic director. "Ordinarily, similar information is found at the physician's office, health club, hospital or local self-help program."

"Our objective is total health and wellness," said Airman Greenia, recreation aide. "By offering a variety of testing and counselling, we hope to help people to identify and change unhealthy life styles."

The fair was a group effort involving several base and off-base organizations. Nurses from the 74th AES evaluated health questionnaires, civ- members of Westover's fire department helped with height, weight and blood pressure checks and members of the fitness committee manned various stations.

Representatives from the American Red Cross, Holyoke Hospital, Alcoholics Anonymous and a Northampton drug prevention program were available with helpful information, and an American Smoke-out video was loaned from the American Cancer Society.

Several students majoring in health and fitness and Springfield College volunteered their time to exhibit aerobic exercise machines and offered injury prevention exercise techniques.

Area athletic equipment distributors had their wares on display and a "mocktail" table was sponsored by Miller and Budweiser offering samples of non-alcoholic beverages to encourage alternative drinking habits.

The station that always had people waiting was the body fat testing machine. "The machine uses electrical current and measures resistance to determine percentages of water in lean and fat tissue," explained TSgt. Dan Carr, 439th MAW quality assurance technician, who helped man the machine.

After less than five minutes of machine monitoring, a computer printout is generated with height, weight, percentage of body fat and acceptable ranges of weight and body fat for that person relative to his particular statistics. The printout includes recommendations for improvements, if necessary, and also lists a calorie consumption chart specifically geared to the individual's body statistics.

"The reaction to the fair was all positive," said Sergeant Oliver. "This is the second fair we have organized and we hope to make them a regular event."

The health fairs are available to all base-related personnel and recreation personnel encourage more people to take advantage of such a valuable source.



Ross Rutkowski, a junior at Springfield College, tends the non-alcoholic, "mocktail" bar during the health fair.



Lisa Glaeser, a dental hygienist in Holyoke, Mass., reviews a dental health chart with Maj. Pete Gray, 337th instructor pilot.



Barbara Thompson (l) and Sue LaVigne, Springfield College health and fitness students, demonstrate the Liferower machine at Westover's health fair.

Galaxy tires undergoing endurance tests

With the giant C-5As at Westover weighing in at a hefty maximum take-off weight of 385 tons, the strength and endurance of Galaxy tires is an important factor in strategic airlift.

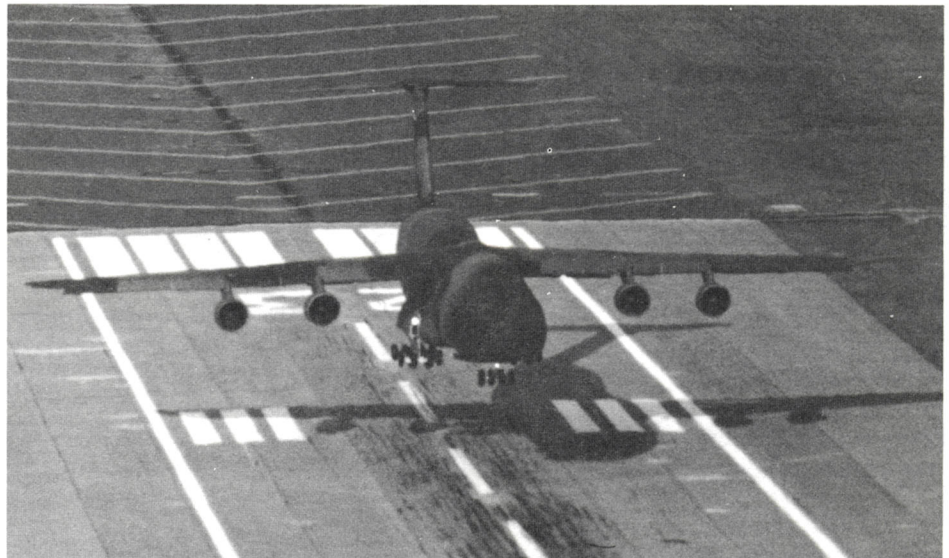
The contract for tires on the free world's largest plane is up for renewal and three brands are being tested to determine which holds up best to the punishing take-offs and landings.

The test tires, all of which meet military specifications, are being used on C-5s based at Dover AFB, Del. The goal of the estimated year-long project is to find the tire with the most wear for the least money.

The wheel and tire shop at Dover has received seven new people to handle the increased workload that the testing process will create.

The shop, which handles about 200 wheel and tire assemblies a month, will get the new tires, prepare them and mount them on the wheel — a 24-hour process. Once the wheels are ready, maintenance crews place them on the aircraft and then remove them when they reach their wear limits.

"We disassemble the tires and the



(USAF photo by Frank Faulkner)

wheels and send the wheels to the corrosion shop to be washed," said SSgt. Vinny Monteleone, assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of the wheel and tire shop. "The tires themselves are evaluated for wear and a determination is made whether they can be rebuilt or not."

After wearing out, C-5 tires are re-

built around the core of the old tire by the contractor rather than building a complete new tire, saving the Air Force thousands of dollars.

Once the test period is over, the results will be sent to the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill AFB, Utah, which will award the final contract.

Repatriation exercise conducted in North Carolina

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — At the request of the Department of Defense, an emergency repatriation exercise began Oct. 29 in North Carolina at Seymour Johnson AFB.

Like Westover AFB in Massachusetts, North Carolina is one of many ports of entry for the emergency return of U.S. citizens and other noncombatants living, visiting, traveling and working in foreign countries. A national or regional emergency, such as the Sudan in 1986, Grenada in 1983 or Saigon in 1975, could necessitate the rapid evacuation of American citizens.

The full-scale state and federal exercise, called Tarheel 1, was designed to test the abilities of federal, state and local agencies to respond to an immediate evacuation of noncombatant U.S. citizens from an overseas location.

About 400 dependents and retirees from Seymour Johnson AFB served as the people supposedly being evacuated from Europe. After arriving in three C-141 Starlifters, the volunteers were taken to an emergency processing

center at Goldsboro High School to complete the repatriation process.

Exercise officials videotaped Tarheel 1 for use as a training aid which will be distributed to major commands and emergency planners in all 50 states.

"Westover has updated contingency plans in the event we are ever tasked to receive emergency evacuations of noncombatants from overseas," said John Wilson, director of Disaster Preparedness.

He said Westover and Air Force Reserve officials have developed the repatriation plan with other federal agencies plus the state organizations and the office of Gov. Michael S. Dukakis.

"We have also worked closely with Robert Boulay, the state Civil Defense director, and with local emergency planners and FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency," Mr. Wilson said.

"If we are ever tasked for such an operation," he said, "thousands of people might be coming in from over-

seas and landing at Westover, Hanscom, Pease and even Logan Airport."

The emergency repatriation of possibly up to 16,000 American noncombatants to Westover requires detailed planning involving dozens of agencies and hundreds of people in local, state and federal agencies.

When militarily feasible, the Defense Department supports State Department requests to protect and move American noncombatants from foreign countries to designated "safe havens" such as Westover.

In 1981, Westover's 337th TAS was participating in Volant Oak and flew into Lima to remove American tourists during a regional emergency in Peru. For that mission, the people were flown to Panama aboard a Westover C-130E.

But large-scale evacuations of thousands of U.S. citizens require thorough planning and call for periodic tests or exercises, such as Tarheel 1, to determine whether changes or improvements are needed.



Clarence Bramley and Charles Amos

(Union-news photo by Don Treeger)

POWs mark reunion with visit to C-5A cockpit

Charles Amos of Ludlow was grinning as he climbed the crew ladder into the C-5A. His buddy, Clarence Bramley of Long Beach, Calif., was carrying the faded and tattered 48-star flag they had created from scraps of parachutes the C-47s had dropped on their prison camp on Formosa.

"This is amazing," Mr. Amos said as he scanned the long and wide cargo hold of the 439th MAW Galaxy. Mr. Bramley nodded in agreement, and the pair of Army Air Corps survivors of the Bataan Death March climbed a second set of ladders to the expansive cockpit of the C-5A.

"I remember the noise of the American bombers and transports," said Mr. Amos. "That was something. Hearing the sound of our planes after three and a half years and realizing the Americans were returning and winning the war."

Mr. Amos said he was 21 and Bramley was 23 when they were captured on April 6, 1942 after General Jonathan M. Wainwright ordered their surrender to the Japanese on Bataan.

An estimated 76,000 prisoners — including about 9,000 Americans — started out on the six-day 60-mile march up the Bataan Peninsula, but more than 11,000 never survived the ordeal.

After existing on meager rations in the POW camp for some time, the two prisoners were among hundreds herded into the hold of a ship for a 30-day voyage to Formosa and another prison camp filled with Dutch, Australian and British POWs.

Mr. Bramley said his weight dropped from 172 to less than 100 pounds on a diet of rice and, sometimes, fish head soup. Mr. Amos said he had weighed only 118 when he was captured but went down to 85 pounds as they worked month after month building roads and an airstrip or working on farms.

Mr. Amos described the loss of one friend. "He was part of a 10-man work detail. One of the men escaped and to show everybody they meant business, the Japanese shot the nine other men on that work detail."

After years as prisoners, they began hearing the distant drone of Allied planes in the summer of 1945. By mid-August they had learned some kind of bomb had been dropped on Japan and the war was really over, but they were still prisoners surrounded by armed soldiers.

Eventually the Japanese faded away from the camp and American planes began parachuting food and medical supplies to the now free, but isolated and malnourished, prisoners on Formosa.

"As the Japs left," said Mr. Bramley, "we took down their flag and a bugler blew reveille." The ragged Allied survivors stood as best they could at attention and celebrated their endurance by giving a symbolic salute to a bare flagpole.

That day, Mr. Amos and three other Americans collected red, white and blue parachutes and began cutting stars and stripes from the ripstop nylon.

Mr. Bramley spent most of the night sewing.

(Continued on next page)

— Firefighters

(Continued from page 1)

until 2:30 a.m. Monday morning.

Chicopee Fire Captain Casimir Kruzel estimated damage to the building at \$150,000 to \$200,000, but said he could not estimate the damage to Titan's materials in the building or to goods stored at the American Relief Abroad section.

The fire was termed "suspicious" by Chicopee officials and State Fire Marshal Cpl. Robert Corry was investigating the cause and interviewing employees.

An employee of Titan Roofing, who was questioned after the blaze, was reportedly seen running away from the burning building. Firefighters also reported finding a melted cord plugged into a receptacle near the wooden pallets where the fire may have started.

According to Westover Fire Chief Haskell Jenkins, base firefighters participate in mutual aid packs with Granby, Springfield, Holyoke and Chicopee fire departments. Under the mutual aid agreement, while Westover firefighters aided Chicopee at the blaze, Springfield and Holyoke firefighters stood watch in Chicopee.

— POW reunion

(Continued from page 11)

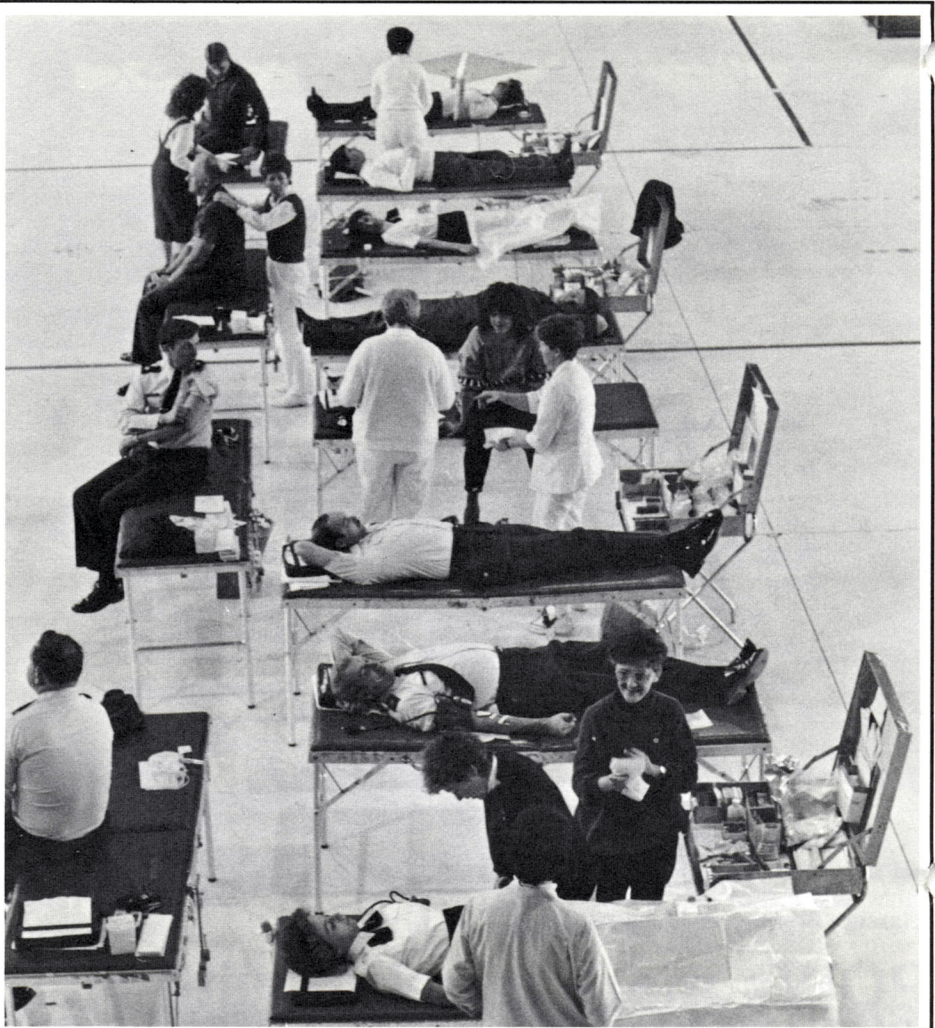
On the day after the surrender documents were signed thousands of miles away in Tokyo Bay, another official reveille formation was held and their makeshift American flag was raised.

The Dutch and British prisoners soon followed suit and began fashioning their own flags from parachute scraps.

When Allied troops finally reached the prison camp to liberate the men on Sept. 11, 1945, they found three flags "fluttering from the top of the barracks building where we all used to be prisoners of the Japanese."

Before they boarded trucks to leave the camp, the men decided Mr. Bramley would be the caretaker of their hand-sewn flag.

Now retired from the Los Angeles Fire Department, Mr. Bramley has been visiting some of his comrades from their nightmarish incarceration more than 40 years ago. His visit to Ludlow and Mr. Amos, who is retired from the Air Force, marked the first time they had been reunited since their liberation.



(USAF photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

BLOOD DRIVE—Westover was again the area's largest blood donation group during the base's latest blood drive on Nov. 5-7. The 232 pints collected over the three day period will be distributed to eighteen local hospitals to be broken down into red cell, platelets and plasma. "Westover's donation is a huge contribution to the community," according to Diane Rowe, coordinator of Northeast Blood Service of the American Red Cross.

74th AES recruiting members to fill 30 technician slots

The 74th AES is actively recruiting members to fill 30 medical technician positions as part of the expanding mission of the unit.

Members are sending letters to area emergency medical technicians and others interested in the medical field. A booth has also been set up at Hanscom AFB, Mass.

The 74th AES is particularly interested in emergency medical technicians, nurses and others with medical experience. The positions are also open to those without a

medical background.

The length of training depends on the level of medical experience. Those without any background must undergo about a year's training at Pease AFB, N.H. and Sheppard AFB, Texas.

The medical technician positions are a flying assignment.

For more information on the positions, call 1st Lt. Cheryl Delaney or 1st Lt. Elaine D'Aprile of the 74th AES at 2508 or the Westover recruiters at 3923 or 2943.

58th APS mobilizes for national recall drill

By Maj. Rick Dyer

Members of the 58th Aerial Port Squadron at Westover were among the 15,298 reservists nationwide who mustered during the Oct. 24 weekend as part of the Department of Defense's first-ever reserve recall drill.

The mock alert was staged by the Pentagon to see how rapidly large numbers of reservists could mobilize and report on short notice.

Participating were 37 Air Force Reserve units with 3,669 members, 23 Navy Reserve units with 6,130, 23 Marine Corps Reserve units with 2,801 and six Coast Guard Reserve units with 1,360.

The part-time sailors, soldiers and airmen, who were located in 34 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, reported to their duty stations after being notified by telephone.

Lt. Col. Andrew Kasznay, 58th APS commander, was at his hardware store in Harwinton, Conn. during the afternoon of Oct. 23 when the call came.

"I was told that the entire unit was

required to report, so I left my store, got my uniform and drove to Westover," Colonel Kasznay said.

The colonel said that unit members were informed that the recall was a drill, and termed their response "excellent."

"Some of our people were at the base within an hour, and most of them made it within three hours," Colonel Kasznay said. The first 15 who reported manned telephones and used alert rosters to notify fellow unit members, he said.

"We had no prior knowledge that our unit was going to be recalled, and even though the reservists were told that it was a practice mobilization, they responded quickly," the unit commander said.

Colonel Kasznay said that although many 58th reservists were at their civilian jobs when the alert began, there were no complaints from employers and little grumbling from among his troops.

"This is what we are all about in the

Reserve," the colonel said. "And it seems to me that the system works."

Although a complete analysis of the recall's results has not been finished, Pentagon officials initially shared Colonel Kasznay's assessment.

"It went rather well," Department of Defense spokesman Fred S. Hoffman said during a briefing Oct. 29.

The 15,298 reservists who were recalled represent less than one percent of the 200,000 reserve personnel President Reagan can recall without declaring a national emergency.

Pentagon statisticians had established the 15,000 recall figure as the number necessary to provide a solid base for gauging the effectiveness of the mobilization procedures.

"We are not trying to test the resolve or dedication of the selected reserve," stated Dennis P. Shaw, deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "That's presumed; it's understood." Instead, the assistant secretary added, the idea was to determine whether reservists could "leave wherever they are and arrive where they are supposed to be."

Two earn medals for quick action on flight line

Two reservists on temporary duty with the 439th SPS were awarded the Air Force Achievement medal on Nov. 5 for their quick action during a dangerous situation two days earlier on the flightline of Westover AFB.

SrA. David Mainord, on temporary duty here from Tinker AFB, Okla., was on his first night of duty as an entry controller to the C-5 parking area when a light cart caught on fire near a C-5A Galaxy.

SSgt. Phillip Smith, on temporary duty at Westover from March AFB, Calif., had just reached the scene with a cup of coffee for Airman Mainord, who would have normally been alone. Sergeant Smith attempted to turn the light cart off, but the sparks continued spewing out, Airman Mainord said.

"I radioed an alarm for the fire department," Airman Mainord said. "Then Sergeant Smith and I hooked the cart up to a truck and pulled it away to safety."

Sergeant Smith said, "It was one of those things that when you think about it later, you say, 'Wow, why didn't I just run?'"

Capt. Robert Mooney, commander of the 439th SPS, said the quick action and cool-headedness saved the other workers in the area from possible injury and the surrounding equipment from potentially serious damage.

Sergeant Smith returned to Califor-

nia on Nov. 7, and Airman Mainord will be TDY with the 639th until Jan. 30.

The Air Force Achievement Awards were presented by Brig. Gen. Frederick Walker, 439th MAW commander.

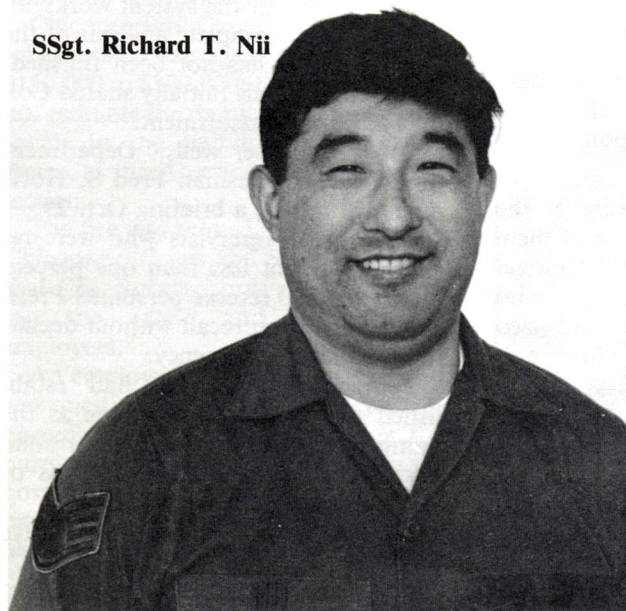


(USAF photo by Nora MacKay)

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS—Members of the 439th Security Police Squadron listen as the Air Force Achievement Award citation for SSgt. Phillip Smith, center, is read by Col. Ralph Oates.

"Patriot People"

SSgt. Richard T. Nii



Name: Richard T. Nii
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 36
Address: Norwalk, Conn.
Unit: 439th ABG
Position: Aircraft services specialist
Civilian Occupation: Hotel clerk
Favorite Food: Japanese food
Favorite Beverage: Beer
Favorite Sport: Football
Favorite Hobby: Photography
Ideal Vacation: On the beach
Best Way to Relax: Glass of wine
Preferred Entertainment: Dancing
Favorite Celebrity: Sophia Loren
Favorite Music: Rock
Favorite Book: Symmetry
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Car: Camero
Pet Peeve: Not getting things done
Best Thing About Westover: People
Worst Thing About Westover: Long drive home

earning a **PAT** on the back

Promotions

CMSgt. Henry A. Lapa
 CMSgt. Vincent Viglione
 SMSgt. William E. Bowker
 SMSgt. Robert B. Fetherston
 SMSgt. George L. Hoagland
 SMSgt. Leslie G. Howe III
 SMSgt. Kenneth M. Huckins
 SMSgt. Michael A. Major
 SMSgt. William A. Murdza
 SMSgt. Gerald Podkowka
 SMSgt. Donald R. Proctor
 SMSgt. Thomas A. Smith
 SMSgt. Robert A. Wise
 MSgt. Joseph A. Beckman
 MSgt. Rudolph G. Benard
 MSgt. Elaine M. Bernash
 MSgt. Timothy P. Biros
 MSgt. Robert R. Bolduc
 MSgt. Timothy C. Brown
 MSgt. John M. Budenas
 MSgt. William G. Chaput
 MSgt. William J. Cichaski
 MSgt. Richard L. Coda
 MSgt. Mark F. Dastoli
 MSgt. Joseph I. Demers, Jr.
 MSgt. Mona P. Donofrio
 MSgt. Michael K. Doyle
 MSgt. Robert P. Drake
 MSgt. Lawrence L. Edwards
 MSgt. Norman R. Fioroni
 MSgt. John H. Galbrath
 MSgt. Alan R. Garside
 MSgt. Luciano Giovannucci
 MSgt. Victor J. Gobbi
 MSgt. Stacy H. Guin
 MSgt. James T. Harrelson
 MSgt. Paul R. Harrison
 MSgt. Wayne F. Hayes
 MSgt. Robert P. Hensel
 MSgt. Edward T. Kolodjay

MSgt. Walter W. Lagasse
 MSgt. John J. Leclair
 MSgt. Dennis R. Lendzioszek
 MSgt. Robert E. Lepage
 MSgt. Victor M. Marden
 MSgt. Thomas R. McShane
 MSgt. John C. Miller
 MSgt. Joseph M. Norton
 MSgt. Oakley J. Quentin
 MSgt. Frank J. Okarmus
 MSgt. Garth O. Parker
 MSgt. Carol J. Pelletier
 MSgt. Alan P. Rogers
 MSgt. Francis T. Simone
 MSgt. Joseph P. Stouse
 MSgt. Jeffrey C. Walker
 MSgt. Gary W. Watson
 TSgt. Donald C. Baker
 TSgt. James A. Beachell
 TSgt. Santiago J. Begue
 TSgt. Mark L. Benard
 TSgt. Don R. Benski
 TSgt. Edward H. Brainard
 TSgt. Bruce Bretschneider
 TSgt. Linda L. Bronder
 TSgt. Daniel J. Carr
 TSgt. Joseph G. Chaloux
 TSgt. Richard J. Charrest
 TSgt. Steven W. Delgreco
 TSgt. David B. Dodge
 TSgt. Paul J. Gagnon
 TSgt. Delbert A. Gilmore
 TSgt. Gerald A. Grasso
 TSgt. Rodney W. Kelly
 TSgt. John E. Kida
 TSgt. David W. King
 TSgt. Joseph M. Lemoine
 TSgt. Donald L. Loveland
 TSgt. Janes E. Marcello
 TSgt. John E. Miller II
 TSgt. Frank M. Puopolo

TSgt. John W. Rose
 TSgt. James P. Scott
 TSgt. Richard E. Stula
 TSgt. Robert Stupplebeen
 TSgt. George R. Trombley
 TSgt. Robert R. Viel
 TSgt. Eugene W. Walker
 TSgt. Peter J. Yohe
 SSgt. Juan T. Budd
 SSgt. Mark E. Cabana
 SSgt. Michael F. Dirienzo
 SSgt. David M. Fain
 SSgt. Luke T. Gelinas
 SSgt. Jeffrey M. Harris
 SSgt. David F. Hunter
 SSgt. Catherine Leblanc
 SSgt. Walter C. Maxwell II
 SSgt. Floyde D. Meals
 SSgt. Cheryl A. Medvetsky
 SSgt. Edward R. Newton
 SSgt. Erik C. Nielson
 SSgt. Robert D. Sterbens
 SSgt. Clark E. Reed
 SrA. Kathleen M. Barrett
 SrA. Stephen J. Beachell
 SrA. Lisa J. Goetsch
 SrA. Joycelyn R. Lecour
 SrA. Scott C. Lyndon
 SrA. Anthony F. Mancini
 SrA. Sean E. Riddell
 SrA. Douglas J. Shuanski
 SrA. Tani L. Thomas
 A1C Kelly R. Gavin
 A1C Richard W. Gowen
 A1C Jeffrey A. Green
 A1C Robert L. Vaulting

SSgt. Gary L. Matteson
 Sgt. Joseph A. Bitel, Jr.
 Sgt. Vincent F. Falcone
 Sgt. Carol M. Janeway
 Sgt. Dailey O. Turner
 Sgt. Billy R. Woodson
 A1C Tina M. Bergeron
 A1C Joseph D. Grier
 AB Jeffrey D. Carfagno
 AB Dominic J. Jones
 AB Sharon Mason
 AB Kathleen A. Shea

Reenlistments

MSgt. James F. Freer
 MSgt. Michael J. Lee
 MSgt. Jean F. Malek
 TSgt. Mona P. Donofrio
 TSgt. Robert F. Bieniek
 TSgt. Donald E. Braman
 TSgt. Luis A. Cabrera
 TSgt. Richard J. Grady
 TSgt. David W. King
 TSgt. John P. Mailo
 SSgt. Mabray C. Andrews
 SSgt. Edward H. Brainard
 SSgt. Jeffrey A. Kern
 SSgt. James H. Lagasse
 SSgt. Patrick D. McMahon
 SSgt. Robert L. Mooney
 SSgt. Arthur R. Needham II
 SSgt. Francis R. Newfield
 SSgt. Judith A. Paron
 SSgt. Anthony J. Perras
 SSgt. Daryll G. Saindon
 SSgt. Keith R. Sykes
 SSgt. John F. Weir
 Sgt. Donald H. Cowern, Jr.
 Sgt. Erik C. Nielsen
 Sgt. David J. Schoolley

Enlistments

TSgt. Wayne A. Huot
 TSgt. Robert D. Merchant
 SSgt. Beverly A. Cote

Fire Prevention contest winners announced

The week of Oct. 4-10 was Fire Prevention Week. Base activities included a unit participation contest and a children's poster contest.

First Place for the unit participation contest was awarded to 439ABG/LGT, accepting the award was Daniel Butler and Ronald Mainville.

Second Place went to the 439ABG/SG, accepting the award was William Archambeau.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, the children's poster contest award ceremony was held at the Base Fire Station. Lt. Col. Thomas G. Hargis presented the awards to the children who participated.

First Place Winners

Chris Lessard
Heather Clink
Brian Kellen
Tim Kellen

Second Place

Jessica Larivee
Justin Larivee
Scott Herbert
Leroy Clink, Jr.
Jennifer Clink

Third Place

Kimberly Bender
Caitlin Amy Corner-Dolloff
Lisa Herbert
Sheila Herbert



(USAF photo by Nora MacKay)

EASY DOES IT—TSgt. David Dodge and MSgt. Bud Taggart guide a 2,000-pound jersey barrier raised by a forklift operated by Capt. Bob Mooney, 439th SPS commander. The squadron has placed two miles of barriers around the C-5 parking area.

Laser to measure cloud heights at WAFB

By Capt. Robert Clark
Digital Systems Engineer

Sometime next year, Westover's 15th Weather Squadron will have a laser system for determining cloud heights that is more accurate and reliable than the system currently in place.

Laser ceilometers that detect cloud

heights up to 12,000 feet at airfield runways were purchased through a National Weather Service contract and will replace the current AN/GMQ-13 cloud height projector-detector. The ceilometer information is used in determining routes and heights for aircraft travel.

Working with a laser unit loaned by the National Weather Service, Air Force engineers here found a way to maximize use of their new purchase by developing hardware and software to interface the laser system with current cloud height indicators at base weather stations.

According to Doug Gray, 1842nd Electronics Engineering Group project engineer, the laser computes cloud distance using the time lapse between the transmission and reception of a laser pulse.

John Blaine, an engineer with the 1842nd, developed the hardware to amplify and synchronize the laser date signal for pickup by cloud indicators at base weather stations.

The 1842nd has completed the standards that ensure proper installation of laser ceilometers by installation teams.

Combat Readiness Medal criteria changed

The Combat Readiness Medal is now awarded for completing 24 months of qualifying service. A bronze oak leaf cluster is awarded for each additional 24 months of service. Previously, the medal was awarded after 36 months of qualifying service. All qualifying service prior to Oct. 1, 1985, will first be applied under the previous 36 months eligibility criteria. Up to 24 months of

service accumulated prior to Oct. 1, 1985, may be carried over and applied toward the new eligibility criteria. The medal is awarded to Air Force, Air Reserve and members of other services who are certified as combat ready while working with a weapon system. For additional information regarding the Combat Readiness Medal, contact the consolidated base personnel office personal affairs section.

Hernandez again sets pace for Turkey Trot

Article and photos by
TSgt. Sandi Michon

Just about the only thing different about this year's Turkey Trot is that it didn't rain.

Celio Hernandez continues to redefine the word "trot" as he logged the best overall time for the seventh consecutive year at 26:55 for the five-mile course. TSgt. Hernandez, a technician with the 439th FMS, has been running competitively for several years.

His wife Mary started her own family tradition by topping the female competition for the second consecutive year with a time of 19:32 for the three-mile course, improving her time by 2:22.

James Shapiro, 13-year-old son of Debbie Shapiro of South Hadley, Mass., topped his category for the fourth year touring the one and one-half mile course in 10:05 minutes.

Jack Devine, a captain with the 439th CES, was the closest contestant to Hernandez with a time of 29:28 which also gave him the best time in his 48- to 54-year old category. MSgt. Frank Sweryda captured the 55 and over category again with a time of 40:48.

turkey for their efforts, and first, second and third place finishers received trophies.



OFF AND RUNNING—Celio Hernandez, number 53, left the pack soon after the start of the Westover annual Turkey Trot.

ADULTS

(17 to 23 years old)

MEN: 1 — Donnie Roaf, 35:51, and Frank Swerdya Jr., 35:57; 3 — Keith Corsi, 45:39.

WOMEN: 1 — Mary Hernandez, 19:32; 2 — Denise Moroz, 23:55; 3 — Kathy Nyman, 25:22.

(32 to 39 years old)

MEN: 1 — Celio Hernandez, 26:55 and A. Reilly, 29:46; 3 — Art Guierrez, 50:39.

WOMEN: 1 — Zoni Gomel, 26:28; 2 — Karen Barber, 44:26.

(40 to 47 year old)

MEN: 1 — Jack Devine, 29:28; 2 —

Dan Carr, 31:27; 3 — Joe Calivita, 38:45.

(48 to 54 years old)

MEN: 1 — Phillip Crutchfield, 39:31; 2 — Edward Kiens, 41:23.

(55 and over)

MEN: 1 — Frank Swerdya, 40:48; 2 — Joe DiMartino, 46:47.

CHILDREN

(8 to 12 years old)

1 — Michelle Hunt, 12:50; 2 — Sara Winders, 14:02; 3 — Todd Swerdya, 14:46.

(13 to 16 years)

1 — Jim Shapiro, 10:05; 2 — Dean Nalsnik, 10:45; 3 — Teresa Winders, 14:10.



FINAL PREP—Sarah Sweryda checks her sneakers prior to the race.

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