

# PATRIOT

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

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 8

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(Photo by SrA. Christine Mora)

**WELCOME TO WESTOVER**—First Lady Mrs. Barbara Bush steps from her C-21 and is greeted by 439th MAW Commander Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker and his wife, Carol. Mrs. Bush was in Massachusetts to receive an honorary degree from Smith College in Northampton.

## First Lady stops at Westover During Bay State Visit

First lady Barbara Bush paid a brief visit to Westover Sept. 7 when she landed here en route to appearances in Northampton and West Springfield.

Mrs. Bush, accompanied by U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Pittsfield, flew to the base aboard an Air Force jet.

She came to the area to receive an honorary degree from Smith College in Northampton and to view West Springfield's Brightside for Family and Children, a facility for neglected and abused children and pregnant teens.

The first lady is no stranger to Western Massachusetts. She attended Smith in the early 1940s, but withdrew after

her freshman year when she became engaged to George Bush.

Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker, wing commander, and Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander, greeted Mrs. Bush. Several other area officials, including Chicopee Mayor Joseph Chessey, also welcomed the first lady at Westover.

Reserve and civilian law enforcement personnel from Westover, commanded by Capt. Robert Mooney of the 439th Security Police Squadron, assisted the Secret Service in providing security for Mrs. Bush.

## EDITORIAL

## The deadly oxymorons

Sweet sorrow... Jumbo shrimp... Friendly argument...

My high school grammar teacher had a name for such phrases. They're oxymorons—words with opposite meanings, used together for effect.

Expressions like "recreational drugs," "casual cocaine use" and "victimless crime" are also oxymorons.

Quite frankly, my blood pressure rises a notch or two every time I hear those words spoken, or see them in print.

There's nothing recreational, or fun, about the thousands of lives that are ruined in this country each year by substance abuse.

There's nothing casual about the carnage and chaos wreaked upon Columbia by the murderers from Medellin.

There's nothing victimless about poisons that pollute minds and rob our kids of their futures.

President Bush, in his recent declaration of war against drugs, targeted drug users as well as pushers. The users, he noted, created the marketplace and the demand which attract the greedy and vicious dealers.

The President employed another oxymoron—"zero tolerance"—in urging a national attitude which recognizes that there is no such thing as casual drug use.

The Air Force and Air Force Reserve have long had "zero tolerance" drug policies in place. They are very straightforward:

1. Anyone who tests positive for illegal drugs will be discharged from the service.

2. Anyone who sells or possesses drugs on an Air Force installation will be arrested and prosecuted.

During the past year, I've had the unpleasant responsibility of signing the discharge papers of several reservists whose drug tests were positive. Believe me, there is nothing casual about a ruined career.

Anyone who believes that any form of illegal drug use is tolerable is part of our national problem.

Anyone at Westover who uses drugs is headed in the wrong direction—one way, out the gate, and on a collision course with disaster.

—Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker  
Wing Commander

## Briefs

### Gate Hours

The weekly hours of operation for the three Westover gates are as follows:

Fairview	24 hours
ID	0600-1900
McMillian	0645-0745 1600-1700

During the UTA weekend the hours are changed to:

Fairview	24 hours
ID	0600 Friday-1900 Sunday
McMillian	Saturday: 0630-0730 1600-1715
	Sunday: 0615-0715 1600-1715

These hours are also published every month in the UTA training schedule.

### \$1 House

The Westover Metropolitan Development Corp. is trying to sell more than 400 housing units for \$1 each. There is a catch of course, the buyer must move the buildings.

The former military residences are located on Duncan Knoll, the site of a new 100-acre industrial park on former base property.

WMDC President, Allan W. Blair, said the structures must be removed by Dec. 15. Blair estimated that the total cost of relocating and rehabilitating the units would be about \$77,000.

Persons interested in the units must submit a form, available at WMDC offices on Pendleton Avenue.

### Line badges

An E on a line badge is no longer necessary to escort guests into the restricted flight line area at Westover.

According to 2nd Lt. Charles Lowe, security officer with the 439th SPS, Air Force Regulation 207-1 was changed in October of 1988 so that any person with a current line badge and the appropriate area clearance may act as an escort on priority C flightline.

The regulation took effect at Westover last July.

# PATRIOT

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## CELEBRATION COUNTDOWN: 1990 update

By TSgt. Sandi Michon

Planning a simple dinner party puts some people on edge. Imagine hosting a series of events throughout an entire year for which millions of people are invited.

Such is the monumental task of Westover and Chicopee personnel as they polish their plans for the joint celebration of Westover's 50th anniversary and Chicopee's centennial.

"We're pretty much on schedule," said Bob Motley, base airfield manager and the Westover liaison on the Celebration committee. "To coordinate the entire celebration is an extremely complex task," he said.

"It is a joint effort between the base and citizens of Chicopee," said Mr. Motley. "This event solidifies the relationship between citizens of the community and the base, which are often the same people."

As part of the pre-celebration, Westover and the centennial committee hosted a booth at the Kielbasa festival in Chicopee in September and Chicopee Day was celebrated at the Big E fair on September 20.

The three main Westover celebration events are the Military Ball on April 7, 1990, the International Airshow on July 20-22, and the Balloon festival on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1-3.

According to Mr. Motley, the military ball planning is well-organized and progressing smoothly. Lt. Col. Gale French, base chief of safety and chairman of the 1990 airshow, said much the same about the airshow planning.

"We are still waiting for word concerning requests for the Blue Angels or



(Photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

**GOOD NEIGHBORS**—TSgt. George Fillgrove, Westover recruiter, mans the Westover booth at Chicopee's Kielbasa Festival in September. The adjoining display was the Chicopee Centennial information.

the Thunderbirds, and we will receive confirmations on static aircraft up to one month before the airshow," he said. He recently attended the Abbotsford Airshow in British Columbia and talked with Russian officials about sending an aircraft to Westover's airshow.

"It's never been done before in the United States," said Colonel French. He said the Soviets had an AN 225 six-engine cargo aircraft that carries their space shuttle on display, but did not know which Soviet aircraft could be at Westover if the request is approved.

According to Colonel French, hun-

dreds of volunteers are needed to help with the airshow. "We need at least 50 to be involved in the planning phase, and about 450 during the airshow to man concession stands and to help with other details during the three-day event," he said. He explained that a percentage on the profits generated by the concessions would be donated to the squadron fund of the personnel manning the booth.

There are mandays available to volunteers and interested personnel should contact Colonel French at extension 3587.

## Industrial park slated for former base housing area

By Lynne P. Root

The 190 acre Westover Airpark North project is scheduled to be completed in 1992.

The project calls for the demolition of the former Duncan Knoll base housing area by the Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation, Westview Development Associates, and the city of Chicopee. A new industrial park is

scheduled to be built on that site.

A total of 29 intersections have been studied, as ordered by the Chicopee board of aldermen. HMM Associates Inc. of Concord stated that four intersections would be overloaded by traffic from the airpark development: Chicopee and Prospect Streets; Route 33 and Grattan Street; Broadway, Church and Main Streets; and College and James Streets.

The alternatives for reduction of traffic problems vary from the re-timing of traffic lights to the construction of two new roads running north and south, which would call for the taking of private property, according to WMDC. Another suggested method is the opening of connecting roads within Westover AFB. The estimated total cost for this project is \$10 million, according to WMDC president Allan W. Blair.

## 30 Members of 74th AES receive training in Germany

By A1C Kymberly Saganski

Medical Staff Assistant Sgt. Mary Tyler dropped the clipboard she was carrying when to the announcement came over the hospital PA system, "ATTENTION HOSPITAL STAFF. EXERCISE ALARM RED, EXERCISE ALARM RED."

She struggled as she freed her chemical warfare mask from the carrying bag strapped to her side. She secured the mask over her face within the nine second time limit and fell to the floor, seeking shelter against the wall in the hospital corridor.

This scene was common last August during the week long Local Salty Nation chemical warfare exercise at Hahn AB, Federal Republic of Germany.

Almost 30 members of Westover's 74th AES made up the first reserve unit ever to participate at this exercise while on annual tour.

According to MSgt. Marie R. Vautour, Westover's NCOIC of medical readiness, the unit arrived in Germany on Aug. 15, and spent their first two work-days being oriented to the base and the exercise. Training included of a medical obstacle course where carrying litters over steep hills made patient SSgt. Deborah St. Jacques close her eyes, grip the side of the stretcher and pray she didn't fall off.

Classes covering everything from chemical warfare defense, to wartime psychiatry and the principles of area defense finished the unit's preparation for the big exercise.

"The classes really helped me out," said Medical Material Supervisor MSgt. Ronald J. Sliwa, Sr., "I don't often have a chance to get hands on experience and in a wartime situation, everyone has to lend a hand."

Although aeromedical squadron members are not considered combat personnel per order of the Geneva Convention, it is a medic's responsibility to protect his or her patients even if that means carrying weapons to guard the treatment centers from attack.

Unit First Sergeant MSgt. George F. Gadbois added further insight to the wartime scenario. "Things change in time of war that you usually don't consider. For example, enlisted do not salute officers in a combat situation because snipers may be trying to identify those in command in order to



(Photo by SrA. Christine Mora)

**STRETCHER ON WHEELS**—TSgt. David Shields and Maj. Linda Lear transport "victim" SSgt. Dawn Sanocki on a collapsible stretcher during the exercise in Germany.

eliminate them," he said.

As nearly the entire base responded to announcements of alarm red (severe threat of contamination), yellow (moderate threat) and black (no threat) and complied with blackout procedures, the 74th filled numerous positions throughout the exercise arena and in support of the 50th TAC hospital.

"We were lucky that, due to the heat, we only had to wear the masks," said TSgt. David Perrault. "The entire decontamination suit is very difficult to work in for long periods of time."

Most of the 74th rotated in and out of the hospital lab, the surgical area and the Casualty Control Patient Retrieval Units.

According to Capt. Foster, a physicians assistant at the 50th TAC Fighter Wing Hospital at Hahn and CCPRU team chief, the CCPRU is where the casualties are first sent from the line and given primary care. "This is what is called a second echelon facility," he said. "The patient is then transported to third and fourth echelon facilities for further treatment."

"The training that the unit has received here is immeasurable," said Sergeant Vautour, "although we have exercises in donning chemical gear at Westover, this is a more vivid experience. There are inspectors who come around and

take your name if you are not responding correctly or in the specific amount of time to the alert announcement."

"Actually," said Sergeant. Gadbois, "the 74th really made an effort to play by the rules. Some of the personnel at Hahn didn't take the exercise seriously because they have been through it before, but our people followed the ground rules to the letter. Two of our reservists were recognized for a job well done."

First lieutenant Janet L. Dresch and TSgt. David A. Perrault were cited by the exercise inspectors when, during an alarm red, they got out of the car they were traveling in, put their masks on and threw themselves off the side of the road into a ditch.

"We just did what we were supposed to do," said Sergeant Perrault, "it was just understood within our unit that when an alarm was called, the appropriate procedures were followed."

According to Maj. Marylou E. Houle, one of the tour's organizers, feedback from Hahn about the unit's participation has been nothing but positive. "It seems that a lot of the people picked up useful information from our people," she said. "We're number one as far as I'm concerned and everyone else can follow our example."

# CFC drive gets underway

*"There is no one it [CFC] doesn't touch."*

—Bob Motley, CFC coordinator

By LeeAna Montanari

A man's life is falling apart, he is an alcoholic and needs help; a teen-age girl is pregnant and doesn't know where to turn; a crippled child needs surgery but his parents cannot afford to get him what he needs. Thanks to hard-working people, through the Combined Federal Campaign, Westover is contributing to many unfortunate people who need

assistance.

The CFC is the federal government's division of the United Way. In the Pioneer Valley, there are 14 federal agencies that are part of the federal campaign. The Post Office is the number one contributor and Westover follows close behind as the second highest donor.

There are numerous charities that the CFC contributes to including the

American Cancer Society, Alcoholism & Drug Services of Western Massachusetts, Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children... the list is endless. "There's no one it [CFC] doesn't touch," says Bob Motley, chief of airfield management for the 439th ABG and Westover's coordinator for the CFC.

According to Edwin C. Thorn, administrator of the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, the CFC has been much more of a success than he expected. "The CFC contributes thousands of dollars each year and all care is provided free of charge," he said. "It has been amazing what the contribution of the CFC has been."

CFC coordinators are planning to raise more money for drug rehabilitation this year to combine their efforts with President Bush's campaign to halt drug abuse in the United States.

A breakfast at the Chicopee Comfort Inn at the Parwick Center was held September 14 to start off the CFC campaign. A solicitor orientation was conducted and solicitors have begun to distribute pledge cards to individual units at Westover.

There are two ways to contribute to the CFC. Contributions can be given for an amount that the donator specifies on the pledge card, or a certain percentage can be deducted straight from civilian or military paychecks. The money will then be given to a specific charity, if so desired, or to the general fund.

Throughout the year, Westover conducts activities to raise money for the CFC. This past summer Westover hosted a softball tournament. "It was a great success," said Mr. Motley. "There were five teams involved, each of them donated \$100."

Upcoming activities will include a bowl-a-thon where participants will get sponsors to donate money for each pin knocked down. The Westover Bowling Lanes will reduce the price of each string bowled for these participants. Local businessmen are doing their part by contributing prizes for these events.

As to the success of the CFC, according to Mr. Motley, "last year we received \$36,000 which was 71% above the goal of \$21,000. This year our goal is \$25,000." The percentage of increase for the overall country that the CFC is striving for is 9.9% above last year.

"We hope we can come close to last year's contribution, but we would like to go above our expectations," said Mr. Motley.



(Photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

**HITTING FOR CFC**—SMSgt. Philip G. McConnell of the 3512th Recruiting Squadron heads for first base after collecting a hit during a one-pitch softball tournament held at Westover for the benefit of the Combined Federal Campaign. The tournament brought in \$500 to get the CFC drive off to a fast start.

50 years ago

# Government takes land to build northeast air base

By Sylvia Gaudette

Springfield Daily News  
October 17, 1939

"Condemnation proceedings for taking privately-owned Chicopee-Ludlow land for the site of the United States army air base will be started late today or tomorrow in United States district court at Boston, United States District Attorney Edmond J. Brandon said today.

Because the war department has been 'pushing' him to take the property in order that construction of the base may get under way, Brandon said he will probably be in Chicopee tomorrow or Thursday to negotiate with land owners who will be affected.

"Ample time will be given home

owners to vacate their present dwelling and find new places to live," Brandon said, "and though we will be reasonable in this respect, we are faced with the problem of legally taking the land as quickly as possible."

• • •

Later that day, U.S. District Court Judge Elisha A. Brewster signed the order condemning 4,269 acres of land chosen one month earlier as the site of the northeast air base. Its flying field was renamed on December 1, 1939 in honor of Gen. Oscar Westover, becoming Westover Field.

The proposed boundaries for the northeast air base encompassed about 300 parcels of mostly tobacco farmland. One hundred-thirty land owners in-

cluding the tobacco companies Silberman and Kahn of Hartford, Ct.; Hale Brothers, also of Hartford; and the Consolidated Cigar Corporation received a total of \$2,070,918.00 from the federal government.

Officially, property owners were given until November 25 to vacate the seized land, but the army did not rigidly enforce this deadline and construction of the base did not begin until February, 1940. Although boundaries of the base were changed slightly to avoid as many houses as possible, nearly one hundred still had to be destroyed.

Armand LaRoque, 78, was born and raised in Fairview and remembers the airbase when it was, "just a bunch of swamps, tobacco, cranberry bogs, high blueberry bushes and game too. There were all sorts of partridges and pheasant and woodcocks out there.

"I remember when I was nine years old I worked out there for the tobacco company [Hale Brothers]. I worked from six in the morning 'til six at night, six days a week and made \$9.25 a week.

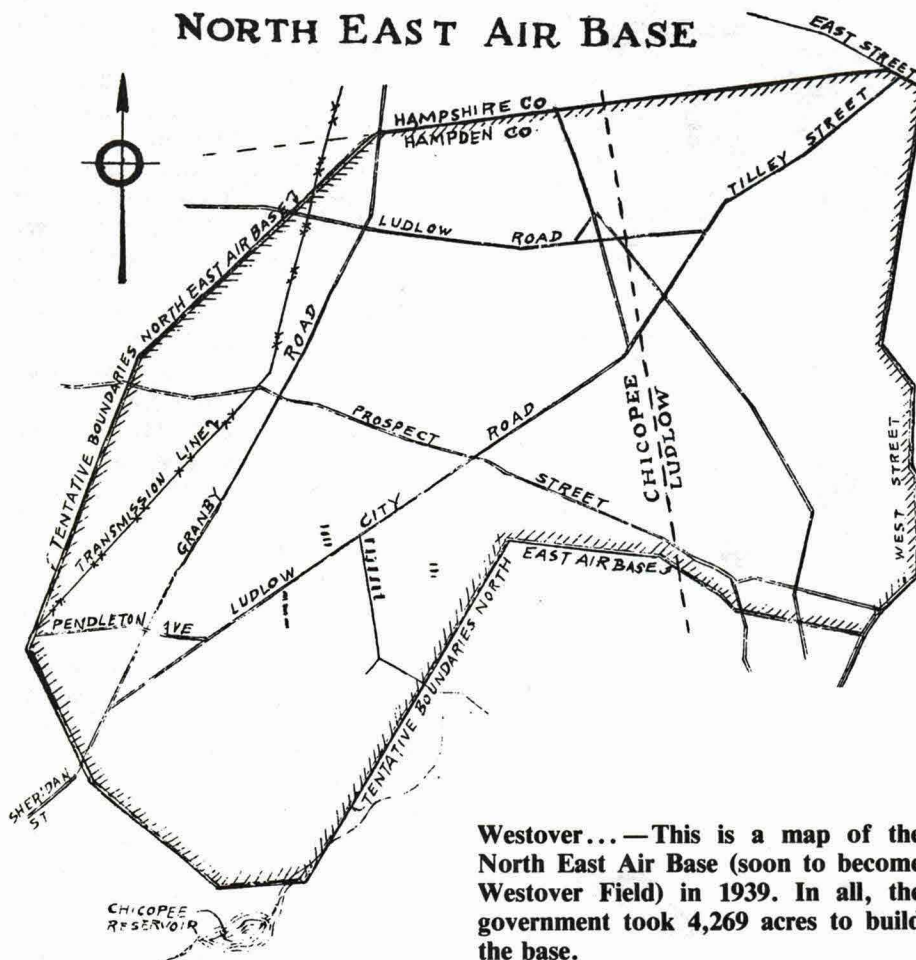
"I was brought up on Westover field!" LaRoque said his uncle owned a large farm located between Blanchard and Prospect Street that was bought out by the government to make way for the air base.

"He had quite a big house with a windmill. You know that was the only windmill around this area. He had a big garage and a big chicken coop and some goats and a huge garden. His house was on what was called LaRoque pond. In the winter time people would ice skate and build bonfires and in the summer time that's where the cranberries were."

The windmill made his uncle's house the only one around with indoor plumbing. "We had the windmill and the water tank was up high and gravity made it flow. Everyone else still had pumps and outhouses.

"The old homestead is gone now," he said, "They had to come and pick my uncle up and bring him out. He must have been one of the last to go. I don't really know how much he got for

Continued on page 12



Westover...—This is a map of the North East Air Base (soon to become Westover Field) in 1939. In all, the government took 4,269 acres to build the base.

## Base security police, Marines face off in 'Cutting Edge'

### Article and Photo

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

Operation Cutting Edge pitted Air Force security police against Marine riflemen in a night-long battle in which both sides rolled across Dogpatch with HUMVs and ATVs in September.

About 70 security police, half from the 639th SPF and half from the 911th SPF of Pittsburgh, defended against an airfield assault by about 150 Marines from Westover and Albany, N.Y. The 25th Marine Regiment riflemen were assisted by a Marine Recon unit from Reno, Nevada which conducted missions around the defenders' perimeter.

The 911th SPF arrived on Friday of the A UTA and set up outposts and listening posts. A communications network linked them to the headquarters tent where their commanding officer, Captain John Roche, oversaw the exercise. The 639th security police joined them on the perimeter on Saturday. They settled into the outposts with M-16s and M-60s and began patrolling against the roving Marine reconnaissance forces who had earlier jumped at Ft. Devens.

The security police covered their simulated air base on ATVs and set up mobile response teams in a pair of two-and-a-half ton trucks topped with .50-caliber machine guns on rings. To those hunched down in the outposts the most valuable weapon was the insect repellent they splashed on to ward off mosquitoes that swarmed in the hot, humid evening. Despite the repellent, a 911th medical technician treated several victims with the bumps of at least a dozen mosquito bites on their face and neck.

MSgt. Winfred "Doc" Dailey was in charge of the Westover security police, divided into three squads of three fire teams each. SSgt. Gilbert Jimenez and SrA. Richard Ramirez waited for the Marines in a tree line machine gun position while SSgt. James McSherry, SSgt. William Jebb, SSgt. Paul Rondeau and SSgt. George Dempsey patrolled or manned the trucks as the sun set.

About 10:30 p.m. a helicopter with a searchlight rumbled over Dogpatch and shortly after the defenders saw the lights of three approaching C-130s. The gray Marine planes, stationed at Stewart AFB, N.Y., dropped down fast and sharply at the intersection of runways 33 and 5. Three HUMVs with M-60s

rolled out to the right and left to give cover fire to the 25th Marines riflemen who ran off the C-130s, rallied with their squad leaders and descended on Dogpatch. Without a wasted move, the precision operation of off-loading the aircraft was completed in minutes and the Marines moved on their objectives.

From the time someone yelled "here they come" Dogpatch was alive with

flares, clacking M-60s and groundburst simulators that echoed back across the fields.

The lights of the C-130s were the signal for the two-and-a-half ton trucks to roar to the landing site and pour .50-caliber blanks at the riflemen and their HUMVs.

As they are trained to do, the Marines

*Continued on page 15*

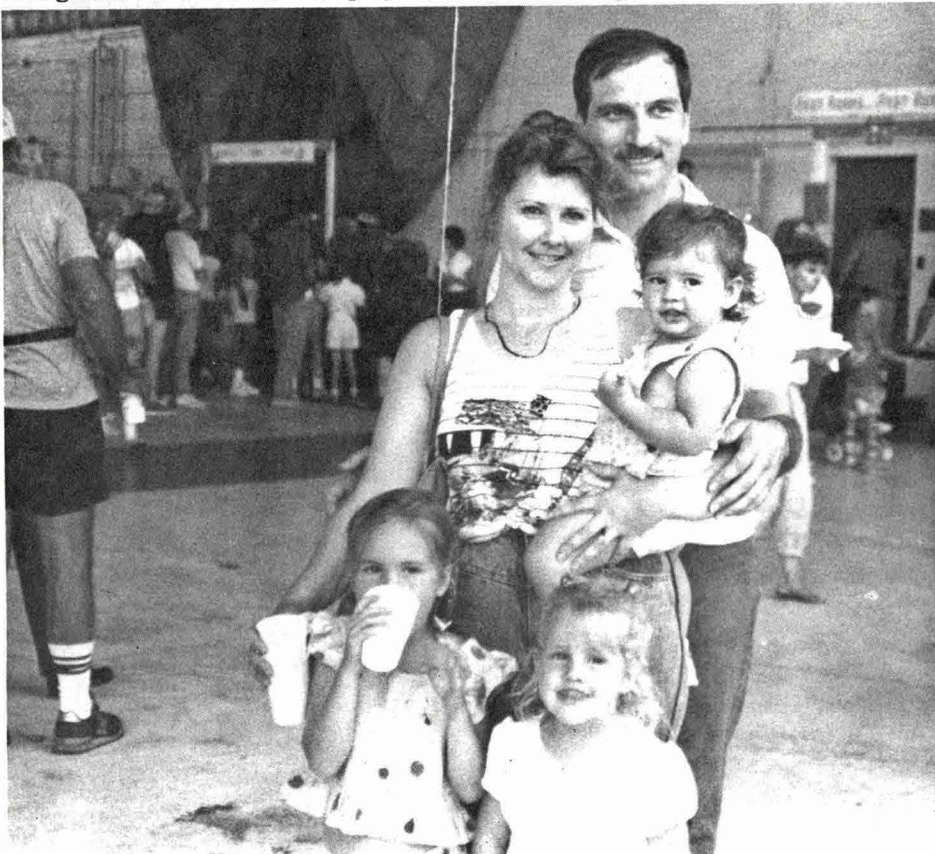


**FINAL CHECK**—SSgt. James McSherry of the 639th SPF loads up on ammo prior to taking part in Operation Cutting Edge, a security exercise that took place in Dogpatch in September.



(Photo by SrA. Christine Mora)

**PICNIC CROWD**—An estimated 4,500 attended "Family Day" in the Base Hangar as the C-5A static display looms in the background.



(Photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

**FAMILY PORTRAIT**—TSgt. Joseph Chaloux, 439 MAW, and TSgt. Pamela Chaloux, 439 CES (holding their daughter, Amanda) enjoy the festivities with their neices, Megan and Samantha Allen.

## Wing celebrate

By SrA. Christine Mora

"Family Day," Westover's annual base picnic, was held in the Base Hangar during the September A and B UTA's.

The barbecues were manned by Westover officers and nurses from the 74th AES served the hungry picnic-goers. Roast pig topped the menu which also included hamburgers, hot dogs, Italian sausages, corn on the cob, assorted salads and brownies.

During the hot summer afternoon, families and friends toured the C-5 and C-130 static displays. Children were treated to a carousel, pony rides and a variety of games.

The highlight of the day's events was the famous dunking booth featuring Brig. Gen. Frederick "Mike" Walker, wing commander, and Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander.

Competitors battled in the volleyball tournament as the 58th APS garnered first-place honors. The USAF Clinic and the 74th AES won second- and third-place trophies respectively.

The First Sergeant's Association and the Chief's Council sponsored a raffle to help cover the cost of the picnic. The remaining funds were donated to the Chief's Council Scholarship Fund, according to MSgt. George Gadbois, 74th AES first sergeant.

SMSgt. Michael Guiliani, 439th CES,



(Photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

**DUNKING BOOTH**—MSgt. Annie Daugherty, 439 ABG, gives the crowd a friendly wave as she awaits a dunking.



## Family Day

received the color television while TSgt. George Gomperts, 58th APS, won the ten-speed bicycle. A trip for two to one of seven cities in Florida was awarded on the B UTA.

"This is the first year we've had a picnic on both UTA's," said MSgt. Peter McCavick, 337 MAS first sergeant. "It gives the reservists assigned to the B UTA a chance to enjoy the event and increases morale."

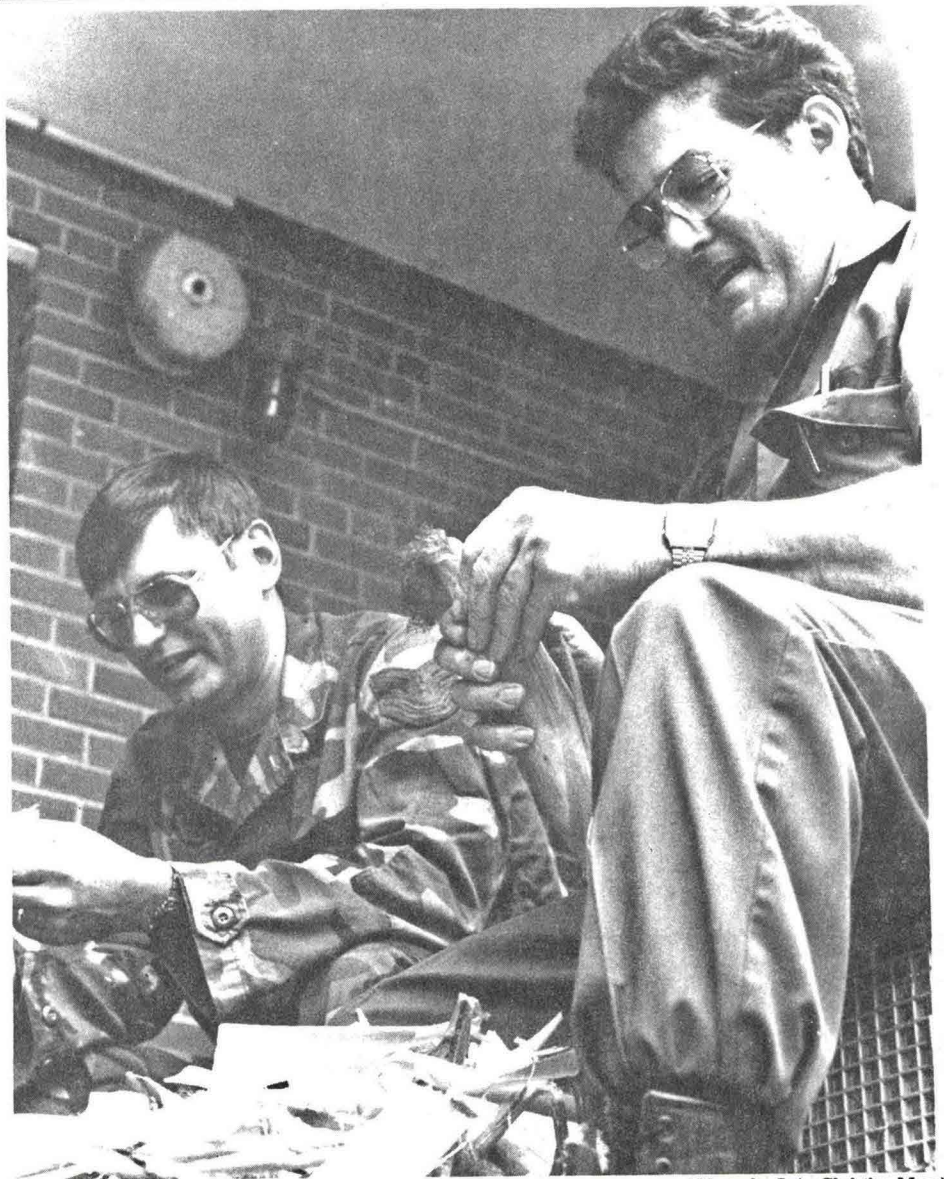
A great deal of planning preceded the Family Day. "Many people don't realize the many aspects of preparation," said Sergeant Gadbois.

"Most arrangements have to be made months in advance, and the beginning of the planning session began a year ago," he added.

The First Sergeant's Association and the Chief's Council coordinated the family picnic for the second year in the event's three-year reign.

Many Westover reservists volunteered their time to convert the Base Hangar into the Family Day site. A variety of committees were set up and volunteers came in on mandays three days prior to the UTA to join the effort.

"The hangar has proven to be an ideal spot for the annual family picnic," said Sergeant McCavick. "It provides assurance against the unlikelihood of bad weather, better security, and convenient parking," he added.

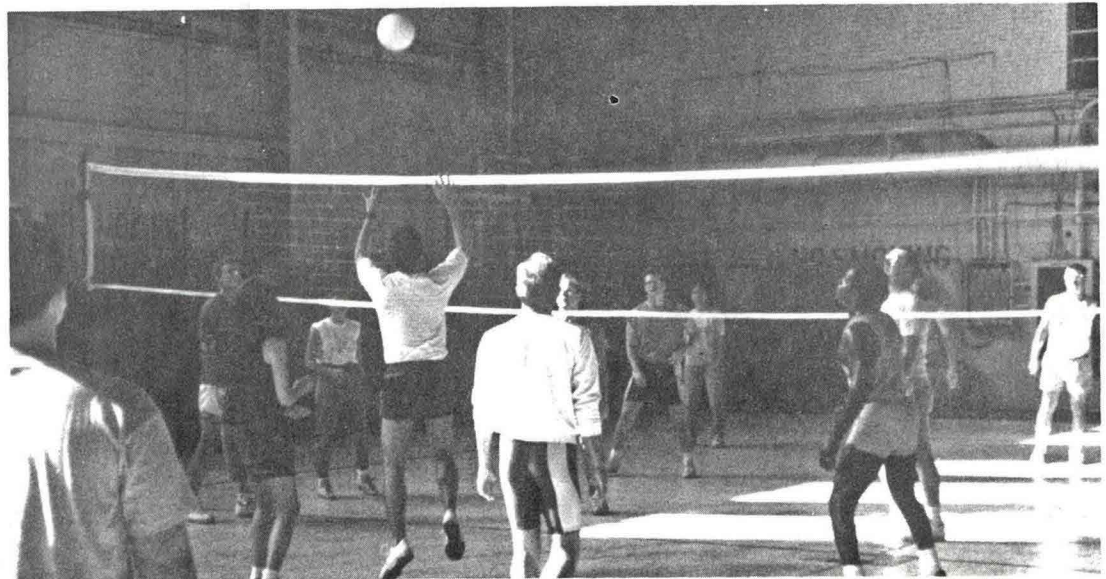


(Photo by SrA. Christine Mora)

**CORN SHUCKING**—TSgt. Edward Letourneau and SSgt. Philip Litano, 439 CES, volunteer their time to shuck corn in preparation for the picnic.

(Photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

**COURT BATTLE**—Teams vie for the championship title as they compete in the volleyball tournament.



# Foreign Object Damage is everybody's responsibility

By Kathleen A. Dromey

A discarded nut or bolt on Westover's flightline may not seem like a major catastrophe to most reservists, but that little piece of hardware can cause the destruction of a \$7 million C-5 engine.

Although total engine destruction is a rare occurrence, minor foreign object damage may affect the rotor and slator blades. "It is the responsibility of all military and civilian personnel on base to be aware of the steps necessary to prevent any foreign object from entering the runway," said TSgt. Steven Holloway, quality assurance work inspector and FOD monitor. "It could be that carelessly dropped paper cup or string that could cause severe damage to the aircraft," he said.

Loose hardware, garbage, rocks and debris are some of the most common foreign objects that can be found on the flightline. "We all need to dispose of trash at the appropriate receptacles and be especially careful about trucks driving on the flightline with back doors open," said Lt. Col. French, chief of

safety and participant in quarterly base FOD prevention meetings.

Members of the avionics, field and organizational maintenance squadrons attend monthly FOD prevention meetings "to be briefed on the responsibility of all personnel to train, indoctrinate, and ingrain FOD prevention awareness at every level," said Sergeant Holloway.

Meeting topics generally include properly securing line badges, using FOD bags for tools and receptacles for trash before entering the flightline. "We attempt to eliminate the problem by briefing every individual about FOD as soon as he or she is assigned at Westover," said CMSgt. Charles Fusco, squadron monitor for the 439th Avionics Maintenance Squadron.

Truck-like sweepers help to clear some of the excess debris from the runway but are not the most reliable method towards FOD prevention. "Due to cutbacks, the three sweepers are used sparingly, requiring additional consciousness on the part of maintenance crews," said Sergeant Holloway.

"Each crew is responsible to do a FOD walk around the aircraft to collect foreign matter and prevent any damage," added TSgt. Dale G. Schaffer, crew chief with the 439th Organizational Maintenance Squadron.

At the June Quarterly Base FOD Meeting, Sergeant Holloway discussed the possibility of incorporating a monthly FOD walk on the B UTA. Lt. Col. Alan Clune, chairman of the base FOD committee, said that he would like to see more FOD cans placed on the flightline. "We need to increase FOD cans, poster distribution and overall base awareness. Also, we need to be sensitive to conditions that create FOD, perform visual inspections and work smartly," he said.

According to Chief Fusco, FOD is preventable through communication and cooperation. Although steps toward prevention have been taken and Foreign Object Damage has been minimal at Westover, personal awareness is the necessary key to alleviate the total problem.



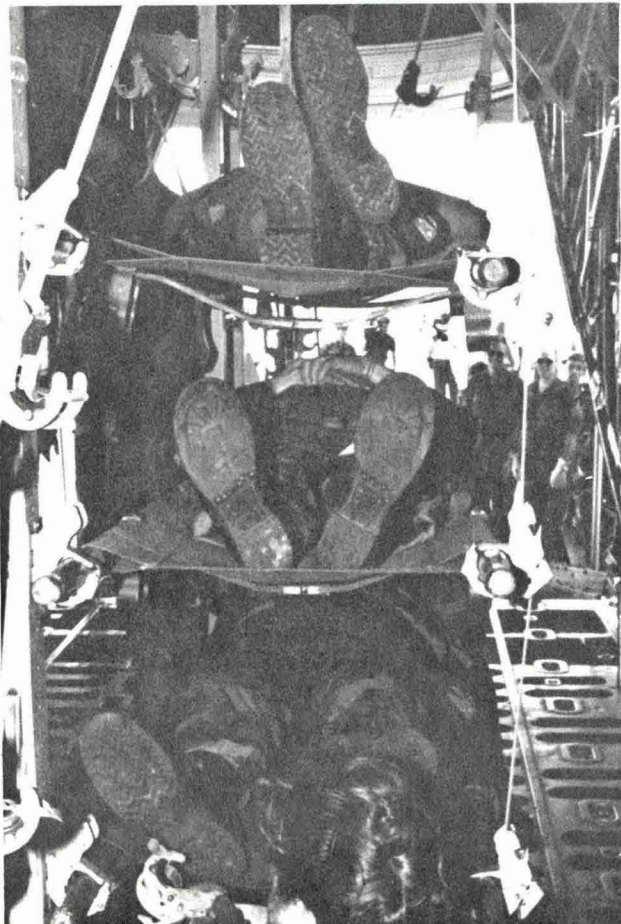
**PICKING THE WINNERS**—Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander, picks a winning door prize ticket during the SATO open house celebration Sept. 6. Winning top prizes of tickets for two to Florida were Naomi Hardiman of base supply and CMSgt. Gene Longfield. Lt. Col. Gale French, chief of supply, won a Delta Travel pack; Penny Jaworski, Navy housing officer and Maj. Robert Bersak, of the wing judge advocate office, won gift certificates while Herb Wyand of the reserve transportation section and Sharon Mueller of the contracting office won SATO prizes. The SATO office is now in full operation in the base supply building. (Photo by MSgt. Gordon Newell)



## Mass casualty exercise

(Photos by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

Westover and area emergency medical personnel took part in a National Disaster Medical System simulated exercise in August. The top photo shows 50 'patients' being triaged on Westover's flightline. Left, simulated patients wait to be carried off a C-130 to be taken to area hospitals. Below, medical teams prepare to load the final victims into waiting ambulances.



## Steroid use will mean end of military career

By SrA. Kelly R. Jamieson

Air Force Reservists who use anabolic steroids could find their military career permanently sidelined.

Air Force policy prohibits the use of steroids unless prescribed for legitimate medical needs and declares steroid use to be drug abuse.

"Steroid use will be handled as illegal drug use unless the person can produce a prescription from a doctor," said Maj. Chuck Curci, alcohol and drug abuse training officer.

The Air Force is revising Air Force Regulation 35-412, Volume III, Separation Procedures for U.S. Air Force Reserve Members, to reflect this policy and separate abusers. Reservists on active duty who use or sell anabolic steroids illegally are subject to punishment under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Plans now call for limited testing for steroid use under the random drug testing program.

"Before the Air Force changed this policy, I've had people in my classes identify themselves as using steroids, so I know it exists here at Westover," he said.

If reservists choose to use steroids illegally during the intervals between UTAs, the drug will still be in their system.

"It will be treated the same as any other illegal drug, such as cocaine or marijuana. It won't be tolerated," said the major.

Anyone caught using any illegal drug will be administratively discharged, said Major Curci.

Major Curci said he is expecting urinalysis testing for steroids to begin immediately at Westover.

The military's crackdown on steroid misuse is a reflection of society's views on the problem. The 1989 Omnibus Drug Act passed by Congress called for a mandatory six-year prison sentence for anyone selling illegal anabolic steroids to anyone under 18 years old. It also called for mandatory three-year sentences for those selling these drugs to anyone over 18 years old.

Documented cases show that steroids cause liver cysts and tumors, jaundice, infertility, hair loss, breast enlargement, adverse blood changes and prostate enlargement.

Medical experts also agree that military people using anabolic steroids are not fit for duty and represent a danger to themselves and their units because steroids affect behavior. "Roid rages"—uncontrollable rages that can last up to three hours—are not uncommon.

## 50 years ago

*Continued from page 6*

that place. But I remember them talking and I know he got short-changed. He should have got a heck of a lot more."

Stephen Jendrysik, a history teacher at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, said that while there was a lot of "unhappiness" there was no organized protest over the matter. "It wasn't the sixties."

Most of the unrest in Chicopee came from the farm workers who were losing their jobs without compensation, he said. Another complaint was that the city of Chicopee received no money. Only the private landowners, who were largely situated in the Ludlow section of the tract, and the tobacco companies were paid.

Some people also talked about the possible social problems that having a base in their town would cause, Jendrysik said. "In the 1930's there was a great deal of negative feeling about military bases." The thought of enlisted men evoked some criticisms like, "They're bums" and "They're gonna get our girls pregnant" and visions of

beer joints and gin mills came to some peoples' minds, he said.

LaRoque said all these concerns were heard but weren't about to prevent construction. "There were some meetings but they didn't amount to anything and then people just talked amongst themselves about all these things. But you can't beat Uncle Sam and he wanted the air base."

Everyone agrees, however, that the majority of people in the cities of Chicopee and Ludlow welcomed the base and encouraged the government to choose their plateau in the Connecticut Valley for its site.

LaRoque explained that although there were apprehensions and complaints "the economy really did go up when we got two thousand GI's going through here."

The tobacco farms had not been a major employer of the community, according to Jendrysik. In fact, the construction of the base re-employed many workers. "World War II changed a great deal of things very quickly when men started getting draft cards in the mail," he added.

Although there were homeowners

affected, Jendrysik explained that overall Chicopee was not densely populated. "It was perfect. They didn't have to rip out a lot of trees for the runways or have to tear up hundreds of existing families or even roads—there was nothing. The land had been farmed for hundreds of years and had good drainage. And the place was so damn flat!"

The location of the air base was also ideal strategically. The base would be 100 miles from the coast, dead centered in New England, and in a highly industrialized area with a skilled work force.

An editorial in the Springfield Daily News, August, 1939 read, "Because it [Chicopee] was an industrial city, it suffered more severely during the lean years of depression than other nearby communities which could depend on income from a more varied range of resources."

The article called Chicopee "a city worth watching" and commended the city. "Just look at the very way everyone there is backing the proposal to get an army air base. That's the kind of spirit that is going to get New England back on its industrial feet."

## Mike McNicholas wins recreation 'fellow award'

By TSgt. Sandi Michon

Mike McNicholas is accustomed to receiving awards, but even he was surprised by his most recent recognition.

Mr. McNicholas, chief of recreation services at Westover, was selected for the Armed Forces Recreation Society Fellow Award. The AFRS is a world-wide branch of the 25,000-member National Parks and Recreation Association based in Alexandria, Va.

The award nomination was submitted by Dave Michaud, chief of Services and MWR at Westover. "The nomination was a recognition of Mike's past service in recreation and his commitment to developing Westover's programs," said Mr. Michaud.

Mr. McNicholas began his present position in 1976 and his contributions to recreation services are visible around the base. He has contributed to the bowling alley start-up and operation, the par fitness course, gym facility upgrading, expansion of the Four Seasons facility and the development of the Wade Lake area, to name a few.

"Mike's been around a while, and recreation is the best it's ever been," said Capt. Tom Schwechheimer, reserve chief of services and MWR. "Recreation services is ever-expanding to try to meet the needs of a wider circle of clientele."

"To be honored by my peers is both a shock and an honor," said Mr. McNicholas. "I am really pleased to receive such an award." He is scheduled to receive the award at the AFRS awards banquet in San Antonio, Texas in October.

A Connecticut native, Mr. McNicholas earned an aerospace safety and engineering degree from the University of Southern California and has pursued post graduate work in



Mike McNicholas

the recreation field at Texas A&M University, Arizona State and Indiana State College. He has worked in the recreation field since 1971 and has attended specialized recreation courses throughout the 18 years.

Mr. McNicholas currently resides in South Hadley with his wife, Marilyn.

## Recreation service offers fall and winter activities

By TSgt. Sandi Michon

As the days grow cooler and the nights longer, recreational services offers changes to match the season.

Outdoor activities include the par fitness trail and the tennis courts as long as weather permits. The annual Turkey Trot is scheduled for November 5.

Downhill ski lessons and discount lift tickets will again be offered through the gym for Mt. Tom Ski Area in Holyoke, Mass. Ski lessons begin in January and are generally held on a week-night. There are also ski trips planned to Mt. Snow, Killington and Stratton Mountain.

The Four Seasons Checkout Store has an abundant supply of downhill skis, cross-country skis, snow shoes and ice skates. They also have 10 snowmobiles to rent and the Scamps and recreational vehicles are equipped with heaters.

*"We try to offer something for everyone... if you have a suggestion, give us a call."*

*Chris Greenia, programs director*

For those who prefer to be indoors, the gym is offering men's and co-ed intramural volleyball leagues. Sign up is at the base gym and the leagues begin in October. Men's intramural basketball is scheduled for January.

Day and evening aerobic classes will be offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and are scheduled to begin in October. Children's gymnastics classes will be offered on Saturdays for children ages four through nine. The first eight-week session has begun but sign-up for subsequent sessions is available at the base gym.

Ladies', men's and mixed bowling leagues have begun at the base bowling

alley and a youth league is also available. Times and costs are available at the base bowling alley.

In addition to organized activities, the gym offers a full range of Nautilus machines, two racquetball courts, a basketball court, game rooms, video rentals, sauna and whirlpool.

"We try to offer something for everyone," said Chris Greenia, recreation programs director, "but if you have any suggestions, give us a call."

### PHONE NUMBERS

Base Gym: 557-3958/557-2532

Four Seasons: 557-2974

Bowling center: 557-3990

## State ESGR committee visits Norfolk navy base

A "Boss Lift" of the Massachusetts Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve committee flew in mid-August from Westover AFB for a two-day tour of Naval Air Station Norfolk.

An Air Force Reserve C-130E from Willow Grove, Pa., carried 37 employers and committee members from Hanscom AFB and Westover to the world's largest naval base.

"This was an excellent opportunity for these employers to see how their reservists are integrated into the Total Force," said Stanley Zucker of Longmeadow, state chairman of the Massachusetts ESGR committee.

During a tour of the world's largest ship, the nuclear air-craft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, two physicians from Mercy Hospital and Baystate Medical Center volunteered to advise the Navy on means of modernizing medical facilities.

"This might lead to a whole new aspect of ESGR," said Mr. Zucker. "If more employers across the country were sharing their expertise with the armed services, they might endorse Reserve



## EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

participation more wholeheartedly."

During the tour of facilities at the 146-ship base, the Massachusetts employers also went aboard a wooden minesweeper with a 60 percent Reserve crew and visited NAS Norfolk and NAS Oceana where there are six Navy Reserve squadrons with assigned aircraft and five squadron augmentation units similar to AFRES associate units.

Navy Reserve members fly all of the service's fleet logistics aircraft, light attack helicopters and combat search and rescue aircraft. Reservists also operate 13 percent of the maritime patrol aircraft.

Seventeen employers from Western Massachusetts were with the statewide group and received a tour of a C-5A prior to departing Westover on Aug. 18.

### CAT program

(Continued from page 16)

This type of training confronts the aircrew members with aeronautical skill challenges. "You're flying your aircraft closer to the ground, and having to literally navigate through the use of maps, although there are three inertial navigational systems on board the aircraft to assist the pilots and aircrew," said Captain Freniere. Also, the aircrew members will suffer somewhat from a less than comfortable ride. Airsickness strikes many, due to the effects of turbulence caused by flying at a low altitude. Air conditioning causes reduction in radar capabilities, therefore turning the training missions into virtual saunas.

Combat aircrew training is a necessary and important part of Westover's training program, said Captain Freniere. "In combat, you don't fly where you don't train."



(Photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

**HIGH BOWLERS**—A team of bowlers representing Westover captured first place in the team category and took first and second spots in the women's doubles competition in an AFRES-wide tournament. Members of the Westover team were, from left: SMSgt. Marge Schoonover, SSgt. Fran Breedlove, Capt. Thomas Schwechheimer, Fran Buettner, Mitzi Vincellette and Cindy Buss.

## "Patriot People"

**Name:** Madeleine M. Devane  
**Rank:** SSgt.  
**Age:** 40  
**Address:** Springfield, Mass.  
**Unit:** 439th ABG  
**Position:** Airfield Management Specialist  
**Civilian Occupation:** Post Edit Inspector  
**Favorite Food:** Lobster  
**Favorite Beverage:** Jack Daniels and Ginger Ale  
**Favorite Sport:** Hanggliding  
**Favorite Hobby:** Going shopping  
**Ideal Vacation:** The "Islands"  
**Best Way to Relax:** Getting a massage  
**Preferred Entertainment:** Stage productions  
**Favorite Celebrity:** Chuck Norris and Tina Turner  
**Favorite Music:** Just about anything  
**Favorite Book:** No preference—will read anything  
**Favorite Color:** White  
**Favorite Car:** Corvette (The old models)  
**Pet Peeve:** Phony, insincere people  
**Best thing about Westover:** Convenient location  
**Worst thing about Westover:** Paperwork



SSgt. Madeleine M. Devane

## Operation Cutting Edge

(Continued from page 7)

moved quickly and aggressively against the "airbase." The assault was marked by flames that leaped from the barrels of weapons and shouts in the dark from aggressor and defender squad leaders to "cover the flank," "align on me," "fire grazing fire," "move left," "fall back on the road." The command "fire the stars" put clumps of five green flares arcing across the dark skyline. Clouds of smoke rolled across the field and mingled with the fog that briefly added to the darkness and confusion.

White flares floated down on parachutes, bursting light toward the end of the fall as they burned out their parachutes. They lighted Dogpatch to reveal Marines in the grass, men running and security police maneuvering to plug holes in the defense.

The Marines' mission was to capture intact three objectives—the site of the old antenna farm, the rifle range area and the headquarters tents in Dogpatch—in 30 minutes. They outnumbered the defenders at least two-to-one and they moved with well-rehearsed

precision to overwhelm the security police at the tents and rifle range but were checked at the old antenna farm.

Frustrated when the strong defense upset the clockwork of their schedule, the Marines simulated destroying the objective with "dragons," hand-launched, wire-guided rockets.

The security police reformed and counter-attacked the "airbase" in an assault that was credited with surprising the Marines, although it failed to dislodge them from the tent area. Sergeant Dailey then organized the Westover security police, including SSgt. Andres Aviles and SSgt. Tom Gaglione, into two-member teams to conduct reconnaissance and hit-and-run operations as Operation Cutting Edge drew to a conclusion.

When it was over, Capt. Robert Mooney, 439th SPF commander, who served as Air Force controller, termed the exercise a valuable rehearsal that enhanced the skills of both sides. "Operation Cutting Edge 4 was a credit to the professionalism and stamina of both sides," he said.



## New patch design

**439th FMS PATCH**—The expertise of the men and women of the 439th FMS is recognized by the motto "Above Excellence" and the tools of their trade clutched by an eagle in the maintenance squadron's recently approved new patch. The patch was designed by members of that unit, which is the largest of Westover's three maintenance squadrons.

## 337th becoming familiar with Combat Aircrew Training

By Lynne P. Root

Combat Aircrew Training (CAT), instituted at Westover in July, is a program that deals with aircrews developing skills necessary to survive and complete combat operations, said Capt. Robert Freniere, 439th MAW unit intelligence officer.

"The CAT program is not just flying low-level, it's learning enemy capabilities, weapon systems, and how to survive in those circumstances," said Captain Freniere.

Although this program was only recently instituted here, it is nothing new to most Westover air crews. CAT tactics were used in flying C-130s, which were on base until 1987.

The difference is that C-130s used both "air-land" and "air-drop," whereas C-5s use only the "air-land" method of unloading cargo. However, it is not only cargo planes that necessitate this type of training; it was originally used in fighter planes, but the realization of need spread quickly to all types of military planes.

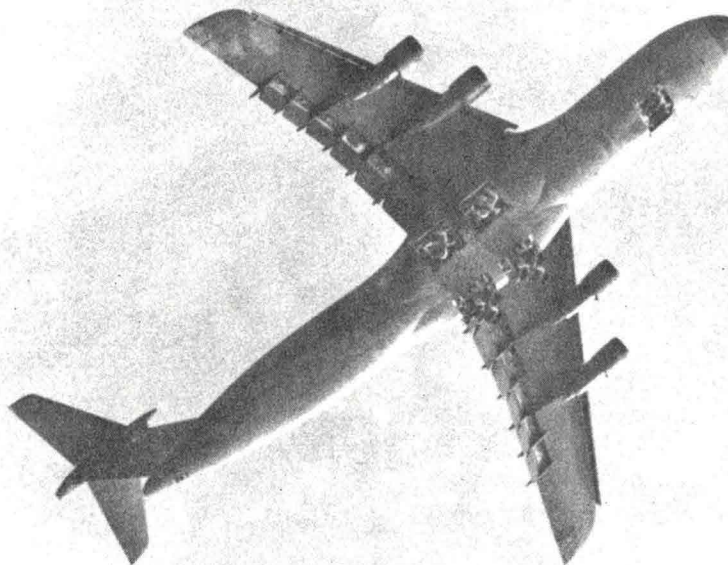
Captain Freniere attended Combat Aircrew Training school at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, Nevada this February, as did MSgt. Robert Karrasch, a loadmaster for the 337th MAS. There are two schools that the Air Force uses, this one, and the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center in St. Joseph,

Missouri, which focuses more on low level flying than pure academics. "I found the school extremely helpful," said Captain Freniere. "An individual who is fortunate enough to attend both schools really comes out on top." Through this school, Captain Freniere gained "a focus on how to apply military science skills from the book to the airplane." He believes that the

schooling has already proven very useful through the AFRES CATS program.

The combination of flying at a low altitude, and high noise levels plays a limiting factor in the C-5's role in combat aircrew training. Therefore, relocation for this type of flying becomes a necessity.

*Continued on page 14*

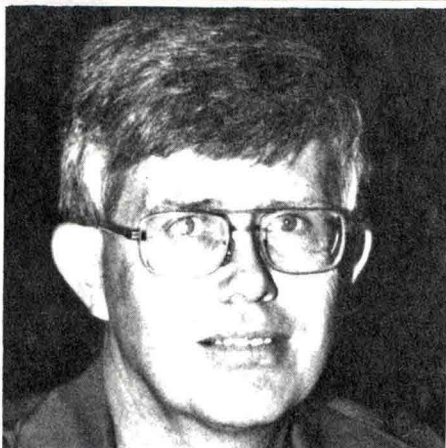


(Photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

**CAT MANEUVER**—A Westover C-5A begins a left turn as part of Combat Aircrew Training, recently instituted here.

# PATRIOT

Coming in November: C-5s in Virgin Islands



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Richard Sweet of Springfield, Vt. and 2284 members of the 439th MAW at Westover AFB.

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