

PATRIOT

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C-5s wing warriors home



(photo by SrA. Christine Mora)

by SrA. Christine Mora

As the dust settled in the aftermath of Operation Just Cause, a Westover crew carried troops home to the U.S. from Panama Jan. 17.

The mission marked Westover's eighth to Panama during the operation. Two additional sorties were also flown to support the national effort.

Thirty-two soldiers from Ft. Bragg, N.C. and two dependents were airlifted to Pope AFB, N.C. aboard the C-5A.

The aircraft also hauled six camouflaged five-ton trucks from Howard AB.

Enroute to the U.S. the troops described their experiences and the conditions of the war-torn country.

"The Panamanians were so happy after Noriega surrendered," said Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Chappel, Ft. Bragg, N.C. "Whenever we walked down the street, they would wave and cheer."

Sergeant Chappel also explained

that when military vehicles drove through the streets of Panama and had to stop for any reason, the citizens would crowd around the vehicle and thank the soldiers. "They were just plain happy," he said.

A common complaint among the Panamanians, according to Sgt. 1st Class Irwin Mosley, Ft. Bragg, N.C., was the long wait for Americans to help Panama. "They told us they were tired of being robbed and wanted to
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EDITORIAL

Just Cause for peace

When Operation Just Cause began just days before Christmas, keeping the holiday spirit while our nation's troops were in combat proved to be very difficult.

Ironically, these two concepts are not so opposite.

The Christmas season typically reminds us of peace on earth and good toward man. Comparing these optimistic images to fierce battle seems ludicrous, but not when you consider the objectives Americans fought for.

They fought for peace. They fought for democracy. Not just for Americans there, but for Panamanian citizens.

On a C-5A mission to Panama a few days before Operation Just Cause was launched, a Westover aircrew listened to firsthand accounts of the daily fear experienced by citizens of Panama City.

"When I leave the house every day I make sure my wife has the three guns loaded," said a customs official aboard the C-5A. "Just yesterday I had to dive behind my car to avoid machine-gun fire in front of my house." He then displayed the empty shells he'd gathered from the ground.

"The people are just waiting for the U.S. to help," he added. "There's no other way out for us."

Obviously, there is no "good" time of year to be involved in combat, but the Christmas season was especially tough. For most of the Westover aircrew members who carried troops to Panama, obligations at home and foiled holiday plans seemed petty compared to the task of the troops headed for Christmas in combat.

Sure everyone would have liked to enjoy the festive season, but the fact was that what they were a part of was bigger and much more important than mistletoe and eggnog.

Watching television we saw the jubilation in the streets. Witnessing firsthand and hearing stories of the smiles and the gratitude of the Panamanian people gave an overwhelming feeling of accomplishment and pride to American participants in the military operation. Not just the troops and crews that were in Panama, but also to those who stayed behind working long, grueling hours in support of the mission.

Everyone was an equally important cog in a great machine, one that fought for the peace and democracy of an unfortunate population sentenced to years of tyranny.

Summed up by one of the Panamanians chatting with the aircrew before their flight home, "Democracy was the best Christmas present we'll ever receive."

By SrA. Christine Mora
Public Affairs Specialist

Briefs

Norwich connection

According to Ground Safety Education Training Officer Maj. Michael J. Rosen, Westover is unusually distinguished as the home station for at least five graduates of Norwich University, the nation's oldest military institution.

"There are usually, at the most, two or three alumni from one college on any given base," said Major Rosen, a 1975 graduate. "I'm already aware of at least five Norwich alumni at Westover. We'd like to know if there are any other Norwich graduates on base who might want to get together with the rest of us."

Insignia changed

The US insignia will be placed halfway up the seam on the women's service dress coat, according to a memo sent by TSgt. Patricia E. Melega, Westover's chief of customer assistance.

The insignia is to rest on, but not over, the seam with the bottom of the US horizontal to the ground.

Scholarships offered

GOLDEN, COLO -- Coors Brewing Co. is awarding \$500,000 in scholarships to 100 children of American veterans for the 1990 school year. This is the sixth consecutive year Coors has awarded these scholarships.

Applicants must be 22 years or younger as of March 15 and already be enrolled full time in an accredited four-year institution of higher education in the United States, or an accredited two-year program leading to a four-year degree.

Students must also have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale. They also must be the child of an active military, Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve member, honorably discharged veteran, or a service person killed in action, missing in action or who died in the line of duty.

Applications, must be turned in by March 15, are available at college financial aid offices, veterans service organizations, by calling (800) 49 COORS, or by writing Coors Veterans' Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 16522, Denver, Colo. 80216.

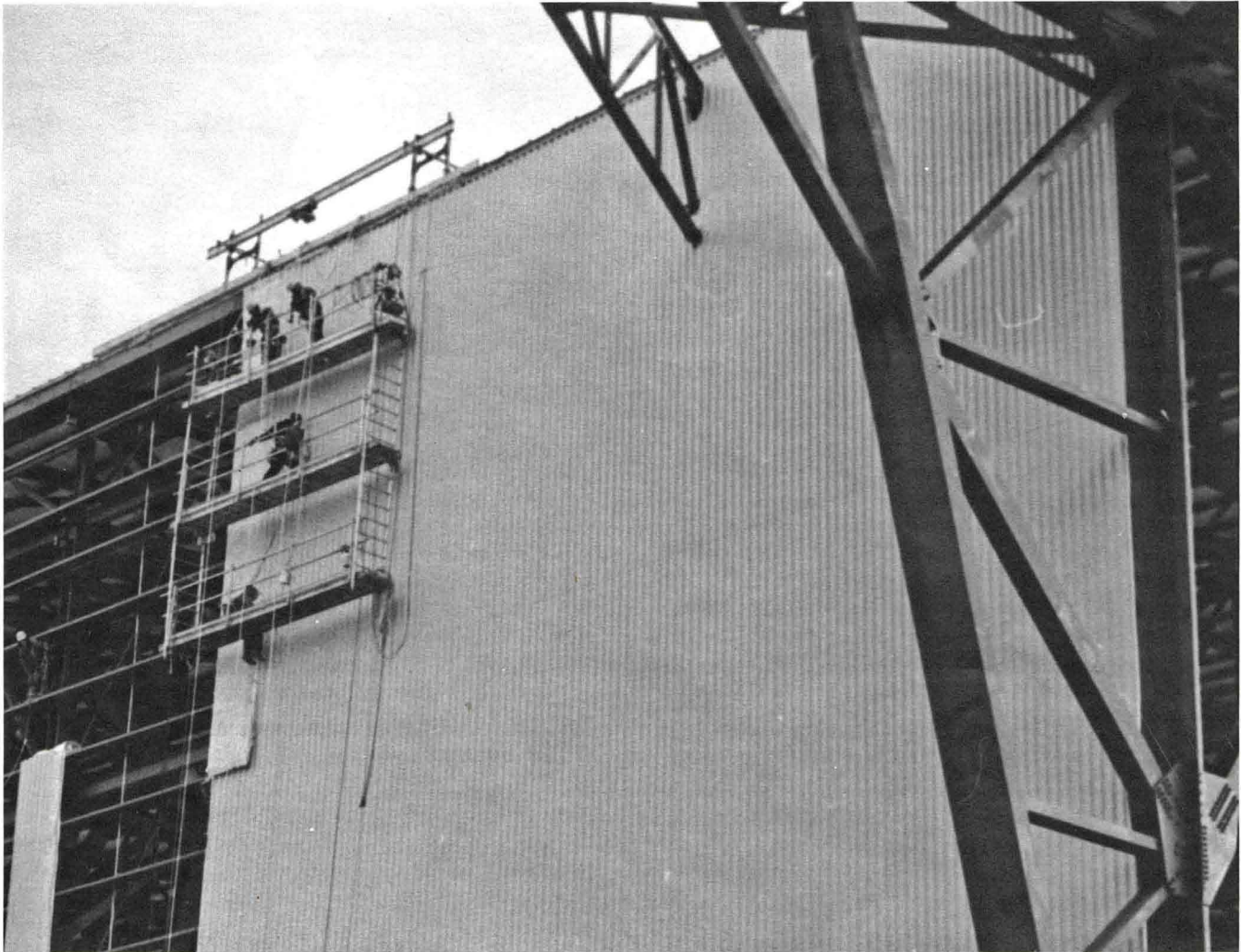
PATRIOT

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(photo by SrA. Christine Mora)

FROM THE TOP-- Workers on scaffolding continue construction of Westover's 10-story pull-through hangar. The towering structure is scheduled for completion in early spring, said Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander.

Westover means \$4.6 million weekly to area economy

by MSgt. Gordon Newell

The impact of Westover's successful conversion to C-5As continues to have a positive economic effect on the region. Westover meant more than \$4.6 million a week to the local economy--communities within 50 miles of the base-- during fiscal year 1989 which for the federal government was Oct. 1, 1988 to Sept. 30, 1989.

Prior to the arrival of the first of 16 C-5A Galaxies in the fall of 1987, base spending was calculated at \$1.6 million a week for the C-130 Hercules operations.

In April the base received its 16th and final C-5A and in October was declared mission ready by the Air Force.

Westover has about 2,500 Air Force Reserve members assigned to the 439th Military Airlift Wing. Approximately one-third of the reservists live in Hampden and Hampshire counties. The reservists train here one weekend a month, plus 15 days of annual training.

Westover also has about 1,000 full-time civilian employees, of which about a third are Air Reserve Technicians who provide a cadre for the C-5A operation.

The estimated economic impact of Westover AFB on communities within a 50-mile radius was calculated at \$241,047,887.

Total estimated impact of the base on the entire New England region was calculated at more than \$311 million.

Increased construction costs for new and renovated facilities to support C-5A operations at Westover account for a good portion of this increase in economic impact.

During the 12-month reporting period, more than \$ 58 million was spent on construction projects completed or in-progress, including a new fire station, a 10-story pull-through C-5A hangar and improvements to existing hangars and other buildings.

The previous year more than \$43 million was spent on construction projects.

Westover's gross federal payroll increased in FY89 to \$46,019,474 from \$42 million the previous year.

(Continued on page 14)



(photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

JOINT TRAINING-- Army National Guardsmen from C Troop, 1st 110th Air Cavalry, and Westover reservists from

the 58th Aerial Port Squadron and the 337th Military Airlift Squadron participate in a static load trainer.



LOADING UP--Reservists and guardsmen load a UH-1-M helicopter onto a Westover C-5A. (above) Westover aerial porters don chemical warfare gear during a training exercise on the Jan. A-UTA.(left)

(photos by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

Westover celebrates with a 'Shining Moment'

by SrA. Kymberly Saganski

Plans for Westover's 50th Anniversary Ball are coming together quickly, according to the ball organizer and Chief of CBPO Capt. Denny Jobes.

The ball, billed to be a Spring gala extraordinaire, will be held on Saturday, April 7 following the dedication of the new Base Hangar planned for the same day.

"In January we sent 300 formal VIP invitations out to community leaders," said Captain Jobes. "That leaves 700 tickets exclusively for reservists."

Reservists who have not yet decided to attend still have time to reserve tickets and be a part of the base's "Shining Moment."

"We're dealing with contractors," said Captain Jobes, "so we need to

know exactly how many people to expect by March 23. That only leaves the A and B UTAs in February and March to purchase tickets."

"It should be a great time," she continued, "The hangar is being decorated by the same company that provided flowers for the last Presidential Inaugural Ball. Each table will be covered with four-to five-foot floral arrangements. The walls and head table will be covered with flowers as well," she said.

Music will be provided by the Air Force Reserve Headquarters. Three different bands will be playing everything from concert arrangements to Scottish bag-pipe tunes.

According to Captain Jobes, the ball will be formal and attendees may choose between military and civilian attire. Proper military uniform is ser-

vice dress with white shirt and bow tie, or mess dress. Men may wear tuxedos and women may wear formal tea or floor-length gowns.

Westover's 1990 festivities are not limited to the Ball and dedication ceremony, as Lt. Col Gale French, Westover's airshow project officer, is quick to remind us. New England's largest airshow, July 27, 28 and 29, will bring nearly 1 million tourists and aviation buffs to Westover for three days of aerial demonstrations, aircraft displays and exhibits.

"We have recently confirmed our newest performers, the U.S. Army Golden Knights, and the New England Escadrille warbirds, said Colonel French.

The Canadian Snowbirds and a squadron of P-51s will also be flying in the three-day show.



(photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

FENCED IN--Approximately 5,000 feet of snowfence is installed annually at Westover. The fencing is used

to prevent snow from drifting onto roadways and parking lots causing hazardous driving conditions.



EASY RIDERS-- Paul Wojtas, 1 and his sisters Mariah, 2, and Shannon, 9, "ride" a snowmobile with their friend,

Janine Beaulieu, 10. The snowmobiles are available to rent at Westover's Four Seasons store.



Base gym holds Winter Fun Fair



Article and photos by TSgt. Sandi Michon

There was a four-inch snow accumulation in the base gym but most of the white stuff was confined to cones.

The free snow cone station was only one of the nine stations presented at the Winter Fun Fair held at the base gym Jan. 5-6.

Other stations included comprehensive winter activity information listing local winter festivals, and local sites for skiing, skating, sledding, snowmobiling and hay rides.

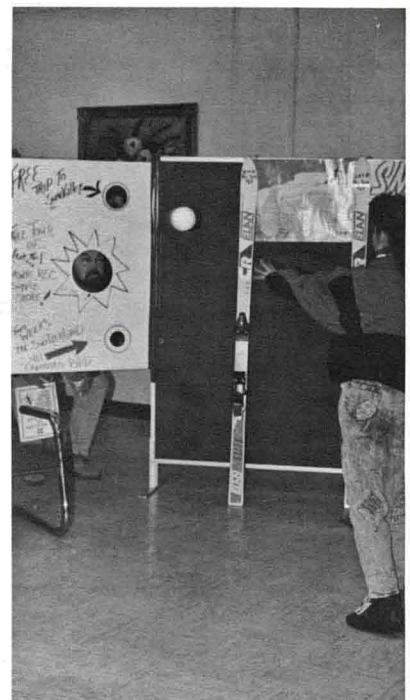
"People generally are unaware of the variety of winter activities around, and what Westover has to offer to support those activities," said

Sgt. Christine Greenia, a fitness and recreation specialist with the 439th Air Base Group.

Sergeant Greenia coordinated the winter fair and combined creative visual displays with useful informational booths.

After viewing portions of ski videos and sipping free hot chocolate, ski boots were available for fitting as part of an extensive display of Four Seasons Checkout Store equipment.

"We were a little disappointed in the turnout," said Sergeant Greenia, "but we're hoping participation will increase as we continue to offer these types of informational fairs."



ON TARGET--Lindsay Taylor, 11-years old, tosses "snow darts" at her father, John.

Reservists helped in the air and on the ground

by Maj. Rick Dyer

Westover's warriors turned out voluntarily and in force to provide assistance in the air and on the ground during Operation Just Cause.

Although there was no mobilization or formal notification of unit members, reservists started calling the base to volunteer their services as soon as news of the invasion was broadcast on television.

Wing officials estimate that 400 "man-day" tours of active duty were served during the period of Dec. 19-Jan. 2. They say that the response played a key role in the unit's ability to fly seven missions to Panama with very little notice.

"I'm very proud," said Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander. "We're in the combat support business, and I was extremely pleased with the way we responded in a 'real life' crisis."

The base commander said that an operational readiness practice held at Westover Dec. 1-3 left the unit well-prepared for the events which occurred in Panama several weeks later.

"It was *deja vu*," Colonel Hargis said. "The Just Cause operation was very similar to the scenario under which we operated during the ORE. It made everything so much easier to do."

The base commander said that when he learned of the invasion, he called in personnel who performed crucial support functions.

Administrative technicians and finance personnel worked around the clock to cut orders and process advance per diem requests for the departing crews.

"We opened the message center, base supply, weather station, tower, and billeting on an around-the-clock basis, Colonel Hargis said. "Our reservists and civilians gave 110 percent."

Westover's command post became a hub of much of the activity as a crisis action team managed the unit's combat airlift efforts.

Controllers in the command post answered constantly ringing telephones, coordinated with operations and maintenance officials and monitored Air Force radio frequencies



(photo by SrA Christine Mora)

LAST CHECK-- SSgt. Thomas J. Moore, a loadmaster with the 337th Military Airlift Squadron, tightens the tie-down chains in a C-5 cargo compartment before the aircraft departs Howard AB, Panama.

throughout the invasion. "I often felt as though I could use an extra pair of hands," said Lt. Col. Allen C. Hoffacker of the command post staff.

Colonel Hoffacker said that one special telephone in the command facility--used strictly for classified transmissions--previously only rang for tests. "During the first 48 hours of the Panama crisis, it was ringing off the hook," he said.

Capt. Robert Freniere and SSgt. Frank Faulkner of the base intelligence office worked for nearly two days straight, briefing departing C-5 crews on threat areas and funneling updated data to the 439th's senior staff. The only sleep either got was an occasional catnap on an air mattress in the intelligence office.

Despite freezing temperatures and lack of inside facilities, the 439th maintenance squadrons worked feverishly to keep the Galaxies flying.

"We had nine planes available to support the Panama operation and launched every one of them without a glitch, Colonel Hargis said. "Colonel Hal Lawrence and all of the maintenance personnel gave us an absolutely super-human effort. Much of what we accomplished was due to their attitude."

The Westover public affairs office was also a busy place as media representatives from several area newspapers and television stations were eager to get a local angle on the history-making events as they were happening.

Panama missions gave aircrews a December to remember

by Maj. Rick Dyer

For the 439th MAW aircrews who flew missions to Panama during Operation Just Cause, a month which normally brings limited flying activity suddenly turned into a December they'll always remember.

Reservists who had just completed a major operational readiness exercise here Dec. 1-3, unexpectedly found themselves flying to a real combat zone less than three weeks later.

The Westover C-5 crews airlifted 647 tons of military cargo and 376 troops to Panama during the period from Dec. 20 to Jan. 2.

In addition to the seven sorties to Panama, wing crews also flew missions to Pope AFB, N.C. and Charleston AFB, S.C. in support of the invasion.

The sudden and dramatic military operation transformed a holiday slowdown at Westover into a period of frenetic, around-the-clock activity as wing officials scurried to ready aircraft and crews.

According to Lt. Col. Lawrence E. Mercker, assistant deputy commander for operations, 337th crews logged 460 flying hours during the month, 103 of them in support of Operation Just Cause.

Colonel Mercker said, "During December 1988, Westover C-5s flew a total of just 352 hours. December is traditionally a low flying month."

Wing officials were notified on Monday, Dec. 18--two days before the invasion--to have aircrews ready for military operations.

"We didn't have any of the specific details, but we placed several crews on alert status so that they'd have the required 12 hours of crew rest," Colonel Mercker said.

When the invasion was launched, a crisis action team led

by Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker, wing commander, convened in the base command post. The crisis team coordinated the 439th's participation in Just Cause operations.

"Requests for our C-5s to fly airlift missions started coming in from 21st Air Force headquarters at McGuire AFB," Colonel Mercker said.

On Dec. 19, a Westover Galaxy piloted by Maj. Gerald Vanlandingham of the 337th MAS, was diverted from a local training mission to carry de-icing equipment to Pope AFB, N.C.

The equipment was needed because Pope, the embarkation point for troops from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, had been hit by an ice storm just prior to the invasion.

A Galaxy flown by Lt. Col. James P. Gallin, commander of the 337th MAS, left Westover for Panama Dec. 20. It was the first of the seven airlift missions which 439th reservists would fly to Panama, ferrying equipment and soldiers from the Army's 82nd Airborne and 7th Light Infantry divisions.

"We did as much as we possibly could to support the operation," said Colonel Mercker. He noted that several other 337th MAS crews had been placed on alert but were not needed for missions.

The operations officer took pride in the fact that every Westover C-5 crew performed its mission successfully. He attributed that to "excellent maintenance" and the "extra effort" given by unit members.

"What made it work was the volunteerism of our reservists," the colonel said. "As soon as news of the invasion was on television, our people started calling the base, to ask how they could help. They were just super."

Warriors home

(Continued from page 1)

work honestly for their money," he said. "Most of them wanted to know what took us so long."

While in Panama the only food the soldiers ate were Meals Ready to Eat. They worked 12 to 18-hour days, and in some camps there were 600 men to five cold showers.

"Our unit stayed in empty buildings that had originally been erected for the Panamanian forces," said Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Gilmer, Ft. Bragg, N.C. The sergeant said that while pulling guard duty, crowds of citizens would be glued to the fences surrounding the camp. "Whenever the guard would look over, cheers would ring out," he said.

Rhonda Crawford and her daughter Jessica, natives of Leroy, Mich., described life as military dependents in the struggling country.

"Before Operation Just Cause, living conditions were very difficult," said Mrs. Crawford. Americans would be harassed whenever they went off base, she added.

"Once I was brought in for questioning by the Panamanian Defense Forces and threatened with a gun for a couple of hours," Mrs. Crawford explained.

Dependents were confined to their houses during the military operation. According to Mrs. Crawford, they were told that members of Noriega's Dignity Battalions were walking around the base.

"We weren't allowed to go to the commissary or exchange," she said. "If

we needed food, diapers or anything else, they would send military vehicles to the house with the necessities."

Mrs. Crawford lived in Panama for two years with her husband, a U.S. serviceman, and was traveling to stay with relatives in North Carolina.

The worst part of the whole operation, according to Sergeant Chappel, was the poor condition of the people.

"They wore tattered rags and had to resort to begging," said the sergeant. "It was sad to see."

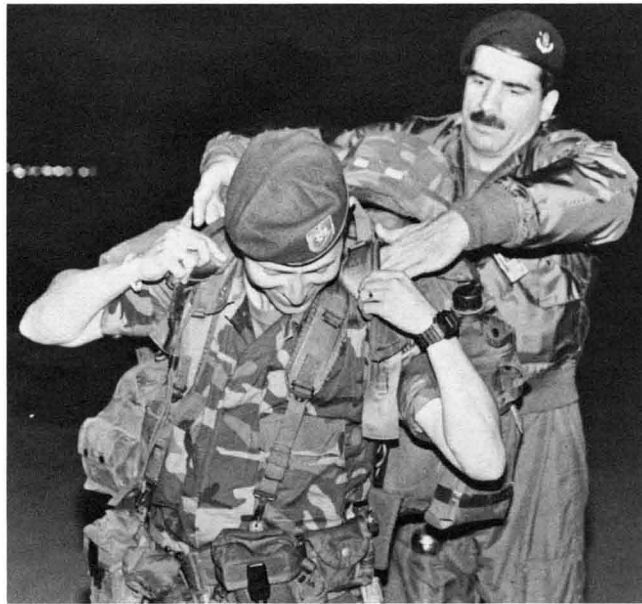
By far the best thing about Operation Just Cause was simply the smiles of the Panamanian people, said Sergeant Chappel.

"They knew we were there to help," he said. "Being a part of the operation really made us feel like we'd done something good."



(photo by SrA. Christine Mora)

GOING UP-- Rhonda Crawford and her daughter Jessica, military dependents living in Panama, climb the troop ladder of a Westover C-5A before their trip back to the U.S.



(photo by SrA. Christine Mora)

HELPING HAND-- Sgt. George Louvitakis, 439th Security Police Squadron, helps Maj. Victor M. Rosello from the 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, N.C. with his backpack.



(photo by SrA. Christine Mora)

HEADING HOME-- Sgt. George Louvatikis, 439th SPS, and SSgt. Thomas J. Moore, 337th Military Airlift

Squadron, assist members of the 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, N.C. boarding a C-5A at Howard AB, Panama.

**Westover
reservists
deployed
to
Panama**

Dec. 20, 1989

Lt. Col. James P. Gallin
Lt. Col. John E. Riley Jr.
Capt. Stanley Butler
SMSgt. Frank N. Ruotolo
MSgt. Paul G. Benson
MSgt. Stephen M. Gates
MSgt. Paul R. Harrison
MSgt. Robert L. Perreault
TSgt. John J. Duffy
TSgt. Kerry G. Saso
SSgt. Ronald E. May
SrA. Christine M. Mora

Dec. 21, 1989

Maj. Sandy Whittier Jr.
Maj. Peter E. Gray
Capt. Jay C. Milkey
SMSgt. Thomas V. Dzwonkus
TSgt. Anthony C. Colucci
TSgt. Richard A. Jedrey
SSgt. John A. Evelyn Jr.
SSgt. Brian D. Miliefsky

Dec. 22, 1989

Lt. Col. James P. Gallin
Maj. John V. Walsh
Capt. Stanley R. Butler
SMSgt. Frank N. Ruotolo
MSgt. Paul G. Benson
MSgt. Stephen M. Gates
MSgt. Paul R. Harrison
MSgt. Robert L. Perreault
TSgt. John J. Duffy
TSgt. Kerry G. Saso
SSgt. Ronald E. May
SrA. Christine M. Mora

Dec. 22, 1989

Lt. Col. Joseph E. Butler
Maj. Aaron G. Olmstead Jr.
Capt. William D. Robinson Jr.
TSgt. Robert G. Albert
TSgt. Ronald R. Bernier
TSgt. William A. Carroll
SSgt. Gregory Dill
SSgt. Hustus F. Falana
SSgt. Richard W. Gheen
SSgt. Thomas A. Mellor
SSgt. Thomas J. Moore
SSgt. William R. Sharer

Dec. 26, 1989

Lt. Col. Gale H. French
Maj. Peter E. Gray
Capt. Michael J. Marten
SMSgt. Raymond N. Laurin
MSgt. Richard L. Coda
MSgt. Daniel J. Early Jr.
MSgt. Robert L. Perreault
TSgt. Richard A. Jedrey
TSgt. Robert P. Morin
TSgt. Dale G. Schaffer
SSgt. Norman A. Faucher
SSgt. Francis D. Faulkner
SSgt. Jon B. Suarez

Dec. 27, 1989

Lt. Col. Nelson H. Newhouse
Maj. James R. Bird Jr.
Capt. Robert W. Freniere
Capt. Jay C. Milkey
MSgt. Thomas F. Mc Coy
MSgt. Jonathan D. Miller
MSgt. Ronald J. Robbins
TSgt. Ronald N. Beaulieu
TSgt. Robert D. Merchant
TSgt. Dale G. Schaffer
TSgt. Vidyand Setaram
SSgt. Robert B. Davidson
SSgt. Timothy M. MacDonald
SSgt. Donald R. Pare
Sgt. Christopher J. Hellyar
A1C Thaddeus M. Malysz

Dec. 30, 1989

Lt. Col. Fredrick W. Lindahl
Maj. David A. M. Roberts
TSgt. Lester H. Eldridge
TSgt. Kathy A. Lee
TSgt. Kerry G. Saso
SSgt. David J. Guzik
SSgt. Gary D. Smith
SSgt. Brian W. Valentine
Sgt. Monique J. Menard
A1C Patrick J. Egan

Jan. 17, 1990

Maj. Stephen E. Anderson
Maj. Merrill N. Cross
Maj. Peter E. Gray
SMSgt. Kenneth J. Gilbert
MSgt. Garth O. Parker
MSgt. Ronald J. Robbins
TSgt. Anthony C. Colucci
TSgt. Larry M. Wells
SSgt. Donna P. Boula
SSgt. Maureen C. Gamlin
SSgt. Thomas J. Moore
SSgt. Craig A. Richard
SSgt. Kevin E. Rodrigues
Sgt. George Louvitakis
SrA. Christine M. Mora



(photo by SrA. Christine Mora)

RIBBON CUTTING--Brig. Gen Frederick D. Walker, wing commander, and Chief Haskell Jenkins, Westover Fire Department, cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Westover's new fire station. Joining them at ceremony

held during the Jan. UTA were Lt. Col William Garrity, 439th Civil Engineering Squadron commander, Larry Lose, lead firefighter and Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander.

New management asks suggestions to improve Westover's open mess

by TSgt. Tom Allocco

The Consolidated Open Mess is "under new management" of two new managers who have promised improvements in service with the input of club members.

John Filler, a recently retired Air Force NCO, has been named manager, and Sandra Hunt, who previously headed an Army open mess, is assistant manager.

Before coming to Westover, Mr. Filler served three years as NCOIC of the open mess division at Air Force Reserve headquarters, Robbins AFB, Ga. "The Westover community is fortunate to have a fine open mess," Mr. Filler said. "I am looking forward to

making improvements, but I need the help of club members. I would appreciate any input or suggestions from members to improve service," he said.

The new club manager said he is considering scheduling big bands to entertain. He is also planning such activities as "ethnic nights," an Italian week and a contest to find a name for the main lounge.

Ms. Hunt is the wife of a retired Air Force master sergeant. She was manager of the consolidated open mess at the Lexington Blue Grass Army Depot, Lexington, Ky. for three years.

Before that she was operations manager of the Clark Air Base officers club in the Philippines.

Reservists receive commissary cards

Westover reservists are currently receiving commissary privilege cards through their unit orderly rooms. The cards, which became effective on Jan. 1, entitle reservists to 12 days of shopping at commissaries anytime throughout the year.

They will be effective until the end of the year and new privilege cards will be issued annually.

Reservists may shop at commissaries without the card while performing active duty tours.

While on active duty tours, reservists must show their reserve ID card and a copy of orders to enter a commissary.

If dependents do not have dependent ID cards, their names must be typed in the applicable space on the front of the commissary privilege card and certified by the unit commander.



(Photo by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

AWARD WINNERS-- Steven Norton, Christine Tucker, Denise Greenwood, Matthew Eichenlaub, Christopher Tankis, Nancy Prechtl, and Jennifer Ricci received scholarships during the Jan A-UTA.

Chiefs' Council honors scholarship winners

by TSgt. Tom Allocco

The Westover Chiefs' Council presented scholarship awards to eight sons and daughters of Westover reservists at a luncheon at the Consolidated Open Mess on the January "A" UTA.

The \$250 scholarships were awarded to college freshman based on academic achievement. The presentation was the first of what is planned to be an annual scholarship program.

The eight recipients were: Nancy

Prechtl, daughter of SSgt. John Prechtl, Life Support; Denise Greenwood, daughter of SSgt. Edward Greenwood, 439th FMS; Christopher Tankis, son of MSgt. John Tankis 439th OMS; Matthew Eichenlaub, son of SSgt. Matthew Eichenlaub, 439th Communications Squadron; Christine Tucker, daughter of MSgt. James Tucker, 439th FMS; Stephen Norton, son of MSgt. Joseph Norton, 439th AMS; Jennipher Ricci, daughter of MSgt. Richard Ricci; and Bridgette

Sullivan, daughter of TSgt. John Sullivan, 439th ABG.

The scholarships were made possible through Chiefs' Council fundraising activities. The Chiefs Council will begin taking applications in the spring for the next scholarship presentation for which college students in all grade levels will be eligible.

CMSgt. Larry Lose of the Westover Fire Department was scholarship committee chairman.

Air Force Reserve unit vacancy promotion policies changed

WASHINGTON -- Several changes in Air Force Reserve unit vacancy promotion procedures were announced by Air Reserve Personnel Center promotion officials recently.

None of the changes affect the Air National Guard unit vacancy program.

With the changes, unit commanders may now tell officers of unit vacancy promotion nominations. This was previously confidential.

Officers can now write to the unit vacancy board to review and correct

their records according to the ARPC changes.

The requirement for written justification recommending an officer for unit vacancy promotion consideration has also been eliminated. The nomination now requires only two forms--Air Force forms 212 and 777.

Officials are modifying the 777, Reserve Promotion Recommendation Form, and either version can be used for officers nominated for unit vacancy consideration to the fiscal 1991 selection board scheduled for March 5-9.

This board is for line and non-line majors, judge advocate and chaplain captains, majors and lieutenant colonels.

Reserve officers eligible for mandatory selection and also nominated for a unit vacancy need a separate reserve promotion recommendation form for each board. Senior raters must complete the new version of the form for those officers eligible for the mandatory board.

For more information call ARPC at autovon 926-3957

Assistance Fund Campaign kicks off here in May

By SSgt. Kelly R. Jamieson

The Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign, an annual event to the Air Force, kicks off in May with its fund raising to help provide financial support for its' people.

Reservists should remember that the fund is there for them, not only their active-duty counterparts.

Three categories form AFAS. The Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation gives widows and dependents of enlisted members the eligibility to live in one of two retirement communities in Florida. The Air Force Village helps survivors of Air Force officers by providing housing in San Antonio, Texas. The housing consists of 378 apartments and a 68-bed nursing

home. The Air Force Aid Society is 'the official charity of the Air Force.' It's purpose is to provide financial assistance during emergencies to eligible active duty, retired and reserve members on active duty.



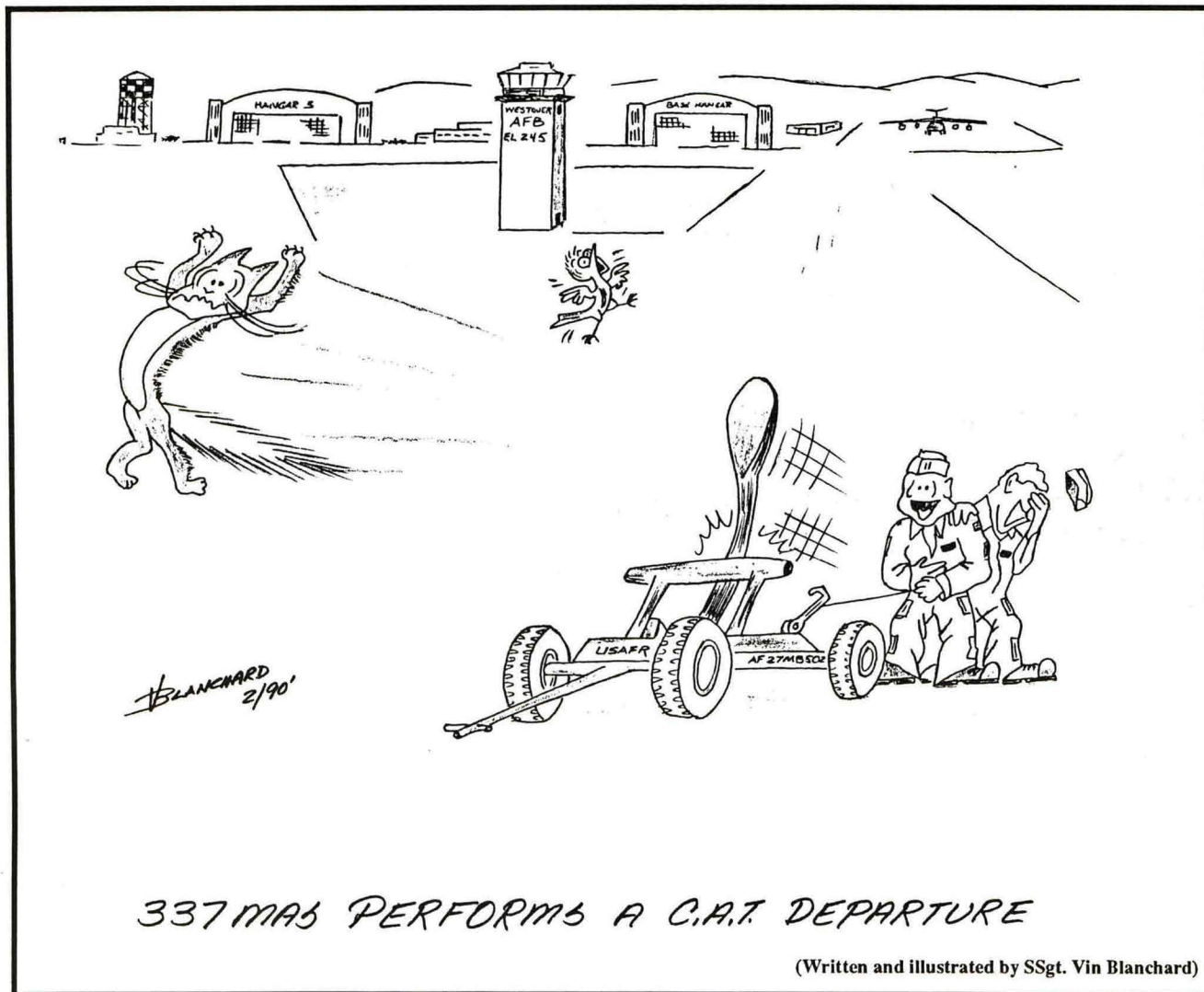
Another important feature of the AFAS is that it provides three types of guaranteed student loans for Air Force (active duty, retirees, National Guard and Reserve) members. The General H. A. "Hap" Arnold student loan is available to dependent children. The Guaranteed Parent Loan Program is to

help parents finance undergraduate education of their dependent children. These two loans alone have helped 63,800 people with access to more than \$141 million in loans since 1979. The General George S. Brown is for the Air Force member, reservist, guard, retiree or spouse, or a widow or widower of a retired member.

Reservists must be on extended active duty during the term of the loan period to qualify or for their dependents to qualify for loans.

Reserve retirees and their dependents qualify for loans when the member retires, not when retirees start drawing other benefits at age 60.

Westover's campaign begins in May and the base point of contact is SSgt. Richard Sweet , ext. 3874.



337 MA6 PERFORMS A C.A.T. DEPARTURE

(Written and illustrated by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)

Unsung reserve plays key role in Panama

Forces of the Army and Air Force Reserve components were deployed to Panama for Operation Just Cause but they were both "unsung and unpublicized," according to the Reserve Officers Association of the United States.

Retired Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Evan L. Hultman, executive director of the Capitol Hill-based organization, said that elements of the Army Reserve and the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard went to Panama "and without the participation of the reserve components the operation could not have taken place as planned."

Twenty guard and reserve air elements included airlift aircraft for troops and supplies, aerial refueling, and aeromedical evacuation. The 919th Special Operations Group from Duke Field, Fla., flew AC-130A gunships in support of the operation and air national guard A-7 fighters flew more than 20 air support sorties.

"Perhaps one reason the reserve component support has gone virtually unnoticed is that it's becoming routine

and necessary for reserve and active forces to integrate during both operations and training," commented General Hultman.

He said that the "successful U.S. military operations of the 80s -- Grenada, Libya, the Persian Gulf and now Panama -- all relied on the participation of reserve forces. The smaller active forces projected for the 90s demand greater reliance on the cost effective reserve forces that have repeatedly proved their capabilities."

According to the Pentagon, as of Jan. 1 Air Reserve units had flown 336 sorties and 1,615 hours in support of the Panama operation. They had transported more than 6,100 personnel and 3,200 tons of cargo.

Air Reserve units from the following Air Force bases participated: Charleston AFB, S.C.; Travis and March AFB's, Calif.; Kelly AFB, Texas; Westover AFB, Mass.; Andrews AFB, Md.; Dover AFB, Del.; McGuire AFB, N.J.; Barksdale AFB, La.; Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., and Keesler AFB, Miss.



PATCH TRADE--A Westover reservist acquired a Panamanian Defense Forces patch during Operation Just Cause

Liberal leave policy urged for new parents

by TSgt. Sandi Michon

As family experts cite the importance of bonding to healthy family relationships, government policy makers are urging supervisors to be more lenient with parental leave requests.

"It is not really a change in regulation, but more a change in philosophy," explained Carol Corner-Dolloff, Chief, Labor and Employee Relations Branch at Westover. "There is no actual leave time added for individuals, but supervisors are encouraged to be generous in granting leave requests to new mothers and fathers of natural or adopted children."

Under current civil service policy (AFR 40-630), a woman is normally entitled to six to eight weeks of sick time per pregnancy. This may be longer if there are complications and, more time is recommended by her physician. She may also extend her leave by using annual leave or leave without pay.

Because new fathers are not physically incapacitated, they may only use annual leave or leave without pay to stay home. Both mothers and fathers must work out leave arran-

gements with their supervisors. The leave transfer program may be available to employees when a medical emergency arises out of a pregnancy or birth.

The Reserve maternal leave policy requires a reservist to be absent from duty for two weeks prior to delivery and four weeks after the delivery. Because of the length of time between UTA assignments, additional excused time is not generally needed, but if required, is at the discretion of the unit commander.

An excused absence policy for new fathers in the reserve program is not clearly defined and is also at the discretion of the unit commander.

"Early bonding for both mothers and fathers is vital" said Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander. "Leave should be allowed wherever possible and sensible to support this process."

"After the birth or adoption of a baby, it is important for family members to spend the necessary time together to bond as a family unit," said Mrs. Corner-Dolloff. "It is essential for supervisors to be sensitive to this special time in their employee's life."



MSgt. Sharon A. Benoit

"Patriot People"

Name: Sharon A. Benoit
Rank:: MSgt.
Age: 33
Address: Moodus, Ct.
Unit: 439 ABG/DPMPT
Position: Chief of Training
Civilian Position: Air Reserve Technician
Favorite Food: Lobster
Years of Service: 10
Favorite Sport: Softball
Favorite Hobby: Hiking
Ideal Vacation: Deserted island
Best Way to Relax: Sunbathing
Preferred Entertainment: Theater
Favorite Celebrity: Bette Midler
Favorite Music: Soft rock
Favorite Book: AFR 50-5
Favorite Color: Black and blue
Favorite Car: Thunderbird
Pet Peeve: Not enough hours in the day
Best Thing About Westover: The people
Worst Thing About Westover: Parking

earning a **PAT** on the back

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 SMSgt. Maurice J. Arcand
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 SMSgt. Kenneth J. Gilbert
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 A1C Deborah E. Foley
 A1C Steven J. Holik
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 AB Joseph L. Daly
 AB Charles W. Kranyak
 AB Vincent R. Pelletier
 AB Alexander W. Walczk



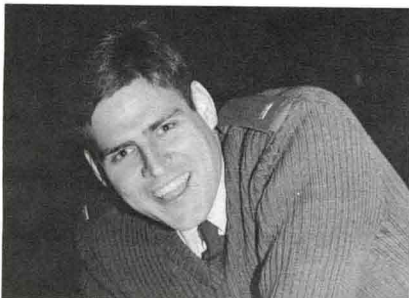


DIGGING OUT-- Snowfighting equipment rolled during most of the January "B" UTA after New England was blanketed by a mid-winter storm. Westover was socked again by sleet and snow during the Feb. "A" UTA, bringing the season's snowfall to more than 28 inches. (photos by SSgt. Vin Blanchard)



PATRIOT

Coming in March: Three generations of Westovers



Published monthly for Patriots like 2nd Lt. Timothy J. Flynn of Trumbull, Ct. and 2311 members of the 439th MAW at Westover AFB.

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