

# Mauzaka promoted, named Wing vice commander

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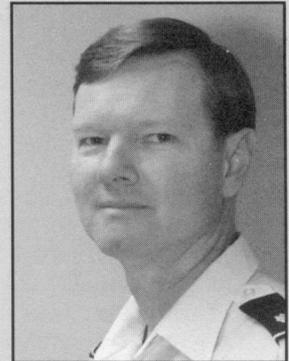
Col. Thomas Mauzaka, a Gulf War veteran, former C-130 navigator and flight commander, has been appointed 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing vice commander. The new vice commander also pinned on eagles in a promotion ceremony in April. Mauzaka became vice commander following four years as commander of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight to succeed retiring Col. Merrill Cross.

A 1973 graduate of Southern Connecticut State University, Mauzaka was commissioned in 1974 following Officer Training School at Lackland AFB, Texas. Following combat crew training, he served on active duty from 1975-1981 as a C-130E navigator and as an instructor/flight examiner at Little Rock, AFB, Ark.

Mauzaka joined the Air Force Reserve in 1982, and came to Westover as a C-130 instructor/flight examiner with the 337<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Squadron, predecessor of the 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. As

*"This is a great opportunity to continue working with the Westover people I have known for so many years,"*

*-Col. Thomas Mauzaka*



a master navigator, he flew more than 4,000 hours in C-130 E/H aircraft. Following six years service as an instructor/flight examiner, he was appointed chief of the Westover Command Post.

Before assuming command of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight, he served as the unit's operations officer from 1990 to 1996. During that period, he and other 439<sup>th</sup> ALCF members earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptional performance.

Mauzaka served on active duty when the 439<sup>th</sup> AW was activated during the Gulf War from 1990 to 1991. He was flight operations officer when the flight conducted airlift operations at King Khalid Military City airfield in northern Saudi Arabia from March to May 1991 following the liberation of Kuwait. Their duties included coordinating the airlift home of returning American troops and equipment following Desert Storm hostilities.

In 1999, Mauzaka earned honors as an outstanding Air War College graduate. Mauzaka resides in Strong, Maine with his wife, Pam.



**PINNING ON THE EAGLES** — Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander, pins on Col. Tom Mauzaka's eagles, in March, while wife Pam looks on.

## Westover wing named tops in Air Force Reserve

By Gordon A. Newell

The 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, is the 1999 Air Force Reserve winner of the Lt. Gen. Malcolm B. Armstrong Trophy which is awarded annually by 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force which is Westover's higher command in time of mobility.

The awarded is named after Lt. Gen. Armstrong, who during his tenure as 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force Commander, wanted to annually recognize the outstanding active duty, Reserve and National Guard wings that would come under his command during

war time. The trophy was put into place in 1996 and has been given out each year since.

"This award recognizes the significant contributions by every man and woman, Reservist, Air Reserve Technician and civilian serving in our wing," said Col. Martin M. Mazick, commander of the 439<sup>th</sup>.

"It also recognizes the support of our families and employers, without which, we cannot perform this mission.

"The recognition of our peacetime

accomplishments and wartime readiness is truly gratifying coming from the active duty organization we would work for upon mobilization. We should all be proud for our hard work has been recognized," he said.

The Most Outstanding Active Duty unit is the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from Charleston, S.C. while the top National Guard unit is the 171<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.