

C-160 Transall adds French flair in first New England visit

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Airshow visitors were introduced to an aircraft internationally esteemed but rarely seen in New England when the French Air Force brought its C-160 Transall cargo aircraft.

The two-engine airplane with red, white and green circular markings is similar to the C-123 in appearance and performance. Like the C-130, the Transall is a versatile veteran from the 1960s and a workhorse in numerous air forces, including French, German, Turkish and South African.

The French aircrew was new to Westover but not to the 439th Airlift Wing. Several of them competed with their Transall in the Air Mobility Rodeo 2000 at Pope AFB in May. Friendly encounters with our C-5 team led to an exchange of communication with the French Ministry of Defense and an airshow invitation.

The aircrew included Johann Adjadj, a graduate of a two-year officer's academy in Toulouse with the rank of "aspirant," indicating that he is a candidate for the equivalent of second lieutenant. Adjadj serves as a navigator in a four-member crew in which flight engineer and loadmaster duties are combined in one position.

"I chose this airplane. I love it because of the variety of tactical missions," Adjadj said. He recently served a two-month humanitarian tour in the former French colony of Chad airdropping food and medicine and transporting patients.

Adjadj expects to see more such missions as the French, like other NATO militaries, expand their deployment capabilities. The C-160 can carry 55 paratroopers or up to 14 tons of cargo at a maximum speed of 319 mph and be aerial re-fueled in its role in

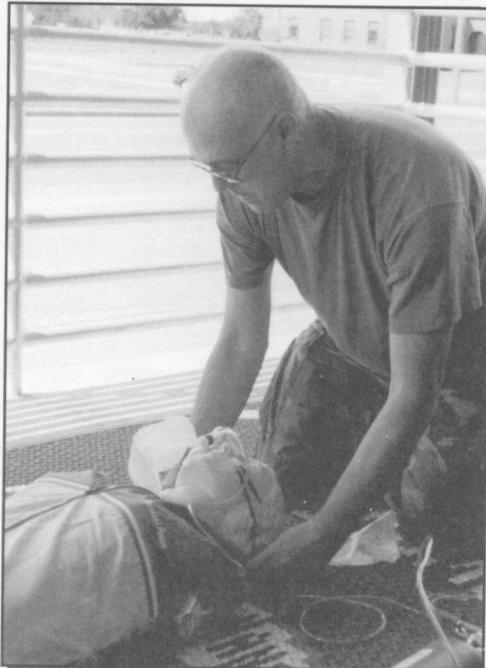
the country's rapid deployment Force Aeriennne de Projection. Two Rolls Royce MK22 turboprops power the Transall.

Crew commander Commandant (Major) Jean-Luc Rolland flew night missions with Americans and German NATO forces airlifting food and medicine to Bosnians besieged by Serbs in 1993. His experiences range from dropping Legion Etrangere French Foreign Legion paratroopers in Corsica to airlifting food to Kurds in Iraq.

Rolland said the Transall, which entered the French Air Force in 1967, is scheduled to be replaced in about six years by the European A400M, a four-engine tactical aircraft larger than the Hercules.

Patriot Puns

by MSgt. W.C. Pope



RESCUE PRACTICE — TSgt. Russell Shaw, 439th AES medical technician, applies an oxygen mask and nasal canula to a training dummy.

Sixteen med techs pass EMT course

Article and photo by Capt. James Bishop

They came, they saw, they patched up bullet wounds.

During a 17-day intensive course, 16 technicians from Westover's three medical squadrons studied emergency medicine—military style—and earned their National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician certification.

The training satisfies a new requirement that all medical technicians be EMT certified by August 2002, according to Maj. Adele Ainsburg, acting chief of staff development and flight nurse at the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. Ainsburg redesigned the course to make the required 110 classroom hours more in synch with reservists' schedules.

Students go to class Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday of their UTA weekend, removing them from their units during classes. This way, they spend their annual tour becoming certified, Ainsburg said.

From July 7-23, students studied emergency care for the sick and injured, covering everything from how to rescue a choking person to managing cardiac arrest patients and treating gunshot wounds.

The 16 students shared four instructors, for a "phenomenal" four to one student-instructor ratio, she said.

The course is tough, Ainsburg said. For their first homework assignment, students read seven chapters, and answered 208 workbook questions.

At the end of the course, students took the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Examination for certification—a 150-question, three hour test based on the 110 hour curriculum.

The course will run through July 2002, and beyond, if needed, until all the medical technicians are EMT certified.

Ainsburg hopes to run four more EMT-certification programs in the next two years. She said other Westover military members could take the course with their supervisor's approval.