



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS

Vol. II, No. 3

April, 1975



WESTOVER'S FIRE FIGHTERS DEMONSTRATE their expertise and modern equipment to 300 visiting colleagues on March 8, 1975, as a pool of contaminated fuel is quickly extinguished. The exercise was part of an all-day orientation intended to interest and recruit neighboring firefighters into the 439th and the 901st CEFlt, designated as a fire fighting unit.

Wing Commander's Message



By Col. Billy M. Knowles

In all my years of service, active and reserve, I cannot recall any group of people more responsive or more mission oriented than you are. That is not to say that there are not still some airmen, noncommissioned officers and officers who have yet to get-it-all-together. And generally, this is due to deficiencies in communication, guidance and direction. So it is to this matter we address this letter.

Our overall objective is to develop and maintain a high state of readiness to meet any contingency for which proper authority has declared a need; either during premobilization (without recall) or when mobilized (recalled). Within that general objective is the charge to

STARS SHINE ON 901st PERSONNEL

Donald P. Dressler, M.D., and Thomas A. Diab are two of the Air Force's newest brigadier generals. Both, former officers with the now deactivated 901st TAG, received official notification of their promotion by Congress on March 7, 1975.

General Diab has served in a variety of positions including commander of the 901st and the 731st TAS. He also was the 94th TAW's operations officer. Under his command, the 901st was named the outstanding flying reserve group within MAC in Nov. 1972.

Presently General Diab is mobilization assistant to the commander of the 21st AD, Hancock Field, N.Y.

General Dressler has recently been commuting to Scott AFB, Ill. to serve as mobilization assistant to MAC's surgeon general. He is also the national surgeon for the ROA. During his tenure at Hanscom, General Dressler commanded the 901st TAC Clinic which was named the Outstanding AFRES Clinic in 1972.

As a civilian, General Diab lives in Lincoln, Mass., where he is president of Diab Enterprises.

When not in blues, Dr. Dressler maintains a private medical practice and directs a Harvard University research team at Cambridge's Youville Hospital.

comply in the most cost-effective manner. Here at Westover we must also operate this base in similar fashion — mission capable and economically. Additionally, we are charged by the President, Congress and the Department of Defense to accomplish several other objectives:

- Represent and provide to the civilian sector an acceptable image that encourages their understanding and support for an adequate National Defense.
- Engage energetically in meaningful community service activities.
- Man all units to the authorized strength levels.
- Utilize reserve resources routinely in support of CINCSOUTH (Panama), active Army jump training at Ft. Devens and Ft. Benning, SAC satellite basing support, etc., etc., etc.

To meet objectives and responsibilities requires us to concentrate upon strong unit organizational discipline/structures and to administer to our members. Such goals require extensive staff actions, establishment of agencies/councils/committees/task working groups, and insistence upon diligent involvement by more and more noncommissioned officers (NCOs) and officers.

As mentioned in a previous letter, I recognize your sacrifices and that of your families. If you sometimes wonder if it is all worthwhile, I would reassure you it is and someday your commitment will be recognized and appreciated by all those who have not yet gotten the word. This whole wing and base affair here at Westover has been described as a "magnificent experiment" exemplifying the Total Force Policy and the Citizen Soldier philosophy — Let us prove it works.

1975 UTA SCHEDULE

April 12, 13
 May 17, 18
 June 14, 15
 July 12, 13
 August 9, 10
 September 13, 14
 October 18, 19
 November 8, 9
 December 13, 14

SUMMER ENCAMPMENT

20 September . . . 4 October

THE PATRIOT is an Official Class II U.S. Air Force newspaper published monthly for the personnel of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing (AFRES) at Westover AFB, MA 01022. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Air Force.

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YOUR LIFE IS OUR BUSINESS

While the 439th and its predecessor units continue to establish Air Force standards for safe flying, the remote possibility of an unavoidable accident exists. Helping to eliminate loss of life or reduce further injury to the unit's aircrews and passengers due to such a catastrophe are the 439th aircrew life support personnel.

Routinely, and with little fanfare, they continue to maintain the necessary equipment and offer the required survival instruction. In doing so, they prepare for the worst, yet always hope that their expertise and efforts will never be called upon.

The aircrew life support section is involved in three primary areas; flotation, flight line section, and helmet and oxygen mask section. As custodians for all life support equipment, the personnel maintain and inspect all oxygen masks, parachutes, helmets, life preservers, and one-man survival kits.

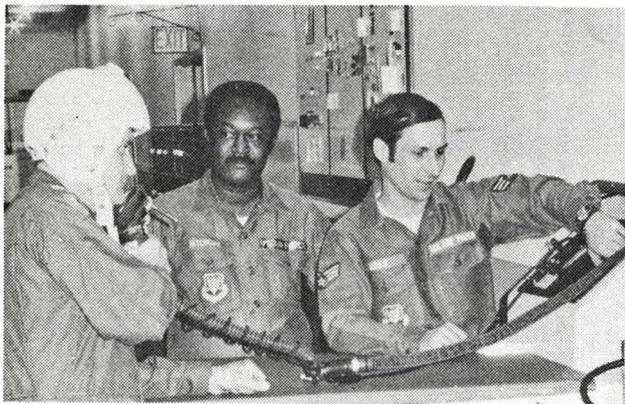
For example, each survival kit is periodically scrutinized for a life raft, radio, mirror, clothing, various types of distress signals, day and night flares, compass, whistle, knives, rations, drinking water, and a blanket.

Each helmet is also inspected every 30 days by the life support personnel. Needed repairs are completed within the section. New helmets are shipped to Westover disassembled. Therefore, it is their additional responsibility to build each one from the shell up and inspect it before it is put into use.

The section also insures that the appropriate life support equipment is on board each aircraft before take off.

Primary Responsibility: Education

The majority of the time for the two ARTs, six reservists and three civilians who comprise the section is spent in aircrew survival training and briefings. Crews from the aerial port squadrons, 74th AES, the 731st and



A PREFLIGHT TEST OF ALL AIRCREWS' HELMETS is standing operating procedure. Maj. Robert Motley's mask is checked for proper oxygen flow and communications capabilities by (left to right) TSgt. Hitchcock and Sgt. Ross.

337th, all receive on-going classes and demonstrations in all aspects of emergency procedures, survival techniques and rescue procedures. Each year, ten hours of instruction and water survival training are provided at Westfield's Hampton Ponds. The crews are also taught the proper parachuting technique and receive hanging harness training as well.

The life support personnel are under the supervision of TSgt. Raymond Knox and include: TSgt. Raymond Hitchcock; SSGts. John Sambor and John Prechl; Sgts. Michael Cahill, Edwin Palmer and Edward Ross; Amn. George (DJ) DeJesus, and Messrs. Jeremiah Reardon, base life support officer, Herbert Dyson and Larry Septrick. Liaison is provided by Maj. Robert Motley, 337th TAS, and Capts. Mark Rafferty, wing life support officer, and Edward Starzyk, 731st TAS. SMSgt. Guy Iannuzo acts as the wing life support superintendent.

Working Together

In addition to sharing common duties and responsibilities, the life support personnel also share a common desire. "While our 130s and 123s have flown many hours safely, it is our goal to keep the aircrews alert and prepared at all times," according to Sergeant Ross. "Sometimes the crews, accustomed to the higher and faster flying jet fighters, liken our planes to more traditional, commercial aircraft and mistakenly think that the possibility of an air disaster is not as great, or the consequences not as grave. We must be on guard at all times to insure that we, the life support personnel, and every member of every aircrew, constantly take our job very, very seriously."

This mutual objective of the life support team is mirrored in the large, hand-painted sign prominently displayed in the section's aircrew locker area. "The air, like the sea, is not in itself inherently dangerous, but it is terribly unforgiving to those who are careless and prone to make mistakes."



CONSTANT, CAREFUL CHECKING of equipment receives the undivided attention of (left to right) Sgt. Sambor, Sgt. Cahill, and SSGt. Prechl.



"NEXT TIME — BLINDFOLDED" ... SSgt. James Nims (right) explains each part of an M-16 to fellow security policemen ATC Mark Doyle and Sgt. Ronald L. Berkenpas.



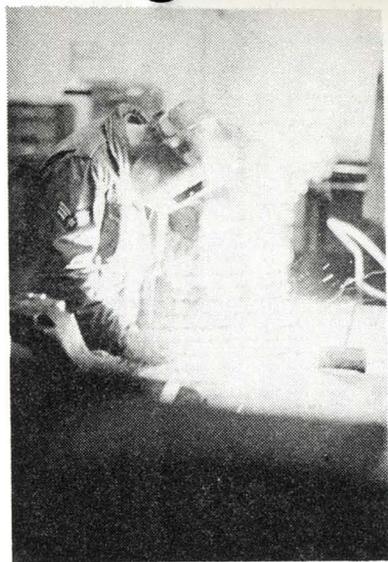
OPEN WIDE ... "orders" ATC Donna Schroeder to Sgt. John Kozak during dental examination.



SUPPLY DISCIPLINE TRAINING is given a thorough briefing by Maj. Clarence E. Smith, Jr., the 439th's supply management staff officer. When he returns to his full-time job at Hanscom AFB, Major Smith becomes the deputy chief of staff for supply.



SIGNING ON THE DOTTED LINE ... SSgt. John Sullivan reenlists under the supervision of MSgt. Edward Sierzego, NCOIC of reenlistments and separations (seated). SSgt. George Yiannacopoulos watches the ceremony.



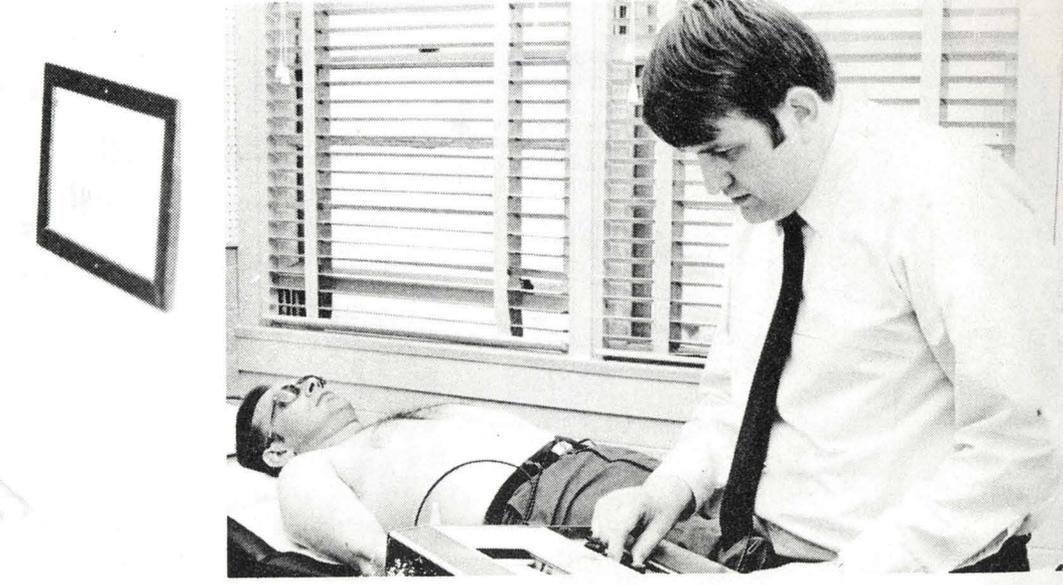
UNDER ALL THE PROTECTIVE GEAR is welder Sgt. Allen "Skip" Reed, 439 CAM.



MAESTRO OF THE KEYBOARD ... Quality control documents are expeditiously processed by SSgt. LaVerne Cholewa, 439 CBPO.



TESTING ... ONE, TWO ... SSgts. Charles Watts and Donald Mofford check out 905th Comm. Flt. radio equipment.



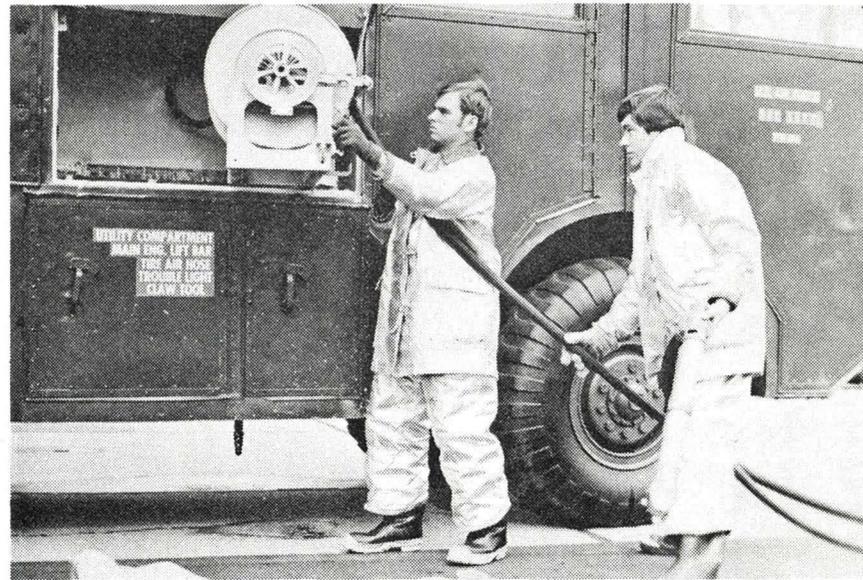
LAYING DOWN ON THE JOB ... Sgt. Joseph Samson gets a routine E.K.G. from 439th Tac. Hosp. technician SSgt. George Kudla.

DOING THEIR "THING"

To the inexperienced observer, the March UTA might have appeared to be one of minimal activity and accomplishment for 439th personnel. No ORIs, no mobilization exercises, no open house. "The whole weekend is a waste of everyone's time, and taxpayer's money."

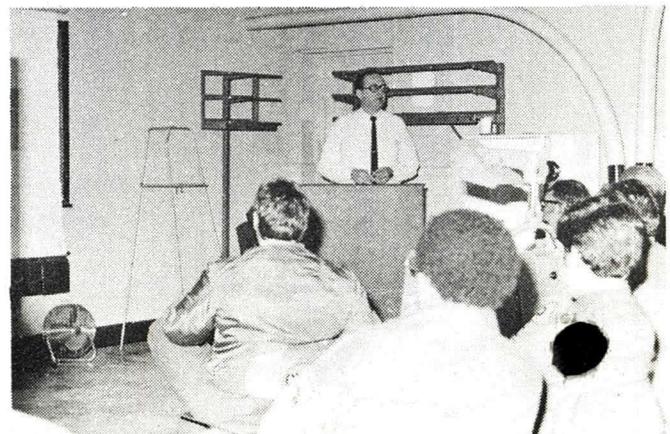
One has only to walk through some of the various shops and offices located on base and realize how inaccurate this initial impression is. Quietly and yet efficiently, reservists continue to train and prepare for the future. (Photos by Sgt. James Langley)

THE PATRIOT



A TRANSCEIVER's circuitry. "HELLO RICKENBACKER" ... SSgts. John Swope (left) and Steven Jellen, 905th CAM, establish a drill circuit on a transceiver between Westover and the Ohio AFB.

FIREFIGHTERS Donald Elliot and Douglas Say get wound up in their work as hose is returned after a successful drill.



April 1975

"NEXT TIME — BLINDFOLDED" ... SSgt. James Nims (right) trains each part of an M-16 to fellow security policemen AIC Mark Doyle and Sgt. Ronald L. Barkman.

OPEN WIDE ... "orders" AIC Donna Schroeder to Sgt. John Kozak during dental examination.

SUPPLY DISCIPLINE TRAINING is given a thorough briefing by Maj. Clarence E. Smith, Jr., the 439th's supply manager.

439TH BIDS FAREWELL TO KEHOES

After 16 years, the portion of his distinguished career as an air reserve technician came to a close for Col. James W. Kehoe with his retirement in March. In honor of Col. and Mrs. Kehoe and their many accomplishments, a few hundred of their closest friends paid tribute to the couple at a gala reception held at the consolidated open mess on March 8, 1975.

In addition to the many offers of congratulations and well wishes received throughout the evening, the Kehoes were the beneficiaries of many gifts of appreciation. 439th commander, Col. Billy M. Knowles, led off the formal festivities with words of praise of Colonel Kehoe's demonstrated leadership and expertise and presented him a plaque symbolizing the latter's illustrious career.

Ms. Mary O'Connell, secretary to the commander, followed and gave the couple an album filled with photos of 439th personnel and of the base. Lt. Col. John J. Douches, Jr., representing the wing, recognized the charm of Mrs. Kehoe and presented her a silver brooch engraved with the 439th emblem as a remembrance of the evening.

A silver punch set was given to the retirees on behalf of the 337th TAS by Maj. Robert G. McCoy. Capt. Ronald T. Frederickson of Aircraft Maintenance and Maj. Edward Kosakoski, 74th AES, each presented handsome pewter mugs from their units. The 439th Combat Support Group, through their dining hall, had two large cakes decorated to offer good wishes.

The memorable activities served to highlight Colonel Kehoe's prestigious Air Force record. A veteran of World War II, Colonel Kehoe was a pilot in the European Theater with the Troop Carrier Command, flying resupply missions to partisans in Northern Italy and Yugoslavia in 1944 and 1945.

After the war, Colonel Kehoe flew C-47s with the Air Transport Command and later served with the 76th Troop Carrier Squadron in Miami. He became an ART in 1959 with the 915th MAG at Homestead AFB, Florida, and eventually became the unit's deputy commander for operations.

In 1970, Colonel Kehoe was selected as the chief of the operations division for Eastern AFRR. A year later, he became the commander of the 918th MAG at Dobbins AFB before assuming command of the 905th TAG at Westover in Aug. 1972. With the 439th formation in April, 1974, Colonel Kehoe was named its first commander.

He is the recipient of numerous decorations including the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the European Theater Medal with five battle stars, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

The Kehoes plan to settle in Marietta, Georgia. Although retired from the ART program, Col. Kehoe will continue his AFRES affiliations.



PAYING A HOUSE CALL TO OLD FRIENDS ... Newly promoted Brig. Gen. Donald P. Dressler, M.D., joined the festivities at the Kehoe reception and in turn received the hearty congratulations of all those present, including Col. Alan N. Fleckner, M.D. (right), commander of the 439 Tac. Hosp.



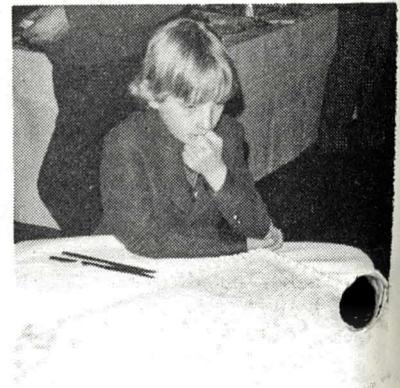
Col and Mrs. James Kehoe admire a punch bowl presented on behalf of the 337th TAS by Maj. Robert G. McCoy. The gift was one of many received by the couple during their retirement party.



ALL EYES TURN RIGHT as the color guard from Springfield Technical Community College enters the ballroom. Giving rapt attention to the sharp troops are Capt. George Caldwell, wing logistics officer, Colonel and Mrs. Kehoe, and Mary A. O'Connell, secretary to the wing commander.

(Photos by TSgt Lawrence H. Lentz and Betty O'Connell)

WHEN CAN I HAVE SOME? James F. MacDonald, eight-year old son of Capt. and Mrs. Gerard H. MacDonald, 731st TAS, couldn't understand why nobody was cutting the cake. The roving photographer took knife in hand and did it.



COMMUNICATING



By Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson
Commander, 439th CSG

"Communication Gap" — when you don't understand what's going on.

"Lack of Communication" — when you don't always know what's going on.

"Share" — Webster's description (archaic) of the word "communicate."

It's not my intention to preach; the chaplains do it better. Besides, it's in their job description. Instead, I'd like to comment on the fine progress we've made toward better communication here at Westover.

Admittedly, we've all gone through a trying period of adjustment in the past year and a half. Most of us have changed jobs, moved from another base, found ourselves working for another boss, or changed our working hours. But now I feel we're finally starting to settle in. Hopefully every person assigned to or working at Westover knows where he or she fits in the scheme of things.

Getting our thoughts or desires across isn't always easy. You know what you mean, but does the individual you're trying to communicate with know? Perhaps you've heard the story of the parents who told their children to wash the dishes. On checking the kitchen later, they were frustrated to see the silverware and pans lying dirty on the counter. When queried as to why they didn't wash these utensils too, the children said, "But you only told us to wash the dishes."

Farfetched? Perhaps. But remember this story when you're communicating with your family, friends, or fellow workers. And this brings me around again to my belief that we are communicating better. As we practice better communication, we find our avenues of co-operation improving. We're all here to work for a common purpose — the readiness posture of the United States. I find great pleasure in seeing us developing each day into a closely-knit organization.

First Lieutenant becomes C-5 Commander

DOVER AFB, Del. (AFNS) — 1st Lt. William Drawbaugh, a reservist, has become the first man below the rank of captain to be aircraft commander of a C-5 Galaxy, according to operations officials at 21st and 22nd Air Forces. The Lieutenant is a member of the 512th Military Airlift Wing (Associate) at Dover AFB and flies with the 326th Military Airlift Squadron.

* * *

UTILITY ENERGY CONSERVATION ... 439CSG announced as winner in AFRES by exceeding 15% goal established by DOD to conserve utilities.

* * *

SMSgt. David R. Johnson, 905 Comm Flt., has been placed on active duty for 139 days at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. While assigned to the Southern Communications Area's office of the assistant to the commander for reserve affairs, he will be working on standardization of ANG and AFRES communications flights. Sgt. Johnson will return to Westover in May.

* * *

ARMED FORCES DAY will be celebrated with an open house at Westover on May 17.

VA INTEREST RATES DROP

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The maximum interest rate on GI home loans was reduced from 8.5 to 8 per cent effective March 3, the Veterans Administration has announced.

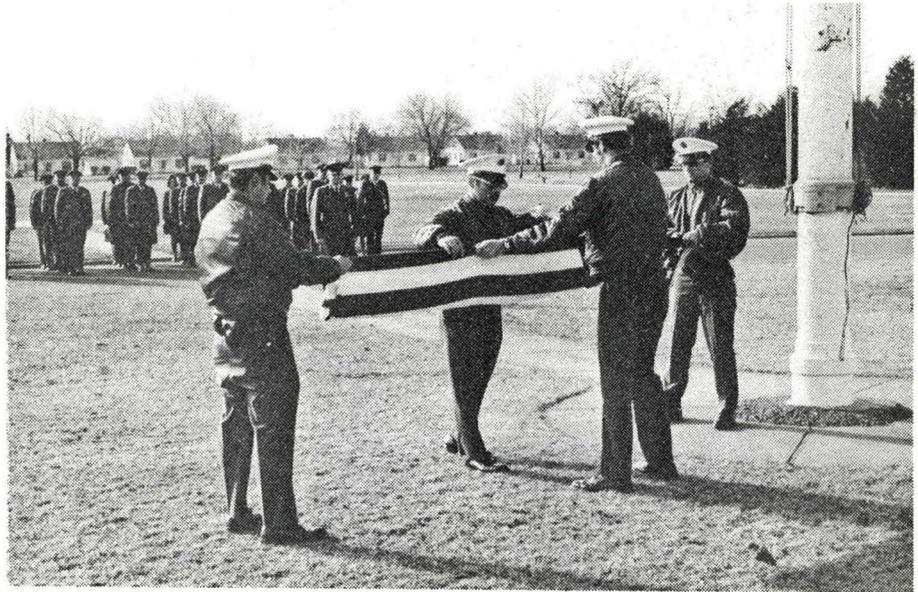
Officials said an increased supply of mortgage money made possible the latest reduction which was agreed upon jointly with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The new rate also applies to FHA home loans.

The half-per cent decrease could mean mortgage payment savings of over \$10 monthly, amounting to \$3,800 over the 30-year life of a loan to a veteran buying a home with a \$30,000 GI loan.



A COUPLE OF KUDOS ... The 731st TAS was the recent recipient of two special awards. The squadron received TAC's unit achievement award for its contribution to the command's total mission for the period from Oct. 1, 1973 through Sept. 30, 1974. The 731st was also recognized by AFRES for its 50,000 hours of accident-free flying during a 13-year period between 1957 and 1970. Col. James W. Kehoe (left) and 731st commander, Lt. Col. Charles R. Parrott, proudly display their newly acquired plaque and citation.

APPROPRIATE HONORS TO OLD GLORY are paid by a flight from the 439th during the March 8 retreat. Members of the 439th CSG were the first to stand in formation while Sergeants Berkenpas, Gohra, Maligno and Roberto, 439th security police, lower and fold the flag.



WESTOVER FIRE DEPT. GUESTS are greeted by Colonel Knowles. Seated with him at the head table are 1st Lt. (CH) Allison P. Gregory, Jr., Catholic chaplain, Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson, base commander, SSgt. William Rose, 439th recruiter, and Maj. Maurice E. Bilo-deau, commander of the 901st CEFlt.

DOD-318

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