



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS

Vol. II, No. 11

December 1975

President Visits Westover

President Gerald R. Ford, traveling on Air Force One, landed and after a speaking engagement in Springfield, took off from Westover Air Force Base on Friday, Nov. 7.

The President arrived at 10:45 a.m. and was greeted by local dignitaries including Springfield Mayor William Sullivan and Edward Ziemba, Chicopee's mayor. Col. Billy M. Knowles, 439th TAW commander and Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson, base commander, also welcomed the Commander-in-Chief. A special hello was offered by Miss Lisa Chrabasz of Ware, this year's Little Miss Massachusetts, with a big hug and kiss. Mr. Ford returned the sign of affection.

Because of the tighter than normal security measures recently put into effect by the Secret Service, the public was not invited to the base. However, base personnel, bands from Chicopee Comprehensive and Chicopee High Schools, and students from on-base schools, provided a musical and enthusiastic welcome.

Mr. Ford was accompanied by U. S. Representatives Silvio O. Conte and Margaret Heckler, and U. S. Ambassador to Italy John A. Volpe, former Massachusetts governor.

During brief ceremonies near the President's plane, Mrs. Beatrice Becker and Mr. Joseph Cotton, representing the Wilbraham Bicentennial Committee, presented Westover's distinguished visitor with a bicentennial plate featuring a reproduction of Thomas Lowell's painting of oxen pulling a cannon over the Knox Trail during the Revolutionary War. The President was also introduced to Mr. William A. Franks, Jr., Western Bank and Trust Company president. The two share an uncanny resemblance.

Later, the President walked over to the roped off spectators to personally say hello and return their greetings. Crowd estimates ranged from 1500 to 3000 and included a ten foot prominently displayed sign, "Welcome President Ford to Chicopee." A report in early news accounts, claiming that President Ford was accidentally hit on the head by a small American flag affectionately

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GREETING THE PRESIDENT are (from left) Base Commander Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson, Chicopee Mayor Edward J. Ziemba, Springfield Mayor William Sullivan and Lisa Chrabasz, Little Miss Massachusetts. To the President's right is Wing Commander Col. Billy M. Knowles. Descending Westover's ramp immediately behind a presidential look-alike are Ambassador John A. Volpe and Congressman Silvio O. Conte.

BX Begins Holiday Shopping, New Hours

Even though the unseasonably warm temperature was in the mid-seventies and balmy spring-like breezes were blowing during the first days of November, it was "beginning to look a lot like Christmas" at the Westover Base Exchange (BX).

The facility began to stock numerous gift items in anticipation of the annual Christmas rush. During the November UTA, the store also held a pre-holiday sidewalk sale.

The exchange primarily serves active duty and retired personnel and their dependents during the month. Due to the influx of reservists it stays packed on weekends. Therefore, the BX will now remain open an additional one and one-half hours, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. To further serve reservists, Toyland and the gas station, located next to the commissary on First Avenue, are now open on Sundays from 11 to 5.

"Stereos, appliances and a complete line of gift items will be offered as part of the "sleigh full of gifts" sale welcoming the Christmas Season," said Mr. Wayne Henry, base exchange manager.

"We welcome and appreciate all our customers. If any shoppers have a problem, they should feel free to consult with any of the 50 sales people, one of my assistants, or with me," he added.

The BX, Toyland, and the gas station are open from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. All three are closed Mondays.

Medical Benefits Clarified

Although reservists report to Westover for UTAs, mandays and two week encampments, some might not realize that these differences in duty status affect the type of medical benefits and attention offered to them by the Air Force and the 439th Tactical Hospital in particular.

First in need of clarification is the difference between active and inactive duty. The former includes mandays and the two week encampment while the latter concerns UTA weekends.

While on active duty, reservists are eligible for full medical care and benefits. This includes all types of treatment and if necessary, hospitalization.

Conversely, during a UTA, reservists cannot receive routine medical treatment. The government is responsible only for treating injuries incurred in the line of duty. The government will not pay for injuries received while travelling to and from UTAs, nor will it pay for illnesses incurred during the UTA unless directly related to reserve occupation in the line of duty.

The base physicians may not prescribe routine medications on UTAs.

Hospital personnel, according to their commander, Col. Alan Fleckner, M.D., welcome the inquiries of those seeking further clarification and information. "Every reservist should understand his rights and benefits. Unfortunately, an occasion could arise in which this knowledge could be vital."

THINK "200"

Really Good Neighbors

Continuing their good community relations, military and civilian personnel at Westover contributed \$6,382 to the Chicopee Combined Federal Campaign this year. This figure which includes donations and pledges received base wide, constitutes a 25% increase over last year's donations.

A well done to us!!

Proving that it isn't a one-way street, two members of the Chicopee Fire Department are cementing their own community relations. Capt. Richard Crevier and fire medic Gerry Roy are conducting classes in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for members of the 1917 Communications Sq. and Det. 5, 1st Aerospace Communications Group at this base. Air Force personnel working with high voltage are required to have this training annually.

Captain Crevier is an American Heart Association certified instructor, and Roy is a registered emergency medical technician assigned to the Chicopee Fire Dept. ambulance. Both individuals perform this service voluntarily and on their own time.

A well done to them!!

UTA SCHEDULE

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 13 - 14 Dec. | 13 - 14 Aug. (Fri-one period 1900-2300) |
| 10 - 11 Jan. | 15 - 29 Aug. TWO WEEK ENCAMPMENT |
| 7 - 8 Feb. | 10 Sept. (Fri-one period 1900-2300) |
| 13 - 14 Mar. | 11 - 12 Sept. |
| 10 - 11 Apr. | 16 - 17 Oct. |
| 15 - 16 May | 13 - 14 Nov. |
| 12 - 13 Jun. | 11 - 12 Dec. |
| 10 - 11 July | |

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| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Col. Billy M. Knowles | Commander, 439th TAW |
| Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson | Base Commander |
| Betty O'Connell | Base Information Officer |
| Maj. Robert D. Hafner | Wing Information Officers |
| Maj. Rudolph G. DiLuzio | |
| TSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz | Patriot Editor |
| TSgt. Steven P. Vandermark | Patriot Staff |
| A1C Deborah A. Studebaker | |
| Amn. Dean M. Mauro | |
| SSgt. Robin Ketcherside | Photographers |
| Sgt. Barry W. Brightman | |
| Sgt. James Langley | |



BASE PERSONNEL AND CHICOPEE STUDENTS await the President's arrival.

(Photo by Tom Hill)

PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE passes Base Operations.



President Visits Westover

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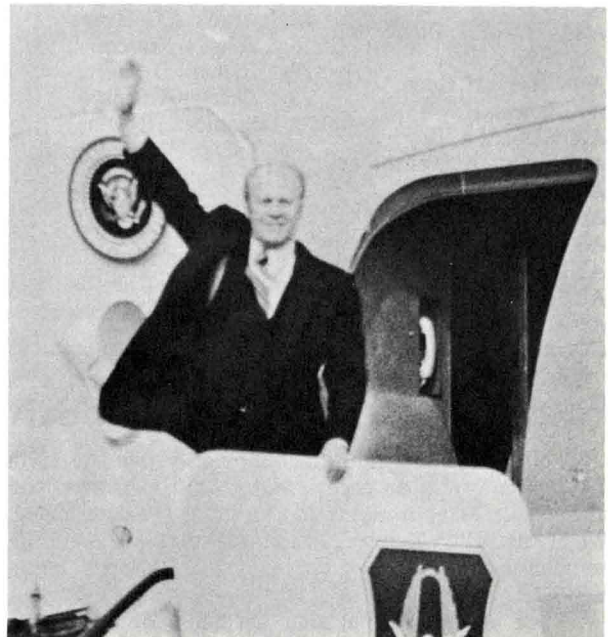
waved by a youngster in the crowd, was later denied by a White House spokesman.

Afterwards, the Presidential party motorcaded to Bay State West in Springfield where Mr. Ford spoke at a closed door session of the New England Society of Newspaper Editors.

Upon returning to Westover, the President briefly answered questions posed by local news media representatives. He felt that the economy was "getting stronger and healthier I think we'll find a downward trend in unemployment in Rhode Island and in Massachusetts." Mr. Ford also praised Secretary of State Henry Kissinger but felt that "other voices have to contribute to the recommendations that come to me and those will be heard as well." To another query, he declined to speculate on a possible 1976 running mate.

Leaving Westover for Boston, Mr. Ford next addressed the 51st session of the New England Council for Economic Development, met with the six New England governors and attended a series of Republican fund raising events.

Mr. Ford is not the first chief executive to visit Westover. President Eisenhower in 1953 and Nixon in 1973 made similar journeys.



(Photo by SSgt. Vincent L. Marulli.)

A PRESIDENTIAL WAVE AND SMILE is given to those greeting Mr. Ford.

**ENLISTED**

MSgt. James E. Hughes
 TSgt. Roger J. Brogis
 TSgt. Alan F. Harrington
 SSgt. William A. Batchelder
 SSgt. Steven Q. Bethke
 SSgt. William A. Bowles
 SSgt. Francis S. Doucette
 SSgt. Leonard P. Marchese
 SSgt. William J. McGuirk
 SSgt. John E. Mihalchick
 SSgt. Edward H. Morris
 SSgt. Donald E. Poudrier
 SSgt. Robert G. Redfern
 Sgt. Kenneth N. Abbott
 Sgt. Daniel M. Askew
 Sgt. Barbara A. Bender
 Sgt. Daniel A. Cheney
 Sgt. Richard C. Deile
 Sgt. Albert J. Drenthe
 Sgt. John A. Hoerner
 Sgt. Walter W. LaGasse
 Sgt. John R. Lininger
 Sgt. Leonard H. Malinoski
 Sgt. Lawrence E. Parker
 Sgt. Stella L. Renta
 Sgt. Allen J. Roy
 A1C Robert E. Anderson Jr.
 A1C Vincent W. Boyle
 A1C Ron J. Etter
 A1C Joseph H. Goodrow Jr.
 A1C Jane L. Hesse
 A1C Richard A. Roy
 A1C Danuta W. Weismiller
 AMN Pearl J. Butler
 AB Daniel P. Breen
 AB Paula M. Breyette
 AB Louis A. Brodeur
 AB Scott D. Butler
 AB Alen F. Cortis

AB Doreen H. Fydenkevez
 AB Joan M. Grant
 AB Nancy G. Hathaway
 AB James R. Holmes
 AB Debra R. Huckins
 AB Rosemarie C. Jansen
 AB Louise A. Kegler
 AB Richard A. Lotko
 AB Robert C. McLaughlin
 AB Theresa A. Morrison
 AB Karen M. Peery
 AB Francis E. Pettijohn
 AB Michael A. Pose
 AB Mark A. Schmitter
 AB Joseph G. Virgilio
 AB Debra A. Walsh
 AB Mary Beth Wislocki
 AB Kathleen M. Wood
 AB Reba F. Yates

REENLISTED

TSgt. Donald H. Chase
 TSgt. Conrad F. Marchand
 TSgt. James J. Marrone
 TSgt. John Valentine Meakin Jr.
 SSgt. Arthur E. Baer, Jr.
 SSgt. Ronald L. Barton
 SSgt. Charles R. Beach
 Sgt. Francis Monroe Hartley
 Sgt. Donald C. Ratti
 Sgt. Raymond E. Sheckler

PROMOTIONS

CMSgt. Sidney W. Wells
 SMSgt. Alfred J. Smith
 MSgt. James J. Boudreau
 MSgt. Edward J. Buchas Jr.
 MSgt. Ludwig H. Schwechheimer
 TSgt. Arnold I. G. Evans
 TSgt. John N. Frasco
 TSgt. Richard D. Sheets
 TSgt. Charles H. Scott
 TSgt. Stanley C. Svec
 TSgt. Steven P. Vandermark
 SSgt. James E. Carucci
 SSgt. Irving H. Colby
 SSgt. David A. Gaboury
 SSgt. George J. Higgins
 SSgt. Wilfred J. Lacas Jr.
 SSgt. George T. Marcotte

SSgt. Robert A. Reivik
 SSgt. Jeffrey W. Tremblay
 SSgt. Richard A. Tulloch
 SSgt. Lawrence H. Tyrrell
 SSgt. Merritt E. Webb
 Sgt. William J. Bernotas
 Sgt. Louis R. Bonavita
 Sgt. Richard A. Burke
 Sgt. Thomas Fatal
 Sgt. Hubert J. Jaundoo
 Sgt. Alan A. Leporati
 Sgt. Thomas D. Shaw Jr.
 Sgt. Anthony N. Staffieri
 Sgt. Raymond A. Yarter
 A1C Stephen D. Ray
 A1C Eugene C. Smith
 AMN Richard C. Bowler
 AMN Susan L. Breton
 AMN Douglas A. Gosselin

REASSIGNED

Maj. Charles E. Dickens
 Capt. David A. Carlson
 Capt. Mary E. Jachimowski
 Capt. William W. Shoaf Jr.
 1st Lt. Frank Iebba
 SSgt. Ronald L. Berkenpas
 SSgt. James B. Nims
 SSgt. Warren E. Scott Jr.
 Sgt. Michael P. Coyle
 Sgt. Gregory B. Mettler
 A1C Ralph D. Donofrio
 A1C David E. LaJoie
 A1C Howard D. Scott
 AMN Sabrina M. Clark
 AB Mary W. Guitard
 AB Jerry L. Johnson
 AB Patricia A. Lovely

**Four C-130s on Loan to 439th**

Four C-130B aircraft will temporarily join the 439th TAW inventory in an excess status. 439th personnel will use the planes until permanent locations are determined. While one of the Hercules has already arrived, three others from Keesler and Andrews Air Force Bases will be assigned in January.

Their arrival will not alter the unit's aircrew, maintenance or flying hour authorizations. However, the 439th is responsible for their upkeep and will use the planes in meeting the unit's established mission requirements.

WESTOVER OR BUST Honors to the reservist traveling the farthest distance to attend a UTA at Westover could go to Ann. Leda Brinton. She commutes 400 miles each way from Alexandria, Virginia to her job at Base Operations as an air operations specialist. Department of Defense Police Officer Henry Foggs waves Airman Brinton through the gate after another Friday eight-hour journey is completed. Why does she go to such lengths to be part of the 439th? "I like it here," she explained, "Since I moved down south I haven't even bothered to inquire about changing bases."

Get to Know Your EAC Rep

While the Enlisted Advisory Council (EAC) continues to discuss, investigate and prompt change, it cannot do so in a vacuum. Council members are your representatives and constantly require the suggestions and comments of fellow reservists.

All 439th personnel are urged to contact their unit representative (listed below) and become a part of their accomplishments.

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Hq 439 TAW | SSgt. Carl Peterson |
| Tac Hospital | TSgt. Richard Rowell |
| 901 CAMS | TSgt. Lawrence Robichaud |
| 905 CAMS | TSgt. Richard Turnberg |
| 337 TAS | TSgt. Robert Whitman |
| 731 TAS | SSgt. Timothy McDonnell |
| Hq 439 CSG | SSgt. James Divita |
| 901 CF | Sgt. Robert Clinksale |
| 905 CF | Sgt. Thomas Helenski |
| 901 CEFlt | Sgt. John McCarthy |
| 905 CEFlt | MSgt. Edward Kruzlic |
| 901 WSSF | Sgt. Philip LaFlamm |
| 905 WSSF | SSgt. Murray Kerner |
| 901 MOBSFlt | SSgt. Andrew Hoffman |
| 905 MOBSFlt | SSgt. Robert Hull |
| 901 APFlt | SSgt. Thomas McCoy |
| 905 APFlt | Sgt. Thomas Williams |
| 74 AES | Sgt. Robert Watson |
| 58 APS | MSgt. John Chalot |
| 59 APS | MSgt. Freddy Lewis |

731st Hits the Record Book

An historic event took place at Westover on Nov. 14, when a crew from the 731st TAS set a C-123K Provider down on the runway, recording the squadron's 75,000th accident-free hour, and more than 18 years of accident-free flying.

A check of the records at Hq MAC verified that this unit of the 439th TAW is the first Air Force Reserve flying outfit to reach this plateau.

The singular accomplishment was put into the log books by a crew headed by Lt. Col. Robert Sprenger of Needham as aircraft commander. Pictured here after taxiing in to be greeted by base personnel, are Tech. Sgt. Francis J. Spirito, flight engineer; Maj. Angelo J. Perciballi, co-pilot; MSgt. James E. Dixon, loadmaster; Col. Billy M. Knowles, wing commander; Lt. Col. George Merrill, navigator; and Colonel Sprenger.

This outstanding accomplishment is a reflection of safety emphasis from the commander down to the lowest enlisted reservist, the high experience level of the reserve pilots, and the high quality of maintenance performed.

Colonel Knowles has forwarded a recommendation that the 731st be awarded the AFRES commander's plaque. This is the highest AFRES award that can be presented to a unit or an individual in recognition for exceptionally outstanding achievement or contribution to the AFRES safety program.

The last aircraft accident sustained by the 731st TAS was in September of 1957. Since that time, the squadron has flown C-119 Flying Boxcars with the Tactical Air Command (TAC) from October 1957 to December 1966, the C-124 Globemaster from January 1967 to September 1972 with MAC, and the C-123 from that time under the command of both TAC and MAC to the present date.



Planning for Westover's Tomorrow

The year 1940. Springfield, Massachusetts and its surrounding communities welcome a new neighbor. Where once were farmland and secluded woods, Westover Air Force Base opens on 4,600 acres five miles northeast of the established urban area. Like other military installations, the base is designed and located well away from major population centers thus minimizing likelihood of civilian involvement in an air crash in a Westover flight path. Also, noise from SAC's aircraft would not seriously interfere with the daily activities of those living away from the base.

Yet 25 years later, Massachusetts' Hampden County continues to share the experiences of other areas as population patterns continue to shift and increase. New home and factory construction and community development are continually spreading outward into areas once considered too remote. Now, within a few miles, numerous houses and shopping centers circle the field.

Although Westover and other Air Force bases were once well isolated from surrounding communities, today these facilities have become an integral part of the region—economically, socially, politically and most important—physically.

In recognition of this partnership between military installations and local and state governments, the Air Force established the Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) program. Its purpose: effective and compatible land use management and the maintenance of rigid safety and environmental standards for areas surrounding each air field. Since its establishment, the program's goals have been accomplished through planning, passage of zoning legislation at the state level and by local ordinance enactment by the community.



LAST MINUTE SECURITY CHECK by TSgt. Joseph Presz, 4040ABS/SP (left) and Staff Asst. to the President, Greg Newell.

Critically Important to Westover

With the continuing release of some Westover property to community organizations and private enterprises, the need for effective long range planning is even more essential here than at other bases stabilized in size and mission. For example, recent requests to transfer some base housing to low income families will be reviewed in light of these buildings' proximity to the air field. Noise and safety requirements will also help set priorities.

Without AICUZ, unchecked urban encroachment will continue to close bases or prevent flying activities. Civilian aircraft crashes near Chicago's Midway Airport and other locations have unfortunately demonstrated the need for population settlement prevention in critical flight paths.

Under the direction of Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson, Base Commander, personnel from Westover's operations, safety and maintenance centers, to name a few, have been supplying the necessary information. 2d Lt. Clarence M. Shaw, temporarily assigned to Westover on a Palace Option plan, is currently coordinating the effort. Data, such as runway use, number of missions per year and documentation of past accidents will then be evaluated. Later, a base sponsored plan for effective land use management will be developed and proposed to local civilian officials for their implementation through legislation.

2d Lt. Donald R. Lefebvre, also at Westover under Palace Option, is project officer for Phase II of the Base Comprehensive Plan, for which AICUZ is Phase I. This second phase, designated Tab A-1, is an element of Air Force environmental planning which will show just how the base fits in the community, including social, economic and environmental aspects.

Programs such as AICUZ seldom receive the familiarity or involvement of the vast majority of Air Force personnel. Without such efforts, however, some Air Force bases could face involuntary closure, and the potential for needless catastrophic crashes increases as each day brings a new resident closer to the runway's edge.

Base Commander's Message

By Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson

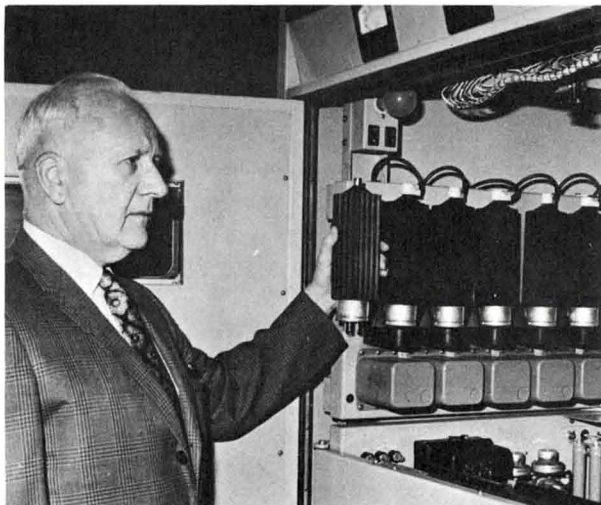
It hardly seems possible that time has rolled around again, but the calendar tells us that in a couple of weeks the holiday season will be with us. It is my good fortune to wish that each of you remain happy, healthy and safe during these festive days.

We usually need loved ones around to make us happy, so hopefully your family and friends fill this requirement.

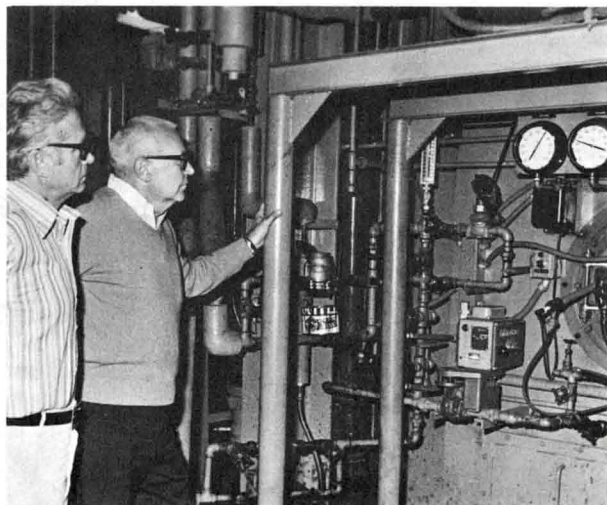
If we take good care of ourselves we take the biggest step toward good health. May all of us be blessed with a healthy body and mind.

And so we may join our loved ones and friends happy and healthy—let us carry out sane safety practices. Moderation—in all we do, whether it be eating, drinking, driving, or participating in outdoor sports—is the key word.

May each of you have a most enjoyable holiday season.



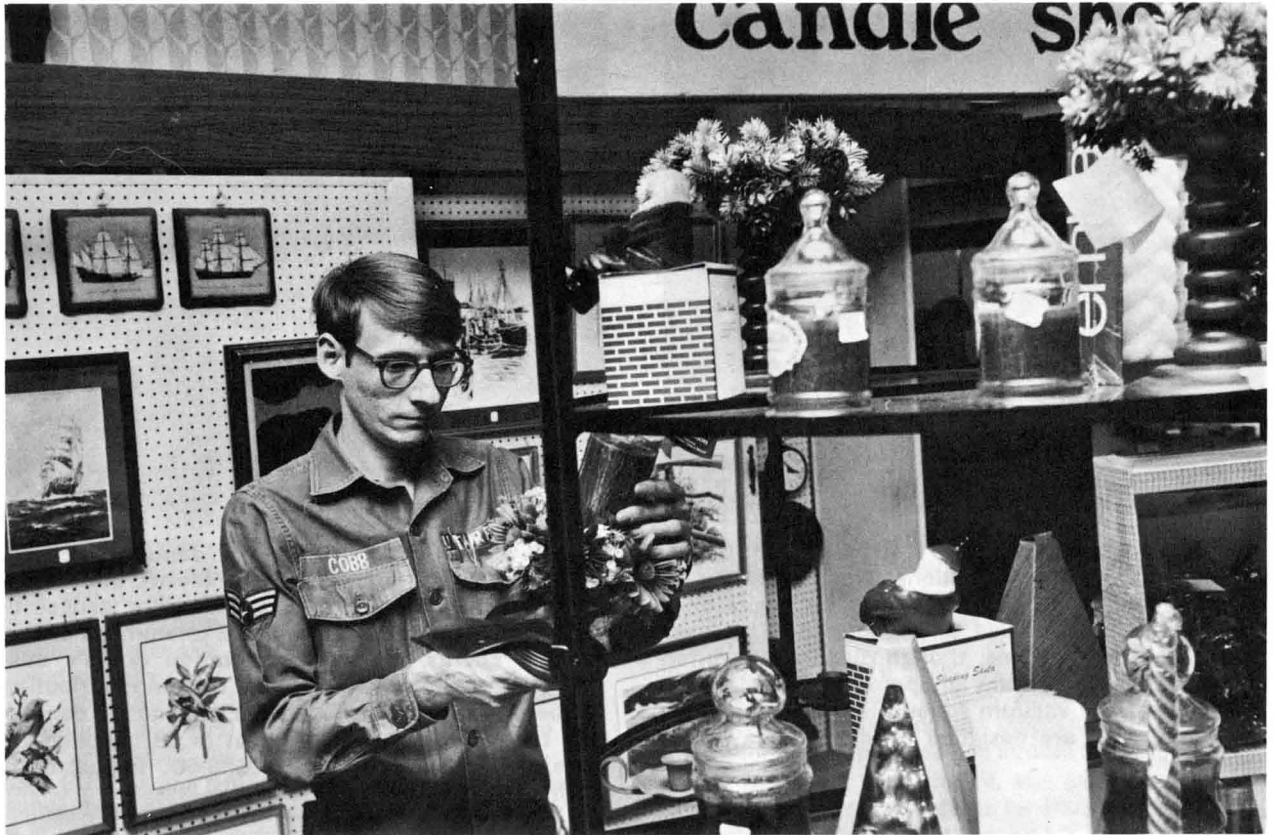
CHECKING THE RESULTS Arthur Lloyd, Det. 5, 1st Aerospace Communications Group, recently received a total of \$2,135 for two of his suggestions which were implemented throughout the SAC command. Both suggestions, though distinctively different and used on different equipment, were related to replacements of vacuum tubes with life-time silicon rectifiers which are designed to last the life of the equipment.



CHECK AND DOUBLE CHECK James Shea (left), boiler plant operator, and Frank Maestri, utilities operations foreman, 439 CSG/DE, monitor gauges in the heating plant. Maestri was the unanimous choice for the Energy/Utilities Conservation Board's utilities conservation award for his unique contribution to the program at Westover. His diligence in controlling turn-on and shutoff of heat in 18 buildings on base, resulted in a saving of \$56,600 in fuel costs during the 1974-1975 winter season.



LYING DOWN ON THE JOB Henry Lapa, 439 Field Maintenance Hydraulic Shop, points to the brakes on a C-130B. His suggestion for a quick fix kit for the brakes assembly netted him an award of \$965, while another suggestion for a positive lock nut stop for hydraulic aviation jack earned him a \$35 check.



A GIFT FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL Sgt. Peter Cobb, 901 CAMS, does some of his Christmas shopping early at the BX's candle display. The new extended shopping hours give reservists an extra chance to do some gift buying before Christmas.



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