



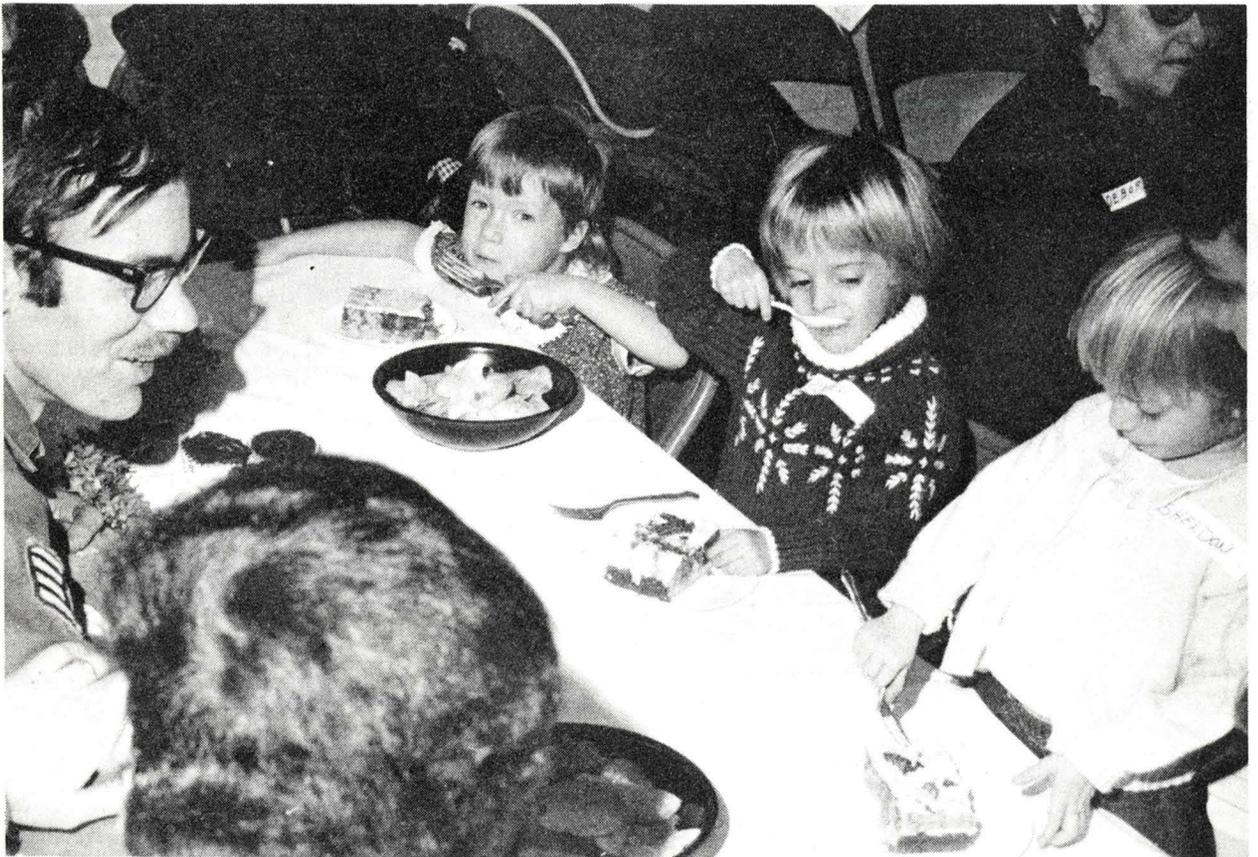
# THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING  
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS

Vol. II, No. 1

February 1975



**THIRTY-NINE CHILDREN** from the Center for the Study of Instructional Alternatives and the Children's Study Home (Springfield) were treated to an early Christmas and a visit by Santa Claus on Dec. 15, courtesy of the members of the 58th Aerial Port Squadron.

The very special visitors, whose ages range from three to thirteen, saw a Walt Disney cartoon, toured a C-130, and finished off mounds of ice cream and cake. Gifts donated by every member of the unit and by Sears Roebuck and Co., were given to each child by SSgt. John (Santa) Valli.

Shown, obviously enjoying the festivities as much as his visitors, is SSgt. Gary Porter.

**WING COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:****A YEAR OF CHALLENGE**

By Col. Billy M. Knowles

We are entering a new and exciting calendar year —1975. Such a statement is summarily rejected by the growing ranks of those who preach economic doom and leaderless chaos. But I can optimistically look forward to such an exciting year because I'm me; because I am not a sheep; I will not have my heart and mind controlled through incessant bombardment by those who believe in nothing, contribute to nothing and want everything.

What I do as a private citizen towards combatting inflation, adjusting to recession and understanding domestic or foreign influences is not a matter for discussion in this publication. But I can relate such things to this Reserve Base and the 439 TAW.

A. This base is meeting its mission in the total DoD scheme of things. It's doing it for about 50% of the cost of previous management while pumping 22,000,000 dollars directly or indirectly into the faltering New England economy and providing employment to some 980 New England citizens. That's positive, isn't it?

B. The 439 TAW is providing fully combat ready units available when and if needed for 65 cents on the dollar when compared to a comparable active duty wing with like equipment. No Doom here.

C. All active force tenants, all civil service personnel and all reservists here at Westover unquestionably perform their missions within directed intent and purpose. So where is that faltering National Leadership?

Let me congratulate you for being you; for being a contributor. Most of all, may I thank you on behalf of a grateful nation for your unusual contributions during this exciting new year.

**ALL ACTIVE DUTY,  
RESERVE, and RETIRED PERSONNEL  
ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
TO ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE  
AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION  
First Tuesday of Each Month  
7:30 P.M.  
Westover Consolidated Open Mess**

**1975  
UTA SCHEDULE**

February 8, 9  
March 8, 9  
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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# MEDIA, PUBLIC ENJOY WESTOVER'S HOSPITALITY

By Betty O'Connell

An estimated 15,000 visitors were given living proof of Col. Billy M. Knowles' statement, "Westover is very much alive," when they saw the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing in action on Saturday, Nov. 30, as the base held a combination open house and news media day. They and representatives from news media in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont, were treated to an eye-opening display of professionalism by the wing's reservists as they displayed their capabilities to execute peacetime as well as wartime missions in exercise of their normal training activities.

The day's activities started with a comprehensive briefing by Colonel Knowles as he explained to the reporters that the 439th is a "taxpayer's bargain," providing a fully combat-ready wing to meet any nationally-declared emergency at 65 percent the cost of a comparable full-time active-duty wing.

He also made them aware of the money pumped into the local economy by Westover; a \$10,000,000 annual payroll for the civilian employees; \$3,000,000 in contracts and services; an annual active duty military payroll of nearly \$5,750,000, and over \$3,000,000 annually paid to reservists who come from all over New England and New York.

The crisp 30-degree temperatures did not daunt the spirit of the visitors, young and not so young. Bob Rys, a neighbor from Ludlow, Mass., expressing his feelings in a letter to base officials said, "I would like to thank you for having an open house with fine displays and a fine air show. Myself and all the people who attended, I am sure, appreciate it very much."

Too many people have the mistaken idea that Westover is "out of business". Those who came through the gates during the open house stayed to watch the 737 TAS C-123 Providers and the 337 TAS C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft carry out unique short take-offs and landings, drop jeeps and cargo bundles right "on the money," and deposit 60 Special Forces paratroopers in the designated drop zone in front of the spectators. They know Westover and its occupants are a force to be recognized.

Another crowd pleaser was the team of A-37 Dragonflies from Grissom AFB in Indiana. The pilots staged a simulated combat mission of close air support for ground troops and they flew in formation and out of spreads where only three feet separated wing tips of the planes.

As they waited for the next aerial exercise, onlookers took advantage of the opportunity to inspect various aircraft on display for the occasion. Lines were formed by those waiting to walk through

a C-141 Starlifter which came up from McGuire AFB, N.J., configured as a hospital plane. It dwarfed its country cousins, the C-123 and C-130, but the two Westover-based planes were just as proud as they sat on the runway or in the hangar to be eyed by the spectators.

Also on view were a C-7, HC-130, F-105, and upon completion of their display of precision bombing and strafing, the A-37s. The Air Force Reserve band rightfully received plaudits as they performed in one of the hangars, amid the displays manned by personnel from the various maintenance shops, the fire department, and the aerial port flights.

Culminating the day's activities was the official opening of the grand new consolidated open mess. After the AFRES Bagpipe Corps piped in the colors, the ribbon-cutting ceremony was shared by Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson, base commander, and CMSgt Alcide F. Patenaude, chairman of the consolidated open mess advisory council. Looking on were Maj. Gen. Homer I. Lewis, commander of the Air Force Reserve; Dr. James Gilligan, deputy asst. secy. of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs; Maj. Gen. Earl O. Anderson, vice comdr. of AFRES; Col. Billy M. Knowles, 439 TAW commander; CMSgt. Robert I. Boyle, senior airman advisor to the AFRES commander; Lt. Col. Richard Zott, AF chief of open messes; Mr. U. Thomas Grant, AFRES chief of open messes; and members of the club's advisory council.

Representatives of the Air Force Association and the Reserve Officers Association presented scrolls, and the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. presented a plaque. These tributes were received by Colonel Knowles on behalf of the 439th TAW.

Following the dedication ceremony, the general membership and invited guests danced to the music of the Air Force Reserve Jazz Ensemble under the direction of commander-conductor Maj. Benny L. Knudsen.

As one of the representatives from a local TV station commented, "A delightful and informative day."

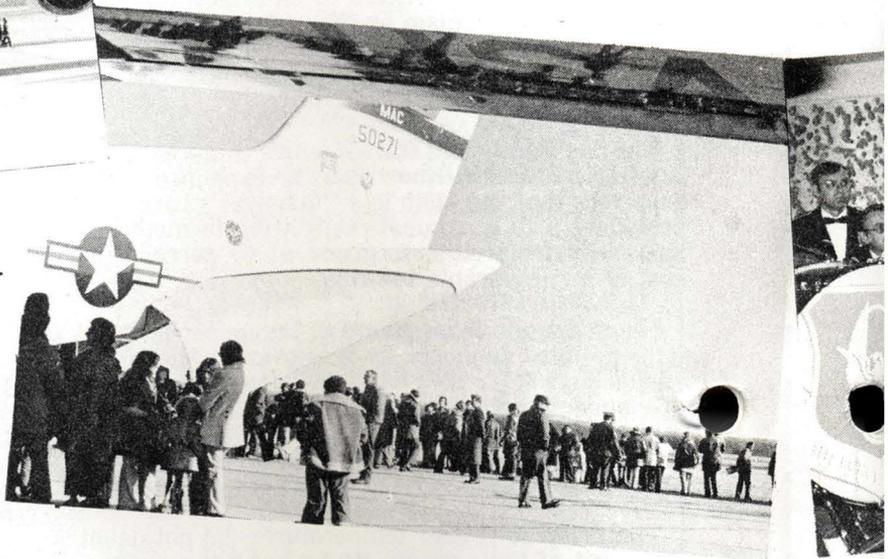
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RESPECT FOR "OLD GLORY." Every day at 4:30 PM, Westover's security police lower the American flag at the Ellipse. Courtesy and regulations require all vehicles to come to a full stop during this brief ceremony. Drivers and passengers, however, need not leave their cars when they hear the P.A.'s music or see the "colors" being lowered.

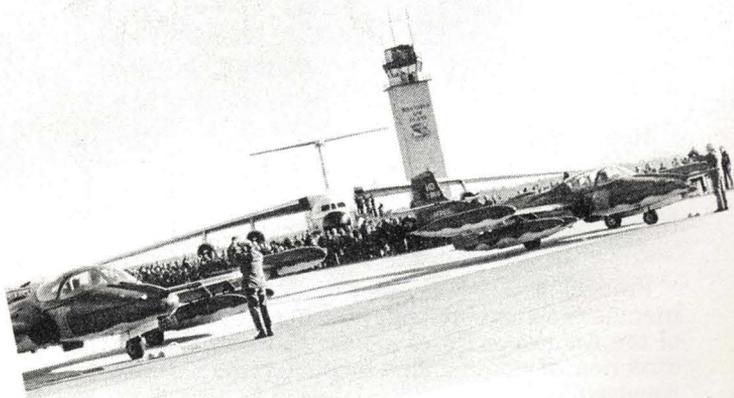
# Westover's Open Ho



EAGER SPECTATORS await their chance to inspect Westover's largest display, a C-141 Starlifter.



THE A-37s TAXI to position in front of Westover's 15,000 visitors after performing a series of intricate and dazzling aerial maneuvers.

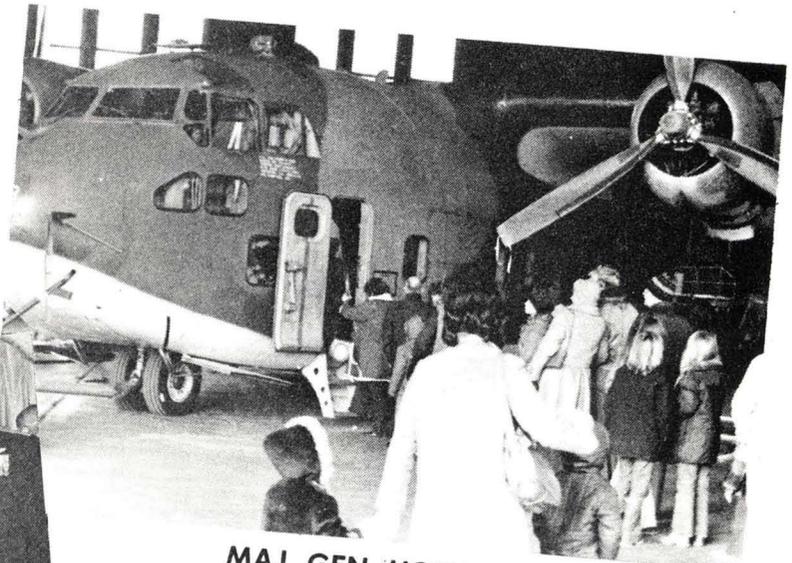


YOUNG AND OLD were intrigued by the "insides" of a parked A-37. Personnel from the Dragonfly's unit, the 434th Tactical Fighter Wing at Grissom AFB, Ind., were available to answer questions and provide commentary.



# House: Huge Success

ONE OF WESTOVER'S OWN C-123s received a constant stream of curious visitors. A nearby C-130 also did not escape their attention.



MAJ. GEN. HOMER I. LEWIS, chief of the Air Force Reserve, addressed those assembled at the open mess reception. A drummer from the AFRES band's Bagpipe Corps stands in muted expectation for an encore performance.

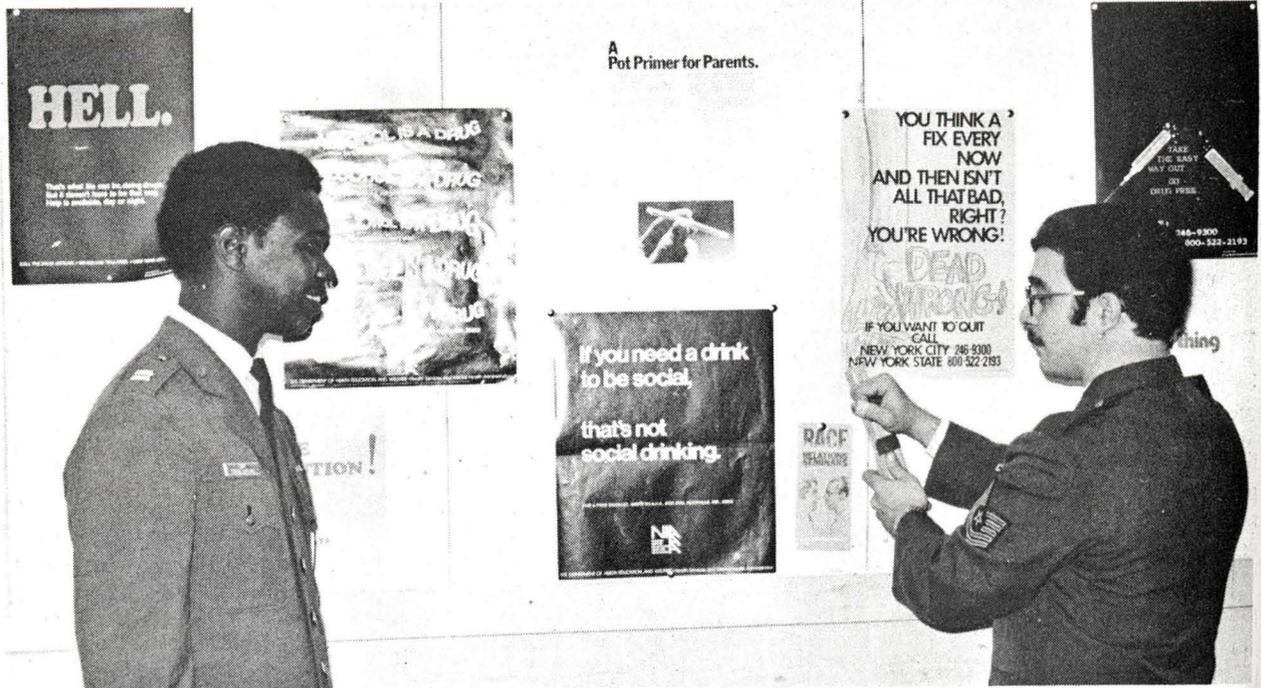


THE AIR FORCE RESERVE BAND set the right "tone" for the afternoon's activities with musical accompaniment while touring the facilities.



RIBBON-CUTTING HONORS at the open mess opening belonged to CMSgt. Alcide Patenaude, chairman of the consolidated open mess advisory council (second from left); and Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson, base commander. Holding the ribbon is CMSgt. Robert I. Boyle, senior airman advisor to the AFRES commander, as Dr. James Gilligan, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs, smiles his approval.





**THE FINISHING TOUCHES** are placed on the Social Actions bulletin board by Capt. Benjamin F. Goff and TSgt. Thomas Sigliano. Complimentary literature and materials are available in the second floor office in hangar 3.

## GRASSROOTS SUPPORT:

# THE GOAL OF SOCIAL ACTIONS

The name "Air Force Social Actions Program" does not mean you're invited to a celebration at the consolidated mess. Rather, the program has an important and very serious role within the military. It attempts to "resolve, eliminate or neutralize the social and cultural conditions which have a negative impact on the Air Force community and on its mission effectiveness."

The 439th's Social Actions Office has been in operation only six months and is composed of three primary categories.

Capt. Benjamin F. Goss directs the overall program as well as oversees the equal opportunity provisions of military regulations and treatment of 439th personnel. "We're not only concerned with women and minorities, but with everyone's welfare," says Captain Goff. "Our intent is to insure that everyone receives the same fair play treatment in all matters that affect their military life, such as assignments and promotions."

The office is not geared simply to process complaints, but to assist those who need assistance in solving a difficult situation or complaint. Those wishing to appear before the judge advocate general and file a complaint may still do so, but now they can use the office as a resource center such as seeking pertinent regulations. They can also use the assistance of the office's personnel.

A drug abuse program will get underway soon and will be handled by TSgt. Thomas Sigliano, the drug/alcohol program NCO. Air Force regulations dictate that four hours of classes be provided annually to all military personnel.

The third segment, race relations training, has been functioning since July 1974. It is under the direction of 1st Lt. Frank Mauro. During its first three months, over 345 personnel successfully completed the required six hours of education. The program is not designed to tell people what to think, but to explain how they should act, especially when in uniform. Any deliberate or intentional acts of discrimination might interfere with the success of the Air Force's mission.

The classes do not use "scare tactics" or "t-group" sessions in an attempt to change opinion or eliminate prejudice. Instead, they serve only to educate and expose participants to some of the various ways discrimination against minorities takes place.

Maybe one day drug and alcohol abuse and discrimination will no longer exist. Due to the expertise and determination of the social actions office's personnel, perhaps that utopian day is just a little closer to reality.

## 439<sup>TH</sup> TAW BECOMES MAC-GAINED UNIT

"The times—they are changing" or so say the words to a popular melody. The Air Force must also adapt to these changing times. In order to remain relevant and maintain the highest levels of efficiency, modifications in the Air Force's existing structure and tables of organization are a continuing necessity.

As of Dec. 1, 1974, all Air Force strategic and tactical airlift resources have been consolidated under the Military Airlift Command (MAC). Consequently, if the 439th's wing is mobilized, the unit will be gained by MAC instead of the Tactical Airlift Command (TAC). The 439th Combat Support Group remains AFRES gained.

In a message welcoming the men and women of the tactical airlift force, Gen. Paul K. Carlton, MAC commander, said, "We have long played complementary roles in the employment of airlift as a key element of the mobility and efficiency for which American military forces are well known, and we in MAC are well aware of the truly outstanding achievements of tactical airlift. Although you have now joined MAC, your professional identity will continue to be recognized. I have recommended to the air staff that tactical units continue to be called tactical airlift squadrons, groups and wings."

MAC fulfills the Department of Defense's strategic airlift requirements and operates over 350 large transport jets, including the C-5 Galaxy and C-141 Starlifter. Some 230 C-130 Hercules aircraft, formerly assigned to TAC, will now be added to MAC's inventory. Additionally, 14,000 active duty military and civilian personnel will be transferred to MAC supervision.

Eight AFRES units and 12 Air National Guard units will now supply MAC with over 25,000 troops and 330 C-130s, C-7 Caribous, and C-123 Providers.

MAC is also responsible for various world-wide missions, including aeromedical evacuation combat rescue; aerial search and rescue; recovery of space hardware; weather sampling, forecasting and dissemination; and documentary photography and audiovisual services. Headquarters for the command is at Scott AFB, ILL.

The year and a half long consolidation project will realign most of the Air Force's aircraft into one of four major commands within the United States: ATC for training, TAC for fighter operations, SAC for strategic bombing, and MAC for airlift and other operational purposes.

Changes to and inactivations of some units due to the reorganization have been formulated. Any possible changes, such as to the 439th's UDL or to Westover's mission, have not yet been announced.

## ON ORI/MEI

# 439<sup>TH</sup> RATED "SATISFACTORY"

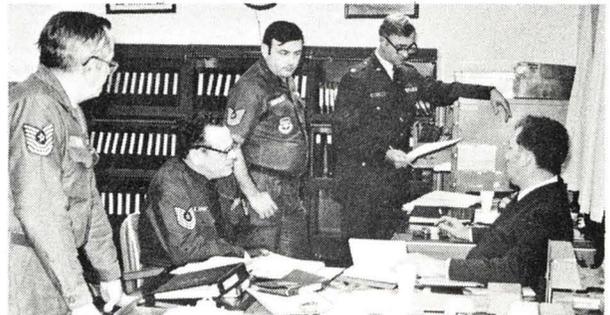
The 439th Tactical Airlift Wing passed its operational readiness/management effectiveness inspections conducted in December by personnel of the office of the inspectors general from Military Airlift Command and 9th AF (TAC), with an overall rating of "satisfactory."

Special notice will be given during the February UTA to those individuals who were instrumental in various sections receiving an Outstanding rating. Among the command interest items, Military Appearance was satisfactory, and Military Courtesy **outstanding**. Note was made in the formal report that Base Appearance, another TAC command interest item, was overall satisfactory; however, maintenance shop areas were **outstanding**.

Following the critique, Col. Billy M. Knowles, wing commander, addressed the personnel present for the outbriefing, stating he recognized that "an inordinate amount of work had been expended by everyone." He told them, "I want you to feel that that work was absolutely necessary, and that it wasn't a wasted motion. There's been a lot of sacrifice by a lot of people. I personally thank everyone on the base—full time and part time. It was a magnificent effort."

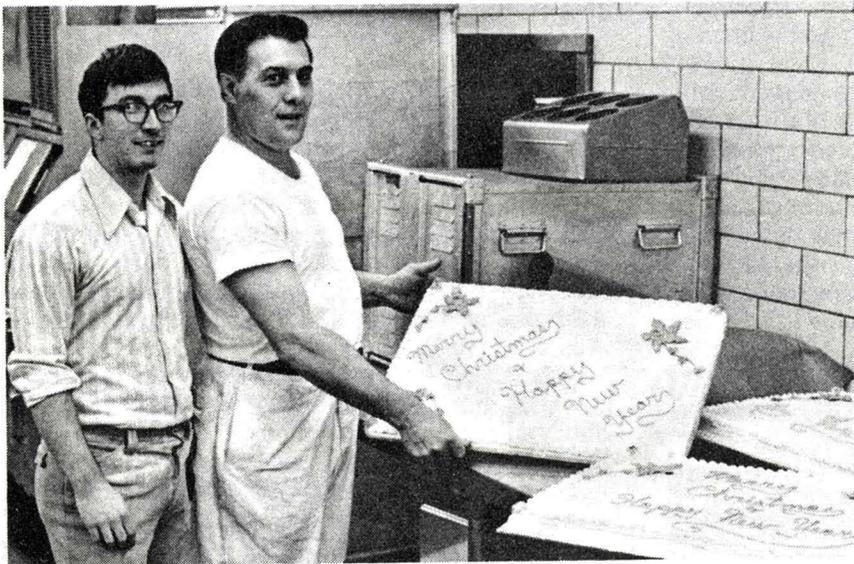
Colonel Knowles wrote a letter addressed to all 439 TAW and CSG members, which he said allowed him "an excellent opportunity to personally thank not only you reservists, but your loved ones who agonize and sacrifice with you during such periods. Without their understanding and support, many of us could not be what we are."

Following the initial ORI and general inspection of the MAC-gained wing, the AFRES-gained combat support group can expect its inspection at any time.



GETTING THE ONCE OVER . . . and second over: Members of the 901st/905th Quality Control Section were visited by the 9th Air Force Reserve I.G. team during the December ORI. MSgts Alfred Smith (left), Leland Spencer (center) and Leon Nicolliello (right) presented the requested materials and answered the inquiries of Maj. Wayne Koles (standing) and Lt. Col. Cooper Smith (seated right).

**ALL IN THE FAMILY . . .** Diane Roohr recently became the fourth member of her family to join the Air National Guard or the Air Force Reserve. Her father, George, (left) a master sergeant with the 901st CAM Sq., has over 23 years of military service. Brother Larry serves in the Massachusetts Air National Guard, while her other brother, Tom, is a three-stripe loadmaster with the 337th TAS. Diane, a resident of East Hartford, Conn., has been assigned to the 74th AME as a medical technician. Col. Robert A. Payne officiated at the enlistment ceremony as a recruiter, SSgt. Douglas MacDonald (right), looked on.



**SOME DOUGH AND PLENTY OF SOUL** went into the preparation of special Christmas cakes baked for the children at the 58th Aerial Port Squadron sponsored party. SSgt. Francis A. Duval, baker (right) and SSgt. John J. Connors, Jr., assistant baker, display their "wares" before the youngsters devoured them.

DOD-318

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