



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS

Vol. II, No. 5

June 1975



UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES of the 1917 Communications Squadron's air traffic controllers, a C-123 Provider passes the Westover control tower. The "WX" identifies one of the aircraft engaged in demonstrating the 439th's mission capability during the open house commemorating Armed Forces Day 1975. (Springfield Union staff photo by Arthur MacCannell.)

Wing Commander's Message

By Col. Billy M. Knowles

Spring and summer are in the air. Everything in New England looks cheerful and beautiful. Except for occasional outbreaks of spring fever, the general atmosphere is one of expectancy — long-awaited vacations.

I would not wish to in any way dampen the spirit, but I would remind us that the June UTA brings yet another, and perhaps the last for a while, formal inspection.

Eastern Air Force Reserve Region maintenance standardization evaluation team (MSET) will inspect the 901st and 905th CAM Sqs. This rather in depth and tough inspection is to aircraft maintenance functions what stan/eval is to operations. Let's all do our utmost to assist in this effort. Satisfactory completion will finally put all inspections behind us and allow us to resume a more normal UTA training posture.

To that end, there are two new policy announcements to make. One; beginning with the July UTA, all sections and units are advised that 0700-1100 on each UTA Sunday will be a dedicated training period within each unit. This means demands against unit personnel by support functions are to be held to the absolute minimum. Secondly; starting with the 1st quarter of FY 76, units will conduct their own individual commander's calls the first two months of each quarter. The wing and group commander's calls will be held on the third month in the auditorium. Both of these are intended to allow unit commanders to strengthen their units.

So, with spirits high, and all around us adding beauty and cheer, we should bring some of it with us and apply it to the greater purpose before us during these summer training periods. The 439th Tactical Airlift Wing is great in both size and challenge. Its leaders, managers and members can use all the harmony, commonality and exuberance so common among New Englanders.

SPACE AVAILABLE — FLIGHTS AVAILABLE

Space is presently available on a stand-by basis on flights leaving Westover AFB throughout the month for all active duty and reserve personnel.

Aircraft travel to various Air Force bases in the United States is provided but a passenger may have to arrange for return transportation if a return flight is not available as well as assume all responsibility for lodging and meals.

Flight schedules are not known until one week before departure. Once confirmed, information regarding these schedules is available through the operations offices of the 337th TAS at telephone extension 3120 or the 731st TAS at ext. 2101.

Passengers must arrive approximately two hours before departure, in uniform, with a current military I.D. card.

* * *

SAFETY TIP. Exercise care when installing or working on an outside antenna. Don't be an electrocution statistic.



BEST IN EAFRR. At a ceremony in which MSgts. Charles Ward and Richard White were presented a plaque in appreciation of their contribution to the AFRES and 439th recruiting service, the staff poses after acceptance of the EAFRR special achievement award. The Westover group has signed on 200 enlistees during the first quarter of 1975. Sharing the honors are from left to right (back row), A1C Sara Miller, SMSgt. Robert L. Xanders, MSgt. Ward, TSgt. Frank Bryant, SMSgt. James McLaughlin, and SSgt. William Rose; (front row) MSgt. White, TSgt. Thomas Provost, SSgt. Nathan Writsel and TSgt. Sherman R. Williams.

* * *

AIR FORCE TO HOST CAP CADETS. (AFNS) More than 5,000 Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadets will attend encampments this summer at 50 U.S. Air Force bases, say CAP officials. During the encampments, the teenage CAP members will spend their time learning what life at an active Air Force installation is like. They will observe various operational and support functions of the base, the officials said. (NOTE: Westover will host 75 CAP cadets from July 29 to Aug. 3.)

1975 UTA SCHEDULE

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

HOURS: SAT. 8 to 5 — SUN. 7 to 4

SUMMER ENCAMPMENT

21 September — 5 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.

Col. Billy M. Knowles
Commander, 439th TAW

Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson
Base Commander

Base Information Officer
Miss Betty O'Connell

Wing Information Officers
Maj. Robert D. Hafner
Maj. Rudolph G. DiLuzio

Editor
TSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz

Staff
Sgt. James W. Wood
Amn Dean M. Mauro

Photographers
SSgt. Robin Ketcherside
Sgt. James Langley
Mr. Tom Hill

WESTOVER HOSTS ARMED FORCES DAY FESTIVITIES

by Amn Dean Mauro

Westover AFB was alive with all the characteristics of a spring festival Saturday, May 17 as the base hosted several thousand visitors celebrating Armed Forces Day.

This year's event took place during the 439th's May UTA as C-123s and C-130s participated in exercises for the standarization/evaluation team coincidentally inspecting at the same time. Guests from the community were thus able to watch Westover aircraft and personnel in action. Unit exercises included takeoffs and landings along with five separate equipment drops and a personnel drop of 36 parachutists of the Army's 10th Special Forces from Fort Devens.

The warm summer-like weather gave the entire day a fair like atmosphere as visitors strolled about listening to music provided by the Chicopee High School Band.

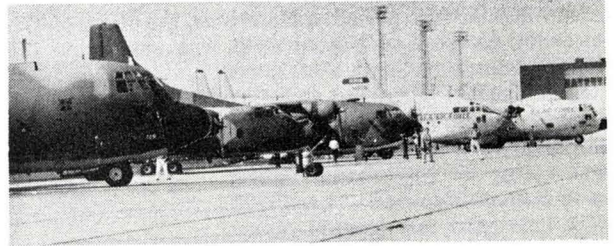
Guests of all ages appeared delighted to get a close look at stationary displays of various jet and propeller driven aircraft. The 439th staffed a C-123 and C-130 for a walk-through inspection by the public. Other planes displayed included a C-7 Caribou, C-119J Flying Boxcar, HC-130 Rescue Hercules, F-100 Super Sabre, F-101 Voodoo, and an F-106 Delta Dart, all on loan from New England Air National Guard and other reserve units, and a UH-1E helicopter from the U.S.M.C. Air Reserve Training Detachment at So. Weymouth, Mass.

The smell of cooking hot dogs, hamburgers and kielbasa filled the air as members of Westover's Pioneer

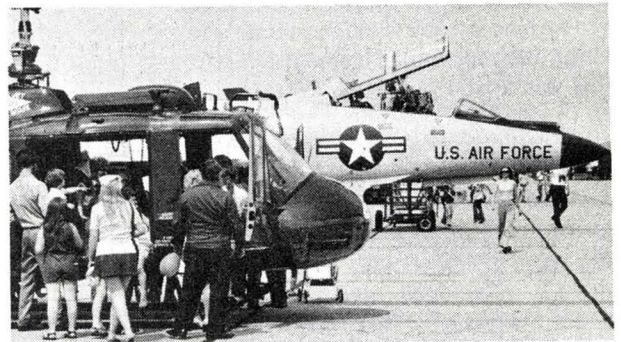
Valley Council Boy Scout Troop 143 catered to the appetites of the visitors.

All military services were represented with recruiting displays. As part of the event, the 173rd Medical Group, Army Reserve, checked visitors' blood pressure while 439th life support personnel demonstrated various life support and survival equipment.

An exhibition of radio controlled model airplanes also attracted a great deal of attention. Three western Massachusetts model airplane clubs fascinated the crowds directing the complex models through complicated air maneuvers.



A POTPOURRI OF AIRCRAFT, assembled from all over New England and Michigan, provide an unusual opportunity to examine a wide assortment of military planes in one place.



ROGER, WILCO, OVER AND OUT: A marine pilot permits Westover's guests to climb aboard his Huey helicopter and try out the controls.



FROM THE TOWER Sgt. Dwayne N. Peck, 1917 Comm Sq, on microphone, giving clearance to 439th aircraft.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS of the day was the F-101 Voodoo as spectators queue up to peer into its cockpit.

439th SATISFACTORY IN ALL INSPECTIONS

All functions of the 439th undergoing inspections during the past month were rated overall "satisfactory."

In addition to conducting a successful open house in celebration of Armed Forces Day, the 439th CSG hosted a 30-man inspection team from HQ AFRES during the period from May 16 to May 21. Although there were a few marginal areas, the "outstandings" outweighed them. All other functions were satisfactory, including a disaster control situation exercised during the MEI.

During this same period, a team from the office of The Inspector General at Norton AFB was evaluating the AFRES team.

Both Colonel Knowles and Colonel Ferguson have thanked all personnel who worked so hard preparing for the MEI.

During the May UTA, the 439th TAW successfully completed a reinspection by standardization/evaluation personnel from the MAC operating location at Shaw AFB. Lt. Col. Leland H. Berlekamp headed the eight-man team which examined all phases of flight management operation. This type of inspection is conducted annually by HQ MAC.

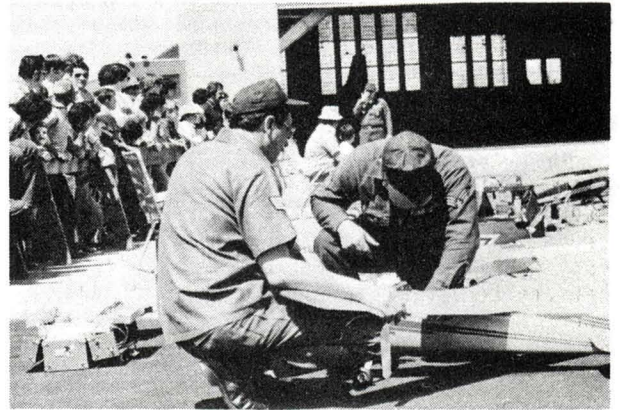
After being advised of the overall rating of satisfactory, Lt. Col. Robert A. McMullen, 439th deputy commander for operations, said: "The outstanding performance of the aircrew personnel is particularly satisfying. In aircrew testing, 129 of 132 tested passed, and of the 27 flight evaluations, all were satisfactory. This speaks very highly of the knowledge and qualification levels of our aircrew personnel."

Base Commander's Message

By Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson

My thanks go to all personnel, military and civilian, who worked so hard to help us attain a Satisfactory rating during the recent management effectiveness inspection. This was a first for the 439CSG.

Any unit, barely a year old, which is rated Satisfactory on this type of inspection, can hold its head high. We'll make no excuses, but just correct the discrepancies, benefitting from the experience. Again, thanks for a fine job!



A CROWD PLEASER at the Open House was the model aircraft flown by local members of the Springfield Area, Hampshire County, and Pioneer Valley Radio Controllers.



AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION. To emphasize the importance of good housekeeping habits, proper use of electrical appliances, and care in smoking, the base commander designated June 16 through 20 as Fire Prevention—Spring Cleanup Week. Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson and Fire Chief Haskel Jenkins show the posters directing attention to safe practices.



PROVIDING A PERFECT MUSICAL BACKGROUND was the Chicopee High School band under the leadership of James Liddell, band director, and Albert Noble, stage band director.

The EAC: Working for Constructive Change

Since George Washington's revolutionary army, American servicemen have seen fit to gripe about their living and working conditions. To compound the problem, traditional military procedure discouraged complaints and recommendations from filtering up the organizational chart and changing established policies and procedures. Not so any more.

Due to steadily evolving changes in attitudes and in regulations, airmen and NCOs are receiving unparalleled latitude in helping to determine conditions which will affect their lives and livelihood.

Fulfilling such obligations are responsibilities which cannot, and have not been assumed lightly. Due to the dedication and conscientiousness of a group of 439th enlisted men this charge and benefit is becoming an instrument for improvement at Westover, and possibly throughout the Air Force.

Since March, the Enlisted Advisory Council (EAC) has been meeting during each UTA. Representatives from every unit have recently completed an organizational charter and have already begun investigating certain areas brought to their attention.

SPEEDING THE COMMUNICATION FLOW

The council plans to act as an intermediary and sounding board between reservists and those delegated with policy change. Those with a specific problem, question or recommendation regarding an Air Force or 439th practice have been strongly encouraged to contact their unit's representative. This may be in writing or verbally and if desired, the individual may remain anonymous.

The inquiry is then forwarded to the EAC's agenda meeting held on the Saturday before the full committee gathers the next day. "Their role is to organize, not to screen out areas of discussion," points out TSgt. Frank Swords, newly named EAC publicity chairman. "For instance, repeated complaints concerning appropriate hair length cannot be honored once the committee feels that the policy and its enforcement are fair and equitably being enforced."

Once action is taken, or in some cases not taken, the EAC immediate-

ly informs the inquirer of the decision, what future action will be taken and why.

The committee's work, however, is not intended to eliminate the grievance procedure using the units' complaints officers which is already in effect. Reservists with individual problems are encouraged to use this alternative. Their first sergeant will be able to expedite this procedure.

Additionally, reservists with an unresolved dilemma may go right to the top and take advantage of the open door policy of Col. Billy Knowles and Lt. Col. Jack Ferguson.

BROAD AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Although only a few months old, the EAC has begun a wide variety of investigations. Four representative "works in progress" ably describe their intended goals.

Although an AFRES base, other reserve branches maintain training sites at Westover. Consequently, reservists using the facilities, are displaying a wide spectrum of uniforms and diverse levels of personal appearance. In order to standardize these dress codes and correct these differences, the EAC voted to recommend to Colonel Ferguson, the base commander, that base wide regulations be established, disseminated and tenant units asked to comply.

The suggestion was readily approved by Colonel Ferguson and a subcommittee is preparing these guidelines.

Another discussed area concerns the \$2.11 subsistence allowance now federally authorized. Charging that this figure has failed to keep pace with soaring inflation, 439th personnel asked that this amount be increased. The council agreed. As this change would have to be implemented nationally, the committee's minutes and recommendations will be sent to the national EAC and AFRES for further consideration.

A suggestion from the EAC to alter the UTA duty hours met with a quick affirmative response. At the May commander's call, Colonel Knowles recognized the work of the EAC. The approval was granted to compensate

those required to travel extended distances to and from the base. Saturday's hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. while the hours on Sunday will be from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Not all their recommendations have met with such a gratifying compliance. Some 439th personnel have expressed disappointment at the single monthly membership dues levied to all eligible personnel at the open mess. For many, their distant home locations precludes them from using the club other than on Saturday evenings of the UTA. The EAC asked that a new dues schedule be established reflecting a lesser charge for those living more than 50 miles from Westover. Club officials did not agree, stating that dues was determined by the general membership. Continued communication with those responsible is planned by the EAC.

REQUIRING EVERYONE'S COOPERATION

The monthly meetings are presided over by MSgt. Paul T. Babin, 905th Comm. Sq., and are attended by the various unit and squadron NCOs and by one officer. The officer is Colonel Knowles who was instrumental in the EAC's formation and has taken an active role in its subsequent activities. "We have been receiving everyone's cooperation, especially Colonel Knowles'," said TSgt. Frank Swords "He also offers us expert advice and an extensive knowledge of how to get things done. Also correspondence comes from the entire committee and not from Colonel Knowles' office."

The EAC is making remarkable progress, yet its success does not solely rest with their perseverance. Rather it is determined by the cooperation the committee receives from those individuals responsible for the questioned program and from the full participation of every Westover employee. The opportunity to legitimately help improve the system has never been greater.

Council members cordially invite everyone to contact them directly. The conclusion of the EAC charter sums up the committee's goals: "Remember-nothing ever happens if people don't communicate to the people who can help. If you need help ask and follow it up.

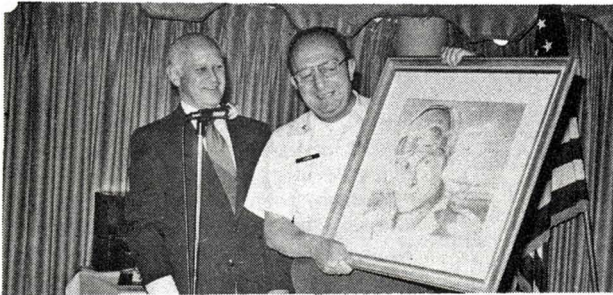
439th Honors Retiring Dunn, Van Alstine

The May UTA was hectic yet profitable for the 439th. The unit hosted three different inspection teams as well as thousands of visitors during the base's open house. Yet, it also was a weekend which saw the retirement of two prominent individuals. Amidst the bustling activities, Westover personnel paused to pay them tribute as the Air Force careers of Col. Ronald C. Dunn and CWO Percy Van Alstine came to a poignant close.

From his enlistment in the Army Air Corps in November 1942 to his arrival at Hanscom as 901st TAG commander in December 1973, to his latest position as 439th TAW deputy commander/operations, Colonel Dunn's personable leadership coupled with a far reaching expertise have proved to be an unbeatable combination of guidance and friendship not always readily discernible in others.

As commander of the 901st, Colonel Dunn oversaw the relocation of the unit from Hanscom to Westover and was instrumental in the successful merger with the 905th. Later, during a period in 1974, he was to assume command of that new organization—the 439th. With retirement, the Dunns plan to travel extensively throughout the east coast before returning to Washington's Puget Sound area.

Previous to his New England tour of duty, Colonel Dunn's kaleidoscope career included positions of chief of maintenance of the 939 TCG and assistant to the 62d TCW active duty chief of maintenance at McChord AFB in 1960.



A HEARTY ROUND OF APPLAUSE greets Colonel and Mrs. Dunn at the 439th officers' call honoring Colonel Dunn's retirement.



AMONG THE MANY GIFTS presented to the Dunns is a framed "picture of an aviator" given by Col. John A. Luongo on behalf of the personnel from the former 901 TAG.



WORDS AND GESTURES of gratitude and affection are amply evidenced as Col. Billy Knowles (left) bids farewell to retiring CWO Percy Van Alstine.

In 1972 he served as interim 939 MAG (Assoc.) commander.

CWO Van Alstine's retirement represents more than the departure of a well-respected hard working individual. With the elimination of warrant officer positions, Mr. Van Alstine's concluding 33 year career reduces the number of warrant officers in the Air Force to about 15, and eliminates the position from the 439th.

Mr. Van Alstine began his military career in 1942 with the 5th Infantry Regiment and served with Patton's 3rd Army in France and Germany. After the war, he joined AFRES' 89th Fighter Bomber Wing at Hanscom Field in 1946 as a staff sergeant. Along with the changing unit designations, he progressed up the ranks and has been called up for active duty during the Korean and later Cuban crises.

Since then, he has worn the hats of many varied positions. Mr. Van Alstine has served as a transportation motor pool officer, a supply officer, food service officer and group administration officer. He presently is the wing headquarters squadron commander. Mr. Van Alstine also holds an enviable distinction. He has never missed a UTA weekend since his original 1946 enlistment.

When asked what was his most memorable moment in his AFRES career, Mr. Van Alstine's response was indicative of the character of both officers. Rather than citing a personal remembrance, he told of an incident involving the efforts of all the unit's personnel. "When the old 94th received the 96.4 on an OIR, the highest score ever recorded in the reserves, it was a very proud moment in my life."

This special commitment and concern for their fellow troops, constantly displayed and eagerly accepted by everyone within the 439th, will sorely be missed. The many activities, the special events will never be able to replace the experience, energy and expertise these two will take with them.

439th TO GO FORMAL

The 439th and associated units are planning two dinings out — one on October 4 for the airmen, and one on October 18 for the officers. These will be the first of what will be annual affairs. The difference in a dining out versus a dining in is that spouses or dates are invited. We'll keep you posted through the bulletin, mailings and The Patriot. Mark your date now!

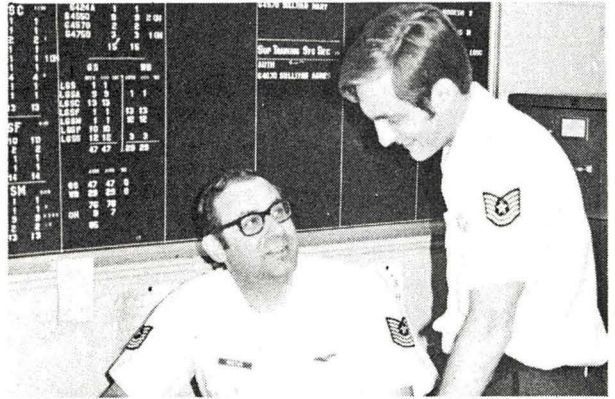
Airman, Officer of the Year Named

The Air Force has always claimed that its number one asset is the airmen and officers who fill its ranks. With pride, it has made a special effort to pay tribute to those many individuals with policies and practices religiously followed.

It is of little wonder that of all the plaques, awards and certificates routinely issued for numerous achievements, the recognition honoring the serviceman and woman for meritorious service to the Air Force is distinguished from well meaning platitudes.

When given, based on a selection by his peers, the recognition takes on a very special distinction. Such is the significance of the honors recently bestowed on Westover's Outstanding Airman and Officer of the Year—MSgt. Albert R. Breton and Capt. Ronald T. Frederickson.

Their recognition was given by the Chicopee Chapter of the Air Force Association at an awards banquet on April 23. Each of the 439th units and squadrons was invited to submit candidates for each award. The Junior Officer Council and the Enlisted Advisory Council then received and reviewed these decisions and made their recommendations to the AFA.



PILES OF PAPERWORK are scrutinized by Airman of the Year MSgt. Albert R. Breton (left) and TSgt. Lawrence Lacerra, 905 MOBSF.

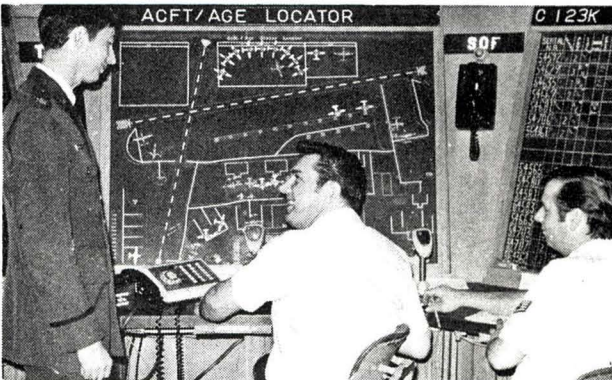
SUPER SLEUTH

In many respects, MSgt. Albert Breton is a detective with a very unusual beat. As supplies inventory supervisor, he patrols the base supply building, keeping a careful surveillance on all inventory procedures within the facility. He also helps to resolve supply difficulties and insures Air Force regulations are being properly complied with.

In addition, Master Sergeant Breton has been the first sergeant of the 905 MOBSF for the past three years and has been instrumental in recruiting many reservists into the 439th.

In civilian life, he is employed by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. He is a member of the National Association of Life Underwriters and is participating in the Chartered Life Underwriter Studies. He lives, with his wife, in his native Chicopee. The couple has six children and one grandchild.

Both recipients aptly characterize those qualities necessary for the recognition as Outstanding Officer, Airman of the Year. If future recipients are of equal stature, Westover reservists as well as the Air Force can be very proud today and tomorrow.



DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE of those personnel who helped him earn the recognition, Captain Frederickson (left) accepts the honor on their behalf. MSgt. Richard Murnock, 901 CAM (center) and SSgt. Robert Mascaro, 905 CAM, receive his thanks.

LUCKY 13

Known affectionately as "Captain Fred," the 439th's Officer of the Year has become an indispensable part of the unit's maintenance operations. Captain Frederickson is a commander of the 905th CAM as well as the wing's chief of maintenance. As such he helped coordinate the reorganization of the 439th without affecting the traditional high standards expected and received from the maintenance squadrons.

His fellow officers credit his personal supervision of the squadron's activities in meeting their part in the successful ORI. Each one of the unit's 13 C-123s was readied and later launched within 13 minutes.

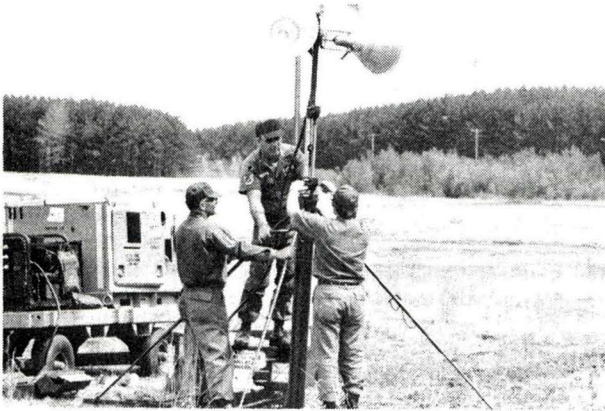
Captain Frederickson's background includes positions as aircraft maintenance officer at Chanhute AFB (1969), wing job control officer (1972) and wing maintenance control officer (1973) both at Westover. He has attended staff officer orientation and nuclear safety course schools and is enrolled in a squadron officer course.

He and his wife have two children and live in Holyoke.

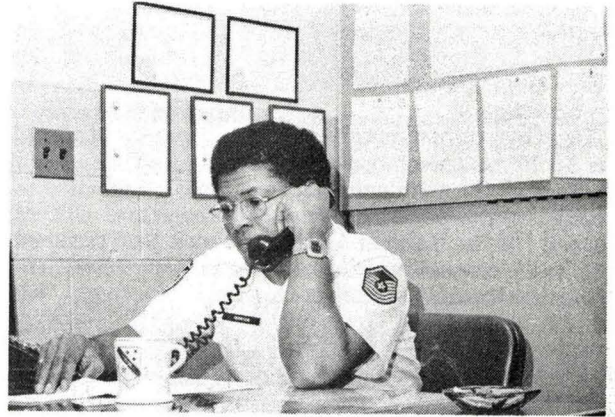


PREPARING A CONTAINER DELIVERY SYSTEM for airdrop are three members of the 901 APF, each a recent honor graduate of a loadmaster course at Sheppard AFB. These men, who work closely with the 731 TAS by supplying rigged loads and cargo for aircrop, are (left to right) SSgt. David M. Barger, Sgt. Hassell Frye and SSgt. John J. Sullivan.

WESTOVER'S NEWEST AND YOUNGEST RESERVIST, Hal B. Zawacki (center) is congratulated by Maj. Robert D. Hafner (left), wing information officer, and TSgt. Frank Bryant, as Hal's mother, Mrs. Andrew Mulcahy, proudly looks on. Hal wrote a letter to President Ford telling him he hoped "they" would not close down Westover AFB, and sent a copy to the 439 TAW. His father, who died when Hal was very young, was a former 8AF officer. Hal looks forward to the day he can officially join the Air Force.



905CEFLT PERSONNEL prepare for a bivouac. Adjusting a light assembly are (left to right) MSgt. Merle F. Smith, MSgt. James E. Devitt and A1C Dimitrios S. Kapros.



THE AIR FORCE DISTINGUISHED EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD was presented to SMSgt. David R. Johnson, 905 Comm Flt, at the May commander's call. The recognition signaled his completion of several correspondence programs and courses, and eight technical courses through the Extension Course Institute.



**THIRD CLASS
DOD-318
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
POSTAGE AND FEES PAID**

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**HQ 439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AFRES)
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MA 01022**