



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS

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HE'S ALL WET Sgt. Joe Samson, 74th AES, plunges into the base swimming pool during July's wet ditching training exercises. SMSgt. Guy Iannuzzo, wing life support superintendent, provides the necessary guidance. The activity, part of MAC's training requirements for personnel of the 337th and 731st TAS and 74 AME, takes place once every three years and requires maneuvers with one and 20 man life rafts, parachutes and floating techniques.

8 AE UNITS CONVERGE, TRAIN HERE

Editor's Note: The AMFlt exercise, planned for July 18-28, occurred after The Patriot's deadline. Therefore, greater coverage of the event could not be included in this issue. The proposed events, in effect during the July UTA, are indicated below. Additional detail will be included in next month's issue.

Over 700 reserve nurses, technicians and ancillary personnel will join the 74 AES and participate in a unique tactical aeromedical evacuation system exercise at Westover between July 18-28.

The schedule, involving eight aeromedical evacuation units from throughout the Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, allows for two similar programs of approximately 350 people per session. Maj. James A. Lacy, 37 AEGP, MacDill AFB, will direct the ten day exercise.

This is the largest such program in AFRES history. A less ambitious undertaking took place only once before at Ellington AFB in 1973.

The rigorous training regime calls for the establishment and operation of six Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facilities (MASF) by each squadron. Tents, erected near airfields, serve as the nucleus of the operation. In the event of an actual situation, each AEFIt crew would be responsible for assigned Army casualties. After stabilization of the patient's condition in a forward area, the crews accompany these litter or ambulatory patients to rear locations flying C-7s, C-123a or C-130s. In turn, MAC C-141 and C-9 aircraft complete the journey bringing the patient to CONUS hospitals.

LARGEST AFRES/ARMY EXERCISE SLATED FOR WESTOVER

A full spectrum of tactical airlift exercises, including air drops of cargo and troops and simulated aeromedical evacuations involving 500 AFRES and 150 Army personnel, will highlight "North 40" exercises planned for Aug. 14-17 at Westover.

In addition to the 439th, 302d TAW units—the 906th and 907th TAG from Rickenbacker AFB and 911th TAG based at Greater Pittsburgh Airport and the 459th TAW's 909th TAG, Andrews AFB, Maryland, and 920th TAG from Keesler AFB Miss., will participate. Army Special Forces from Ohio, Virginia and neighboring Fort Devens, Mass. will also be included in the realistic combat exercises.

During the three day program, eight C-130s and 18 C-123s will each fly 12 sorties. The planes will be responsible for equipment drops at Westover and some personnel drops at Fort Devens as well as short field takeoffs and landings and assault landings.

An air-transportable clinic, brought from Rickenbacker, will also be used.

The 439th will host the visiting personnel and will provide for their housing and meals.

Major Arthur J. Sorenson, 439th TAW assistant director of operations, states this is the largest all Army/Air Force Reserve exercise in history, being conducted entirely with reservists. He said it will test Westover's viability as a training site. The Reserve's combat readiness will be exercised during these days of intensive activity under unique and unusual training environment.

Moulage experts will create typical battlefield wounds, including broken bones, shrapnel wounds and various diseases, on volunteer patients to add as much realism as possible to the exercise. Examiners on each plane and at each station will ask the nurses and technicians exactly what they are doing and why in order to simulate the pressure of a battlefield situation as well as check their work.

In addition to the simulated evacuation exercises, an IG team will simultaneously inspect all the participating groups and Westover's Tactical Hospital and AFRES Aid Station. All records and files from each unit will be brought to Westover and will be available in Hangar 3 for the Norton AFB team's perusal.

MAC representatives will also be on site and present lectures and demonstrations to the assembled reservists on aeromedical evacuation techniques. Their discussions will also include an introductory orientation to the C-9 Nightingale which will also be at Westover.

Under the leadership of Maj. Marvin F. Proctor, Jr. and Major Edward Kosakoski, the 74 AES will act as host. Westover personnel will provide for the necessary vehicles, and mess hall and housing arrangements.

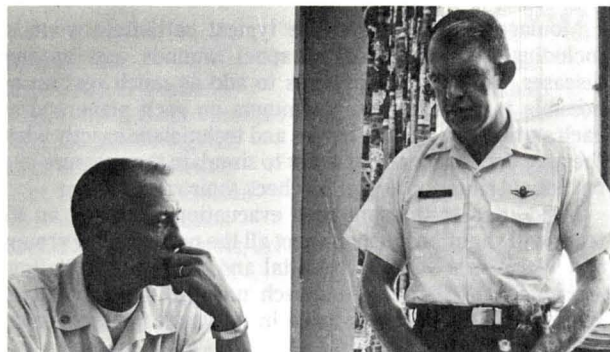
Other units participating include the 33rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Pittsburgh IAP, PA; 35th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, Maxwell AFB, FL; 45th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, Selfridge ANG Base, MI; 60th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, Andrews AFB, MD; 64th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, Dobbins AFB, GA; and the 67th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, Rickenbacker AFB, OH.



LIKE FATHER . . . LIKE DAUGHTER . . . Susan L. Breton enlists into the U. A. Air Force Reserve and the 439th and joins familiar and respected company. Her father, MSgt. Albert F. Breton, (right) 905th MOBSF first sergeant and recently named Outstanding Airman of the Year, uses the occasion for his own reenlistment. 2d. Lt. Gray Williams does the honors during the dual ceremony as SSgt. Douglas D. MacDonald watches the unique event.

While new enlistments continue to swell the 439th ranks, over 200 openings, such as heating or legal service specialists, firefighters, security policemen, cooks, stenographers, and air traffic controllers are still available. Westover's recruiters urge fellow reservists to contact friends, neighbors, and relatives and explain the many reserve benefits.

RAT PACK'S TRAINING: PAYING EXTRA DIVIDENDS



TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE . . . Lt. Col. Richard Stevens, 337th TAS commander, (left) confers with the squadron's operations officer, Maj. Robert McCoy. During the month, Major McCoy maintains a similar ART position while Colonel Stevens is Chief Engineering Technical Publications Productions at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Connecticut.

"I'll match this outfit against any other unit in the Air Force—reserve or regular," proudly boasts Lt. Col. Richard P. Stevens, 337th TAS commander. "I'm confident we're equal to, or better than, any squadron flying C-130s."

Colonel Stevens' unmistakable pride in his fellow reservists, however, is no idle declaration. The 337th TAS has been compiling a record of achievement others would find hard pressed to duplicate. A glance at some of the statistics available in the wing's operating center would quickly bear him out. Over the past six months the unit has participated in 27 airborne sorties dropping 320 troops and has also dropped 60 tons of cargo. The 337th has airlifted 1,294 passengers and 53 tons of cargo for a total of 4,248,413 passenger miles and 78,518 ton miles. In half a year, the squadron has flown 82 sorties compiling over 1,650 hours.

While impressive in their own right, these numbers do not necessarily reflect the true scope of the 337th's involvement in AFRES flying activities and its long list of enviable accomplishments.

"RATTY HERITAGE"

The unit's distinguished history was established long before its present assignment of C-130s. As a troop carrier squadron flying C-119s out of Bradley Field, Connecticut, the aircrews' single mindedness of purpose and expertise in transporting personnel and varied cargo shipments quickly earned them a reputation of a "ratty bunch of people." Rather than offending, their adopted "rat pack" slogan has become a source of identity and inspiration rather than a demeaning appellation.

Their eagerness and dedication in accomplishing their goal persists to the present.

Although the squadron had recently converted to their Hercules aircraft, in the Fall of 1973 a 337th crew participated in an AFRES wide air drop competition. Although they had minimal experience in the C-130 and the co-pilot had logged less than 500 hours of total flying time, the crew came in first. This honor permitted them to compete against the best the "regulars" and other winning reserve units from around the country had to offer. The results were equally satisfying as Westover's reservists brought home a third place victory.

The 337th personnel are not strangers to other successful task completions. Their 1973 ORI called for five aircraft to participate in the inspections—even though it would be the first time the unit would simultaneously launch five planes. Not only was the requirement expertly carried out but a sixth aircraft was also involved in the activities giving the 337th a 100% plus ORI rating for their efforts.

This feat was duplicated during a similar testing in Oct. 1974 maintaining its C-1 combat ready rating—the highest status attainable.

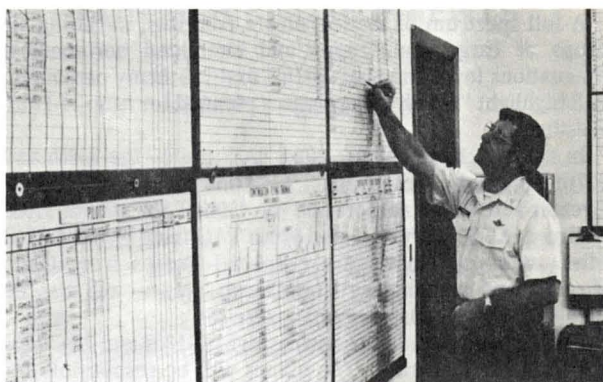
Recently, the Rat Pack has received authorization to practice "V" formation flying maneuvers. It is the only unit to receive such prestigious permission.

GETTING THE TAXPAYERS MONEY'S WORTH

While in reserve status, the 337th primary job is training. The unit is responsible for standard airlifting and evacuation of cargo and troops and can air drop personnel, supplies and heavy equipment, such as two jeeps dropped simultaneously. The crews can operate on a worldwide basis and can use unimproved airstrips common in "forward areas" for take-offs and landings.

Their diligence and training has paid off with many immediate as well as long range results.

The 337th's 24 pilots, 12 navigators, 12 flight engineers and 12 loadmasters continually update their proficiency by boning up on the latest regulations and continually spend numerous hours in scheduled flying activities. While Col. Kenneth L. Charpillioz, their Air Force advisor, Maj. Robert G. McCoy, operations officer and Major Donald L. Ridgway have logged a total of 26,000 hours in the air and lead in total hours, everyone continues to prepare for future requirements.



APPRECIATES GOOD FIGURES . . . Maj. Paul Huffman, squadron flying training officer, helps update the wall-to-wall training and aircrew status boards.

WORLDWIDE COMMITMENTS

The future, however, is often right now and the 337th has been called upon to assist in many diverse missions. When the airlifting of Vietnamese refugees began taxing the capabilities of MAC's regulars, the 337th took over their scheduled supply flights. Three planes flew to Iceland while seven were dispatched to Puerto Rico to prevent any interruption of service.

In support of SAC, Westover aircraft have shuttled

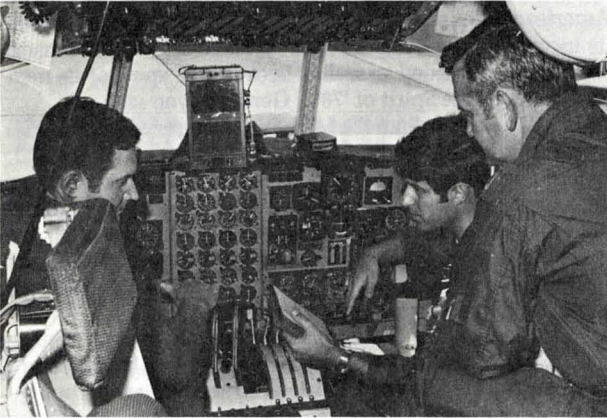
personnel and equipment to the command's satellite stations. All 13 such flights have been right on schedule.

The 337 has not forgotten its own as it has immeasurably assisted 12 AFRES support requests and the 439th's own operations. A refrigerator destined for the dining hall was brought from Ellington AFB while vehicles assigned to the motor pool and critically needed parts have also been easily transported to Westover.

Every Tuesday, a C-130 passes over Fort Devens' Turner Drop Zone permitting approximately 50 of the Army's Special Forces to practice their parachuting techniques. Once a month, a crew flies to England and then on to Germany for air drop exercises with the Tenth Special Forces Group before returning to Massachusetts.

Occasionally, routine exercises turn into emergency procedures. A C-130 crew was recently called upon to resupply Special Forces participating in guerilla warfare exercises in the Allegheny Mountains near Bradford, Pennsylvania. Their grueling schedule dictated nine air drops within a 2 1/2 hour period on Saturday and three additional on Sunday into specially prepared drop zones designed by the ground troops. The flight later took on an additional meaning of an unplanned aeromedical evacuation exercise as the crew was required to transport three litter patients and seven ambulatory casualties for immediate hospitalization.

The 337th has been notified that special commendations



PRE-FLIGHT CONVERSATION . . . receives the undivided attention of (left to right) 337th TAS's Maj. Clarence Bryant, aircraft commander, Capt. Alan Heinrich, pilot and Maj. Robert Motley, navigator.

SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED FOR DININGS OUT

Lt. Col. James R. Swindell has reported to his committee that Maj. Gen. William M. Lyon, Chief of the Air Force Reserve will be the guest speaker at the officer's dining out on October 18.

CMSgt. Thomas N. Barnes, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, has told CMSgt. Alcide "Pat" Patenaude, that he is honored to be invited as guest speaker for the airmen's dining out on October 4.

All plans are "go" for the two big nights. Watch The Patriot for information on the affairs, but in the meantime, don't forget the dates.

from the U.S. Army will be forthcoming recognizing the squadron's personnel for their participation, expert assistance and continuous reliability during these air drop missions.

Through experience, the crew was prepared for such unexpected undertakings. Due to the readily adaptable configuration of the giant C-130—so was the aircraft. The unit's eight planes are all C-130B models and can carry 92 ground troops or 64 paratroops and their equipment. If needed, it could handle 74 litter patients at a cruising speed of 300 knots (true air speed at 20-25,000 feet). During tactical airlift missions, the plane's 230 knot cruising speed is held at 500 feet. With slight modifications and a full complement of fuel, the C-130 can accept 15-20,000 pounds of cargo.

While the 337th's history presents numerous distinctions and a proud past, its personnel are not content to rest on these laurels. Busily involved and dedicated personnel create hectic offices, briefing rooms and squadron areas testifying to their never ending desire to remain the best in the Air Force. The pride exhibited in the unit commander is as evident in all those participating in the squadron's activities—in their conversation, attitude and actions. But don't take someone else's word. See for yourself. "I extend to everyone an open invitation to call our operations office and fly with us during a local mission," invites Colonel Stevens. "We'll not only tell them—but show them just how well the 337th does it."

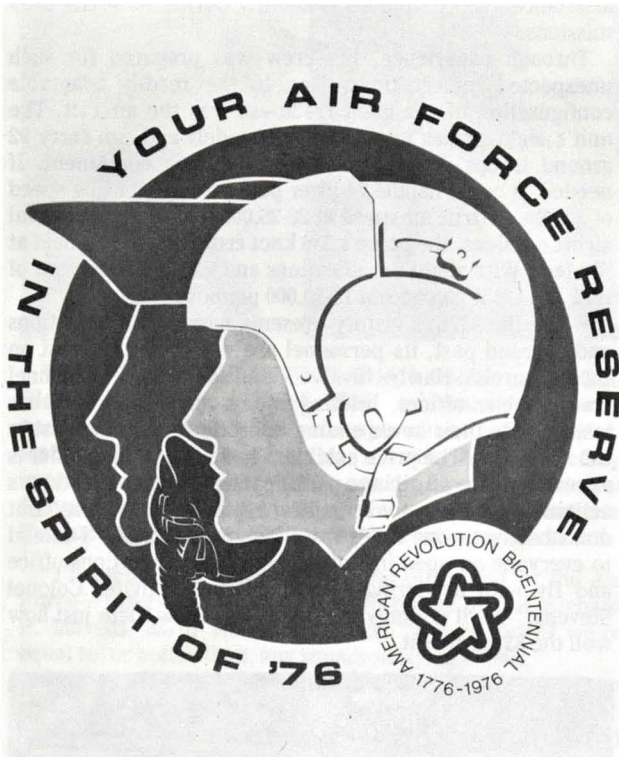


THINGS ARE LOOKING UP . . . Aircraft pre-flight inspections occupy (from left) SSgt. Charles J. Cotnoir, aircraft loadmaster, Maj. Robert Motley, navigator and Maj. Clarence J. Bryant, aircraft commander.



LEFT . . . RIGHT . . . LEFT . . . 59th APS personnel practice squadron drills for their participation in retreat ceremonies under the direction of MSgt. William Bridges, first sergeant. An experienced "pro" in calling commands and cadence, Sergeant Bridges is a former Paris Island-Marine drill instructor with 30 years of military service.

THE AIR FORCE RESERVE SYMBOLIZES SPIRIT OF '76



HQ USAF/REL, WASHINGTON, D.C.—“I don’t know of any American organization that better symbolizes ‘The Spirit of ’76’ than the Air Force Reserve,” said Maj. Gen. William Lyon, Chief of Air Force Reserve.

General Lyon made the comment at the unveiling of the Air Force Reserve bicentennial emblem in Washington, D.C.

In the forefront of the emblem is a helmeted head representing today’s Air Force Reservist. This is superimposed over the silhouette of a head wearing a tricorn hat to depict a concerned colonist. The total effect is that today’s Air Reservist casts a shadow similar to early American patriots.

“I can’t totally equate today’s Air Reservists with yesterday’s citizen soldiers, who were undertrained, under equipped, underfed and shunned by many of their fellow countrymen. Today’s Air Reservist is well equipped, well trained and is an integral part of our nation’s total defense force. But in spirit and concept, we are certainly like them,” General Lyon said.

“In concept the early colonists who rallied to the colors were ‘hometown people’ with strong community ties, just as Air Reservists today comprise America’s ‘hometown Air Force’. Our greatest strength is drawn from citizens in the local community.”

“Citizens first, soldiers by necessity. That’s the way I see Air Reservists. Citizen-airmen and women react instantly as a cohesive force, whether it be in answer to a national emergency, or in response to a community disaster. It’s because we share the same spirit that mustered them into action that we can act as swiftly as our forefathers did at Concord and Lexington,” General Lyon said.

“We want to project the image that what those citizen soldiers stood for 200 years ago is what we represent today. They weren’t full time soldiers, nor are we. Their reason for taking up arms was to defend their country and that is still the reason that Americans participate in Reserve programs today.

“The Air Force Reserve is a relative newcomer on the American defense scene, but what it has accomplished since its inception is nothing short of spectacular, and the reason that it has succeeded so well is because the spirit of its men and women—the Spirit of ’76,’” General Lyon said.

“It’s no secret that the Air Force Reserve is a model Reserve program, studied by many foreign countries and, indeed, by other components of the Armed Forces in our own country as well. It is totally integrated into the systems and management programs of the active force and has proven time and time again that the trust placed in the Air Force Reserve is justified. It has achieved this without losing its civilian flavor or its community ties.

“Since we as Air Reservists don’t have the long history that many components of the Armed Forces have, we are reluctant to say, ‘In the tradition of such and such,’ but we can say, without fear or contradiction, ‘The Air Force Reserve—truly in the Spirit of ’76.’”

SPECIAL SERVICES SETS FOR SWINGING SUMMER

A bus trip to Fenway Park for a Boston Red Sox-Cleveland Indians game, an officers vs. enlisted personnel softball game and a New England Patriot’s football game are some of the highlights of a full schedule of events tentatively planned by the 439th special services office for this year’s summer encampment.

Football and baseball game tickets go on sale August 9th at the consolidated open mess. Club members get first chance at the football tickets; baseball tickets are “first come/first served” for everyone.

Under the direction of Capt. Walter Bumgardner, the office is also scheduling numerous leisure time activities including a flag football tournament held in conjunction with a picnic, as well as golf, tennis, horseshoe and three-man basketball tournaments.

As the base gymnasium will now be supervised by reserve personnel during the UTAs, the hours of operation have been increased. It will be open on Saturday from 12 noon to 9 p.m., and on Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The facility includes indoor basketball and handball courts, a weight room and pool tables. Outdoor aficionados may check out camping, hiking and fishing gear for overnight use.

For the hot, off-duty hours, the base swimming pool provides a fun way to cool off. Admission is 50¢ at the pool for one day, or season passes for \$5.00 (maximum \$25. per family) may be purchased at the open mess.

This year’s summer encampment will be a hectic one for Westover’s personnel—busy working during duty hours, and now thanks to the efforts of the special services office, busy relaxing during leisure hours as well.

Wing Commander's Message

By Col. Billy M. Knowles

I must ask that all units/personnel be particular attentive to preparation during the August UTA for a full blown Combat Capability Evaluation (CCE) to be conducted during the September UTA. The CCE translates to the equivalent of an Operational Readiness/Mobility Management Effectiveness exercise.

The exercise is required by AFRES Reg 55-10 and will be evaluated by this wing headquarters, augmented by selected specialties from the 302 TAW at Rickenbacker AFB, Hq Eastern AFRR and the 317 TAW at Pope AFB.

You may recall the last CCE being conducted during the September 1974 UTA. You will also recall that the last full ORI/MEI (including mobility and security exercises) was conducted during the December 1974 UTA. It only seems like yesterday instead of 12 months and 9 months ago respectively.

There have been numerous changes in procedures, with tons of water under the bridge, since we put on the "big show" last December. So let's prepare to demonstrate that same capability. Remember, many of the evaluators will be reservists from other similar organizations and there's no one tougher on reserves than a fellow reservist.

O'CONNELL HIGHLIGHTED IN SECRETARIAL MAGAZINE

This is International Women's Year. As the United Nations has made this declaration, Westover now stands ready to acknowledge its female force.

To get this program off the ground, Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson, base commander, appointed a Federal Women's Committee of nine women to represent various sections on base. As their initial plans are finalized, particulars will be published through all the base media.

Kicking off this recognition of achievements by Westover's women is an article appearing in the June/July 1975 issue of *The Secretary*, published by the National Secretaries Association. The article told of the accomplishments of Mary A. O'Connell, CPS, 439 TAW wing commander's secretary.

The article featured a book *Beyond Eternity, Holyoke Women who Made a Difference*, written by Marcella R. Kelly, Ph. D., retired superintendent of Holyoke's public schools. It highlighted Mary's grandmother and family.

"Mary Ann and Peter O'Connell will long be remembered as innovators in business in the days when Holyoke was young and untried.

"Among successful descendants of Peter and Mary O'Connell (and there are many) one, Mary Ann O'Connell, granddaughter, has distinguished herself as secretary to the commander of the tactical airlift wing at Westover Air Force Base. Miss O'Connell holds the honor of being the first Certified Professional Secretary in the greater Holyoke area. In 1967, in competition with other qualified candidates, she was named Secretary of the Year, an award coveted among members of the professional secretarial group.

Base Commander's Message

By Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson

Words of praise are always welcome. Many pass over my desk citing our people for their help and cooperation. I'd like to tell you what was in one of these communications. It's the kind of story that makes me proud to see published with my byline.

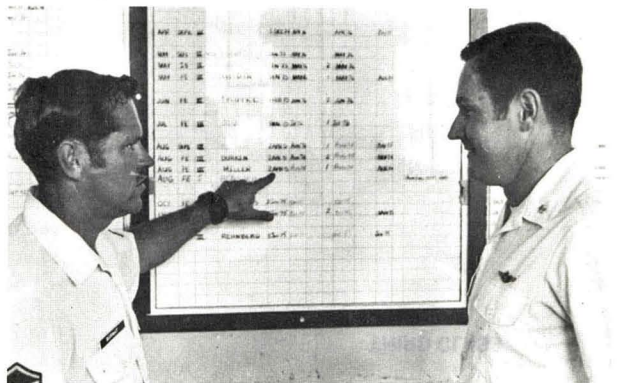
Here's what Capt. Peter B. George, F-100 quality assurance manager for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford CT had to say:

"During the weekend of 17/18 May 1975, the undersigned was tasked to act as local project officer for movement of hardware to Europe. Specifically, the hardware was three F100 turbo-fan engines and the eventual destination was the Paris Air Show in support of the F-15 Eagle participation in the show.

"Westover AFB was selected over other facilities in the area although it was known that this organization would have to compete for service with your normal UTA activities, compounded by an inspection of your operation by the USAFR IG. In retrospect the selection to use Westover was certainly the best decision and at no time was it felt that this organization's operation was less than top priority.

"Contact with your USAF Reserve organization was an experience that will not be forgotten by this Regular. They are a group with which anyone would be proud to be associated."

"Miss O'Connell has served as president of Holyoke Chapter, NSA, and has been appointed to several special committees in that organization. She is active also in the Pioneer Valley Business and Professional Women's Club, Providence Hospital Guild, and Father Damien Circle, St. Agnes Guild, Holyoke Day Nursery. Her community activities involve volunteer service for the Bay State Easter Seal Campaign, Providence Hospital and Springfield Symphony Orchestra."

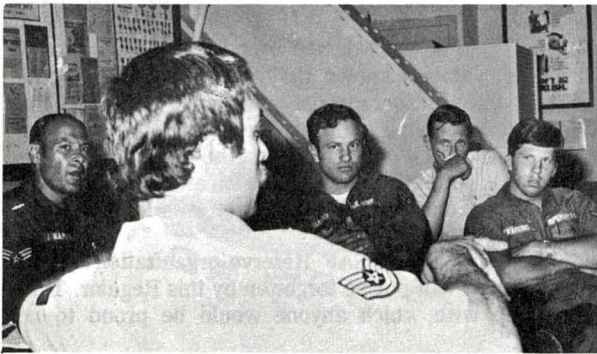


FLYING LONGEVITY RECOGNIZED . . . SMSgt. John C. Burnat Jr., (left) 439th stan/eval flight engineer, received the Chief Aircrew Member Badge for his 15 years on flying status. After five years of active duty, he joined the reserves 15 years ago. Sergeant Burnat checks the aircrew status board with Maj. Jerry C. Bryant, 439th stan/eval pilot.



G. I. INGENUITY . . . If given two sticks to rub together, 901st personnel would surely be able to set them afire. Recently, the same inventiveness enabled them to paint their unit's emblem on the southeast side of nose dock 16 using a slide projector.

A slide from a photograph of their emblem was projected on the wall. This 10' x 12' image in turn served as an ideal model as the new artists painted similar colors where indicated. Proudly posing in front of their new "objet d'art" are (first row, left right) Capt. Thomas Zabel, commander, SMSgt. Richard E. Jedrey, MSgt. James T. Gillett, Sgt. Thomas L. Williams, A1C Eugene Smith, SSgt. Dean Draper; (second row) SSgt. Norman Caron, A1C Barry Ford, SSgt. Thomas McCoy, A1C Andy Miller, Sgt. Hassell Frye; (third row) Sgt. Kenneth DuBois, Sgt. Bob Aitchison, SSgt. Larry Barbeau, Sgt. William Kollios and Sgt. Stan Lasko.



SOCIAL ACTIONS OFFICE representative TSgt. Thomas Stigliano moderates an informal group discussion on drug and alcohol abuse with 59th APFIt officers and enlisted personnel. Similar "rap" sessions help Air Force personnel meet their expected behavior and performance. The office conducts these classes throughout the base every UTA for easy accessibility by each unit.

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