



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

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August 1976

WESTOVER CELEBRATES AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY

by TSgt. Larry Lentz

Fourth of July—a time for hot dogs, parades, balloons, amusement park rides, firefighters showcasing their shining engines and outdoor events. Westover's independence Day activities were no exception as the base combined all the ingredients into a celebration worthy of Bicentennial honors.

The festivities, actually held on Saturday, July third, had a very distinctive start thanks to some 439th TAW personnel. Westover's 2,000 guests were treated to a Bicentennial birthday cake. But not just any ordinary birthday cake. This cake measured seven by eleven feet and weighed over 650 pounds.

Planning for this special feast started last March by TSgt. William Rose, TSgt. Paul Couture and 2d. Lt. Thomas Gray. Their requests netted over 300 boxes of donated cake mix by wing members.

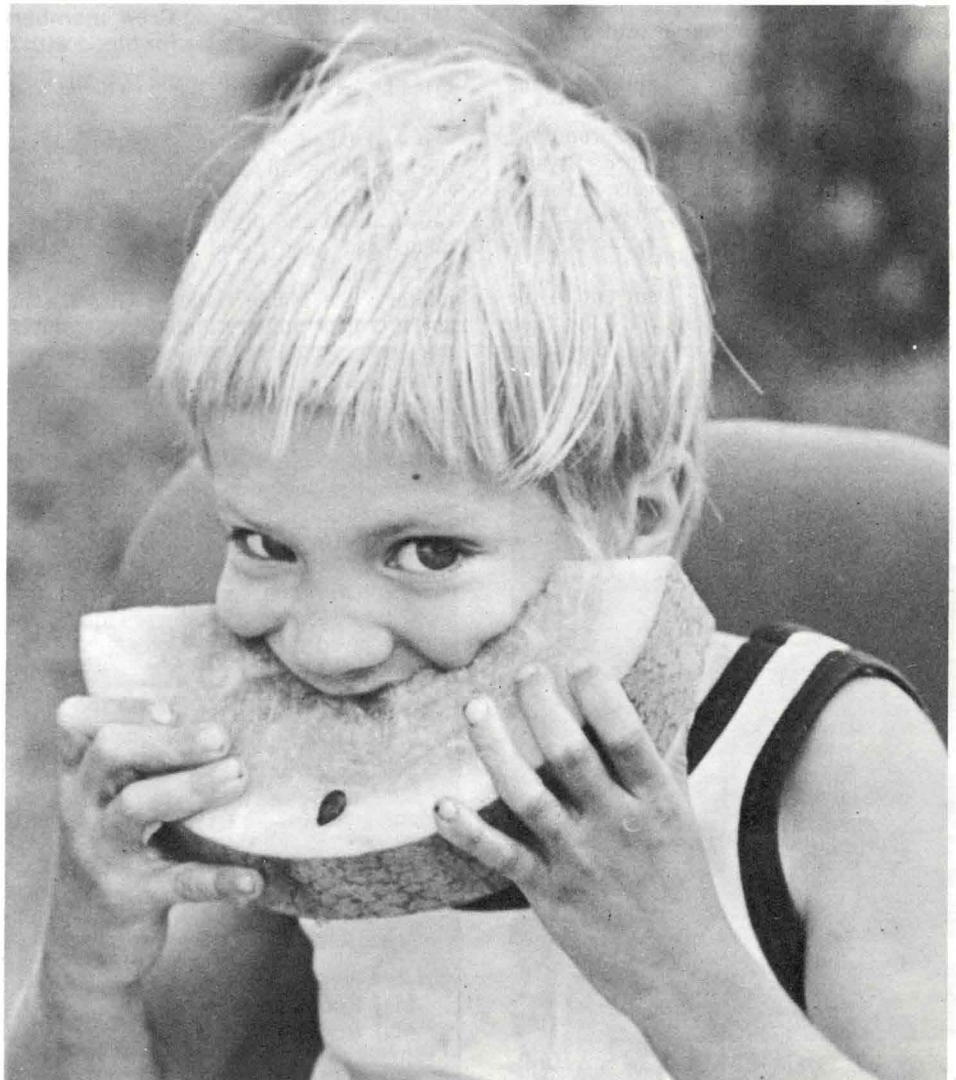
Then for two days, TSgt. Frank Duval, SSgt. John Connors and TSgt. Martin Infante, base dining hall, and Mrs. Duval created a frosted masterpiece shaped like the continental United States.

Col. Jack Newell, senior MAC advisor, represented Brig. Gen. Billy Knowles, 439th TAW commander, who was away on Air Force business, at the cake cutting ceremonies. He was assisted by Miss Westover, Debbie Wiernasz and Miss Mary Reardon, a member of her court.

The knife's first slice symbolically "traveled" from Plymouth Rock to Westover and the gigantic eat-in began. The country was quickly divided into edible portions and distributed. Idaho, Oklahoma and South Carolina never tasted better!

Guests then browsed past such attractions as flea markets and tag sale booths

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(Birthday photos by SSgt. Marshall Hathaway)

Airlifted Blood Ends Critical Shortage

by TSgt. Tom Brucia

When a critical blood shortage threatened life supporting activities around Bangor, Maine, members of the 439th TAW demonstrated they were not only good neighbors in the Chicopee and Springfield area, but good neighbors to all of New England.

On June 18th, the base command post received a phone call from the American Red Cross' Springfield office. The time was 12:44 p.m. Two cases, 60 pounds, of blood were needed in Bangor—fast. That area had experienced seven serious accidents and was down to a mere seven pints of blood. Normally, the area's 29 hospitals daily provide 100 pints to their patients.

Springfield Red Cross workers coordinating with Westover officials, shipped the two chilled cases to the base. Westover hospital personnel transferred them into their vehicle and headed for the flight line.

Meanwhile, a five man crew, previously scheduled for a routine training mission, was informed they would be doing their flying on a trip to Maine instead of solely in the skies around Westover. Higher headquarters already approved the change.

The 337th Tactical Airlift Squadron crew members were: Maj. Clarence Bryant, pilot; 1st Lt. Kenneth Ryngala, co-pilot; 1st Lt. Herbert Sagendorf, co-pilot; TSgt. Robert Whitman, flight engineer; and SSgt. John Ott, loadmaster.

"After our briefing we went out to the C-130," said Major Bryant. "By the time we started cranking the engines, they were



MERCY MISSION . . . Crew members from the 337th Tactical Airlift Squadron who responded to a plea for blood with the C-130 used to transport the vital fluid.

bringing us the blood. We taxied out and took off."

It had taken less than 52 minutes from the first phone call request to launch.

During the one hour flight, the crew called ahead and discovered that arrangements had been made for pick-up. Another element of the "non-active" duty military, the Maine National Guard, sent an NCO in a military ambulance to meet the plane.

The Westover aircraft commander said, with a smile, "I don't think they were expecting us quite so soon." But the transfer at Bangor went smoothly. In 20 minutes, the crew was headed home and another hour of scheduled flying training to fulfill.

An impressed and grateful Red Cross administrator in Bangor, Gil McDowell, commented, "You were here in half the usual time. I'm sure Westover's quick assistance saved at least three lives."



RECRUIT THEM EARLY Children from a local day care center touring the base's fire department.

NEW PER DIEM CEILING SET

WASHINGTON (AFNS)—The President has signed a bill to increase per diem for military members from \$25 to a maximum of \$35 per day, effective June 1.

There will, however, be some other changes, including the requirement to list actual lodging expenses when on temporary duty (TDY).

The actual maximum per diem a member will receive will be \$33. It is being administratively held to that amount to agree with the limit now set for civilian Federal employees.

The \$33 maximum is broken down as follows: \$14 subsistence and \$19 per day average cost of lodging. Rates may be different in certain overseas locations, say officials.

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Commander, 439th TAW
Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles
Base Commander
Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson
Base Information Officer
Betty O'Connell
Wing Information Officers
Maj. Robert D. Hafner
Maj. Rudolph G. DiLuzio
Editor
TSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz

Staff
TSgt. Thomas Brucia
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JULY FEST DRAWS 650

"It's one of the few times everyone in the 439th can get together. That's why last year's unit party grew into a base-wide event this year," explained TSgt. James Gillett, as he collected admission tickets to the second annual 901st Aerial Port Flight July Fest. "With many units and individuals headed elsewhere for their encampments, this weekend was an ideal time to invite unit members, their families and friends to an informal gathering."

For musical entertainment, A1C Christopher Menard organized a three piece rock band and took the lead on guitar and at the microphone.

The entire event, which Sergeant Gillett reports was termed a success by all participants, was coordinated by SSgt. Jeff Bryant.



HAMBURGER HELPERS SMSgt. Richard Jedrey, A1C John Healy and SSgt. Thomas McCoy prepare the evening's entree of burgers and franks.

NEW CHEVRON WEAR EXPLAINED

WASHINGTON (AFNS)—With certain temporary exceptions, personnel promoted to E-2, E-3, and E-4 on June 1 or later will wear new chevrons with a blue star in lieu of the current silver star, according to Air Force personnel officials.

The new chevrons should be available in most base exchanges (BXs) now. Clothing sales stores operated by the BXs should have the new stripes by July 1, officials said.

To keep from requiring people to purchase chevrons in the BX, special rules have been set. People promoted to E-3 or E-4 June 1 may (1) elect to continue their old chevrons at the lower grade until new chevrons for the higher grade are available at the clothing sales stores; (2) they may buy the new chevrons in the BX. Personnel currently serving in grades E-2 or E-3 are not required to change to the new insignia until they are promoted to the next higher grade.

Since chevrons are part of the clothing issue at basic military training (BMT), personnel who entered training before June 1 were issued the old style chevrons.

To avoid wasting these chevrons, the following rules applied for these individuals: (1) four-year enlistees who entered BMT prior to June 1 were authorized to wear the old style E-2 chevron (silver star)

upon their initial promotion to E-2. They will be required to wear the new style chevron (blue star) when promoted to E-3; (2) six-year enlistees who entered BMT prior to June 1 are issued E-3 chevrons. Consequently, they are authorized to wear the old style chevron (silver star) upon their initial promotion to E-3. They will be required to wear the new style chevron (blue star) when promoted to E-4.



"THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP" Base Commander Jack Ferguson, left, seems to be saying to his executive officer, Lt. Col. Gordon Partridge.

Commander's Calls Congratulations

Fourteen members of the 439th TAW are now sporting on their flight clothes MAC's distinguished 5,000 Hour Award for Accident-Free Flying. They are: Lt. Cols. Theodore W. Haase, Roger D. Haneline, Robert A. McMullen, Robert Motley, Gilbert C. Nicholas, Charles R. Parrott and James R. Swindell; Maj. John J. Comfort, Richard Doucette, and Louis Paske-wicz; Capt. Walter R. Kope; MSgt. Edward A. Tylutki, TSgts. Raymond M. Desroches and Joseph E. Giuca. The newly qualified group joins the unit's 17 previously named flyers.

An AFRES Certificate of Recognition was presented to SMSgt. Leland B. Spencer, who accepted the award on behalf of the Quality Control Section for its "Outstanding Performance During the MAC ORI/MEI, 7-11 May 1976."

Awards for the past quarter of a year's achievement went to Crew Chief Sgt. Emory F. Filarsky, Jr.; Outstanding Maintenance Man SSgt. Glenn P. Peterson; Safety Man TSgt. Duane G. Nelson, and the Outstanding Shop award was accepted by MSgt. Henry Lapa.

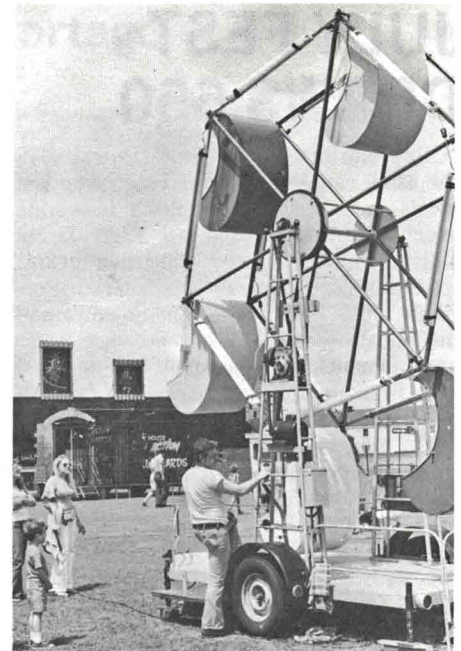
Previously named EAFRR Airman of the Year Runner-Up, A1C Sarah White, 439CSG, received her certificate attesting to the honor. Likewise, SSgt. William G. Chaput, 901st MOBSFLT, now has his certificate proclaiming him EAFRR Driver of the Year Runner-Up.

Special Commendation was offered to Lt. Col. Gordon Partridge, 439th CSG executive officer, on his completion of the Air War College's Correspondence Program.

**GIVE TO THE
AMERICAN RED CROSS**



JIMMIE THE CLOWN Better known to his fellow dining hall reservists as SSgt. James Buell, spent the afternoon delighting young and old with his balloon wizardry.



THRILLED CHILDREN—CONCERNED PARENTS From ferris wheel to the "House of Action," the amusement rides were enjoyed by everyone.

Westover Celebrates . . .

(continued from page 1)

on the parade field. The youngsters headed, with parents in tow, right to the amusement park rides near the base gym.

Youngsters of all ages sat wide-eyed and opened mouth as Westover's and visiting firefighting departments paraded in their very oldest and very newest of equipment. Westover's Little Leaguers, and their coaches, also marched with obvious pride.

Many of the community departments received awards. Serving as judges were Mr. Rinaldo Santamaria, deputy chief, Springfield Fire Dept.; Mr. Richard Palmer, deputy chief, Eagleville (Conn.) Fire Dept.; Mr. Joseph E. Longworth, assistant chief, Westover AFB Fire Dept.; Mr. John C. Flanagan, chief, Hazardville

(Conn.) Fire Dept.; and Mr. Joseph Babineau, Chicopee Fire Dept. captain.

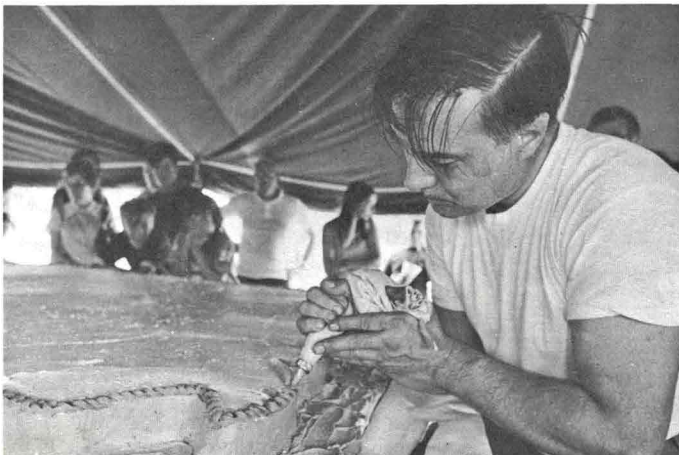
Trophies went to West Springfield, best specialized piece of apparatus; Chicopee, best appearing piece of apparatus; Hazardville, best appearing group in line of march; Rockville, department travelling the furthest; Holyoke, oldest apparatus in service; Monson, best restored antique apparatus; Bondsville, best Bicentennial appearance; Granby, department with most apparatus in parade.

Individual trophies were awarded for the best Bicentennial bicycle, with first place going to Shelly Dragon, and second place to Eric Rainville.

Later, as free cola, beer and hot dogs were distributed, courtesy of Westover's firefighters and Bicentennial Council,

everyone inspected the fire apparatus parked on the parade field. The afternoon activities concluded with model airplane flying demonstrations and field events. Several trophies were awarded for a variety of sports and games. One of the most popular was the egg toss, resulting in 60 broken eggs.

Although a sudden rainstorm abruptly ended the festivities, the day was far from a wash-out. It was a fun-filled afternoon spent with family and friends. More importantly, the day gave cause to pause and reflect on the very personal, yet universal, reasons why we celebrate the Fourth of July and all it represents.



MASTER AT WORK TSgt. Frank Duval puts the finishing touches on his 650 pound, three day effort, as spectators get hungrier by the minute.



A SLICE OUT OF HISTORY Col. Jack Newell, senior MAC advisor, cuts the first piece of cake representing a bond between Plymouth Rock and Westover.



SEEKING TAKEOFF CLEARANCE Some spectators went for a ride in West Springfield's new snorkel, a hydraulically operated bucket which lifts firefighters to previously inaccessible heights.



THE ONLY PROBLEM OF THE DAY Look everywhere, Be everywhere, Do everything. But don't let the helium-filled balloons fly off your hand.



LITTLE BOYS DREAMS of growing up and becoming a firemen are enhanced by the personalized tours given by Westover's visiting firefighters.



MARCHING TO THE BEAT of the same drummer Westover's first parade contingent passes the reviewing stand at the edge of the parade ground.



THERE'S A FIRE TRUCK SOMEWHERE IN THERE Westover's own demonstrate their firefighting capabilities as an engine slowly moves across the engine field and sprays a fine mist of water.

Masspool

Westover AFB is currently participating in a statewide, voluntary program to encourage carpooling. The program, called MASSPOOL, was conceived by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a means of complying with Federal guidelines designed to reduce gas consumption and air pollution.

As one of the large employers throughout the state, Westover was asked in early June to participate. As a result of questionnaires distributed to full time employees on base, 470 people supplied information on their working hours, places of residence, and their desires on carpooling. 150 employees signified their wish to be included in a list of potential carpoolers.

Some of those were from as close as Fairview and some as far away as Atkinson, N.H. and Warwick Neck, R.I. The majority, of course, were from the Springfield—Chicopee—Holyoke area.

2d. Lt. Keith MacDonald, MASSPOOL project officer, states that hopefully all 150 potential carpoolers will become actual carpoolers. The result for Massachusetts, when combined with the efforts of employers participating in MASSPOOL, will be less air pollution, less traffic congestion, less fuel consumption; and for the individuals themselves there will be the savings due to the decreased use of their automobiles, and maybe even the sale of their second car.



PROMOTED

Lt. Col. Frederick V. Fowler Jr.
 Lt. Col. Robert C. Fraser
 Lt. Col. Robert Motley
 Lt. Col. Tobert H. Yanney
 Maj. Mary C. Coyle
 Maj. Dorothy E. Gates
 Maj. Helen A. Purcell
 Maj. Ellen M. Sullivan
 1st Lt. David C. Kennedy
 MSgt. Louis Rampolla
 MSgt. Peter P. Wysocki Jr.
 TSgt. Paul W. Adkins
 TSgt. Joseph E. Enderle Jr.
 TSgt. Victor J. Gobbi
 TSgt. Robert E. Hill
 TSgt. Herbert H. Humphris
 TSgt. Ronald C. Perrault
 TSgt. Thomas P. Ruchala
 TSgt. Michael W. Schuell
 SSgt. Kenneth P. Dojan
 SSgt. Perry T. Jenkins
 SSgt. Paul J. Lamontagne
 SSgt. Jeffrey C. Walker
 SrA. David R. Bennett
 SrA. Joseph M. Breen

SrA. Joseph S. Decaro
 SrA. William E. MacLaughlin Jr.
 SrA. Joseph R. Sullivan
 SrA. Danuta W. Weismiller
 SrA. Wayne W. Wright
 A1C Richard E. Berne
 A1C Gary P. Loughman
 A1C Aranda F. Rapacki
 A1C Diane M. Rivest
 A1C Louise M. Young

ENLISTED

TSgt. Walter F. Feller
 SSgt. David G. Cantin
 SSgt. William A. Chapman
 SSgt. David P. Farrell
 SSgt. Charles J. Green Jr.
 SSgt. Herman J. Levasseur
 Sgt. Peter T. Comer
 Sgt. Karl J. Eiriksson
 Sgt. Rosalind A. Landers
 Sgt. John S. McWhirk
 A1C Margaret A. Comeau
 A1C Armand R. L'Heureux
 A1C George E. Miller
 AB Cheryl A. Cusick
 AB Catherine A. Genera
 AB Gail S. Howlett
 AB Rickey C. Jenkins
 AB Rene R. LaFrance
 AB Steven M. Lucas
 AB Richard D. Tarallo

REASSIGNED

A1C Richard E. Berne
 Amn. Jeffrey A. Weber

DISCHARGED

TSgt. Thomas F. Kudla
 TSgt. Alan E. Saunders
 SSgt. James C. Elphick
 SSgt. Paul D. Feinberg
 SSgt. Bruce A. Messenger
 SSgt. James D. Salmon
 Sgt. Stephen R. Levangie
 Sgt. Keith T. Russell
 Sgt. James E. Sheerin Jr.
 A1C John P. Desalvo
 A1C Brian F. Wabeck
 AMN William K. Brown

TO STANDBY RESERVE

Capt. Robert J. Ravell
 SSgt. Dean R. Harper
 SSgt. Daniel T. Murray
 Sgt. James Bara
 Sgt. Andrew H. Clarke
 Sgt. Philip W. Lane
 Sgt. Frank B. Locke
 Sgt. Edward T. Moynihan
 A1C Joseph T. Sennett
 AMN Harold E. Sivard Jr.
 AB Alan F. Cortis
 AB Sharon M. Fanning
 AB Walter W. Green
 AB Nancy G. Hathaway
 AB James R. Holmes
 AB Douglas W. Lewis
 AB Mary A. Nadolny
 AB James N. Paraskevas
 AB Peter A. Sarli
 AB James N. Smalley
 AB Joseph G. Virgilio

Base Commander's Message

By Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson



My message hasn't appeared in your paper for some time; little did I think the next one would be my farewell word to you.

I'd be other than honest if I didn't admit I'm looking forward to my new assignment. But that certainly doesn't take anything away from my sense of sadness on leaving Westover and the 439th.

My family and I have enjoyed the local area and the many friends we've made. The people who have worked with me have made my job as "Mayor of Westover" a fulfilling one. The spirit of cooperation shown by everyone—active duty military, reservists and civilians—has been truly outstanding.

As I take on the challenge presented to the commander of a flying unit, I shall expect to hear of great things here at Westover. May you always be Number One.



TENT TEAMWORK . . . MSgt. James DeVita, (left) assists MSgt. Merle Smith with the final adjustments on their night's lodgings.

905 CEFIt Conducts Field Training

Tent pitching, field messing, convoy tactics, c-rations, field sanitation, aggressor training, perimeter security—sounds like Army basic training but it's the 905th Civil Engineers on bivouac during the July UTA, refining some of their unique skills.

Under the direction of 1st. Lt. Alfred Rondina, bivouac commander, and MSgt. Lindley Casey, bivouac NCOIC, 46 members fulfilled their annual field training requirements.

In 1975, the 905th CEFIt scored an "outstanding" on their field training evaluation exercise at Plum Brook ANG Base, Ohio, a major inspection occurring every three years.

In addition to the traditional trade skills, such as masonry, carpentry, plumbing, heating, fire fighting, and electrical, the unit has additional 'PRIME BEEF' responsibilities of setting up landing strips from a bare base if necessary for tactical operations.



DIGGING HIS WORK . . . TSgt. Paul Lombardi takes a hefty swing to complete the "landscaping" around his tent.

Part of Summer Recreation Program

BASE TO HOST AFRES TOURNEY

Work hard, play hard. That's what a summer encampment is all about. The recreation side of the August training will include a basewide picnic, the Air Force Reserve-wide Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament, a volleyball challenge by the wing headquarters to the combat support group, and contests in a wide range of spectator and participatory sports.

The base picnic will take place on Saturday afternoon, August 21.

The AFRES-wide tourney, August 20 to 22, will involve teams from eight bases. The afternoon and evening games will be at the Brig. Gen. Billy Knowles Softball Park. Westover's entry has already been formed and has been playing in the City of Chicopee League. Spectators will use expanded bleachers and an operating refreshment stand.

The base gym, sporting a first class weight room and a newly renovated wet sauna room, will be open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day during the encampment.

Swimmers will be able to use the base swimming pool, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. The fee is fifty cents a day. Aquatic enthusiasts can save by purchasing a \$5.00 season pass at the Open Mess.

One highpoint of the encampment will be a return volleyball match between wing headquarters and combat support. Last year the group narrowly defeated

their colleagues after losing the first game and just taking the second two. This year's best two-out-of-three games will be on Wednesday, August 18 at 7 p.m.

Those interested in doing, and not just watching, by organizing their own squadron teams, in any sport, should contact their first sergeant. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division (MWR) schedules facilities for organized teams, provides officials and loans out the equipment. Reservations for the "double elimination" action is on a first come, first served basis. Squadrons, therefore, should act quickly.

On a one to one basis, "round robin" tournaments in table tennis, handball, pool, racketball, badminton, and tennis are also being scheduled.

"Last year we had a lot of people involved in summer activities," reports TSgt. Robert Lester, NCOIC of the MWR Division. "We hope to have even more this year. After all, that's why we, the recreation people, are here."

BICENTENNIAL CARAVAN

The country's Bicentennial Caravan, four large trailers of special displays, will be in Springfield on August 27 and 28.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Each trailer represents one of our nation's four branches of military service, Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, and illustrates the past and present history of that military branch.

The Springfield Bicentennial Council, the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Westover's Base Bicentennial Council have coordinated the Caravan's visit to Springfield.

To be located on Harrison Ave., across from Bay State West, the historical displays will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the 27th and 28th. Admission is free.

The four tractor-trailer units, one representing each branch of service, will present "The History of the American Armed Forces and Their Contributions to the Nation."

Color Guard Receives Royal Review

Four members of Westover's Color Guard participated in a special military parade held in honor of Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday July 10.

MSgt. Charles Ward, TSgt. Michael Nolan, TSgt. William Rose, and TSgt. Douglas MacDonald were among the troops inspected by the Queen during Her Majesty's visit to the Hub.

EAC UPDATE

Newly elected officers of the Enlisted Advisory Council are MSgt. Paul Babin, president; SMSgt. Frank Babin, vice president; and SMSgt. Leland Spencer, secretary/recorder.

Due to the council's urging, renovation of the barracks has started. Contracts call for a new coat of paint on all interior walls; new curtains and rods; and new bed spreads. The purchase of new window screens is also being investigated.



Wing Commander's Message

By Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles

I am personally developing a very interesting perception concerning this wing's retention problem. I say Problem because the rate of reenlistment for both prior service and non-prior service men and women is below higher command standards and certainly below our own expectations.

Oh, we're manned alright. We generally run between 97 to 99 percent all the time. But based upon current and past statistics, we know we'll have to recruit and bring on board approximately 535 people in FY 77 to remain at our present manning level.

This means losing valuable already trained personnel and commencing the intricate training of their replacements. A very expensive process. And you know the other impacts that result; such as never ending training, low overall skill-manning rates, fewer people to carry production loads, loss of flexibility to utilization of UDL resources, etc., etc.

But after talking and listening to hun-

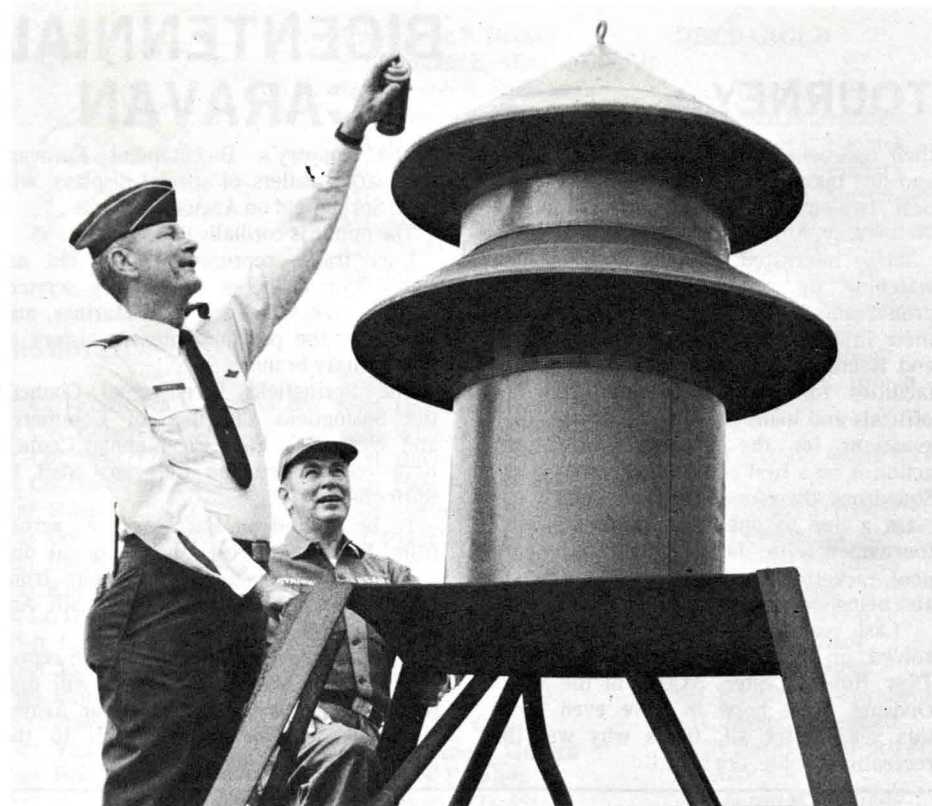
dreds of our people, my perception of the problem is taking form. Listed below are elements bearing on this matter:

a. An unusually large number of responsible people simply expect these losses as if they are inevitable. Until not too many years ago this same theory applied to aircraft accidents; "Gotta expect losses, you know." or, "That's why airmen receive hazard pay." That kind of thinking changed, driving the accident rate down from 52 per 100,000 flying hours to its present rate of 2.5 per 100,000 hours. The Air Force is energetically seeking a zero rate.

b. Too many people believe that our reservists who elect not to reenlist are no doubt undesirable in the first place. Not so. Of course there are those who do not fit, who do not like the military or whose initial enlistment was draft motivated. But the vast majority have been and are first rate young men and women.

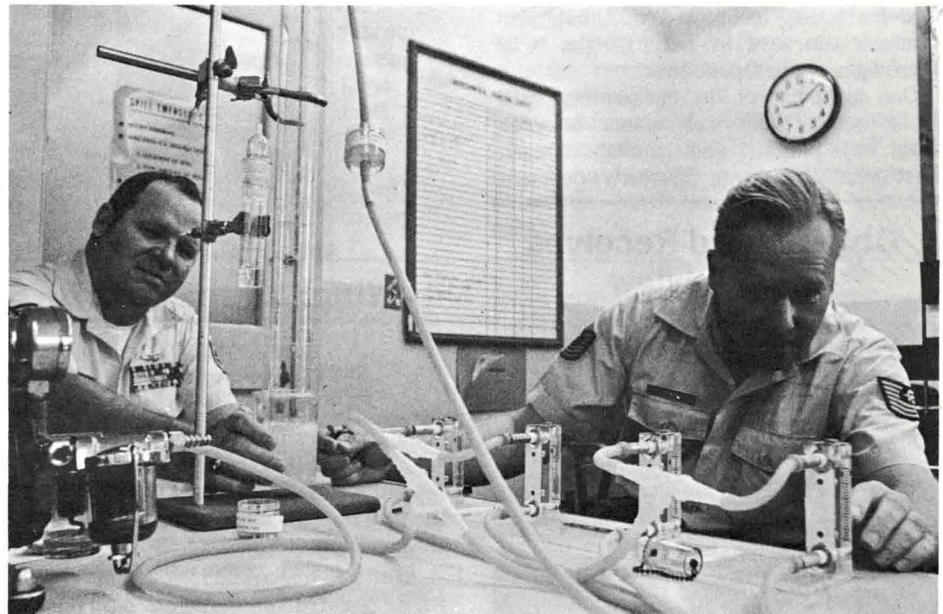
c. In having tried my hand at retention counseling (I don't know how successfully thus far), I find that generally first term airmen are seeking reasons to continue membership. If they find none, they leave. The things they remember during that first term decide for them whether to reenlist or not; how good was their training, how useful was their time spent, of what importance was their service, did anyone really care, what examples were set for them, were they able to tell during their membership that the overall mission was necessary, etc., etc.

It seems to me that if we address our attitudes towards their concerns they will find reasons to "belong."



"IF WE RECEIVE an outstanding on our O.R.I., I'll paint the siren on top of our hangar kelly green—the same color as our fatigue hats," proclaimed MSgt. Thomas H. Straight, 58th APSQ first sergeant, to Brig. Gen. Billy Knowles, 439th TAW commander. "If you get the outstanding," replied the General, "I'll go up there and help you." They did and they did.

TSgt. Richard E. Rowell, (left), 439th Tactical Hospital, and MSgt. Darrell S. Jones, 907th Tactical Hospital, Rickenbacker AFB, Ohio, calibrate air sampling pumps in preparation for measuring air samples for any hazardous toxic materials that might exist, in compliance with Air Force Occupational Safety and Health regulations, during a recent 30-day active duty tour at Robins AFB, Ga. The two were requested to assist the Robins AFB Bio-Environmental Engineering Section in a number of environmental surveys in support of the Active Duty technicians at Robins because of the stepped-up requirements of the Air Force's Energy Conservation Program.



**HQ 439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AFRES)
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