

X
2
8

MERRY CHRISTMAS



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. III, No. 12

December, 1976



WINTER WATCH . . . Brisk November winds do not hinder Sgt. Allen B. Misner, 905th Weapons Systems Security Flight assistant flight chief, from his flight line patrol during the UTA.

BRIEFS

ANOTHER HONOR was bestowed on Col. Alan N. Fleckner, commander of the 439th Tactical Hospital when he was the only flight surgeon in AFRES to be named Chief Flight Surgeon this past year. Dr. Fleckner joins a select few in the Air Force Reserve who have earned this title.

* * * * *

READY FOR WINTER is Westover's Four Seasons Rental Shop. It's stocked with a full range of outdoor sports equipment such as skis, boots, poles, toboggans, and camping equipment. Westover Reservists, active duty personnel, civilians, and their dependents may take advantage of the low rental rates at building 1520 on Hangar Ave.

* * * * *

THEY'RE NEVER TOO OLD . . . Ted Buckhout, 439LGT motor vehicles maintenance foreman, is also a warrant officer who serves as chief of Maintenance Material Control for the Marine Corps Reserve's VMA-322 Sq. at South Weymouth, Mass. On Sunday, Nov. 7, he participated with 1560 Marines (active, reserve, females, young, not so young) in the first MC marathon, sponsored by the MC Reserves. He was one of 1100 who finished the 26-mile jogging route all around Washington DC. He's going to get in touch with Jim Boudreau, 439CSG, to get pointers for next year. Jim annually participates in the Boston, Mass. marathon. Seems they're both the same age, but we'll respect the ERA and not squeal on either.

1977 UTA/ Encampment Schedule

Jan 8-9	Jul 16-17
Feb 12-13	Aug *12-13
Mar 19-20	Sep *16, 17, 18
Apr 16-17	Oct 15-16
May 14-15	Nov 19-20
June 11-12	Dec 10-11

Aug 14-28 Encampment
*Friday evening

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT . . .

As part of the Air Force's new three-tier enlisted force organization, senior airmen who earn noncommissioned officer (NCO) status will be awarded a certificate of appointment in a formal ceremony. People promoted to senior airman when the new three-tier program began June 1, will be eligible to receive their certificates in June 1977, provided they meet NCO appointment criteria.

* * * * *

ANDERSEN AVE. CLOSED . . . In preparation for delineating Westover Air Force Base boundaries, Andersen Ave. has been blocked off just South of the consolidated open mess, North of Pendleton Ave. Access to the club, BX, dining hall, and the Army Reserve Center, is through the North end of Andersen Ave. off the Outer Drive, or from Industrial Road to Outer Drive and adjacent to the BX. There is no thruway from the Base Civil Engineer complex.

* * * * *

SPAATZ AWARD . . . Cadet Colonel David L. Tipping of the West Haven Cadet Sq., Conn. Wing, Civil Air Patrol, recently received the General Carl A. Spaatz Award. Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles, 439 TAW commander, presented the award, the highest in the CAP cadet program, to Cadet Tipping, who earned the honor by completing the comprehensive cadet program, an accomplishment achieved by less than one percent of all cadets.

* * * * *

CONGRATULATIONS to MSgt. Royce E. Elkins, 731 TAS, on the occasion of his retirement from the Air Force Reserve, and on receipt of the Air Force Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service, presented at Commander's Call on Nov. 14.



Base Commander's Message

by Lt. Col. J. Frank Moore

As we approach the coming holiday season and the close of another chapter in history, let us pause in our everyday struggles and reflect on our goals and accomplishments of the past year. Let us enable our experiences to provide the basis for renewed efforts to meet the challenge of the coming year. As the joy of Christmas draws us closer to our families and friends, let us expand our love and understanding of our fellowman and work for continued peace and security for our country. Love is a powerful force, and was eloquently described by Helen Steiner Rice when she wrote:

Great is the Power
of might and mind
But only love
Can make us kind
And all we are
or hope to be
is empty pride
and vanity.
If love is not
a part of all,
The Greatest Man
Is Very Small.

Because of love, Christ was born, and a faith and hope was given to the world. As you celebrate his birth, may you and your loved ones have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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.

Commander, 439th TAW

Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles

Base Commander

Lt. Col. J. Frank Moore

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

SSgt. Marshall Hathaway

SSgt. Robin Ketcherside

Sgt. Deborah A. Studebaker

A1C Dean M. Mauro

A1C Wanda Wood

Photographers

SSgt. Barry W. Brightman

SSgt. James Langley

Amn. Paul Amoroso

439th Adds New Facet to Brave Shield

For the first time during a Brave Shield exercise (Oct. 9-23), the "opposing" forces had an airlift capability. This added and more realistic dimension to their training was supplied by Westover's personnel and C-123s.

Over 200 members of the 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron, 901st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and the 901st and 905th Aerial Port Flights supported this "enemy" airlift from the Hunter Army Air Field. Ten C-123s, flying 24 hours a day, flew missions in response to "frags" (combat orders) issued by the field's Tactical Airlift Command Center.

By the end of the exercise, the C-123s, backed by a massive aerial port effort, had flown 65 sorties for a total of 367 hours. They airdropped food and simulated ammunition supplies to members of the Army's 24th Infantry Division operating in the vast Eglin AFB reservation. The planes also airdropped about forty-five 400-pound A7A bundles, and delivered jeeps, trucks, and trailers with a combined load of approximately 15 tons. In addition, some 45,000 people, mostly Army troops, were transported by the 439th, according to Air Cargo Specialist SSgt. William J. Kollios.

The preparation for the huge support effort had begun a week prior to the exercise. An advance party of 15 from Westover, headed by Capt. Joseph Butler, prepared Hunter for the upcoming cargo deliveries, and arranged for quarters. During this time, it received 43,000 pounds of equip-

ment which would be needed to support the flying operations.

The rest of the C-123 force went to Georgia on Oct. 9 aboard six C-123s, five filled with passengers and the sixth with flyaway kits.

Despite a weather diversion and an overnight stay at Griffiss AFB, N.Y., the support contingent arrived the next day ready for work.

The participating 20 members of the aerial port, in addition to their involvement with the C-123s, spent a good deal of time and effort working on C-130s, C-141s, and a C-5, as the exercise ended and equipment was prepared for return shipment.

Because everyone was billeted in nearby Savannah, 15 miles from Hunter, transportation was a problem at the beginning. But Army motor pool buses and initiative solved it. "We set up a regular shuttle, with our own people driving," reports Maj. Haven D. Gorman, detachment chief of maintenance.

He also commended the Army's support of Westover's activities. "Without the cooperation of everyone down there, we never could have performed the deployment successfully." Army assistance ranged from motor pool repair help to added dining hall hours.

"We were given a big responsibility which proved no problem for our people," said Major Gorman. "Maintenance delivered an outstanding 97 percent effectiveness rate and kept operational readiness at 91.6 percent."

"Well Done"

439th personnel dismantled the Bicentennial "logo" from their float, and sent it via C-130 to Washington, where it was placed on display at the recent AFA convention.

In a letter to General Knowles, Chief of Air Force Reserve, Maj. Gen. William Lyon, said, "Please accept my personal expression of appreciation for the use of the Westover Air Force Base USAFR Bicentennial Symbol during the Air Force Association Convention in Washington.

"It . . . impressed all participants with the fact that the Air Force Reserve was represented there as an equal partner in the Total Force.

"Please extend my special thanks to those who designed, built, and painted the symbol; to the people who refinished it for our use; and to the operations people who airlifted the symbol."

For their exceptional efforts during Brave Shield XV, 439th members are now receiving the thanks and commendation of exercise officials very impressed with the Reservists' actions. Receiving praise for their work in the Field Maintenance Branch were SSgt. James Stokes, AIC Mark Guilbeault, and Amn. Phillip Smith. Because of their "outstanding support given the Services Division," 2d Lt. Thomas Gray. MSgt. Edward Buchas, MSgt. George Garneau, MSgt. Stanley Rusin, TSgt. Charles Walker and AIC Aranda Rapacki also received extra appreciation.

Unique Cargo Gets Special Care

During Brave Shield XV, one 731 TAS C-123 carried a cargo measuring more than 12 miles long, worth \$2.1 million and very necessary to the lives of the ground-bound Army troops involved in the month-long exercise.

It was their payroll. (The \$10 and \$20 bills would measure the great distance if each bill were laid end to end.)

The C-123 flew the cash, packed in banded cardboard boxes from Ft. Stewart, Ga., to Eglin AFB, Fla., accompanied by four M-16 toting military policemen.

The crew which airlifted this unusual cargo was headed by 1st Lt. Kevin M. Wentworth, aircraft commander; with Capt. David R. Rusch, copilot; Capt. Michael R. Kiely, navigator; TSgt. Charles R. Mort, flight mechanic; and TSgt. Michael A. Arminio and SSgt. Hassell A. Frye, loadmasters.



HANUKKAH

On Thursday evening, December 16, Jewish personnel will mark the first night of the **Hannukah** festival by lighting the first candles of the holiday. An additional candle is added to the **hannukiyah** or **menorah** (candelabra) until the eighth night on Thursday, December 23. The holiday is also marked by the giving of small gifts to children, the eating of potato pancakes (**latkes**) or donuts, and playing the **dreydel** (tops) game.

Inquiring Photographer

During October, about 450 Westover Reservists participated in the largest peacetime joint readiness exercise, Brave Shield XV. For their efforts, they received a great deal of praise from exercise officials. To find out what the individual reservist thought about his two week involvement, The Patriot's Inquiring Photographer asked some of those who participated: "What were your impressions, and what did you gain?"



Lt. Col. Harry Judd, 439 TAW deputy commander for resources, spending his last UTA at Westover before retiring, answered, "I definitely felt that resource management was an integral part of the operation. I have never seen the services' end of things work so well. The cooperation of the participating units is what made it work. The intensive preplanning that went into this showed up in the final results.

SSgt. Bert Stuart, 901 CAMS, replied, "Actually, what I gained was a good opportunity to work at a place other than Westover. It was an excellent chance to work on our aircraft during a simulated emergency.



Another member of the 901 CAMS, **TSgt. Maurice LaFortune**, showed an obvious pride in his unit's activities. "We won the war! It was very exciting supporting the 24th Infantry Division—the 'opposition' forces. I spent a lot of time flying and a lot of time working. This wasn't the first exercise I've been on, but I really enjoyed it."

Capt. Thomas A. Welman, 337 TAS aircraft commander, also very pleased with the Reserves and his unit, answered, "I acted as a copilot in the exercise. We really showed we could do the job as well as the regulars. Reservists have a lot of training in their particular weapons system. Also, many have spent tours in Vietnam and this experience shows. The exercise was a reasonably valid peacetime scenario."



MSgt. Joseph A. Robitaille, 905 CAMS aircraft maintenance supervisor, played an important part in the exercise. "As maintenance coordinator between Aircraft Job Control and Airlift Command, I had a first-hand knowledge of all types of missions flown and what was going on between the operations and maintenance sides of the house. It was the best possible experience for me and for the units that participated.



JOC Conducts ROTC Tour

Twenty-two Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) students from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) and Manhattan (New York) College were the guests of the 439th TAW and the Junior Officers' Council (JOC) during the November UTA.

The students, ranging from college freshmen to seniors, received briefings on potential career fields within the Air Force

and toured the base, inspected various shops and offices, and a C-130, and participated in a C-123 orientation flight.

JOC members acting as sponsors and personnel guides included Capt. Jerry Burge, Capt. Ray Whitney, and 1st Lts. Geraldine O'Connell, Charles Simoncini, and Thomas Waldron.



Wing Commander's Message

By Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles

We're nearing the end of an exciting Bicentennial Year appropriately amidst the holiday season. We all have reflected seriously upon 200 years of heritage and now will enjoy the annual opportunity for thanksgiving and family-centered activities.

It isn't my practice to look backwards. But calendar year 1976 has been a remarkable one for Westover AFB and the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing and all the personnel who make them something more than just a name or location or unit. People have come and gone. New members, retirements, reassignments—we've been very fluid.

And, during that period, so much has happened. The wing declared itself the Number One Wing in the Air Force and is regarded as such by many, other than ourselves. Westover is the new home of a number of Department of Defense organizations. Many units deployed throughout the CONUS and to Europe for training while other units came from their distant home stations to Westover for their training. Collectively, we set many new standards when some 600 of us participated in the just completed Joint Exercise BRAVE SHIELD XV. Currently, the news media find us most newsworthy in that speculation is rampant that the possibility exists for Westover AFB becoming the new home for an Air National Guard tactical fighter unit.

Well, you can see the Bicentennial Year 1976 was all it purported to be and will run right into 1977 full of prospects for continued dynamics. I only hope each of you feels intimately a part of these dynamics. You should, for you are what it's all about—you and your mission.

This is the time of the year, however, to pause and enjoy the season. I take this opportunity to wish for each of you and your families a well-earned holiday, a happy and safe occasion, and join you in sober reflections, thankful to be an American—at peace—free—and prosperous beyond the wildest dreams of the rest of the world.

Westover, AF, Join in Veterans' Day Events

Air Force personnel, from near and far, were featured participants in Holyoke's (Mass.) annual Veterans' Day observations on Nov. 11. Guest speaker at the War Memorial Building was new Base Commander Lt. Col. J. Frank Moore. That evening, the Air Force's Jazz Ensemble, the "Airmen of Note," gave a free concert to local residents at the Holyoke High School.

Colonel Moore said, "We, at Westover, are justifiably proud to be a part of and party to this community, and to share with you; the common bond we have in the development and protection of this area."

His speech pointed out the sad commentary of our past wars, and reminded the audience of threats to our freedom and world peace. He also warned that we must maintain strength, declaring, "The security of this nation is dependent on a military might . . . second to none. We must insure that those we honor today have not fought and died in vain."

The colonel summarized the theme of the day, "Let us strive for the day when future generations will not create war veterans, and Veterans' Day will be a reminder to all mankind that the fruits of peace are better than the spoils of war."

He was accompanied by Herman Tracey, base executive officer. Also serving in the ceremonies were recruiters TSgt. William Rose and TSgt. Michael Nolan.

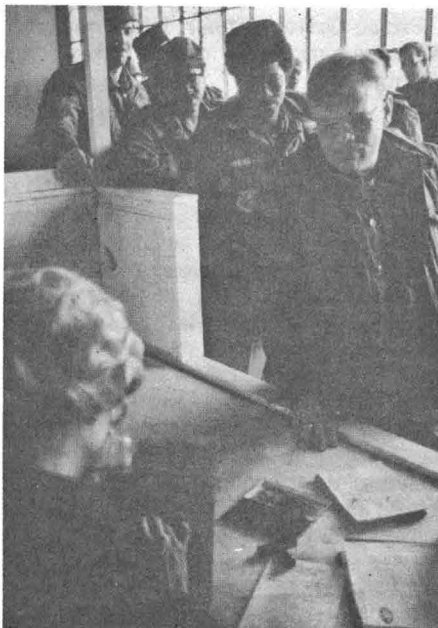
Over 1,000 attended the evening activities sponsored by the Holyoke Transcript-Telegram. A large base contingent, including General and Mrs. Knowles, enjoyed the

two-hour musical treat by the 17-member ensemble, and joined the audience in a standing ovation for the outstanding performance.

SSgt. Marshall Hathaway, a member of the 439 CSG, and an employee of the Transcript, acted as liaison with Westover and served as an usher for the occasion.



MEMORIAL SERVICES—Speakers at Holyoke's Veterans' Day observance are, from left, State Rep. Robert J. Rohan; Capt. (USA) Richard L. Fales, master of ceremonies; (partially hidden) Monsignor Rosario U. Montcalm (Colonel, USAF, Retd.); and Westover Base Commander Lt. Col. J. Frank Moore.



PAPERWORK PROCESSING 439 Tactical Hospital technician SSgt. Joanna Suszczynski, seated, updates the records of, from left, 905 CFIt members Sgt. Bruce Carriere, Sgt. David Allen, SSgt. Tom Irving, and TSgt. Harry Brown, during an abbreviated mobility exercise on Saturday, Nov. 13. The constant checking of personnel records insures that all information is up to date.



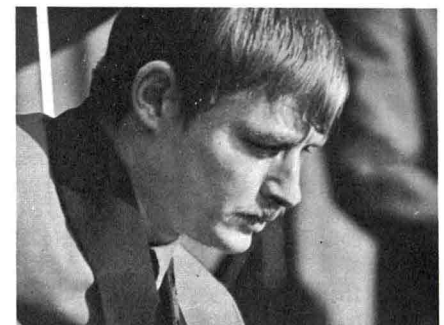
AIRMEN



OF



NOTE



(Photos courtesy of Holyoke Transcript-Telegram)

"Low-Level" Briefing Explains

"Threading the Needle"

by TSgt. Larry Lentz

Trees, houses, and cars flash by at 200 miles an hour. They seem to be at arm's length—but in reality, they're over 1,500 feet below. A dozen newspaper, radio, and television reporters, invited to Westover, stare in amazement at the rushing countryside through the C-123's opened cargo door.

The engines' constant roar prevent any conversation. But each guest is content to reflect on the series of briefings presented that morning by Brig. Gen. Billy Knowles, 439TAW commander; Capt. Gerard MacDonald, 731 TAS operations officer; and Capt. Paul Torpey, a pilot with the 337 TAS.

The briefings and low-level flight over western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut gave the media representatives actual information and personal experiences. Then, they could explain Westover's dilemma between the need for realistic low-level flight training and concern for the surrounding communities.

The background of the 439th's C-123s and C-130s and the reasons for low-level flights were covered at the briefings.

The departure of SAC's bombers brought an increase of cargo aircraft. Change of planes signalled a change in type of flights—from strategic to tactical missions. During an emergency situation, assault landings and takeoffs, using only 2,200 feet of unimproved runway, would allow for the rapid deployment of troops and supplies and removal of wounded. These missions require contour navigation to reduce detection from enemy radar.

In order to adequately train for such skilled deployment, 439th crews must continually practice similar short field landings and takeoffs and low-level flights.

The paths of these training flights must provide that expertise while maintaining maximum noise abatement practices over surrounding communities. "Our job is to 'thread the needle' between restricted areas and still present a challenge to our aircrews," explained Captain MacDonald. "Our low-level route selection criteria keep us 10 miles away from specified land functions such as bird sanctuaries, hospitals, mink and turkey farms, fish hatcheries, and airports. Densely populated areas are also avoided."

The courses are selected by the 439th. Approval is then requested from AFRES, MAC, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission.



A LONG DROP . . . 2d Lt. Keith MacDonald, Palace Option officer, left, and Chris Gordon, WFSB-TV, look at the ground thru the open cargo door of a C-123, during the media flight. (Photo by SSgt. Barry W. Brightman)

Once each leg of the trip is decided, the minimum altitude is set. Regulations dictate that aircraft fly no less than 500 feet above the ground, or 500 feet over the highest obstacle within three nautical miles either side of the track.

For example, on one particular leg of a flight, a C-123 would fly 500 feet or more over a radio tower, the highest point on that leg, and thus at least 1,000 feet over a regular farm.

A C-130 using a radar altimeter, can fly contour. It would not be limited to a single, level path. Rather, it could follow the earth's topography while maintaining the same height minimums.

On a training mission, AFRES directives permit student navigators to deviate up to five miles from the prescribed course before their instructors point out the error, and make the needed correction. Sensitive to community good will, 439th officials require flights stay within three miles of their intended route.

Following the media representatives' briefing and orientation flight, they witnessed a "bean-bag" drop demonstration. The reporters, watching from the ramp

side of Base Operations, also saw a C-123 pass over the runway at 500 feet and then at 1,000 feet. Thus, they could better judge the altitude of other aircraft rather than guessing.

The day's presentations proved highly successful. Prominent articles in the Holyoke Transcript-Telegram, Palmer Journal-Register, and the Springfield Union favorably explained the 439th's need for the flights, the wing's awareness of the problems they could create and remedial actions already taken. Similar news stories, including interviews with the wing commander and crew members, were featured on radio stations WACE (Chicopee, Mass.) and WNUS (West Springfield, Mass.); and on WWLP-TV in Springfield and WFSB-TV in Hartford, Conn.

The reporters' visit also created another immediate benefit. WFSB-TV reporter, Chris Gordon, planned to contact a Toland, Conn. resident who had previously complained that "planes fly just above my home." Chris would explain that he was just on a similar low-level flight and would personally verify that aircraft are at least 1,500 feet overhead—well above the prescribed limits.

New GI Bill for 1977

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The President has signed a law that increases GI Bill educational benefits for those who serve before Dec. 31, 1976, and sets a deadline of Dec. 31, 1989, for complete use of benefits earned under the current law. The new law also establishes a new participatory Veteran's Educational Assistance (VEA) program to begin for those recruited after Dec. 31.

Servicemen and women now on active duty are still covered and will continue to accrue the familiar GI Bill benefits as before. Individuals recruited before Jan. 1, 1977, will be able to earn full benefits. This includes those enlisting in the delayed entry program before Dec. 31, 1976, but not coming on active duty until 1977.

The bill increases benefits in two ways for those currently on active duty, those released within the last ten years, and those recruited before Dec. 31. First, it would extend maximum benefits from the current 36 months to 45 months, in effect offering five academic years of education. Second, it would increase the government's month-

ly payment to GI Bill students by eight percent.

While phasing out the Vietnam era GI Bill, the new law also establishes its successor—the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Act. VEA is a new approach to veterans' educational assistance by which the service member—contributes to his own future education by allotting between \$50 and \$75 each month, with the Government matching the amount two for one. For example, the member's \$50 will be matched with the Government's \$100 for a total of \$150 per month of education.

Members deciding to participate in this new VEA program must agree to contribute for 12-month increments. VEA assistance will be provided for the same number of months as the member contributed up to a maximum of 36 months. A member deciding to forego VEA benefits after contributing will receive his share of the money back at the end of his enlistment or, if he has already been released, within 60 days of notifying the Veterans' Administration.

The new bill also terminates the Predischarge Educational Program (PREP) effective Nov. 1. No one now on active duty can be enrolled or reenrolled in PREP after that date. Department of Defense is looking into ways to extend in-service high school completion programs to cover most of those who would have used PREP. Future members of the armed forces participating in VEA will be able to use PREP but only during the last six months of their first enlistment.

VEA program will be funded for the first five years by the Veterans' Administration. After that time, VEA will be reviewed by the President for his recommendation to make it permanent. Upon favorable recommendation by the President and unless vetoed by one House of Congress, VEA will become permanent, but will be part of the defense budget.

Veterans' Administration and Department of Defense officials are working on directives and regulations now to implement the new law. They expect to have full particulars before the new VEA program gets underway in 1977.



PROMOTED

Maj. Andrew J. Kasznay Jr.
CMSgt. Albert C. Aniello
MSgt. Casimir M. Cerniauskas
MSgt. Howard M. Nolan
TSgt. Ronald A. Ploof
SSgt. William J. Bernotas
SSgt. Martin T. Condon
SSgt. Robert A. Lyons Jr.
SSgt. Douglas A. Pregony
SSgt. Janis A. Sledge
SrA Joseph F. Monahan
SrA Joan A. Morningstar
SrA Donald G. Twarkins
SrA Sarah F. White
A1C Paul J. Amoroso
A1C Richard C. Bowler III
A1C Jamie S. Dunlevy
A1C Richard A. Lotko
Amn. Richard D. Tarallo

ENLISTED/REENLISTED

SSgt. Terry A. Allen
SSgt. Theodore S. Martin
SSgt. Lawrence J. Ralph

SSgt. Karen M. White
Sgt. Charles E. Martin
A1C Paul F. Burns
A1C David G. Leblanc
A1C Tobert D. Lockerby
A1C Robert J. Sowersby
Amn. Gary J. Brougham
AB Alan J. Cardini
AB Alan J. Davis
AB Steven L. Vinson
AB David A. Zamorski

REASSIGNED

Lt. Col. Robert A. McMullen
Capt. Edward J. Sarkisian
Capt. Gordon A. Sauerbrun
2d Lt. Michael E. Dandorph
2d Lt. Alvin R. Williams Jr.
SMSgt. Arnold Ries
MSgt. David R. Johnson
TSgt. David A. Boire
SSgt. Christopher M. Johns
SSgt. Timothy J. McDonnell Jr.
SSgt. Thomas E. McElhinney
SSgt. Lynn A. Selden
Sgt. Anthony Bondi
Sgt. Joseph P. Digloria
Sgt. Darryl A. Eliason
Sgt. Robert I. Merrill
Sgt. Jeffrey N. Morency
Sgt. Michael E. Palumbo
A1C Linda J. Ammon
Amn. Gary W. Young
AB Brenda L. Gavin
AB Dorothy M. Shaffer

DISCHARGED

MSgt. John A. Martyniak
SSgt. Theodore W. Boersma
SSgt. Thomas P. O'Connor
SSgt. Louis L. Pronovost
SSgt. Michael Sagan
Sgt. Kenneth H. Barnes
Sgt. Darryl A. Eliason
Sgt. Thomas Fatal
Sgt. Franklin L. Korman
Sgt. Joseph C. Mills
A1C Paul D. Pirro



Sure there are a lot of good reasons to drive 55, but there's one thing to remember:

It's not just a good idea. It's the law.

Farewell to 1917 CS Commander

Capt. Paul Rainville, commander of the 1917 Communication Squadron departs this month for a tour in Iran with an advisory unit. Although assigned to AFCS, he has been attached to the base, and been a vital force in solving our communications problems.

General Knowles called him, "The best non-Reserve Reservist we have," and cited him for giving the base such tremendous support in the face of many adversities.

His successor, Capt. Michael Choffel, transferred here from the Southern Communications Area in Oklahoma, will have his work cut out for him to match Captain Rainville's performance.



COL. BENJAMIN CATLIN (ret.), director of Air Force affairs for the Reserve Officers Association (ROA), and former commander of the Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver, addresses the monthly meeting of Westover's Chapter 50 of the ROA. 200 members and invited base senior NCOs heard Colonel Catlin's startling report on Soviet arms buildup and his assessment of the new American Congress and key Congressional committees.

The Hand Salute

By I. H. Horen

Have you ever wondered why you salute all those stars and bars?

Many romantic origins have been invented for the military hand salute. Dating back to the earliest times, the right (weapon) hand was raised as a greeting of friendship. Some suspect that the gesture meant that one wasn't going to use a rock or other more civilized weapon. It was required by courtesy that the inferior make the gesture first.

Hence, we see our first connection between this old gesture and our present salute.

Other myths include that it symbolizes the knight's gesture of raising his visor to reveal his identity as a courtesy to an approaching superior, or that it symbolizes a knight shielding his eyes from the radiant beauty of some titled lady sitting in the bleachers of the tournament.

At one time the salute was rendered with both hands. Some old prints even portray left-handed salutes.

As a member of a military service, you are not only required to salute superiors in your service, but officers in any of the Armed Forces of the U.S. or friendly foreign governments. In addition, there are certain appointed or elected civilian members of our government who are honored in the same way.

Founded on custom and tradition, the hand salute is a mutual responsibility in which the junior initiates the act of courtesy. If you can't remember who, when, where, why, how or what to salute, an old adage has the answer, "when in doubt salute!"

Santa Claus Corps Starting

Westover's Santa Claus Corps is now forming. Your participation is cordially invited. Reservists and all other interested personnel are eligible for admission by completing one, two, or three of the following procedures:

1. Donate a toy, in good condition, and unwanted by your family, to the patients at the Shrine Hospital for Crippled Children, Springfield, and to the Newington (Conn.) Hospital. Gifts are to be brought to the Field Maintenance Branch supervisor's office in Hangar 7, not later than Saturday morning, Dec. 11.

2. Volunteer to gift wrap these gifts and other gifts purchased by SMSgt. Hugh Fraleigh with contributions given by wing personnel during the November UTA. The Santa Workshop detail is planned for Saturday morning at the Field Maintenance Branch supervisor's office.

3. Help brighten the Christmas season for hospitalized children by participating in Westover's annual visit to the two facilities on the afternoon of Dec. 11.

Those wishing to journey to Newington must contact Sergeant Fraleigh at extension 2103 or 3188 prior to 11 o'clock that morning to guarantee your place on the of-

ficial roster. The bus leaves from building 2211 (Base Headquarters) at 1 p.m. and is expected to return by 5:30 p.m.

The Shrine Hospital delegation leaves from building 2211 at 4 p.m. Please call 2103 or 3188 for your reservation.

There are no initiation dues or other obligations for the new organization. But the benefits are great. The self-satisfaction and enjoyment of being a small part of a child's Christmas, away from home during the holidays, lasts a whole year.

and a
**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USAF
PERMIT No. G-1